TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
Board of Finance – Special Meeting
November 19, 2025
Municipal Office Building – Room 1 & 2
Via Zoom and YouTube Live

Participating: Joseph Corbett
Debra Denette
Maureen Goff
Scott W. Jezek
Eric Kolasinski
Harvey Thomas

Others: Todd Gelston, First Selectwoman
And other members of the public

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

As the senior member on the Board, Mr. Thomas called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and the attendees said the pledge of allegiance.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Thomas opened the floor to nominations for Chair of the Board of Finance.

Motion made by Mr. Kolasinski to nominate Maureen Goff for Chairperson of the Board of Finance. Ms. Denette seconded the motion.

There being no further nominations for this position, Mr. Thomas closed the floor to nominations for the Chairperson of the Board of Finance.

The motion was approved by a unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.

Ms. Goff opened the floor to nominations for Secretary of the Board of Finance.

Motion made by Ms. Goff to nominate Debra Denette for Secretary of the Board of Finance. Mr. Jezek seconded the motion.

There being no further nominations for this position, Ms. Goff closed the floor to nominations for the Secretary of the Board of Finance.

Ms. Denette abstained from the vote and the motion was approved by a majority of ayes. Motion carried.

2026-2027 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Ms. Goff called attention to two draft Memorandums of Guidance in the Board's meeting packets. Mr. Thomas provided background on the purpose and goals of the proposed budgetary guidance. He stated that the previous Board had agreed that any increase in the FY2026-2027 budget, over the current budget, should be no greater than the respective increase in the Grand List. He noted that the average annual increase in the Grand List, over a 12 year period, was approximately 3%. He suggested that it is the Board's task to determine what would be an appropriate rate of increase for the Town's overall FY26-27 budget.

Ms. Denette expressed her concern that the goal of keeping the budget relatively flat doesn't take into account the previous year's contribution from Fund Balance. She also suggested that, if it is the Board's intention to tie future budget increases to changes in the Grand List, they may want to set a cap on such increases to prevent large swings in the Grant List from artificially inflating a particular year's budget. Mr. Kolasinski agreed with Ms. Denette's concern about compensating for the FY25-26 contribution from Fund Balance in the FY26-27 budget.

Ms. Goff expressed reservations about providing a specific acceptable percentage increase in the Memorandum of Guidance and recommended that the guidance for FY26-27 should be that it is the BOF's goal to keep the budget flat.

Mr. Jezek agreed that the BOF should provide guidance to the BOS and BOE concerning next year's budget; however, stated that he believes a 3% increase would be excessive. He also stated his opinion that the BOF's guidance to the BOS and BOE could present a quantitative difference.

There was a general discussion concerning what kind of appropriate guidance the BOF should provide. It was the consensus of the Board to communicate to the BOS and BOE that, at this time, it is the BOF's intent that there will be no increase to the overall budget for FY26-27.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Kolasinski to adjourn the meeting at 5:49 p.m. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion and it was approved by a unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/
Debra Denette
Secretary