

At a Financial Town Meeting held within and for the Town of East Greenwich in the County of Kent and State of Rhode Island at the East Greenwich High School auditorium on the eleventh day of June, A.D. 1997.

The meeting is called to order by the Moderator at 6:30 o'clock P.M., a quorum being present and voting.

Moderator - John M. Wolcott  
Clerk - Elizabeth F. Choiniere  
Stenographer - Carole Ogden, Allied Court Reporter

The meeting is opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by J. William Corr, former Town Moderator, followed by playing of the Star Spangled Banner by Jason Thomson on piano and by Jeffrey Thomson on trumpet, both East Greenwich High School students.

Proclamation No. 97-20 honoring J. William Corr, Jr. who has served his town as Councillor for twelve years, including four years as President, and as Town Moderator for eighteen years is presented to him by President Kiesel and Councillors.

Introductory and welcoming remarks are given by John M. Wolcott, moderator.

Checkers of the Voting Lists:

DEMOCRAT

REPUBLICAN

- D-1 Ruth Chamberland Barbara Munson
- D-2 Marian Whitmarsh Susan Schwendiman
- D-3
- D-4 Olga Wilcox
- D-5 Gerald Iadaluca
- D-6 Gerald Iadaluca
- D-7 Dorothy O'Connor, Alt Arlene Botelho, Alt

Number of eligible voters and numbers voting:

<u>Active</u>	<u>Inactive</u>	<u>Voted</u>
9,208	55	182

The following persons are present representing the Town and School Departments and resource persons:

TOWN COUNCIL:

- Marilyn J. Kiesel, President
- Carl I. Hoyer, Vice President
- Robert B. Holbrook
- Rosalind R. Beadle
- Vincent D. Bradley

SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

- Arthur C. Barton, Chairperson
- Sue P. Duff, Vice Chairperson
- Keith Bagley
- Barry M. Dressler
- Karen M. vanVierssen
- Mathias C. Wilkinson
- Mary Ann Andries

- William Sequino, Jr., Town Manager
- Edmund L. Alves, Jr., Town Solicitor
- Lawrence Campion, Chief of Police
- John K. Cook, Director of Public Works
- David P. Connolly, Superintendent of Schools

(JUNE 11, 1997)

RESOURCE PERSONS:

Suzanne J. Wheelock, Finance Director  
 L. Vincent murray, Director of Planning  
 David Spremulli, Tax Assessor  
 Joseph A. Macari, III, Wastewater Treatment Supt.  
 Catherine E. Bradley, Recreation Director  
 Karen Taylor, Librarian  
 Lori A. Miller, Director of Business/Personnel

On a voice vote, reading of the warrant is dispensed with.

On a voice vote, reading of the Minutes of 1996 Meeting are dispensed with.

Mrs. Marie Kojian, member of the Personnel Board, makes the recommendation on behalf of the Personnel Board that salaries and benefits for elected officials remain the same as last year; however, it is recommended that Town Council members shall receive \$125 for each meeting attended with compensation not to exceed \$1,500 per fiscal year. The Town Council chairperson shall receive \$167 for each meeting attended with compensation not to exceed \$2,000 per fiscal year.

School Committee members shall receive \$125 for each meeting attended with compensation not to exceed \$1,500 per fiscal year; School Committee Chairperson shall receive \$167 for each meeting attended with compensation not to exceed \$2,000 per fiscal year.

Town Moderator will receive \$75 per meeting and the benefits, health and insurance, would remain the same.

Mr. Arthur Barton, School Committee Chair, reviews and presents the School Department budget FY1997-98 in the amount of \$16,490,358, a 5.3 percent increase over the last year's budget. Various amounts regarding teachers salaries, special education services, health benefits and insurance, etc. are explained.

On a voice vote the motion made and seconded to accept the school portion of the budget in the amount of \$16,490,358 is approved.

