

(JUNE 12, 2007)

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 Tuesday, the twelfth day of June, A.D. 2007 at 6:30 o'clock in the evening.

The meeting is called to order by the Town Moderator Jeffrey B. Cianciolo and the East Greenwich Police Chief, David Desjarlais, leads the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

The following people served as checkers of the voting lists:

Grazina Kulawas	James McGeary
Edward Verrier	Robert Vespia
Robert Pratt	Dan Blycker
Marlene Ahern	June Hoppe
John Laliberty	Priscilla Laliberty
Theresa Luszc	Mary Falchini
Robert Stone	Angela Stone
Sandra Pare	Ruth Winde

Number of eligible voters and numbers voting:

Active - 9,195
Inactive - 553 for a total of 9,748

Maximum Number of Voters in attendance tonight - 157
(Quorum needed for meeting - 250)

Town Moderator - Jeffrey B. Cianciolo
The Town Clerk is absent tonight and is represented by
Dianne M. Potter from the Town Clerk's Office
Stenographer - Lori A. Merolla of Merandi Court Reporters

The following persons represent the Town, School Departments and resource persons:

Board of Canvassers:

Frederick J. Holmquist, Chair
Norrrene D. McGeary
Evelyn S. Carpentieri

Town Council:

Michael B. Isaacs, President
John M. McGurk, Vice President
Henry V. Boezi, Councillor
Kim A. Petti, Councillor
Mark Schwager, Councillor

School Committee:

Suzanne McGee Cienki, Chair
William L. Day
Marilyn Friedemann
Jeanann W. Guliano
Anne Palumbo
Susan M. Records
Mary Ellen Winters

Resource Persons (non-residents indicated with [*])

William Sequino, Jr., Town Manager
Thomas Mattos, Finance Director
Peter A. Clarkin, Town Solicitor*
David Desjarlais, Chief of Police*
Charles Meyers, Superintendent of Schools*

Town Side:

Catherine E. Bradley, Recreation Director*
Kristin Benoit, Accounting Manager*
Wayne Pimental, Building Inspector/Zoning Official*
Joseph C. Duarte, Director of Public Works*
Michael Pacillo, Superintendent WWTP*

Raymond C. Pezzullo, Assistant Town Engineer*
 Richard Denice, Town Sergeant
 Jerry A. Meyer, Director of the Chamber of Commerce
 Karen Taylor, Executive Director of Library*
 Janice Peixinho, Tax Assessor/Tax Collector*
 Nancy A. Verrier, Deputy Town Clerk
 Judith A. Keenan, Board of Canvassers Clerk*
 Lee R. Whitaker, Town Planner*
 Wendy Schmidle, Information Technology Director
 Erin McAndrew, Senior Services & Human Services
 Director

School Side:

Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration*
 Robert Wilmarth, Facilities Director
 Ernie DeSaia, Consultant to Facilities Director
 George Dziekiewicz, Custodian Union President
 Michael Levine, Principal of EG High School
 Michael Podraza, Vice Principal of EG High School
 Cheryl Vaughn, Principal of Frenchtown School
 Domenic Giusti, Principal of Eldredge School
 Tara McAuliffe, Principal of Meadowbrook School
 Joan Sousa, Principal of Hanaford School
 Michael Zajac, Principal of Cole Junior High
 Donna Hayes/
 Judi Cavanaugh, EG&EA Union Co-Presidents
 Helen O'Hara, Assistant Superintendent & Director
 of Student Services*
 Sue Verdon, EG&ESP Union President

The Town Moderator indicates that the Town Clerk prepared the Financial Town Meeting Warrant for tonight's meeting and copies are available on a table outside the auditorium. The minutes for last year's Financial Town Meeting will be presented and submitted along with the minutes of this meeting.

The Town Moderator indicates that a quorum of 250 has to be met for tonight's meeting and, if that does not occur within an hour's time, the budget will pass as it is presented in the Warrant. He goes on to indicate that the first count on tonight's quorum is 106 and we will be checking it as we go along.

The Town Moderator introduces Ms. Cienki, Chair of the School Committee, and she gives an overview of the School budget and how that budget was put together. She reports that the School Committee approved a final budget for fiscal year 2008 at \$30,889,947. After her presentation, the Town Moderator introduces the Council President for his presentation of the Municipal's side of the budget.

President Isaacs introduces the department heads and staff members to this evening's assembly and begins the presentation of the Town's budget for fiscal year 2008 by stating that the Municipal side of the budget comes in at \$11,954,197; the School side is \$30,889,947; and the Debt Service is \$2,496,591 for a total Town budget of \$45,340,735.

