



THOMAS P. DiNAPOLI
COMPTROLLER

STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER
110 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12236

GABRIEL F. DEYO
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
DIVISION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY
Tel: (518) 474-4037 Fax: (518) 486-6479

November 2, 2016

Mr. Larry Cantwell, Supervisor
Members of the Town Board
Town of East Hampton
Town Hall
159 Pantigo Road
East Hampton, NY 11937

Report Number: B7-16-14

Dear Mr. Cantwell and Members of the Town Board:

Chapter 126 of the Laws of 2010 authorizes the Town of East Hampton (Town) to issue debt totaling \$30 million to liquidate the accumulated deficit in the Town's general fund as of December 31, 2007, December 31, 2008 and December 31, 2009. Local Finance Law Section 10.10 requires all local governments that have been authorized to issue obligations to fund operating deficits to submit to the State Comptroller each year, starting with the fiscal year during which the local government is authorized to issue obligations and for each subsequent fiscal year during which the deficit obligations are outstanding, their tentative budget for the next succeeding fiscal year.

The budget must be submitted no later than 30 days before the date scheduled for the governing board's vote on the adoption of the budget or the last date on which the budget may be finally adopted, whichever is sooner. The State Comptroller must examine the tentative budget and make recommendations for any changes that are needed to bring the tentative budget into balance. Such recommendations are made after the examination into the estimates of revenues and expenditures of the Town.

Our Office has recently completed a review of the Town's budget for the 2017 fiscal year. The objective of the review was to provide an independent evaluation of the tentative budget. Our review addressed the following question related to the Town's budget for the 2017 fiscal year:

- Are the significant revenue and expenditure projections in the Town's tentative budget reasonable?

To accomplish our objective in this review, we requested your tentative budget, salary schedules, debt payment schedules and other pertinent information. We identified and examined significant estimated revenues and expenditures for reasonableness with emphasis on significant and/or unrealistic increases or decreases. We analyzed, verified and/or corroborated trend data and estimates, where appropriate. We identified any significant new or unusually high revenue or

expenditure estimates, made appropriate inquiries and reviewed supporting documentation to determine the nature of the items and to assess whether the estimate was realistic and reasonable. We also evaluated the amount of fund balance appropriated in the tentative budget to be used as a financing source and determined if the amount of fund balance was available and sufficient for that purpose. In addition, we inquired and checked whether written recommendations from the prior year’s budget review were implemented or resolved and, therefore, incorporated as part of the current year’s budget.

The scope of our review does not constitute an audit under generally accepted government auditing standards (GAGAS). We do not offer comments or make specific recommendations on public policy decisions, such as the type and level of services under consideration to be provided.

The tentative budget package submitted for review for the fiscal year ended 2017 consisted of the following:

- Cover Letter
- 2017 Tentative Budget
- Supplementary Information

The tentative budget submitted to our Office is summarized as follows:

Fund	Appropriations	Estimated Revenues	Appropriated Fund Balance	Real Property Taxes
General, Whole Town	\$30,542,123	\$10,279,412	\$1,359,777	\$18,902,934
General, Part Town	\$25,821,791	\$3,787,161	\$9,903	\$22,024,727
Highway	\$6,756,643	\$801,930	\$68,386	\$5,886,327
Solid Waste/ Recycling	\$6,143,327	\$2,493,497	\$40,903	\$3,608,927
Scavenger Water/ Water	\$234,556	\$229,560	\$4,996	\$0
Airport	\$5,643,117	\$5,643,117	\$0	\$0

Based on the results of our review, we found that the significant revenue and expenditure projections in the tentative budget are reasonable.

Tax Cap Compliance

The State Legislature enacted Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011 that established a tax levy limit on all local governments, effective beginning in the 2012 fiscal year. The law precludes local governments from adopting a budget that requires a tax levy that exceeds the prior year tax levy by more than 2 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less, with certain exclusions permitted by law, unless the governing board adopts a local law to override the tax levy limitation.

The Town's 2017 tentative budget complies with the tax cap levy limit. The 2017 tentative budget includes a proposed tax levy¹ of \$53,775,526, which increases the 2017 tax levy within the limits established by law.

We request that you provide us with a copy of the adopted budget.

We hope that this information is useful as you adopt a budget for the Town. If you have any questions on the scope of our work, please feel free to contact Ira McCracken, Chief Examiner of the Hauppauge Regional Office, at 631-952-6534.

Sincerely,

Gabriel F. Deyo
Deputy Comptroller

cc: Len Bernard, Budget Officer
Carole Brennan, Town Clerk
Robert F. Mujica Jr., Director, Division of the Budget
Hon. Catharine Young, Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Chair, Assembly Ways and Means Committee
Hon. Fred W. Thiele, Jr., NY State Assembly
Hon. Kenneth P. LaValle, NY State Senate
Andrew A. SanFilippo, Executive Deputy Comptroller
Ira McCracken, Chief Examiner

¹ When calculating the tax levy limit, the Town must include the tax levy for the town-wide general fund, part-town general fund, highway and all special districts.