

# TOWN OF EASTON



ANNUAL REPORT  
2008

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Provided here are reports from our Officials, Commissions and heads of departments of the Town and General Purpose Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2008. 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 overall coordination and planning and to Althea Falco and Danielle Alves for assisting.

Andrew Kachele, Chairman  
Board of Finance

## **SAMUEL STAPLES GRAVE STONE CITATION**

In memory of Mr. Samuel Staples who died February 21<sup>st</sup> 1787 in the 70<sup>th</sup> year of his age. He was possessed of a plentiful fortune which he devoted to pious and charitable purposes, especially in the founding of a free school for the education of poor children and youth in Fairfield. Also a considerable sum for the support of the gospel in the parish of North Fairfield and a large estate for the purpose of schooling poor children at the different schools in Weston. He was a steady attendant in the worship of God. A friend to the liberties of his country both civil and sacred and left this mortal scene in the humble hope of eternal bliss.

The cover photograph was taken by Cheryl Norton.



# **Town of Easton**

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## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**Town Hall**  
Easton, Connecticut





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# **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Easton is governed by the Town Meeting (which is the Town's legislative body), the Board of Selectmen (its executive and administrative body), and the Board of Finance (its financial body). The Easton Board of Education is responsible for Town schools and the Regional Board of Education is responsible for Joel Barlow High School. These two boards of education share a central office staff with the Redding Board of Education.

The Town is administered through a three-member Board of Selectmen with the First Selectman being the chief executive officer of the Town. The Selectmen serve for two- year terms which commence immediately following the election in odd numbered years. No more than two Selectmen can be from the same political party. The Selectmen hold regular meetings on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7:30 p.m., usually in the Town Hall conference room. Special meetings are held as required. Citizens are encouraged to attend meetings and time for public comment is allowed.

A number of able boards, commissions, committees, volunteers, and employees assist in the Town's operations. The reports of those entities are contained in this annual report and your attention is directed to them. Without the dedication of each of the individuals involved, Easton would suffer. With their dedication, Easton excels as a great place to live and work.

A Senior Center Building Committee has been appointed and will soon complete the renovation of a portion of the northerly wing of the old Samuel Staples Elementary School. Grants totaling \$1,750,000 have been obtained through the State of Connecticut which includes some federal funding. The new Senior Center is expected to open in March 2009. Once the Senior Center has moved out of its current space on the lower level of the building, it is possible another Town agency might make cost effective use of this area. The Central Offices of the Easton/Redding Boards of Education moved into a portion of the northerly wing in January of 2009. The lease for the southerly wing, occupied by Easton Country Day School expires on September 1, 2009 however negotiations to renew this lease are underway. There also remains significant open space in the northerly portion of the building and the selectmen are in the process of identifying cost effective uses for this space. Meanwhile, some of the areas are used for storage.

A new Tax Relief for the Elderly Ordinance was developed and passed at a Town Meeting in September 2008. The new Ordinance offers tax abatements, a tax cap and a tax deferral program, and has been heralded as one of the most beneficial senior tax relief programs in the State. The 2009 Tax Relief Ordinance will remain in effect for three years at which time the program will be reviewed.

Contracts with each of the unions representing Town employees have been settled through June 30, 2009 for the firefighters, through June 30, 2010 for the police, through June 30, 2012 for the highway department, and through June 30, 2010 for Town Hall employees and supervisors. The Human Resources Advisory Committee continues to review individual positions and non-represented positions for recommendations to the Board of Finance.

The Town purchased a 29 acre parcel of land on South Park Avenue from a developer that had proposed a high density housing development. The property is bordered by the Mill River in a section that is one of only a few spawning areas for the native Connecticut brook charr and was one of the first Class I wild trout management areas. The property is being leased to the New England Prayer Center who also has been sold an option to purchase the property. Such sale will be subject to deed restrictions and conservation easements in order to protect the critical water course.

A large parcel of land located on the northwest corner of Route 136 and Sport Hill Road faces the possibility of development. The owner has proposed a 21 lot subdivision with plans to provide for the construction of ten bedroom homes. The Planning and Zoning Commission is expected to rule on the application shortly.

The Board of Selectmen thanks the many citizens who have contributed their time and expertise to the Town by serving on its boards, commissions, and committees. We also thank all of you for helping to keep Easton special.

The Board of Selectmen  
Thomas A. Herrmann, First Selectman  
Robert H. Lessler, Selectman  
Scott S. Centrella, Selectman

## **TOWN CLERK REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS**

The Town Clerk and Registrar of Vital Statistics are elected for a two-year term. In Easton, these responsibilities are combined in one person. A brief summary of these responsibilities is listed below.

- Create, manage, preserve and maintain an archive of land records and other town records from the date of incorporation in 1845 until the present.
- Create and maintain an archival Daily, Grantor and Grantee Index of Land Records.
- Record and maintain an archival record of Births, Marriages, Deaths and Burials.
- Create, manage, preserve and maintain an archive of all town records including Minutes and Agendas of all Boards, Committees and Commissions.
- Create, manage, preserve and maintain an archive of all Town Meeting Minutes and Records.



- Manage the issuance, verification, collection and delivery of Absentee Ballot Applications and Ballots.
- Swear in all Officers and Members of all Boards, Committees and Commissions
- Issue Connecticut State Sports Licenses for residents and non-residents. This includes resident and non-resident: firearms; fishing; hunting and fishing; and firearms fishing and hunting. Resident: trapping; junior trapping and over age 65. Non-resident: three day fishing. Also included are HIP permits, handicapped; and junior firearms hunting.
- Sell Pheasant Tags; Migratory Bird Stamps as well as daily and lifetime fishing permits that are free to those age 65 years and older
- Sell fishing permits for Aquarion, Inc. facilities in town
- Sell Dog Licenses for all dogs 6 months old and older. Connecticut state statutes require that all dogs be licensed in the town in which they reside and have a valid rabies certificate that must be presented at the time of licensing. License fees are \$8 for spayed or neutered dogs, and \$19 for male and female dogs. A certificate of spaying or neutering must be presented at the time of licensing. There is a \$1 late fee for each month or fraction of a month that the license is late. Licenses are on sale in the month of June for the following license year that runs from July through June inclusive.
- Provide Notary services
- Provide certified copies of public records.
- Act as Town Sexton for Easton's four abandoned town cemeteries

#### **Land Records, Maps, Agendas and Minutes**

The State Statutes define that a primary function of the Town Clerk's office is to maintain and preserve an archival record of all of the Maps and Land Records relating to real estate transactions. They also require records of all liens and releases including mortgages and mortgage releases. This permits residents and the public to trace and verify titles to property. Similarly, an archival record of the Agendas and Minutes of Boards, Committees and Commissions, Town Meetings and Town Ordinances must be maintained so that a traceable record of town governance issues is available to the public.

On assuming office in 2002, it became clear that the system simply could not handle the volume of documents, and other work, despite the best efforts of the office staff. In addition, the Minutes and Agendas were stored on non-archival paper, in non-archival binders, and were not indexed making retrieval very difficult. The statutory required microfilm copies did not exist. As a result, new procedures were established.

At that time, we decided on a long-term plan that included the following:

- Focus first on the Land Records and later on the Minutes, Agendas and other issues
- Clear up the backlog
- Establish as an operating procedure that "an average day's work must be completed each day on average." This is necessary to prevent the backlog from again growing into a large volume of unprocessed work.

- Establish systems capable of handling the work volume efficiently.
- Establish the staff levels needed to get the work done.
- Establish methods of dealing with the large increase in recording and other transactions.
- Establish office hours consistent with the work load and the staffing level
- It was apparent that new technology was required. However, the cost of a commercial solution was prohibitive. Instead, the Town Clerk developed a combination of commercial hardware and proprietary software. Proprietary software was developed at no cost to the town and combined with commercial hardware. This results in a very large, and continuing, annual cost saving to the town.

This strategy has permitted the following changes:

- New technology was developed to process the documents. This resulted in the development of a low cost system for handling the volume of land records and maps. The cost of processing a land record document was reduced by more than 80%.
- The imaging of all of the land records and maps so that these are now available to the public electronically. This enables us to offer easy access to the information and to simplify the making of copies. At the same time, we have been able to restrict access to the delicate old maps and land records and help to preserve them.
- The imaging of all Minutes and Agendas up to the current date
- The initial focus has been on land records. The resources available have permitted little, or no, attention to the Minutes and Agendas problem.
- Software has been developed for numbering Agendas and Minutes when workload permits.

#### **Long Term Objectives**

Overall, our long-term objectives are as follows:

- Establish a computerized point of sale system for all incoming documents and licenses. The intent is to simplify the accounting so that at the end of the day and the end of the week it is a simple matter to close the books and allocate funds to the appropriate accounts.
- Establish a computerized system for recording and indexing all Land Records and Maps
- Establish a computer database of images of all Land Records and Maps
- Make our own record volumes in order to reduce the cost and make the volumes available on the shelf immediately
- Make the land records and maps available on line to interested parties.
- Establish the technology for printing copies of the Land Records and Maps.
- Establish a database of images of all Minutes, Agendas and other town records
- Establish a computerized system for recording and indexing all Minutes, Agendas, and other town records



- Preserve archival records by limiting public access to these original records
- Make applications for Licenses available on line.
- Computerize Absentee Ballot processing
- Make available on-line a calendar of events and meetings in Easton.
- Convert Agendas and Minutes of Boards and Commissions to archival quality

### **Current Status**

The status of our long-term objectives is as follows:

- Since 2002, we have had our own point of sales system operating successfully. This system permits automatic registration and costing of the more than fifty products that we sell. It also records both the funds paid and the method of payment and allocates the funds to the appropriate accounts. At the end of the day, it is a simple matter to close the books and account for all of the funds. It drastically reduces the time required for closing. This reduces errors and greatly simplifies the closing process. It also creates a comprehensive database of all transactions that permits us to evaluate transactions to correct any errors, or omissions, that occur.
- The same point of sale system validates all checks received and creates a permanent electronic record of the transaction including the payor and the reason for the payment. This permits a simple recall of the transaction for invalid checks
- The same point of sale system permits us to mark incoming Land Records with a number, time and date of receipt as required by statute. It has progressed to permit direct annotation of recording information on the image of the land record documents.
- The point of sale system also permits annotating marginal notes on land records as are required by law, and facilitates the maintenance of a dynamic image record database of Land Records.
- Since 2004 we have been making our own archival books of Land Records and Index books in house eliminating the time delay from shipping offsite
- Since 2004 we have indexed all of the Land Records and Maps in house eliminating the time delay from shipping offsite
- Since 2004 we have numbered all of the Land Records and Maps in house eliminating the time delay from shipping offsite
- The database of images of Land Records, Maps and Liens is complete. Land Records and Liens are updated in real time as new records are received. Maps are scanned in real time, in house, and are now only sent out for microfilming. Overall, this has eliminated the need to refer to the original Maps, or Records.
- A calendar of events is available on the town website.
- An email list has been established for direct weekly update of real estate sales.
- Absentee ballots are now handled by proprietary software developed in house for the purpose
- Marriage Licenses and Civil Union licenses are now handled in house using proprietary software developed for the purpose
- Dog Licenses are now handled in house using proprietary software developed for the purpose
- Senior Tax Relief benefits are managed using proprietary software developed for the purpose
- Software for numbering, date, and time stamping Agendas and Minutes has been developed and is in progress for the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance. Other Boards and Commissions will be addressed when workload permits.
- Easton currently has a searchable database for all records by volume and page from 1845, the date of incorporation, to the present day. Records are searchable by name from 1/1/2005 to the present.

The following objectives await the allocation of more resources to address these problems.

- On line, access to the Maps and Land Records awaits software development, or town funding of commercial software acquisition.
- The Minutes and Agendas will be addressed when resources permit. The methods and approaches developed for the Land Records apply directly to the Minutes and Agendas. The Board of Selectmen and the Board of finance have been brought to archival quality prospectively and for several years retroactively.
- The database of images of Minutes and Agendas awaits funding
- Budget constraints have not yet permitted the return to normal office hours

### **OPERATIONS**

#### **Fees Collected**

The Town clerk's office collects recording fees, conveyance taxes and other fees. The total amount collected in 2008 was \$322,254. This included \$187, 729 of conveyance taxes, \$102, 596 of recording fees and \$13,459 of dog license fees.

#### **Real Estate Sales**

In fiscal year, 2008 there were 97 real estate sales of more than \$10. This excludes foreclosures. The total value of these sales was \$75,091,613. The average sales price was \$774,140 and the median was \$731, 580.

In fiscal year, 2007 there were 12 real estate sales of more than \$10. This excludes foreclosures. The total value of these sales was \$88,430,601. The average sales price was \$789,559 and the median was \$735,000

Please note that these numbers do not include a large number of transactions between family members, or estates, in which no, or insignificant, funds changed hands. Note also that several transactions were for land only. The numbers reported above apply only to homes sold in Easton. It would be an error to over interpret this information. For example, the slight decrease in the average price could be caused by the lower priced homes selling better than higher priced homes because of the poor condition of the national and local, economy. This change in the distribution of sales would have the same effect as reduced prices.

Overall, compared to last year, the average decline was approximately: 3% of home sale price; less than 6% of the total number of transaction; and approximately 11% of the total sales value. The median sales price was almost unchanged. This probably represents a better estimate of the change in the value of homes sold.

As in past years, there appears to be a tri-modal distribution of home sales. At the lower end of the range, the few sales below \$100,000 probably represent partial ownership, undeveloped lots, or special situations. At higher prices, above \$1,300,000, the transactions probably represent the newly built homes that tend to be larger and more expensive, or land sales. In the middle are average home sales.

In 2007-2008 93% of sales respectively, were between \$100,000 and \$1,300,000 and represent the range of average homes sold.

### **Maps**

All of Easton's maps are now available as images in a comprehensive database. This includes Land Record maps, Assessors maps, Roads, As Built and Fire District maps. These can be reviewed electronically and printed out in a variety of sizes including full size, letter, legal and ledger size. The plan is to make them available on the internet in the future.

### **Marriage Licenses**

Easton uses proprietary software to completely automate license processing and generate an integrated database. The system uses an electronic version of the Marriage license form developed in conjunction with, and approved by, the State of Connecticut. The use of this system saves the town the significant expense of outside vendors. At the same time, it creates a permanent database and facilitates simple reporting and searching. The software and form is approved for statewide use and has been adopted by many Town Clerks in Connecticut. A similar system has been developed and is used for Civil Unions.

### **Marriages and Civil Unions**

The table below summarizes the total number of marriages and civil unions in Easton for the fiscal years 2001 through 2008. Civil unions were not authorized in Connecticut until 2005. In fiscal year, 2008 there were 35 marriages and no civil unions in Easton After the initial issuance of civil union licenses in 2005 no more were issued.

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Marriage</b>	<b>Civil Union</b>	<b>Total</b>
2001	52	0	52
2002	33	0	33
2003	39	0	39
2004	52	0	52
2005	44	2	44
2006	38	0	40
2007	31	0	31
2008	35	0	35
TOTAL [#]	324	2	326
TOTAL [%]	99.4%	0.6%	100.0%

### **Births**

In fiscal year 2008, there were 36 births to Easton parents. This included 21 boys and 15 girls.

### **Deaths**

In fiscal year 2008, there were 56 deaths of Easton residents. This included 31 male and 25 female deaths.

As expected, male deaths exceeded female deaths by approximately the same ratio as male births exceeded female births.

### **Dog Licenses**

Easton uses proprietary software that automates the data entry and processing of dog licenses. This automates the printing of a license form approved by the Department of Agriculture for statewide use. It creates a comprehensive database for future reference. This system saves the town the significant expense of similar systems from vendors including the cost of specialized forms.

We also provide for license renewal by mail. Details of the renewal by mail can be obtained from the Town Clerk's office. It can also be found on the town website.

[[www.eastonct.gov](http://www.eastonct.gov)]

We are collecting email addresses as dogs are licensed so that we can build an email address book of dog owners. Each year, as our email list increases, we are able to send out more renewal reminders by email. The intent is to collect as many email addresses as possible to minimize the cost of reminders and maximize the service to dog owners.

The email program combined with a volunteer group of Seniors who place multiple telephone call reminders to all other dog owners has eliminated all mailing and printing expenses.

During the fiscal year, we issued 1,254 licenses of all kinds. The total fee paid was \$13,459. The table below summarizes the licenses issued:

<b>DOG LICENSES</b>	
MALE	88
FEMALE	47
SPAYED	600
NEUTERED	511
KENNEL	8
TOTAL	1254

### **Elections**

The Town Clerk is responsible for processing Absentee Ballot Applications and Absentee Ballots. This requires verification that the voter is registered, retention of a record of who has applied and who has voted, and when, together with a record of which, and when, the ballots were delivered to the Registrar of Voters.

This year, the work has continued with the Assistant Registrar of Voters to develop and improve the proprietary computer based system that automates this entire process and permits real time review of the list of registered voters when an application, or a ballot, is requested. This system has been in place, and used successfully, for the last several elections and continues to evolve as we learn how to use it. It provides a valuable service during elections and referenda at no cost to Easton.

#### **Website**

The Easton Town website [www.eastonct.gov](http://www.eastonct.gov) is divided into departmental sectors. The Town Clerk's section has been augmented by the addition of the following:

- Calendar of Meetings and Agendas
- List of Home Sales and Transfers Updated weekly and annually
- List of Elected Officials
- Voter Information
- Voter Registration
- Some Ordinances
- Absentee Ballot information
- Marriage License Application
- Marriage License Information
- Dog License information
- Recording Information
- Election Results
- Upcoming Events
- Announcements

#### **Senior Tax Relief**

The Town Clerk's office designed and supported the software that is used to manage the Senior Tax Relief program.

#### **Summary**

Our overall objective is to facilitate convenient access to the Town Clerk's office, and the information stored there, for all the public, including those who work or cannot get in during office hours. This is a major reason for implementing the town website and internet access to the records.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Assistant Town Clerks Joan Kirk and Deborah Szegedi for their assistance and continued and ardent efforts and cooperation in assuring the smooth running of the office during this extended period of change. Jim Bromer, Assistant Registrar of Voters, has been especially helpful in developing the software needed to manage the Absentee Voting applications and ballots and assisting in providing and maintaining the required database of voters.

Respectfully submitted  
W. Derek Buckley  
Town Clerk  
Registrar of Vital Statistics

## **TOWN TREASURER**

Elected for a two-year term, the Treasurer of the Town of Easton is charged with managing the receipt, custody, investment, and authorized disbursement of the Town's assets.

That management involves recording revenues received, establishing accounts that simultaneously safeguard and maximize returns on cash held pending its disbursement and accounting for the Town's financial activities during the fiscal year. In addition, the Treasurer actively oversees a bonding program to finance the Town's long-term projects while maintaining the Town's strong Moody's Aa1 rating.

The Treasurer operates an active investment program designed not only to generate income on cash awaiting disbursement, but also to invest on a longer-term basis in anticipation of the Town's projected capital budget requirements. The income derived from that program during fiscal year 2008, although substantial, slipped materially to the prior year's as short-term interest rates drifted lower throughout the year.

#### **Town of Easton Investment Income**

<b>Year Ended June 30</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
2008	\$567,386	\$9,760	\$577,146
2007	783,156	20,713	803,869
2006	396,294	23,098	419,392
2005	377,295	33,453	410,748
2004	284,974	21,108	306,082
2003	308,677	13,123	321,800
2002	468,777	63,378	532,155
2001	770,095	24,214	794,309
2000	492,581	15,030	507,611
1999	406,253	16,767	423,020

With no major borrowing initiatives arising, the Treasurer's office continued to focus on the orderly retirement of debt. An interest rate environment of relatively higher long-term rates versus highly desirable lower rates on Notes issued for no more than one-year precluded the refunding of existing bonds and reinforced the continuance of "rolling" a relatively modest short-term borrowing exposure.