After an overview of the budget, with a slide presentation, Mr. Isaacs indicates that the current tax rate is \$12.86 and the fiscal year 2008 budget calls for a 68¢ increase, for a rate of \$13.54—an increase of 5.3%.

The Town Moderator announces that our quorum right now, at 7:00 p.m., is at 150 and he opens the floor for questions.

Paul Marcoux of 220 First Avenue questions the "benefits" area and the "debt service" area of the budget. He goes on to express how he would like to see the budget rejected, as he feels the town can no longer afford to increase its current debt.

Malcolm Denniss of 81 Fourth Avenue asks why previous year's surpluses are not used toward offsetting current increases caused by debt service. He goes on to state he is also concerned with the benefit increases being shown at 13% and 17% and salary increases in the range of 6%.

President Isaacs responds that the surplus is used for cash flow purposes at the early part of the fiscal year before taxes start to come in and also to maintain the bond rating. He further explains that benefits are always an area of concern and they have recently instituted 20% co-pays for town employees, as well as piggy-backing Governor Carcieri's efforts with United Health and switching from Blue Cross to United HealthCare.

Councilman Schwager reassures the citizens in attendance, as well as out in the community, that the town is well within the guidelines of sound financial planning.

School Committee person Ms. Friedemann believes we have to look at things in a pre- and a post-tax cap world; get to a happy medium so we don't have to cut essential services.

Arthur Murray of 135 Sycamore Drive states he is speaking as a taxpayer who does not like this budget and does not want to pay higher taxes.

Ms. Henneidy of 56 Marion Street questions what kind of economic development is foreseen for the town.

President Isaacs indicates that the main economic development has been on Route 2 but believes that we now need to look at what is happening with the traffic congestion, quality of life for all in the community and land management study for that area.

Councilman Schwager indicates that the revenue from the Brooks Building is not a one-time revenue producer; it will be an on-going thing.

The Town Moderator reports that it is 7:22 p.m. and the quorum is at 157.

Barry Shore of 634 Cedar Avenue believes that the town is just over-ambitious in all it is trying to accomplish.

David Soscia of 325 Grand View Road is frustrated that the taxes keep going up every year, even on top of a re-valuation. He has not received a raise in three years; it won't be long before I'll be taxed right of town.

The Moderator indicates that it is 7:30 p.m. and we do not have a quorum—the budget is final and passed (See Exhibit "A" as attached).

Discussion continues:

Unidentified citizen from the audience reminds the elected officials that there were ten pages of foreclosures in the newspaper this week; some from East Greenwich.

Jerry Holmquist (Chair of the Board of Canvassers) and resident of 79 Wildwood Trail speaks on the following:

- whether the town is going to pursue any tax credits or holding taxes for the elderly in East Greenwich;
- would like to see the Financial Town Meeting done away with and let the Town Council and School Committee put together a budget; and
- was pleased to see the Community Link reporting that the Town and Fire District are consolidating their quarterly tax payments; thanks the Town Council for that.

Frank Woods of 2578 Division Road feels that the elderly are being over-burdened with taxes; they are all on a fixed income.

Larry Steingold of 266 Spring Valley Drive asks if the Town has thought of splitting the taxes on property; between residential and commercial with a higher rate for commercial that's fixed. Also believes that the Senior Center would be better housed in a church and not have the Town own their own building.

Eleanor Schock of 588 Tillinghast Road asks what good is having the bill for the tax cap, when the cities and towns can go every year and ask for an exemption.

Debra Ficzozola of South Road feels the revaluation was very untimely, putting appraisals higher than current market values that will drive many people out, especially the elderly.

With no further speakers stepping up, the Moderator votes to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted for filing,



Deidra A. Kettelle
Town Clerk

(June 12, 2007)

Exhibit A

TOWN OF EAST GREENWICH

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

WARNING FOR TOWN MEETING

ANNUAL FINANCIAL TOWN MEETING

County of Kent, Sc.

By the Town Clerk of the Town of East Greenwich,

To Richard Denice, Town Sergeant of the said Town of East Greenwich, or any of the constables of said town,

GREETING:

Whereas, Tuesday, the 12th day of June, A.D. 2007 is by law designated by the Town Clerk as the date for holding the Financial Town Meeting.

