

TOWN OF EASTON



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

ABOUT THE COVER

“Winter Dreams”

Photograph by Easton resident - Shannon Calvert, www.hireimagination.com



Town of Easton

ANNUAL REPORT

Town Hall
Easton, Connecticut



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Provided here are reports from our Officials, Commissions and heads of departments of the Town and General Purpose Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015 and some information by calendar year 2015. The information compiled provides residents of Easton with a comprehensive review of the operation of the Town, its finances, and educational system.

Your Board of Finance, who is charged with preparing this report, wishes to thank all who supplied the information and data included. We are grateful to Grace Stanczyk, who was responsible for the overall coordination and planning and to Janet Haller for her assistance.

Matt Gachi, Chair
Board of Finance

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Board of Selectmen.....	1
Town Clerk & Registrar of Vital Statistics	1
Town Treasurer	2
Tax Collector.....	2
Assessor	4
Registrar of Voters	5
Building Department.....	6
Municipal Agent for the Aging	6
Easton Senior Center.....	7
Health Department	8

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Public Works	9
--------------------	---

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Board of Finance.....	10
Board of Assessment Appeals.....	10
Planning and Zoning Commission	10
Zoning Board of Appeals	12
Conservation Commission	12
Commission for the Aging	13
Park and Recreation Commission.....	14
Insurance Commission	14
Pension and Employee Benefits Commission	15
Agricultural Commission	15
Clean Energy Task Force	17

COMMITTEES

Cemetery Committee	18
Recycling Committee	18
Solid Waste Report.....	18

PUBLIC SAFETY

Board of Police Commissioners	19
Police Department.....	19
Municipal Animal Control Officer	20
Communication Center	20
Board of Fire Commissioners.....	21
Fire Department	21
Easton Volunteer Emergency Medical Service	22

PUBLIC LIBRARY

Easton Public Library	23
-----------------------------	----

EDUCATION

Easton Board of Education	24
Regional School District #9	24
Debt Service and Benefits Accounts - Selectmen's Budget for the Board of Education	25

PROBATE COURT - DISTRICT OF TRUMBULL	26
--	----

SUMMARIES OF TOWN MEETINGS.....	26
---------------------------------	----

TOWN OFFICIALS	28
----------------------	----

APPOINTED OFFICIALS	28
---------------------------	----

TOWN DEPARTMENTS AND EMPLOYEES	30
--------------------------------------	----

ADMINISTRATION AND TEACHING STAFF	32
---	----

TOWN DIRECTORY	34
----------------------	----

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES	35
--	----

TOWN CALENDAR	36
---------------------	----

AUDITOR'S AND FINANCIAL REPORTS	37-61
---------------------------------------	-------

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Board of Selectmen is the executive and administrative branch of town government. Its primary charge is to superintend the concerns of the Town. The First Selectman is the Chief Executive Officer of the Town and an *ex officio* member of all Town Boards and Commissions. The Board of Selectmen typically meets the first and third Thursday of each month.

In 2014-15, the Board of Selectmen made numerous appointments to Town Boards and Commissions, produced and approved a workplace safety plan, began a solar project behind SSES, and began a project for a pavilion on Morehouse Road.

TOWN CLERK REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS TOWN SEXTON

The Town Clerk plays a key role in delivering public service. As an impartial liaison between local government and the public, The Town Clerk is a valuable resource for communicating and ensuring transparency to the public regarding municipal information and records. As the official keeper of land records for the Town of Easton from the date of incorporation in 1845 to the present, the Town Clerk's Office links the past, present, and future of Easton. The Secretary of State entrusts the Town Clerk with responsibility for public records, vital statistics, licensing, and specific election duties. The office staff includes one Town Clerk (full-time) and two Assistant Town Clerks (one full-time and one part-time).

The responsibilities of the Easton Town Clerk's Office include:

- Maintain and provide access to public records as required by state law and regulations
- Record, index, and preserve municipal land records, surveys, and maps
- Retain official records of ordinances, oaths, appointments, and petitions
- Post public meeting notices, agendas, and minutes
- Record trade names and military discharges
- Issue certificates of authority to justices of the peace and notary publics
- Keep official copies of town budgets, audits, and annual reports
- Administer the oath of office to local elected and appointed officials
- Register, index, and maintain original birth, marriage, and death records
- Issue certified copies of vital statistics records, licenses, burial, and cremation permits

- Act as filing repository for municipal office candidates' campaign finance statements
- Notify the Secretary of the State of campaign finance statement filing violations
- Issue new and renewal dog licenses
- Issue Aquarion Water Company fishing and hiking permits
- Manage the Town's record management and records disposition program
- Maintain and organize the vault for maximization of space and use
- Convene the Annual Town Meeting, special town meetings, and public hearings
- Update lists of elected and appointed members of town departments, boards, and commissions
- Maintain the Town of Easton website www.eastonct.gov

The Town Clerk also works closely with the Registrars of Voters for all primaries, elections, and referenda held in the Town of Easton. Responsibilities include: issue, log and maintain absentee ballot applications; receive new voter registrations; prepare, distribute, and deliver to the polls absentee ballots; and report results for elections and referenda. The Town of Easton in cooperation with the Town of Redding shares the Region 9 school district. Due to the continual changes in election laws and voting procedures, accuracy, alertness, and knowledge are vital.

Below is a listing of various Town Clerk records for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015:

TYPE	NO. ISSUED
LAND RECORDS	1664
BIRTHS	35
MARRIAGES	22
DEATHS	18
BURIAL PERMITS	16
MAPS AND SURVEYS	9
TRADE NAME CERTIFICATES	18
MILITARY DISCHARGES	4
DOG LICENSES / KENNELS	1383 / 4
TRANSFERS OF PROPERTY	658
AQUARION FISHING PERMITS	21
SPORTSMAN LICENSES	Online only

We continually strive to improve services and keep the public informed. The Town Clerk office maintains the Town of Easton website (live August 2014) and works with the other town departments to keep the information up-to-date, accessible, and accurate. The News and Event Calendars on the website list town associated activities, department notices, and scheduled meeting information for local boards, committees, and commissions. In an effort to provide a convenience to residents and increase compliance with licensing, dog license renewals are available online, by mail or in person. Land records and maps are online (live October 2014) in a searchable database with indexes and images. Notary public services available free to residents and for a fee of \$5 for non-residents. Resources for Justices of the Peace

are available online and in the office. Recordings and licenses are received and processed daily until 4:00 p.m.

Town Clerk office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (except for legal holidays). Please refer to the Town of Easton website www.eastonct.gov for updated information regarding Town Hall departments and services, board and commission meeting information, and town news and announcements.

The staff (Assistant Town Clerks: Joan Kirk and Deborah Szegegi) and I are always interested in ways to improve our services and accessibility of information. We are committed to serving our residents and customers with professionalism, efficiency, and a smile! Once again, it is a fulfilling honor and pleasure to serve Easton residents as your Town Clerk.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Halloran, Town Clerk

TOWN TREASURER

Elected for a two year term, the Treasurer of the Town of Easton is charged with managing the receipt, investment, and disbursement of the Town's assets. This involves maximizing revenues received, establishing accounts that prudently garnish returns and accounting for the Town's financial activities during the fiscal year. Duties also include overseeing the bonding and debt service for the Town. The Treasurer operates and monitors an active investment program. In recent years this has been done in a challenging interest rate environment. The goals are to invest funds in anticipation of long term projects and capital needs and maximize investment income. The Fed's long term position of a zero interest rate environment has hindered the returns on investments. It has also worked to our advantage in the refinancing of the Bond Anticipation Notes (BAN) and bonding which traded at historic low rates. Most of the town's revenues are collected every six months and disbursed quickly further increasing the challenge of generating interest income. The Town of Easton continued to maintain a Standard & Poor's long term rating of AAA, the highest rating possible. Holding this rating allows the town to borrow and refund debt at the best possible rates. Retaining this rating is a testament to the Town's long-term commitment to prudent, measured financial management and the contribution of all those who built that record throughout the years.

The Treasurer's office is responsible for Easton's accounting and reporting requirements as well as gathering information for and the preparation and monitoring of each year's fiscal budget. Grace Stanczyk, Town Comptroller, maintains this process and is the steward of good accounting and budget practices and keeper of fiscal information not only for the Town but also for the department heads, employees and citizens of Easton.

Suzette Bryan in Human Resources has proven to be an asset

and has evolved into the municipal environment, including seamlessly adjusting to our new insurance coverage and the challenges of new laws including the Affordable Care Act. Janet Haller is continuing to process accounts payable and guiding visitors and citizens through the various town departments.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Bowditch, Treasurer

TAX COLLECTOR

As taxation is a state function, the Tax Collector is governed by state law. Municipalities have no powers of taxation other than those specifically granted by the General Assembly and described in the General Statutes. The Tax Collector performs the duties and exercises the powers prescribed by state law under the supervision of the State Office of Policy and Management. The Tax Collector is elected by the townspeople in odd-numbered years for a two-year term.

The Tax Collector performs administrative functions as follows: plans, organizes, directs and participates in the tax billing and collection activities of the Town with regard to real estate, motor vehicle and personal property taxes in accordance with the established collection cycle; organizes and supervises the preparation and processing of all tax bills; receives, reconciles and deposits tax collections in a timely fashion and turns all monies received over to the Treasurer for deposit in the general fund; oversees the preparation of rate books; prepares tax warrants, rate bills and legal notices; updates, balances and reconciles rate books; prepares reports, records and statistical surveys for the Treasurer, Board of Finance, First Selectman, external auditors, Office of Policy and Management, and U.S. Department of the Census on a regular basis; prepares for the annual external audit.

Also: coordinates with the Assessor and Town Clerk the recording of new and changed property tax information; computes and records certificates of change and lawful corrections in accordance with Sec. 12-167(5); computes and issues prorated motor vehicle tax credits for vehicles that were sold, stolen or totally damaged during the tax year in accordance with PA 82-459; coordinates activities with the Board of Tax Review; prepares paperwork for issuing tax refunds in accordance with Sec. 12-129 and maintains all records of same; coordinates escrow payment systems with financial institutions holding mortgages on properties located in town; prepares revenue loss reports for the state regarding totally disabled, elderly freeze and circuit breaker state tax relief programs; administers the Town tax relief for elderly resident homeowners program according to Town ordinance; performs arithmetic computations with accuracy and maintains records in accordance with generally accepted accounting and bookkeeping practices and principles.

Also: prepares and files a suspense tax list in accordance with Sec. 12-165 and 167 and records suspense collections if and when received; prepares a list of delinquent taxes, indicating

list year, amount of tax, interest and lien fees due, and last known address; sends delinquent notices and demands twice yearly in accordance with Sec.12-155; implements collection enforcement procedures against delinquent taxpayers and confers with delinquent taxpayers to arrange payment plans; arranges jeopardy tax collections in accordance with Sec. 12-163; files claims with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for taxes and fees due from bankrupt taxpayers; files tax liens against real property on which delinquent taxes are due at the end of the fiscal year and releases liens when taxes are paid in accordance with Sec. 12-172; prepares and submits to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) listings of delinquent motor vehicle taxpayers and promptly submits follow-up reports when taxes are paid; directs DMV to withhold registrations of delinquent motor vehicle taxpayers in accordance with Sec. 14-33 and 33(a); directs DMV to suspend registrations of taxpayers whose checks in payment of motor vehicle taxes are returned to the Town unpaid.

Also: prepares and recommends an operating budget for the office; organizes, maintains and updates filing systems for the retention of required information and public records; provides information to attorneys, banking officials, town officials and the public regarding tax data and office procedures and policy; confers with the Office of Policy and Management, Assessors, Town Clerk, Comptroller, Treasurer, external auditors, Selectmen and Town Attorney on matters relating to the collection of taxes; posts to rate books every payment made, indicating amount paid and date of payment, and maintains backup records of same; attends regular meetings and a yearly seminar on tax collection with the Connecticut Tax Collector's Association as required by state statute, and in conjunction with the association drafts proposed legislation regarding tax collection for submission to the General Assembly; and deals with the public on a daily basis.

Tax bills on the October 1, 2013 grand list were issued at the rate of 29.90 mills, which is equivalent to \$29.90 in taxes per \$1,000 of net assessed property value. Real estate and personal property tax bills exceeding \$100 were payable in two installments, due July 1, 2014 and January 1, 2015. Motor vehicle taxes were due in full July 1, 2014. Supplemental motor vehicle taxes for newly acquired motor vehicles registered subsequent to October 1, 2013 were due in full January 1, 2015 in accordance with PA 77-343.

Taxpayers have one month from the respective due date in which to pay without penalty, after which interest is collected at the rate of 1-1/2% per month from the due date, in accordance with the state law. The Tax Collector has no discretion in the application of conditions or methods of levy or collection of taxes, and does not have the authority to waive the interest due on delinquent tax bills. As a matter of law, the taxpayer becomes liable to the Town for the tax due by virtue of his ownership of the property; the liability is neither created by nor dependent upon the receipt of a tax bill, and the failure to receive a bill does not relieve the taxpayer of the responsibility to pay the statutorily-required interest due on the late payment.

The Tax Collector is in full compliance with State of Connecticut revenue collection reporting obligations, and copies of the following reports are on file in the Town Clerk's Office:

- a. Tax Collector's Report of Collections, Sec.12-167(1-3). A total of \$39,747,199 in taxes, interest and lien fees was collected during fiscal year 2014-2015.
- b. Report of certificates of change and lawful corrections, Sec. 12-167(5) detailing all additions to and deductions from tax rolls according to list year, name, amount and reason. A total of \$34,443 in additions, and \$75,907 in deductions were made to the grand lists of 1998-2013.
- c. Report of transfers to suspense, Sec. 12-165 and 167, detailing list year, name, amount and reason. A total of \$16,363 was transferred to suspense from the grand list of 2011.
- d. Report of refunds, Sec.12-129, detailing list year, name, amount and reason. A total of 114 refunds were given, totaling \$56,267.99 on the grand lists of 2010-2013.
- e. Liens: 62 liens for unpaid real estate taxes on the 2013 grand list were filed on June 10, 2015. Copies of these liens and all lien releases are on file in the town land records.

I am grateful to the townspeople for giving me the opportunity to serve as Tax Collector. I would also like to thank my assistant, Margaret Timlin and Jane Allen, my temporary help, for their professional and loyal support.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Calvert, Tax Collector
Margaret Timlin, Assistant Tax Collector

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT ON COLLECTIONS:

Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/2015
(Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 12-167(1-3))

<u>List Year</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>1998-2012</u>
Total amount of unpaid taxes on each rate bill at start of fiscal year	\$39,595,463	\$1,389,18
Lawful corrections	-38,514	-2,950
Suspense	- 0 -	-16,363
Total amount collected on each rate bill during the fiscal year (tax, int., lien, legal)	T: 39,015,384 I: 99,273 L: 5,473	448,162 170,874 8,033
Total amount uncollected on each rate bill at end of fiscal year (excluding interest & liens)	\$541,565	\$921,713

ASSESSOR

It is the responsibility of the Assessor's office primarily to list and assess all taxable and non-taxable properties located in the Town of Easton. The three categories of taxable properties are Real Estate, Motor Vehicles, and Personal Property. Personal Property such as businesses with office equipment including computers, file cabinets, adding machines etc., and construction businesses etc. Also mains, hydrants, tunnels, unregistered motor vehicles, meters, towers, and any equipment that is used for a business purposes.

The basic value of Real Property is determined by a physical inspection of the land and all structures located thereon, these structures and improvements include dwellings, garages, barns, sheds, pools, tennis courts, and gazebos.

Revaluations are conducted every 5 years and the 10th year a physical inspection is required per State Statute. This is most difficult since the normal duties of the assessor's office and the work involved in performing the revaluation must be conducted concurrently. The Town revaluation was done for the October 1, 2011 Grand List, and the next revaluation will be for the October 1, 2016 Grand List.

The Assessor works with the Building Official and his office. Once a month the building department provides a list of building permits for the Assessor. The Assessor then proceeds to the property in question to measure any new construction a few times during the year. In addition to measuring, property is listed and assessed for tax purposes.

Total values are equalized by the use of cost schedules and application of appraisal techniques. The valuation process requires skill, specialized training, experience and use of sound judgment. The Assessor inputs all information in the computer by sketching the structure or structures and any additions, porches, pools or sheds that are included in the building permit.

The Assessor and assistant coordinate with the Tax Collector and Town Clerk on any new changes in property ownership, foreclosure, etc., and records them on the owners field card and puts all the information in the computer. Deeds are proof read and properties are then determined to be a usable or non-usable sale, which must be reported monthly to the State. All files, map book, street books and field cards are constantly updated as to changes of ownership and all are entered into the computer.

During the tax year in January and September the Assessor and assistant price and pro rate motor vehicles assessments for vehicles sold, stolen or totaled in accordance with section 12-71 and issue lawful certificates of correction when proof of sale, donation or loss of cars & plate receipt is provided to the Assessors office in accordance with section 12-60 of the general statutes.

Services are also offered to all taxpayers who may have questions regarding their assessments. If the need arises, home visits are also made personally by the Assessor whenever necessary, to assist the physically handicapped taxpayer.

On matters relating to assessments and elderly forms, the Assessors office prepares the forms for taxpayers on the circuit breaker with filing dates February 15 with a deadline of May 15th. The Assessor's office calculates the applications for the elderly and then sends them to the state for approval. When a tax payer sells their home or deeds it to a family member the exemption is then pro-rated.

The Town tax relief for the elderly is also the responsibility of the Assessor's office and can be applied for, if the income complies with the Towns requirement. Applications are sent out in March after they are modified and compared with the prior year for any changes, then appointments made. Questions are answered when inquiries are made. Later the Assessor inputs the dollar amount in the computer which is reflected on the bill in July for seniors that qualify for the Town Tax Relief.

All veterans' exemptions and personal property are reviewed and updated yearly. Reductions are granted to low-income veterans if they comply with the States required income limit. Disabled and the blind can also receive an exemption when they apply in the Assessor's office.

The Assessors office implements all public Act 490 Farm and Forest reductions. The forms are checked yearly for those eligible for a farm exemption to make sure that Taxpayers are complying with the State Statutes.

Survey maps are updated yearly, and transferred onto the Assessors maps. The Assessor reads the A-2 survey maps and computes the acreage of a subdivision, and or survey to adjust the acreage. A property card is then made up with a new address, corrections or additions. The Assessor then inputs the information in the computer for tax bills for the following year.

GIS mapping is reviewed and the assistant provides information for the system. Any errors and discrepancies are looked over and GRBC is contacted for corrections. GIS is used on a daily basis for research and discovery of taxable property.

Services are provided to Town officials, departments, and/or commissions, surveyors, attorneys, title searchers, real estate appraisers, F.B.I., United States Internal Revenue Services, etc.

Streets and addresses are updated for the Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications for the Department of Public Safety Division of Fire, Emergency, and Building Services. New streets and house numbers are checked for correction and addition.

The Assessor and staff must interpret and put into effect any Connecticut public acts and statutes that are passed each year by State legislature. The acts and statutes are in constant flux and each year many of them are either modified, eliminated, and/or superseded by new laws.

The Assessor also works with the Board of Assessment Appeals who meet in March on any questions they may have on appealing their values. In September the Board of Assessment Appeals meets for Motor vehicle values questions. If any changes are made by the Board the Assessors office then inputs all the information into the computer to reflect any changes on the file cards and or Motor vehicles and personal property.

The Office of Policy and Management determines the responsibility of the Assessor's office through general statutes of the State of Connecticut.