In addition to its investment and debt management duties, the Treasurer's office is responsible for Easton's accounting and reporting requirements as well as gathering information for, and aiding in, the preparation and monitoring of each year's fiscal budget. Keeping pace with the fivefold increase Easton's budget has experienced over the past twenty years, the Town's Comptroller installed a new financial management system during the year so that fiscal year 2008's financial statements and audit were the first to rely on that system. Despite needing to reconcile old and new system information, the audit was conducted and certified within the prescribed filing period.

Beyond its expected financial duties, the Treasurer's office is responsible for the Town's full range of Human Resources

responsibilities including payroll processing, new employee processing and retirement planning.

No set of fiscal responsibilities can be adequately managed without a committed staff. That dedication and commitment centers on Grace Stanczyk, the Town Comptroller, who remains the Town's steward of good accounting and budget practice and the source of fiscal information for the Town's officials, department heads, employees and its interested citizenry. Ms. Stanczyk's knowledge was particularly spotlighted in 2008 as both of her staff members simultaneously left to pursue other opportunities. Carmen Montero joined the Treasurer's office as the Town's new payroll and human resources coordinator while Lauren Miller assumed responsibility for the processing of the Town's payables. As with any transition of this complexity, dislocations did arise, but Grace's leadership and tutelage, coupled with Carmen and Lauren's efforts to learn and succeed, preserved the Town's ability to deliver expected results for these two highly visible and critical functions.

Respectfully submitted,  
John F. Campbell, Treasurer

## **TOWN ATTORNEY**

Since November of 1997, there has been no single Town attorney for Easton. On September 2, 2004, the Board of Selectmen changed the method of selecting attorneys. Attorneys are now selected not by the First Selectman, but by the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen has now adopted a comprehensive policy dealing with the use of Town attorneys.

Legal representation is required not only when the Town is a party to litigation, such as in an appeal from an agency decision, but also in connection with more routine matters. In some instances, the interests of the Town are protected by lawyers supplied by our insurance company in a matter where there is insurance coverage.

During the 2007-2008 fiscal year, and into the start of the 2008-2009 fiscal year, Easton was required to make significant use of attorneys. Attorneys have primarily represented the Town and its agencies in connection with land use, labor, tax assessment and bonding matters. Some opinions on legal questions have also been needed. One significant use of counsel was in connection with the South Park Avenue development including the appeal taken when the project was denied by both the Conservation Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission, however, those matters have been resolved through the Town's acquisition of the property. The Town also continued to require representation in connection with certain freedom of information requests.

Easton, along with a large number of other towns, was a defendant in an action claiming that some of the solid waste from the Town, which was claimed to contain hazardous

materials, had been delivered to a site in New Jersey. Unfortunately, although Easton contributed little by way of solid waste to the New Jersey site and no hazardous materials, the Town was involved along with the numerous other defendants. The matter has at long last been settled at a cost of \$30,803.

The attorneys who have worked for the Town on its various matters express their thanks for the cooperation of the various Town officials.

## **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, 2006 grand list were issued at the rate of 21.0 mills, which is equivalent to \$21.00 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, 2007 and January 1, 2008. Motor vehicle taxes were due in full July 1, 2007. Supplemental motor vehicle taxes for newly acquired motor vehicles registered subsequent to October 1, 2006 were due in full January 1, 2008 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 \$34,753,737 in taxes, interest and lien fees was collected during fiscal year 2007-2008.
- 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 \$119,153 in additions, and \$186,720 in deductions were made to the grand lists of 1999-2006.
- c. Report of transfers to suspense, Sec. 12-165 and 167, detailing list year, name, amount and reason. A total of \$10,318 was transferred to suspense from the grand list of 2004.
- d. Report of refunds, Sec. 12-129, detailing list year, name, amount and reason. A total of 132 refunds were given, totaling \$75,598 on the grand lists of 2004-2006.
- e. Liens: 50 liens for unpaid real estate taxes on the 2006 grand list were filed on June 30, 2008. Copies of these liens and all lien releases are on file in the town land records.

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

Patrice Hildenbrand, CCMC, Tax Collector  
Janice Greiser, Assistant Tax Collector

#### TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT ON COLLECTIONS:

Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/2008 (Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 12-167(1-3))

<u>List Year</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>1991-2005</u>
Total amount of unpaid taxes on each rate bill at start of fiscal year	\$34,786,928	\$474,919
Lawful corrections	-69,272	-6,740
Suspense	- 0 -	-10,318
Total amount collected on each rate bill during the fiscal year (tax, int., lien)	T: 34,478,448 I: 87,582 L: 264	141,522 45,273 648
Total amount uncollected on each rate bill at end of fiscal year (excluding interest & liens)	\$239,208	\$316,339

## 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 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 Assessor works with the Building Official and his office. Once a month the building department provides a list of building permits for the Assessor, she then proceeds to the property in question to measure any new construction a few times during the year. In addition to measuring, she also lists and assesses the property 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. She then 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 her assistant coordinates 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 sales, 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 changes are entered into the computer.

During the tax year, the Assessor and her 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 & 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 when ever 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. The Assessors office calculates the forms for the elderly to be sent 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 our office and can be applied for if their income complies with the Towns requirement.

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 by 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. She then inputs the information in the computer for tax bills for the following year.

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



## SUMMARY OF 2007 AND 2008 GRAND LIST

<b>Number of Assessment Lists</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Real Estate	3355	3340	- 15
Personal Property	391	408	+ 17
Motor Vehicles	7532	7516	- 16
<b>Gross value of taxable property</b>			
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Decrease</b>
Real Estate	1,578,157,280	1,581,351,980	+ 3,194,700
Personal Property	12,809,823	12,678,778	- 131,045
Motor Vehicles	74,672,745	69,445,650	- 5,227,095
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,665,639,848</b>	<b>1,663,846,408</b>	<b>- 2,153,440</b>

Teresa Rainieri CCMA  
ASSESSOR

## REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

The Registrar of Voters, one Democrat and one Republican, are elected state officials whose charge is to guarantee and to preserve the voting rights of the citizens of their town in a fair and equitable manner. Upon their election each registrar then appoints a deputy who assists the registrars in the performance of their duties.

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

Although the advent of the scanning machine and procedure for its use has made the voting process much more efficient, the new reporting responsibilities has increased the work load of the election staff, especially for the moderator.

Easton's turnout on the November 4, 2008 presidential election was record breaking with a total of 4511 voters representing 4094 in person voting and 417 by absentee ballot. The results of the presidential vote were McCain and Palin 2259, Obama and Biden 2238.

Election Day passed without any problems thanks to our election staff who continue to turn out for every election working long hours to help make our system work.

Many thanks to the administration, the staff and maintenance crew of Samuel Staples School, and to the town public works department for all their cooperation on Election Day. And a special thanks to the police department who kept a watchful eye on traffic control and the safety of our citizens throughout the entire day.

We will comply, once again, with the Connecticut General Statutes Section 923 which requires us to conduct an annual canvass of the town for the purpose of ascertaining the number

of eligible voters. This canvass is held between January and May.

Voter registration summary is, Democrat 1224, Republican 1769, Unaffiliated 2370, and 16 Other, for a total of 5379 voters.

The Registrar of Voters office is located in the Town Hall and is open on Thursdays 10 AM to 2 PM. Special sessions are held throughout the year for the registration of new voters.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eunice K. Hanson, Republican Registrar  
Nicholas V. Soares Jr., Democratic Registrar

## BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The Building Department includes the services required for 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:  
Daily 8:30-12:30 and 1:00-4:30

Subsequent permits are also issued for repair 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 the 2005 Connecticut Building Code", 2003 ICC International Building Code, 2003 ICC Residential Code, and 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 an 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 or questions.

Respectfully submitted,  
E. William Martin, Building Official

**ANNUAL REPORT MONTH OF  
JULY 1, 2007 TO JUNE 30, 2008**

Building & Zoning Permits 2007/2008	No. of Permits Issued	Estimated Value
New Houses	5	\$2,876,155.00
Additions/Alterations	60	\$3,576,579.00
Non-Residential	29	\$813,752.00
Swimming Pools	14	\$613,895.00
Above Ground Pool	1	\$3,500.00
Demolition Pool, Garage, Residence, Church		\$2,729,475.00
<b>MECHANICAL PERMITS</b>		
Solar	2	\$67,000.00
Plumbing	5	\$10,660.00
Electric	166	\$14,210.00
Tanks New/Remove	74	\$5,915.00
Caretakers Quarters		
Affordable Apartment		
Tennis Courts	2	\$75,000.00
Wood-Burn Stove Insert	3	\$3,900.0
Wood Stove Outside	3	\$15,000.00

<b>Zoning</b>	<b>Building</b>	<b>Total</b>
\$11,514.00	\$73,142.00	\$84,656.00
<u>5,198.00</u>	<u>37,292.00</u>	<u>42,490.00</u>
\$16,712.00	\$110,434.00	\$127,146.00

## **MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY**

The Municipal Agent is a person who is available and responds to the senior population of the community. This is a state-mandated position and each of the 169 towns in Connecticut has a Municipal Agent. The duties and responsibilities have increased in proportion to the growth of the elderly population.

The agent is familiar with programs such as adult day care, meals on wheels, housing, home health care agencies, mental health, legal referrals and all town, state and federal programs such as elderly tax relief, Medicare and veteran's programs.

The Municipal Agent is a separate department by itself although housed in the senior center. A monthly newsletter is sent to households, which have someone over age 50 residing there. This newsletter, which is combined with the Senior Center program, continues to be the chief means of disseminating information regarding resources and benefits. In addition to the Municipal Agent who has office hours from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm every working day at the Senior Center, Outreach Worker, Pamela Healy, is also available to visit homebound or seniors who have been referred to as needing a visit. She is a much-valued extension to the Municipal Agent and can provide needed information as well as a warm personality and good listening skills.

Keeping loved ones in their own homes safely is a priority. Outreach Worker, Pam Healy, has a list of private home-health aides and caretakers. References are checked before the individual is added to the list. Information about the pros and cons of hiring private pay individuals against those of an agency is also given to individuals requesting this list. A list of private health care agencies in the area is available as well as a list of handymen whose work has been recommended by Easton residents.

Seniors with limited income feel particularly vulnerable as the years go by. The Municipal Agent has information, which could be helpful in addressing the problem. The web site [www.benefitscheckup.org](http://www.benefitscheckup.org) is an exceptional help

Issues dealing with family adjustment to aging and health problems are also a concern. More children of the elderly are coming in and requesting help in dealing with them. More seniors are now living with their families in Easton and these seniors are more handicapped and have greater needs which their families are trying to meet. The Municipal Agent also sends her newsletters to relatives living out of town who request them. This helps them to be aware of benefits available to their loved ones in Easton.

As people grow older, cases of self-neglect and inability to cope are growing and, at times, have been referred to the State Department of Protective Services. The Municipal Agent is mandated to report these cases.

Twenty-five holiday gift bags were delivered in December. Items for the bags are acquired through donations from Easton residents and monies from the Martha Carrie Schurman fund. The fund was founded by Albert Schurman in memory of his wife. Through Al's and local resident's generosity, this fund has helped seniors in need pay extraordinary bills, and provide other necessities. Help is given confidentially and according to need.

It is hoped that Easton seniors will continue to ask for assistance. The Municipal Agent and Outreach Worker, Pam Healy, will be happy to serve them.

Patricia R. Finick, Municipal Agent

## **EASTON SENIOR CENTER**

As I write this report Easton Senior Center staff and volunteers are busy packing and sorting in preparation for the long-awaited move to the newly renovated area in the old Samuel Staples Elementary School (above the present senior center). It is expected that the anticipated date of opening of the new center will be close to May 9, 2009. At times the project has been somewhat frustrating and tedious as with all renovations, but the end project has turned out to be a wonderful use of an old neglected municipal building that was originally built with so much love and dedication as early as 1930.

Financing for this new center has been provided almost in its entirety by both Federal, State grants and private grants:

2002 STEAP GRANT	\$500,000
SMALL CITIES GRANT	\$750,000
TOWN OF EASTON	
MATCHING GRANT (required)	\$ 75,000
BOND FUNDING (waiting verification)	\$219,510
2008 STEAP GRANT	\$400,000
PAUL NEWMAN FOUNDATION	\$ 10,000
WILLIAM MORRIS FOUNDATION	\$ 40,000

The Paul Newman and the William Morris Foundations have donated funds for furniture because the other state and federal grants cannot be used for this purpose.

Special thanks are once again due to past Easton resident, Kathleen Pavlick who has worked with the William Morris Foundation on behalf of the Easton Senior Center.

This whole renovation project has been completed at a minimal cost to Easton's taxpayers and especially to seniors who will be able to take advantage of the expanded facilities.

Above all, however, the Easton Community owes a special debt of gratitude to the Easton Senior Center Building committee, John Bromer, Chairman, Foster McKeon, Vice Chair, Joseph Schettino and Rocky Sullivan. Without their incredible dedication and hard work there would be no new facility. There have been many days when they have walked the facility as early as six thirty in the morning, or have held meetings until ten o'clock in the evening. During the day they have also visited the building site in between completing their own business projects. Their dedication has, and continues to be stellar!

The Easton Senior Center continues to thrive annually and presents a diverse selection of both local and regional programs as a result of donations from the Easton Exchange and Lions Clubs, the Easton PBA, Easton Residents, Easton's Churches, regional stores, corporations, businesses and foundations. All programs at the Center are paid for by these donations. There is no cost to the taxpayer.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my staff: assistant, Kay Oestreicher, van driver, Aimee Goerg, assistant van driver Heriberto Torres, and custodian, Maria Mauro; my Advisory Board, Janet Gordon, (Chair), Alice Weissman, (vice-chair), Attorney Sharon Cregeen, Prabha Gupta, Joan Kirk, Dr. Claire Paolini, Dr. Sal and Mrs. Marilyn Santella, Bridgette Shkreli and Robert Tellalian (ex-officio.) Not to mention the members of the Easton Senior Citizen's Center Inc. our fund-raising organization, Chairman, Attorney David McDonald, Treasurer, Walter Eastwood, Secretary, Jackie Reck, Nancy Graham, Eleanor Clark and Terri Kelso.

I appreciate the efforts of the whole Easton Senior Center family and support system. This is definitely the secret of the center's success. Thanks everyone for making my task so much easier.

Val Buckley, Director

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Health Department's Office is located in the Town Hall and is supported by a Director of Health, a Health Officer along with 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 nature. We routinely monitor communicable infections, working closing 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 have again had a very busy year. We continue to work on protocols for addressing the possibility of a flu pandemic. We handled and responded to a number of infectious disease cases that occurred throughout the year and also worked on a number of public awareness campaigns for common illnesses

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 used grant monies from the Department of Public Health to hire a part-time field worker to help with the seasonal demands for soil testing and site inspections. We also worked closely with the local schools and newspapers in addressing various public health topics.

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

HEALTH PERMITS	2006/2007 Permits Totals	Fee Totals
SEPTIC (NEW)	27	\$4,425.00
SEPTIC (REPAIRS)	9	\$900.00
SEPTIC (REVIEWS)	97	\$5,100.00
WELLS	28	\$2,100.00
SOIL TESTS	77	\$6,550.00
FOOD SERVICE	15	\$1,500.00
TEMP FOOD SERVICE	14	\$680.00

# ***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 25" inches of snowfall, which required the Department to plow on 6 different occasions. Sanding of the Town roads occurred 17 times consuming 3,273 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 asphalt to maintain proper drainage, which leads to the application of liquid asphalt and then covered with a layer of 3/8" Trap Rock. The program comes to its completion about a month later when the excess stone is swept up. During the past year, 12.76 miles of road were involved in this program, with the use of 55,338 gallons of road oil, 2,292 tons of 3/8" Stone and 3,593 tons of bituminous concrete.

This past year the Department's drainage program entailed:

- |     |                                           |
|-----|-------------------------------------------|
| 1   | New manhole was installed                 |
| 5   | New catch basins were installed           |
| 15  | Catch basins were repaired or rebuilt     |
| 370 | Feet of storm pipe drainage was installed |

The Department takes care of all street and traffic control signs on the Town's roads. This past year saw 33 new signs and posts installed and 53 signs repaired or replaced. We are still in the process of installing the new hi-visible street signs on Routes 58, 59, 136 and Center Road in accordance with the Federal Highway Administration's mandated program.

The department purchased a new JD410 Backhoe/Loader and a 70' Aerial Bucket Truck

With the new aerial bucket truck, the Town's crew was able to maintain the Town's parking lot lights and also able to render needed attention to dead trees and hazar-dous limbs hanging over the Town roadways. This work was done in unison with the Town Tree Warden.

Applications for 38 driveway permits and 10 road-opening permits brought in \$1,200 in fees.

The department joined the Easton Garden Club for its 28th annual Green and Clean Day, which are held to encourage residents to join in and clean up all roadside debris in Town. The Department set up a drop-off area and disposed of the collected debris.

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 392 hours of work through-out the Town in unison with the Park and Recreation Department, Board of Education, Town Hall, Library, Easton Police Department, Easton Fire Department, 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 2007-2008 Town Budget in the amount of \$37,802,702 included appropriations of \$15,242,164 (includes Debt Service) in the Selectman's accounts, \$13,851,882 for the Easton Board of Education, and \$8,708,656 for the Region 9 Board of Education. On the basis of a Grand List of \$1,664,263,925 the Board set a tax rate of 21.6 mills for the fiscal year July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

Respectively Submitted by  
Andrew Kachele, Chairman-Board of Finance

## **BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS**

The Board of Assessment Appeals met for public sessions in fiscal year 2008-2009 during the month of March. The Board of Assessment Appeals also met in September of 2008 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.

Don Calvert, Chairman	Board Members
	Hugh Barry
	Judy Weinstein

## **PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**

July 1, 2007 marked the effective date of Easton's new Town Plan of Conservation and Development, officially adopted by the Commission the previous month. Over five years of research, mapping, analysis and six public hearings have preceded this blueprint for Easton's future. The Plan sets forth its long-term policies, on page 100 as follows:

"From this new perspective it is clear that Easton's long-term role in the greater region will be that of a 'greenbelt community' in which very-low-density residential is juxtaposed with wilderness open space, protected stream corridors and natural areas, with carefully-sited small groups of facilities essential to serve the resident population. Preservation of the town's cultural, scenic and historic character, moreover, will harmonize closely with these objectives. A healthful environment for the town's citizens, stronger civic values, and conservation of the natural environment are all possible – and are the basic principles which underlie this Plan of Conservation and Development for Easton."

The published Plan report, accompanied by maps, is available at the Commission's office at Town Hall (at a \$15.00 fee which covers publication cost).

During the past year several steps have been taken to implement recommendations of the Town Plan. With the aid of a grant from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation a two-year study documenting Easton's extensive historical and archaeological resources commenced in December 2007.

The interim report from this study has identified over 150 prehistoric (Native American) sites and a large number of historic sites including more than 200 existing buildings which date from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The interim report, which may be viewed at the Commission's office, provides much fascinating detail about the growth and development of the town. When completed in Spring 2009, the study will provide a sound base for protection of Easton's cultural heritage and landmarks.

Other planning initiatives undertaken this past year have included a master plan for future development and conservation of the Town's 127-acre tract on Morehouse Road, and a similar study for the Town's "Community Center" area which embraces the sites of the Town Hall, Library and Old Staples School. These plans are expected to be completed during 2009.

Several controversial development issues were resolved by the Commission during the year, following deliberation on alternatives in each case. In November 2007 the Commission approved a special permit for reconstruction of the Wells Hill Road bridge, limited to a one-lane structure to preserve the scenic character of this minor road. In February 2008 the

Commission granted a special permit for a new Town animal control shelter facility to be located near a parkland entrance of Town property on Morehouse Road. A referral report in May 2008 endorsed the town's purchase of 29.6 acres of land on South Park Avenue which had been the site of a 2005 application for an "affordable housing development".

