

MEETING MINUTES  
Easton Board of Selectmen  
February 6, 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. Kristi Sogofsky moved to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting, January 16, 2020 with the following corrections; agenda item 5. "David Bindelglass and Robert Lessler voted yes." should be added as the next to the last sentence. In agenda item 6. Lisa should be "Lise". In agenda item 7. the word "of" should be added between "Director" and "Health". In agenda item 9. after the word setting "the date of the" should be added. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
2. A resident read the ballot on which the vote was taken for the purchase of the South Park Property and commented on the South Park Advisory Committee. Another resident thanked First Selectman Bindelglass for his efforts so far to connect with the residents of Easton through the brown bag lunches and Q & A sessions. This resident doesn't feel the need for a South Park committee however if there is going to be one, it should be an equally balanced committee representing all sides of the issue. He also urged residents to attend the Planning and Zoning meeting on Monday to voice concerns regarding the plans for the sidewalk down Sport Hill Road. Another resident suggested looking into Aspetuck Land Trust possibly applying for money being allocated from the State to preserve the South Park property.
3. Robert Lessler moved to approve the following tax refunds as recommended by Krista Kot, Tax Collector: 1.HONDA LEASE TRUST - \$110.34; 2. IAN DEMPSEY - \$35.91. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Robert Lessler moved to re-appoint Tiffany Tortora as a member on the Board of Ethics for the term of 1/2/2020 – 1/2/2022. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.  
Robert Lessler moved to appoint Marvin Gelfand as a member on the Senior Center Advisory Board for the term of 1/2/2020 – 1/2/2023. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Kristi Sogofsky moved to appoint Matthew Oricchio as a member on the Agricultural Commission for the unexpired term of 1/2/2019 – 1/2/2022. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Fire Chief Steve Waugh presented the report by the 2020 Honorarium Review Committee (see attached) regarding the Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Personnel proposed honorarium changes to the Ordinance and the financial impact those changes would have. The committee's recommendation is that the Town of Easton modify the existing Honorarium Ordinance to reflect the increases as stated in Public Act 19-36. Robert Lessler inquired if there was a way to calculate the increase in revenue with these changes and suggested it may be useful information for the Board of Finance. Kristi Sogofsky moved to accept the report of the 2020 Honorarium Review Committee in addition to the edits discussed. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.  
Robert Lessler moved to refer the Ordinance as amended and the Honorarium program description to the Board of Finance for comment and review. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
7. Megan Sloan, Planning Director for MetroCOG presented an overview of the grant application to the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management's FY20 Regional Performance Incentive Program. The application proposes a Regional Electronic Content Management system that will support all six of the

municipalities. The State requires all municipalities to obtain a resolution that endorses the proposal by February 28<sup>th</sup> 2020. David Bindelglass read the authorizing resolution for the Regional Performance Incentive Program~ *Regional Electronic Content Management system*. (see attached) Kristi Sogofsky moved to authorize aforementioned resolution. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

8. David Bindelglass read the charge for the proposed South Park Advisory Committee. After discussion and some edits (see attached), no action was taken. A finalized list of committee members will be presented at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.
9. In the next few weeks a proposed policy regarding Social Media will be presented and discussed.
10. A resident suggested perhaps minority representation for the South Park Advisory Committee and whether FOIA rules apply.
11. Robert Lessler gave an update on the Easton Courier. A public meeting and an official launch is February 29<sup>th</sup> at the Easton Community Center at 10 AM. Residents are encouraged to attend. Kristi Sogofsky asked for a progress report of the bridge currently under construction. David Bindelglass believes that the project could be finished sometime early spring. The second Park Avenue Bridge design is completed and would need to go out to bid but the current bridge needs to be completed. David Bindelglass presented the form created by the Town Clerk; Christine Halloran designed to submit FOIA requests. This is an effort to create a standard process to requesting FOI information. This form will be available in the coming weeks on our website.
12. Robert Lessler moved to adjourn at 8:25 PM. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3A~02.06.20

## 2020 Honorarium Review Sub-Committee Town of Easton CT

225 Center Road • Easton, Connecticut 06612 • Tel. (203)268-2833

---

The Honorarium Review Sub-Committee (the Committee) met on January 21, 2020 to review the Honorarium for Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Service Personnel (the Honorarium) as per section 86-7 of the ordinance and based on direction from the Easton Board of Selectmen. The purpose of the review is to determine the effectiveness of the Honorarium and whether or not to adopt changes to the town ordinance based on State of CT Substitute House Bill No. 5125, Public Act No. 19-36, An act increasing the property tax abatement for certain first responders.

