

**Town of Easton CT**  
**Board of Finance – Regular Meeting Minutes**

Date/Time: Tuesday March 5, 2024 – 7:00 pm

Location: Easton Senior Center, 650 Morehouse Road; also on Zoom

Recording: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/easton-board-of-finance>

**Attendees:** Members in person: Art Laske, Andy Kachele, Paul Skrtich, Jackie Kaufman, Ira Kaplan, Michael Gutowski

Alternates in person: Gregg Saunders, Maureen Williams, Joe Glavan

**Absentees:** None

**Guests:** Christine Calvert, Treasurer and Finance Director  
Dave Bindelglass and Kristi Sogofsky, First Selectman and Selectman  
Gerry O'Brien, Insurance Commission Chair  
Peter Howard, Building Official  
Deb Szegedi, Town Clerk  
Dan Simonelli, Municipal Agent for the Aging  
Krista Kot, Tax Collector

**Call to Order:** By Chair Art Laske at 7:06 pm

1. (Agenda item #1) Discuss and approve the meeting minutes of February 6, 2024. (7:06)  
Ira thanks Gregg for correction in #3 sentence 2, which should read "They are freezing ... Chris reports it they will need ..."  
Motion to approve minutes as amended, by Jackie/Mike. Result: passes 6-0.
2. Budget Overview  
Ira verifies actual spending amounts for FY22 (7/1/21-6/30/22) and FY23 with Chris, noting surplus of over \$1,300,000 for each year.
3. Review Budgets for the Following:
  - a. Insurance (7:09)
  - b. Assessor / Board of Assessment Appeals (7:18)
  - c. Building (7:23)
  - d. Town Clerk (7:30)
  - e. Commission for the Aging (7:44)
  - f. Tax Collector (7:52)

Gerry noted Cyber Insurance reduction because BOE will obtain their own insurance and have moved the cost into the BOE budget; without this shift the total insurance increase would be higher than the 6% shown. Assessor Rachel Maciulewski was unavailable tonight and Chris presented (b). Peter presented (c), and there was discussion of future move to digital records, and revenue levels. Jackie commented that she has heard good reviews in the community concerning Peter's work. Deb presented (d), explaining personnel change, revenue, and copier leasing. Ira asked how Deb's salary is



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set, and Chris and Dave explained the HR guidelines, with Andy noting that the BOF retained the authority to change their recommendation. Ira asked about statutory requirements pertaining to salary. Dan presented (e), and discussed hardships related to heating fuel. Krista presented (f) and discussed tax sale revenue, and budget impact of personnel changes.

4. Discuss and possible action on line item transfer for Department of Public Works. (7:59)  
DPW Director Ed Nagy did not attend, and Chris presented on lower costs, and need for replacing equipment, and how Ed will likely request a transfer soon (dependent on upcoming weather and when open position gets filled). Ed was seeking confirmation that his planning would be supported. There was consensus in support of such a future transfer.
5. Treasurer's Report. (8:03)  
No action taken.
6. Discuss and possible action on Munis Financial Report for appropriations and revenue presented by the Director of Finance. (8:08)  
No action taken.
7. Fill-in budgets: Treasurer, Debt Service, First Selectman, Professional Service, Probate Court, Town Hall, Cemetery, Contingency, Auditors, BOF, Town Attorney, Fringe Benefits, Firehouse Rent, Technology, Pension, ZBA and any other budgets as deemed necessary. (8:09)  
Chris discussed all the items listed, except for Cemetery, and also discussed FICA budget. We discussed (BOF) Annual Report printing, (Technology) computer servers, different options, and our IT staffing, (Treasurer) salary step increase and shredding costs, (Town Hall) custodial costs. Chris noted that budgets for Pension and Fringe were both very tentative. Fire retirement costs were increased by the state; health coverage costs increased, and we discussed some alternatives.
8. Motion to adjourn by Andy/Jackie. Result: passes 6-0 at 8:59.  
Next meeting: special meeting Wednesday, March 6, 2024.

Submitted 3/8/24 by Ira Kaplan, BOF Clerk