

MEETING MINUTES
Easton Board of Selectmen
January 2, 2020
7:30 PM
Town Hall Conference Room A

David Bindelglass called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present: David Bindelglass, Kristi Sogofsky and Robert Lessler

1. Robert Lessler moved approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting, December 5, 2019 as amended with the removal of the extra space in the bid award number in agenda item #5. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Several residents spoke regarding SHU's non-binding letter of intent with one resident expressing a desire to hire a Town Attorney in lieu of appointing firms on a case by case basis. Another resident requested the adoption of a one line Ordinance stating; "The Annual Town Meeting shall be held on the fourth Monday of April at 7:00 pm at Samuel Staples Elementary School". This would avoid any problems with missing the notification deadlines if there was a storm or something else preventing the proper warning of the Town Meeting. Another resident spoke of possibly doing the same with sending the budget for a machine vote automatically.
3. Kristi Sogofsky moved to approve the following tax refunds as recommended by Krista Kot, Tax Collector: 1.MERCEDES-BENZ FINANCIAL SERVICES - \$373.83; 2. HONDA LEASE TRUST - \$69.84; 3. PORSCHE LEASING LTD - \$309.45; 4. HONDA LEASE TRUST - \$221.16; 5. CORELOGIC - \$176.96; 6. CLARICE GRENS - \$24.63. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Robert Lessler moved to approve the Driveway Bond release for Permits #1480 & 1483 to Prestige Builders in the amount of \$6,000 as recommend by Bruce Bombero Deputy Director of Public Works. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Kristi Sogofsky moved to approve the Driveway Bond release for Permit #1660 to Todd Kardamis Builders LLC in the amount of \$3,000 as recommend by Bruce Bombero Deputy Director of Public Works. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
6. David Bindelglass roughly outlined the letter of intent from Sacred Heart University stating that the letter had many unanswered questions and was not appropriate to release it at this point so as to not put out confusing information. The letter of intent included tennis courts, a turf field and possible walking/running trail. Robert Lessler moved to appoint Berchem Moses legal counsel to review Sacred Heart University's non-binding letter of intent dated December 13, 2019. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
7. Three candidates were presented for consideration for the unexpired alternate position on the Board of Finance for the term of 01/02/2015 – 01/02/2021. Joseph Rosenman, Wendy Bowditch and Tara Donnelly Gottlieb, all having backgrounds in finance. Kristi Sogofsky praised Wendy Bowditch's record as our Town Treasurer and reminded the board that if a democrat was appointed into the alternate position it would not reflect the makeup of the Board of Finance. Robert Lessler and David Bindelglass supported Tara Donnelly Gottlieb's background and felt she would be an asset to the board. Robert Lessler also pointed out that they have had this situation come up before with alternate positions. David Bindelglass expressed that he would hope that especially during the budget season, all full members would attend the meetings to vote their

seats. A vote was taken; Rosenman, no votes, Bowditch received one vote from Sogofsky; Gottlieb received two votes from Bindelglass and Lessler.

8. Ed Nagy, Director of Public Works requested revisiting recommendations of Park and Recreation Department Review Subcommittee #4 & #6 given to the Board of Selectmen in 2017 and approved by the Park and Recreation Commission. (attached) Recommendation #6 dealt with giving the responsibility of snow removal at Helen Keller Middle School to the maintenance staff of the Park and Recreation Department. With the addition of a new plow this year for their 2017 truck, Ed Nagy is requesting implementing this recommendation. Danielle Alves, Director of Park and Recreation stated she would like to discuss with their Commission at the upcoming meeting on Monday, January 6 and not during a Board of Selectmen meeting. Robert Lessler tabled this discussion to the next Board of Selectmen meeting. Ed Nagy also requested review of recommendation #4; availing the Park and Recreation maintenance staff to other departments in need for odd jobs and special projects. Help is needed by the UI and Public Works for traffic control and ground work to enable as many damaged ash trees to be cut and removed. UI lists approx. 700 trees in Easton which need removal. Public Works rents trucks and subs out for the larger trees but needs assistance with flagging and tree butt removal. This too will be tabled until the next Board of Selectmen meeting to give the Park and Recreation Commission time to discuss.
9. After a discussion and some amendments, Robert Lessler moved to adopt the charge of the 2020 Honorarium Review Committee as follows:

There shall be a Committee to review Article 1 Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Medical Service Personnel Honorarium Ordinance. The Committee shall consist of five members; two member of EMS, two members of Firefighters and one member of the public. The appointing authority shall be the Board of Selectmen.