The Committee findings are as follows:

**Effectiveness:** Both departments indicated that the program does help to increase the participation by its active members. During the course of the year members are notified of both their training and call/shift participation levels. Members often will then increase their participation levels to ensure that they reach certain threshold levels of their abatement or the full amount. The town also benefits from this increased participation through increased billing by EMS as they bill for their services. Members participating in required training benefit the town as well as both organizations as these members tend to be more efficient and effective on scene.

**Recommendations:** The state of CT has enacted a bill to increase the amount of abatements for first responders. This is State of CT Substitute House Bill No 5125, Public Act No 19-36. Easton adopted the Honorarium ordinance on 4/28/03. At that point the maximum amount to be earned for a member of either EVFC or Easton EMS was \$1000. If you were a member of both you could earn \$2,000. The \$1,000 amount had not been increased or indexed for inflation until 19-36 was enacted. The increase would raise the amount to \$1,500 for the period 07/01/19 through 06/30/21 and then increase it to \$2,000 going forward effective 07/01/21. The committee estimates that the increase to the budget for the time period that the increase to \$2,000 is reached would be

approximately \$24,000 in total for both organizations. This is based on the Honorarium average over the period of 2016 through and including 2019. A spreadsheet is attached to support this calculation. It is the Committee's recommendation that the Town of Easton modify the existing Honorarium ordinance to reflect the increase in the Honorarium as reflected in Public Act No 19-36.

The Committee also contacted Easton Selectman Robert Lessler and asked for his assistance in reviewing the existing language of the ordinance for clarity and for a recommendation on language that would help to incorporate changes to the Honorarium reflecting the increased amount of the Honorarium per Public Act No 19-36. Mr. Lessler provided recommendations which were discussed and accepted by the Committee. Those changes have been incorporated in the revised draft version of the ordinance that is attached.

2020 Honorarium Review Sub-Committee  
Analysis of adopting State Public Act 19-36

Easton Volunteer Fire Co

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Average</u>
Abatement pre adjustment	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,750	\$ 9,188
Abatement with fiscal adjustment	<u>\$ 9,375</u>	<u>\$ 9,375</u>	<u>\$ 12,500</u>	<u>\$ 14,689</u>	<u>\$ 11,485</u>
	\$ 1,875	\$ 1,875	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,939	\$ 2,297
Abatement with \$500 increase	<u>\$ 11,250</u>	<u>\$ 11,250</u>	<u>\$ 15,000</u>	<u>\$ 17,625</u>	<u>\$ 13,781</u>
	\$ 3,750	\$ 3,750	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,875	\$ 4,594
Abatement with \$1000 increase	<u>\$ 15,000</u>	<u>\$ 15,000</u>	<u>\$ 20,000</u>	<u>\$ 23,500</u>	<u>\$ 18,375</u>
	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,750	\$ 9,188

Easton EMS

Abatement pre adjustment	\$ 13,250	\$ 12,500	\$ 15,250	\$ 17,000	\$ 14,500
Abatement with fiscal adjustment	<u>\$ 16,563</u>	<u>\$ 15,625</u>	<u>\$ 19,063</u>	<u>\$ 21,250</u>	<u>\$ 18,125</u>
	\$ 3,313	\$ 3,125	\$ 3,813	\$ 4,250	\$ 3,625
Abatement with \$500 increase	<u>\$ 19,875</u>	<u>\$ 18,750</u>	<u>\$ 22,875</u>	<u>\$ 25,500</u>	<u>\$ 21,750</u>
	\$ 6,625	\$ 6,250	\$ 7,625	\$ 8,500	\$ 7,250
Abatement with \$1000 increase	<u>\$ 26,500</u>	<u>\$ 25,000</u>	<u>\$ 30,500</u>	<u>\$ 34,000</u>	<u>\$ 29,000</u>
	\$ 9,938	\$ 9,375	\$ 11,438	\$ 12,750	\$ 14,500