Marilyn J. Kiesel, President of the Town Council, recommends the adoption of \$25,304,639, which represents an overall 4.6 percent increase over the last year's budget. It is pointed out that the municipal portion of the budget is \$8,814,281 and school's share is \$16,490,358. Three other components of the Town's budget; ie, capital improvements, debt service and community services are explained. Town Manager, William Sequino explains various departmental requests.

On a voice vote the motion made and seconded to accept the town portion of the budget in the amount of \$8,814,281 is approved.

**Resolution No. 1:**

To consider and act upon a recommendation of the Personnel Board.

Passed on a voice vote.

**COMMENT:**

This resolution complies with a Charter amendment requiring the personnel Board to make a recommendation on the compensation of all elected officials.

**Resolution No. 2:**

That the sum of \$16,490,358 appropriated for the support of public schools and the sum of \$8,814,281 appropriated for the municipal budget, for a total of \$25,304,639, be reduced by the unanticipated income or state aid received for the support of public schools during the ensuing fiscal year, provided however, there

(JUNE 11, 1997)

shall be no such reduction for Federal Aid granted for express purposes under the Federal or State Laws.

Passed on a voice vote.

**COMMENT:**

This resolution sets the total the town may spend during the fiscal year 1997-1998, as detailed in the budget pages.

**Resolution No. 3:**

That the Town Treasurer be and she hereby is authorized to borrow from time to time with the consent and approval of the Town Council, upon such terms as she may be able, such sum or sums of money as shall be necessary for the purpose of extending the sewer lines of the Town and all attendant expenses including but not limited to engineering costs, but not to exceed in the whole the sum of \$4,500,000 and to give the negotiable promissory notes or bonds of the Town therefore. Said Town Treasurer is hereby authorized to renew said negotiable promissory notes or bonds given in pursuance of this vote, from time to time, but payable not later than one year from the date of the original notes and/or bonds so renewed. Such notes or bonds and all documents in connection therewith shall be executed on behalf of the Town by the Town Treasurer and shall be countersigned by the President or Vice-President of the Town Council and the counter-signature of such notes or bonds by the President or Vice-President of the Town Council shall be conclusive evidence to all holders of said notes or bonds of the consent and approval of the Town Council to the loan or loans evidenced thereby.

Passed on a voice vote.

**COMMENT:**

This resolution would provide \$4,500,000 for the extension of sewer service in the Town of East Greenwich.

**Resolution No. 4:**

That the Town Council and/or Town Manager be authorized to apply for, receive and disburse any and all funds which the town may be entitled to from time to time, under any Federal, State or other grant programs, and that all such funds be and the same hereby shall be appropriated for such purposes as may be provided by law.

Passed on a voice vote.

**COMMENT:**

This resolution allows the town to pursue any Federal or State grants that might improve the town in any way.

**Resolution No. 5:**

That the Town Treasurer be, and is authorized under the direction of the Town Council to renew any of the notes of the town as it may from time to time, in his judgment, become necessary to do and to borrow from time to time such sums of money as may in his/her judgment be necessary to meet any of the notes of the town as they may become due and to give the negotiable note or notes of the town for money so borrowed; and that the Town Treasurer be, and is further authorized under the direction of the Town Council to borrow from time to time to meet the current expenses of the town, the total amount of money so borrowed for current expenses and outstanding at any one time not to exceed the sum of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) and to give the negotiable note or notes of the town for the money so borrowed, provided that all notes of the town shall bear upon them a certificate of registration signed by the Town Clerk.

Passed on a voice vote.

(JUNE 11, 1997)

**COMMENT:**

This resolution gives the Town Treasurer the authority to borrow, renew, and sell notes and bonds as deemed necessary by the Town Council.