You are, therefore, pursuant to Chapter 3 of Title 45 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, hereby required to post, at least seven (7) days before the 12th day of June, A.D. 2007, written notification in three (3) or more public places in the said Town of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, notifying and warning the electors of the said Town of East Greenwich, qualified to vote upon any proposition to impose a tax or for the expenditure of money, to assemble in town meeting at the East Greenwich High School in said Town of East Greenwich on said 12th day of June, A.D. 2007, at 6:30 o'clock in the evening for the purpose of hearing official reports; of ordering a tax to be levied and assessed on the ratable property of said town and the inhabitants thereof for the payment of the town debts and interests; for the support of schools; for the support and maintenance of the poor; for building, repairing and amending of highways; for the improvement in any manner deemed fit of any property belonging to the town; for all necessary charges and expenses whatsoever arising within said town, whether incidental or not to the above, including appropriation for salaries of town officials and employees; expense of operation of the various boards, commissions, committees and departments of the town; grants, contributions and public observances; and to consider and act upon the following propositions, viz.:

- (1) That the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) be appropriated for the construction, equipping, extension, replacement, repair and rehabilitation of the sewer lines, sewage collection and sewage treatment system and all attendant expenses, including but not limited to engineering costs and approving the financing thereof through the issuance of bonds and/or notes in an amount not to exceed five million dollars.
- (2) That the resolution passed in the Warrant at the FY 2006 Financial Town Meeting for the sum of \$351,140 for safety and maintenance related items at school and town fields be amended to also allow this sum to be used for storm drainage and road repair/resurfacing projects.

- (3) 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 maybe provided by law.
- (4) That the sum of thirty million, eight hundred eighty-nine thousand, nine hundred forty-seven dollars (\$30,889,947) is hereby appropriated for the support of public schools; the sum of eleven million, nine hundred fifty-four thousand, one hundred ninety-seven dollars (\$11,954,197) is hereby appropriated for the municipal budget; and the sum of two million, four hundred ninety-six thousand, five hundred ninety-one dollars (\$2,496,591) is hereby appropriated for debt service, for a total budget of forty-five million, three hundred forty thousand, seven hundred thirty-five dollars (45,340,735).
- (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 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 thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) 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. 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.

(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 12th day of June, A.D. 2007; hereby order the assessment and collection of an ad valorem tax on the ratable real estate and tangible personal property in accordance with Section 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 thirty-five million dollars (\$35,000,000), and no more than forty-five million dollars (\$45,000,000); 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, 2007. Provided further, that in accordance with Rhode Island General Laws 44-35-10, total receipts shall be utilized to maintain a balanced municipal budget. 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. 2006 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 him 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. 2007 and all taxes not paid on or before the 15th day of September, A.D. 2007 shall carry until collected a penalty determined in accordance with State law; 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. 2007 and the remaining installments as follows: twenty-five percent (25%) on or before the 15th day of December, A.D. 2007, twenty-five percent (25%) on or before the 15th day of March, A.D. 2008, twenty-five percent (25%) on or before the 15th day of June, A.D. 2008. Each installment of taxes, if paid no later than the last day of each installment period successfully and in order, shall be free from any charge of interest.

(June 12, 2007)

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, the tax shall carry, until collected, a penalty determined in accordance with 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 installment, due and payable on the first day of September, A.D. 2005, in accordance with Section 44-5-7 of the General Laws of Rhode Island.

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. 2006 at twelve o'clock midnight, according to law.


and for any or all other purposes authorized by law; and to transact such other business as may legally come before the meeting.

Notice is hereby given that, in accordance with Home Rule Charter Article VII, Section C-50, should the required Financial Town Meeting quorum not be met or maintained, the Town Council budget, including all items on this warrant, shall be final and approved.

Given under my hand this 29th day of May, A.D. 2007, in said Town of East Greenwich, Rhode Island.


Deidra A. Kettelle, Town Clerk

Approved as to form:


Peter A. Clarkin, Town Solicitor


(June 12, 2007)

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Kent, Sc.

In the Town of East Greenwich on the 29th day of May, A. D. 2007, I have done as the within commands by posting in said town, at least seven (7) days before the 12th day of June, A. D. 2007, written notifications referred to in and required by the foregoing Warrant, in four (4) public places being as follows, viz:


Town Hall, 125 Main Street
East Greenwich Free Library, 82 Peirce Street
Bank of America, 200 Main Street
Briarbrook Farm, 2693 South County Trail


Richard Denice, Town Sergeant

To the qualified electors of the Town of East Greenwich:

By virtue of a warrant to me directed by Deidra A. Kettelle, Town Clerk, of which the foregoing is a true copy, you are hereby notified and warned to assemble in Town Meeting at the time and place therein named for the purpose therein set forth.

Date: May 29, 2007


Richard Denice, Town Sergeant