

MEETING MINUTES
Easton Board of Selectmen
April 16, 2020
7:30 PM
Town Hall Conference Room A

MEETING WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE VIA
<https://www.facebook.com/EastonCTBOS>

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

Present: David Bindelglass, Kristi Sogofsky and Robert Lessler

1. Robert Lessler moved to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting, April 2, 2020 with the following corrections; agenda item 6, sentence #4, add "use" after "also" and in sentence #5, replace the word "on" with "in time for". Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
2. A resident offered thanks to our first responders and objected to non-essential boards and commissions continuing to meet as some do not have the ability to join or listen to meeting and therefore cannot comment.
3. Kristi Sogofsky moved to accept the following tax refunds as recommended by Krista Kot, Tax Collector: 1. SUSAN DELLENBAUGH - \$44.49; 2. MARY JEAN CORTI - \$846.78; 3. DANIEL C. WITKINS - \$230.49. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Robert Lessler moved to accept the recommendations of the 2020 Honorarium Review Committee regarding the Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Personnel proposed honorarium changes and to send the revised Ordinance to a Town Meeting for final approval. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Robert Lessler moved to offer the residents of the Town of Easton both of the tax adjustments as described in the Governor's Executive Order 7S mandated Tax Deferment and/or Low Interest Loan Programs with the understanding that those who are required to fill out an application and be determined eligible for the deferment program will be subject to random audit. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously. (see attached)
5A. Kristi Sogofsky moved to add agenda item 5A. Discussion and possible action on Authorizing Resolution of the Town of Easton for State of Connecticut DEEP Special Use License to complete repair activities for South Park Avenue Bridge No. 04211. Robert Lessler second. Motion passed unanimously.
Kristi Sogofsky moved to authorize David Bindelglass to execute and enter into on behalf of the Town of Easton a Special Use License with the State of Connecticut, Department of Energy and Environment Protection (DEEP) to complete repair activities for South Park Avenue Bridge No. 04211 on a portion of DEEP property known as Centennial Watershed State Forest. Robert Lessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
6. David Bindelglass mentioned tighter controls in Town Hall by limiting the frequency of employees and the wearing of masks in the building. Chief Doyle is also restricting officers to one officer per car and limiting access inside the building. The Director of the Westport Weston Health District wishes to move forward with the process of Easton possibly joining the WWHD. On Monday, the WWHD "Invitation to Join" Presentation will be on the website for thirty (30) days with an email address for comments and questions. Please feel free to email BOS@eastonct.gov with your questions and comments. This process is taking the place of a

formal Public Hearing. The question of the Town Meeting is still to be determined however, the WWHD issue will be on any referendum the town will eventually hold. Robert Lessler mentioned a letter to the editor appearing in the Easton Courier and suggested someone (Polly Edwards, Dr. Chris Michos, and/or the Board of Selectmen) formally responds.

7. No public comment.
8. Robert Lessler updated the Board on the possible plans for a 175th Town of Easton Celebration. It was suggested that virtual tours of the town may be incorporated into a celebration with a different vision than previously considered. A committee may want to be formed to work on this type of collaboration. Kristi Sogofsky mentioned that the 2017 Easton Library Building Committee has met and is looking into alternative plans for expansion.
8A. Robert Lessler moved to add agenda item 8A. Discussion and possible action on resignation from the Easton Library Building Committee. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
Robert Lessler moved to accept the resignation of Gail Gay as a member of the 2017 Easton Library Building Committee with thanks for her service. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
9. Kristi Sogofsky moved to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Robert Lessler second. Motion passed unanimously.