SUMMARY OF 2014 AND 2015 GRAND LIST

NET VALUE OF TAXABLE PROPERTY

	2014	2015	Difference
Real Estate	\$1,241,062,310	1,243,777,920	+\$2,715,610
Personal Property	14,727,595	15,838,244	- 1,110,649
Motor Vehicles	<u>75,714,710</u>	<u>77,387,965</u>	- 1,673,255
TOTAL	\$1,331,504,615	\$1,337,004,129	+\$5,449,514

Teresa Rainieri, CCMA II
ASSESSOR

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

The Registrars of Voters, one Democrat and one Republican, are elected state officials whose charge is to guarantee and preserve the voting rights of the citizens of their town in a fair and equitable manner. Upon their election, each Registrar appoints a Deputy who assists their respective Registrar in the performance of his or her duties. Krista Kot serves as the Republican Registrar, and David Smith the Democratic Registrar; both serve the public in an apolitical manner to ensure a fair and non-partisan experience.

The Registrars are responsible for most all of the duties concerning elections, with few exceptions. The Town Clerk is responsible for absentee ballots until they are delivered to the Registrars, in addition to the ballot layout, and submission of nominating petitions.

Although the advent of the scanning tabulator and procedure for its use has made the voting process much more efficient, technical training and reporting responsibilities, as well as

changes and additions to the regulations and statutes have increased the workload of the election staff, especially for the moderators.

All involved in the voting process served well in what was another busy year at the polls, with the Town budget referendum, a vote on the Barlow Roof Budget (07-22-14), and Republican Gubernatorial Primary (08-12-14), State Election (11-04-2014), The Town Budget Referendum (05-05-2015), a repeat Referendum of the Barlow Roof Work (08-18-2015), and the most recent Municipal Election (11-03-2015). We wish to acknowledge Jeanne Fones, Victor George, Janet Stuck and Dori Wollen, who served as election moderators for the referendums, and the Municipal Election. We are so appreciative of the dedicated election staff that worked the long hours of each of the votes. Their diligent work ensured that all electors were able to exercise their right to vote, and that all votes were accurately counted.

Total ballot count and results for the November 4, 2014 state and federal election, was 3008 ballots, of which 117 were absentee ballots. As of the end of 2015, Easton's voter registration was 1136 Democrat; 1637 Republican; 2147 Unaffiliated; and 48 other, for a total of 4968 registered voters.

We extend special thanks to the administration, staff and maintenance crew of Samuel Staples Elementary School, to the Public Works Department for all their cooperation and assistance leading up to and including Election Day, and to the officers of the Easton Police Department who, as usual, kept a watchful eye on traffic control and ensured the safety of our citizens and election staff throughout the day.

Residents may register to vote or change their registration in person at our office in Town Hall within certain time guidelines, or by using the online voter registration options at <http://govote.ct.gov>. The Registrars periodically hold voter registration sessions at Joel Barlow High School. We also hold special sessions, at the Town Hall, throughout the year for the registration of new voters, and comply with Connecticut General Statutes Section 9-32, which requires us to conduct an annual canvass of the town to ascertain the number of eligible voters. This canvass is conducted between January and May and is important in helping to maintain an accurate voter list. We encourage everyone contacted to respond to the inquiry to maintain their voting rights. Election Day Registration (EDR) is held in our office, to enable newly eligible voters to register and vote on Election Day.

The Registrars' Office is located in Town Hall and is open on Mondays, from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The Registrars are ably assisted by Assistant Registrars James Bromer and Nathalie Taranto. Either Registrar or the Assistant Registrar will gladly assist town residents with any voter registration or voting issue, regardless of party affiliation.

We encourage residents to contact the Registrars' Office if they would like to participate as poll workers for upcoming

elections. If you would like to participate, please email the office at Voters@eastonct.gov or call 203-268-6291 Ext. 170 or 171.

Respectfully submitted,
Krista A. Kot, Republican Registrar
David Smith, Democratic Registrar

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The Building Department has seen many changes this year. We were sorry to say goodbye to both E. W. (Bill) Martin as Building Official and Josephine Stenqvist as Building Department Secretary. Both were long time fixtures within town hall and will be missed. Filling both sets of very large shoes, we are happy to welcome Anthony Ballaro as Building Official and Jenna Licursi as Building Department Secretary.

The Building Department includes the services required for the State of Connecticut Building Codes. It includes one (1) person certified by the State of Connecticut as a Building Official.

The Building Department office is located in the town hall and is supported by a part-time secretary who maintains the records and accounting of permits and fees. All types of new construction is received and subsequently permitted through the Building Department.

The Building Department is open Monday – Friday 8:30 - 12:30, 1:00 - 4:30

The Building Official's Office Hours are Monday – Friday 8:30 - 10:00 and 2:30 - 4:00

Permits are accepted 8:30 – 12:00 Daily

Research files and requests for copies can be made Monday – Wednesday and Friday 1:00 – 4:00pm

Subsequent permits are also issued for repairs and alterations, pools, plumbing, heating and electrical work. The Building Official performs all field inspections relative to the aforementioned work. Enforcement of the State of Connecticut Building Code is paramount to the duties of the official.

The Connecticut General Statutes 29-252-1a, adopts as a reference code to the 2016 Connecticut Building Code; 2003 ICC International Building Code, 2009 ICC Residential Code, and 2011 National Electric Codes and N.F.P.A. update.

The Building Department researches public record and offers information and assistance for the safety and welfare of the public.

The Building Official prepares the annual operating budget for activities under his control and is responsible for the

maintenance of building plans and records. He determines and initiates regulatory or legal action in cases of violation of building code ordinances.

The Building Department offers its expertise and services to the citizens of Easton and welcomes anyone to visit the department with their building problems and questions.

Respectfully submitted,
Anthony C. Ballaro
Building Official

<u>Building & Zoning Permits</u> 2014/2015	<u>Permits</u> Totals	<u>Estimated Value</u> Totals
New Residences	4	\$1,942,612.00
Additions, Alterations & Repairs to Existing Buildings	145	\$4,851,914.00
New Non-Res. Structures (ie. barns, garages, etc.)	23	\$294,660.00
Swimming Pools	3	\$234,900.00
Affordable Housing	0	
Caretakers	0	
Tennis Courts	0	
Wood Stoves	9	\$33,000.00
Demolition	13	\$34,000.00
Solar	24	\$657,101.00
TOTAL	221	\$8,048,187.00
Electrical	167	\$16,430.00
Plumbing	127	\$9,665.00
Heating & Air Conditioning	88	\$13,470.00
Tanks, ie. oil etc.	67	\$5,225.00
Building	221	\$84,375.00
TOTAL	670	\$129,165.00

MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE AGING

The Municipal Agent for the Aging, MAA, helps seniors and their families deal with concerns of the elderly; helps them develop an action plan and assists them with solutions and referrals. MAA is a state-mandated position, originally established in 1972, and each of the 169 towns in Connecticut has a Municipal Agent. The Municipal Agent reports to the First Selectman and the Commission for the Aging. The duties and responsibilities of the Municipal Agent have increased in proportion to the growth of the elderly population.

The MAA assists seniors with programs such as adult day care, elder abuse prevention, meals on wheels, housing, home health care, mental health, legal referrals, elderly state and town tax relief, Medicare enrollment, Medicare insurances, Social Security benefits, and Veterans' programs. Issues dealing with family adjustment to aging and health problems are addressed.

Children of the elderly may also use the MAA by requesting information and referrals, as their parents are at risk living alone, or perhaps now living with them. Caregiver stress on the spouse or adult child is becoming more common and requires education and referral prior to a crisis.

The term “Aging in Place” means keeping a loved one in their own home safely and responsibly. This is a priority for the Municipal Agent, Alison Witherbee and Outreach Worker, Pam Healy. Lists of caregivers and private health care agencies are available as well as a list of repair people whose work has been recommended by Easton residents. Easton seniors and their families make the decisions to hire services of their own choosing.

The Outreach Worker is available to visit homebound seniors or any senior who welcomes a friendly visit. She is an extension to the Municipal Agent and provides valuable information. She possesses a warm personality and wonderful listening skills. Our seniors have known Pam for over two decades and cherish her visits. She works in conjunction with the Municipal Agent.

Where appropriate, Fuel Assistance applications are filed by appointment only from October through March. Strict financial guidelines are set forth by state mandate. The Municipal Agent can help with these applications or, more information can be obtained on the ABCD, Inc. website <http://www.abcd.org/energy.html>

The Municipal Agent can also assist seniors, who qualify for the Medicare Savings Program under the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services. This benefit eliminates the cost of Medicare part B and reapplication is done on an annual basis. Seniors with limited income can feel particularly vulnerable with the current state of the economy and cutbacks. The Municipal Agent has information which could be helpful in addressing this problem. The website www.benefitscheckup.org offers valuable information. *The Martha Carrie Schurman Fund* was founded by the late Albert Schurman in memory of his wife. Through Al, and the continued generosity of local donors, this fund helps seniors in crisis pay extraordinary bills, and provide other necessities. The Municipal Agent and Outreach Worker identify the financial need of a senior in crisis and disperse funds appropriately and discreetly.

The Commission for the Aging is comprised of six members who meet with the Municipal Agent on the first Monday of every month at 5pm in the Easton Senior Center (the COA does not meet in July or August). The Chairman is Joel Peskay.

The duties and responsibilities of the Municipal Agent have increased as the first wave of baby boomers began turning 65 in 2011, it has been the Municipal Agent’s role to be available to educate this group on Medicare eligibility. Appointments to enroll in Medicare, seminars on Medicare and general information can all be provided by the MAA. For further SSA

information the website is www.socialsecurity.gov or one can visit the local Social Security Administration office located at 3885 Main Street in Bridgeport, CT 06608 or call S.S.A. at either 1-866-331-6399 or 1-800-772-1213.

The Municipal Agent has office hours from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Monday through Friday. The office is located in the Easton Senior Center. Please call **203-268-1137** to make an appointment or drop in during business hours. The MAA is also available by email at awitherbee@eastonct.gov

Alison Witherbee, MSW
Municipal Agent for the Aging/Senior Social Services

EASTON SENIOR CENTER

The 2014-2015 budget year has continued to be a really successful one for the Easton Senior Center.

Once again, the State of Connecticut Transportation Department awarded our Van transportation program two grants, so that we could continue to transport both seniors and disabled adult residents to medical services, stores, the Senior Center, Municipal Offices, churches, synagogues, and entertainment facilities whenever necessary. These grants totaled approximately \$51,000 for the budget year and provided overtime for extra ridership early mornings and into evenings. This coverage has also included availability of van service at the weekends. Six extra hours on Saturday and four extra hours on Sunday. An added service was started this year by the weekend, part-time driver, Heriberto Torres, who now helps with shopping for the homebound and disabled residents in Easton. Our full-time driver during weekdays, Randy Shapiro, is also kept incredibly busy with the increased demand for ridership for those who cannot drive. It is really encouraging to note that the State is, and continues to be, extremely supportive of many of the Easton Senior Center programs.

The center continues to raise funds to provide programs for seniors and is now entering its twenty seventh year. The present “new” center is now eight years old and its wealth lies in the incredible support from, not only the Easton community, but so many volunteers from throughout the region. Each year it is not unusual to raise \$50,000 to fund a wealth of interesting classes and programs for seniors of all ages. Volunteers work long and tedious hours, but come back, year after year, to help the staff raise funds for many different special programs. This unique fund-raising methodology helps benefit seniors in a financial way because I am able to keep the overall budget at a minimum each year and keep the daily costs of classes to a minimum also.

The most exciting period of this budget year was the response from the community when it was determined that our old Senior Center Van needed to be replaced. With a boost from the Easton Board of Finance and so many residents, friends, companies and organizations, \$57,000 was banked in approximately the seven weeks from the first week in January

2015 to the third week in February 2015. In fact, it took longer to order the van than it did to finance it. By Memorial Day our drivers were able to ride in the parade, displaying a "Thank you to the community" banner. An added asset was the brand new design of a special innovative van, new on the market in 2015, which provides safer and more comfortable ridership for the disabled and infirm.

Our next important project is to raise funds to install a generator in the Easton Senior Center so that we will have a warming and cooling facility for times when seniors have lost power in stormy weather. This project will continue into the 2015-2016 budget year.

None of these endeavors could possibly be successful without the efforts of so many folks that dedicate their lives to helping us. Words are not adequate enough to express my gratitude and that of the Easton Senior Center Advisory Board and the Easton Senior Center Inc. Board, but you must know that your help, is indeed, much appreciated. Be sure to visit us soon!

Thanks once again!

Val Buckley, Director
 Attorney Sharon Cregeen, Chairperson,
 Easton Senior Center Advisory Board and Members.
 Attorney David McDonald, Chairman,
 Easton Senior Center Inc.

Respectfully submitted,
 Christopher Michos MD, Director of Health
 Polly Edwards RS, Health Officer

2014/2015 HEALTH PERMITS

<u>HEALTH PERMITS</u>	<u>Permits Totals</u>	<u>Fee Totals</u>
SEPTIC (NEW)	4	\$1,425.00
SEPTIC (REPAIR)	12	\$2,425.00
SEPTIC (REVIEW)	70	\$6,400.00
WELLS	16	\$2,400.00
SOIL TEST	31	\$7,400.00
FOOD SERVICE	14	\$1,800.00
TICK TESTING	16	\$80.00
TEMP. FOOD SERVICE	<u>16</u>	<u>\$1,125.00</u>
TOTAL	179	\$23,055.00

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Easton Health Department is located in the Easton Town Hall and is supported by a Director of Health, a Health Officer, a part-time field worker, and a secretarial staff who maintains the records and accounting of permits and fees.

Our department covers a multitude of responsibilities. We issue septic and well permits, food service permits, inspect day care centers and schools, and respond to all complaints of a public health nature. We routinely monitor communicable diseases, working closely with the Epidemiology Section of the State Health Department. We have free literature covering a wide array of public health topics that we keep available to local residents.

We are seeing an increase in the number of single family homes that are being rented. As a result we are involved in more landlord/tenant issues where public health concerns are involved such as mold, faulty plumbing, vermin, etc.

We have also seen a substantial increase in the number of temporary food service applications, as local organizations sponsor events that involve the serving of food to the public.

Throughout the year we attended numerous training seminars in bioterrorism, emergency preparedness, food service sanitation, sewage disposal, drinking water safety, and public health education. We also work closely with the local schools and newspapers in addressing various public health topics.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

EASTON PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Easton Public Works Department continued in its efforts to maintain and improve the 94.23 miles of roads and in caring for other department responsibilities.

The department's duties include: snow and ice removal during the winter season; street sweeping; pot hole repairs; roadside mowing; guide rail repairs; installation and repair of street and traffic signs; tree and brush removal; installation and repair of curbing; and maintaining Town bridges, road paving, drainage installation, and catch basin cleaning.

Though the department is a much varied and capable unit dealing with many facets of road construction and repair, the department is most always in people's minds when snow and icy roads occur. Easton had a total of 70" inches of snowfall, which required the department to plow on 14 different occasions. Sanding of the Town roads occurred 25 times consuming 4,186 tons of sand and salt mixture in the process.

The Public Works Department's spring and summer months are used to prepare roads that will be involved in the Town's chip sealing program for that year. Included in the preparation of the roads are brush cutting, grading back the road edges, removal of boulders from under the existing pavement, patching of these holes, installation of any needed drainage or repairs to existing drainage, sweeping of the road and the application of a leveling course of hot mixed asphalt to maintain proper drainage, which leads to the application of hot liquid asphalt and then covered with a layer of 1/4" Trap Rock. The program comes to its completion about a month later when the excess stone is swept up. During the past year, 6.24 miles of road were involved in this program, with the use of 36,604 gallons of road oil.

This past year the department's drainage program entailed:

15	New catch basins were installed
7	Catch basins were repaired or rebuilt
746	Feet of 6" curtain drain pipe was installed
54	Feet of 12" storm pipe drainage was installed
1,130	Feet of 15" storm pipe drainage was installed

The department takes care of all street and traffic control signs of the Town's roads. This past year saw 25 new signs and posts installed and 31 signs repaired or replaced.

A State grant was awarded to the Town for new updated STOP signs on its rural roads. This program replaced 162 "STOP" signs, 162 posts with added delineators for visibility, 20 "ALL WAY" signs and 12 "STOP AHEAD" signs.

A section of Morehouse Road from Banks Road to #385 Morehouse Road (the new animal shelter) was reconstructed by adding catch basins and drainage pipe and then the section was paved with hot mixed asphalt.

A section of Center Road from Morehouse Road to Black Rock Road, (State Route 58) was improved by adding catch basins and drainage pipe and then the section was milled and paved with hot mixed asphalt.

The Town's crew continued scheduled work with the bucket truck and was able to once again maintain the Town's parking lot lights and also able to render needed attention to dead trees and hazardous limbs hanging over the Town roadways. The tree work was done in unison with the Town Tree Warden.

Applications for 32 driveway permits and 13 road-opening permits brought in \$1,125 in fees.

The department continued the maintenance responsibility of the former Samuel Staples School, now known as 660 Morehouse Rd. along with working outside of the Public Works Department which accounted for over 1,851 hours of work throughout the Town in unison with the Park and Recreation Department, Board of Education, Town Hall, Library, Easton Police Department, Animal Control, Easton Fire Department, EMS and the Conservation Commission.

Edward Nagy, P.E.

Director of Public Works/Town Engineer

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BOARD OF FINANCE

The Board of Finance, operating within the general statutes of the State, is responsible for all Town government finances. The Board is composed of six members elected for six year terms. At each biennial Town election two of these members are elected. In addition, there are three alternate members appointed by the Board of Selectmen. These alternates may serve at Board meetings in the absence of an elected member. The Board meets monthly, with special meetings called for annual budget reviews and as required for other purposes.

In the performance of its duties, the Board exercises all administrative functions necessary in preparing the annual budget for the Town. This process includes discussing with Town officials and department heads their proposed operating and capital expenditures, after which these requests are presented at a public budget hearing for questions and comments. The Board then prepares a final budget which is presented to the Town at the Annual Budget Meeting held on the last Monday in April in conjunction with the Annual Town Meeting. Once the Town approves a budget, the Board sets the tax rate for the ensuing year.

The Board is responsible for selecting an auditor of Town funds and publishing an Annual Town Report. During the year, the Board's concerns are focused on maintaining Town operations and departmental expenditures within approved budget limits. The Board acts to approve transfers between budget line items and special appropriations when necessary.

The 2014-2015 Town Budget in the amount of \$41,993,878(gross) that included appropriations of \$16,172,371 (includes Debt Service) in the Selectman's accounts, \$15,403,766 for the Easton Board of Education, and \$10,417,741 for the Region 9 Board of Education. On the basis of a Grand List of \$1,326,365,165 the Board set a tax rate of 29.9 mills for the fiscal year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

Respectively Submitted by
Matthew Gachi, Chair-Board of Finance

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

The Board of Assessment Appeals met for public sessions in fiscal year 2015-2016 during the month of March. The Board of Assessment Appeals also met in September of 2015 for Motor Vehicles.

The March sessions were for taxpayers with a grievance on either Personal or Real Estate property assessments. Tax payers by State Statute must file a form prescribed by law for Real Estate and Personal Property no later than February 20th of any given year to appeal their assessment. The September sessions were for Motor Vehicles only.

All of these sessions were held under the direction of the State Statutes, by which the Board of Assessment Appeals also receives its authority.

Lori Mezes, Chairman

Board Members:
A. Gordon Reynolds
Dennis Kokenos

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

At the conclusion of Fiscal Year 2014-15 and during the several months immediately following, the Commission initiated two projects which will have lasting value for the town. The first of these is a comprehensive review and update of Easton's Town Plan of Conservation and Development 2006, adopted in 2007, due for completion in December 2016. The second project is a comprehensive reorganization and update of Easton's Zoning Regulations, now a plethora of old text and numerous amendments some portions of which date back to 1941. Public hearings will be held on each project at its completion.

