March 27, 2020

**Update on the Town of East Haddam 2020-2021 Budget Process due to COVID-19:**

Governor Ned Lamont has issued Executive Order 7I, Section 13 which relieves municipalities of the obligation of complying with any in-person voting requirements (including referenda and any town meetings requiring in-person votes) for purposes of adopting the 2020-2021 fiscal year municipal budgets and setting the mill rates. The legislative body of the municipality, or the Board of Selectmen because the town meeting is the legislative body in East Haddam, is ordered to authorize the “budget making authority” of the municipality to adopt a budget and to set a mill rate. The Board of Selectmen has scheduled a meeting on April 8, 2020 at 7 pm for the purpose of authorizing the Board of Finance as the budget making authority and authorizing them to adopt a budget and to set a mill rate. The Board of Selectmen agenda will be posted on the town’s website.

The Executive Order 7B, Section 13 provides for the ability of remote public budget meetings (by conference call, videoconference or other technology) in a manner that is consistent with our past budget processes. The budget making authority must make reasonable efforts to reach out to the public, including providing draft budgets and receiving comments. Please be assured that we are putting into place the ability for the members of the Boards of Finance, Selectmen and Education, as well as the public to remotely participate in this important process to include budget workshops and the budget public hearing.

We will be scheduling budget workshops during the month of April and it is anticipated that there will be a virtual budget public hearing on Tuesday, May 5th at 7 pm.

We will continue to move forward with our budget process in accordance with any requirements or Executive Orders set forth by the State of Connecticut and the Governor.

We will continue to communicate updated information to you, our citizens as we move forward. Please look for information on the town’s website at: [www.easthaddam.org](http://www.easthaddam.org)

The Board of Finance welcomes citizen participation and input as we formulate next year’s budget and we look forward to resuming the budget process.

We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding through this unprecedented crisis. Please be safe.