3A~04.16.20

Instr# TBD

Received and Filed Remotely 4/20/2020

Christine Halloran, Town Clerk, Easton, CT



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

INTERGOVERNMENTAL POLICY AND PLANNING DIVISION

GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 7S SECTION 6 MUNICIPALITY PROGRAM ELECTION

The municipality of EASTON by determination of our local legislative body, or in any town in which the legislative body is a town meeting, by a vote of the board of selectmen, voted and approved on APRIL 16, 2020, that we will participate in the following program(s):

☒ **Deferment Program.** During the period of March 10, 2020, the date that the Governor declared the public health and civil preparedness emergency, through and including July 1, 2020, municipalities participating in the Deferment Program shall offer to eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents a deferment by ninety (90) days of any taxes on real property, personal property or motor vehicles, or municipal water, sewer and electric rates, charges or assessments for such tax, rate, charge, or assessment from the time that it became due and payable. Eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents are those that attest to or document significant economic impact by CO VID-19, and/ or those that document they are providing relief to those significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall issue guidance as to which taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents shall be considered eligible for the Deferment Program, but participating municipalities may, upon approval of its local legislative body, or, in any town in which the legislative body is a town meeting, by a vote of the board of selectmen, extend eligibility for the deferment program to other categories of taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents.

☒ **Low Interest Rate Program.** For municipalities participating in the Low Interest Rate Program, notwithstanding Section 12-146 of the General Statutes, (i) the delinquent portion of the principal of any taxes on real property, personal property or motor vehicles, or municipal water, sewer and electric charges or assessments or part thereof shall be subject to interest at the rate of three (3) per cent per annum for ninety days from the time when it became due and payable until the same is paid, for any such tax, rate, charge, or assessment due and payable from March 10 through and including July 1, 2020, unless such delinquent portion is subject to interest and penalties at less than three (3) per cent per annum. Following the ninety days, the portion that remains delinquent shall be subject to interest and penalties as previously established; and (ii) any portion of the principal of any taxes on real property, personal property or motor vehicles, or municipal water, sewer and electric rates, charges or assessments or part thereof that had been delinquent on or prior to March 10, shall be subject to interest at the rate of three (3) per cent per annum for ninety days from this Order, unless such delinquent portion is subject to interest and penalties at less than three (3) per cent per annum. Following the ninety (90) days, the portion that remains delinquent shall be subject to interest and penalties as previously established.

PROGRAM CONTACT:

Printed Name: Krista Kot

Title: Tax Collector

Email Address: kkot@eastonct.gov

Phone: 203-268-6291

CEO CERTIFICATION:

Dated this 16 day of April, 2020.

Printed Name: David Bindelglass

Title: First Selectman

Email Address: dbindelglass@eastonct.gov

Signature: [Signature]

DUE TO OPM NO LATER THAN APRIL 25, 2020 ~ RETURN TO: Martin.Heft@ct.gov

450 Capitol Avenue Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1379
www.portal.ct.gov/opm

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

MUNICIPALITY NAME _____

APPLICATION FOR MUNICIPAL TAX RELIEF DEFERRAL PROGRAM UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER 7S
For deferral of real estate, motor vehicle, and personal property taxes and/or municipal electric, water and sewer charges due to a town, city, and/or borough between and including March 10, 2020 and July 1, 2020.

1. PROPERTY OWNER NAME		LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE INITIAL	DATE OF BIRTH
2. IF YOU ARE NOT THE OWNER, YOUR AUTHORITY TO MAKE THIS APPLICATION ON THE OWNER'S BEHALF (E.G., BUSINESS'S MANAGER, INDIVIDUAL POWER-OF-ATTORNEY, ETC.)					
3. MAILING ADDRESS		NUMBER AND STREET		MUNICIPALITY	STATE ZIP CODE
4. DAYTIME TELEPHONE		THAT COD		BILL, D, IS	
5. PROPERTY FOR WHICH DEFERR IS					
ADDRESS(ES) OF REAL ESTATE					
YEAR, MAKE, MODEL OF VEHICLE(S):					
TYPE(S) OF PERSONAL PROPERTY:					

DEFERRAL PROGRAM: I request that the applicable real estate, motor vehicle, and personal property taxes and any municipal electric, water or sewer charges or assessments on the property identified above, which would otherwise be due between and including March 10, 2020 and July 1, 2020, be deferred until ninety (90) days after the original due date of each without interest or penalty. Deferral, for purposes of this program, means that the tax or charge can be paid up to 90 days after its due date without interest or penalty.