We recognize that Easton has a unique, and vital, responsibility in this populous region to provide the pure drinking water supply and environmental greenspace on which the health and economy of the whole region depends. The fundamental policies of the present Town Plan, therefore, will continue to underlie the Town Plan of 2016-2017. The Town's long-term goals must be to sustain the environmental quality of the town, especially in its water supply watersheds, to guide new development for consistency with the town's low-density residential character, and to plan for growth in the civic life of the community.

These goals have been challenged over the past several years by developers of a proposed affordable housing project on a 124-acre parcel between Sport Hill, Silver Hill, Cedar Hill and Westport Roads. Much time and energy by the Commission and its staff have been expended over the past several years in response to continuing litigation on these applications by Saddle Ridge Developers LLC. In August of 2014, another application was submitted by Saddle Ridge Developers, pursuant to 8-30g., to construct a housing development with an affordable component consisting of 48 single family dwellings, 20 of which would contain an affordable accessory apartment. The Commission held a total of five public hearings and one additional meeting to receive written comment before the hearing closed on December 8, 2014. This application was denied in January 2015 and has not been appealed. The Town recently prevailed in the previous applications by Saddle Ridge Developers, LLC for a 105 or a 99 unit affordable housing development when the Superior Court, in January 2016, dismissed those appeals. The Court stated: "Moreover, based upon this court's review of the record as previously discussed, the commission has proven that its decision was necessary to protect the public's interest in safe drinking water and that the risk to the drinking water supply for 400,000 people clearly outweighed the need for affordable housing units as proposed by Saddle Ridge."

One new proposed amendment to the Zoning Regulations was considered by the Commission during the year. The Commission rewrote Section 7.2.1 to clarify and expand the breadth of findings required for a special permit, and this amendment was adopted in August 2014. The commission also prepared an amendment to the Zoning Regulations for Site Development Plans which will be included in the Zoning Regulations update. The Zoning Regulations revised text, being redrafted by an outside consultant with guidance by the Commission, is expected to be ready for public hearing in the summer of 2016.

Long-range planning advanced on several fronts during the year.

The Commission met with representatives of the Agricultural Commission of the Town and resolved to pursue a future strategy for preservation of the remaining farmland in Easton. A long-range plan for conservation and development of the Town's 127-acre tract on the westerly side of Morehouse Road was completed and presented at a public hearing in September 2015. The Morehouse Civic Park Master Plan was adopted by the Commission and became effective December 5, 2015.

The site plan proposed last year by this Commission for traffic circulation and off-street parking on the Old Staples School site came to fruition in 2014 as the building reached full occupancy and site work was completed in accordance with the plan.

As required by Section 8-24 of the General Statutes, proposed public projects are referred to this Commission for an advisory report. The Commission received an 8-24 referral from the Board of Selectmen in September 2014, and rendered a favorable report for a wireless facility site in a secluded location on the town's 127-acre Morehouse Road property, based on the Commission's study of feasible cell tower sites in August 2013. There were several other referrals from the Board of Selectmen, one proposing the reconstruction and widening of Morehouse Road, another for the construction and installation of solar power panels behind Samuel Staples Elementary School and a third for the construction of an open-air pavilion on the Town-owned Morehouse Road tract.

There were five applications for special permit during this period. All were modified and approved, after public hearings, by the Commission. These included permission for an affordable accessory apartment at 24 Mills Lane, approved in August of 2014. A special permit was approved with conditions for the Speech Express LLC, dba The Speech Academy, located in the north wing of Old Staples School, under lease from the Town, to conduct a private school providing a special education program for school age children. Two special permits were also approved for the Town of Easton, noted above as referrals, one for the Town's Morehouse Road property authorizing the construction of solar power panels behind the Samuel Staples Elementary School and the other authorizing an open-air pavilion adjacent to a ballfield. Another special permit was approved for Maple Row Farm, LLC to conduct a mulch and firewood processing operation at their property on the corner of Stepney Road and North Park Avenue.

The fifth special permit application approved was an amendment to an original special permit granted to the Aquarion Water Company (Bridgeport Hydraulic Company) in 1989, which will provide for updated and less obtrusive site lighting at their Easton Reservoir Treatment Plant. This amendment was found to have no adverse effect on the neighborhood and was approved unanimously.

Apart from the prolonged legal efforts to settle the Saddle Ridge appeals, several lesser land use issues were before the Commission during the year. These included proposed amendments to the previously-approved site plan for the Easton Village Store, and a search for feasible locations to provide parking for public access to the Aspetuck Land Trust preserves off Freeborn Road and Elm Drive, as well as expanded parking areas for the Jump Hill Preserve and the Trout Brook Preserve off Wells Hill Road.

Enforcement action was undertaken by the Commission against several large-scale wood processing operations functioning illegally at various locations, the construction of sheds without permits, and other infractions.

As moderate national and regional economic growth continued during 2014 and 2015 new development activity in Easton remained slow. There was but one small resubdivision during the 2014-15 fiscal year, proposing one additional lot. This application was ultimately withdrawn in the following fiscal year.

A total of 95 zoning permits were issued during the year, only one of which was for a new dwelling. Reflecting the electric power failures of the last few years, 26 of these permits were for residential electric generators.

The Commission encourages citizen participation in the planning process and customarily reserves the first one-half hour of each of its regular meetings during the year for scheduled appointments. Regular meetings of the Commission are generally scheduled for the second and fourth Mondays of each month unless otherwise noticed in advance. The Commission held 22 regular meetings and 6 special meetings in the last fiscal year.

For the calendar year 2016 the Commission has scheduled the January through April meetings to begin at 6:30PM, to allow for public input for the first half hour for the update of the Town Plan of Conservation and Development 2006. The meetings scheduled for May through December will start at the customary hour of 7:00PM. Four of its approximately twenty-four meetings are reserved for discussion of planning issues. Inquiries on development questions may be directed to the Commission staff any weekday during regular hours at the Town Hall.

The Planning and Zoning Commission is composed of five regular members appointed to offset five-year terms by the Board of Selectmen. Three alternate members, typically appointed to shorter terms, attend all meetings and complement the Commission membership whenever vacancies or absences occur.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Maquat, Chairman

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Easton consists of five regular members and three alternate members who meet on the first Monday of every month at 5:30 p.m. in the Easton Town Hall, unless otherwise noted. Regular members are elected for a term of six years. Both regular members and alternate members are empowered by the Connecticut General Statutes under Section 8-5. In accordance with a town ordinance effective March 6, 1974, alternates are appointed by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Easton for a term of six years.

During the fiscal year 2014-2015 the Zoning Board of Appeals met in session on five occasions and heard 7 appeals of which six applications for variances were approved, three of which were approved with conditions and one was approved as modified. One application for variance was deemed unnecessary as it involved the creation of a fee-ownership accessway off a private road.

John Harris, Chairman

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Easton's Conservation Commission acts as the Town's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency as well as the Conservation Commission.

As the Inland Wetlands Agency, it enforces the provisions of the State of Connecticut's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act. In this capacity, it reviews applications for regulated activities, conducts site visits, and if appropriate, holds public hearings prior to approving or denying a permit application. During the fiscal year of July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, eleven Inland Wetlands applications were received, and seven were approved. One application was withdrawn, and one was voided, while two are pending. Five Determinations of Wetland Impact (DWI) were made, and three permit extensions were granted. The Wetlands Enforcement Officer issued two violation notices and lifted five of them (three were older). Periodically the Commission also receives pesticide application notices and notification from neighboring municipalities of projects within 500 feet of the town line.

This year, the Commission held a number of special meetings for public hearings in order to hear the most recent Saddle Ridge application, known as "Easton Crossing", for activities related to a 48-lot subdivision on a parcel of approximately 124 acres located at Sport Hill Road, Silver Hill Road, Cedar Hill Road, and Westport Road (Route 136). In December 2014, the Commission approved this application, subject to finalization of drafted conditions.

The Commission also reviewed three sizable town-related projects—the reconstruction of Morehouse Road, the Solar

Photo Voltaic System, and the donated open-air pavilion, all of which are either close or adjacent to Samuel Staples Elementary School. The Members determined that none of the projects would require an Inland Wetlands permit, but did render comments to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

The Conservation Commission is responsible for maintaining town-owned land designated as "Open Space", as well as for planning future open space acquisitions. To that effect, it works closely with developers and conservation groups, recommending to the Planning and Zoning Commission specific areas to be acquired or otherwise protected, which are in line with the Town's Open Space Plan of 1994. The Commission also renders comments to Planning and Zoning on certain applications or issues when requested.

Currently, the Town owns 618 acres of town-managed open space areas, with the single largest piece being the Paine Open Space property on Maple Road. Member Steve Corti, as well as the Aspetuck Land Trust trail stewards, headed by Michael Wallace, have worked diligently to maintain the existing trails and create additional trails for the enjoyment of those who visit the Paine Open Space. The Commission thanks Mr. Wallace and the stewards for their dedication to the upkeep of the Town's open space properties.

The Members also thank Peter Smith, a resident, who once again helped maintain the upper field at Paine Open Space at no charge.

This past year Member Steve Corti and Chairman Roy Gosse identified a number of spillways and headwalls that were in need of attention and put the projects out to bid. The repair funds were taken out of an account once reserved for the preservation of the Paine Barn. As the barn was deemed "unrepairable", it was determined that the remaining funds would be put towards the betterment of the Paine property. The remaining money in that account, after replacing three pipes at Paine Open Space, will be combined with funds currently in the budget, and used to repair additional drainage pipes.

This year the Commission renamed the open space property next to the Animal Shelter on Morehouse Road, "Morehouse Open Space"; this property was formerly known as "Parcel X". A sign noting the Morehouse Open Space property as well as the animal shelter has been ordered and will be installed in the coming months. The Commission also named an open space parcel obtained through the creation of Tatetuck Estates, "Tatetuck Open Space".

Continued thanks go to Helena Morf for her ongoing work at the open space parcel adjacent to the Paine property, obtained through the Morf subdivision. The Commission hopes to install signs to identify the boundaries of this open space parcel in the coming year.

Additional thanks go to the Department of Public Works (DPW), headed by Ed Nagy, Director of Public Works, for their ongoing assistance at Paine Open Space.

The Conservation Office maintains a list of open space parcels and recorded Conservation easements. The Commission has available Conservation easement signs to be installed by applicants along any Conservation easement that they have on their property.

The Members would like to thank retiring Chairman Roy Gosse and Vice-Chairman and former Chairman Steve Edwards for their many years of dedication to the Commission. Also, the Commission welcomed two new members this past year, bringing the current count to seven Regular Members and one Alternate Member

The Members have been working diligently on a number of projects in recent months, one of which is an updated Paine Open Space map. The Commission would like to thank David Brant of Aspetuck Land Trust and his resident map-maker for working with project lead Roy Gosse to create an updated color-coded Paine Open Space map, including some property owned by Aspetuck Land Trust. The update is in the last stages of being approved.

Dori Wollen has introduced a number of projects since becoming Chairperson of the Commission. Mrs. Wollen, along with a number of Members, has gathered information toward creating a new open space map covering the entire town of Easton, which would include privately and state-owned open space, as well as that owned by Aquarion. The Members have also discussed and are working toward creating a set of Conservation Guidelines that, like the Inland Wetlands Agency's Regulations, would outline and help clarify the Conservation Commission's responsibilities.

In addition to the projects above, the Commission has identified a number of projects they would like to work on at the open space properties in the coming year—among them is better marking of trail entrances to open space properties, as well as better marking of off-road parking areas, with possible neighbor education. Replacing the kiosk roof at Paine is also on the list.

The Commission is looking forward to a productive year. With Easton's best interests in mind, the Commission is dedicated to helping to preserve and protect its wetlands and waterways, as well as encouraging its residents' enjoyment of their surroundings.

The Conservation Office is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and our phone number is 203-268-6291, Ext. 123.

Respectfully submitted,
Dori Wollen, Chair

Officers for the Easton Conservation Commission:
Dori Wollen, Chair
Catherine Alfandre, Vice Chair
Steven Hume, Secretary

COMMISSION FOR THE AGING

The Commission for the Aging was established pursuant to Section 7-127a of the General statutes and a Town Ordinance to develop and coordinate programs for the aging in the Town. The Commission consists of five (5) electors of the town of Easton, appointed for 3-year terms, at least three (3) of whom shall be representative the age group concerned, and three (3) alternates in accordance with the by-laws. The Municipal Agent, Alison Witherbee, who is appointed by the First Selectman, serves as an ex-officio member of the Commission in accordance with State Statutes. Alison interacts with many seniors and works very closely with the Commission.

The Commission shall:

- a. Study the conditions and needs of elderly persons in Easton in relation to housing, economic, employment, health, recreational and other matters.
- b. Analyze the services for the aged provided by the community, both by public and private agencies.
- c. Develop and coordinate programs.
- d. Make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen regarding the development and integration of public and private agencies in co-operation with State and other services to the extent possible.

The Town may make appropriations for the expenses of the Commission and may, with approval of the board of Selectmen, participate in State, Federal and private programs and grants concerning the elderly. The Commission is authorized and empowered to accept gifts or contribution for any of its purposes and shall administer the same for such purposes in accordance with the term of the gift as a separate fund subject to appropriations approved by the Board of Finance.

Commission meetings are held at 5:00 pm at the Senior Center on the first Monday of each month with the exception of September when the meeting takes place on the Tuesday after the Labor Day holiday. There are no meetings in July, August and January. The meetings are open to the public.

The Commission continues to sponsor seminars for Easton seniors. The feedback from the attendees indicates the seminars are worthwhile and should continue.

Commission members are Acting Chair, Joel Peskay, Gail Gay, Margaret Silvestri, Phyllis Machledt, Linda Dollard and Lisa Tasi.

EASTON PARKS AND RECREATION

The Park and Recreation Commission plans, manages, and conducts municipal activities under its own sponsorship. Additionally, the Department promotes, assists and helps coordinate privately sponsored and managed recreation programs for the benefit of all Easton citizens. The mission is also directed toward the planning, acquisition, development, and maintenance of parks and other recreational areas and facilities for the enjoyment of recreational opportunities and the creation of a better living environment.

Easton Park and Recreation has continued its field development and maintenance programs throughout the Town of Easton. The parks department manages over 50 acres of playing fields and school property including; 5 little league fields, 3 softball fields, several cemeteries, Aspetuck park, 7 playgrounds, 4 tennis courts, 7 soccer / multi-purpose fields and one football field. Recently the department partnered with Easton Little League to construct a new regulation baseball field, this joint venture was made possible by the hard work of many Easton volunteers. The department is extremely proud of all the work that has been accomplished at the Morehouse Road facility; in addition to the 4 acres of playing fields, the department has installed a state of the art irrigation system, along with the installation of water and electricity for future needs.

Easton Park and Recreation has remained vigilant in its mission to offer free and cost effective programs to Easton residents. Programmatically, continued growth has been measured in our well subscribed offerings such as martial arts, multi sport programs and our Sunshine Day Camp. Overall, we saw over 2,500 participants in our free and cost-effective programming.

The Extended Day Program at Samuel Staples Elementary School continues to grow in enrollment. While providing a service to working parents the program continues to be enjoyed by elementary school children. It is with extreme pride that the department offers first class day care for the students of Samuel Staples School.

The Easton Park and Recreation Department opened The Easton Arts Center which has grown in abundance. It is a place where children can be creative in an encouraging environment and have the freedom to be expressive through art. They work independently in a supportive environment at the Morehouse Road location.

The Park and Recreation Department will strive to continue to offer quality programs and cost-effective municipal recreational opportunities to all of the residents of Easton.

Members of the Park and Recreation Commission are: Kathi Smith – Chairman, Tom Cable, John Broadbin, Kirsten Ceva, Dave Gombos, Phil Tamallanca, Ray Longo and Anthony Martinich.

INSURANCE COMMISSION

TOWN OF EASTON INSURANCE SCHEDULE 7/01/14 - 7/01/15

Commercial Property Coverage

Blanket Building & Contents	
Agreed Amount and Replacement	\$83,833,779
Contractor's Equipment	701,656
Fine Arts - Exhibition Floater	200,000
Deductible	1,000

Commercial General Liability Each occurrence \$ 1,000,000/3,000,000

Personal Injury/Advertising Injury	Each occurrence	\$ 1,000,000
Medical Expense	Each person	\$ 10,000

Equipment Breakdown \$100,000,000

Deductible	\$ 2,500
------------	----------

Commercial Automobile

Liability	\$ 1,000,000
Medical Payment	5,000
Uninsured/Underinsured Motorist	1,000,000
Comprehensive	ACV w/\$ 500 deductible
Collision	ACV w/\$1,000 deductible

Public Officials Library Each claim \$ 1,000,000

Deductible	Each claim	10,000
------------	------------	--------

Law Enforcement Liability Each claim \$1,000,000

Deductible	Each claim	10,000
------------	------------	--------

School Leader's Legal Liability Each claim \$ 1,000,000

Deductible	Each claim	10,000
------------	------------	--------

Following-Form Excess Liability \$10,000,000

<u>Pollution Liability</u> (Underground Oil Tanks)	per release	\$ 1,000,000
Deductible	per release	10,000

Workers' Compensation & Employer Liability Statutory

Exp. Mod. 1.12	
Employer's Liability	
Each Accident	\$1,000,000
Disease - Policy Limit	\$1,000,000
Disease - Each Employee	\$1,000,000

Blanket Public Employee Dishonesty Bond \$ 500,000

Excess Position Limit for:	\$ 100,000
----------------------------	------------

Treasurer	
Comptroller	
Accounts Payable/Receptionist	
Human Resources/Comp. Coordinator	
Retirement Plan Bond	\$ 1,000,000
Surety Bonds	
Tax Collector	\$ 187,500
Assistant Tax Collector	\$ 187,500

The Insurance Commission is glad to report that this year has seen continued improvement for our employees on the workmen's compensation claims that had been a cause of swelling premium costs to our policies in the past. Since adopting a town wide workplace safety plan last year that was put together by First Selectman Adam Dunsby and CIRMA, our insurance provider, there has been a significant drop in claims. The adoption of this plan coupled with the positive outcome of its implementation has been a rewarding effort for all involved. Our insurance company has selected the Town of Easton as a CIRMA Risk Management Achievement Award recipient. We look forward to building on some of these positive steps we have taken this year.

Gerard O'Brien, Chair
Insurance Commission

PENSION AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS COMMISSION

The commission is comprised of seven appointed electors who serve four-year overlapping terms. The First Selectman is an Ex Officio member. Currently serving are First Selectman Adam Dunsby, Chairman Alan P. Goldbecker, Vice-chairman A. Reynolds Gordon, David Bussolatta, John Harrington, John Smith, Marvin Gelfand and Chris Neubert.

The Commission holds six regular meetings annually, and special meetings as needed. It serves as Trustee and Administrator of the Town's pension plan, and approves benefit payments, reviews actuarial valuations and assumptions, and selects and monitors investments of pension plan assets. The commission also oversees the group health, life, disability and other welfare benefits provided for Town employees, and when called upon, assists and advises the Town regarding the negotiation of collective bargaining agreements.

The assets of the pension plan continue to be invested in domestic and international stocks and fixed income securities. The overall investment performance of the pension fund assets have performed in line with a multi-asset class diversified portfolio. The Town's pension obligations at July 1, 2015 were 94.3% funded.

Effective July 1, 2013 the defined benefit pension plan for employees, other than police and fire departments, was closed to new employees and replaced by a defined contribution plan. Under the new plan, the Town will contribute a minimum of 4% of the eligible salary and match up to 7% for participating employees.

In 2009 the state unilaterally and dramatically enhanced pension benefits for state sponsored pension plans. The same

benefits were requested by town employees. Resolution was reached by adopting much of the greatly enhanced benefits with increased contributions from the Town and Town employees. Current and future costs of the enhanced benefits should increase at a moderate rate. Increase in costs of the Town's group health insurance program have moderated due to pressure from competitive bidding. Future costs are expected to rise as a result of the passage of the Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act.