In other actions the Commission approved special permits for a baseball field on Town property near Staples School, for relocation of the Town Senior Center and for District 9 school offices at Old Staples School, for a gazebo at the Easton Community Center, and for a private horse boarding/training facility on Eden Hill Road. One special permit application, for a nursery/daycare facility at a private home, was denied.

The region-wide slowdown in new construction activity was reflected in a reduced number of applications for subdivision and for zoning permits for new dwellings. Only one subdivision application was received for public hearing; this was subsequently approved, creating only two additional lots. Of the 117 zoning permits issued during the fiscal year 110 were issued for authorized accessory structures, alterations or additions and only seven were for new dwellings.

Regular meetings of the Commission are scheduled for the second and fourth Mondays of each month, at 6:30PM, with public hearings commencing at 7:00PM, usually at the Town Hall conference room. Informal courtesy discussions on zoning, planning and subdivision issues are scheduled with the Commission by advance written request. 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. Regular members are elected for a term of six years and are empowered by the Connecticut General Statutes as are the alternate members under Section 8-5. In accordance with an 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 2007-2008 the Zoning Board of Appeals met in session on seven occasions and heard seven appeals with variances granted to six applicants. One variance application was withdrawn and was subsequently resubmitted and approved.

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 request. During the fiscal year from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008, twenty-four applications were received. Twenty-four were approved. Of the twenty-four applications received, eight were reviewed and approved by the Designated Agent. Six Public Hearings were held. There were three requests for extensions of time and all were approved. Three requests for an 'as-of-right' Declaratory Ruling were requested and approved. The Wetland Enforcement Officer issued four violations and one warning letter.

The Commission continually works on revising the Inland Wetland Regulations for the department, as well as the department fee schedule.

All new home owners who purchase property which has a Conservation Easement attached to the parcel of land are notified in writing and given the volume and page numbers of the filed easement on the land records.

The Conservation Commission is also responsible for maintaining town-owned "Open Space" and for planning for future open space acquisitions. To that effect, it works closely with developers and conservation groups and recommends to the Planning and Zoning Commission specific areas to be acquired by the Town or otherwise protected which are in line with the Town's Open Space Plan adopted in March of 1994.

Currently, the Town owns nearly 300 acres of town-managed open space in various parts of Easton, with the single largest piece being the Paine Open Space on Maple Road. The Commission, through its Trail and Utilization Committee, its Open Space Management Committee as well as Boy Scout Troop 66, has maintained the existing trails and added more trails for the enjoyment of the people who walk the Paine Open Space. With the help of the Public Works Department, erosion on several trails has been eliminated. The Commission also abandoned an established trail on the Paine property because it went through a wetland area, and established a parallel trail outside the wetland area. With the help of a number of



neighbors and the Public Works Department, the Commission restored two farm fields on the property to encourage different species of wild life. In an effort to deter unauthorized vehicles, three gates were installed: one at the eastern access way, one at the main entrance, and one at the end of the Oak Ridge Trail on the Paine Property. In addition, new signs were posted to reinforce both state and town regulations for the Paine Open Space. The Commission took out an application and is presently working to complete the following: dredge two ponds, install a dry hydrant and repair a damaged pipe across Seven Ponds Tail. The dredging in one of the ponds, Boulder Pond, has been successfully completed thereby increasing its water flow.

The Commission also purchased two tarps to cover the existing historical Paine Barn which were put in place with the help of the Highway Department while the Commission seeks outside help to restore or remove the barn. In addition, the Commission has developed new Paine Open Space Maps showing both the Skyline Drive and the Carriage Drive Open Spaces, as well as any new trails that were developed on the property.

The Conservation office maintains a list of Open Space parcels in addition to a list of all recorded Conservation Easements. The Commission supplies Conservation Easement signs to be installed by applicants along any Conservation Easement that they have on their property. A large open space map has been developed by the Commission and put on display in Conference Room A. This map locates all the town-owned open space parcels.

Two new open space signs were purchased and will be installed on the Canterbury Road Open Space area and the Tatetuck/North Park Avenue Open Space area.

During the past year, the Commission joined the Endangered Lands Coalition which works to protect the watershed lands that surround and purify the reservoirs, rivers and streams.

A new alternate member John Mehanna was appointed to the Commission on January 2, 2008.

The Conservation office is open daily from 8:30 a.m. till 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Adam Dunsby, Chairman

Officers for the Easton Conservation Commission:

Adam Dunsby, Chairman  
Stephen J. Edwards, Vice-Chairman  
Eleanor Sylvestro, 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, Pat Finick, who is appointed by the First Selectman, serves as an ex-officio member of the Commission in accordance with State Statutes.

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 contributions 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 5:00pm 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 and August and January. The meetings are open to the public.

The Commission sponsored two seminars for Easton seniors. The October meeting discussed senior tax relief. Seniors agreed that there should be more than one program: tax credit, tax deferral and a tax freeze. It was felt that items/situations such as length of residency/medical or extraordinary household expenses, exclusion of 401K's should be considered. The May meeting had representatives from the Easton Police, Fire, E.M.S and Lifeline of Southwestern Connecticut discuss "Are You Safe in Your Home? Both meetings were a great success and got rave reviews from those attending. The Commission will continue to sponsor events in the future.

Cecelia Campbell and Pat Finick were appointed to the Senior Tax Relief Committee and presented the concerns and suggestions voiced by those in attendance at the seminar on

tax relief. Some of these concerns were incorporated into the new tax relief program.

Commission members are Cecelia Campbell, Nancy Gavigan, Gail Gay, Carol Hume, Teri Kelso, Janet Klein and Sharon Poole.

## EASTON PARKS AND RECREATION

The Parks 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 Parks 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, 2 softball fields, several cemeteries, Toth park, 5 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 is installing a state of the art irrigation system, along with the installation of water and electricity for future needs.

Easton Parks and Recreation has remained vigilant in its mission to offer free and cost effective programs to Easton residents. The annual Fishing Derby was well received and attended by residents of all ages. 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 2,000 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 Parks 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 Parks and Recreation Commission are: Kathi Smith – Chairman, Tom Cable, Michael Fleischer, Art Greiser, Mark D’Augelli, John Broadbin and Kathy Roach.

## INSURANCE COMMISSION

### TOWN OF EASTON INSURANCE SCHEDULE

7/01/07 -7/01/08

#### Commercial Property Coverage

Blanket Building & Contents	
Agreed Amount and Replacement	\$73,547,472
Contractor’s Equipment	695,065
Fine Arts - Exhibition Floater	200,000
Deductible	1,000

#### Commercial General Liability

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

#### Boiler & Machinery

	\$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 Liability

Each claim	\$ 1,000,000
Deductible	Each claim - 5,000

#### Law Enforcement Liability

	Each claim	\$1,000,000
Deductible	Each claim	5,000

#### School Leader’s Legal Liability

	Each claim	\$ 1,000,000
Deductible	Each claim	1,000

#### Following-Form Excess Liability

\$10,000,000

#### Pollution Liability

	per release	\$ 1,000,000
(Underground Oil Tanks)		
Deductible	per release	10,000

#### Workers’ Compensation & Employer Liability

##### Statutory

Exp. Mod. 1.13	
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

##### Specified In-Name Bonds

Tax Collector Bond	187,500
Asst. Tax Collector Bond	187,500
Retirement Plan Bond	160,000
Position Bonds	
Treasurer	100,000
Comptroller	100,000
Human Resources/Compensation Coordinator	100,000
Account Payable/Receptionist	100,000

## **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 Thomas A. Herrmann., Chairman Alan P. Goldbecker, Vice-chairman A. Reynolds Gordon, Secretary Michael Keden, John Harrington, John Smith, and Marvin Gelfand.

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 continues at a satisfactory pace. The Town's pension obligations at July 1, 2008 were 93.9% funded. Subsequent stock market conditions have negatively impacted the plan's assets.

In recent years 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. Costs of the Town's group health insurance program have escalated rapidly but in line with general experience.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Alan P. Goldbecker, Chairman

## **LAND PRESERVATION & ACQUISITION AUTHORITY**

The Land Preservation and Acquisition Authority was established by the Town of Easton, pursuant to Section 7-131p of the Connecticut General Statutes. The Authority has five regular members and one alternate member. The members are:

AnJenette Afridi, Chair  
Carolyn Colangelo, Secretary  
Victor Alfandre  
Gail Bromer  
Rob Ehlers  
Irv Snow - Alternate

The Authority shall on behalf of the Town evaluate land for possible acquisition or development rights to such land. The Authority shall make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen as appropriate. Land will be evaluated for acquisition based upon its potential use for open space, recreation, or housing.

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-131r, the Town established a Fund to be used for the purpose of acquiring and maintaining land and development rights within the Town of Easton. The Fund does not lapse at the close of the municipal fiscal year and is held in a separate, interest bearing account with all interest and income derived from the assets of the fund paid into the fund and added to the assets of the fund.

The Town, individuals, and public and private entities may all make contributions to this Fund. Any person seeking more detailed information or who is interested in donating land or money to the Fund is encouraged to contact the Authority. The Authority will provide additional information pertaining to conservation easements, deed restrictions, charitable contributions, and testamentary donations upon request.

Respectfully submitted,  
AnJenette Afridi, Chair  
Land Preservation & Acquisition Authority

# COMMITTEES

## CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The Easton Cemetery Committee was established in 2004 as a permanent committee responsible for those abandoned cemeteries in Easton that do not have a Sexton, Care Association, or other party, responsible for restoration and maintenance. At the same time, the Board of Selectmen appointed the Town Clerk as Sexton of all cemeteries in Easton, which did not have a Sexton.

Easton has seven cemeteries. These are Aspetuck; Center Street; Den; Gilbertown; Lyon, Maple Grove and Union. Aspetuck, Maple Grove and Union Cemetery are privately owned and are still actively managed. Center Street is not active; it has family gravesites available but appears to have no other remaining gravesites. Den, Lyon and Gilbertown cemetery are inactive. The town is responsible for those cemeteries that are abandoned and unmanaged.

Each of these cemeteries originally had a responsible party that maintained the cemetery. In the case of Center Street cemetery, the last remaining member of the Center Street Perpetual Care Association is Dwight Fanton. The Fanton family has several used and unused gravesites in the cemetery and wishes to use the remaining sites in the future. Other families also have gravesites available in this cemetery. Den, Gilbertown and Lyon cemetery are abandoned and have no available burial sites.

The Board of Selectmen on 11/18/2004 established a Cemetery Committee with Full Members and Adjunct Members. Alternate Members were added later. Later Gary Haines was appointed as a full member to represent Aquarion Water Company, Inc, which had provided financial support for the work at Den cemetery. Den cemetery is on Aquarion property.

They also established separate accounts to receive funds for each of the cemeteries to be expended in each case specifically on the cemetery in question. This was required because Dwight Fanton, the last known remaining member of the Center Street Perpetual Care Association transferred the Association funds to the town for maintenance of that cemetery only. His son Jonathan Fanton is an Adjunct member because of the family interest in Center Street and in the family gravesites in the cemetery. The other cemeteries have no known funding sources.

Mary Lou Weinstein is an Adjunct member because she has family gravesites in Center Street Cemetery and, in the past, helped maintain the cemetery when others ignored it.

In the past, the following was completed:

- The Board of Selectmen approved that the Park and Recreation Department should be responsible for cutting the grass and maintaining the plants and trees to the extent possible. The Public works Department has also been supportive in the maintenance of the cemeteries. In particular, they assisted in the removal of large dangerous trees that were a threat to the gravestones.
- A survey of the Center Street Cemetery was completed by Conservart LLC with recommendations on maintenance required. The Samuel Staples gravesite was selected as the first restoration project. It is located in the Gilbertown cemetery. Conservart, LLC has completed the required restoration work. The committee is grateful to Terry Aoch
- The town appropriated \$7,700 to restore selected Bradley graves that were of historical importance as founder residents of Easton. These were cleaned and restored. At the same time, the large trees that were growing from, or near, these and other graves were removed to prevent further damage.
- At the same time, a photographic library of the cemetery and the individual gravestones was completed. Kevin Andrew King, or "Drew" King, is not an Easton resident but he has completed extensive research on Center Street, Gilbertown, Lyon and Den Road cemeteries and has photographed all of the gravesites. Both he and David Silverglade have completed a survey of the cemetery so that the location of the gravestones was known before any work is undertaken.
- Ground penetrating radar was used to look under the ground and investigate a large clear grassy area in Center Street that appeared to be clear of gravesites. This work discovered almost 100 previously unknown graves in both Center Street and a similar number in Den cemetery. Drew King is engaged in extensive research that has uncovered a similar number of burials in Center Street cemetery that appear to have no known marker.
- In the Summer, a group of volunteers from Easton and other Connecticut communities sprayed and cleaned all of the gravestones in the Center Street, Den, Gilbertown and Lyon cemeteries.
- Cheryl Norton completed a short DVD of the work done on the Center Street cemetery. It is available for public viewing on the town website. She also completed before and after photographs of restored gravesites.

The current Cemetery Committee members are listed below. Thanks are due to them and other volunteers for the work done this year. Thanks are also due to Joan Kirk for the work as Secretary of the committee.



The committee and the Easton Senior Center initiated a joint "Adopt a Grave" program in the spring. This used public and private funding to restore specific gravesites in Center Street cemetery. The adopter partly funded the restoration and undertook a continuing responsibility for maintaining the gravesite. The first 35 gravesites were completed in the first phase of this program. The second phase will address others when weather permits in the spring. The photographs below show a typical before and after view of a restored gravesite.

#### **Full Members Beginning**

W. Derek Buckley [Chair]  
Robert Bloom  
Phil Doremus  
Gary Haines  
Joan Kirk [Secretary]

#### **Alternate Members**

Lisa Burghardt  
Jim Mellen

#### **Adjunct Members**

Jonathan Fanton  
Kevin Andrew King  
Terry Roach  
Mary Lou Weinstein

Respectfully submitted,  
W. Derek Buckley, Chairman

### **HUMAN RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Human Resources Advisory Committee is charged with advising the First Selectman and the Town's boards, commissions, and other agencies regarding human resources practices and related matters including classification of Town positions.

During the 2008 year, the Committee reviewed and proposed adjustments, as appropriate, of selected job grade classifications and compensation rates.

The Committee also updated the Employee Handbook which covers non-union employees of the Town.

The membership of the Committee during 2007-2008 was Thomas A. Herrmann, Chair; William J. Kupinse, Jr., Elise Broach, Valerie Buckley; Grace Stanczyk and Kathleen Loudon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas A. Herrmann, Chair

### **EASTON RECYCLING COMMITTEE**

The Easton Recycling Committee members are: Thomas Collins, Anthony J. Colonnese, Thomas Dollard, Clinton Salko, Philip Snow, and Ed Nagy, (ex-officio), of the Public Works Department. 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 Fairfield County Recycling (FCR) to operate an Intermediate Processing Center (IPC) in Stratford, which accepts recyclable materials. Curbside recycling pickup started January 7, 1991. Recycling tonnage collected by the Town this Fiscal Year was 913.01 tons.

Since July 2006, with the start of recycling junk mail, magazines, catalogs and corrugated cardboard the total tonnage of curbside recycling has increased by almost 300 tons per year.

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. It is TEaM's goal to expand this center's capabilities to accept additional recyclable products. Easton's share of recycled materials dropped off was 70.66 tons.

The volume of waste motor oil that was brought to the Public Works facility by Town residents for recycling was 950 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 2,693 tons of solid waste during the 2007-2008 fiscal year. The disposal fee for this solid waste was \$84.00 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 (3) to five (5) members at a Town Meeting held on October 21, 1992. The five (5) unpaid members are appointed for three (3) 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:

Ronald Kowalski, Commission Chairman  
Robert Nicola, Vice-Chairman  
Raymond Martin, Secretary  
Richard Colangelo, Commissioner  
Marvin Gelfand, Commissioner

The Board is charged with the organization, general management and control of the Police Department. It is also responsible for appointing a Chief of Police and police officers. It has control and management of all apparatus, equipment, and buildings owned and used by the Town for police purposes and, subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen. The Police Commission is responsible for the purchases of all equipment for the department.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ronald Kowalski, Chairman

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The Police Department is charged with the enforcement of laws and preservation of peace within the Town of Easton.

The Easton Police Department exemplifies what this town represents - tradition, honor, commitment, strength and innovation. We dedicate ourselves to work in partnership with the community to provide public safety and to improve the quality of life in every neighborhood within the Town of Easton.

**The Police Explorer Program**, organized in 2001, is designed to educate and involve young men and women in police operations. In addition to gaining working knowledge of police work, the participants have the opportunity to serve their community, by assisting officers at various community events.

**The Easton Police D.A.R.E. Program** continues to grow in our elementary and middle schools under the direction of Officer Mark Pastor. Approximately 350 students are presently involved in Drug Abuse Resistance Education, (D.A.R.E.). The program started in 1990 when only 65

students were registered. Officer Pastor is recognized as one of the leading D.A.R.E. Officers in the State of Connecticut.

**The School Resource Officer Program** was initiated through a Department of Justice Grant in July of 2005 under the Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) which provides for an enhanced collaborative partnership between the Easton Police Department and the Easton School Community. Officer Mark Pastor was appointed to this position and continues to perform the duties of D.A.R.E. along with the additional duties of School Resource Officer. Those duties include the coordination of school security programs, school bus safety, investigations of all youth and juvenile matters, and developing positive youth and police relations. This officer is assigned to these duties on a daily basis.

The Easton Police Department has again been awarded several federal and state grants over the past years. These grants included a Highway Safety Grant for DUI enforcement, Secure Our School Grant which provided thirty four (34) cameras to monitor the exterior of the Easton Schools, the Bulletproof Vest grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance Program and Homeland Security funding. Through this funding, the department has advanced in technology and has provided our officers with modern and safe equipment to protect this community.

After a 2007 evaluation of the emergency service radio system in Easton, it was determined that there were areas in town where radio reception was inadequate and there was need for significant improvements. A grant was awarded to the Easton Police Department by the Department of Homeland Security in the amount of \$90,000 to upgrade and enhance radio communications for this jurisdiction.

The new system utilizes a Voting Repeater System and Comparator along with our current repeater system to receive radio signals from remote locations within the town. This has enhanced communications for all public safety departments within the town and has provided for increased safety for police and public safety officers who serve this community. Funds from the Emergency Management Grant also provided a new and advanced radio system for the safety of our students, teachers and staff at our schools. This system, one of the first of it's kind in the state, allows our schools to communicate with the Easton Police Department directly over the police radio system. Special radios were installed in the schools which provide the new link to the police radio communications system. In an emergency, this type of communications provides immediate contact with police and emergency service departments.

The department continues as a "First Responder" agency, certified by the State of Connecticut and the Office of Emergency Medical Services, (OEMS). All police patrol vehicles are equipped with Automatic External Defibrillators; all officers are trained and certified to administer early defibrillation in cases of cardiac arrest. This program



continues through the cooperative efforts of the Easton Voluntary Emergency Medical Service, (EVEMS) and the Easton Police Department.

Once again, I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the citizens of this community for their continuing support and cooperation, and also to the men and women of the Easton Police Department who work with pride and professionalism to make the Town of Easton a safe community.