CHECK PROPER ELIGIBILITY:

- ☐ **Resident:** My household has suffered a reduction in income of at least 20% due to COVID-19.
- ☐ Since March 10, 2020, I have been either (1) been furloughed without pay; (2) had my hours significantly reduced; or (3) am unemployed. This has resulted in at least a 20% reduction in my household income.
 - ☐ Proof of Residency is attached (i.e. a copy of driver's license, utility bill, or other proof of residency)
- ☐ **Business / Non-Profit:** Revenue is expected to decrease at least 30% in the March to June 2020 period versus the March to June 2019 period at this property.
- ☐ Proof of Ownership is attached (i.e. copy of my business license, utility bill, Secretary of State listing, or other proof of ownership)

LANDLORDS - Fill Out this Section only if you are the landlord of the real estate listed above.

☐ **Deferral Program.** If the municipality has adopted the Deferral Program, I request that the applicable real estate taxes and any municipal electric, water or sewer charges or assessments on the property identified above, which would otherwise be due between and including March 10, 2020 and July 1, 2020, be deferred until ninety (90) days after the original due date of each without interest or penalty.

- ☐ I have attached documentation proving that the property has or will suffer a significant revenue decline, OR
- ☐ I have attached documentation proving that commensurate forbearance was offered to the tenants or lessees.
"Commensurate forbearance, for purposes of this program, means either a) a deferral of 25% of rent (approximating the property tax portion of rent) for the ninety (90) days after its due date; b) a deferral of one month's rent to be paid over the 90 day period, or c) forbearance substantially similar to (a) or (b) as determined by the tax collector. Documentation includes, but is not limited to, proof that some tenants or lessees have received forbearance or that the landlord has actively communicated with tenants or lessees to offer forbearance.

CERTIFICATION:

- (A) I am aware of the amount and/or basis of the taxes, charges, and assessments that I am requesting to be deferred and I hereby irrevocably waive all rights to appeal or dispute them on any basis. I understand that the municipality's lien, priority, and enforcement rights will remain unaffected during and after this period.
- (B) I understand that this request, if approved, will not defer any taxes, charges, fees, or assessments I may owe the municipality which came due before March 10, 2020 or after July 1, 2020 or the interest and penalties applicable to them, or any other debt I may owe the municipality at any time.
- (C) I authorize the municipality and its agents to verify the statements above, and any certification information I have provided, from its records and other third parties. I consent to those third parties releasing relevant information to the municipality and its agents for this purpose upon the municipality's request and that a copy of this application shall be adequate evidence of my consent. I hold the municipality harmless in their collection of this data.
- (D) I understand that I must pay all taxes, charges, and assessments deferred in full (i) within ninety (90) days after the original due date or (ii) immediately, if the municipality determines that I am not eligible for deferment. I understand that if I fail to make payments as noted in this section, all interest, fees, and penalties will be applied to all unpaid portions retroactive to the original due date.

APPLICANT'S ATTESTATION	Under penalties of perjury, I hereby swear or affirm that that I have read and understood all of the statements above, that they are true and accurate, and that I have attached any and all additional information necessary to process my application herein. I attest that this application, and all attachments, are genuine and unaltered.	
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT X		Date signed (Mo., Day, Yr.) ____/____/____

**STOP! DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE
FOR TAX COLLECTOR'S USE ONLY**

DEFERRAL FOR: <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Tax <input type="checkbox"/> Motor Vehicle Tax <input type="checkbox"/> Supp. Motor Vehicle Tax <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Property Tax <input type="checkbox"/> Water Charges <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Usage Charges <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Assessment Charges <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Charge		
TAX COLLECTOR'S DETERMINATION	____ I am satisfied that the applicant meets all the necessary statutory requirements ____ This claim is denied for the following reason(s):	
SIGNATURE OF TAX COLLECTOR OR MEMBER OF TAX COLLECTOR'S STAFF X		Date signed (Mo., Day, Yr.) ____/____/____

OPM M-COVID19