Financial details regarding employee benefit plans are included in the Auditor's Report section of this annual Report.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan P. Goldbecker, Chairman

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

The Agricultural Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the Board of Selectmen and other town boards and commissions regarding agricultural matters. The Commission is charged with supporting, promoting, and encouraging agriculture and agricultural pursuits in the town of Easton. It serves as a conduit between non-profit agencies, civic organizations, municipal boards and commissions, elected and appointed government officials, businesses, farmers, and persons engaged in agricultural pursuits at the local, state, and federal level. The commission advises the Board of Selectmen, the land use boards, commissions, and officials on issues relating to agriculture and planning for agriculture in Easton.

The commission consists of five members and two alternates who are electors of the town of Easton. Serving during this reporting period are members Jean Stetz-Puchalski (Chair), Victor Alfandre (Secretary), Sal Gilbertie, Ray Longo, Irv Silverman, Laurel Fedor and alternate Lori Cochran Dougall. Emphasis during this reporting period has been on education and development.

- Easton Right To Farm Ordinance proposed and adopted by the Town Meeting of the Town of Easton 4-28-2014.
 - Purpose and intent:
 - A. Agriculture is a significant part of the Town of Easton's heritage and is an integral part of the Town's future. The Town officially recognizes the importance of farming to its rural quality of life, heritage, public health, scenic vistas, tax base, wetlands and wildlife, open space and local economy. This right to farm chapter:
 - (1) Encourages the pursuit of agriculture.
 - (2) Promotes agriculture-based economic opportunities.
 - (3) Protects farmland within Easton by allowing agricultural uses and related activities to function

with minimal conflict with abutting property holders and Town agencies, consistent with the Town Master Plan of Conservation and Development.

- (4) Acts as a policy statement providing an opportunity to educate Town residents from both the farming and nonfarming communities about a farmer's right to farm under Connecticut General Statutes §§ 1-1(q) and 19a-341.
- B. It is the declared policy of the Town of Easton to conserve, protect and encourage the maintenance and improvement of agricultural land for the production of food and other agricultural products, for protection of the quality of the public water supply watershed, and for conservation of the natural and ecological value of Easton's land. It is hereby further determined that any impact caused to others through generally accepted agricultural practices shall be considered offset and ameliorated by the benefits of farming to the neighborhood, community and society in general.

Copy of full text found on the Town Website:
<http://www.eastonct.gov/agricultural-commission>

- Continued to improve public access to Agricultural resources via the town website from the Ag Com webpage.
<http://www.eastonct.gov/agricultural-commission>
 - Links to library of agricultural resources with the public/agricultural producers/490 holders (<http://www.eastonct.gov/agricultural-commission/pages/resources-for-members-of-our-easton-agricultural-community>)
 - Links to library for Easton Town committees and commissions (<http://www.eastonct.gov/agricultural-commission/pages/resources-for-our-town-boards-and-commissions>).

Resources include, but are not limited to:

- Easton Right To Farm Ordinance
- Department of Agriculture Weekly Agricultural Report
- New Resource for Planning for Agriculture
- Tools for CSA Farmers: Prepared by and For Farmers
- Connecticut's Land Use Value Assessment Law PUBLIC ACT 490: A Practical Guide
- Conservation options for Connecticut Farmland: A Guide for Landowners, Land Trusts & Municipalities
- Programs, Services & Agricultural Grants
- Planning for Agriculture & Farmland Conservation for municipalities, Town committees and commissions

- Learned of agricultural grant opportunities and educational programming/vocational/business training available to Easton farmers and how best to communicate these offerings. Made this available through town website.
- Continue to add value to Easton by building working relationships with other Connecticut Ag Commissions, federal and state level agricultural organizations, our Easton Planning and Zoning commission, and other Easton town commissions and committees, to help identify issues and concerns relating to planning for and supporting agriculture in Easton.
- Provided continual updates to research on best practices for planning for agriculture in Connecticut municipalities to Town planning boards and commissions.
- Worked with Easton Planning and Zoning commission and other relevant town commissions and committees to begin the review of current policies and regulations that impact agriculture in town.
- Recommended changes as to how agriculture is incorporated into the town's Plan of Conservation and development (POCD) as well as sharing ideas, resources and references to help shape policy regarding Easton laws and regulations dealing with agriculture, agricultural equipment, buildings and operations and farmland preservation.
- Promoted opportunities to preserve and expand farms in Easton and for citizens to value and support local farms.
- Expanded the awareness of the important role agriculture plays in the future of maintaining open space the rural characteristics of Easton.

Current farming projects on town land include the leasing of two sections of the property located at Morehouse and Banks Road in front of Samuel Staples Elementary School (SSES). The plots are being farmed organically. The project provides an education opportunity for the students at the school as well as an historical lesson in Easton's agrarian roots. Regular meetings of the Agricultural Commission are scheduled for the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30PM at the Town Hall Meeting Room A unless otherwise noted.

Submitted by,
 Jean Stetz-Puchalski, Chair

CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE

The Easton Clean Energy Task Force was established in 2006 to help the town achieve the goals of the statewide Clean Energy Communities Program. The original intent of the program was to foster municipal support for and community awareness of renewable energy. Starting in 2012, the program expanded to include a focus on energy efficiency and conservation as well.

In keeping with this broader focus, Easton signed in August 2012 a new Clean Energy Communities Municipal Pledge, which has three components: 1) a commitment to reduce municipal building energy consumption by 20% by 2018 (which will save significant costs); 2) a commitment to purchase 20% of municipal energy from renewable sources by 2018; and 3) an agreement to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy in the community.

Some of the Task Force's activities in 2014-15 included:

- Significant planning, system design, surveying, and pre-construction preparation for a 300kw solar installation at Samuel Staples Elementary School. These activities included coordination with state officials and numerous town boards and commissions, as well as work on a power purchase agreement with the CT Green Bank.
- Approval, vendor selection, and initial work on a grant-funded detailed energy audit of Helen Keller Middle School.
- Obtaining a state grant and coordinating the installation of an Electric Vehicle Charging Station in the Public Library parking lot.
- Spearheading town approval of a C-PACE ordinance (Property Assessed Clean Energy), joining more than 100 other towns in CT. C-PACE is an innovative program that is helping commercial, non-profit, and other property owners access affordable, long-term financing for smart energy upgrades to their buildings. More than \$100 million in projects were financed across CT through C-PACE in 2015.
- Completion of data entry in the EPA's Portfolio Manager System to track energy usage and costs in all municipal buildings.
- Organizing a town-wide Earth Week challenge to reduce energy consumption.

In the coming year, the Task Force will encourage further municipal action to measure and reduce energy consumption and to expand renewable energy both at Samuel Staples Elementary School and, if possible, Joel Barlow High School.

The current task force members are: Cathy Alfandre (Chair), Heidi Armster, Carroll Brooke, Katie Callahan, and Regina McNamara.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Alfandre (Chair)

COMMITTEES

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The Cemetery Committee's restoration and maintenance goals were successfully met with the help of a small group of dedicated volunteers. During the 2014-15 fiscal year we held fifteen workdays in Gilbertown, Lyon and Center Street cemeteries with a team of trained volunteers from last year's pool of workers.

The tasks accomplished during our workdays this fiscal year were; resetting and/or repair of 7 headstones and 5 footstones in Gilbertown, 7 headstones, 9 footstones, and set 5 new granite bases in Lyon. Installed four cornerstones and a large fieldstone in which the memorial plaque will be mounted, at Center Street Cemetery.

The Committee's current restoration and maintenance goals are focused in the following areas:

1. Reset headstones that are leaning in our cemeteries;
2. Install in new fabricated bases all headstones that have broken below ground level and are too short to be reset;
3. Repair with epoxy, the remaining headstones that have broken above ground level;
4. Reset footstones in Gilbertown Cemetery;
5. Install the memorial plaque at the Town owned burial plot at Center Street Cemetery;
6. Replace missing steel railings along perimeter of family plots in Center Street Cemetery.
7. Safety prune the Sugar maples at Lyon Cemetery and assess other boundary trees that pose a threat to the cemeteries.

Other Committee accomplishments not aforementioned:

1. Provided consistent landscape maintenance and leaf/debris removal in Lyon Cemetery.
2. Removed a large leaning Ash tree at Lyon Cemetery.

The Committee would like to express their heartfelt appreciation to all the volunteers who have dedicated their time to maintaining our town's cemeteries.

The Committee is pleased to announce the addition of two new regular members, Raymond Longo and Sean Malay.

Prepared by Gary Haines and Philip Doremus

EASTON RECYCLING COMMITTEE

The Easton Recycling Committee members are: Anthony J. Colonnese, Irv Snow, Jeffrey Gombos and Ed Nagy, (ex-officio), Director of Public Works. The purpose of the Committee is to operate a recycling program for Easton within the guidelines of the Southwestern Regional Recycling Operating Committee (SWEROC) and the State Mandate. The Town of Easton voted at a Town Meeting held on September 20, 1989 to join SWEROC, and to start a recycling program in the Town of Easton. SWEROC has contracted with Winters Bros. Waste System in Shelton, which accepts recyclable materials. Curbside recycling pickup started January 7, 1991. Recycling tonnage collected by the Town this Fiscal Year was 852.99 tons.

The recycling of junk mail, magazines, catalogs and corrugated cardboard once again has been very successful.

The Towns of Trumbull, Easton and Monroe have put our resources together to form TEaM, which is our combined effort to operate a recycling drop-off center for scrap metal, commingled beverage containers, mixed paper, corrugated cardboard, newspaper, and used tires and electronics, including computers, printers, FAX machines, television sets, etc. It is TEaM's goal to expand this center's capabilities to accept additional recyclable products.

The volume of waste motor oil that was brought to the Public Works facility by Town residents for recycling was 850 gallons. This oil was sent to a recycler.

Edward Nagy, P.E.
Director of Public Works

SOLID WASTE REPORT

July 5, 1988, began the commercial operation of the Bridgeport Resource Recovery plant. As of that date, Easton no longer deposited solid waste directly at the Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority (CRRA) Landfill located in Shelton, Connecticut. The ash produced by the plant is deposited at a Putnam, Connecticut ash landfill. The Resource Recovery plant is designed to burn 657,000 tons of solid waste from the greater Bridgeport region of which the Town of Easton contributed 2,723 tons of solid waste during the 2014-2015 fiscal year. The disposal fee for this solid waste was \$104.00 per ton.

PUBLIC SAFETY

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Police Commissioners was created through a Special Act of the State Legislature, which was approved on June 22, 1937. The number of Police Commissioners was changed from three to five members at a Town Meeting held on October 21, 1992. The five members are appointed for three year terms. Meetings are held monthly or special meetings are scheduled at the request of the Chairman or a majority of the members.

The members are:

Richard Colangelo, Chairman
Raymond Martin, Vice-chairman
Marvin Gelfand, Commissioner (reappointed)
Laurie Israel, Commissioner
Vincent Battaglia, Secretary

The Board shall have all the powers of Boards of Police Commissioners pursuant to section 7-276 of the Connecticut General Statutes and shall maintain control and manage the police department of the Town. It is responsible for appointing a Chief of Police and police officers. It has control and management of all apparatus, equipment and buildings used by the Town for police purposes and, subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen.

The Board is the sole and exclusive "traffic authority" under the provisions of section 14-297 of the Connecticut General Statutes for and within the limits of the Town.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard J. Colangelo Jr., Chairman

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Easton Police Department, established in 1937 with the creation of the Board of Police Commissioners.

Officer Tom Brennan retired after 33 years of service. Officer Craig Tibbals was hired as a full time officer after being an Easton Special Officer for 23 years. Chief James Candee retired in June of 2015 after 3 ½ years as Chief of Police and 43 years of dedicated service to the Easton community. I wish Chief Candee well in his retirement.

The police department provides 24/7 coverage to the town. In addition to general patrol duties, which all ranks perform, officers are also tasked as first responders to medical calls, school resource officer, emergency response team members, Communication and Animal Control Division supervisors and public relations specialists, just to name a few.

All 14 police officers are certified by the Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council. In order to keep their certification officers must attend a minimum of sixty hours of review training every three years. Many Easton officers exceed this minimum.

I would like to thank the people of Easton for their continued support. In turn the men and women of your police department will serve with professionalism, integrity and honor. We are a community driven Police Department.

Timothy J. Shaw
Chief of Police

EASTON POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE DEPARTMENT FISCAL YEAR END REPORT FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015

<u>ENFORCEMENT</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
MV Violations	288	225	253
Parking Tickets	20	33	18
MV Warnings	453	534	359

CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS

ACO Arrests	11	9	13
Arson	0	0	0
Assault	2	2	11
Bad Checks	1	1	2
Breach of Peace	2	1	4
Burglary	14	2	2
Criminal Mischief	42	4	2
Criminal Trespassing	5	11	16
Disorderly Conduct	12	12	18
Drugs	3	3	5
Dumping/Littering	16	0	4
JV Referral	2	1	4
DWI	0	9	9
Larceny	25	1	4
Liquor Law Viol.	0	11	0
Robbery	0	0	0
Sex Crimes/Rape	1	0	2
Stolen MV	0	0	0
Weapons Violation	0	0	0
Warrants	16	0	13
Other	0	2	19
Enforcement/Violations Totals	913	861	758

EASTON POLICE DEPARTMENT FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015

<u>Comps & Investigations</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Accidents	181	160	167
Aided Cases	383	391	393
Alarms	918	871	936
Animals	808	703	621
Arson	0	0	0
Assault	2	1	5
Assistance/Traffic	620	623	649
Assist Other Depts.	203	167	237
Bad Checks	1	1	2
Bomb Threats	0	0	0
Burglary	14	7	28
Child Safety Restraint	70	66	71

Citizen Complaint	1	4	3
Computer Crimes	0	1	0
Counterfeit/Forgery/False Pretense	19	0	0
Criminal Mischief/Prop Dmg	12	15	24
Criminal Mischief Mailbox	30	29	41
Fraud Credit Card Theft/ATM	10	30	17
Criminal Arrest	6	9	0
Disabled Motor Vehicle	239	188	214
Disorderly Conduct	2	17	5
Domestics	32	24	32
Fingerprints	304	304	320
Fire	168	157	150
Found Property & Released	53	46	54
Dumping/General/Littering	16	33	24
False Impersonation	19	0	0
Juvenile Referrals	2	0	1
Larceny	25	25	20
Lost Property	24	18	15
M/V Found/Lost	0	0	1
M/V Impound	0	0	0
M/V Stolen	0	1	0
Missing Person	2	7	6
Narcotics/Drugs	3	2	2
Noise	92	124	105
Phone Calls	129	122	56
Permits	87	106	67
PO Admin	475	453	212
Robbery	0	0	0
Record Check	194	107	89
Selective Enforcement	211	78	84
Sex Crimes/Rape	1	0	3
Soliciting	4	3	4
State Property	126	105	109
Subpoena	6	16	8
Suspicious Activity	109	98	146
Suspicious Motor Vehicle	487	491	418
Suspicious Person	111	109	103
Teletype	301	221	358
Threatening	3	0	2
Town Property	353	254	256
Trespassing	5	39	5
Truck	3	3	2
Utilities	492	401	587
Validation	4	13	6
Vandalism	5	8	0
Warrants-Arrests, Appl.	16	11	18
Weapon Law Violation	0	0	1
Youths	4	8	2
Liquor Law Violations	0	2	1
DUI	0	6	8
Family Offense	0	1	0
MV Stop	680	556	505
Supplemental Reports	<u>214</u>	<u>258</u>	<u>362</u>
Total	8279	7493	7555

MUNICIPAL ANIMAL CONTROL

Governed by State Statute, the Municipal Animal Control Department is under the authority of the Chief of Police who has appointed a sergeant to oversee the day to day operations.

The Municipal Animal Control Department is currently staffed by one full time and three part time Animal Control Officers. These officers are empowered by state statute to conduct investigations, issue written complaints and summonses and to arrest any person found in violation of state animal control laws. They also conduct an annual survey of unlicensed dogs.

Since moving the Animal Control Department to 385 Morehouse Road, ACO Kelly Fitch has continued to keep the new building in terrific shape. Many thanks to Kelly and her staff.

Timothy J. Shaw
Chief of Police

MUNICIPAL ANIMAL CONTROL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Comps Investigated	813	703	622
Dogs Destroyed	1	0	0
Cats Destroyed	1	1	1
Other Destroyed	0	1	0
Dogs Redeemed	47	50	45
Cats Redeemed	4	1	1
Others Redeemed	3		
Dogs Sold	14	12	15
Cats Sold	16	23	23
Other Sold	0	1	4
Dog Owner Arrests	11	9	13
Dog Bites	10	4	4
Cat Bites	1	1	0
Other Bites	1	2	0
Phone Calls Received	2084	1633	1873
Notice To License	602	478	647

THE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

The Communications Center is under the direction of the Chief of Police who appoints a sergeant to supervise the daily operations.

On June 5th, 2015 the newly renovated Communication Center was dedicated. The dispatch center now has two dispatch consoles which will improve the efficiency of the center. The upgrade was performed by Utility Communications, Inc.

The Center, staffed 24 hours a day seven days a week by a single certified telecommunications specialist, is the Public

Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for the Town. All E911 calls received at the PSAP are answered by the specialist who is responsible for dispatching the appropriate emergency service. Nine radio systems are also monitored.

Communications Center personnel also act as receptionists for the police department with duties that include; intake of citizens' complaints for police officers, distribution of ETP stickers (police crime prevention program), routing routine telephone calls and maintaining constant radio contact with police officers on patrol.

Timothy J. Shaw
Chief of Police

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

This year, there was another resignation from the Commission. Ralph Alteri, the standing member of the Commission resigned. We thank him for his long service, and await the appointment of a fifth member.

The Department saw a further increase in alarms, including the supplemental responder medical calls. The additional service to Town resident provides additional job satisfaction to our firefighters and the additional first responder program has meshed well with experience.

Firefighter Jon Davis, hired last year, successfully completed the Connecticut State Fire Academy and all other requirements of probationary status. He has become a valuable asset to the Department we had hoped for, and more.

We continue to monitor the status of the major capital equipment of the department to insure maximum lifespan. Chief Waugh has kept a firm handle on a quality maintenance program and, with the help of the firefighters, both career and volunteer, evaluated many and implemented some excellent cost saving programs. The communications upgrades necessary with new radio technology are proceeding well.

The Commission thanks all the Firefighters and their families for their dedication and service to their community.

Commissioners
Roberta Cable, John Miranda, Dave Buchanan
and Todd Pajonas

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Town of Easton provides fire protection from two agencies, the Easton Fire Department, and the Easton Volunteer Fire Company #1. These agencies operate as one cohesive unit while training and responding to calls. The Chief Officers of the Volunteer Fire Company are the Chiefs of both agencies.

The Easton Volunteer Fire Company N#1 Inc was established in 1921. Since then, it has provided continuous fire protection to the Town of Easton. Currently there are more than 20 active firefighters serving in the Fire Company. These volunteers come from a wide cross-section of Easton's community and spend countless hours training for and responding to a wide variety of calls for help. The elected line officers in 2015 were Chief Steven Waugh, 1st Assistant Chief Paul Skrtich, and 2nd Assistant Chief Jim Girardi. The Fire Company executive officers in 2015 were President Casey Meskers, Vice President Adrian Kushner, Secretary Lucy Crossman, and Treasurer Joe Pulchaski.

The Easton Fire Department was created in 1947. There are currently eight career firefighters who are on staff with the Easton Fire Department. The firehouse is staffed by a rotating crew of two firefighters working a 24 hour shift. This provides staffing in the Fire House 24 hours a day 365 days a year. Many times during the workweek, due to Easton being a bedroom community, the "on-duty" firefighters are at times, the only ones responding to calls. In addition to their other duties, the career firefighters perform the crucial task of maintaining the Town's firefighting equipment. The Town's career fighters in 2015 were James Wright, Michael Ohradan, David Davies, Al Doty, Martin Ohradan, Michael Sabia, Mark Mirowski and Jon Davis.

