

Town of Easton
Board of Finance – Special Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Wednesday March 24, 2021 – 7:00 pm
Location: Virtual meeting using the Zoom app.
A recording of this meeting can be found at the
Agenda, Minutes & Recording section of the town website.

Attendees: Members: Andy Kachele-Chair, Paul Lindoerfer-Clerk, Michael Kot, Art Laske,
Wendy Bowditch, Paul Skrtich
Alternates: Gregg Saunders, Ira Kaplan, Jackie Kaufman

Absentee(s):

Guest(s): Christine Calvert-Finance Director/Treasurer, Dr. David Bindelglass-First Selectman,
Bob Lessler-Selectman, Kristi Sogofsky-Selectman

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at: 7:01 pm by: Andy Kachele

Agenda Item 1	<i>Discuss, adjust, and approve adjustments to budgets</i>
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Notes:	The following Budgets were reviewed:
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Agenda Item 1A	<i>Senior Center</i>
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Notes:	Val Buckley offered that the cost of part time help in the Senior Center budget can be reduced by \$826 to \$18,500. Regarding the planned purchase of a new van for the Senior Center, the cost is about \$70,000. After an expected grant of about \$52,000 and a trade-in, or resale, of the old van of \$9,000, the funds needed to complete the sale would be \$9,000 which Val plans to raise from contributions to the Senior Center. She already has commitments for \$5,000.
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Action/Motions:	None
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Agenda Item 1B	<i>EMS</i>
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Notes:	Chief Jon Arnold attended. Paul Skrtich recommended that we consider putting funds aside for a new EMS building. After further discussion it was the sense of the Board that, though we agree that EMS needs a new building, we need more information about the plan for a new EMS building before deciding how best to fund it.
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Action/Motions:	None
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Agenda Item 1C	<i>Parks & Recreation</i>
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Notes:	Danielle Alves, Director of the Parks & Recreation Department, attended.
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Action/Motions:	A motion was made to reduce the Parks and Recreation budget to \$0. After significant discussion, a vote was taken.
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Motion (Second):	Skrtich (Kot) Result: For: Skrtich, Kot Against: Kachele, Laske, Bowditch, Lindoerfer The motion failed.
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Agenda Item 1D	<i>Fire Marshal</i>
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Notes:	Peter Neary, Fire Marshall, attended. Peter recommended that we could reduce the Fire Marshall budget by \$1,969.
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Action/Motions:	None
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Agenda Item 1E	<i>Fire Department</i>
Notes:	Chief, Steve Waugh, attended. He suggested that, if the Board wanted to more funds aside for capital expenditures, we could set aside \$70,000 for repair of eight dry hydrants in the northern part of town. Steve is hoping that Engine 1 will last until 2024-26.
Action/Motions:	None
Motion (Second):	()
Follow Up:	Result:
Agenda Item 1F	<i>Planning & Zoning</i>
Notes:	Chairman, Rob Maquat and town land use director, Justin Giorlando, attended. The plan for welcoming signs at five locations at a cost of \$17,500 was discussed. Note: prior to this vote Art Laske had to leave the meeting after designating Ira Kaplan to take his place.
Action/Motions:	A motion was made to take the entire \$17,500 out of the budget.
Motion (Second):	Skrnich (Kot) Result: For: Skrtich, Kot, Kachele Against: Kaplan, Bowditch, Lindoerfer The motion failed.
Action/Motions:	A motion was made to reduce the budget from five signs to two at a cost of \$7,000.
Motion (Second):	Bowditch (Skrnich) Result: For: Skrtich, Kachele, Kaplan, Bowditch Against: Lindoerfer Abstain: Kot The motion passed.
Agenda Item 1G	<i>Fringe Benefits</i>
Notes:	It was noted that the state health insurance assessment has been reduced by \$34,167 to \$1,484,514.
Action/Motions:	None
Agenda Item 2	<i>Adjournment</i>
Action/Motions:	A motion was made to adjourn at 9:45 pm
Motion (Second):	Kot (Shrtich) Result: All in favor.

Submitted by,

Paul Lindoerfer- Clerk