

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING  
December 5, 2023**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Eastchester held on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ROLL CALL**

Present: Supervisor Anthony Colavita  
Councilman Joseph Dooley  
Councilwoman Theresa Nicholson  
Councilman Luigi Marcoccia  
Councilwoman Sheila Marcotte

Present: Town Clerk Linda Laird  
Town Attorney Louis Reda  
Comptroller Dawn Donovan

**IV. PUBLIC HEARING**

Supervisor Colavita read the following Public Notice:

Please take notice that the Town Board of the Town of Eastchester shall hold its annual budget hearing on **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023** to consider the adoption of the Town of Eastchester's **2024** calendar year budget. Said hearing on this Preliminary Budget shall be held at the Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York at **7:00 p.m.**

The salaries of Elected Officials incorporated in said preliminary budget are as follows:

	<b>Each</b>	<b>Total</b>
Supervisor (1)	\$98,093	\$ 98,093
Council Members (4)	\$22,000	\$ 88,000
Judges (2)	\$50,000	\$100,000
Receiver of Taxes (1)	\$65,000	\$ 65,000
Town Clerk (1)	\$87,605	\$ 87,605

All residents of the community may present written or oral comments at the above-described place, date and time.

Councilman Marcoccia offered a motion that was seconded by Councilwoman Marcotte to Open a Public Hearing to consider the adoption of the 2024 Annual Budget.

**On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.**

Comptroller Dawn Donovan provided an overview of the 2024 Budget. The 2024 Tentative Budget marks the 12th straight year that Eastchester delivers a budget within the 2% tax cap. We have not yet returned to the pre-pandemic economic levels of consistent revenue streams and expenditures, but the difficult challenges to these budgetary components present during the pandemic years do not loom as large. However, some impacts of the pandemic remain; projecting revenues and expenditures, the essence of the 2024 budget, continues to be challenged by supply chain shortages and skyrocketing vehicle and equipment costs. Our long-standing tradition of conservative revenue numbers and our careful discretionary spending is evident throughout this 2024 budget.

The 2024 tax levy cap set by the State of New York is 2%. Our allowable levy is \$22,201,699. The 2024 Town of Eastchester tax levy is \$7,482 less than that amount. The Board has had a conservative fiscal management of the Town's finances. It has been the judgment of this administration to submit a budget with the most services at the minimum cost to the residents.

**Presented below are some of the highlights in the 2024 Tentative Budget:**

The budget for 2024 required some very difficult decisions in order to balance a budget while remaining within the tax levy cap.

- The change in assessments from 2023 to 2024 caused an estimated 1.01% decrease in the tax rate before the commencement of the budget process, without the changes in assessment the Town tax rate increase would have been at the allowable real property tax levy cap. The Villages and Town Outside all saw an increase in the

assessments. The estimated assessed value used for the 2024 budget is \$101,611,964. The assessed value used for the 2023 budget was \$100,949,118. This is an increase of \$662,846 or 0.65%.

- CSEA and PBA contracts will expire on December 31, 2024. The Police Lt contract expires on December 31, 2023, and we will begin to negotiate with them and any changes will be reflected once the contract is settled.

The total budget for 2024 is \$40,182,504 which represents a \$2,259,463 increase over the 2023 budget.

The total Townwide Tax levy for the 2024 budget is \$4,261,936. Property taxes count for 42% of the Townwide revenue budget, 14% or \$1,400,000 from the fund balance with the remaining 44% mainly consisting of department revenue, and mortgage taxes. The 2024 Townwide budget will generate a 5.59% property tax rate increase, which amounts to an increase of \$2.2197 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. Therefore, an average house in the Village of Bronxville with an average assessment of \$21,650 will pay \$48.06 more per year (\$4.00 per month); an average house in the Village of Tuckahoe with an average assessment of \$7,300 will pay \$16.20 more per year (\$1.35 per month).

The total Town Outside Tax levy for the 2024 budget is \$17,554,998. Property taxes account for 71% of the Town Outside revenue budget, 10% or \$2,410,000 from fund balance and the remaining 19% mainly consisting of department revenue and sales taxes. The 2024 Town Outside budget will generate a 3.33% property tax rate increase which amounts to an increase in \$10.1279 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. Therefore, an average house in Eastchester with an average assessment of \$8,950 will pay \$90.64 more per year (\$7.55 per month).

The current and projected tax rates are as follows:

	TAX RATES	
	2024	2023
Entire Town	41.9432	39.7235
Town Outside	320.0421	309.9142
Sewer Charge	6.9196	7.3100
Garth Resident Parking District	49.7696	49.7669

**Assumptions for the 2024 Tentative Budget**

- Revenue estimates for 2024 are relatively flat. We have not decreased any revenues substantially.
  - Sales Tax Revenue is coming in higher than anticipated therefore we increased our assumption slightly.
  - Mortgage Tax Revenue is coming in close to budget therefore we kept our assumption the same as 2023.
- This budget utilizes \$3,835,000 in fund balance. This is an increase of \$285,000 over 2023.
- Health Insurance premiums will increase over 10% in 2024.
- One of the most significant obligations of the Town which has the greatest impact on this budget is our pension contribution. The 2024-25 pension contribution is estimated to be \$3,183,150, which is a **15%** increase from the prior year. The chart below reflects the actual 10 year amounts the Town has had to pay.