The 2015 calendar year was an active year. The Department responded to 539 calls during the year. The call types varied greatly. A breakdown of the most frequent types of calls is as follows: 135 assist EMS, 117 alarm activations, 61 vehicle accidents, 38 lock-outs and 46 fire related incidents. We also responded to 26 Carbon Monoxide related incidents.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Easton for their continued support of both agencies, and the Volunteer and Career Firefighters for their countless hours of dedicated service to the town and the organization.

Respectfully submitted
Steven Waugh, Chief
EFD / EVFC

EASTON VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

Easton Volunteer Emergency Medical Service (EVEMS) consists of 40 volunteers, and 2 full time EMT's. We also have several per diem personnel that work from 3 to 6 PM Monday thru Friday to provide coverage when our volunteers are not available. We are pleased to announce we have our first live in volunteer who helps cover our midnight to six shift. We staff two town-owned ambulances.

EMS members continue to respond to 90% of our calls with the remainder being covered by AMR from Bridgeport. Thanks to the weekend incentive program we were able to cover more of our calls on the weekend.

We were able to place two LUCAS chest compression systems on the ambulance thanks to the generous donations of our citizens. The LUCAS device maintains continues CPR allowing the EMS members to perform other duties during a cardiac arrest. You can view the device in action by looking on You Tube.

We provide pre-hospital care for all types of emergencies. We responded to a broad range of calls including calls for storm related accidents, cardiac arrests, heart attacks, breathing emergencies, drug overdoses, domestic violence, motor vehicle accidents and seizures. We also provided standby coverage for the Rowing event, several bicycle tours thru town and the Halloween Bon Fire. Where advanced life support is required, paramedics are called in to provide additional medical management. In addition to responding to calls volunteers stood by at over two dozen special events and attended monthly training. Performing all these tasks members logged in over 6700 **volunteer** hours. This is especially noteworthy because the majority of our volunteers hold permanent, full-time positions and still find time to serve our community by volunteering with EVEMS.

Every call is important to EVEMS volunteers, and we realize that every minute counts in an emergency situation. Our average response time is 7 ½ minutes, which is significantly less than the State maximum of 12 minutes.

EVEMS utilizes what is called "insurance only billing". When the ambulance responds to and transports a patient, the Town of Easton only bills the patient's insurance company. If two ambulances come to the scene because we need a paramedic, patients will receive only one bill, as we split the cost with the paramedic service that provided assistance. EVEMS does not charge if patients decide they do not want to be transported to the hospital. All billing proceeds are reverted to the Town of Easton and EVEMS does not receive any compensation from the insurance only billing. The insurance only billing proceeds totaled over \$110,000.

EVEMS Officers and Directors

Carolyn Kearney, Chief of Service
Lorraine Mercede, President of the Trustees and
Director of Personnel
Jonathan Arnold, Vice President of the Trustees and
Assistant Chief
Adam Goldstein, Assistant Chief
Victoria Sinnicki, Secretary
John Smith, Treasurer
Sandra Snyder, Co- Director of Training
Brian Hepp Assistant to the Directors of Training
Peggy Shukie, Director of Public Relations
Victor Malindretos, Director of Communications

Mr. Malindretos also represents Easton EMS and the Town of Easton on the Board of Directors of the Emergency Medical Communications Center (C-MED), thereby insuring the town's concerns are presented at these meetings. C-Med facilitates communications between our ambulance and area hospital and between area ambulances as needed. Mrs. Kearney and Mr. Meszaros represent the town at the Southwest Council EMS monthly meetings, where different EMS services share information regarding the care of patients. We thank everyone for their contribution and dedication.

Members of the EMS Commission

Robert Adriani, Chairman
Gloria Bindelglass, Secretary
James Spak, M.D.
Thomas Bladek M.D.
Stephen Jones M.D.

The Commission meets the second Wednesday of each month at EMS headquarters, anyone interested is invited to attend. The Commission's responsibility is to oversee the Town budget for Easton EMS, the activities of the full and part time EMS staff, the maintenance and management of the EMS headquarters and equipment. The Commission also serves as a liaison between the Easton Volunteer Emergency Medical Service and the Town of Easton in an advisory capacity for any matters presented by Easton EMS, and acts in accordance with the ordinance established to run the emergency medical service for the Town of Easton.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Adraini, Chairman
Easton EMS Commission

Carolyn Kearney, Chief
Easton Volunteer EMS

PUBLIC LIBRARY

EASTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Easton Public Library responds to the community's needs by being a welcoming place, with services and resources to match our customers' ever-evolving interests. Residents come here to read, meet, learn, play, communicate, build, create and get business done. All of Easton's citizens have the opportunity to connect with others and to expand their knowledge by experiencing the world of information in a variety of ways.

While the printed word is still our patrons' first choice for reading a book, newspaper or magazine, electronic formats are gaining followers. Downloadable audio-books, e-books, on-line newspapers and magazines are available to town residents with valid Easton Public Library cards. Patrons find that being able to obtain reading material remotely and downloading several items to their personal devices very appealing and convenient. Hard copy picture books and easy readers reign supreme in the children's department. Sharing a bedtime story just isn't the same when snuggled up with Kindle, iPad or smart phone.

The Library is a central meeting place for the Easton's citizens. The Community Room is used by several town commissions and organizations monthly. During the past year, the Community Room was used on average thirty-three times per month for non-library related meetings and activities. The Library's Conference Room is also used by residents for small group meetings during Library hours. Recognizing the need for meeting space in town, the Library Board of Trustees is planning to make the Conference Room a free-standing facility, available for public use when the Library proper is closed.

Musical programs, play readings, movie screenings and art exhibits take place in Library's public spaces on a regular basis. This year the Library added the "Year of Wonders" book discussion group which focuses on historical fiction and non-fiction and meets in the morning once a month. The "Beyond Reading" evening book discussion group, which reads a variety of genres, has been meeting regularly since 2004. The Library launched Sequoyah Magazine, a literary magazine, featuring poetry, essays, photography and paintings contributed by many members of the community. This year the Library presented a series of parenting programs, author book signings, SAT preparation classes, and writing workshops. These factors illustrate that the Library promotes life-long learning and serves as the town's cultural center.

This year the Library presented 327 programs for children 1 month to 11 years old. "Baby Bee Bop" programs, for children from 1 month to 35 months, are the most popular programs the Library offers. While all children's programs advance literacy, pre-school programs hone skills that build a

foundation for success in the primary grades. Introducing children to vocabulary, print awareness and phonics when they are toddlers makes learning to read easier. The Library added two new programs to prepare children for reading. "Toddler Time" affords a child and care giver the opportunity to play with educational toys and manipulatives designed to develop reading readiness skills. New staff member, Michael Robin, leads a new program, "Pre-school Music Fun", which also prepares toddlers for reading through music and movement.

The Children's Department introduced several new programs for tweens and teens. Several of the programs, such as "Snap Buddies" and "Lego Robotics", support the school system's STEM curriculum. The "Snap Buddies" program teamed two children together to work on small circuit boards to create devices as simple as light switches or as complicated as FM radios. "Lego Robotics" participants learned about robotics, coding and engineering. The Library joined the Fairfield County Minecraft server and began hosting Minecraft meetups. Participants communicate on-line with other Minecraft enthusiasts and work to build fantasy empires. To encourage recreational reading among this population, the Library participated in the Connecticut Humanities Council's, "Great Connecticut Caper". This three month program featured Connecticut authors and illustrators. These writers and artists took turns writing a chapter of an intriguing mystery which had Gillette Castle in East Haddam as its setting. Easton's Great Caper group followed the story closely, read each chapter and entered various writing and illustration competitions. This group of talented young people was the winner of one of the state-wide writing contests.

High School students have always depended on the Library for their summer reading list books, which the Library offers in a variety of formats. This year the Library remained open until 10 p.m. during the week of finals and midterms providing students with a quiet place to study for their exams. "Cram for Exams" is a very popular, value-added service for a difficult to reach population.

Under the leadership of Easton resident Joelle Johnston, the Friends of the Library continues to be a major contributor to the health of the Library and the community at large. In addition to the Friends' traditional programs—Country Fair/Cow Chip Raffle, Story Book Parade, Family Fun Night and Book Sales—the Friends held its first annual "Trim-a-Tree for the Library" festival. More than thirty artificial trees were decorated by various organizations and individuals in a variety of themes. The trees were on display at the Library for viewing and voting. The trees that garnered the most votes in each of four different categories earned the decorator(s) a prize. The Friends programs are multi-generational fun for all Easton citizens. In addition, the Friends' generous contribution of \$7000 allowed the Library to purchase new non-fiction books for both the juvenile and adult collections.

In 2016, the "new" Library will be twenty years old. To celebrate this milestone in the building's life, the Library

Board of Trustees are planning to renovate and reappoint the Library's Conference and Community Rooms. To address the need for public meeting space in town, the Library's Conference Room will be converted into a free standing room that can be used when the Library is closed. The Community Room and the hallway between the Library proper and this Room will be refreshed with a new coat of paint and new wall-covering. These renovations will not require any tax dollars due the Board of Trustee's responsible financial stewardship.

The Easton Public Library strengthens social bonds and supports the learning and civic needs of Easton's residents. It is an important and valued community asset.

Remember—Find It at Your Library! www.eastonlibrary.org

FY14-15 Statistics
Circulation: 97,947
Registered Borrowers: 3,251
Total Print and AV Materials: 69,798
Total Electronic/Digital Collections: 13,278

Respectfully submitted,
Bernadette Baldino, Library Director

EDUCATION

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

The town of Easton is served by Samuel Staples Elementary School, Helen Keller Middle School, and Joel Barlow High School. The six member Easton Board of Education is responsible for the elementary and middle schools; the high school is under the purview of the Region #9 Board of Education. The three autonomous boards of education of Easton, Redding, and Region #9 (the "E/R/9 Schools") share a superintendent, an assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, and a director of finance and operations. Thomas McMorran, Ed.D. is the superintendent; Stephanie Pierson Ugol is the assistant superintendent; and Margaret Sullivan is the finance and operations director.

Vital statistics for the 2014- 2015 school year include an operating budget of \$15,403,760 to educate 622 students in preK-5 at Samuel Staples Elementary School and 323 students in grades 6-8 in Helen Keller Middle School. The schools employ 169 individuals as teachers, administrators, support personnel and custodians.

Easton students benefit from the caring and committed efforts of dedicated professionals who are adept at nurturing student academic and social wellbeing. A comprehensive curriculum equips students with the core competencies delineated in state

and national curriculum standards. District personnel continue the process of revising curricula and shifting instructional practices to ensure that our students will be well prepared to meet heightened academic expectations.

Both the elementary and the middle schools consistently rank among the highest performing schools in the state and in Fairfield County as measured by standardized tests. Recognizing, however, that we should aspire to more than high test scores, we aim to provide dynamic and student-centered learning experiences for all students, marked with each individual's personal signature. Toward that end, partnerships between home and school, as well as between our schools and the whole community, are critical. When woven together, these partnerships create an educational fabric of particular distinction.

For more information about the Easton Public Schools, please visit the E/R/9 website at www.er9.org. and follow the links to Samuel Staples Elementary School and Helen Keller Middle School.

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #9 JOEL BARLOW HIGH SCHOOL

Joel Barlow High School is under the administration of Connecticut Regional Board of Education No. 9; the school is located at 100 Black Rock Turnpike (Route 58) in Redding. As of October 1, 2014, 1050 students were enrolled in grades nine through twelve.

Of the 99 high school faculty members, 3 have doctorates, 53 have sixth-year certificates or equivalent, 34 have master's degrees, and 9 have bachelor's degrees. The school's picturesque campus of 113 acres accommodates 31 varsity, 11 junior varsity, and six freshmen sport teams. The school's unique Student Activity Program sponsors 65 extracurricular and co-curricular activities.

Joel Barlow High School has received many state and national awards for exemplary curriculum and instruction and for overall excellence in education. It has been identified twice by the United States Department of Education as a School of Excellence. Its Advanced Placement Program has been commended by the Connecticut State Department of Education, the Washington Post, and The College Board. The Connecticut School Counselor Association selected the Easton-Redding-Joel Barlow High School Developmental Guidance Curriculum to receive its Outstanding Guidance and Counseling Program Award. Over the years, the school has won many awards in the CABE Award of Excellence for Educational Communications including for our student/parent/guardian handbook and course selection guide. In recognition of its overall academic excellence, Joel Barlow High School was one of a few, select schools whose curricula

and data-based improvements were recognized by the State Board of Education. Barlow was one of only five schools in the United States to receive the Blue Apple award for excellence in its Health, Wellness, and Physical Fitness curricula.

A total of 256 students took 441 Advanced Placement Examinations in 19 Advanced Placement subjects. Eighty-four percent of the students achieved a grade of 3 or higher in the examinations. Advanced Placement exams are required of all Advanced Placement students. One hundred and thirty students took two or more Advanced Placement examinations. Ninety-five percent of the Class of 2015 planned to attend post-secondary institutions. US News and World Report has listed Joel Barlow as the #13 high school in the state of Connecticut and has included Joel Barlow on their list of the top 500 U.S. high schools. The schools were rated on graduation rate, number of AP tests taken per graduate, average advanced placement scores, average SAT/ACT scores, number of advanced placement courses offered, and the rate of students going to college.

The ideals of Joel Barlow High School are captured in the poetry of William Butler Yeats who wrote, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." The staff is committed to an open and active exchange of ideas and promotes values, knowledge, and skills that foster personal integrity, intellectual curiosity, individual well-being, and civic responsibility. Further, the staff believes that education can only be accomplished with rigorous expectations if staff and students engage in meaningful relationships and if learning is relevant to the emerging interests of students. The staff and students collaborate to sustain an atmosphere of mutual respect and acceptance of individual differences.

The taxpayers of Easton and Redding approved a 2014-2015 budget of \$22,696,603 for Joel Barlow High School/Regional School District No. 9.

For more information about Joel Barlow High School, please visit the ER9 central-office Web site at www.er9.org and the high school's Web site at www.joelbarlowps.org.

DEBT SERVICE AND BENEFITS ACCOUNT

Debt Service and Benefits Account
Selectmen's Budget for the Board of Education
Fiscal year July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

IN KIND SERVICES:

PENSION

TOWN'S CONTRIBUTION FOR EMPLOYEES	\$210,000
--------------------------------------	-----------

ACTUARY FEES

1/2 ANNUAL FEE	\$4,900
CHECK WRITING/REFUNDS/MISC.	\$3,672

UNEMPLOYMENT

\$0

EASTON FIRE DISTRICT

Tax	\$0
-----	-----

INSURANCE

GENERAL LIABILITY	\$81,779
WORKER'S COMPENSATION	\$141,094

DEBT SERVICE

PRINCIPAL	\$1,647,000
INTEREST	\$552,381

PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT SERVICES

MAINTENANCE OF GROUNDS-LABOR COST Helen Keller & Samuel Staples Schools	\$15,000
--	----------

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SERVICES

BOE TRASH	\$0
PLOWING	\$2,240
SAND & SALT	\$3,680
SWEEPING	\$1,440
BOE MISC WORK	\$30,427

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,693,613
-----------------------	--------------------

PROBATE COURT DISTRICT OF TRUMBULL

The Trumbull Probate Court, serving Easton, Monroe and Trumbull was established by Connecticut State Statute on January 2, 1959. Prior to the commencement of operations the district was served by the Bridgeport Probate Court.

The primary responsibility of the Court is the probating of wills and settling of estates and trusts; the appointment of guardians for minors and the intellectually disabled; the appointment of conservators for incompetent persons; children's matters; and name changes.

During the period of July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015, the Trumbull Probate Court processed 1,430 new matters. The new matters included the following:

Estates with Wills	170
Estate without Wills	34
Estate Sales of Real Estate	23
Compromise of Claims	5
Ancillary Estates	16
Allowance of Final Accounts	158
Other Applications	128

Other Applications or Petitions	
Small Estate Affidavits	98
Estates for Tax Purposes Only	63
State Aid 4a-16 Estates	49
Succession Tax Returns and Extensions	344

Under the Category of Children's Matters:	
Adoptions, Termination of Parental Rights, Emancipations, Paternity, Temporary Guardianship & Dispositional Hearing	53

Under the Category of Guardians:	
Guardians of the Estate	42
Guardianships of the Intellectually Disabled	25

Under the Category of Conservators:	
Conservator of Estate/Person	32
Sales of Real Estate	5
Allowance of Accounts	28
Other Applications	56

Under Miscellaneous:	
Trust Applications and Accounts Requiring Hearings	68
Name Changes	33

The Honorable T. R. Rowe is Judge of Probate

Court Staff:
Gail J. Hanna, Chief Clerk
Gena Salerno, Assistant Clerk
Mary Pia, Assistant Clerk
Shari Clemente, Assistant Clerk

The Court is located in the Trumbull Town Hall and is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30p.m.

SUMMARIES OF TOWN MEETINGS

(Reference attachments in minutes are available for review in the Town Clerk's office.)

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

September 15, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

**Samuel Staples Elementary School, 515 Morehouse Road, Easton
Minutes**

Present: Adam W. Dunsby, First Selectman; Scott Centrella, Selectman; Robert Lessler, Selectman; Christine Halloran, Town Clerk

Attendees: Over 85 members of the public

The First Selectman called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

The First Selectman asked for a motion to appoint a Moderator. Wendy Bowditch nominated Bob Nicola. The motion was moved and seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting.

Item 1: Discuss and act upon the approval of use of LoCIP funds in an amount of \$164,780.35 for the purchase and installation of a dispatch console project for the Easton Police Department.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Item 2: Discuss and approve the codification project of Town ordinances by General Code.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Item 3: Adjournment

The Moderator called for a motion to adjourn. This was moved and seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

IMMEDIATELY following the Special Town Meeting, an Informational Session was held to discuss the South Park Avenue Property.

Submitted by,
Christine Halloran
Easton Town Clerk

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

February 23, 2015 – 7:30 p.m.

**Samuel Staples Elementary School, 515 Morehouse Road,
Easton
Minutes**

Present: Adam W. Dunsby, First Selectman; Scott Centrella, Selectman; Robert Lessler, Selectman; Christine Halloran, Town Clerk

Attendees: Approximately 21 members of the public

The First Selectman called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

The First Selectman asked for a motion to appoint a Moderator. Karen Martin nominated Bill Kupinse. The motion was moved and seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting.

Item 1: Discuss and approve the Tax Relief for the Elderly Ordinance as recommended by the 2014 Tax Relief for the Elderly Committee.

Motion carried by majority voice vote.

Item 2: Discussion and possible action on a resolution to approve a Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Agreement (C-PACE).

Motion carried by voice vote.

Item 3: Adjournment.

The Moderator called for a motion to adjourn. This was moved and seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Submitted by,
Christine Halloran
Easton Town Clerk

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

April 27, 2015 – 7:30 p.m.

**Samuel Staples Elementary School, 515 Morehouse Road,
Easton
Minutes**

Present: Adam Dunsby, First Selectman; Robert Lessler, Selectman; Christine Halloran, Town Clerk

Attendees: Chris Griffin, Chair of the Board of Finance
Over 65 members of the public

The First Selectman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

The First Selectman asked for a motion to nominate a Moderator. Wendy Bowditch nominated Robert Lessler. The motion was seconded. The nomination was approved by voice vote.

The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting.

Item 1: Discussion and possible action to approve a special appropriation from the unassigned fund balance in the amount of \$10,000 to cover the shortfall cost for the rental of a Senior Van.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Item 2: Acceptance of the 2014 Annual Town Report.

Motion carried by voice vote. The 2014 Annual Town Report is accepted.

