

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

Date/Time: Thursday March 9, 2023 – 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, Michael Kot, Paul Skrtich, Ira Kaplan  
Alternates in person: Gregg Saunders, Michael Gutowski, Maureen Williams

**Absentees:** Jackie Kaufman (attended portions on Zoom)

**Guests:** Christine Calvert, Treasurer and Finance Director  
Dave Bindelglass, First Selectman  
Bob Lessler and Kristi Sogofsky, Board of Selectmen  
Alison Witherbee, Municipal Agent for the Aging/ Director of Social Services  
Danielle Alves, Park and Recreation Director  
Lisa Farasciano, P&R Recreational Programmer  
Rocky Sullivan, P&R Commission Chair  
Jon Arnold, EMS Chief  
David Smith, Registrar of Voters  
Dori Wollen, Registrar of Voters, and Conservation Commission Chair

**Call to Order:** By Chair Art Laske at 7:00 pm

Motion to appoint Maureen as alternate in place of Jackie, by Paul/Andy. Result: passes 5-0

1. (Agenda item #1) Review Budgets for the Following:

- a. Commission for the Aging / Social Services (7:01)
- b. Park & Recreation including Fall/Winter/Spring projections and wrap up (7:10)
- c. Emergency Medical Services including an update from the EMS Planning and Building Committee (7:51)
- d. ROV (Registrars of Voters) (8:21)
- e. Conservation Commission (8:48)

Alison presented her budgets for Aging and Social Services, explaining how they are in practice not very separated. There was consensus to formally merge the budget lines, with Paul suggesting moving over line item 5300.

Danielle and Lisa presented P&R budgets and activity. As requested of them last year, fees for credit card payments will be charged, following standard practice within town. There was discussion of increasing pay rates, considering staffing shortages. Andy questioned if Activity Fund policy regarding usage for payroll would be violated, but Danielle clarified that usage is consistent with policy (because payroll is only with specified activities). When P&R finalizes figures for Field Use and Activity fund usage, they will return to BOF to request formal allocation approval.

Jon and Art discussed recent progress on plans for new building to be adjacent to Fire House. Andy and Art emphasized need to have joint operating agreement in writing before proceeding too far. Dave said the Building Committee needs some personnel changes to reflect new direction.

Jon then presented EMS budget (8:02). 2022 revenue was about \$161,000, projecting \$181,000 in CY 2023. There was discussion of when revenues are turned over to town, and Dave asked that a regular schedule for payments be created and followed. Gregg asked about Administrative Services, and it was discussed that in incorporated stipends, for historical reasons. It was agreed to move such stipends into the compensation section.

Dori W. and David S. presented ROV budgets, explaining the increases due to the high number of possible votes in the upcoming year, higher pay rates, and especially the splitting of Easton into two State House Districts #135 and #112. Even though the elections for those districts are not in FY24, for several elections Easton is required to report the vote on a per-district basis, necessitating separation of voters and additional tables and workers. The presented budget does not reflect added costs for early voting. The details are unknown as the legislature is working on three different proposals. Kristi reports that the deadline for a bill getting out of committee is 3/29 and the legislative session ends 6/7. David and Dori said the cost estimates are too speculative, and the funding not strictly required before July, so we can wait (even if we need a Special Town Meeting). Nonetheless Ira and Gregg urged that the BOF be provided estimates based on expected daily costs, and most likely early voting scenario, for planning purposes.

Dori presented the Conservation budget and explained a small miscoding from FY22.

2. Fill-in budgets: Any other budgets as deemed necessary.

All Fill-ins were discussed at 3/7 meeting and this item was skipped.

3. Motion to adjourn by Mike K/Paul. Result: passes 6-0 at 8:51.

Submitted 3/9/23 by Ira Kaplan, BOF Clerk