John F. Solomon  
Chief of Police

**EASTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT FISCAL YEAR END REPORT**  
**FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2007 - JUNE 30, 2008**

<b><u>ENFORCEMENT</u></b>	<b><u>2008</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>
MV Violations	686	1165	841
Parking Tickets	14	9	7
MV Warnings	824	1352	886

**CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS**

ACO Arrests	39	27	27
Arson	0	0	1
Assault	6	4	7
Breach of Peace	0	4	3
Burglary	2	2	2
Criminal Mischief	4	1	2
Criminal Trespassing	11	4	7
Disorderly Conduct	19	14	9
Drugs	21	22	13
JV Referral	2	3	9
DWI	25	30	30
Larceny	6	6	3
Liquor Law Viol.	25	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0
Sex Crimes/Rape	0	1	2
Stolen MV	0	1	1
Weapons Violation	1	0	0
Warrants	27	23	25
Other	13	16	19
Enforcement/Violations Totals	1725	2684	1894

**EASTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2007 - JUNE 30, 2008**

<b><u>COMPS &amp; Investigations</u></b>	<b><u>2008</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>
Accidents	189	203	172
Aided Cases	292	294	350
Alarms	846	969	1062
Animals	860	875	1008
Arson	0	0	0
Assault	3	4	6
Assistance	613	570	561
Asst Other Dept	246	228	246
Bomb Threats	0	1	0
Burglary	12	11	11
Child Safety Restraint	50	67	60
Computer Crime	7	8	8
Counterfeit	1		
Crim Mischief/Prop Dmg	48	65	62
C.M. Mailbox	64	82	97
Credit Card/Fraud	2	10	
Disabled M/V	182	222	257
Domestics	32	15	26
Fingerprints	256	265	203
Fires	117	149	141
Found Prop & Released	53	43	124
Other/General/Littering	35	49	106
Impersonation	1		
Homicide	0	0	0
Juvenile Referrals	0	0	7
Larceny	27	23	23
Lost Property	33	50	50
M/V Found/Lost	2	0	10
M/V Impound	5	11	45
M/V Stolen	1	6	10
Missing Person/Fnd	9	11	17
Narcotics/Drugs	11	18	6
Noise Complaints	94	102	79
Phone Calls	34	38	52
Permits	26	27	36
Record Check	103	72	75
Robbery	0	0	0
Select Enforcement	183	249	175
Sex Crimes	0	2	2
Soliciting	10	17	21
State Property	109	116	154
Subpoena	14	23	15
Suspicious Activity	76	110	45
Suspicious M/V	367	377	366
Suspicious Person	78	92	97
Teletype	94	64	89
Threatening	2	5	3
Town Property	266	258	345
Trespassing	6	5	6
Trucks	15	10	16
Utilities	507	577	737
Validation	13	13	8
Warrants/Arrests/Application	57	42	49
Weapon Law Viol	1		
Youths	36	42	68
M/V Stops/Arrests	1351	2303	1016
DWI	26	29	28
Liquor Law Viols	8	5	0
Supplement Rpts.	201	151	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7674</b>	<b>8978</b>	<b>8150</b>

## MUNICIPAL ANIMAL CONTROL

Governed by State Statute, the Municipal Animal Control Department is under the authority of the Chief of Police, who is responsible for the supervision of the Animal Control Officer (ACO) and the daily operations of the department.

The Municipal Animal Control Officer, Kelly Fitch, is empowered by State Statute with the authority to conduct investigations concerning any laws relating to domestic animals, to arrest, issue written complaints and summons any person found in violation of the animal control laws. State Statute further empowers the Animal Control Officer to conduct a search for unlicensed dogs and to seize same (without warrant). Two part-time ACO's currently assist ACO Fitch.

The Town of Easton conducted a survey of unlicensed dogs again this year, in accordance with Section 22-349L of the Connecticut General Statutes. The need for the survey has been occasioned by two factors: an additional 10% rebate to the Town on collected fees and the lack of voluntary registrations. It should be pointed out that delaying licensing results in arrest and a significant fine, in addition to the license fee requirement. **All licenses are renewable between June 1st and July 1st of each year.**

On November 3, 2005, the Board of Selectmen appointed a committee, "The Animal Control Shelter Committee", to consider a new animal shelter for the Town of Easton. In 2007 a STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) Grant in the amount of \$200,000.00 was awarded to the Easton Police Department by the State of Connecticut to assist in the construction of the new shelter.

On February 11, 2008, the Planning & Zoning Commission approved the Town's application to construct and operate an animal control shelter on the Town owned 127-acre tract at the westerly side of Morehouse Road.

I wish to thank all of our citizens who have helped with animals through their generous donations or time spent at the shelter. Your continued support is sincerely appreciated.

JOHN F. SOLOMON  
Chief of Police

### DOG WARDEN REPORT FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2007 - JUNE 30, 2008

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Comps Investigated	864	877	1116
Dogs Destroyed	4	3	6
Cats Destroyed	1	1	2
Dogs Redeemed	77	85	90
Cats Redeemed	0	0	0
Other	0	0	1
Dogs Sold	24	19	23

Cats Sold	18	7	16
Dog Owner Arrests	39	26	30
Dog Bites	11	11	15
Cat Bites	1	0	1
Other	1	0	1

Phone Calls Received	2062	2038	2570
Notices to License	576	501	538

## THE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

The Communications Center is under the direction of the Chief of Police who is responsible for the supervision of personnel and the daily operations of this department. The Communications Center operates seven (7) days a week and twenty-four (24) hours a day. All Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Service calls are received and dispatched from this department.

There are three (3) full-time civilian Dispatchers, Diane Adiletta, Loretta Harsche and Stephania Halverson. There are also seven (7) part-time Dispatchers who cover shifts on the weekends, holidays, and for other emergencies. The Dispatchers are mandated by law to complete the State of Connecticut Telecommunicator training along with additional training in the use of the Connecticut On Line Law Enforcement Communications Teleprocessing System (COLLECT) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) computer system.

The following services are provided by the Communications Center:

**ETP stickers** – this sticker, which is placed on the left rear bumper, is an excellent aid to Police Officers when responding to complaints. It makes the Officer aware that a vehicle is owned by an Easton resident. To obtain an ETP sticker, simply bring your vehicle registration to the Communications Center. If you are a new resident and your registration does not yet reflect your Easton address, please bring proof of residency with you.

**Vacant House Checks or VHCs** – when going away, feel free to stop by the Communications Center or call the main line and the Dispatcher will obtain emergency contact information from you. This will assist us if any problems arise in your absence. It is advisable that you call a few days in advance of your departure.

**New Residents** – If you are a new resident, moving within the state of Connecticut, you can save a trip to DMV by picking up a Change of Address for License and/or Registration card at the Communications Center. Remember that you **MUST** notify DMV of address changes within forty-eight (48) hours of moving. New Residents from out of state must appear at the DMV.

**Alarms** – emergency contact information can be updated by calling or stopping by the Communications Center. We recommend that all information be updated annually for current phone numbers and alarm codes. A reminder, that per Town Ordinance, all alarm systems should be registered with the Police Department.

**RUOK** – The Easton Police Department's Telephone Reassurance Program or RUOK, is a free service available to any resident over the age of 60, or to any resident who is disabled. You can sign up for the program by calling or stopping by the Communications Center.

**Data Alert** – This database alerts the Dispatcher to any disability that has been reported to the department for medical emergency response. When a call comes into the Dispatcher and your name or address is entered into the computer, the data alert will enable the dispatcher to immediately recognize medical disabilities that will save critical time in responding to the needs of those individuals. Please notify this department of any emergency medical information that you feel should be recorded in our **Data Alert System**. This information is kept confidential and used only for emergency response.

JOHN F. SOLOMON  
Chief of Police

## BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Fire Commissioners was established by a town ordinance in 1965. It is responsible for insuring that fire protection services are provided for residences of the town. The commission works in close cooperation with the town employed fire fighters, the fire marshals office and the Easton volunteer fire company #1, a separate non-town support corporation, which furnishes the volunteer man power for fire fighting with the full time employed fire fighters.

The commission meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the firehouse training room. Fire Marshall Peter Meary, Chief Doug Von Holtz with the company's officers and men attend the meetings. The town employed men give 24 hour coverage of the firehouse, where by there are two men on duty to answer the alarm.

Currently the town owns four firefighting vehicles. A concern of the commission and the fire department is that as large buildings and taller homes are built, we will have the proper equipment to fight fires and rescue individuals.

Dry hydrants are an ongoing project of the fire company; installations are made at Ponds for a supply of water. The fire trucks only carry a limited amount of water. The dry hydrants greatly increase the supply of water when it's needed.

The commission and the fire company urge all residence of the town to install home smoke and fire detectors. They are the best defense against injury or death due to a fire. The

national fire protection association studies show that 90% of the deaths that occur in homes from fires did not have smoke detectors or fire alarms. It is also recommended that each home is equipped with an ABC class portable fire extinguisher and it be kept in a handy spot.

The commission would like to thank the officers and members of the Easton Volunteer Fire Company #1 and the fire marshals of the town. These volunteers are on call 24-7 for the town of Easton. They spend countless hours, training, drills, maintaining equipment and even fighting fires. We thank the group of "highly motivated and dedicated people".

Respectfully Submitted  
George A. Beno Chairman  
Ralph Altieri  
Anthony Colonnese  
Rob Monda

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

The Easton Volunteer Fire Company #1 was established in November of 1921 and has continuously provided fire protection to the Town of Easton. Currently there are 27 active firefighters serving in the Fire Company. These volunteers come from a wide cross-section of Easton's diverse community. They are Architects, General Contractors, Actuaries, Traders, etc. These men and woman spend countless hours training for and responding to the wide variety of emergency calls. The elected line officers of the Fire Company in 2008 were Chief Doug von Holtz, 1st Assistant Chief James Girardi, and 2nd Assistant Chief Steve Waugh. The executive officers For the Fire Company in 2008 were President Paul Skrtich, Vice President Jon Davis, Secretary Lucy Crossman, and Treasurer James Wright.

The Easton Fire Department was created in 1947. At first there was only one career firefighter who would work the daytime hours during the week. During the 1950's two more firefighters were added to the Fire Department. In 1968 the fourth a position was added to the roster. In 2007 four additional positions were added to the career staff bringing the number of career firefighters to eight. This provides staffing at the Fire House 24 hours a day 365 days a year. The career firefighters perform the crucial tasks of maintaining the Town's firefighting equipment. The Town's current career fighters are Wayne Crossman, James Wright, Michael Ohradan, David Davies, Al Doty, Martin Ohradan and Michael Sabia. Michael Strehan is a probationary firefighter.

The 2008 calendar year was a busy year. The Department responded to 343 calls during the year. The calls types varied

greatly. A breakdown of the most frequent types of calls is as follows: 91 alarm activations, 43 lock-outs, 37 vehicle accidents. We also responded to a variety of hazardous material releases. All told the Department personnel expended over 1,800 person hours responding to emergency calls.

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.

Respectfully submitted  
James Girardi  
Acting Chief

## **EASTON VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE**

Members of the EMS Commission are Mr. Robert Adriani, Chairman, Mrs. Gloria Bindelglass, Mr. William Chiarenzelli, Dr. James Spak, and Mrs. Adele O'Kane. The Commission meets the second Wednesday of each month at EMS Headquarters and if a holiday, on Thursday. The Commission's responsibility is to oversee the Town budget for the EMS services, the activities of the full and part time EMS staff, the maintenance and management of the EMS Headquarters and equipment and serve as a liaison between the Easton Volunteer Emergency Medical Service and the Town of Easton. Also, the Commission acts in an advisory capacity to any matters presented by the EMS Service of the Town of Easton.

The Easton Volunteer Emergency Medical Service consists of 39 volunteers, including college students, who participate when they are available. Officers and Directors are Mrs. Marge Smith, President and Chief of the Department, Police Sergeant Jonathan Arnold, Vice President and Assistant Chief/Operations, Ms. Victoria Sinnicki, Secretary, Mr. John Smith, Treasurer, Mrs. Carolyn Kearney, Director of Training, Ms. Midge Olschan and Ms. Patty Kusovitsky co-Directors of Personnel, Mr. Dave Kmetz, Director of Vehicle and Building Maintenance, Mr. Victor Malendretos, Director of Communications, Ms. Ann Slimak, Director of Scheduling, and Mrs. Margaret Shukie, Director of Public Relations. Chief Smith and Assistant Chief Arnold receive a stipend from the town for their work leading the service. Chief Smith attends monthly meetings of the Southwest Emergency Medical Council on behalf of the Town of Easton to stay abreast of regional and statewide EMS issues and recommendations. She then reports this to the Easton EMS Commission at their monthly meetings. Also, throughout the year, Mrs. Smith attends other meetings in Easton and surrounding towns as they relate to the emergency medical service. Other meetings such as homeland security are attended as needed by both Chief Smith and Assistant Chief Arnold, as well as Tri-Town Meetings with Easton, Monroe and Trumbull whenever scheduled. Mr. William Chiarenzelli represents 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 hospitals and between area ambulances as needed.

There were 358 total calls plus the standbys noted below for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. A breakdown of call types (number of patients) indicate: 130 trauma; 222 medical; 51 under age 18; plus 6 medical mutual aid calls to other towns (Stratford 1, Trumbull 4, Monroe 1); 56 miscellaneous (such as lift assist, patient standby waiting for commercial service to take patient to an out-of-area hospital); 7 cancellations enroute and 35 rolled to a commercial service. In addition to this, there were 17 standbys: 1 fire standby, 1 Halloween bonfire; 1 DARE Race; 1 Memorial Day Parade; 1 Touch-a-Truck; 5 nights for Firemen's Carnival, and 5 bicycle tours plus 1 for Cystic Fibrosis and 1 5-K Walk for the benefit of the Norma F. Phiem Breast Center Care co-sponsored with the Easton Park and Recreation Department. During the year, there were also times when we are called upon to standby for other major town events. In 2007, 10,804 hours were volunteered by 41 volunteers, manning two ambulances.

For more information about Easton EMS or to volunteer, go to [www.EastonEMS.com](http://www.EastonEMS.com).

The Easton EMS is a basic emergency medical service supplemented by paramedic intercepts as needed in accordance with State-mandated protocols. Two EMTs work on a full-time basis from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm which is then supplemented by two additional per diem EMTs working 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm followed by our volunteer schedule for 6:00 pm to 6:00 am and covering the 24-hour/day weekend calls. The one hour 6:00 am to 7:00 am is covered by agreement with Nelson Ambulance Service, our designated paramedic intercept service. Additionally, Easton EMTs cover vacation, illness, etc., with per diem personnel.

In the event of multiple calls or occasional non-availability of volunteers, an agreement is in place for backup by Nelson paramedic ambulance, as well as, area towns for mutual aid. Importantly, renovations to accommodate overnight shifts have been completed.

The Easton Police Department officers continue to be "First Responders" to all emergency medical calls. They are fully trained and equipped with Automatic External Defibrillators and other primary resuscitative equipment. Our First Responders and Easton EMS meet recommended Office of Emergency Medical Service response time requirements established by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health.

The billing for Easton ambulance service for the fiscal period July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 is: billed \$ 167,443; income collected \$ 101,325. An amount in the area of \$ 15,772 is still pending and being sought. This, however, includes certain disallowances and definite unrecoverables. Our overall collection rate was 73% which is on the high side considering a



collection rate of 55% is considered good. Monies collected go into the general fund.

Without requesting town funds, EVEMS continues to work toward acquiring a new EMS Headquarters wherein we will better meet the needs of a growing and demanding town, enhance EMT professionalism, provide better incentive and establish a more suitable environment to retain and recruit volunteers. We continue our fund raising efforts toward this goal and wish to thank all who so kindly support us. Our success with these efforts will be of significant benefit to the EVEMS and the Town of Easton.

Respiratory evaluations and fit testing for high efficiency filter masks are required on an annual basis so that Easton EMS is prepared to respond to a bio-hazard incident and EMTs will be protected while taking care of and transporting patients. Cross training on extrication of accident victims continues each year with the Fire Department. Also, other related OSHA training mandates are done each year.

The Easton Volunteer Emergency Medical Services honored Bruce Lewis with the "Easton EMT of the Year Award for 2008." This award was established to honor Herb Goldman who served Easton for 7 years before his death untimely on January 22, 2002.

Bruce contributes significantly to our service volunteering over 700 hours in the past fiscal year. We deeply appreciate all he does for us.

EVEMS participates in the annual Joel Barlow High School MADD presentation and supports a high school EMT Class. Our EMS facility is open to visitation by community organizations such as the Cub Scouts, Brownies, and other groups like the Boy/Girl Scouts. Visits are scheduled by calling EMS headquarters. Joel Barlow High School athletic teams and other Easton youth organizations are allowed to use our facility for car washes to raise funds. The Easton Garden Club reserves the garages each year for their plant sale in the event of rain. EVEMS supports the DARE Program in Easton's schools, as well as, the Easton Police Explorer Post. EVEMS also supports the Fire Department on standby for fires and specific training events where it is prudent to have medical rescue personnel nearby.

The EVEMS nurses assisted emergency services in town with hepatitis vaccination, annual TB skin testing, respiratory screening and other OSHA- mandated worker safety compliance programs.

We encourage Easton residents to call our headquarters to inquire about EMT and CPR courses and/or visit our website at Easton EMS.com. We run an annual EMT class whereby we look forward to more Easton residents joining our service.

Robert Adriani  
Chairman, EMS Commission

Marge Smith, EMT-D  
Chief, EVEMS

## ***PUBLIC LIBRARY***

### **EASTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Change was the watchword at the Library during FY 2007-08. July ushered in the new year with a major technological change and June ended the year with a personnel change. During the ten months in between, the Library introduced some exciting new services, programs, and collaborations. At the same time, some long standing relationships came to an end.

On July 9, 2007, the Library went "live" with a new automated system. Bibliomation, Inc., a cooperative library service organization with forty-nine members throughout the state, now manages the Library's circulation system and on-line public access catalog. With the rapid changes in technology and financial limitations, it is difficult for libraries, especially small libraries, to keep current. By becoming a member of this consortium, the Library is provided with database management, reduced pricing for computers, computer equipment, and software, training and technical support. Furthermore, the collections of all members are available for borrowing, interchange is quick and efficient, and our patrons enjoy a large inventory from which to select materials.

Once again, the Library's Summer Reading Program propelled July into the Library's busiest month, with 6,060 visitors and 8,314 items circulated. August was a close second with 5,993 visitors and 8,395 items circulated. In eight weeks, 417 children read 5,505 books and 97 adults joined in the fun and read 633 books! The high point of the summer's activities was the Harry Potter Party, which began at midnight and celebrated the release of *Harry Potter and the Deadly Hallows*, the seventh and last book in J.K. Rowling's outstanding series. One hundred and eleven Potter fans joined together in a dazzling display of wizardly fun.

The Friends of the Easton Public Library support the Summer Reading Program and many other Library activities. In September, the Friends added a new event to their calendar—an Arts and Crafts Show held on the Easton green. October's Story Book Parade was its customary success, the November Book Sale attracted many bargain hunters and the 4th annual Holiday House Tour and Holiday Party brought a busy 2007 to an end. In April, during National Library Week, the Friends hosted the annual Fun Night bringing neighbors together at the Library for a literature based event. The Friends' unwavering support and enthusiastic members make the Library a very special place to visit.

The Library continued its efforts to introduce the wonders of today's technology to its patrons by adding wireless service, Playaways, and downloadable books to its resources during FY 2007-08. The Library is fully wireless for our users' convenience. A laptop may be used in any corner of the Library and the Community Room.

A Playway is a marvelous self contained, pre-recorded audio player. Audio books are now available in this format. About the size of a small box of matches, weighing only two ounces, a Playaway is capable of storing up to 80 hours of audio. Like an MP3 player, an audio book can be listened to via earphones or an external amplifier. Entire audio books can be downloaded from the internet to a PC or MP3 player with just a click of a mouse. Visit the Library's web page, select "Downloadable Books" on the side bar and follow the instructions. A valid Easton Public Library card is needed to take advantage of this 21st century service.

The Library remains committed to collaborating with Easton schools, clubs and organizations. On December 14th, the Easton Historical Society, the Library and Helen Keller 6th graders joined in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Weston/Easton meteorite strike. The Historical Society buried a time capsule on Library property adjacent to the Community Room entrance. A marker will be placed on the site with instructions for future Eastonites to open it in 2208.