Item 3: Discussion of the proposed annual Town budget of \$42,943,005 for fiscal year 2015-2016 as recommended by the Board of Finance. NOTE: The Town meeting may act to reduce, but not increase, the proposed annual Town budget.

The Moderator called for presentation of official comment, discussion, public comment, and questions.

Item 4: Five-year capital project plan.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Item 5: Set July 1, 2015 and January 2, 2016 for the 2014 grand list bills.

Motion carried by voice vote. The dates for the grand list bills as set out in the agenda are adopted.

Item 6: Adjournment of the Town meeting to a machine vote to be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2015, 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Samuel Staples Elementary School to vote on the annual budget for 2015-2016 or such lower amount as may be approved by the Town Meeting.

The Motion carried by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Submitted by,
Christine Halloran
Easton Town Clerk

TOWN OFFICIALS

Board of Selectmen

Adam Dunsby, First Selectman
Robert H. Lessler
Carolyn M. Colangelo
Robert Lessler
Scott Centrella

Town Clerk

Christine Halloran

Treasurer

Wendy Bowditch

Tax Collector

Christine Calvert

Registrar of Voters

David Smith - Democratic
Krista A. Kot - Republican

Board of Finance

Matthew Gachi
Andrew Kachele
Arthur Laske III
Paul Lindoerfer
Chris Griffin
Lee Hanson

Alternates –

Richard Cremin
Gabriel Rossi

Board of Assessment Appeals

Lori Mezes
A. Reynolds Gordon
John Miranda

Alternates –

Thomas Schick
Gloria R. Kovac
Vacancy

Library Board

Jon Sonneborn
Todd Pajonas
Gail B. Gay
Elaine Spicer
Janet Gordon
Gina Orticelli
Elaine Spicer
Margot Abrams

Easton Board of Education

Regina B. Bobroske
Randy Hicks
Adam Horowitz
Jeffrey F. Parker
Vida Peskey
Daniel Underberger

Regional Board of Education

(Easton Members)

J. Vance Hancock
Catherine Gombos
Todd Andrew Johnston

Constables

John L. Johnston
Darrin Silhavy
Vincent A. Battaglia
William K. Lane
Irving Silverman
Gloria Bindelglass
David Katz

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Public Works Director/Town Engineer

Edward L. Nagy

Police Chief

James R. Candee (Retired 6/30/15)
Timothy Shaw

Comptroller

Grace Stanczyk

Director of Health

Christopher Michos, M.D.
Polly Edwards R.S., Health Officer

Emergency Management Director

Captain Richard Doyle

Building Official

Emil Martin (Retired 6/30/15)
Anthony Ballaro

Fire Chief

Steve Waugh

Park & Recreation Commission

John Broadbin
Thomas Cable
Kirsten Ceva
David Gombos
Anthony Martinich
Kathleen Smith
Philip Tamallanca

Planning & Zoning Commission

Steve Carlson
Robert DeVellis
Robert Maquat, Chair
Milan Spisek
Wallace Williams

Alternates - Ross Ogden
Raymond Martin
Vincent Caprio

Zoning Board of Appeals

Patricia Berlin
Victor George
Mitchell H. Greenberg
John Harris-Chair
Charles Lynch

Alternates - Gregory Alves
Thomas Dollard
Raymond W. Ganim

Insurance Commission

Gerard O'Brien
Peter Pisaretz
Ronald Berry
Adam Dunsby

Tree Warden

Richard J. Dina

Municipal Agent for the Aging

Alison Witherbee MSW

Zoning Enforcement Officer/Wetlands

Enforcement Officer

Phillip A. Doremus

Assessor

Teresa Rainieri

Measurer of Wood

Irving Snow

Fire Marshal

Peter G. Neary
Deputy Marshals - Lucy Crossman
Schuyler Sherwood
Amy Borofsky

Board of Ethics

Kathy Cunningham
Craig Sternberg
Michael Kot
Richard Scalo
Cleo Sonneborn

***Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency
Representatives***

Wallace Williams
Peter Neary

***Easton Representative to the Southwestern Connecticut
Emergency Medical Services Council***

Carolyn Kearney

***Emergency Medical Communications Center, Inc
Representative***

Victor Malindretos

Police Commission

Richard J. Colangelo, Jr.
Marvin Gelfand
Laurie Israel
Raymond Martin
Vincent Battaglia

Emergency Medical Services Commission

Robert Adriani
Thomas R. Bladek, M.D.
Gloria Bindelglass
Stephen Jones, M.D.
James Spak, M.D.

Pension & Employee Benefits Commission

Marvin Gelfand
Alan Goldbecker- Chairman
A. Reynolds Gordon
John Harrington
Christopher Neubert
John Smith
Adam Dunsby
David Bussolotta

Solid Waste Commission

Anthony Colonnese
Irving Snow
Jeff Gombos
Vacancy
Vacancy

Advisory Board for the Easton Senior Center

Mary Burlinson
Sharon Cregeen
Anne Fiyalka
Prabha Gupta
Sal Santella
Eunice Hanson
Mary Ann Freeman
Elizabeth Drinkwater-Ross

Fire Commission

David Buchanan
Roberta Cable
John Miranda
Robert Monda

Conservation Commission

Stephen Corti
Stephen Edwards
Roy Gosse
Elliott Leonard
Steven Hume
Catherine Alfandre
Dori Wollen

Alternates – Sarah Cwikla
Katherine Reed
Vivian Hardisan

Commission for the Aging

Joel Peskay
Gail B. Gay
Margaret Silvestri
Lisa Tasi
Phyllis Machledt
Linda Dollard

Alternate – Vacancy

Area Nine Cable Council Representatives

Henry Anderson
Douglas Dempsey

Alternate - David Smith

***Connecticut Coastal Fairfield County
Convention & Visitor Bureau***

Mary Ann Freeman

Safety and Health Committee

Bernadette Baldino
Althea J. Falco
Terry Calgreen
Suzette Bryan
Martin Ohradan
Andy Rosenthal
Kay Oestreicher
Vicki Cram
Gary Simone
Bruce Bombero
Jay Festa

Social Services

Josephine Stenqvist (Retired 10/2015)
Alison Witherbee

Cemetery Committee

Gary Haines
Lisa Burghardt
Phillip Doremus
Jonathan Fanton-Adjunct
Mark Lyon-Adjunct
Wayne Lyon-Adjunct
Kevin Andrew King-Adjunct
Joan Kirk- Ex-Officio
Shaun Malay

Clean Energy Task Force

Catherine Alfandre
Heidi Armster
Katie Callahan
Regina McNamara
Carroll Brooke

Land Preservation and Acquisition Authority

Victor B. Alfandre
Carolyn Colangelo
Christopher Neubert
Irving Snow

Alternate - Jeffrey Borofsky

Easton Agricultural Commission

Jean Stetz-Puchalski
Laurel Fedor
Sal Gilbertie
Victor Alfandre
Irv Silverman

Alternates -

Lori Cochran Dougall
Ray Longo

TOWN DEPARTMENTS AND EMPLOYEES**Selectman's Office**

Adam Dunsby 1st Selectman
Scott Centrella, Selectman
Robert Lessler, Selectman
Carolyn M. Colangelo, Selectman
Althea Falco, Administrative Assistant
Janet Haller, Receptionist
Terry Calgreen, Custodian

Town Clerk

Diana Christine Halloran, Town Clerk & Registrar
of Vital Statistics
Joan Kirk, Assistant Town Clerk & Assistant
Registrar of Vital Statistics
Deborah Szegedi – Assistant Town Clerk &
Assistant Registrar of Vital Statistics

Treasurer's Office

Wendy Bowditch, Treasurer
Grace Stanczyk, Comptroller
Suzette Bryan, HRCC
Janet Haller, Accounts Payable Clerk

Planning & Zoning Department

John Hayes, Land Use Director
Phillip A. Doremus, Zoning Enforcement Officer
Margaret Anania, Clerk

Zoning Board of Appeals

Margaret Anania, Clerk

Building Department

Emil Martin, Building Official (Retired)
Anthony Ballaro, Building Official
Josephine Stenqvist, Secretary (Retired)
Jenna Licursi, Secretary

Health Department

Christopher Michos, M.D., Director of Health
Polly Edwards, R.S., Health Official
Sheila Piritzky, Secretary

Conservation Department

Phillip Doremus, Wetlands Enforcement Officer
Krista Kot, Secretary

Assessor's Office

Teresa Rainieri, Assessor
Rachel Maciulewski, Assessor's Assistant

Tax Collector

Christine Calvert, Tax Collector
Margaret Timlin, Assistant Tax Collector

Municipal Agent for the Elderly

Alison Witherbee, Agent
Pamela Healy, Outreach Worker

Senior Center

Valerie Buckley, Director
Cheryl (Kay) Oestreicher, Asst Director
Randy Shapiro, Driver
Heriberto Torres, P/T Driver
Chris Luckart, P/T Custodian

Park & Recreation Department

Gary Simone, Director
Danielle Alves, Programmer
Keysha Evans, Afterschool Program Coordinator
Lisa Farasciano, Secretary
Chris Lemos, Maintenance Supervisor
Michael Clark, Maintainer I

Library

Bernadette Baldino, Director
Lynn Zaffino, Assistant Director
Kymberlee Powe, Children's/Young Adult Librarian

Assistants

Barbara Fitchen
Penelope Papadoulis
Ann A. Salvia
Vivianlea Solek
Michael Robin

Aides

Kevin Krug
Mackenzie Calvert
Brianna Mckissick
Olivia Chioffi
Brady Sezon
Nicholas Roman
Roy Villagomez
Nicholas Ferrante

Police Department

James Candee, Police Chief (Retired)
Timothy Shaw, Police Chief
Richard Doyle, Captain
Jonathan Arnold, Sergeant
David Simpson, Sergeant
William Spencer, Sergeant

Police Officers

Thomas Ceccarelli
Tamra French
John Sollazo
Mark Pastor
Kent Lyman
David Ferguson
Donald Kinahan
Jay Festa
Craig Tibbals
Arthur Belile

Special Officers

John Bech
Gary Csanadi – PT

Office Staff

Diane Zadrozny, Administrative Assistant
Joanne Benson, Records Clerk I
Evelyn Santiago-Fox, Records Clerk I

Communications Department**Dispatchers**

Matthew Caldwell
Loretta Harsche
Tara Candee

Part Time Dispatchers

Cheryl Smolinsky
Cari-Ann Tszka
Marjorie Arnold
John Ojarovsky
Andrew Tisdale
Christine Bittner
Kevin Shevlin, Jr.

Canine Control

Kelly Fitch, Dog Warden
Marjorie Costa, Assistant Dog Warden
Christine Bittner, Assistant Dog Warden
Tamar Klein, Assistant Dog Warden

Registrars of Voters

David Smith, Democrat
Krista Kot, Republican

Public Works Department

Edward L. Nagy, Director and Town Engineer
Bruce Bombero, Engineer
Jeanie Schwartz, Secretary
Daniel Treadwell, Garage Mgr/Lead Mechanic
Jason Perkins, Highway Superintendent
Gil Neves, Maintenance Technician
Martin Ohradan, P/T Maintenance Technician

Highwaymen

Scott Smith
Don Perkins
Oscar Sampaio
Jamie Correia
Mark Iacobucci
Mark Alves
William Bantle, Jr.
Kenneth Schwartz, Jr.
Craig Brotherton
Matthew Hurley

Emergency Medical Services

Andrew Rosenthal, EMT
John Snyder, EMT
Carolyn Kearney, EMS Service Chief
Jonathan Arnold, EMS Assistant Service Chief
Adam Goldstein, EMS Assistant Service Chief
Chris Lazar
Margaret Shukie
Gabor Meszros Jr.
Marjorie Arnold
Joseph Seagren
Brian Hepp
Jonathan Kearney
Jacob Simkovitz

Emergency Management Director

Richard Doyle

Fire Department

Steve Waugh, Fire Chief
James Girardi, Asst. Fire Chief
Paul Skirtch, Asst Fire Chief
Peter Neary, Fire Marshal
Schuyler Sherwood, Deputy Fire Marshal
Lucy Crossman, Deputy Fire Marshal

Firemen

Michael Ohradan
James Wright
R. David Davies
Alfred Doty
Michael Sabia, Jr
Mark Mirowski
Martin Ohradan
Jon Davis

ADMINISTRATION AND TEACHING STAFF

ADMINISTRATORS

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
HKMS	Kaplan, Susan	Principal
HKMS	Burke, Kathy	Assistant Principal
HKMS/SSES	Friedlander, Janie	Director, Special Services
HKMS/SSES	Freeston, Cheryl	Supervisor, Special Services
SSES	Fox Santora, Kimberly	Principal
SSES	Brownstein, Michael	Assistant Principal

HELEN KELLER MIDDLE SCHOOL

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
Ashby, Charleen	Teacher
Bourret, Adam	Teacher
Breyer, David A.	Teacher
Broas, Sarah	Teacher
Brodeur, Cynthia	Teacher
Burritt, Amanda	SPED Teacher
Colasanto, Kristen	Teacher
Culliton, Nancy	Teacher
Cuttner, Nancy	Speech & Lang Pathologist
Dolecki, Eric A.	Teacher
Donegan, Tracey	SPED Teacher
Ducsay, Nicole	Teacher
Dunkerton, Amber	Teacher
Fearn, Ethan A.	Teacher
Gale, Allison	Teacher
Gioielli, Christine	SPED Teacher
Harington, Calico	Teacher
Henry, Paula	Teacher
Heran, Kimberly	Social Worker
Homorodean, Meda	Teacher
Hurta, Robin	Teacher
Jockers, Ryan	Teacher
Klatt, Meredith	Psychologist
Macaluso, John	Teacher
Maggi, Linda	Teacher
Mangino, Karen	Teacher
Minort-Kale, Jeannine	Teacher
Mohr, Ann	Teacher
Newman, Sarah	Teacher
Oliver, Lyndsay	SPED Teacher
Pearson, Eric	SPED Teacher
Quezada, Katty	Library/Media Specialist
Rose, Jennifer	Teacher
Sather, Timothy	Academic Mentor/Social Worker
Solis, Nicole	Teacher
Thomas, Patricia	Guidance Counselor
Walsh, Brian	Teacher
Correa, Catherine	Teacher - HKMS/SSES
Indorf, Nathaneal	Teacher - HKMS/SSES
Langlois, Laura	Assistive Technology-HKMS/SSES

SAMUEL STAPLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
Adelman, Lori	Teacher
Bates, Allan	Teacher
Bizzotto, Melissa	Teacher
Blair, Mary	Teacher
Breuer, Wanda	Speech & Lang Pathologist
Brophy, Tara	Teacher
Calhoun, Caroline	Teacher
Carroll, Courtney	Teacher
Chatfield, Callen	Teacher
Clark, Russell	Teacher
DeFilippo, Paige	Teacher
Desiderio, Jillian	School Social Worker
Duffy, Kimberly D.	Teacher
Duffy, Lynne	Library/Media Specialist
Edwards, Jennifer	Teacher
Faiella, Kristina	SPED Teacher
Forte, JodiAnn	Teacher
Fressola, Kelly	Teacher
Gentile, Amy	Teacher
Giglio-Opalinski, Elizabeth	Teacher
Gurnee, Lyndsay	SPED Teacher
Hickey, Katharine	SPED Teacher
Hobbs, Laura	Teacher
Holroyd, Stephanie	Teacher
Keating, Geraldine	SPED Teacher
Keden, Kristen	Teacher
Kernahan-Bertrand, Cindy	Psychologist
Kessler, Melissa	Teacher
Kuruc, Jill	Teacher
Macaluso, Kaitlyn	Teacher
MacArthur, Carey	Teacher
Marchetti, Emily	Teacher
Mattera, Karen	Teacher
McGee, Stacey	Teacher
Paciello, Sunny Michelle	Teacher
Pacino, Stacey	Teacher
Piacente, Courtney	Teacher
Pilkington, Dawn	Teacher
Scholz, Darcy	Teacher
Simmons, Helen	Teacher
Skoczylas, Julianne	Speech & Lang Pathologist
Stern, Karen	SPED Teacher
Studeney, Jason	Teacher
Swanson, Alyssa	Teacher
Traggianese, Amy	Teacher
Turcotte, Rachael	Teacher
Ward, Jason	Teacher
Waters, Heather	SPED Teacher
Wemyss, Elizabeth	Teacher
Whalen, Heather	Teacher
Woodford, Karen	Teacher
Zazula, Kristin	Teacher

REGION 9 CERTIFIED STAFF**JOEL BARLOW HIGH SCHOOL**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>		
Albano, Donna	Teacher	McTague, Julie	Teacher
Angelis, Michael	Teacher	Murdoch, Erin	Teacher
Angell, Christopher	Teacher	Nuzzo, Katharine	Teacher
Antal, Steven	Teacher	Pachas, Beth	Teacher
Atkinson, Mary	School Counselor	Paola, Ryan	Teacher
Bailey, Beth	Teacher	Panos, Paula	Director of School Counseling
Barcham, Dale	School Psychologist	Pieratti, Maryanne	School Social Worker
Barna, Fred	Teacher	Pinsky, Jordan	Teacher
Bassino, Deborah	Teacher	Pollack, Carolyn	Teacher
Bernardo, Margaret	Teacher	Potpinka, Thomas	Teacher
Breault, Christopher	Teacher	Poulos, Christopher	Teacher
Brix, Nancy	Librarian	Powell, Barbara	Social Studies
Brown, Jeffrey	Teacher	Powers, John	English/Special Education
Budd, Jonathan	Teacher	Queen, Christine	Teacher
Cheng, Catherine	Teacher	Ramirez, Jennifer	School Guidance Counselor
Classey, Paige	Teacher	Reimold, Scott	School Counselor
D'Amato, Daniela	Teacher	Rivers, Daniel	Teacher
DelAngelo, Henry	School Counselor	Roberts, Thomas	Special Education Teacher
Desmarais, Jennifer	Humanities Department Chair	Rountos, Steven	Teacher
Detelich, Charles	Teacher	Rowland, Andrea	Teacher
DeVoto, James	Teacher	Salko-Peddle, Sheila	Special Education Teacher
Ecsedy, Michael	Teacher	Schemm, Jason	Teacher
Egan, Jeanne	Teacher	Skalkos, Leann	Teacher
Egan, Margaret	Special Education/ Instructional Leader	Smith, Barbara	Teacher
Estes, Lori	Teacher	Smith, Edouard	Teacher
Fallo, Kristen	Teacher	Smith, Randall	Teacher
Franco, Milton	Teacher	Sopko, Joseph	Teacher
Fricker, Jacob	Teacher	Sopko, Michelle	Teacher
Gang, Scott	Teacher	Spinner, Daniel	Teacher
Garvey, Janice	Teacher	Staley, Jessica	Teacher
Gilmore, Maria	Teacher	Staron, Angela	Teacher
Giordano, Ralph	Teacher	Sugden, Mary Elizabeth	Teacher
Givoni, Julianne	Teacher	Sullivan, Karen	Speech & Language Pathologist
Gold, Elisabeth	School Counselor		
Goodpaster, Pam	EMT Course	Swift, Ryan	Teacher
Hart, Sarah	Teacher	Taubner, Debra	Teacher
Healy, Traci	Teacher	Testa, Paul	Teacher
Hermans, Friso	Teacher	VanAusdal, Sandra	Teacher
Hoyt, Rebecca	School Psychologist	Veteri-Muntz, Toni	Special Education Teacher
Hrebin, Mary Pat	Special Education Teacher	Vialotti, Laura	Teacher
Huminski, Carolyn	Teacher	Whiting, Jacquelyn	Teacher
Huminski, Timothy	Teacher	Zabilansky, Megan	Teacher
Intemann, Michael	Teacher		
Keeney, Kristin	Teacher		
Lavoie, Diane	Special Education Teacher		
Light, Randall	Teacher		
Loughlin, Maria	Teacher		
Luzietti, Brian	Teacher		
Magrino, Filomenia	Teacher		
Malayter, Alison	Teacher		
Mangieri, Deborah	Speech & Language Pathologist		
McElwee, Michael	Teacher		
McNulty, Vicenza	Teacher		

