

Still actively practicing law in New York City and chasing my six grandchildren.

I have never been too involved in local politics but about a year ago, a couple of friends and I formed the Town of East Hampton Group for Good Government in order to bring back competence and civility to our local government which had, in a couple of years, turned a \$15 million surplus into a \$20 million deficit.

Meanwhile Town Board meetings were being held midday when no working person could attend and when questions were asked, they were ignored. Moreover, audits had not been completed for years, no one knew the town's day to day cash position, bond offering statements were falsified, town employees multiplied, funds were improperly being taken out of segregated preservation funds to cover operating deficits, etc.

At first, we all wondered if our voter registration drives, press interviews and meetings with county legislators and potential candidates would matter. It took us about a year, but the budget director has been indicted on seven felony counts, the Supervisor resigned, and we now have six new people running for three vacancies on the five-member town board--any three of whom would be a dramatic improvement.

We are now focused on turning the town government into a town manager format to make sure there is professional management of a town with a \$60 million budget. "If nothing else I now know I never want to be an elected official--having been the managing partner of a law firm for about 10 years (a position I left several years ago) was bad enough! 2009