TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
Board of Finance – Special Meeting
Financial Policies Sub-Committee
January 23, 2026
Municipal Office Building – Room 1 & 2
Via Zoom and YouTube Live

Participating: Maureen Goff
Scott W. Jezek
Harvey Thomas

Others: V. Belles, and other members of the public remotely

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF FINANCIAL POLICIES

Capital Projects Review Process

In response to a question from Mr. Thomas, Finance Director Belles advised that she had not gotten any feedback from department heads concerning the revised capital projects ranking/scorecard process on Cleargov. She also confirmed that she would ensure that the Boards of Selectmen and Education are aware that they have an integral step in the scoring process subsequent to the department heads completing a priority ranking of their proposed capital projects.

There was a general discussion regarding whether the BOF approves a specific amount of money to spend on capital projects or specific capital projects. Ms. Belles advised that she maintains a list of approved capital projects, and the amount approved for each project, for every fiscal year.

Ms. Goff requested Ms. Belles provided the BOF with periodic reports informing them of the status of approved/funded capital projects. Ms. Belles stated that she is working on such a report for FY25-26 and expects to complete it shortly.

Outlook Policy

Mr. Thomas suggested that it might be informative to include certain Town demographics in the Outlook report, as well as a tiered breakdown of property assessments. There was a general discussion regarding whether or not to include metrics on departmental accomplishments in the Outlook. The general consensus was that the Town departments include such information in their annual Cleargov budget proposals; however, there is currently no similar information received from the BOE. In response to a request from Ms. Goff, Ms. Belles stated she would ask the BOE to include details on actual FY25-26 expenditures to date in their FY26-27 budget proposal to the BOF as well as relevant metrics.

There was a general discussion concerning the objective of creating an annual Outlook and the committee members agreed that Mr. Thomas' presentation of a preliminary draft Outlook for FY26-27 had provided the BOF with sufficient insight to give guidance to the BOS and BOE on realistic expectations for increases in the FY26-27 budgets. The committee agreed that they can continue to refine the Outlook policy through most of 2026 since an updated report will not be needed until the last quarter of the year.

OTHER DISCUSSION

Mr. Jezek made the following cost-savings and revenue increasing recommendations for the BOF to consider:

1. Elementary School – briefly discussed feasibility.

2. Property Tax – establish a separate, higher, mil rate for residential properties that are not occupied by the owners as their primary residence.

3. Village Redevelopment – ask the BOS to establish a committee of representatives from the BOS, BOF, and Redevelopment Agency to approach the Goodspeed Board to determine if they have any interest in acquiring the old Town Office site for a new Goodspeed office building.

Mr. Jezek stated that he has discussed the third item with the First Selectman and suggested the BOF solicit Mr. Gelston's thoughts on the idea at their next Board meeting. Ms. Goff agreed to add it to the BOF's February agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/
Debra Denette
Secretary