REGION 9 ADMINISTRATORS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
McMorran, Thomas	Head of School/ Asst. Superintendent
Pin, Gina	Assistant Principal
Sheehy, Mary Ann	Assistant Principal
Santangeli, Michael	Administrator Athletics, Health, PE
Roszko, Patricia	Director of Special Services
Geraghty, Daniel	Dean of Students/ Director Student Activities

TOWN DIRECTORY

Emergency - Police - Fire - Ambulance	911
Non-Emergency	203-268-4111
Police - Fire - Ambulance	
Town Hall	203-268-6291
Town Hall Fax	203-268-4928
First Selectman	
Assessor	
Tax Collector	
Treasurer	
Building Department	
Health Department	
Planning and Zoning Department	
Zoning Board of Appeals	
Conservation Department	
Registrar of Voters	
Town Clerk Fax	203-261-6080
Library	203-268-0134
Senior Center	203-268-1145
Municipal Agent for the Elderly	203-268-1137
Department of Public Works	203-268-0714
Park and Recreation Department	203-268-7200
Dog Warden	203-268-9172
Superintendent of Schools - Central Office	203-261-2513
Samuel Staples Elementary School	203-261-3607
Helen Keller Middle School	203-268-8651
Joel Barlow High School	203-938-2508
Easton Post Office	203-261-8386
Probate Judge - John P. Chiota	203-452-5068
Fax	203-452-5092
State Officials	Senator Tony Hwang
	Representative John Shaban
U.S. Officials	Senator Christopher Murphy
	Senator Richard Blumenthal
	Congressman Jim Himes

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS - BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Advisory Board Easton Senior Center	2nd Tuesday	5:00 p.m.
Senior Center		
Agricultural Commission	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m.
As announced		
Annual Town Meeting	Last Monday in April	8:00 p.m.
Samuel Staples Elementary School		
Board of Assessment Appeals		
Assessor's Office - Town Hall		
Property Tax Grievances	March	TBD
Motor Vehicle Tax Grievances	September	TBD
Board of Education	Monthly - Check Posting	7:30 p.m.
Helen Keller Middle School		
Board of Ethics	As Required	
Town Hall Conference Room		
Board of Finance	1st Tuesday	7:30 p.m.
Senior Center Conference Room		
Board of Fire Commissioners	3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m.
Firehouse		
Board of Police Commissioners	2nd Monday	5:30 p.m.
As Announced		
Board of Selectmen	1st and 3rd Thursdays	7:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
Cemetery Committee	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m.
Senior Center		
Clean Energy Task Force	3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
Commission for the Aging	1st Monday	5:00 p.m.
Senior Center		
Conservation Commission	2nd and 4th Tuesdays	7:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
EMS Commission	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m.
EMS Headquarters		
Financial Oversight Committee	3rd Tuesday	6:30 p.m.
Joel Barlow High School		
Insurance Commission	As Required	
Town Hall Conference Room		
Land Preservation and Acquisition Authority	As required	7:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
Library Board of Trustees	1st Monday	7:00 p.m.
Library Conference Room		
Parks and Recreation Commission	1st Monday	7:00 p.m.
Parks and Recreation Office		
Pension Committee	2nd Tues. Jan,May,Aug,and Nov	5:30 p.m.
Joel Barlow High School		
Pension and Employee Benefits	2nd Tuesday - Bimonthly	8:30 a.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
Planning and Zoning Commission	2nd and 4th Mondays	7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
Regional Board of Education	Check Posting	7:30 p.m.
Joel Barlow High School		
Safety and Health Committee	Quarterly	10:00 a.m.
Library Conference Room		
Solid Waste Commission	2nd Wednesday	4:00 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
Tax Relief for the Elderly	As Required	
Senior Center		
Zoning Board of Appeals	1st Monday	5:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		

TOWN CALENDAR

SELECTMAN'S OFFICE	Monday - Friday	8:30am - 4:30pm
ASSESSOR	Monday - Friday	8:30am - 4:30pm
TOWN CLERK	Monday - Friday	8:30am - 4:30pm
TAX COLLECTOR	Monday - Friday	8:30am - 4:30pm
TREASURER	Monday - Friday	8:30pm - 4:30pm
BUILDING DEPARTMENT	Monday - Friday	8:30am - 12:30pm 1:00pm - 4:30pm
HEALTH DEPARTMENT	Monday - Friday Thursday	8:30am - 12:00pm 1:00pm - 4:30pm 8:30am - 12:30pm ONLY
PLANNING & ZONING	Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday	10:30am - 3:00pm
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	Tuesday	10:30am - 3:00pm
CONSERVATION	Monday - Friday	8:30pm - 12:30pm
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS	Monday Friday	8:30am - 12:30pm 10:00am - 2:00pm
LIBRARY (Closed Sundays)	Monday, Friday Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday Saturday	10:00am - 5:00pm 10:00am - 8:00pm 10:00am - 6:00pm 10:00am - 3:00pm
SENIOR CENTER	Monday - Friday	8:00am - 3:30pm
MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE AGING	Monday - Friday	9:00am - 2:00pm
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT	Monday - Friday	7:00am - 3:30pm
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT	Monday - Friday	9:00am - 4:00pm
TAXES DUE	FIRST HALF July 1 st SECOND HALF	January 1 st
DOG LICENSES RENEWALS - TOWN CLERK		June 1 st to June 30 th
FISHING LICENSES - TOWN CLERK		All Year – BHC Permits only
TRANSFER STATION PERMITS - RECEPTIONIST	Monday - Friday	8:30am - 4:30pm
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING	Last Monday in April	7:30pm

Independent Auditor's Report

RSM US LLP

To the Board of Finance
Town of Easton, Connecticut

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Easton, Connecticut, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town of Easton, Connecticut's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Easton, Connecticut, as of June 30, 2015 and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof, for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

THE POWER OF BEING UNDERSTOOD
AUDIT | TAX | CONSULTING

Emphasis of Matter—Adoption of Standards

As explained in the Summary of Significant Accounting Policies in the notes to the financial statements, the Town adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions, an amendment of GASB Statement No. 27*, and GASB Statement No. 71, *Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measurement Date – and amendment of GASB 68*, which resulted in the Town restating net position for recognition of the Town's pension related activity incurred prior to July 1, 2014. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Other Matters**Required Supplementary Information**

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, the budgetary comparison information, the schedules of pension contributions, the schedules of changes in the Town's net pension liability and related ratios, the schedule of the Town's proportionate share of the net pension liability – Teachers' Retirement System and the schedules of employer contributions and funding progress – OPEB, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, which considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Town of Easton, Connecticut's basic financial statements. The combining and individual fund financial statements and other schedules are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The combining and individual fund financial statements and other schedules are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the combining and individual fund financial statements and other schedules are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 18, 2015 on our consideration of the Town of Easton, Connecticut's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Town of Easton, Connecticut's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

RSM US LLP

New Haven, Connecticut
December 18, 2015

Town of Easton, Connecticut

Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited) For the Year Ended June 30, 2015

Management of the Town of Easton offers readers these financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Town for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015.

The purpose of the MD&A is to provide to the reader an interpretation of the financial information and results of the fiscal year.

Financial Highlights

- The assets and deferred outflows of resources of the Town exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows of resources at the close of the most recent year by \$67,762,988 (net position). Of this amount, \$5,763,602 (unrestricted net position) may be used to meet the Town's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.
- The Town's total net position increased by \$2,969,273 (after beginning net position was restated and decreased by \$2,140,912 for the adoption of GASB No. 68, see Note 1. Substantially all of the increase is attributable better than expected revenues and expenditures that were less than expected amounts.
- As of the close of the current fiscal year, the Town's governmental funds reported an ending fund balance of \$4,424,706.
- At the end of the current fiscal year, unassigned fund balance for the general fund was \$5,536,960 or 12.7% of total general fund expenditures and transfers out.

Overview of the Basic Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis are intended to serve as an introduction to the Town of Easton's basic financial statements. The Town's basic financial statements comprise three components: 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements, and 3) notes to basic financial statements. This report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the Town's finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business.

The statement of net position presents information on all of the Town's assets plus deferred outflows of resources after liabilities plus deferred inflows of resources are deducted, with the difference reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Town is improving or deteriorating.

The statement of activities presents information showing how the Town's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods (e.g., uncollected taxes and earned but unused vacation leave).

The government-wide financial statements present only government activities whose functions are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues. The governmental activities of the Town include general government, public safety, public works, health and welfare, education, library, and parks and recreation.

Fund Financial Statements. A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The Town uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds of the Town can be divided into three categories: governmental funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds.

Governmental Funds. Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resource, as well as on balances of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in evaluating a Town's near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the Town's near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities.

The Town maintains several individual governmental funds. Information is presented separately in the governmental fund balance sheet and in the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances for the general fund and bonded capital project fund, both of which are considered to be a major fund. Data from the other governmental funds are combined into a single, aggregated presentation. Individual fund data for each of these nonmajor governmental funds is provided in the form of combining statements elsewhere in this report.

The Town adopts an annual appropriated budget for its general fund. A budgetary comparison statement has been provided for the general fund to demonstrate compliance with this budget.

Proprietary Funds. The Town maintains one proprietary fund. Internal service funds are an accounting device used to accumulate and allocate costs internally among the Town's various functions. The Town uses an internal service fund to account for the Board of Education medical insurance benefits. This activity has been included within governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements.

Fiduciary Funds. Fiduciary funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the Town. Fiduciary funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statements because the resources of those funds are not available to support the Town's own programs.

Notes to Basic Financial Statements. The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements.

Other Information. In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain required supplementary information concerning the Town's pension and other post-employment (OPEB) benefits to its employees and General Fund budgetary information.

The combining statements referred to earlier in connection with nonmajor governmental funds are presented immediately following the required supplementary information on pensions and OPEB.

Government-Wide Financial Analysis

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a Town's financial position. In the case of the Town, assets and deferred outflow of resources exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows of resources by \$67,762,988 at the close of the most recent fiscal year.

The largest portion of the Town's net position reflects its investment in capital assets (e.g., land, construction in progress, land improvements, buildings, building improvements, machinery and equipment and vehicles), less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. The Town uses these capital assets to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the Town's investment in its capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities.

Town of Easton, Connecticut

Summary Statement of Net Position		
Governmental		
Activities		
	June 30, 2015	June 30 , 2014
Current and other assets	\$ 14,734,894	\$ 13,432,205
Capital assets	90,239,287	91,234,318
Total assets	104,974,181	104,666,523
Deferred outflows of resources	1,796,801	350,951
Long-term debt outstanding	29,521,927	29,561,976
Other liabilities	8,751,242	10,661,783
Total liabilities	38,273,169	40,223,759
Deferred inflows of resources	734,825	-
Net position		
Net investments in capital assets	61,999,386	59,493,930
Unrestricted	5,763,602	5,299,785
Total net position, as restated see Note 1	\$ 67,762,988	\$ 64,793,715

None of the Town's net position represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. The remaining balance of unrestricted net position, \$5,763,602 may be used to meet the Town's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors. At the end of the current fiscal year, the Town is able to report positive balances in both categories of net position for the Town as a whole.

Town of Easton, Connecticut

Summary Schedule of Changes in Net Position

	Governmental Activities	
	2015	2014
Revenues		
Program revenues:		
Charges for services	\$ 2,443,885	\$ 2,257,472
Operating grants and contributions	2,426,672	2,967,983
Capital grants and contributions	1,078,404	1,070,601
General revenues:		
Property taxes	39,878,358	39,361,061
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific purposes	156,461	155,081
Investment income	84,143	151,842
Donated capital assets	-	614,665
Total revenues	46,067,923	46,578,705
Program expenses		
General government	2,831,735	2,984,380
Public safety	3,337,254	3,219,451
Public works	2,916,136	2,780,882
Health and welfare	490,150	449,516
Education	31,367,025	30,715,896
Library	738,313	643,001
Parks and recreation	939,134	784,770
Interest expense	478,903	1,222,959
Total expenses	43,098,650	42,800,855
Increase in net position	2,969,273	3,777,850
Net position		
Beginning	64,793,715	63,156,777
Restated for GASB No. 68	-	(2,140,912)
Ending, as restated	\$ 67,762,988	\$ 64,793,715

Financial Analysis of the Town's Funds

As noted earlier, the Town uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

Governmental Funds. The focus of the Town's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the Town's financing requirements. In particular, unreserved fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a Town's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

As of the end of the current fiscal year, governmental funds reported a combine ending fund balance of \$4,424,706.

The general fund is the operating fund of the Town. At the end of the current fiscal year, unassigned fund balance was \$5,536,960. As a measure of the general fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare the unassigned fund balance to total general fund expenditures. Unassigned fund balance represents 12.7% of total general fund expenditures and other financing uses, while total fund balance represents 14.1% of that same amount.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

The most significant difference between the original budget and the final amended budget included additional appropriations and budget transfers of \$134,584 for various departments and this includes the transfers out account to purchase equipment. The Board of Finance made special appropriations to the Insurance Commission and Tree Warden budget, and transferred funds of \$196,145 from police special service revenue to cover expenditures. The Town meeting appropriated \$10,000 to cover expenditures for the rental of a van for the Senior Center.

The following departments had positive budget variances as follows:

- Fringe Benefits in the amount of \$268,311 due to increased percentage deductions paid by the employee, the election to accept "in lieu of" medical coverage with no significant event changes.
- The Public Works department in the amount of \$186,636 due to a less severe winter that saved funds in overtime and highway road salt and having vacancy of positions.
- Town Attorney account in the amount of \$55,575 due to legal issues postponements.

Bonded Capital Projects Fund

This fund accounts for financial resources from general obligation bonds to be used for major capital asset construction and/or purchases.

**Town of Easton, Connecticut
Capital Assets (Net of Depreciation)**

	Governmental Activities	
	2015	2014
Land	\$ 19,859,020	\$ 19,859,020
Construction in progress	189,307	24,430
Land improvements	410,126	421,326
Buildings	50,792,326	51,609,825
Building improvements	1,182,666	1,195,045
Machinery and equipment	597,848	477,983
Vehicles	2,643,471	2,809,995
Infrastructure	14,564,523	14,836,694
Total	\$ 90,239,287	\$ 91,234,318

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

Capital assets. The Town's investment in capital assets as of June 30, 2015 is \$ 90,239,287 (net of accumulated depreciation). This investment in capital assets includes land, construction in progress, land improvements, buildings, building improvements, machinery and equipment and vehicles.

Major capital asset events during the current fiscal year included the following:

- \$15,000 was approved by the Board and town meeting for purchase of a new Senior Van, and along with generous donations, the van was purchased. An amount of \$10,000 was also approved to cover expenses in the van transportation grant to cover expense of a rental van.
- Radios were approved for purchase and Fiber Optic upgrade through the Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP) for the Fire.
- The Town expended \$231,357 of LoCIP funds and completed the reconstruction of Morehouse Road south of the school.
- The Town expended approximately \$164,000 of LOCIP funds for the renovation of the Dispatch communication center.
- Public Works did renovations to the parking areas at 600 Morehouse Road.
- The remaining additions and deletions consisted of various equipment and vehicles for Town departments.

Additional information on the Town's capital assets can be found in Note 4 of this report.

Debt. At the end of the current fiscal year, the Town had total debt outstanding of \$26,663,000. All of this debt comprises debt backed by the full faith and credit of the Town.

**Town of Easton, Connecticut
Outstanding General Obligation Bonds and Notes**

	Governmental Activities	
	2015	2014
General obligation bonds - Town improvements	\$ 3,399,000	\$ 4,061,000
General obligation bonds - School improvements	18,108,000	18,134,000
General obligation bonds - Sewer improvements	238,000	260,000
Bond anticipation notes	4,918,000	7,372,000
Total	\$ 26,663,000	\$ 29,827,000

The Town is also obligated for a portion of the Regional School District No. 9 general obligation debt in the net amount of \$6,248,040.

On January 15, 2015, the Town issued \$4,918,000 of bond anticipation notes and \$1,620,000 general obligation bonds. The bond anticipation notes bear interest at 1.0%, mature on December 15, 2015 and are land acquisition. The bonds bear interest at 2.0%, mature in 2025 and are for elementary school construction.

During the fiscal year, the Town made bond principal payments of \$2,330,000 for school and general purpose debt.

The Town maintains an "AAA" credit rating from Standard and Poor's, for its general obligation debt.

State statutes limit the amount of general obligation debt a governmental entity may issue to 7 times its tax collections including interest and lien fees and the tax relief for elderly freeze grant. The current debt limitation for the Town is \$278,449,990 which is significantly in excess of the Town's outstanding general obligation debt.

Additional information on the Town's long-term debt can be found in Note 6 and 7 of this report.

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budget and Rates

The following are some factors that were considered in preparing the Town's budget for the 2015 fiscal year:

- The unemployment rate for the Town is currently 5.3%. This compares favorably to the state's average unemployment rate 5.3% and the national average rate 5.1%.
- Inflationary trends in the region compare favorably to national indices.

Town's elected and appointed officials considered Town-wide trends when setting the fiscal year 2015 budget. The Town decided that it was important to continue to support the school system and adopt a budget designed to promote long-term financial stability, conservative budgeting, and while at the same time, providing excellent services to our residents and taxpayers.

- At June 30, 2015, unassigned fund balance in the general fund was \$5,536,960.

Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Town's finances for all those with an interest in the government's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to the Chairman, Board of Finance or the Office of the Comptroller, Town of Easton, 225 Center Road, Easton, Connecticut 06612.

Town of Easton, Connecticut

**Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2015**

	Governmental Activities
Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 7,720,236
Investments	4,689,337
Receivables, net	2,325,321
Total current assets	<u>14,734,894</u>
Noncurrent Assets	
Capital Assets	
Capital assets, not being depreciated	20,048,327
Capital assets, being depreciated, net	70,190,960
Total capital assets	<u>90,239,287</u>
Total assets	<u>104,974,181</u>
Deferred outflows of resources	
Deferred pension expense	1,796,801
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>1,796,801</u>
Liabilities	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	2,995,252
Due to Regional School District No. 9	810,826
Unearned revenue	27,164
Bond anticipation notes	4,918,000
Noncurrent Liabilities:	
Due within one year	2,904,362
Due in more than one year	26,617,565
Total liabilities	<u>38,273,169</u>
Deferred inflows of resources	
Deferred pension credit	734,825
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>734,825</u>
Net Position	
Net Investments in Capital Assets	61,999,386
Unrestricted	5,763,602
Total net position	<u>\$ 67,762,988</u>

See Notes to Financial Statements.

Town of Easton, Connecticut

Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended June 30, 2015

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues			Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Total Governmental Activities
Governmental Activities					
General Government	\$ 2,831,735	\$ 1,055,854	\$ 92,598	\$ 474,985	\$ (1,208,298)
Public Safety	3,337,254	483,271	6,400	-	(2,847,583)
Public Works	2,916,136	370,793	-	603,419	(1,941,924)
Health and Welfare	490,150	25,355	-	-	(464,795)
Education	31,367,025	62,477	2,327,674	-	(28,976,874)
Library	738,313	15,271	-	-	(723,042)
Park and Recreation	939,134	430,864	-	-	(508,270)
Interest and fiscal charges	478,903	-	-	-	(478,903)
Total governmental activities	\$ 43,098,650	\$ 2,443,885	\$ 2,426,672	\$ 1,078,404	(37,149,689)
General revenues:					
Property taxes					39,878,358
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs					156,461
Investment income					84,143
Total general revenues					40,118,962
Change in net position					2,969,273
Net position - beginning as restated (Note 1)					64,793,715
Net position - ending					\$ 67,762,988

See Notes to Financial Statements.

