

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Easton Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting September 17, 2020
7:30 PM
Town Hall Conference Room A

ZOOM: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87421443932?pwd=N1pUZGd5dFI2UzZHh3VZTVhyVHBLQT09>

Meeting ID: 874 2144 3932
Passcode: 06612

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

Present: David Bindelglass and Robert Lessler. Absent: Kristi Sogofsky

1. Robert Lessler moved to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting, September 3, 2020 with the addition of a comma after 2020 in agenda item 1. David Bindelglass seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
2. No public comment.
3. Robert Lessler move to approve the following tax refunds as recommended by Krista Kot, Tax Collector: 1. ALLY BANK - \$543.12; 2. MR. MATTHEW GRANDCHAMP - \$49.75; 3. HONDA LEASE TRUST - \$89.90; 4. MERCEDES-BENZ FINANCIAL SERVICES - \$318.99; 5. MS. PAMELA RASKIN - \$50.84; 6. MR. MUHAMMAD SARWAR - \$250.79; 7. TOYOTA LEASE TRUST - \$491.66; 8. TOYOTA LEASE TRUST - \$97.77; 9. TOYOTA LEASE TRUST - \$600.13; 10. TOYOTA LEASE TRUST - \$226.39; 11. TOYOTA LEASE TRUST - \$482.39; 12. TOYOTA LEASE TRUST - \$153.36; 13. VW CREDIT LEASING LTD - \$128.56; 14. HONDA LEASE TRUST - \$621.86; 15. ALLY BANK - \$225.96; 16. USB LEASING LT - \$839.79. David Bindelglass seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
4. After David Bindelglass read the resolution (see attached), Robert Lessler moved to adopt the RESOLUTION WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION, DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY for the Emergency Management Performance Grant. David Bindelglass seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Robert Lessler moved to award the bid for the October 1, 2021 Revaluation to Municipal Valuation Services, LLC in the amount of \$55,000 plus \$2.50 per digital image (not to exceed \$10,000) as recommended by Rachel Maciulewski, Assessor. David Bindelglass seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
6. David Bindelglass gave he following update on Coronavirus (COVID-19): two new Executive Orders 9B and 9C were issued covering the travel to and return from affected states, quarantine and/or testing requirements as well as fines imposed for not wearing a mask and attending events over the accepted number of people limit. The First Selectman said he felt the opening of schools went well and on October 2nd the BOE would re-evaluate and reconsider how to proceed forward. Easton has

had six new cases in the last week or so. The Senior Center is beginning to run outdoor programs being especially mindful of social distancing.

7. A resident asked about a meeting between Rob Maquat and Dave Bindelglass regarding the sidewalk and any other things discussed. Another resident said the Pledge of Allegiance and thanked our President and AG Barr for investigating blues states not opening such as Connecticut. She continued to say that only 6% of COVID deaths were actually from COVID and not some other underlying reason. Another resident observed 10-15 adults and children at a bus stop in Westport without masks on. She also stated that P&Z Commission and the Board of Finance do not answer email inquiries from tax payers and felt that the sidewalk plans for ½ mile of walkway is too pricey for this town and during a time when the pandemic has left most in a financial mess. No decision on the sidewalk should be made without a Town Meeting to vote. Another resident was concerned with the six new cases in town of COVID and asked if there is contact tracing being done. A resident wished David and Bob a Happy New Year and also said he feels Rob Maquat is rushing through the process to get what he wants done. He went on to say that the tree was finally removed from Cedar Hill Road recently and if the town would consider creating our own Utility Company? He also went on to ask if we could tax or charge Aquarion for the water they plan to divert. David Bindelglass answered public comment with the following: he is working with Anne Hughes and Julia Pemperton regarding the Aquarion permit application to DEEP; Easton has intervenor status in the PURA hearings and have submitted several comments; anyone emailing a board or commission should please copy DBindelglass@eastonct.gov ; wearing masks at bus stops is a good idea however our buses have been under utilized with many school age children being driven to school instead; the state granted Easton a certain amount of money based on the project cost, but when the state engineering consultant reviewed the project plans, they came in with a 50% higher cost of the project. Justin Giorlando was also at the meeting and discussed if it was even realistic to go forward with the project, but regardless, nothing would be done without a Town Meeting. A resident then responded by saying an 11 ft. sidewalk is not necessary and believes someone will inevitably drive down it and hurt someone. David Bindelglass went on to say none of the recent COVID cases involve the school system. A resident asked what happened to the Land Use Ordinance that was on prior agendas, David Bindelglass said it will be on the next meeting agenda.
8. Robert Lessler congratulated the town and extended a huge thanks to the Masons for hosting the town party and being able to socialize and see neighbors. The fireworks were spectacular and a big thanks to our EMS for providing such an amazing show! The events were well organized and residents were safe and practiced great social distancing, echoed David Bindelglass. David also thanked the Volunteer Fire Department for the 9-1-1 tribute flag display on the green. He also mentioned that there was an amazing story on CBS about the Hanson family. The link is in the Selectman's message of 9.18.2020.
9. Robert Lessler moved to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. David Bindelglass seconded. Motion passed unanimously.