

Minutes
Easton Board of Selectmen Meeting
May 7, 2015 – 7:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room A

Present: Adam Dunsby; Scott Centrella; Robert H. Lessler

The First Selectman convened the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

1. Robert Lessler moved, Scott Centrella seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Easton Board of Selectmen Meeting of April 16, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Several residents commented on the sale of the South Park Avenue property.
3. An opening for an alternate position on the Board of Finance to fill an unexpired term was discussed. Four candidates were presented to the Board for consideration. Scott Centrella moved, Adam Dunsby seconded a motion to appoint Richard Cremin to fill the unexpired six-year term from 1-02-13 to 1-02-19 as an alternate on the Board of Finance. First Selectman Dunsby and Selectman Centrella voted in favor, Selectman Lessler voted against. Motion carried.
4. Scott Centrella moved, Robert Lessler seconded a motion to approve the following tax refunds as recommended by Christine Calvert, Tax Collector: 1. Ally Bank - \$393.99; 2. Barbara Marino - \$2,995.97; and 3. Sean Andres - \$170.46. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Robert Lessler moved, Scott Centrella seconded a motion to appoint the firm of Berchem, Moses & Devlin, P.C. to represent the Board of Assessment Appeals of the Town of Easton in an appeal taken by Dr. Peter Philip from the Board of Assessment Appeals. Motion carried unanimously.
6. The Board of Finance created a special revenue fund to accept donations for the construction of a pavilion on the Morehouse Road property. To that fund, the Board of Finance allocated \$5,500.00 to cover the costs of digging the foundation by the public works department. Adam Dunsby moved, Scott Centrella seconded a motion to accept a check from the Friends of Easton Parks and Athletic Facilities in an amount of approximately \$29,000 for use in the construction of the pavilion. The aforementioned group is comprised of Athan Crist, Mark Pompa, Tom Auray, and Steve Lichtman. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Five different proposals for the use of the South Park Avenue property were presented to the Board of Selectmen over the past six months. Updates, modifications and a new proposal were heard by the Board tonight. Among those heard, Mystic River Building presented a reconfiguration of proposed units. The Jewish Senior Services scaled back the number of units originally presented and offered a higher purchase price, but would require the Town to arrange a sewer hook-up. Gina Blaze, representing the New England Prayer Center, offered to purchase the property.
8. First Selectman Dunsby reported that at the present time, the tenant on the South Park Avenue property was paying a monthly rent of \$1,500.00. The First Selectman has confirmed with the tenant that the rent will step up to \$3,000.00 per month and be month to month, with no

specified term. An official rent agreement will be prepared by the First Selectman. The Board began discussions reviewing all presentations. Pros and cons for all presented scenarios together with the financial aspects from present to future, zoning regulations and the possible need to change zoning, were taken into consideration. After a lengthy discussion, Selectman Lessler voiced his opinion he would back the Board on a selection, but leaned towards backing the Jewish Senior Services project. Selectman Centrella and First Selectman Dunsby both believe the project presented by Sacred Heart University would serve the community of Easton best. First Selectman Dunsby will reach out to Sacred Heart University.

9. The Board was presented with a petition to convene a special town meeting to discuss and vote on a proposed ordinance requiring town meeting action on the acquisition or disposition of real property. An amendment to an ordinance presented at a Town meeting in March 2014 with nearly identical wording was overwhelmingly defeated, as was the proposed ordinance. Over 400 people attended that Town meeting. The Selectmen were of the opinion that the ordinance they were now presented with was functionally identical and the petition was therefore frivolous and improper. Robert Lessler moved to present the petitioned ordinance to a Town meeting for action. Hearing no second, the motion failed.

Adam Dunsby moved, Scott Centrella seconded a motion to add to the agenda 9a. Discussion and possible action on the appointment of counsel to assist the Town in an emergency matter requested by the Easton Building Official, Easton Health Officer, and the Easton Fire Marshal. Motion carried and the item was added.

9a. Robert Lessler moved, Scott Centrella seconded a motion to appoint the firm of Berchem, Moses & Devlin, P.C. to represent the Town and take any and all appropriate action to remove the damaged barn at 760 Stepney Road as outlined in letters to the First Selectman from the Easton Building Official, Easton Health Officer, and the Easton Fire Marshal, all dated May 7, 2015.

10. No Board member comment heard.

11. Scott Centrella moved to adjourn the meeting. Robert Lessler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

3M~05-07-15