Town of Easton, Connecticut

Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds
June 30, 2015

	General	Bonded Capital Projects	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 5,077,236	\$ 338,464	\$ 2,304,536	\$ 7,720,236
Investments	4,020,856	-	668,481	4,689,337
Receivables				
Property taxes and accrued interest, net	1,871,351	-	-	1,871,351
Accounts	332,308	-	40,686	372,994
Intergovernmental	-	-	80,976	80,976
Total assets	\$ 11,301,751	\$ 338,464	\$ 3,094,679	\$ 14,734,894
Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances (Deficits)				
Liabilities				
Accounts payable	\$ 1,104,638	\$ 32,227	\$ 151,195	\$ 1,288,060
Accrued liabilities	1,095,199	-	-	1,095,199
Due to Regional School District No.9	810,826	-	-	810,826
Due to other funds	371,471	-	-	371,471
Unearned revenue	24,165	-	2,999	27,164
Bond anticipation notes	-	4,918,000	-	4,918,000
Total liabilities	3,406,299	4,950,227	154,194	8,510,720
Deferred Inflows of Resources				
Unavailable revenue	1,718,492	-	80,976	1,799,468
Total deferred inflows of resources	1,718,492	-	80,976	1,799,468
Fund Balances (Deficits)				
Restricted	-	-	205,483	205,483
Committed	-	-	2,686,141	2,686,141
Assigned	640,000	-	-	640,000
Unassigned	5,536,960	(4,611,763)	(32,115)	893,082
Total fund balances (deficits)	6,176,960	(4,611,763)	2,859,509	4,424,706
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and fund balances (deficits)	\$ 11,301,751	\$ 338,464	\$ 3,094,679	\$ 14,734,894

See Notes to Financial Statements.

Town of Easton, Connecticut

**Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds to the Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2015**

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because of the following:

Fund balances - total governmental funds	\$ 4,424,706
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds:	
Governmental capital assets	125,054,081
Less accumulated depreciation	(34,814,794)
Net capital assets	90,239,287
Deferred pension credit - Pension Plan	(386,639)
Deferred pension credit - MERS	(348,186)
Deferred pension expense - Pension Plan	1,441,496
Deferred pension expense - MERS	355,305
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current period expenditures and, therefore, are not recorded in the funds:	
Deferred inflows - unavailable revenue	156,831
Property tax receivables greater than 60 days	1,134,726
Interest receivable on property taxes	507,911
Internal service funds are used by management to charge the costs of risk management to individual funds. The assets and liabilities of the internal service funds are reported with governmental activities in the statement of net position.	(64,807)
Long-term liabilities, including bonds payable, are not due and payable in the current period, and therefore, are not reported in the funds:	
Bonds and notes payable	(21,745,000)
Net pension liability - Pension Plan	(1,611,573)
Net pension liability - MERS	(1,217,299)
Compensated absences	(841,234)
Capital lease payable	(533,530)
Net OPEB obligation	(1,546,033)
Interest payable on bonds and notes	(175,715)
Unamortized bond premium	(1,043,371)
Heart and hypertension	(983,887)
Net Position of Governmental Activities	\$ 67,762,988

See Notes to Financial Statements.

Town of Easton, Connecticut

**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2015**

	General	Bonded Capital Projects	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues				
Property taxes	\$ 39,914,489	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 39,914,489
Intergovernmental	2,912,452	820,183	828,030	4,560,665
Charges for services	1,457,523	34,250	952,112	2,443,885
Investment income	73,861	-	10,282	84,143
Contributions	-	-	400	400
Total revenues	44,358,325	854,433	1,790,824	47,003,582
Expenditures				
Current:				
General government	2,037,869	-	99,700	2,137,569
Public Safety	2,668,792	-	132,341	2,801,133
Public Works	2,056,299	-	277,346	2,333,645
Health and Welfare	382,019	-	30,829	412,848
Education	27,724,507	-	255,775	27,980,282
Library	583,703	-	21,267	604,970
Parks and Recreation	386,051	-	398,478	784,529
Employee benefits	2,960,261	-	-	2,960,261
Insurance	904,856	-	-	904,856
Debt service	3,117,619	-	-	3,117,619
Capital outlay	-	(28,004)	538,015	510,011
Total expenditures	42,821,976	(28,004)	1,753,751	44,547,723
Revenues over (under) expenditures	1,536,349	882,437	37,073	2,455,859
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Bond proceeds	-	1,620,000	-	1,620,000
Transfers in	408,090	308,105	559,628	1,275,823
Transfers out	(867,733)	-	(408,090)	(1,275,823)
Total other financing sources (uses)	(459,643)	1,928,105	151,538	1,620,000
Change in fund balances (deficits)	1,076,706	2,810,542	188,611	4,075,859
Fund Balances (Deficits)				
Beginning of year	5,100,254	(7,422,305)	2,670,898	348,847
End of year	\$ 6,176,960	\$ (4,611,763)	\$ 2,859,509	\$ 4,424,706

See Notes to Financial Statements.

Town of Easton, Connecticut

**Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances (Deficits) of
Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended June 30, 2015**

Amounts Reported for Governmental Activities in the Statement of Activities are Due to	
Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds	<u>\$ 4,075,859</u>
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense.	
Capital outlay	513,410
Depreciation expense	(1,504,441)
Total	<u>(991,031)</u>
The net effect of various miscellaneous transactions involving capital assets (i.e., sales, trade-ins and donations) is to increase net position. In the statement of activities, only the loss on the sale of capital assets is reported. However, in the governmental funds, the proceeds from the sale increase financial resources. Thus, the change in net position differs from the change in fund balance by the cost of the capital assets sold.	
	<u>(4,000)</u>
Revenues in the statement of activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds and revenues recognized in the fund financial statements are not recognized in the statement of activities:	
Miscellaneous grant receipts	(444,569)
Increase in property tax receivable - accrual basis change	(81,431)
Increase in property tax interest and lien revenue	45,300
Total	<u>(480,700)</u>
The issuance of long-term debt (e.g., bonds, leases) provides current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of the principal of long-term debt consumes the current financial resources of governmental funds. Neither transaction, however, has any effect on net position. Also, governmental funds report the effect of premiums, discounts and similar items when debt is first issued, whereas these amounts are deferred and amortized in the statement of activities. The details of long-term debt and related items are as follows:	
Principal repayments:	
Issuance of bonds	(1,620,000)
Capital lease payments	147,251
Amortization of bond premium	189,236
Bond principal repayments	2,330,000
Total	<u>1,046,487</u>
Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds:	
Net OPEB expense	(51,887)
Heart and hypertension claims	(61,757)
Compensated absences	(249,574)
Accrued interest payable	(27,170)
Net pension liability - Pension Plan	(1,079,667)
Net pension liability - MERS	436,447
Deferred pension expense - MERS	(348,186)
Deferred pension credit - MERS	4,354
Deferred pension expense - Pension Plan	1,441,496
Deferred pension credit - Pension Plan	(386,639)
Total	<u>(322,583)</u>
Internal Service Funds are used by management to charge costs of medical insurance benefits to individual departments. The net revenue of the activities of the Internal Service Fund is reported with governmental activities	
	<u>(354,759)</u>
Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 2,969,273</u>

See Notes to Financial Statements.

Town of Easton, Connecticut

Statement of Net Position (Deficit) - Proprietary Fund
June 30, 2015

	Governmental Activities
	Internal Service Fund
<hr/>	
Assets	
Current Assets	
Due from other funds	\$ 371,471
Total assets	<hr/> 371,471 <hr/>
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts payable	259,217
Claims payable	177,061
Total liabilities	<hr/> 436,278 <hr/>
Net Position (Deficit)	
Unrestricted	<hr/> (64,807)
Total net position (deficit)	<hr/> \$ (64,807) <hr/>

See Notes to Financial Statements.

Town of Easton, Connecticut

**Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Fund Net Position - Proprietary Fund
For the Year Ended June 30, 2015**

	Governmental Activities
	<u>Internal Service Fund</u>
Operating Revenue	
Premiums	\$ 2,496,066
Operating Expenses	
Claims	2,588,225
Administration	263,009
Total operating expenses	<u>2,851,234</u>
Net loss	(355,168)
Nonoperating Revenue	
Investment income	409
Change in net position	<u>(354,759)</u>
Net Position (Deficit)	
Beginning	<u>289,952</u>
Ending	<u><u>\$ (64,807)</u></u>

See Notes to Financial Statements.

Town of Easton, Connecticut

**Statement of Cash Flows - Proprietary Fund
For the Year Ended June 30, 2015**

	Governmental Activities <u>Internal Service Fund</u>
Cash Flows From Operating Activities	
Premiums received	\$ 2,490,568
Claim payments	(2,554,164)
Administrative payments	(263,009)
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(326,605)</u>
Cash Flows From Investing Activities	
Income on investments	409
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	<u>(326,196)</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	
Beginning of year	<u>326,196</u>
End of year	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>
Reconciliation of Operating Loss to Net Cash	
Used In Operating Activities	
Operating loss	\$ (355,168)
Adjustments to reconcile operating loss to net cash	
used in operating activities:	
Increase in:	
Claims payable	34,061
Increase in:	
Due from other funds	(5,498)
Net cash used in operating activities	<u><u>\$ (326,605)</u></u>

See Notes to Financial Statements.

Town of Easton, Connecticut

Statement of Fiduciary Net Position - Fiduciary Funds
June 30, 2015

	Pension Trust Fund	Agency Funds
<hr/>		
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 3,164,076	\$ 1,611,930
Investments, at Fair Value		
Mutual funds	13,488,195	-
Prepaid Benefits	58,212	-
Total assets	<hr/> 16,710,483	<hr/> \$ 1,611,930
Liability		
Accounts and Other Payable	<hr/> 5,047	<hr/> 1,611,930
Net Position		
Net position - restricted for pension benefits	<hr/> \$ 16,705,436	<hr/> \$ -

See Notes to Financial Statements.

Town of Easton, Connecticut

**Statement of Changes in Plan Net Position - Pension Trust Fund
June 30, 2015**

	Pension Trust Fund
Additions	
Contributions:	
Employer	\$ 574,570
Plan members	171,338
Total contributions	<u>745,908</u>
Investment Income	
Net depreciation in fair value of investments	(1,013,814)
Interest and dividends	983,114
Net investment gain	<u>(30,700)</u>
Total net additions	<u>715,208</u>
Deductions	
Benefits	723,795
Administrative expense	10,225
Total deductions	<u>734,020</u>
Changes in net position	(18,812)
Net Position	
Beginning of year	<u>16,724,248</u>
End of year	<u><u>\$ 16,705,436</u></u>

See Notes to Financial Statements.

Town of Easton, Connecticut

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 7. Long-Term Debt

Changes in long-term debt:

Summary of changes: The following is a summary of changes in long-term obligations during the fiscal year.

Description	Original Amount	Date of Issue	Date of Maturity	Interest Rate (%)	Balance * July 1, 2014, as restated	Additions	Deductions	Balance Outstanding June 30, 2015	Current Portion
Bonds									
General purpose:									
Refunding bond	\$ 3,318,000	02/15/03	06/01/15	1.6-4.0	\$ 221,000	\$ -	\$ 221,000	\$ -	\$ -
Improvement bond	1,424,000	07/15/10	07/15/25	1.0-3.75	1,140,000	-	95,000	1,045,000	95,000
Refunding bond (2001 issue)	3,739,500	05/28/09	10/15/21	3.0-5.0	2,700,000	-	346,000	2,354,000	340,000
Total general purpose					4,061,000	-	662,000	3,399,000	435,000
Schools:									
Refunding bond	447,000	01/15/03	06/01/15	1.6-4.0	34,000	-	34,000	-	-
Refunding bond (2001 issue)	5,765,500	05/28/09	10/15/21	3.0-5.0	4,160,000	-	534,000	3,626,000	525,000
Improvement bond	925,000	07/15/10	07/15/25	1.0-3.375	735,000	-	63,000	672,000	63,000
Refunding bond	8,485,000	06/01/11	06/01/25	2.0-5.0	7,010,000	-	585,000	6,425,000	650,000
Refunding bond (2005 issue)	6,810,000	02/09/12	11/01/25	2.0-4.0	6,195,000	-	430,000	5,765,000	555,000
Obligation Bond	1,620,000	01/15/15	01/15/15	2	-	1,620,000	-	1,620,000	140,000
Total schools					18,134,000	1,620,000	1,646,000	18,108,000	1,933,000
Sewer:									
Improvement bond	326,000	07/15/10	07/15/25	1.0-3.375	260,000	-	22,000	238,000	22,000
Total bond/notes					22,455,000	1,620,000	2,330,000	21,745,000	2,390,000
Bond premium					1,232,607	-	189,236	1,043,371	-
Total bonds and related liabilities					23,687,607	1,620,000	2,519,236	22,788,371	2,390,000
Compensated absences					591,660	328,311	78,737	841,234	250,000
Capital lease					680,781	-	147,251	533,530	163,893
Net pension liability - Pension Plan					531,906	1,079,667	-	1,611,573	-
Net pension liability - MERS					1,653,746		436,447	1,217,299	-
Heart and hypertension					922,130	154,530	92,773	983,887	100,469
Net OPEB obligation					1,494,146	51,887	-	1,546,033	-
Total general long- term obligations					\$ 29,561,976	\$ 3,234,395	\$ 3,274,444	\$ 29,521,927	\$ 2,904,362

* Restated for adoption of GASB No. 68.

All long-term liabilities are generally liquidated by the General Fund.

Town of Easton, Connecticut

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 7. Long-Term Debt (Continued)

The annual debt service requirements of general obligation bonds are as follows:

<u>Year Ending June 30,</u>	<u>Bonds</u>	
	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
2016	\$ 2,390,000	\$ 660,761
2017	2,400,000	580,124
2018	2,405,000	496,174
2019	2,395,000	422,911
2020	2,370,000	349,536
2021-2024	9,130,000	691,838
2025-2029	655,000	8,463
Total	\$ 21,745,000	\$ 3,209,807

In addition to the above recorded amounts, the Town participates with the Town of Redding in providing a high school for students residing in each town. Accordingly, the outstanding debt and related interest expense of Regional School District No. 9 (the District) is shared by Easton and Redding based upon the respective number of students attending from each town. Total outstanding debt of the District at June 30, 2015, which matures through 2026, amounted to \$13,965,000. The Town's share of the debt, net of the related grant, was \$6,428,040.

Capital leases: The Town has entered into leases for the purchase of school buses. The lease agreement qualifies as a capital lease for accounting purposes and, therefore, have been recorded at the present value of future minimum lease payments as of the date of inception. The following is a schedule of the minimum lease payments under the leases and the present value of the future minimum lease payments reflected at June 30, 2015:

<u>Year Ending June 30,</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2016	\$ 163,893
2017	383,225
	547,118
Less amount representing interest	(13,588)
Present value of future minimum lease payment	\$ 533,530

Heart and hypertension: The Town has recognized an estimated liability for possible future heart and hypertension claims by members of the police and fire departments based on current actuarial valuation.

Town of Easton, Connecticut

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 7. Long-Term Debt (Continued)

Legal debt limitation: The Town's indebtedness does not exceed the legal debt limitations as required by Connecticut General Statutes as reflected in the following schedule:

Category	Debt Limit	Net Indebtedness	Balance
General purpose	\$ 89,501,783	\$ 8,500,000	\$ 81,001,783
Schools	179,003,565	24,379,099	154,624,466
Sewers	149,169,638	238,000	148,931,638
Urban renewal	129,280,353	-	129,280,353
Pension deficit	119,335,710	-	119,335,710

The total overall statutory debt limit for the Town is equal to seven times annual receipts from taxation, \$278,449,990 or seven times the base for debt limitation computation.

The indebtedness reflected above includes bonds outstanding in addition to the amount of bonds authorized and unissued against which bond anticipation notes are issued and outstanding.

Authorized/unissued bonds: The amount of authorized/unissued bonds is \$183,000 for general purposes and \$4,971 for school purposes.

Note 8. Fund Balance (Deficits)

The components of fund balance for the governmental funds at June 30, 2015 are as follows:

	General Fund	Bonded Capital Projects	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total
Fund balances				
Restricted for:				
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 203,235	\$ 203,235
Education	-	-	2,248	2,248
	-	-	205,483	205,483
Committed to:				
Capital projects	-	-	226,473	226,473
General government	-	-	948,285	948,285
Public safety	-	-	250,604	250,604
Health and welfare	-	-	72,724	72,724
Library	-	-	1,054,288	1,054,288
Parks and recreation	-	-	133,767	133,767
	-	-	2,686,141	2,686,141
Assigned to:				
Subsequent year's budget	500,000	-	-	500,000
Potential claims	140,000	-	-	140,000
	640,000	-	-	640,000
Unassigned	5,536,960	(4,611,763)	(32,115)	893,082
Total fund balances (deficits)	\$ 6,176,960	\$ (4,611,763)	\$ 2,859,509	\$ 4,424,706

Town of Easton, Connecticut

Exhibit A-1

Balance Sheet
General Fund
June 30, 2015

	2015
Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 5,077,236
Investments	4,020,856
Property taxes receivable, net of allowance for uncollectible amounts	1,871,351
Accounts receivable	332,308
Total assets	\$ 11,301,751
Liabilities, Deferred Inflow of Resources and Fund Balances	
Liabilities	
Accounts payable	1,104,638
Accrued liabilities	1,095,199
Due to Regional School District No. 9	810,826
Due to other funds	371,471
Unearned revenue	24,165
Total liabilities	3,406,299
Deferred Inflows of Resources - Unavailable Revenue	1,718,492
Fund Balances	
Assigned for subsequent year's budget	500,000
Assigned for potential claims	140,000
Unassigned	5,536,960
Total fund balance	6,176,960
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and fund balances	\$ 11,301,751

**Report of Tax Collector
For the Year Ended June 30, 2015**

Grand List Year	Uncollected Taxes/Levy July 1, 2014	Current Year Levy	Lawful Corrections		Transfers to Suspense	Adjusted Taxes Collectible	Collections		Uncollected Taxes June 30, 2015
			Additions	Deletions			Taxes	Liens and Interest	
2013	\$ -	\$ 39,595,463	\$ 31,631	\$ 70,145	\$ -	\$ 39,556,949	\$ 39,015,384	\$ 104,746	\$ 39,120,130
2012	552,080	-	1,155	5,284	-	547,951	222,006	51,826	273,832
2011	333,184	-	1,041	282	-	317,580	99,754	37,363	137,117
2010	224,207	-	616	72	16,363	224,751	48,075	41,592	89,667
2009	168,140	-	-	70	-	168,070	60,345	36,539	96,884
2008	63,554	-	-	54	-	63,500	17,982	9,487	27,469
2007	24,028	-	-	-	-	24,028	-	-	-
2006	16,040	-	-	-	-	16,040	-	2,100	2,100
2005	451	-	-	-	-	451	-	-	451
2004	2,042	-	-	-	-	2,042	-	-	2,042
2003	985	-	-	-	-	985	-	-	985
2002	768	-	-	-	-	768	-	-	768
2001	733	-	-	-	-	733	-	-	733
2000	302	-	-	-	-	302	-	-	302
1999	2,304	-	-	-	-	2,304	-	-	2,304
1998	370	-	-	-	-	370	-	-	370
Total	\$ 1,389,188	\$ 39,595,463	\$ 34,443	\$ 75,907	\$ 16,363	\$ 40,926,824	39,463,546	\$ 283,653	\$ 39,747,199

Property taxes receivable considered available:

June 30, 2014	(94,309)
June 30, 2015	228,715

Property tax revenues

\$ 39,597,952

NOTES

NOTES

NOTES

TOWN OF EASTON, CT 06612

