



TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON MAKES FINAL PAYMENT ON \$21.2 MILLION DEFICIT FINANCING BOND ISSUED IN 2011

Prudent fiscal oversight and practices result in town's positive financial standing a decade after mismanagement required bond issue to cover budget gap

Top, Aaa credit rating achieved and maintained since 2017

The money borrowed by East Hampton Town 10 years ago (\$21.2 million) to address financial problems and a large deficit was paid in full this week with the issuance of a final, \$162,700 payment.

A decade ago, East Hampton Town faced a financial shortfall due to fiscal mismanagement and had to seek NY State legislative permission to issue a deficit financing bond to cover the gap.

Strict financial oversight, including the implementation of rigorous budgetary controls and procedures, and conservative budgeting by successive town administrations since 2011, have enabled the town to achieve the highest Moody's Investors Service credit rating possible while paying off the deficit financing bond and systematically retiring more debt than is taken on each year.

"This is the culmination of an extraordinary effort on the part of the Town and its staff over three different administrations to restore the Town's financial well-being," said Len Bernard, the town budget officer, who has overseen the recovery effort.

"Our strong financial position as evidenced by our past four consecutive years of a Aaa bond rating coupled with significant fund balances have allowed us to weather the financial challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic," said East Hampton Town Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc, who took office in 2018. "With ongoing conservative budgeting and oversight, we will be able to continue meeting community needs, and plan for needed infrastructure improvement and capital projects, which can be financed at lower cost due to our positive credit rating."

