TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
Board of Finance – Regular Meeting
June 8, 2026
Municipal Office Building – Room 1 & 2
Via Zoom and YouTube Live

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

Others: V. Belles; D. Dill; T. Gelston; J. Ventres, and other members of the public

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Goff called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Guest and Audience Comments

No public comments were offered.

3. Correspondence

No correspondence was received.

4. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the April 7, 2026 Special Meeting minutes was tabled.

April 13, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes approved as distributed.

May 5, 2026 Special Meeting minutes approved as distributed.

Motion made by Mr. Thomas to move agenda items 9a and 9b up for discussion at this time in the meeting. Ms. Denette seconded the motion and it was approved by a unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.

9. New Business

a. Sprecher Property Exchange Proposal

Mr. Jezek recused himself from the discussion of the Spreer property exchange proposal and stepped out of the meeting.

Land Use Administrator Ventres provided an informational presentation regarding a long-planned land exchange associated with the Harris parcel. He stated that the proposal would facilitate trail connectivity through conservation easements and exchanged land.

No Board action required.

b. Dale King Property Acquisition

Land Use Administrator Ventres discussed the proposed acquisition of approximately 10.262 acres on South Sheepskin Hollow Road for open space and trail connectivity. He responded to several questions from the Board.

Motion made by Mr. Thomas that the Board of Finance of the Town of East Haddam hereby adopts the following resolution to be referred to Town Meeting for approval.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Meeting appropriate the sum of $15,000.00 from the Open Space reserves expense account 33250013-57707-25022 for the acquisition of certain property known generally as a 10.262 acre on the west side of South Sheepskin Hollow Road, East Haddam, Connecticut, and as lot number 38 on East Haddam assessor's map # 21 together with any improvements thereon and appurtenances thereto, (collectively known as "the premises").

Mr. Jezek seconded the motion and it was approved by a unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Thomas to amend the agenda to move item 9c forward at this time. Mr. Jezek seconded the motion and it was approved by a unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.

c. Tax Collector Suspense List

Tax Collector Dill explained the suspense list process and responded to questions from the Board.

Motion made by Mr. Jezek to accept the tax suspense list in the amount of $48,846.88. Ms. Denette seconded the motion and it was approved by a unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.

5. Chair's Report

a. BAA Spring Appeals Report

Ms. Goff called the Directors' attention to the annual report from the Board of Assessment Appeals in their meeting packets. She thanked the BAA for its work.

b. Audit Discussion

Ms. Goff provided an audit status update, noting expected completion in July, a likely extension next year, implementation of audit-tracking software, and enhanced coordination with the Board of Education.

6. First Selectman's Report

Mr. Gelston provided updates on the following:

- Road paving plans,
- Traffic enforcement efforts,
- Proposed firehouse project,
- Cell tower development,
- East Haddam Village redevelopment activities,
- Black Birch Golf Course feasibility study,
- Economic Development Commission vacancies,
- Upcoming USA 250 celebration activities.

7. Finance Director's Report

Ms. Belles reviewed April year-to-date financial statements and noted that revenues and expenditures were tracking generally as expected. She reported that tax collections exceeded expectations and interest income remained strong.

8. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

9. New Business (continued)

d. Municipal and Education Aid FY27 Discussion

Ms. Goff reviewed OPM guidance regarding additional state aid. Consensus supported amending revenues and expenditures rather than adjusting the mill rate. Additional funding includes approximately $35,000 for municipal purposes and approximately $142,000 for education.

e. Grant Acceptance - Consumers Union

Motion made by Ms. Denette to accept a gift from Consumers Union in the amount of $25,000.00 to be used for funding towards the Town's USA 250 event, revenue account 33050-43000-G3902 and expense account 3305511-58820-G3902, and funding towards the Municipal Office Complex LED sign, revenue account 33050-43000 G3903 and expense account 33055011-58820-G3903, and to recommend that the Board of Selectmen schedule a Town Meeting for approval. Mr. Corbett seconded the motion.

Mr. Thomas objected to installing a LED message board in front of the Municipal Office Complex. In response to a questions from Mr. Jezek and Ms. Denette, Ms. Belles clarified that the amount of the donation is $25,000.00 and that the donation will add to existing funding in the budget for the sign.

Mr. Thomas voted nay and the motion was approved by a majority aye vote. Motion carried.

10. Set Mill Rate

Motion made by Mr. Thomas to establish the mill rate for fiscal year 2026-2027 at 28.67 mills representing a budget of $43,841,297. Mr. Jezek seconded the motion and it was approved by a unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.

11. Adjournment

Motion made by Mr. Jezek to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion and it was approved by a unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/
Debra Denette
Secretary