

Honorarium Review Sub-Committee Meeting
January 21, 2020
7:30 PM

Attendees: Steve Waugh, Greg Fracassini, Carolyn Kearney and Mary Pat O'Neil

Meeting began with an explanation from Steve as to the genesis of this subcommittee and the charge behind it: Review the Honorarium for both the Easton Volunteer Emergency Medical Service and the Easton Volunteer Firefighter Service Personnel, as directed by section 86-7 of the town ordinance and by the Board of Selectmen, determine whether or not to adopt changes to said town ordinance to reflect the State of Connecticut Substitute House Bill No. 5125 (Public Act No. 19-36), and then present that recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

The committee nominated Mary Pat O'Neil to be secretary, all approved.

The committee discussed the effectiveness of the honorarium in terms of both attracting new volunteers and increasing volunteer participation in the services. Committee members didn't think that it attracted new volunteers but agreed that it did motivate volunteers to increase their participation, in ways that benefitted the services and the town, and that allowed them to reach the higher payout thresholds included in the honorarium. Further discussion included other ways to incent volunteerism in these areas and some of the perks offered to volunteers in surrounding towns.

The committee then discussed the impact the increased abatements, provided by the Substitute House Bill, would have on EVEMS and EVFD budgets. Fire and EMS presented information comparing the previous levels and the proposed levels using data from the honorariums given from 2016-2019.

The committee moved on to discuss amending the language in the town ordinance 86-2 to reflect the increased honorarium provided for in Public Act No. 19-36. Changes were discussed and agreed upon. A motion was made to endorse and adopt the changes to town ordinance 86.2 to reflect the increases in the abatement as provided by Public Act No. 1936. It was seconded and passed unanimously. A second Motion was made to recommend these changes, as adopted by this committee, to the Board of Selectmen. It was seconded by Carolyn, all were in favor.

It was suggested that EMS redo its 2019 abatement numbers to reflect the increases agreed upon in the committee.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Pat O'Neil