YEAR	TOTAL	POLICE AMOUNT	ERS AMOUNT
2016	2,225,004	1,176,445	1,048,559
2017	2,232,318	1,213,311	1,019,007
2018	2,180,276	1,171,001	1,009,275
2019	2,263,269	1,244,081	1,019,188
2020	2,401,191	1,365,457	1,035,734
2021	2,457,276	1,405,677	1,051,599
2022	2,621,879	1,504,312	1,117,567
2023	2,437,470	1,606,405	831,066
2024	2,760,114	1,796,352	963,763
2025	3,183,150	1,987,429	1,195,721

The Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) reviews the Town’s fiscal stress on an annual basis. The Town of Eastchester continues to be in the no designation category. Moody’s has again in August 2023, reaffirmed our AAA rating which is key in keeping our borrowing rates low. I believe this tentative budget sets forth a fiscal responsible plan while still preserving and maintaining essential municipal services.

Supervisor Colavita called for public comment; there being none, Councilwoman Marcotte offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to Close the Public Hearing.

On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.

**Correspondence Agenda Item:  
VIII B. ADOPTION OF THE 2024 ANNUAL BUDGET**

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilwoman Marcotte to approve a RESOLUTOIN to Adopt the 2024 Annual Budget.

On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.

- V. OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON AGENDA ITEMS - none
- VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Dooley offered a motion that was seconded by Supervisor Colavita to approve the Minutes of the November 21, 2023 Town Board Meeting as prepared by Town Clerk Linda Laird.

On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.

**VII. REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**A) LAW DEPARTMENT REPORT**

- 1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER AND THE TOWN OF EASTCHESTER FOR REMOTE ACCESS TO THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY CLERK’S LAND RECORDS AND LEGAL FILES

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilwoman Nicholson to approve a RESOLUTION authorizing the Supervisor to execute and deliver a Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Westchester and the Town of Eastchester for remote access to the Westchester County Clerk’s land records and legal files.

On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.

- 2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SETTLEMENT OF A CLAIM BY RICHARD CRAWFORD

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilwoman Marcotte to approve a RESOLUTION authorizing the settlement of claim by Richard Crawford against the Town of Eastchester in the amount of \$105,000 involving Town personnel which occurred on January 4, 2023.

On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.

- 3. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SETTLEMENT OF A CERTIORARI PROCEEDING BY NIBUR 132 PARKWAY ROAD, BRONXVILLE, NY – 132 PARKWAY ROAD, BRONXVILLE, NY

Councilman Marcoccia offered a motion that was seconded by Supervisor Colavita to approve a RESOLUTION authorizing the settlement of a certiorari proceeding instituted by NIBUR 132 Parkway Road, Bronxville, NY affecting premises known as Section 4, Block 5, Lot 11; 132 Parkway Road, Bronxville, NY as follows:

ASSESSMENT YEAR	TAX YEAR	ASSESSED VALUATION	PROPOSED SETTLEMENT A.V.	AMOUNT OF REDUCTION
2022	2023	\$ 77,300	\$ 56,650	\$ 20,650

TOTAL TOWN TAX REFUND.....\$ 818.75

On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.

**VIII. CORRESPONDENCE**

- A) MEMORANDUM FROM COMPTROLLER RE: PART TIME EMPLOYEE

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilwoman Nicholson to approve the part-time appointment of Henrietta Imoukhuede as a Food Service Helper in the Senior Programs and Services Department at the hourly rate of \$20, effective 12/06/2023.

**On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.**

**B) MEMORANDUM FROM COMPTROLLER RE: ADOPTION OF THE 2024 PRELIMINARY TOWN OF EASTCHESTER BUDGET – see above**

**C) MEMORANDUM FROM POLICE CHIEF RE: APPROVAL OF PRISONER TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT**

Per a request from Police Chief Joseph Rodriguez, Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to approve a RESOLUTION authorizing Supervisor Colavita to sign the Prisoner Transportation Contract. The agreement between the Town of Eastchester and the Westchester County Jail gives the town a higher rate of reimbursement and it addresses reimbursement for extended delay as well as the need for a matron when there are female prisoners. The term commences on January 1, 2023 and terminates on December 31, 2024.

**On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.**

**D) MEMORANDUM FROM SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS RE: PERMISSION TO BID FOR REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HIGHWAY INCINERATOR BUILDING**

Per a request from Rocco Latella, Superintendent of Highways, Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to approve a RESOLUTION authorizing the Highway Department to go out to bid for the removal and disposal of the Highway Incinerator Building.

**On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.**

**IX. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS - none**

**X. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

Councilman Marcoccia reported that the 2023 season had been the most success for the Lake Isle Golf Course, helped with high daily walk in fees and an increased number of golf outings.

Councilman Dooley reminded residents to “shop and eat local” during the holiday season at our local stores and restaurants.

Councilwoman Nicholson presented the schedule of programming at the Library and reminded residents to ‘slowdown in town’ and put your phone down while driving.

Councilwoman Marcotte congratulated the members of the Parks and Recreation Department for the successful holiday programs and decorations on display throughout town.

In closing, Mrs. Marcotte asked for volunteers for the *Snow Angels* program. The program pairs volunteers with elderly neighbors to assist with snow clean up throughout town. For those who wish to participate, please sign up for the program at [tuckahoesnowangel@yahoo.com](mailto:tuckahoesnowangel@yahoo.com).

Supervisor Colavita reminded residents to remove cars from the streets if and when it snows. In addition, the Supervisor invited residents to attend the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony to be held at Town Hall on 12/7 at 7:55 a.m.

**XI. SECOND OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Frank Sweeny spoke on behalf of the North Eastchester Civic Association in thanking the town for the new fence and renovations at Rescigno Park and invites the public to a holiday tree lighting ceremony on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further public business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Minutes prepared by:  
Linda Laird  
Town Clerk