In 2002, the Library Director and a congregant of Easton's Congregational Church created the Library "Beyond Reading" book discussion group for adults. Meetings were ably facilitated by Rev. Nayiri Karjean. In January 2008, Rev. Karjean accepted a position in Texas. Nayiri's incisive questions and keen observations guided the group and made for lively, interesting discussion. Group members continue to exchange ideas and opinions based on classic and modern literature the third Thursday of each month. The "Beyond Reading" group welcomes new members.

A new partnership was born in January. The Library hosted Joel Barlow High School's first jewelry auction. Through the Art Department, the jewelry design class at Barlow became involved with teens on a Lakota reservation. As a part of class work, each Barlow student created one piece of silver jewelry to auction off. One hundred twenty people engaged in animated bidding wars for the beautiful, unique creations and the Lakota Reservation's high school art program from their enthusiasm and generosity.

In April, Mrs. Sharon Daniel, Children's Librarian/Assistant Director, resigned her position. Hired in 2004, Ms. Daniel formed many friendships with Easton's young parents and children. She was a definite asset to the Library. On a happier note, in May, the Library hired Ms. Lynn Zaffino, to fill the position of Young Adult/Children's Librarian which had been vacated by Kelley Giles.

On May 31st, the Library hosted a Dog Show to kick-off its first One Book program. A One Book Program is a community-wide initiative, which brings people together to share their thoughts and ideas regarding one specific book. Easton's One Book choice was *Marley and Me* by Jon Grogan. It was a perfect fit for the Town in that there are three versions of the story. The adult/young adult biography, a middle grade novel *Marley: A Dog Like No Other* and a picture book *Bad*

*Dog Marley*, thus insuring that all Easton's citizens could be involved in this collective experience. The Dog Show was a howling success with 58 canine entries and 150 humans in attendance. Another fun-filled event is planned for Spring 2009 to bring One Book! One Town! Easton Reads! to an end.

The year ended with the Library, once again, hosting Helen Keller 7th grade students and their families at the culminating event of their year long study of diverse cultures, "Take a Walk in My Shoes". The students showcased their projects and everyone tasted delicious foods from the many nations studied. Also, in June, the Library added Lisa Forman to its staff. Ms. Forman, an experienced librarian, replaced Ms. Daniel as Children's Librarian/Assistant Director.

In FY 07-08, the Easton Public Library presented 196 programs with over 4,500 people in attendance, a true example of the Library as a learning and activity center for all to enjoy.

While societal, technological and economic changes are occurring at breathtaking speed, the Library will continue to do its best to meet the informational, educational and recreational needs of its users.

***Remember – Find It At Your Library!***  
***[www.eastonlibrary.org](http://www.eastonlibrary.org)***

#### FY 2007-2008 Statistics

Circulation: 100,779

Registered Borrowers: 5,105

Total Materials: 70,415



# ***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 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 (ER9 School Districts) share a superintendent, an assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, and a director of finance and operations. Dr. Allen Fossbender is the superintendent of the three school districts; E. Marie Mas is the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction; Margaret Sullivan is the director of finance and operations.

Easton's school enrollment continues to grow. As of October 1, 2007, Samuel Staples (K-5) student enrollment was 802, and Helen Keller Middle School (6-8) student enrollment was 377.

The Easton Board of Education provides funding for curriculum development, particularly summer curriculum work in the areas of integrated language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, health, world languages, information technology, music, art and physical education. The assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction works closely with language arts, mathematics, social studies and science teachers in the development of formative and summative assessments to measure student achievement in relation to the academic standards of the Connecticut State Department of Education. The Easton School District's Technology Plan identifies preferred practices and funding to ensure that all students become competent in the use of technology. The district continues to improve student achievement as measured by the state-mandated Connecticut Mastery Tests and the Connecticut Academic Performance Tests.

Professional development for teachers continues to focus on the alignment and implementation of various curricula, the integration of technology into curricula and instruction, and differentiated instruction. Instructional and assessment practices that assist teachers in working with students who have special needs are continually updated. The school district's overall standards-based curriculum requires each student to perform academically at a proficient level.

The Easton School District is a member of the Tri-State Consortium, which includes high-performing school districts in Fairfield County, Long Island, and the Greater Westchester Area. Many Easton administrators and teachers have received training in the Tri-State School Evaluation Protocol and have participated in the evaluation of Tri-State Schools. The school administrators use Tri-State criteria to develop and implement annual school-improvement plans.

The district continues to participate in the Open Choice Program to meet the state mandate to reduce racial isolation. One child from the Bridgeport School District was enrolled at Helen Keller Middle School, and six children were enrolled at Samuel Staples Elementary School during the 2007-2008 school year.

The taxpayers of Easton approved a 2007-2008 budget of \$13,851,882 for the Easton School District.

The members of the 2007-2008 Easton Board of Education were John Allan, Dr. Elin Cohen, Dr. Alan Katz, Glenn Maiorano, Al Treidel and Dr. Daniel Underberger.

For more information about Easton Public Schools, please visit the ER9 Central Office Web site at [www.er9.org](http://www.er9.org), the Samuel Staples Elementary School Web site at [www.er9.org/sses](http://www.er9.org/sses), and the Helen Keller Middle School Web site at [www.er9.org/hkms](http://www.er9.org/hkms).

## **REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #9**

Joel Barlow High School is under the purview of Connecticut Regional Board of Education No. 9; the school is located at 100 Black Rock Turnpike (Route 58) in Redding. The school serves the Town of Easton and the Town of Redding. As of October 1, 2007, it had a population of 962 students in grades nine through twelve.

Of the 96 high school faculty members, 4 have doctorates, 41 have Sixth-Year Professional Certificates, 42 have Master's Degrees, and 9 have Bachelor's Degrees. The school's picturesque campus of 113 acres accommodates 26 varsity and 11 junior varsity sport teams. The school's unique Student Activity Program sponsors 57 extracurricular and co-curricular activities during and after school hours.

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 and the Washington Post. The College Board uses the school's rubric for its Junior Writing Portfolio as a national model. 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. In addition, the school received in 2007-2008 two awards from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education for its program of studies and its student/parent/guardian handbook. 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.

The high school has ranked consistently among several top schools in Connecticut for student performance on the state-mandated Connecticut Academic Performance Test. Student performance on the SAT I, SAT II, and Advanced Placement Examinations have been noteworthy. In 2007-2008, 92 percent of seniors took the SAT I. Students achieved a mean score of 570 out of a possible score of 800 in writing, 561 in mathematics, and 553 in reading. One student was a semi-finalist and seven students were commended scholars in the 2007 National Merit Scholarship Program. In 2008, 156 students took a total of 239 Advanced Placement Examinations in 20 Advanced Placement Subjects. Eighty-one percent of the students achieved a grade of 3 or higher in the examinations. Ninety-five percent of the Class of 2008 planned to attend postsecondary institutions. Although the vast majority of Joel Barlow graduates attend college, the spectrum of courses offered at the school is designed to meet the needs of all students, including those students who pursue vocational training.

A large-scale, complex building project was completed in 2006. It has resulted in many improvements to the school building, playing fields, and related facilities. The project included the construction of a large addition of 26 classrooms, including science classrooms/laboratories and the renovation of existing classrooms, auditorium, gymnasium, cafeteria, administrative and guidance offices, Commons Area, and parking lots. New laboratories have been built for world languages, mathematics/science, humanities, business education, graphics, Cisco Networking, and multi-media/multi-material fabrication. Site improvements also included the construction of a new competition playing field, new multipurpose playing fields, new cross-country course, and eight new tennis courts.

The taxpayers of Easton and Redding approved a 2007-2008 budget of \$19,331,089 for Joel Barlow High School/Regional School District No. 9.

The members of the 2007-2008 Region 9 Board of Education were Catherine Gombos, Chris Hocker, Mark Lewis, Thomas Logie, Tony Neidenbach, Julia Pemberton, Arthur Poltrack, and Huntley Stone.

For more information about Joel Barlow High School, please visit the ER9 central-office Web site at [www.er9.org](http://www.er9.org) and the high school's Web site at [www.er9.org/jbhs](http://www.er9.org/jbhs).

## DEBT SERVICE AND BENEFITS ACCOUNT

Debt Service and Benefits Account  
Selectmen's Budget for the Board of Education  
Fiscal year July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

### IN KIND SERVICES:

#### PENSION

TOWN'S CONTRIBUTION FOR EMPLOYEES	\$90,000
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#### ACTUARY FEES

1/2 ANNUAL FEE	\$4,750
CHECK WRITING/REFUNDS/MISC.	\$2,635

UNEMPLOYMENT	\$0
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#### EASTON FIRE DISTRICT

Tax	\$2,702
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#### INSURANCE

GENERAL LIABILITY	\$49,680
WORKER'S COMPENSATION	\$49,448

#### DEBT SERVICE

PRINCIPAL	\$964,500
INTEREST	\$349,679
NEW DEBT INTEREST	\$772,775
NEW DEBT PRINCIPAL	\$1,105,000

#### PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT SERVICES

MAINTENANCE OF GROUNDS-LABOR COST Helen Keller & Samuel Staples Schools	\$11,560
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#### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SERVICES

PLOWING	\$960
SAND & SALT	\$2,720
SWEEPING	\$1,080
OTHER NECESSARY REPAIRS	\$888
PERSONNEL WAGES PROVIDED FOR 515 MOREHOUSE ROAD	\$70,598

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,478,975
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## PROBATE COURT DISTRICT OF TRUMBULL

The Trumbull Probate Court was established by State Statute and commenced operations on January 2, 1959. The Towns of Easton, Monroe and Trumbull are served through this court. Prior to 1959, the Bridgeport Probate Court served the public.

The primary jurisdiction of the Court is to effect the probating of wills and settling of estates and trusts, the appointment of guardians for minors and the mentally retarded, commitments of the mentally ill, conservators for incompetent persons, adoptions and changes of names.

During the period of July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008, the Trumbull Probate Court processed 859 new estates. The new estates included the following:

Estates with Wills	161
Estate without Wills	25
Estate Sales of Real Estate	12
Compromise of Claims	4
Allowance of Final Accounts	156

Other Applications or Petitions	11
Small Estate Affidavits	72
Estates for Tax Purposes Only	50
State Aid 4a-16 Estates	43

Under the Category of Children's Matters:	
Adoptions, Termination of Parental Rights, Emancipations, Temporary Guardianship & Dispositional Hearing	73

Under the Category of Guardians	
Appointments of Guardians of the Estate	13
Allowance of Claims	3
Allowance of Accounts	
Other Applications with hearing on Guardians of Estate	9
Guardianship of the Mentally Retarded	38

Under the Category of Conservators:	
Conservator of Estate/Person	30
Sales of Real Estate	9
Allowance of Accounts	32
Other Applications	16

Under Miscellaneous:	
Trust Applications and Accounts requiring hearings	65
Name Changes	21

The Honorable John P. Chiota is Judge of Probate:  
Clerk Elizabeth S. Frassinelli, Assistant Clerks are Gail J. Hanna and Lisa A. Sinise.

The Court is located in the Trumbull Town Hall and is open Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 4:30pm.

## SUMMARIES OF TOWN MEETINGS

### SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

**January 16, 2008; 8.00pm**

**Helen Keller Middle School**

Present at the meeting:

Thomas A. Herrmann, First Selectman  
Scott S. Centrella, Selectman  
Robert H. Lessler, Selectman  
W. Derek Buckley, Town Clerk  
John Campbell, Treasurer  
4 Members of the public

Thomas A. Herrmann, First Selectman called the meeting to order at 8.02pm.

Thomas A. Herrmann was nominated as moderator by Robert H. Lessler and seconded by Val Buckley. The nomination was approved by unanimous voice vote.

The Town Clerk read the Call of the Meeting.

Special Town Meeting

January 16, 2008

WARNING IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING TO BE HELD WITHIN AND FOR THE TOWN OF EASTON ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2008 AT 8.00PM AT HELEN KELLER MIDDLE SCHOOL, MEDIA CENTER TO DISCUSS AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING:

1. Discuss and act upon the approval of a special appropriation for principal repayment for the Samuel Staples Elementary School Bond Anticipation Notes [BANS]

Per order of the Selectmen

DATED AT EASTON, CONNECTICUT THIS 8TH DAY OF JANUARY 2008

Executed by:

Thomas A. Herrmann, First Selectman  
Scott S. Centrella, Selectman  
Robert H. Lessler, Selectman

The motion was proposed and seconded.

Gowan Dacey of Mile Common asked a series of questions that covered a range of issues including:

- Why was the Call of the meeting so "sketchy" and why did it not mention the appropriation amount [\$50,000] so as to better inform the public

- Why was there not a full description of the bonds in question
- When will the BANS finally be bonded
- What is the delay of rolling the BANS over into Bonds

Thomas A. Herrmann responded that some of these questions were beyond the scope of the meeting but requested that John Campbell address them to the extent possible

John Campbell stated:

- The Connecticut General Statutes permit BANS to be rolled over for a maximum three years after which principal payments must begin. The three year period began in November 2004. Prior Bond Counsel had failed to advise the town that the subject repayment should begin this fiscal year. As a result, the repayment amount was not included in this year's budget.
- The total amount of BANS is \$3,900,000. The repayment due is \$41,000 but the Financial Advisor had advised increasing it to \$50,000 to make the outstanding BANS more marketable.
- Easton Board of Education has to accept the building project before the state will provide any reimbursement. Since this has not yet happened, the amount to be bonded is not known. Once reimbursement has been made, the BAN balance can be bonded.
- In answer to Gowan Dacey's question about the Bond duration, John Campbell replied that the term of the bonds, once issued, cannot exceed 20 years beyond the initial issuance date of the associated BANS. In this case that is approximately 14 years.
- Easton is currently earning approximately 100 basis points more on cash investments than they are paying on bond repayments and so there is no negative financial implications from any delay in bonding.

Gowan Dacey asked what is delaying the Board of Education accepting these projects. They should be pressured to accept so that Easton can get reimbursement from the state. There were no Board of Education members present to answer the questions. Gowan Dacey asked how to avoid the appropriation problem next year. John Campbell said such payment would be in the budget.

Bud Jennings asked when would the Board of Education accept the school so that the town could get its' money. Thomas A. Herrmann replied that the Board of Education have to complete a "punch list of issues" before we can apply to the state for reimbursement.

Bud Jennings replied that the Superintendent had had the punch list for a long time and it has been "sitting on his desk". The Board of Selectmen needs to pressure the Superintendent. Thomas Herrmann ruled certain questions not relevant to the meeting topic, or the motion. He will talk to the Superintendent and make sure the issue is addressed in the budget.

Gowan Dacey said he noted a stalemate between the Board of Education and the Superintendent and that the Board of Selectmen were "not attempting to do anything" about it. He demanded that they exercise leadership. Thomas Herrmann said that was beyond the scope of the meeting.

Bud Jennings said that the Board of Education and the Superintendent should be denied any more funds until Easton gets the state money. Thomas Herrmann said he would get the facts from the Superintendent.

Robert Lessler proposed and Elise Broach seconded a call for a vote on the motion. The motion passed by seven to two on a voice vote.

A motion to adjourn was proposed and seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8.25pm.

### **SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MARCH 31, 2008; 8.00PM SAMUEL STAPLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Present:

Thomas A. Herrmann, First Selectman  
Scott S. Centrella, Selectman  
Robert H. Lessler, Selectman  
W. Derek Buckley, Town Clerk

Other Town Officials:

John Campbell, Treasurer  
Andrew Kachele, Board of Finance  
Ed Nagy, Director of Public Works,  
Skyler Sherwood, Deputy Fire Marshall  
Grace Stanczyk, Comptroller

Public – about 33 people in total including:  
William J. Kupinse, Jr., former First Selectman  
John Bromer, Director, Senior Center Project

The First Selectman called the meeting to order at 8.06pm. He called for nominations of a moderator. W.J. Kupinse, Jr. was nominated, seconded and elected unanimously.

The Moderator called upon the Town Clerk to read the Notice of the Meeting.

Notice

Special Town Meeting

March 31, 2008

Warning is hereby given of a Special Town Meeting to be held within and for the Town of Easton on Monday, March 31, 2008 at 8:00 p.m. at Samuel Staples Elementary School Cafetorium, 515 Morehouse Road, Easton, to discuss and act upon the following as recommended by the Board of Finance:

1. Discuss and approve a special appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00 with the authorization to issue Bonds, or Notes, or Temporary Notes as deemed appropriate in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00 for the Fire



Suppression System in the former SSES, 660 Morehouse Road, in Zone 1 which includes the existing Senior Center and crawl space; Zone 2 which use is currently undetermined and crawl space; and Zone 3 which is Board of Education Central Office space.

2. Discuss and approve a special appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$185,000.00 with the authorization to issue Bonds, or Notes, or Temporary Notes as deemed appropriate in an amount not to exceed \$185,000.00 for the Fire Suppression System in the former SSES, 660 Morehouse Road for the Easton Country Day area.

Per Order of Selectmen

Dated at Easton, Connecticut this 20th day of March 2008

The Moderator described the projects and asked Val Buckley to explain the reason for the first requested appropriation of \$250,000.

She explained that she had raised approximately \$2,000,000 to fund the construction of the new Senior Center in the old Samuel Staples Elementary School building. The project is complete but cannot go ahead without a certificate of occupancy. That can only be issued if a sprinkler system is in place for the entire building. The Senior Center project is paying for sprinklers in the area they will occupy. However, the remainder of the building must also have sprinklers installed before they can go ahead.

The total cost is broken into two appropriations because the area occupied by Easton Country Day School can be treated separately. However, the town must commit to a timetable for installing sprinklers within that area in five years, or less. Alternatively, a firewall can be installed that effectively creates two buildings and then sprinklers do not have to be installed, if the unsprinkled area is to be unoccupied.

John Bromer described the Senior Center project in detail.

Bud Jennings thanked Val and John but asked several questions including:

- This is a big investment in a building that is making no money
- Additional expenses still to be requested include up to \$400,000 for the Board of Education renovation. That will produce lease revenue of only \$80,000 per annum
- Will the Easton Country Day School new contract rent reflect these increased costs?

Val Buckley asked Schuyler Sherwood, Deputy Fire Marshall to comment. He said that the new Senior Center is a building within a building and the whole building must conform to today's fire code. He said that safety is the issue for occupants and firefighters if needed. He said it would be cheaper to sprinkle the Easton Country Day School area than build a firewall. A firewall would have to go to the roof and be two-hour fire rated.

Rick Smith, a non-resident, representative of Easton Country Day School, was allowed to speak. He said they were a small school with few other places to go. At the same time, Easton had few, or no, other parties interested in leasing the area. The lease cost had already increased from \$75,000 to \$95,000. Nobody anticipated the large increase in oil and other utility costs. They are working with the First Selectman to address the problem, and will increase fees to compensate.

John Bromer recommended doing both areas. He said it would be much more expensive to do the Easton Country Day School area later.

The question was called, seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

The Moderator then called for discussion on the second question.

Tom Herrmann noted that the facility would be sized to include both areas even if only one was approved initially. He did not know where the plant cutoff would be. He recommended approving the appropriation subject to negotiating a better deal with Easton Country Day School.

He also noted that there would be another expense of \$150,000 for a new boiler bringing the total payment for the Easton Country Day School area to \$335,000. He wished to recover that over a five-year lease. Rick Smith indicated that the school wished to renew the lease.

The original lease was for three years with two one-year renewal options. The town must give the school a one-year notice to vacate.

Ed Nagy said the total utility bill for the entire building is \$201,000 per annum.

A question was asked if the school was a going concern. Rick Smith replied that they had been in business for 15 years and were growing.

Gail Bromer noted that we have to service the building even if the school is not a tenant. The capital assets would last much more than five years.

