

Town of Easton CT
Board of Finance – Regular Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Tuesday December 6, 2022 – 7:00 pm

Location: Easton Senior Center, 650 Morehouse Road; also on Zoom

Recording: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/easton-board-of-finance>

Attendees: Members in person: Ira Kaplan, Art Laske, Michael Kot, Andy Kachele, Paul Skrtich, Jackie Kaufman
Alternates in person: Michael Gutowski, Gregg Saunders
Alternates on Zoom: Maureen Williams

Absentees: None

Guests: Dave Bindelglass, First Selectman
Christine Calvert, Treasurer and Finance Director
Jonathan Arnold, Chief of Emergency Medical Services
Wendy Bowditch, EMS Planning & Building Committee
Robert Klem, Fire Chief

Call to Order: By Chair Art Laske at 7:02 pm

No appointment of alternates necessary

1. (Agenda item #1) Discuss and approve the meeting minutes of 11/1/22 (7:02)
Correction from Andy, last motion in item 3 should read “approval of *appropriation* of \$244,000 from the undesignated fund balance” rather than “approval of *transfer* of \$244,000 from the undesignated fund balance”
Correction from Ira, motion in item 2 should read “make a special *appropriation*” not “make a special *appropriate*”

Motion to approve minutes as corrected, by Paul/Jackie. Result: passes 6-0.

2. Update from the EMS Planning and Building Committee (7:04)
Jon and Wendy discussed septic testing of five potential sites. Discussion of comparisons with other town configurations, potential components of funding (ARPA funds, EMS Volunteer Association funds, State Bonding (Grant), Mortgage with Town backing, Town Bonding). Discussion of need to plan timeline and dependencies, and to make BOF aware of any FYE 2024 funding needs. Discussion of benefit of building requirements being scaled down. Discussion of need to plan ownership and control issues of property and building.

Next EMS Planning & Building Committee meeting 12/13 at Library Conference Room.

Dave reports that draft of consultant’s report on emergency services will be available by 12/31 and there is agreement to have joint BOS/BOF meeting for consultant’s presentation of report in January, to which EMS Planning & Building Committee will be invited. Dave agrees to circulate the report prior to the meeting presentation for review.

3. Discuss and possible action on allocating funds for Fire Gear and Air Compressor (8:14)
Presentation by Fire Chief Rob Klem, during which two documents were referenced:
11/2/22 letter from Air Compressor Engineering to Easton Fire Department, re Stallion Compressed Air System Options; 12/5/22 email from Robert Klem to Christine Calvert, re Gear.

Rob informs that 15 new volunteers require new gear, currently requesting 7 sets for \$27,000.

Air compressor to fill tanks is 34 years old, recently needed repair, warrants replacement for \$56,000.

Discussion of funding via ARPA funds or Undesignated Fund Balance.

Motion to authorize use of \$83,000 of ARPA funds for Fire Department Compressor and turnout gear, by Andy/Jackie. Result: passes 6-0.

4. Present draft of budget letter from BOF (8:44)

Consensus to change draft language with minor deletions and revisions, and for Art to add paragraph requesting departments' views on one year ahead (FYE 25) expectations.

5. Treasurer's Report (9:04)

Chris answers that Janney funds are in Treasury Bills. No action taken.

6. Discuss and possible action on Munis Financial Report for appropriations and revenue presented by Finance Director. (9:06)

Chris informs BOF of upcoming expenses for building needs at Town Hall (bathroom sewerage pipes, pumps in other bathroom, power surge damage), all likely within budget. FYE 25 Joel Barlow High School cost allocation is based on 10/1/22 demographics, and Easton share moved from expected 54.87% to final 53.43%. No action taken.

Andy asks about lease for family living on South Park property, noting that at 12/5/22 Special Town Meeting it was presented that the property may have repair needs of \$200,000. Andy advocates against spending town money on repairs. Dave informs that no formal lease is in place, and that the family pays rent \$3,000 monthly. The sense of the room is supportive of Andy's recommendation.

Art discusses a request to remove the Zoom component of BOF meetings. The consensus is to keep Zoom and our hybrid meetings, but to request attendees to make every effort to attend in person, and to seek technological improvements (Wi-Fi, microphones, routers) to improve the experience on both ends.

7. Motion to adjourn by Mike K/Paul. Result: passes 6-0 at 9:24.

Submitted 12/8/22 by Ira Kaplan, BOF Clerk