

Town of Easton
Board of Finance – Regular Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 – 7:00 pm
Location: Virtual meeting using the Zoom app.

Attendees: Members: Andy Kachele-Chair, Paul Lindoerfer-Clerk, Michael Kot, Art Laske,
Paul Skrtich
Alternates: Gregg Saunders, Tara Gottlieb, Jackie Kaufman

Absentee(s):

Guest(s): Christine Calvert-Finance Director/Treasurer, Dr. David Bindelglass-First Selectman,
Kristi Sogofsky-Selectman

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at: 7:00 pm by: Andy Kachele

Agenda Item 1	<i>Discuss and possible action on the resignation of Matthew Gachi.</i>
	Andy announced the resignation of Matt Gachi from the Board and expressed the Board's great appreciation for his efforts in improving the working of the Board and keeping it focused on serving the needs of the Easton community.
Notes:	Two people have expressed an interest in filling this open position: Wendy Bowditch and Michael Gutkowski. Each was given time to provide the Board with their background and qualifications for being a member of the Board.
Action/Motions:	Paul Skrtich moved and Mike Kot seconded the motion to approve Wendy Bowditch for the open position. Art Laske moved and Paul Lindoerfer seconded the motion to approve Michael Gutkowski for the open position.
Results:	Andy Kachele, Paul Lindoerfer, Mike Kot and Paul Skrtich voted for Wendy Bowditch. Art Laske voted for Michael Gutkowski. Wendy Bowditch is appointed as a member of the Board of Finance.
Agenda Item 2	<i>Election of new officers.</i>
Notes:	2a) Chairman:
Action/Motions:	A motion was made to elect Andy Kachele as Chairman of the Board of Finance.
Motion (Second):	Paul Skrtich (Mike Kot) Result: All in Favor
Follow Up:	
Notes:	2b) Clerk:
Action/Motions:	A motion was made to elect Wendy Bowditch as Clerk of the Board of Finance.
Motion (Second):	Mike Kot (Art Laske) Result: All in Favor
Follow Up:	
Agenda Item 3	<i>Discuss and approve the meeting minutes of November 10, 2020.</i>
Action/Motions:	A motion was made to approve the subject meeting minutes.
Motion (Second):	Paul Skrtich (Art Laske) Result: All in Favor

<i>Appointment of Alternates</i>	
Action/Motions:	A motion was made to appoint Jackie Kaufman to, for this meeting, fill in for the open position left by Matt Gachi.
Motion (Second):	Art Laske (Paul Lindoerfer) Result: In Favor: Art Laske, Paul Lindoerfer, Andy Kachele Opposed: Mike Kot
<i>Agenda Item 4 Discuss and possible action on the Conservation budget/maintenance issues at Paine Open Space</i>	
Notes:	A lengthy discussion ensued on the problem of trees that need cutting at the Payne Open Space. The Conservation Commission does not have the funding for this work and is asking for \$10,000 for a contractor to do the job. Ed Nagy will visit the Payne Open Space and make an assessment of the work required and whether Public Works can do the work in an acceptable timeframe.
Action/Motions:	A motion was made to move \$10,000 from the Unassigned Fund Balance to the Conservation Commission Services and Fees account for this tree work. These funds will only be used if Public Works cannot do the job.
Motion (Second):	Art Laske (Paul Lindoerfer) Result: All in Favor except for Mike Kot who abstained.
<i>Agenda Item 5 Discussion of graffiti removal on public roads.</i>	
Notes:	A discussion followed on graffiti removal. Ed Nagy, Director of Public Works, explained that his staff has tried various methods of removing/covering the graffiti each with varying but not acceptable results. He has identified 16 roads that have graffiti. Ed will look into this some more, but he also has several high priority projects that need to be done.
Action/Motions:	None
<i>Agenda Item 6 Discuss and determine next steps on current and future initiatives including:</i>	
	<i>a) Emergency Services</i>
	<i>b) Park & Recreation</i>
Notes:	6a) Emergency Services: The 1 st Selectman has received three responses to our Request for Qualifications and expects two more to be returned. The plan is for a Request for Proposals to be sent out in early January.
	6b) Park and Recreation: David Bindelglass consulted with the town attorney on the potential change of P&R staffing being considered. A quick assessment is that, if the two P&R staff members were moved over to Public Works, a grievance might not be filed, but if other staffing changes were made a grievance filing would be likely.
Action/Motions:	None
<i>Agenda Item 7 Present draft of budget letter to BOF</i>	
Notes:	Andy Kachele presented a draft of a budget letter to be sent to all boards and commissions for the coming budget season. The letter was discussed, and some edits suggested.
Action/Motions:	None

Agenda Item 8	<i>Treasurer's report</i>
Notes:	The Treasurer presented this month's report and answered questions from attendees.
Action/Motions:	None
Agenda Item 9	<i>Discuss and possible action on Munis Financial Report as presented by the Finance Director.</i>
Notes:	The Finance Director presented this month's report and answered questions from attendees.
Action/Motions:	None
	<i>Meeting date correction.</i>
Notes:	On the Board's meeting calendar for next year the September 7 meeting date conflicts with Rosh Hashanah.
Action/Motions:	A motion was made to reconsider the prior motion made on Agenda Item 7 of the October 6 meeting.
Motion (Second):	Mike Kot (Paul Lindoerfer) Result: All in Favor
Action/Motions:	A motion was made to move the September 7 meeting date to September 14
Motion (Second):	Art Laske (Paul Lindoerfer) Result: All in Favor
Agenda Item 10	<i>Adjournment</i>
Action/Motions:	A motion was made to adjourn at 9:20 pm
Motion (Second):	Mike Kot (Art Laske) Result: All in favor.

Submitted by,

Paul Lindoerfer- Clerk