

**TOWN OF EASTON  
BOARD OF FINANCE - MINUTES  
SPECIAL BUDGET HEARING MEETING  
March 5, 2014 – 7:00 P.M.**

Present: Chris Griffin-Chair, Matt Gachi, C. Lee Hanson, Fred Knopf-Clerk, Andy Kachele, Art Laske arrived at 6:29 p.m., Paul Lindoerfer, Gabriel Rossi.

Absent: Elise Nappi

Also present: Adam Dunsby-First Selectman, Scott Centrella – Board of Selectmen, Wendy Bowditch-Treasurer, Grace Stanczyk-Comptroller.

Chris Griffin called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Park and Recreation - Gary Simone, P&R Director and Cathy Smith, Commission Chair reviewed the 2014-2015 budget. The Board requested details on the dumpster rentals. Gary mentioned that the playgrounds will be inspected. Gary stated that he wants to purchase a dump truck from town funds and the mower from the activity account. The Activity account has \$148,000 and the Field Usage has approximately \$14,000 that is being used to maintain the fields. The Board suggested that Gary check with the Police and Public Works departments to see if any vehicles can be transferred to this department.

D. Christine Halloran, Town Clerk presented the 2014-2015 budget stating that she will reintegrate the system to the town hall as there has been a security breach. The Board asked what the "Historic Preservation" fund can be used for and Christine will provide a more detailed description on this fund and the Town Clerk Community Fee Fund. Christine gave an overview of the computer systems and stated the current system lacks efficiencies.

EMS - Caroline Kearney and Adam Goldstein presented the 2014-2015 budget. The Volunteer Incentive program, a town ordinance program, should be reflected as \$17,250 and \$7,000 for the "Gift Card Program". The Gift Card Program this budget year is already expended. Caroline will forward the EMS presentation regarding calls etc... to the Board for review. The ambulance were out of service this past year, one under the service warrantee and the other due to age. The Five Year Capital Plan will be changed to reflect the purchase of a new ambulance in the 15/16 year.

Steven Waugh, Fire Chief presented the 2014-15 budget. The budget reflects a three year wage increase with one recruit at the entry level as a firefighter retired in December. We will need to visit the 2014-15 budget for pay out and transfers. Some budget lines reflect increase for hiring a new recruit. The firefighters need a "fit for duty" each year. The materials the State is applying on the roads is extremely corrosive to the fire trucks and this will impact the service life of the vehicle. The Low band Motorola is getting more difficult to obtain as manufacturer are pushing consumers to High band.

INSTR # S2014000244  
REC'D 10/08/2014 12:18:09 PM  
CHRISTINE HALLORAN TOWN CLERK EASTON CT

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Peter Neary, Fire Marshall presented the 2014-2015 budget requesting a capital outlay item for replacement of a 10 year old "turn-out gear". Also Service Fees should be \$2,800.

Gerard O'Brien reviewed the 2014-2015 budget with a significant increase due to the workers compensation. We are closely monitoring this issue and are taking preventive steps and training.

The following budgets were reviewed with Adam Dunsby, First Selectman.

Cemetery, Public Celebration, Probate Court

Firehouse Rent - contract in negotiation

Public Welfare

Contingency -

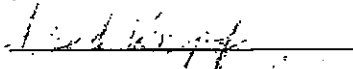
Technology - Adam Dunsby, First Selectman stated they are currently looking for a website host. Replacing computers in Town Hall that have Windows XP office 2003 to Windows 7 with Office 2013.

The Board of Finance budget was reviewed

The Auditors - currently there is an RFP that will be finalize in April.

Andy Kachele moved and Fred Knopf seconded a motion to adjourn at 10:03 p.m.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectively submitted by

  
Fred Knopf - Clerk

*on celebration*  
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*John K...*