Schuyler Sherwood recommended doing the entire building at once.

A motion to approve the appropriation was proposed, seconded and approved unanimously by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8.55pm.



**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
APRIL 28, 2008; 8.00pm  
SAMUEL STAPLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Present:**

Thomas A. Herrmann, First Selectman  
Scott S. Centrella, Selectman  
Robert H. Lessler, Selectman  
W. Derek Buckley, Town Clerk  
Other Town Officials:  
John Campbell, Treasurer  
Andrew Kachele, Chair Board of Finance  
Ed Nagy, Director of Public Works,  
Dr. Allen Fossbender, Superintendent of Schools  
Bucky Stone, Chairman of the Regional Board of Education  
Dr. Katz, Chairman of the local Board of Education  
Grace Stanczyk, Comptroller

Public – about 50 people in total excluding public officials  
The meeting was videotaped

The First Selectman called the meeting to order at 8.10pm. He called for nominations of a moderator. Robert H. Lessler was nominated by Valerie Buckley, seconded by Claire Gold, and elected unanimously by voice vote.

The Moderator called upon the Town Clerk to read the Notice of the Meeting.

**Notice**

**Annual Town Meeting**

April 28, 2008

Warning is hereby given of the annual Town Meeting to be held within and for the Town of Easton on Monday, April 28, 2008 at 8:00 p.m. at Samuel Staples Elementary School, Morehouse road, Easton, to discuss and act upon the following:

1. Acceptance of the 2007 Annual Town Report.
2. Discussion of proposed annual town budget of \$39,603,353 for fiscal year 2008-2009 as recommended by the Board of Finance. NOTE: The Town meeting may act to reduce, but not increase, the proposed budget.
3. Five-year capital project plan.
4. Set July 1, 2008 and January 2, 2009 for the 2007 grand list bills.
5. To approve a resolution implementing and in furtherance of (a) an appropriation in the amount of \$250,000 for the costs related to the installation of a fire suppression system in the former SSES building, located at 660 Morehouse Road, covering Zone 1 which includes the existing Senior Center and crawl space, Zone 2 which use is currently undetermined and crawl space, and Zone 3 which is Board of Education Central Office space and (b) the issuance of notes and bonds of the Town, including bond anticipation notes, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 previously approved by the voters at a special Town meeting on March 31, 2008 and certain other actions relation to the foregoing.
6. To approve a resolution implementing and in furtherance of

(a) an appropriation in the amount of \$185,000 for the costs related to the installation of a fire suppression system in the former SSES building, located at 660 Morehouse Road covering the Easton Country Day area and (b) the issuance of notes and bonds of the Town, including bond anticipation notes, in an amount not to exceed \$185,000 previously approved by the voters at a Special Town meeting on March 31, 2008 and certain other actions relating to the foregoing. The full text of this resolution and the previous resolution is on file and open to inspection at the office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, Easton, CT. for the use or inspection of any interested person.

7. Acceptance of Open Space acquired from Judd Road Associates LLC subdivision as recorded in Volume 538 at Page 175.

8. Acceptance of a Conservation Easement at 28 Lobdell Lane as recorded in Volume 612 at Page 92.

9. Adjournment of the Town meeting to a machine vote to be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2008, 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Samuel Staples Elementary School to vote on the annual budget for 2008-2009 of \$39,603,353 or such lower amount as may be approved by the Town meeting.

**Per Order of the Board of Selectmen**

**Item 1. Acceptance of the 2007 Annual Town Report**

The Moderator called for comments, hearing none a motion to accept was proposed, seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Item 2. The proposed Annual Town Budget of \$39,603,353**

Andrew Kachele gave a short presentation of the proposed Annual Town Budget for 2008-2009 as recommended by the Board of Finance. Noting that the Regional Board of Education budget was only subject to overall approval by the Board of Finance.

Dr Katz described highlights of the local Board of Education budget. Bucky Stone described highlights of the Regional Board of Education budget. This includes an increase of \$985,000 that is not negotiable. Teacher's salary increases are the lowest in ERGA, the town's education group. Central office is up by only \$9,000.

In response to a question Bucky noted that the \$150 parking space fee could be justified based on expenses.

In response to a question on Senior Tax Relief from Linda Dollard, the First Selectman said it would be the subject of another Town Meeting when the details have been worked out by the committee.

Since the Board of Selectmen has already voted to adjourn the Town Meeting to a machine vote on 5/6/2008 no vote was taken.

**Item 3. Five year Capital Plan**

Andrew Kachele explained that a plan was required in order to

apply for certain state grants. Items on the plan may never occur and the plan does not represent a commitment. A motion to accept the five-year plan was moved, seconded and passed unanimously by voice vote

Item 4. Set the 2007 grand list tax bills

A motion to accept 7/1/2008 and 1/2/2009 for the grand list tax bills was moved by Elise Broach, seconded by Dori Wollen, and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Item 5. An appropriation of \$250,000 for a sprinkler system  
The First Selectman explained that the appropriation was for the new Senior Center and related area and had already been approved at a Special Town Meeting on 3/31/2008. However, we have since received the resolution in the required form from Bond Counsel. This resolution must be approved for the funding to proceed.

The motion was moved, seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Item 6. An appropriation of \$180,000 for a sprinkler system  
The First Selectman explained that the appropriation was for the Easton Country Day School area and had already been approved at a Special Town Meeting on 3/31/2008. However, we have since received the resolution in the required form from Bond Counsel. This resolution must be approved for the funding to proceed.

The motion was moved, seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Item 7. Acceptance of Open Space.

This space was from Judd Road Associates, LLC and is recorded in Volume 538 at Page 175[copy attached]. It is required by town ordinance when a subdivision is developed. It is approximately 7.2 acres in one large and two small parcels. If accepted, the town would take title to the property.

The motion was moved, seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Item 8 Acceptance of Conservation Easement

This easement is at 28 Lobdell Lane and is recorded in Volume 612 at Page 92[copy attached]. It will continue to be owned privately but the use will be restricted. The motion was moved, seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Item 9. Adjournment to a Machine Vote

No vote was necessary because the Board of Selectmen had already voted this adjournment.

At the First Selectman's request the Moderator called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was so moved, seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9.15pm.

The attachments are available to the public in the Town Clerk's office.

## **SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

**MAY 19, 2008; 8.00PM**

### **SAMUEL STAPLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Present:

Thomas A. Herrmann, First Selectman

Scott S. Centrella, Selectman

Robert H. Lessler, Selectman

W. Derek Buckley, Town Clerk

Other Town Officials:

John Campbell, Treasurer

Andrew Kachele, Chairman, Board of Finance

Dr. Allen Fossbender, Superintendent of Schools

Bucky Stone, Chairman of the Regional Board of Education

Lee Hanson, Member of the Board of Finance

Members of the local press

Public – about 20 people in total excluding public officials

Total attendance about 50 people including officials and press

The First Selectman called the meeting to order at 8.10pm.

He called for nominations of a moderator. The Town Clerk nominated Thomas A. Herrmann as Moderator. This was seconded by Robert H. Lessler. In the absence of other nominations it was approved by unanimous voice vote

The Moderator called upon the Town Clerk to read the Notice of the Meeting.

Notice

Special Town Meeting

May 19, 2008

Warning is hereby given of a Special Town Meeting to be held within and for the Town of Easton on Monday, May 19, 2008 at 8:00 p.m. at Samuel Staples Elementary School, 515 Morehouse Road, Easton, to

1. Discuss and approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$8,000 to address health and safety issues at 52 Flat Rock Road as recommended by the Board of Finance.

2. Discuss and approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$40,000 to the Town Attorney Account for fiscal year 2007-2008 as recommended by the Board of Finance.

3. Discuss and adjourn to a machine vote on Wednesday, May 28, 2008, 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Samuel Staples Elementary School, a revised budget for fiscal year 2008-2009 in an amount of \$39,484,153 as recommended by the Board of Finance.

Per Order of Selectmen

The moderator then addressed the agenda items.

Item 1. A special appropriation of \$8,000

The First Selectman explained that the appropriation related

to the removal of the Kronovitter house at 52 Flat Rock Road. A Special Revenue Fund of \$20,000 had been appropriated for this task. This appropriation amount was based on an estimate since the house could not be accessed.

When the work was undertaken it was found that there was a very large amount of material to be removed from the basement and more asbestos than anticipated. In addition, a road had to be cut to get the necessary equipment in.

Ms Kronovitter is now living in a trailer with electricity and water but no waste disposal. A waste tank is required to enable her to use the water. She is scheduled to move out on 11/1/2008.

The town has received bills for \$22,300 to date. The additional appropriation is to pay those bills and cover the cost of the waste tank installation. The town will eventually get all of the funds back.

Bud Jennings commented that the Board of Finance appropriated \$15,000 and asked why more is needed. The First Selectman reiterated the reasons given above.

Bud also commented that she had an \$80,000 mortgage with the town at 8% per annum and was paying 18% on delinquent taxes. The First Selectman noted that \$80,000 was the limit of a line of credit and probably would not all be used.

Bud commented that she could finally owe Easton \$180,000 at 8%. The First Selectman noted she would get the money back from the increased value of the property.

Roger Wollen moved to appropriate the funds and was seconded by Howard Collis. The appropriation was approved by majority voice vote with two opposed.

Item 2. \$40,000 appropriation to the Town Attorney Account  
The First Selectman said that the original requested appropriation to this account was \$150,000, equal to the prior year. This was reduced to \$100,000 by the Board of Finance.

The town has already incurred legal costs of \$110,000. \$20,000 additional has already been appropriated. The \$40,000 requested is a conservative estimate of end of year expenditure to this account. A motion to approve was proposed by Dori Wollen, seconded by Gail Bromer and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Item 3. Budget and Adjournment to a Machine Vote

Andrew Kachele explained that after the budget was set a number of developments permitted a slight reduction. Revenue was revised upward slightly; Senior Tax Relief was not adopted and the Regional Board of Education made a larger cut than was anticipated. Easton's share of the Regional budget was reduced by \$93,368 instead of the \$50,000 estimated in the budget. Overall, the effect is to reduce the proposed budget from \$39,484,153 to \$39,390,785.

There followed an extensive discussion of whether the budget could be reduced without first reducing the Region 9 line item. The moderator said that he had received legal advice that a line item must be reduced first. Based on this the moderator ruled that the line item must be reduced first followed by the total budget.

A question was asked about the impact of the reduction on the mil rate. Andrew Kachele said the amount is only one quarter of one tenth of a mil and would not affect the mil rate. It would probably reduce the amount taken from the reserve account. The mil rate increase would be 2.87%, if approved.

W. D Buckley proposed and Scott Centrella seconded, reducing Easton's share of the Region 9 budget by \$93,368. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Scott Centrella moved and Bob Lessler seconded reducing the town budget from \$39,484,153 to \$39,390,785. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Bob Lessler moved to adjourn the meeting, Scott Centrella seconded and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8.45pm.

The attachments are available to the public in the Town Clerk's office

## **SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

**JUNE 9, 2008; 8.00PM**

### **SAMUEL STAPLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Present:

Thomas A. Herrmann, First Selectman

Scott S. Centrella, Selectman

Robert H. Lessler, Selectman

W. Derek Buckley, Town Clerk

Other Town Officials:

A.J. Afridi. Chair of the Land Acquisition Authority

Robert Maquat, Chairman of P&Z

John Campbell, Treasurer

Andrew Kachele, Chairman, Board of Finance

Ed Nagy, Director of Public Works

Members of the local press, Easton Courier and Connecticut Post

Others:

Board members of the Land Acquisition Authority

Philip DiGennaro of Running Brook Farm, LLC, the developer

Fred Zarelli of the New England Prayer Center and other board members.

Public – about 60 people in total excluding public officials

Total attendance about 70 people including officials and press

The First Selectman called the meeting to order at 8.06pm. He called for nominations of a moderator.

Scott Centrella nominated Dennis Laccavole as Moderator and

Robert Lessler seconded the nomination. In the absence of other nominations, it was approved by unanimous voice vote.

The Moderator called upon the Town Clerk to read the Notice of the Meeting.

#### Special Town Meeting

June 9, 2008 – 8:00 p.m.

Warning is hereby given of a special Town Meeting to be held within and for the Town of Easton on Monday, June 9, 2008 at 8:00 p.m. at Samuel Staples Elementary School, 515 Morehouse Road, Easton, to

1. (a) Discuss and adjourn to a machine vote on June 17, 2008 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Samuel Staples Elementary School, Easton to appropriate the sum of \$6,150,000 for costs related to the acquisition of approximately 30 acres of land or rights located at 18-22 South Park Avenue, Easton, Connecticut for preservation, conservation and land use control purposes, included, without limitation, the costs of land acquisition, site work, demolition, easement acquisition, engineering, legal, administration, temporary and permanent financing and any other costs and expenses related thereto; and (b) To authorize the Town to issue and sell its notes and bonds pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, or any other provision of law thereto enabling, in an amount not to exceed \$6,150,000 (or so much thereof as may be necessary after the deduction of grants or other sources of funds available) as recommended by the Board of Finance. A full text of a Resolution is on file with the Easton Town Clerk's Office.

#### Per Order of Selectmen

The moderator then addressed the agenda items.

Thomas A. Herrmann, First Selectman presented an overview of the South Park Avenue proposal. He noted that the town had a court date to settle the outstanding affordable housing appeal, but it had been postponed pending the result of the vote on 6/17/2008. If the vote were negative, the court would decide if the developer could go ahead with an affordable housing project on the site. In the state of Connecticut 70% of these applications are approved by the courts.

This was not a proposal to buy the land for open space. Although the town would purchase the land, it would simultaneously sell a two-year lease/purchase option to the New England Prayer Center for \$300,000. This amount would cover the town's cost during the option period. If the lease/purchase option was not exercised, the town could sell 14 one-acre lots to cover the cost of the purchase and retain the remainder of the land as open space. The New England Prayer Center [NEPC] would use the two-year option period to design the center and go through the approval process with Easton P&Z. The terms under which NEPC would acquire the property restrict the way in which it can be developed and used. A copy of the lease/purchase option agreement is attached.

The moderator next asked the Land Acquisition Authority to comment.

Anjenette Afridi described the work done by the Land Acquisition Authority. She explained that they had retained an outside consultant to examine the financial impact on Easton of the proposed transaction. A copy of the report prepared by Dr Ernest T. Kendell of the Commonwealth Research Group, Inc. is attached.

In essence, they estimated the net revenue impact on the Town of a tax-free church, compared to a 72 unit affordable housing development. He noted that in Connecticut, and Easton, there are, on average, 0.7 children per household in the school system. This is equivalent to 2.3 school age children in homes with children. The estimates used are very conservative. The proposed development of 72 units could easily produce even larger increases in school age children.

The net present value cost to the town of educating these children, over 20 years, is summarized below for differing numbers of additional schoolchildren:

50 additional children	\$ 8,000,000
100 additional children	\$16,000,000
150 additional children	\$24,000,000

Using the most conservative estimate, the South Park Avenue purchase would result in net savings to the town of \$3,000,000.

The moderator next asked the NEPC to comment.

Fred Zarelli, a board member of the NEPC, noted that the center was six to eight years old. It provide for retreats, seminars and conferences in a peaceful relaxing environment. It had only existed formally for about two years. They have relationships with several local and regional churches.

He also presented the attached material that includes answers to frequently asked questions, a list of board members, and endorsements and testimonials. Also included is a concept of what the center might look like. More information is available on the NEPC website [[www.newenglandprayercenter.com](http://www.newenglandprayercenter.com)].

The moderator then opened the meeting to public discussion.

Dori Wollen asked if the study included the cost of police, fire etc. It was not because it had been determined that the impact would be minimal.

John Broadbin wanted to know if the town was tying itself to one developer. Tom Herrmann responded that the purchase option gave them an exclusive legal right to purchase from the town. They have two years to exercise the option. If they do not, then the town can do what it wants with the property.

Cindy Blum wanted to know if the proposed cluster homes would be taxed at a higher rate than single family homes. Thomas Herrmann responded that all homes are taxed at 70%



of the appraised value and he knew of no exception for cluster homes.

She also wanted to know if the sale of 14 units, if the NEPC does not exercise the option, was included in the report. She was told it was not. She was also told that the agreement provided that, if NEPC sells any lots, then Easton would receive any monies in excess of \$439,000.

Grant Monsarrat asked, and was told, that the transaction would not affect Easton's bonding status.

In response to a question Rob Maquat responded to him, and others, that in Easton watershed is zoned three acres and the remainder is zoned one acre. South Park Avenue is zoned three acres because it used to be part of the watershed. Because of the construction of dams and reservoirs, it is no longer so. It can now be rezoned one acre to be consistent with the surrounding properties.

Fred Zarelli responded, to Grant, that NEPC had experience in raising money and anticipated no difficulty funding this transaction. He noted that there is not a detailed business plan for the project in the traditional sense. NEPC is a charitable foundation.

Eric Eitel, a NEPC board member, said he had been fund raising for 20 years. NEPC had accumulated many interested prospective donors over the last six to eight years. These are charitable donors and, unlike business investors, do not expect to get their money back.

Ira Bloom was retained by the town to represent them in the court case. He noted that a positive vote on this proposal would cause the developer to withdraw the affordable housing proposal and the sequencing batch reactor septic application would be withdrawn.

He noted that the affordable housing statutes put the burden on the town to show why the application should be refused. The court recognizes very few reasons for denying such applications, and they must outweigh the need for affordable housing. Statewide towns have lost more than 70% of these cases in court. Shipman and Goodman, who represent the developer, have won more than 80% of the cases they have pursued. This is an excellent opportunity to solve the problem and avoid a court decision. The trial is imminent if the proposal is rejected.

Polly Edwards asked how the NEPC sewage would be handled. Fred Zarelli said there would only be a handful of people most of the time and so it would not be a problem.

John Jones, NEPC architect said the center had not been designed but it would probably include an auditorium about as big as Samuel Staples Media Center. It would use about one acre for 120 to 150 parking spaces, and on few occasions have meetings of up to 400 people.

Mike Grove asked if the affordable housing problem would return on other sites in town. Bob Maquat said this is the last significant parcel, off watershed, in town. Watershed development has much more restrictive development statutes.

Gowan Dacey asked a number of questions including the propriety of using town money to finance NEPC. Thomas Herrmann responded that was not correct, the town keeps the \$300,000 even if NEPC does not exercise the purchase option. Attorney Ira Bloom confirmed that there was no legal conflict.

Wiley Mullins spoke at length in support of NEPC. He has attended their programs and benefited from them. The services they provide to people in need make Easton a special town and community. He has heard only positive things about them.

Bill Kupinse, former First Selectman, spoke strongly in favor of the proposal and urged that the town approve. He noted that it was now known that, of the eight sequencing batch reactors septic systems installed, all had operating problems.

Chris Michos of Protect Easton spoke in favor of the proposal and urged a yes vote.

Thomas Herrmann, in response to several people, reiterated that the town was not lending NEPC any money. The town was receiving \$300,000 for a purchase option. The town will retain the \$300,000, even if the purchase option is not exercised.

In response to a direct question from the Town Clerk, Fred Zarelli confirmed that NEPC had the \$300,000 in hand to proceed immediately, if the transaction is approved by the voters.

Ira Bloom said that any development from NEPC to develop the property is subject to P&Z approval and deed restrictions. Bob Maquat noted that P&Z meetings are open to the public.

In response to a request from the moderator, a proposal to adjourn to a machine vote was proposed, seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10.35pm

The attachments are available to the public in the Town Clerk's office.

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
JUNE 23, 2008; 8.00PM  
SAMUEL STAPLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Present:  
Thomas A. Herrmann, First Selectman  
Scott S. Centrella, Selectman  
Robert H. Lessler, Selectman  
W. Derek Buckley, Town Clerk



Other Town Officials:  
Andrew Kachele, Chair Board of Finance  
Dr. Katz, Chairman of the local Board of Education  
Grace Stanczyk, Comptroller

Present – approximately 25 people in total including public officials  
The meeting was videotaped

The First Selectman called the meeting to order at 8.02pm.