The Committee shall be structured as a subcommittee of the Board of Selectmen.

A study and investigation with respect to honoraria for volunteer firefighters and volunteer EMS personnel after which a report shall be prepared which shall include:

- a. With respect to the previous three years, the fiscal effect of the program; and*
- b. Recommendations with respect to the form and extent of the program for the following three years, including estimates of the annual economic impact; and*
- c. Consider revisions to other parts of the existing Ordinance.*

The Committee shall be advisory and shall report its findings and recommendations to the Board of Selectmen, the EMS Commission and the Fire Commission, with a possible vote to a Town Meeting for approval.

The Committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the Board of Selectmen no later than March 5, 2020 and shall update the Board of Selectmen as requested.

The Board of Selectmen shall disband the Committee when it deems its work complete.

The Board of Selectmen may amend this charge as it deems necessary.

Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Kristi Sogofsky moved to appoint the following members to the 2020 Honorarium Review Sub-Committee:

Steve Waugh, Fire Chief;
Gregory Fracassini, Assistant Fire Chief;
Mary Pat O'Neil, Volunteer EMT;
Carolyn Kearney, Assistant EMS Chief;
Milan Spisak, Easton resident.

Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

10. A resident requested that it be put on our website that the wood cut from the tree removal in town is available to residents free from charge. And again cautioning the final details of the SHU letter of intent be made available to the various agencies in town; Fire, PD, Board of Finance to weigh in. Another resident commented that we have what SHU wants and we need to negotiate wisely. The prior resident who proposed a new Ordinance regarding the timing of the Town Meeting cautioned against also including retiring automatically to a machine vote the entire Town Meeting agenda as then all items would need to be machine voted. Lastly, a resident announced a meeting being held in Stamford on January 15th regarding 5G and its alleged health implications.
11. Robert Lessler stated that this year is the 175th Anniversary of the founding of the Town of Easton and hopes to develop some way of celebrating this major milestone. Silverman's Farm is also celebrating it 100th Anniversary and perhaps the two celebrations can be combined into a town-wide event.
Kristi Sogofsky reminded the Board that the ERTC submitted a candidate for the Zoning Board of Appeals as well as a list of Easton Republicans with expiring terms who wish to be reappointed. David Bindelglass hopes to address this at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.
David Bindelglass also informed the Board that he has been working with MetroCOG to address the 5G situation.
12. Robert Lessler moved to adjourn at 8:35 pm. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

M~01.02.20

Recommendations of the Park and Recreation Department Review Subcommittee

November 28, 2017

1. **The Park and Recreation Commission** should formulate a policy on vacations and overtime, so that employees take vacation during slow times for the department.
2. **The Park and Recreation Commission** should establish a dialog with other groups that provide overlapping recreation programming, such as the Library, school groups, and Senior Center, to encourage coordination and avoid duplication.
3. **The Board of Finance** should provide oversight on "field use" fund expenditures and review purchasing practices, similar to the activity account.
4. **The Park and Recreation Commission** should make the maintenance staff available to other departments to help with odd jobs and projects.
5. **The Park and Recreation Commission** should develop an outsourcing plan for certain functions to avoid costly one-offs and unplanned outsourcing.
6. **The Board of Selectmen** should give the maintenance staff responsibility for snow removal for 660 Morehouse for 2017/2018. **The Board of Selectmen** may review and revisit possibly adding Hellen Keller Middle School for the 2018/2019 year going forward. During a snow event, the maintenance staff should operate in coordination with the Director of Public Works and any over-time will be monitored and charged to the Public Works Department.
7. **The Park and Recreation Commission** should keep the Director and Programmer hours the same. The Secretary position should be revised to October 1 – March 31 ~ 15 hours per week; April 1 – September 30 ~ 20 hours per week.