Combined EVFC/EMS

Abatement pre adjustment	\$ 20,750	\$ 20,000	\$ 25,250	\$ 28,750	\$ 23,688
Abatement with fiscal adjustment	<u>\$ 25,938</u>	<u>\$ 25,000</u>	<u>\$ 31,563</u>	<u>\$ 35,939</u>	<u>\$ 29,610</u>
	\$ 5,188	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,313	\$ 7,189	\$ 5,922
Abatement with \$500 increase	<u>\$ 31,125</u>	<u>\$ 30,000</u>	<u>\$ 37,875</u>	<u>\$ 43,125</u>	<u>\$ 35,531</u>
	\$ 10,375	\$ 10,000	\$ 12,625	\$ 14,375	\$ 11,844
Abatement with \$1000 increase	<u>\$ 41,500</u>	<u>\$ 40,000</u>	<u>\$ 50,500</u>	<u>\$ 57,500</u>	<u>\$ 47,375</u>
	\$ 15,563	\$ 15,000	\$ 18,938	\$ 21,561	\$ 23,688



INSTR # M2020000125  
DATE FILED 02/10/2020 12:42:01 PM  
CHRISTINE HALLORAN  
TOWN CLERK  
EASTON CT

I, Christine Halloran, do hereby certify that I am the Clerk of the Town of Easton, a municipal corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Connecticut and having its principal place of business at 225 Center Road, Easton, Connecticut, and that I am the keeper of the Town records and seal. That the following is a true and correct copy of resolutions duly adopted and ratified by the Board of Selectmen on February 6, 2020 in accordance with the constituent charter of the Town of Easton and that the same has not in any way been modified, repealed or rescinded, but is in full force and effect.

**Resolution**  
**Regional Performance Incentive Program**  
***Regional Electronic Content Management system***

The Easton Board of Selectmen met on February 6, 2020 and adopted the following resolution.

**WHEREAS**, Section 4-124s of the Connecticut General Statutes provides statewide incentive grants to Regional Council of Governments for projects that involve shared services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG) is acting as a convener and facilitator of service sharing projects in the Greater Bridgeport Region; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 31, 2019 the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments submitted a grant application to the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management's Regional Performance Incentive Program for a Regional Electronic Content Management system; and

**WHEREAS**, a phase of the Regional Electronic Content Management system is currently being implemented in member municipalities and will build upon this implementation by including additional internal work flows and providing high volume scanning and indexing services of historic documents; and

**WHEREAS**, this service will increase public accessibility and transparency, reduce reliance on paper documents, and create digital records that can last in perpetuity, and thus will reduce local costs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Elected Officials of the Greater Bridgeport Region have supported the Regional Electronic Content Management system included in the application package, as it will benefit each municipality and the Region as a whole; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Easton has expressed an interest in taking part in the project proposal entitled:

1. Regional Electronic Content Management system

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the *Easton Board of Selectmen* approves and endorses the above referenced ***Regional Performance Incentive Program*** Grant Application by the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments and authorized the First Selectman to sign all necessary agreements and take all necessary actions to allow for the Town of Easton's participation in the program.

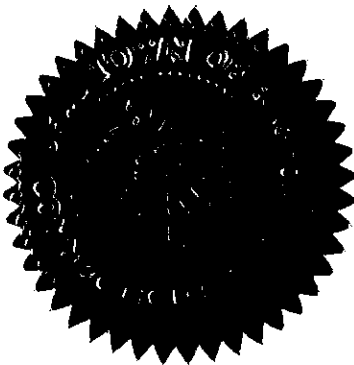
IN WITNESS WHEREOF: The undersigned has executed this certificate the 6<sup>th</sup> day of February 2020.

Name: Christine Halloran

Christine Halloran

Title: Town Clerk

Date: February 10, 2020



Charge for the Committee on the Future Use of South Park Avenue  
February 6, 2020

There shall be a Committee appointed by the First Selectman on the Future Use of South Park Avenue which is charged with investigating and reporting to the Board of Selectmen on the options for the future use of the approximately 30 acre parcel owned by the town of Easton since 2008, located on South Park Avenue and bounded by South Park Avenue and the Mill River.

The committee may consider any future use, whether or not such use is consistent with current zoning, for said parcel. The committee shall consider the fiscal impact of any future use. The committee may consider mixed uses. The committee shall consider whether the town should retain ownership, sell or lease the property, or engage in a public/private project.

The committee is authorized to contact any and all persons or entities who may have relevant information or interest in the parcel, including, but not limited to town officials and town organizations.

The committee shall have a minimum of five and a maximum 9 members who shall be residents of the town of Easton. The committee shall complete its work and file a written report with the Board of Selectmen on or before June 30, 2020. The committee shall appoint from its members a chair and a secretary and such other officers as it may deem appropriate. The committee may request an extension of time to complete its work.

Adopted by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Easton this sixth day of February 2020.