

Minutes
Easton Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting February 1, 2024
7:30 PM
Town Hall Conference Room (In-Person)
And
Virtually via Zoom

Present: David Bindelglass, Kristi Sogofsky, Nicholas D'Addario

1. Nicholas D'Addario moved to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen meeting, January 18, 2024, as amended. David Bindelglass seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
2. During public comment, a resident shared her concerns about harassment towards one of the town board volunteers.
3. Kristi Sogofsky moved to approve the following tax refunds as recommended by Krista Kot, Tax Collector. 1. SUSAN & KEVIN KASTER - \$32.00. 2. CHASE AUTO FINANCE - \$585.57. 3. BMW FINANCIAL SERVICES - \$190.04. Nicholas D'Addario seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Police Chief Doyle addressed concerns about harassment and explained criminal vs. civil matters.
5. Kristi Sogofsky moved to adopt the Task Force for the Protection of Town Volunteers and Officials charge (see attached). Nicholas D'Addario seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Nicholas D'Addario moved to approve the lease agreement with the Town of Easton and New England Prayer Center, Inc. to a town meeting. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
7. Nicholas D'Addario moved to remove "subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen" from the Tax Relief for the Elderly Ordinance, section 430-20 qualifications for relief. Kristi Sogofsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
8. David Bindelglass stated that the Town Clerk requires a wet signature for resignations from board and commission volunteers. David Bindelglass moved to appoint Robert Van Malderghem to the Honorarium Review Committee. Nicholas D'Addario seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
9. Kristi Sogofsky moved to approve a 3% wage increase for non-union employees. Nicholas D'Addario seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
10. A resident requested, during public comment, clarification on how the town meeting will be structured. Will residents be able to ask questions? How will the language of the vote read for the NEPC lease? A resident discussed the building inspector's hearing regarding the arena at Sport Hill. Another resident shared his concerns regarding the task force for the protection of town volunteers and officials. Lastly, a resident discussed the vetting process for board and commission volunteers and suggested the social media policy be reviewed and perhaps updated.

11. David Bindelglass mentioned that Kristi Sogofsky created a policy for unaffiliated as a vetting process for boards and commissions. He also discussed the town meeting structure and NEPC lease. Kristi Sogofsky thought it would be helpful to have a power point presentation presented by the lawyers highlighting the significant areas of the lease and provide clarification on what will occur if the lease is voted down. Nicholas D'Addario shared that the press conference held at the EMS building to award the grant was great.
12. Kristi Sogofsky moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm. Nicholas D'Addario seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3M-2.1.24

Task Force for the Protection of the Town Volunteers and Officials Charge:

There shall be a task force to study and make recommendations regarding the protection of town officials and civility in governance. Town officials shall be defined as volunteer members of boards and commissions, town employees, and elected officials. The task force shall consist of five members with no more than three members being of the same political party. The membership shall be comprised of one member of the Insurance Commission, one official from the town's Human Resources Department, one member of the Board of Finance, and two members of the public.

The task force shall report to the Board of Selectmen on its progress from time to time as it deems appropriate and as requested by the Board of Selectmen. The task force must provide a written report and any recommendations to the Board of Selectmen by April 1, 2024. The task force will be disbanded upon the completion of its report. Any recommendations will be considered at the April 2024 Annual Town Meeting.

The Board of Selectmen shall provide such advice as the task force, from time to time, may request or as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate. The First Selectman will make legal counsel available to the task force to provide guidance on any potential recommendations.

Members of the task force may be removed with cause by the Board of Selectmen and new members may be appointed in place of removed members.

The Board of Selectmen may alter this charge as required.

Adopted by Board of Selectmen 2/1/24