



# CITIZENS' GUIDE

## to the 2022-2023 East Haddam Town Budget

### MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF FINANCE

Dear East Haddam Citizens:

The Board of Finance invites you to continue in the process of creating the 2022-2023 budget for the Town of East Haddam and the East Haddam Board of Education. As we noted in our message in December, the process began with committee and department level meetings accessible to citizens both in person and online. The Board of Finance has conducted its workshops and arrived at a budget that achieves our goal to provide current services and plan for future needs while maintaining a responsible approach to financial decisions.

The budget as presented allows for the continued support of our Police, Fire and Public Safety needs, the maintenance and improvement of Town infrastructure including support of the 10-year road plan, support for our youngest and oldest citizens through programs at Parks and Rec, the Senior Center, the professional staff throughout the Town and Board of Education offices and student needs throughout the district.

We looked very closely at the capital requests for next year as well as planning for the next five to ten years. We are fortunate to have been awarded \$2.6 million in Federal grants through the American Recovery Plan (ARP) and have designed how to best utilize these funds to leverage their value. In planning for future projects, we will add to the Capital Projects Savings Account and also set aside some monies for grant matching opportunities anticipated from additional State and Federal grants.

Using ClearGov has allowed for open explanations of both the operating budget and capital needs for the Town of East Haddam. Please go to the town website to access ClearGov for more detail:

<https://www.easthaddam.org/departments/FinanceDepartment/Budgets>

Since 2019, the mill rate has remained steady at 30.44. The proposed 2022-2023 budget results in a mill rate of 31.79, an increase of 1.35 mills. With increasing costs, inflationary pressures, and contractual obligations, we believe this figure is responsible. As noted on the reverse side, total expenditures are increasing by 1.7%. The offsetting revenue is impacted by our use of Fund Balance. To clarify, the original 2021-2022 budget which was defeated at referendum included a .62 mill rate increase. Balancing the 2021-2022 budget with no mill increase required the use of over \$1.1 million of the Fund Balance.

While this is well within the limits set by Board of Finance policy, it is not a trend we would like to see continued.

We believed it was prudent to keep the mill rate stable during the height of the pandemic, but now, due to holding off tax increases and the current rate of inflation that impacts the town, just like its citizens, this is no longer feasible. The 2022-2023 Budget is balanced using \$500,000 of the Fund Balance.



We encourage you to join us for the Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 7 pm at the Nathan Hale-Ray High School. The Public Hearing will also be broadcasted via YouTube live.

The Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 8 pm at the Nathan Hale-Ray High. School.

The Referendum is scheduled for Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at the Municipal Office Complex. The Referendum start time will be determined at the Town Meeting and the end time is 8 pm.

To express your comments, concerns, and to ask questions, please email us prior to or during the hearing and meeting at [budget.questions@easthaddam.org](mailto:budget.questions@easthaddam.org).

We look forward to hearing from you.

Tracey Gionta  
Chairman, Board of Finance

Members of the Board of Finance:  
Bruce Dutch, Secretary  
Joseph Corbett  
Todd Gelston  
Harvey Thomas  
Rebecca Whatley



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### ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES SUMMARY

Description	2020-2021 Actual	2021-2022 Revised Budget	2022-2023	
			Proposed Budget	\$ Change
General Government	\$ 2,918,284	\$ 3,298,119	\$ 3,429,729	\$ 131,610
Public Safety	1,341,559	1,518,517	1,640,013	121,496
Public Works	2,404,981	2,344,752	2,490,070	145,318
Health and Welfare	491,508	516,624	543,703	27,079
Culture and Recreation	559,704	668,470	711,603	43,133
Debt Service	2,606,533	3,401,245	2,952,926	(448,319)
Fringe Benefits	1,078,675	1,188,961	1,260,371	71,410
Total Town Government	11,401,244	12,936,689	13,028,415	91,726
Education	20,525,403	21,464,139	22,211,625	747,486
Transfers to Capital Reserves and Projects	2,006,035	2,235,849	2,013,714	(222,135)
<b>Grand Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 33,932,682</b>	<b>\$ 36,636,676</b>	<b>\$ 37,253,754</b>	<b>\$ 617,078</b>

### ESTIMATED REVENUES SUMMARY

Description	2020-2021 Actual	2021-2022 Budget	2022-2023	
			Proposed Budget	\$ Change
Taxes, Interest, Penalties and Fee Revenue	\$ 27,694,641	\$ 27,670,854	\$ 29,810,502	\$ 2,139,648
Intergovernmental Agencies	3,985,759	4,246,588	4,013,246	(233,341)
Investment and Interest Income	18,765	27,575	27,575	-
Local Revenues	998,892	735,080	864,968	129,888
Transfers in/Other Funding Sources	607,053	1,967,806	1,133,663	(834,143)
Transfer in from Reserves for Debt Service	981,677	1,721,465	1,403,800	(317,665)
<b>Grand Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 34,286,787</b>	<b>\$ 36,369,368</b>	<b>\$ 37,253,754</b>	<b>\$ 884,387</b>

## The Mill Rate

A tax mill is the number that, when applied to the value of taxable property, distributes the tax burden among the town's owners of real estate, vehicles and personal property. The mill rate is calculated by dividing the total amount of required taxes by 1/1,000th of the net taxable Grand List.



Required Taxes (budgeted expenditures less all other budgeted revenue sources) .....	\$29,612,102
October 1, 2021 net taxable Grand List (adjusted for uncollected taxes) .....	\$931,591,593
1/1,000th of net taxable Grand List (to calculate mill rate) .....	\$931,592
Mill Rate=Required Taxes divided by 1/1,000th of Grand List .....	31.79
Current Mill Rate .....	30.44
Mill Rate Increase .....	1.35