The Town Clerk read the Notice of the Meeting to the audience.

Special Town Meeting  
June 23 2008 – 8:00 p.m.

Warning is hereby given of a Special Town Meeting to be held within and for the Town of Easton on Monday, June 23, 2008 at 8:00 p.m. at Samuel Staples Elementary School, 515 Morehouse Road, Easton to

1. Discuss and act upon a resolution concerning the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$370,858.00 for costs related to renovations and construction of the Central Office Relocation Capital Project located at 660 Morehouse Road, including, without limitation, the costs of interest expense for temporary borrowings and other costs related to the project and the issuing of bonds and notes or temporary notes to finance such appropriation and certain other actions related to the foregoing. The full text of the foregoing authorizing resolution is on file and open to inspection at the office the Town Clerk, Town Hall, Easton, Connecticut for the use or inspection of any interested person.

The First Selectman called for nominations of a moderator. Robert H. Lessler was nominated by Valerie Buckley and seconded by Dr. Katz. In the absence of any other nominations, Bob Lessler was elected unanimously by voice vote.

Copies of the Resolution were available to the audience. The moderator called for a motion to take the Resolution as read and attach a copy to the Minutes. Grant Monsarratt moved and Andrew Kachele seconded the motion which passed by unanimous voice vote. A copy of the resolution is attached to the minutes and is available in the Town clerk's office.

The Moderator then opened the floor to discussion of the resolution.

Grant Monsarratt asked if adopted, what would be the financial impact on the town. The First Selectman replied that a formal lease had been negotiated. It calls for a \$75,000 annual lease with the Regional Board of Education paying for electricity and the town paying for heating. The town would pay for the fit out cost of approximately \$370,000, but the annual lease payment currently being made to a third party, would be saved and Easton would realize approximately one half of this

saving. There is no formal profit and loss statement but overall the cash flow to the town is very favorable.

Grant asked if a profit and loss statement would eventually be available. The First Selectman replied that municipalities do not operate for profit like corporations and profit and loss statements are not normally prepared. If we were to generate any "profits", we would jeopardize the tax-exempt status of any related bonds.

He also noted the non-financial benefits of having the Board of Education in Easton. In addition Easton would save its' share of the lease cost and receive a lease payment in addition. In answer to a question, he noted the heat cost was included in the lease.

At this point, the Moderator noted that technically a motion to accept the resolution was necessary before any discussion. A motion was proposed, seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Gowan Dacey asked why Easton pays as much as Redding for the Central office. Andrew Kachele replied that administration costs are not determined by enrollment and therefore costs are divided equally between the three boards, one third each.

The Moderator asked for a motion to call the question. This was proposed, seconded, and passed by unanimous voice vote.

A vote to accept the resolution then passed by unanimous voice vote. A motion to adjourn was proposed, seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8.12pm.

## **MACHINE VOTE QUESTIONS SAMUEL STAPLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

### **MUNICIPAL ELECTION November 6, 2007**

Elected Candidate is **BOLD**  
Letter indicates party affiliation:  
R=Republican  
D= Democrat  
T=The Real Choice  
P=Petition Candidate

Number Suffix indicates term of office  
1=11/6/2007 until 11/3/2009  
2=1/7/2008 until 1/4/2010  
3=11/6/2007 until 11/5/2013  
4=11/6/2007 until 11/8/2011

Candidate		Vote
<b><u>First Selectman^1</u></b>		
<b>Thomas A. Herrmann</b>	<b>(R)</b>	<b>1083</b>
Elaine Hay Spicer	(D)	816
C. Lee Hanson	(T)	804
Paul Michael Skrtich	(P)	78

<b>Candidate</b>		<b>Vote</b>
<b><u>Selectman^1</u></b>		
<b>Scott S. Centrella</b>	<b>(R)</b>	<b>1143</b>
<b>Robert H. Lessler</b>	<b>(D)</b>	<b>884</b>
Peter C. Graupner	(T)	505
<b><u>Town Clerk^2</u></b>		
<b>W. Derek Buckley</b>	<b>(R)</b>	<b>1718</b>
<b><u>Town Treasurer^1</u></b>		
<b>John F. Campbell</b>	<b>(R)</b>	<b>1461</b>
Henry P. Egan III	(D)	944
<b><u>Tax Collector^1</u></b>		
<b>Patrice G. Hildenbrand</b>	<b>(R)</b>	<b>1792</b>
<b><u>Board of Finance^3</u></b>		
<b>Andrew R. Kachele</b>	<b>(R)</b>	<b>1500</b>
<b>Salvatore Tartaglione</b>	<b>(R)</b>	<b>1400</b>
Claire S. Gold	(D)	1028
Wiley Mullins III	(D)	927
<b><u>Board of Education</u></b>		
<b>Glenn Mairano</b>	<b>(R)</b>	<b>1326^3</b>
<b>Alan N Katz</b>	<b>(D)</b>	<b>1056^3</b>
<b>Elin R. Cohen</b>	<b>(D)</b>	<b>1489^1</b>
<b><u>Board of Assessment Appeals^3</u></b>		
<b>Donald Holmes Calvert</b>	<b>(R)</b>	<b>1461</b>
A.Reynolds Gordon	(D)	963
<b><u>Zoning Board of Appeals^3</u></b>		
<b>Charles W. Lynch</b>	<b>(R)</b>	<b>1564</b>
<b>Patricia Berlin</b>	<b>(D)</b>	<b>1250</b>
Raymond W. Ganim	(D)	1178
<b><u>Constables^1</u></b>		
<b>Joseph L. Silhavy</b>	<b>(R)</b>	<b>1362</b>
<b>John L. Johnston</b>	<b>(R)</b>	<b>1326</b>
<b>George A. Beno</b>	<b>(R)</b>	<b>1289</b>
<b>Irving Silverman</b>	<b>(D)</b>	<b>1256</b>
<b>James J. Mellen</b>	<b>(R)</b>	<b>1143</b>
<b>Gloria Bindelglass</b>	<b>(D)</b>	<b>1097</b>
<b>Richard F. Greiser</b>	<b>(D)</b>	<b>1078</b>
Mark D"Augelli	(D)	888
<b><u>Library Board^3</u></b>		
<b>Gail V. Gay</b>	<b>(R)</b>	<b>1432</b>
<b>Rita B. Seclow</b>	<b>(D)</b>	<b>902</b>
<b><u>Regional Board of Education^4</u></b>		
<b>Thomas S. Logie</b>	<b>(R)</b>	<b>1330</b>
<b>Tony Neidenbach</b>	<b>(R)</b>	<b>1297</b>
Roberta J. Cable	(D)	1179
Robert A. Schrage	(D)	957

**MAY 6, 2008**

**FIRST EASTON TOWN BUDGET**

**Question**

"Shall the Town of Easton appropriate the sum of Thirty Nine Million Six Hundred Three Thousand Three Hundred and Fifty Three Dollars (\$39,603,353) for the annual Town budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009? (This includes Easton's share of the Region 9 budget)"

**Vote**

YES 866[47.4%]; NO 961[52.6%]. The budget was rejected by 95 [5.2%] votes

**REGION 9 FIRST BUDGET**

**Question**

"Shall the Regional School District Number 9, composed of the towns of Easton and Redding appropriate and authorize the expenditure of Twenty Million, Four Hundred Eighty One Thousand, and Two Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$20,481,270) as the operating budget of the district for the period of July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. (Easton's share is \$9,503,310 and Redding's share is \$10,977,960)?"

**Vote**

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>Margin</u>
Easton	824	999	(175)
Redding	820	928	(108)
Total	1644	1927	(26)

**REGION 9**

**ATHLETIC FIELDS QUESTION**

**Question**

"Shall Regional School District Number 9, comprised of the towns of Easton and Redding appropriate \$375,000 (Easton's share currently equal to 46.4%, or \$174,000; and Redding's share currently equal to 53.6%, or \$210,000), for the purpose of obtaining design, engineering, permit, cost estimate services and preparation of construction bid documents for the athletic field improvements at Joel Barlow High School, (for up to \$5,000,000, funds for which will be subject to voter approval at a future referendum) and authorize the issue of bonds, notes or temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$375,000 to finance said appropriation?"

**Vote**

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>Margin</u>
Easton	679	1140	(461)
Redding	760	991	(231)
Total	1439	2131	(692)

The appropriation was rejected by 461 votes in Easton; 231 votes in Redding; and 692 votes in Region 9.

**May 28, 2008**

**SECOND EASTON TOWN BUDGET**

**Question**

1. "Shall the Town of Easton appropriate the sum of Thirty Nine Million Three Hundred Ninety Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty Five Dollars (\$39,390,785) for the annual Town budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009? (This includes Easton's share of the Region 9 budget)"

**Vote**

YES 806[50.4%]; NO 794[49.6%]. The budget passed by 12[0.8%] votes

**REGION 9 SECOND BUDGET**

**Question**

"Shall the Regional School District Number 9, Composed of the Towns of Easton and Redding Appropriate and Authorize the Expenditure of Twenty Million, Two Hundred Eighty Thousand, and Forty Six Dollars (\$20,280,046) as the Operating Budget of the District for the Period of July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009? (Easton's share is \$ 9,409,942 and Redding's share is \$10,870,104)"

**Vote**

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>Margin</u>
Easton	745	853	(108)
Redding	<u>950</u>	<u>868</u>	<u>(82)</u>
Total	1695	1721	(26)

The budget was rejected in Easton, Redding and Region 9.

**SOUTH PARK AVENUE ACQUISITION**

**JUNE 17, 2008**

**Question**

"Shall the town of Easton appropriate \$6,150,000 for the acquisition of approximately 30 acres of land located on South Park Avenue for preservation, conservation and land use control purposes and authorize the issuance of bonds and notes of the town in the same amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary after the deduction of grants therefore, to finance such appropriation?"

**Vote**

Yes 1246 [75%]; No 412 [25%]. The acquisition was approved by a majority of 834[50.3%] votes.

**REGION 9 THIRD BUDGET**

**June 17, 2008**

**Question**

"Shall the Regional School District Number 9, Composed of the Towns of Easton and Redding Appropriate and Authorize the Expenditure of Twenty Million, Two Hundred Forty-Five Thousand, and Forty Six Dollars (\$20,245,046) as the Operating Budget of the District for the Period of July 1, 2008

to June 30, 2009? (Easton's share is \$9,393,702 and Redding's share is \$10,851,344)"

**Vote**

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>MARGIN</u>
Easton	853	805	48 ( 2.0%)
Redding	<u>861</u>	<u>546</u>	<u>315 (22.4%)</u>
Total	1714	1351	363 (11.8%)

The budget was approved in Easton; Redding and Region 9.

## TOWN OFFICIALS

### ***Board of Selectmen***

Thomas A. Herrmann, First Selectman  
Robert H. Lessler  
Scott S. Centrella

### ***Town Clerk***

W. Derek Buckley

### ***Treasurer***

John F. Campbell

### ***Tax Collector***

Patrice Hildenbrand

### ***Registrar of Voters***

Nicholas Soares, Democratic  
Eunice K. Hanson, Republican

### ***Board of Finance***

Thomas Partridge  
Andrew Kachele  
C. Lee Hanson  
Salvatore Tartaglione  
Mark Pompa  
Elise Broach

Alternates – Arthur Laske III

Clair Gold

Fred Knopf

### ***Board of Assessment Appeals***

Hugh Barry  
Donald Calvert - Chair  
Judy K. Weinstein

Alternates – A. Reynolds Gordon

Lori Mezes

Vacancy

### ***Library Board***

Rita Seclow-Chair  
Jon Sonneborn  
Joanne M. Sezon  
John Vance Hancock  
Gail V. Gay  
Elaine H. Spicer

### ***Easton Board of Education***

Dr. Elin Cohen  
Glenn Maiorano  
Alfred Treidel  
John Allan  
Dr. Daniel Underberger  
Dr. Alan Katz - Chair

### ***Regional Board of Education (Easton Members)***

Catherine Gombos  
Huntley Stone - Chair  
Thomas S. Logie  
Anthony Neidenbach

### ***Constables***

George A. Beno  
James Mellen  
Joseph Silhavy  
Irving Silverman  
Richard Greiser  
Gloria Bindelglass  
John Johnston

## APPOINTED OFFICIALS

### ***Public Works Director/Town Engineer***

Edward L. Nagy

### ***Police Chief***

John F. Solomon

### ***Comptroller***

Grace Stanczyk

### ***Director of Health***

Christopher Michos, M.D.  
Paula A. Edwards, Health Officer

### ***Emergency Management Director***

Lt. Richard Doyle

### ***Building Official***

Emil Martin

### ***Fire Chief***

Douglas VonHoltz

### ***Park & Recreation Commission***

Kathleen A. Roach  
Kathleen Smith  
Michael Fleischer  
Thomas Cable  
John Broadbin  
Mark D'Augelli  
Arthur Greiser

### ***Planning & Zoning Commission***

Robert Maquat, Chair  
Paul Dominianni  
Wallace Williams  
Marje Tracy  
Russell Leggett  
Alternates - Milan Spisek  
Darrin Silhavy  
Steve Carlson

### ***Zoning Board of Appeals***

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

Alternates – Gregory Alves

Thomas Dollard  
Raymond W. Ganim

### ***Insurance Commission***

Wendy Bowditch  
Peter Pisaretz  
John Allan  
Eileen Stirling  
Thomas A. Herrmann

### ***Tree Warden***

Richard B. McLaughlin

### ***Municipal Agent for the Elderly***

Patricia Finick

### ***Zoning Enforcement Officer/Wetlands***

### ***Enforcement Officer***

Phillip A. Doremus

### ***Assessor***

Teresa Rainieri

***Measurer of Wood***

Joseph Silhavy  
Irving Snow

***Fire Marshal***

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

***Board of Ethics***

Richard Scalo  
Michael Reisman  
Sal Morlando  
Beverly Nardone  
Barbara Stowell

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

Wallace Williams  
Peter Neary

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

Marjorie Smith

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

William Chiarenzelli

***Police Commission***

Raymond Martin  
Robert Nicola  
Marvin Gelfand  
Richard J. Colangelo, Jr.  
Ronald Kowalski, II

***Emergency Medical Services Commission***

William Chiarenzelli  
James Spak, M.D.  
Robert Adriani  
Gloria Bindelglass  
Adele O'Kane

***Pension & Employee Benefits Commission***

Alan Goldbecker- Chairman  
A. Reynolds Gordon  
John Harrington  
Marvin Gelfand  
H. Michael Keden  
Vacancy  
Thomas A. Herrmann

***Solid Waste Commission***

Clint Salko, Chairman  
Thomas Collins  
Anthony Colonnese  
Thomas Dollard  
Philip Snow

***Advisory Board for the Easton Senior Center***

Andy Wolff  
Janet Gordon  
Prabha Gupta  
Joan Kirk  
Sharon Cregeen  
Claire J. Paolini, Ph.D.  
Marilyn Santella  
Sal Santella

Alice Weissman  
Brigitte Shkreli  
David Pearlstone

***Fire Commission***

George Beno  
Ralph Altieri  
Robert Monda  
Anthony Colonnese  
Roberta Cable

***Conservation Commission***

Stephen Edwards  
Adam Dunsby  
Dori Wollen  
Eleanor Sylvestro  
Peggy Macaluso  
Stephen Corti  
Roy Gosse

Alternates –Marla Manning

John Mehanna

***Commission for the Aging***

Terri Kelso  
Cecilia Campbell  
Carol Hume  
Gail Gay  
Sharon Poole

Alternates - Janet Klein

Nancy Gavigan  
Vacancy

***Area Nine Cable Council Representatives***

Leighton Jordan  
Andy Anderson  
Douglas Dempsey

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

Mary Ann Freeman

***Human Resource Advisory Committee***

Grace Stanczyk  
William J. Kupinse, Jr.  
Valerie Buckley  
Carmen Montero  
Elise Broach  
Thomas A. Herrmann

***Safety and Health Committee***

Althea J. Falco  
Gary Csanadi  
Terry Calgreen  
Carmen Montero  
Kay Oestreicher  
Mary Enos  
Gary Simone  
Robert Cocivi  
Keith Rivoir

***Social Services***

Josephine Stenqvist, Director

***School Building Committee 2001***

Theodore Catino  
Ralph Delia, Jr.  
Fred Loder  
Peg Macaluso



Steve Rowland, AIA  
Robert Alan Schrage  
Huntley J. Stone  
Daniel M. Underberger, M.D.  
Glen Maiorano  
David Orticelli  
Joseph Silhavy  
Joseph Schwartz

***Tax Relief for the Elderly Committee 2005***

Valerie Buckley  
Walter Eastwood  
Pat Finick  
Reynolds Gordon, Esq.  
Claire J. Paolini, Ph.D.  
Linda Dollard  
Jennifer Alves

***Cemetery Committee***

W. Derek Buckley  
Phillip Doremus  
Gary Haines  
David Silverglade  
Joan Kirk  
Robert Bloom-Alternate  
Jonathan Fanton-Adjunct  
Mary Lou Weinstein-Adjunct  
Kevin Andrew King-Adjunct

***Senior Center Building Committee***

John Bromer  
Joseph Schettino  
Foster McKeon  
Robert Sullivan

***Animal Control Committee***

Peg Macaluso  
June Logie  
Marvin Gelfand  
Marnie Waiwat  
Clinton Hackenson  
Clarence Jennings

***Central Office Building Committee***

Susan Farmer  
Alan Katz  
Russell Neary

***Clean Energy Task Force***

Heidi Armster  
Fred Lovejoy  
Robert DeVellis  
Catherine Alfandre  
Katie Callahan  
Regina McNamara

***9-11 Memorial Building Committee***

Sal M. Santella, M.D.  
Maureen George  
Paula Barker  
Beverlee Dacey  
Eleanor Sylvestro  
Heather Noga

***Land Preservation and Acquisition Authority***

Victor Alfandre  
A.J. Afridi  
Carolyn Colangelo  
Gail Bromer  
Robert Ehlers  
Irving Snow - Alternate

**TOWN DEPARTMENTS AND EMPLOYEES**

**Selectman's Office**

Thomas A. Herrmann, 1st Selectman  
Scott Centrella, Selectman  
Robert Lessler, Selectman  
Althea Falco, Administrative Assistant  
Lauren Miller, Receptionist  
Terry Calgreen, Custodian

**Town Clerk**

W. Derek Buckley, 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**

John Campbell, Treasurer  
Grace Stanczyk, Comptroller  
Carmen Montero, HRCC  
Lauren Miller, Accounts Payable Clerk

**Planning & Zoning Department**

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

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

Margaret Anania, Secretary

**Building Department**

Emil Martin, Building Official  
Josephine Stenqvist, Secretary

**Health Department**

Christopher Michos, M.D., Director of Health  
Paula Edwards, Health Official  
Sheila Piritzky, Secretary

**Conservation Department**

Phillip Doremus, Wetlands Enforcement Officer  
Janice Greiser, Secretary

**Assessor's Office**

Teresa Rainieri, Assessor  
Louise Oakes, Assessor's Assistant

**Tax Collector**

Patrice Hildenbrand, Tax Collector  
Janice Greiser, Assistant Tax Collector

**Municipal Agent for the Elderly**

Patricia Finick, Agent  
Pamela Healy, Outreach Worker

**Senior Center**

Valerie Buckley, Director  
Cheryl (Kay) Oestreicher, Asst Director  
Maria Moura, Custodian  
Aimee Goerg, Driver

**Park & Recreation Department**

Gary Simone, Director  
Lauren DiMartino, Programmer  
Danielle Alves, Afterschool Program Coordinator  
and Department Secretary  
Chris Lemos, Maintenance Supervisor  
Walt Litzie, Maintainer I

**Library**

Bernadette Baldino, Director  
Lynn Zafino, Assistant Director  
Lisa Forman, Children's/Young Adult Librarian

**Assistants**

Barbara Fitchen  
Ann A. Salvia  
Penelope Papadoulis  
Michael Pettiti  
Nancy Harris  
Margaret Timlin

**Aides**

Lisa Macaluso  
Amanda Wenger  
Justin Santoro  
Ryan Santoro  
Christina Orticelli  
Kacy VanClief

**Police Department**

John F. Solomon, Police Chief  
James R. Candee, Captain  
Richard Doyle, Lieutenant  
William Spencer, Sergeant  
Jonathan Arnold, Sergeant

**Police Officers**

Thomas Brennan  
Thomas Ceccarelli  
Gary Csanadi  
Tamra French  
John Sollazo  
Mark Pastor  
David Simpson  
Donald Kinahan  
Jay Festa  
Onoria Errichetti

**Special Officers**

John Bech  
Craig Tibbals  
Oreibis Flores  
Diane Barriga, Administrative Assistant  
Bonnie Protsko, Records Clerk I  
Joanne Benson, Records Clerk II

**Communications Department****Dispatchers**

Diane Adiletta  
Loretta Harsche  
Tara Candee

**Part Time Dispatchers**

Richard Applebaum  
Cheryl Smolinsky  
Ann Slimak  
Joanne Benson

Cari-Ann Logie

Chris Lazar

Eric Lorenz

**Canine Control**

Kelly Fitch, Dog Warden  
Marjorie Costa, Assistant Dog Warden  
Deborah Ice, Assistant Dog Warden

**Registrars of Voters**

Nicholas Soares, Democrat  
Eunice Hanson, Republican

**Public Works Department**

Edward L. Nagy, Director and Town Engineer  
Bruce Bombero, Engineer  
Keith Rivoir, Highway Superintendent  
Jeanie Schwartz, Secretary  
Rachel Maciulewski, Secretary part time  
Daniel Treadwell, Garage Mgr/Lead Mechanic  
Robert Cocivi, Facilities Technician  
Gary Stevens, Assistant Facilities Technician

**Highwaymen**

Scott Smith  
Don Perkins  
Oscar Sampaio  
Jamie Correia  
Mark Iacobucci  
Jason Perkins  
Mark Alves  
William Bantle, Jr.  
William Goessinger  
Francisco Jose  
Kenneth Schwartz, Jr.  
William Bantle, Sr.