**Resolution No. 6:**

That the electors of the Town of East Greenwich, qualified to vote upon any proposition to impose a tax, in town meeting legally assembled on this 11th day of June, A.D. 1997; hereby order the assessment and collection of an ad valorem tax on the ratable real estate and tangible personal property in accordance with paragraph 44-5-1 of the General Laws of Rhode Island and further order the assessment and collection of an excise tax on registered motor vehicles and trailers in accordance with paragraph 44-34-1 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, such taxes, before exemptions, shall be in a sum no less than eighteen million dollars (\$18,000,000), and no more than thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000); said tax is for the ordinary expenses and charges, for the payment of interest and indebtedness, in whole or in part, of said Town and supporting the Public Schools of the Town, for maintaining the poor, for repairing the highways, causeways and bridges therein, for improving any property belonging to the Town and for any and all other purposes authorized by law, and for the municipal year ensuing July 1, 1997. The said tax shall be apportioned upon the assessed valuations as determined by the Tax Assessor as of the 31st day of December A.D. 1996 at twelve o'clock midnight, according to law.

The Tax Assessor shall, on the completion of said assessment date, certify and sign the same and deliver to and deposit the same in the office of the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk, on receipt of said assessment, shall forthwith make a copy of the same and issue and affix to said copy a warrant under her hand directed to the Collector of Taxes of said Town, commanding her to proceed and collect said tax on the persons and estates liable therefor.

Said tax shall be due and payable on the first day of September, A.D. 1997 and all taxes not paid on or before the 15th day of September, A.D. 1997 shall carry until collected a penalty at the rate of twelve percent (12%) per annum, applied as 1% per month, upon such unpaid tax from the first day of September, A.D. 1997, provided, however, that the persons assessed under the provisions of Chapter 44-5 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, 1956, as amended, shall have the option to pay their taxes, if they so desire, as follows; i.e. said tax may be paid in quarterly installments, the first installment of twenty-five percent (25%) on or before the 15th day of September, A.D. 1997 and the remaining installments as follows: twenty-five percent (25%) on the 15th day of December, A.D. 1997, twenty-five percent (25%) on the 15th day of March, A.D. 1998, twenty-five percent (25%) on the 15th day of June, A.D. 1998. Each installment of taxes, if paid on or before the last day of each installment period successfully and in order, shall be free from any charge of interest.

If the first or any succeeding installment of taxes is not paid by the last day of the respective installment period or periods as they occur, then the whole tax or remaining unpaid balance of the tax, as the case may be, shall immediately become due and payable and shall carry, until collected, a penalty at the rate of twelve percent (12%) per annum, applied as 1% per month, from the first

(JUNE 11, 1997)

day of September, A.D. 1997 until paid in full or as may be allowed by State law. A penalty of less than two dollars (\$2) shall not be charged. This option permitting payment of quarterly installments of said tax shall not apply to any tax levied in an amount not in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), and any such tax not in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) shall be payable in a single instalment, due and payable on the first day of September, A.D. 1997, in accordance with paragraph 44-5-7 of the General Laws of Rhode Island. The Finance Director is hereby authorized to temporarily transfer monies between funds, including but not limited to, General, Debt Services, Capital Projects and Sewer to reduce or eliminate borrowing costs. Funds which are transferred will be restored to the originating fund prior to the commencement of the next fiscal year. The Finance Director will maintain a record of such transfers.

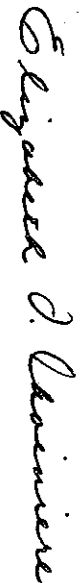
Be it further resolved:

That the Town Council of the Town of East Greenwich hereby orders the assessment of valuations by the Assessor of Taxes on the ratable real estate and tangible personal property and registered motor vehicles and trailers of the Town as of the 31st day of December, A.D. 1996 at twelve o'clock midnight, according to law. Passed by voice vote.

**COMMENT:**

This resolution sets the limits on the tax levy which, in turn, generates the tax bills. The dates the tax bills are due and the rate to be charged for late payment are defined. State law permits the Town to set an interest rate for late payment to reflect current market conditions, but not in excess of eighteen percent (18%). and or any or all other purposes authorized by law; and to transact such other business as may legally come before the meeting.

There being no further business to come before the voters of the Town of East Greenwich, the meeting is adjourned at 7:50 o'clock P.M.



Elizabeth F. Choiniere  
Town Clerk