**Emergency Medical Services**

Andrew Rosenthal, EMT  
John Snyder, EMT  
Majorie Smith, EMS Service Chief  
Jonathan Arnold, EMS Assistant Service Chief

**Carolyn Kearney**

Bruce Lewis  
Gabor Meszaros  
Chris Lazar

**Emergency Management Director**

Richard Doyle

**Fire Department**

Doug VonHoltz,  
James Girardi, First Assistant Chief  
Peter Neary, Fire Marshal  
Schuyler Sherwood, Deputy Fire Marshal  
Lucy Crossman, Deputy Fire Marshal

**Firemen**

Wayne Crossman  
Michael Ohradan  
James Wright  
R. David Davies  
Alfred Doty  
Michael Sabia, Jr.  
Michael Strehan  
Martin Ohradan

## **ADMINISTRATION AND TEACHING STAFF**

### **Samuel Staples Elementary School**

#### **Principal**

Fox-Santora, Kimberly

#### **Assistant Principal**

LaTorre, Catherine

#### **Director Special Services**

Dekle, Donna

#### **Teachers**

Anderson, Claudia  
Arlotta, Jeanine  
Ashby, Charleen  
Bachelder, Maureen  
Barrows, Rachael  
Bates, Allan  
Brakeman, John  
Breuer, Wanda  
Brown, Carmen  
Chatfield, Callen  
Clark, Jessica Lyn  
Clark, Russell  
Colasanto, Kristen  
Cooper, Donald  
Cox, Kelly  
Duffy, Lynne  
Durette, Kay  
Edwards, Jennifer  
Fuller, Amy  
Giglio-Opalinski, Elizabeth L.  
Haber, Rachel  
Hobbs, Laura  
Holroyd, Stephanie  
Keleher, Robin  
Kenney, Bridget Mary  
Kuruc, Jill M.  
Lambert, Courtney  
Lavine, Marcy  
Lazar, Diane  
Linker, Ellen  
MacArthur, Carey  
Maggi, Courtney  
Marchetti, Emily  
Menegay, Judith  
Menegay, Robert  
Minty, Paige  
Muccio, Mary  
Olschan, Kathryn  
Paciello, Sunny Michelle  
Pilkington, Dawn  
Remmell, Diana  
Russo, Christopher  
Scholz, Darcy  
Selvaggi, Arlene  
Simmons, Helen  
Traggianese, Amy  
Woodford, Karen

#### **Special Ed Teachers**

Barnard, Stacey  
Edwards, Tracy  
Herrick, Robert  
Keating, Gerri  
Kessler, Melissa  
Langlois, Laura  
Morrow, Patricia  
Orendorf, Leslie  
Pugliese, Shani  
Skoczylas, Julianne  
Stern, Karen  
Wulf, Linda

### **Helen Keller Middle School**

#### **Principal**

Parker, Joan

#### **Assistant Principal**

Kaplan, Sue

#### **Teachers**

Ahearn, Allison  
Breyer, David A.  
Broas, Sarah  
Brodeur, Cynthia  
Cioppa, Roberta  
Cockerham, Arthur  
Culliton, Nancy  
Dunkerton, Amber  
Giovanniello, Melissa  
Grenier, Mary  
Harington, Heather  
Henry, Paula  
Heran, Kimberly  
Kilgannon, Laurel  
King, Jean  
Kirk, Megan  
Klein, Nicole  
LaValle, Robert  
Maggi, Linda  
Mahoney, Cindy  
Marusa, Debora  
Murphy, Nancy  
Noone, Elisabeth  
O'Donnell, Susan  
Powell, Stacey  
Rose, Jennifer  
Schweikert, Karen  
Scrivani, Ann  
Solis, Nicole  
Studeney, Jason  
Thomas, Patricia  
Tramontano, Jean  
Ustie, Elizabeth  
Weinshel, Carol

#### **Special Ed Teachers**

Cuttner, Nancy  
Donegan, Tracey  
Pearson, Eric  
Richter, Leslie

**Joel Barlow Regional High School #9****Principal**

Thomas McMorran

**Assistant Principal**

Anne Kipp

Gina Pin

**Teachers**

Albano, Donna

Anderson, Michelle

Angelis, Michael

Angell, Chris

Antal, Steven

Atkinson, Mary

Bailey, Beth

Barna, Frederick

Bielizna, Jerome

Breault, Christopher

Brix, Nancy

Budd, Jonathan S.

Christman, Amy

Ciancio, Brian

Correa, Catherine

Crowley, John

D'Amato, Daniela

DelAngelo, Henry

Desmarais, Jennifer

DeStefano, Judit

Detelich, Charles

DeVoto, James

Ecsedy, Michael

Egan, Jeanne F.

Eller, George

Erickson, Ashley

Estes, Lori

Fallo, Kristen

Fricker, Jacob

Gang, Scott

Garvey, Janice

Gervasoni, Fred

Givoni, Julianne

Goodpaster, Pamela

Hamlin, Paul B.

Horton, Cheryl

Hoyt, Rebecca

Huebner, Ileana

Hughes, Megan

Huminski, Carolyn

Huminski, Timothy

Huot, Charles

Intemann, Michael

Kilbourn, Maureen

Kilbourn, Thomas

Leniart, Daniel

Lewis, John

Light, Randall

Lipton, Matthew

Luzietti, Brian H.

Magrino, Filomena

Matthews, Jonathan

McNulty, Vincenza Jane

McTague, Julie

Morton, Susan

Nocturne, Margaret

Nuzzo, Katherine

Panos, Paula

Pieratti, Maryanne

Pinsky, Jordan

Potpinka, Thomas

Poulos, Christopher

Ramirez, Jennifer Short

Rao, Christina

Reimold, Scott

Richter, Thomas

Santangeli, Michael

Sheehy, Mary Ann

Siddell, Kathleen

Skalkos, Leigh

Smith, Barbara

Smith, Randall

Sopko, Joseph

Spinner, Daniel

Staley, Jessica

Staron, Angela

Sugden, Mary Elizabeth

Taubner, Debra

Tartaglia, Nicole

Therien, Beth

VanAusdal, Sandra

Vialotti, Laurie

Waterman, Waltraut

Whiting, Jacquelyn

Wright, Alison

**Special Ed Teachers**

Adamakos, Margaret

Barcham, Dale

Brown, Jeffrey

Feranec, Sandra

Hrebin, Mary Pat

Powers, John

Queen, Christine

Roberts, Marlene

Roszko, Patricia

Salko-Peddle, Shelia

Schutt, Cheryl

Stragazzi, Matt

Sullivan, Karen E.



## TOWN DIRECTORY

EMERGENCY	911
POLICE - FIRE - AMBULANCE	
NON-EMERGENCY	268-4111
POLICE - FIRE - AMBULANCE	
TOWN HALL	268-6291
FAX	268-4928
FIRST SELECTMAN	
ASSESSOR	
TOWN CLERK	261-6080
TAX COLLECTOR	
TREASURER	
BUILDING DEPARTMENT	
HEALTH DEPARTMENT	
PLANNING & ZONING	
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	
CONSERVATION	
REGISTRARS	
LIBRARY	261-0134
SENIOR CENTER	268-1145
MUNICIPAL AGENT	268-1137
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT	268-0714
PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT	268-7200
DOG WARDEN	268-9172
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS - CENTRAL OFFICE	261-2513
SAMUEL STAPLES SCHOOL	261-3607
HELEN KELLER MIDDLE SCHOOL	268-8651
JOEL BARLOW HIGH SCHOOL	938-2508
EASTON POST OFFICE	261-8386
PROBATE JUDGE - JOHN P. CHIOTA	452-5068
FAX	452-5092
STATE OFFICIALS - SENATOR JOHN McKINNEY	
REPRESENTATIVE JOHN STRIPP	
U.S. OFFICIALS - SENATOR CHRISTOPHER J. DODD	
SENATOR JOSEPH L. LIEBERMAN	
CONGRESSMAN JIM HIMES	

## SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS - BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

<b>Advisory Board Easton Senior Center</b>	2nd Tuesday	5:00 p.m.
Senior Center		
<b>Animal Control Committee</b>	2nd and 4th Wednesdays	7:00 p.m.
Police Department		
<b>Annual Town Meeting</b>	Last Monday in April	8:00 p.m.
Samuel Staples School		
<b>Board of Assessment Appeals</b>		
Assessor's Office - Town Hall		
Property Tax Grievances - March		
Motor Vehicle Tax Grievances - September		
Assessor's Office - Town Hall		
<b>Board of Education</b>	Monthly - Check Posting	7:30 p.m.
Helen Keller Middle School		
<b>Board of Ethics</b>	As Required	
Town Hall Conference Room		
<b>Board of Finance</b>	1st Tuesday	7:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
<b>Board of Selectmen</b>	1st and 3rd Thursdays	7:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
<b>Board of Zoning Appeals</b>	1st Monday	5:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
<b>Cemetery Committee</b>	As required	3:00 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
<b>Central Office Building Committee</b>	As Required	7:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room & SSES Media Ctr		
<b>Clean Energy Task Force</b>	4th Thursday	7:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
<b>Commission for the Aging</b>	1st Monday	5:00 p.m.
Senior Center		
<b>Conservation Commission</b>	2nd and 4th Tuesdays	7:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
<b>EMS Commission</b>	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m.
EMS Headquarters		
<b>Financial Oversight Committee</b>	3rd Tuesday	6:30 p.m.
Joel Barlow High School		
<b>Fire Commission</b>	3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m.
Firehouse		
<b>Human Resources Advisory Committee</b>	As Required	
<b>Insurance Commission</b>	As Required	
Town Hall Conference Room		
<b>Land Preservation and Acquisition Authority</b>	2nd Tuesday-every other month	7:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
<b>Library Board of Trustees</b>	1st Monday	7:00 p.m.
Library Conference Room		
<b>9-11 Memorial Building Committee</b>	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
<b>Park &amp; Recreation</b>	1st Monday	7:30 p.m.
Helen Keller Middle School		
<b>Pension Committee</b>	2nd Tues. Jan,May,Aug,and Nov	5:30 p.m.
Joel Barlow High School		

## SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS - BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

<b>Pension &amp; Employee Benefits</b>	2nd Tuesday - Bimonthly	8:30 a.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
<b>PHNA</b>	4th Monday	2:00 p.m.
As Announced		
<b>Planning &amp; Zoning Commission</b>	2nd and 4th Mondays	6:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
<b>Police Commission</b>	2nd Monday	5:30 p.m.
Police Department		
<b>Regional Board of Education</b>	Check Posting	7:30 p.m.
Joel Barlow High School		
<b>Safety and Health Committee</b>	As Required	
Town Hall Conference Room		
<b>Senior Center Building Committee</b>	Every Monday	7:15 p.m.
Senior Center		
<b>Solid Waste Commission</b>	2nd Wednesday	4:00 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
<b>Tax Relief for the Elderly</b>	As Required	5:30 p.m.
Senior Center		
<b>2001 School Building Committee</b>	As Required	
As Announced		
<b>2003 School Building Committee</b>	As Required	
As Announced		

## TOWN CALENDAR

<b>SELECTMAN'S OFFICE</b>	Monday-Friday	8:30-4:30
<b>ASSESSOR</b>	Monday-Friday	8:30-4:30
<b>TOWN CLERK</b>	Monday-Friday	8:30-2:00
<b>TAX COLLECTOR</b>	Monday-Friday	8:30-4:30
<b>TREASURER</b>	Monday-Friday	8:30-4:30
<b>BUILDING DEPARTMENT</b>	Monday-Friday	8:30-12:30&1:00-4:30
<b>HEALTH DEPARTMENT</b>	Monday,Wednesday,Friday	8:30-12:30&1:00-4:30
<b>PLANNING &amp; ZONING</b>	Mon.,Tues.,Thurs.,Fri.	9:30-1:30
<b>ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS</b>	Wednesday	9:30-1:30
<b>CONSERVATION</b>	Monday-Friday	8:30-12:30
<b>REGISTRAR OF VOTERS</b>	Thursday	9:30-3:00
<b>LIBRARY</b>	Monday, Friday Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday Saturday Closed Sundays	10:00-5:00 10:00-8:00 10:00-6:00 10:00-3:00
<b>SENIOR CENTER</b>	Monday-Friday	8:00-3:30
<b>MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY</b>	Monday-Friday	8:00-1:00
<b>PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT</b>	Monday-Friday	7:00-3:30
<b>PARKS &amp; RECREATION DEPARTMENT</b>	Monday-Friday	8:30-12:30
<b>TAXES DUE</b>	FIRST HALF SECOND HALF	July 1 <sup>st</sup> January 1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>DOG LICENSES DUE – TOWK CLERK</b>	June 1 <sup>st</sup>	
<b>HUNTING &amp; FISHING LICENSES – TOWK CLERK</b>	All Year	
<b>REGISTRATION OF BEES – TOWN CLERK</b>	Before October 1 <sup>st</sup>	
<b>TRANSFER STATION PERMITS-RECEPTIONIST</b>	Monday-Friday 8:30-4:30	
<b>ANNUAL TOWN MEETING</b>	Last Monday in April	8:00 P.M.



## **THE STAPLES GUARDIAN FUND**

The Staples Guardian Fund was established by Mr. Samuel Staples on January 7, 1787 to provide monies for the education of poor persons residing in what then was the Town of Weston. The Town of Weston was later sub-divided into the present towns of Weston and Easton. By a Special Act of the Connecticut Legislature in 1921, the trust assets in real estate were authorized to be sold, and to invest the proceeds thereof in accordance with the laws relating to the investment of trust funds, with the income to be disbursed between the two towns pro-rata with the number of the enumerated pupils in each town. Pursuant to a second Special Act of Connecticut Legislature in 1967, the Town of Weston shall distribute its share to a scholarship committee, the members of which shall be appointed by the Weston Guardians of The Staples Guardian Fund and approved by the Weston Board of Selectmen. The Staples Scholarship Committee of Weston shall administer the income received to provide college scholarships for Weston residents on the basis of financial need. The Town of Easton directs their distributive share into the General Fund of the Town.

The original stock certificates are kept at the Town of Weston Town Hall, in the custody of the Town Clerk's office, along with the historical records of the fund. The Weston Town Treasurer's responsibilities include being the custodian of the funds, investing these funds as agreed upon by the trustees, paying obligations, and compiling the annual financial statements and supporting schedules.

## **Independent Auditors' Report**

Board of Finance  
Town of Easton  
Easton, Connecticut

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, 2008, which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These basic financial statements are the responsibility of the Town's management. 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 basic financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control over financial reporting. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the basic financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and the significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall basic financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our 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, 2008, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, thereof for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The management discussion and analysis on pages 3 through 9 and budgetary comparison information on pages 43 through 47 are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of

inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

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 accompanying financial information listed as supplemental schedules in the table of contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. The combining fund financial statements and other schedules as listed in the table of contents have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 29, 2008 on our consideration of the Town's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, 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 the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.

December 29, 2008

**TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT**  
**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008**

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, 2008.

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 of the Town exceeded its liabilities at the close of the most recent year by \$56,448,170 (*net assets*). Of this amount, \$8,150,832 (*unrestricted net assets*) may be used to meet the Town's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.
- The Town's total net assets increased by \$2,431,654. Substantially all of the increase is attributable to capital expenditures in excess of depreciation expense and an increase in property tax revenue.
- As of the close of the current fiscal year, the Town's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$4,845,886 an increase of \$407,494 in comparison with the prior year.
- At the end of the current fiscal year, unreserved and undesignated fund balance for the general fund was \$4,898,593 or 11.7% of total general fund expenditures and transfers out.
- The Town's total long-term obligations decreased by \$1,464,000 during the current fiscal year. The Town paid bond principal of \$2,730,000 and bond interest of \$1,434,912.

**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 assets presents information on all of the Town's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as net assets. Over time, increases or decreases in net assets 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 assets changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net assets 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 23 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 21 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. The accounting used for fiduciary funds is much like that used for proprietary funds.

**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 progress in funding its obligation to provide pension benefits to its employees.

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



## **Government-Wide Financial Analysis**

As noted earlier, net assets may serve over time as a useful indicator of a Town's financial position. In the case of the Town, assets exceeded liabilities by \$56,448,170 at the close of the most recent fiscal year.

A large portion of the Town's net assets (88.7%) 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 NET ASSETS JUNE 30, 2008 AND 2007**

		<b>Governmental</b>	
		<b>Activities</b>	
		<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Current and other assets	\$	13,976,388	\$ 12,641,619
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation		86,217,338	86,894,463
Total assets		100,193,726	99,536,082
Long-term debt outstanding		35,833,619	38,440,117
Other liabilities		7,911,937	7,079,449
Total liabilities		43,745,556	45,519,566
Net Assets:			
Invested in capital assets, net of debt		48,297,338	47,642,649
Unrestricted		8,150,832	6,373,867
Total Net Assets	\$	56,448,170	\$ 54,016,516

None of the Town's net assets represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. The remaining balance of unrestricted net assets, \$8,150,832, 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 assets for the Town as a whole.

**TOWN OF EASTON CHANGES IN NET ASSETS  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2008 AND 2007**

						<b>Governmental</b>	
						<b>Activities</b>	
						<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Revenues:							
Program revenues:							
Charges for services					\$	1,642,250	\$ 1,591,043
Operating grants and contributions						6,259,320	1,924,851
Capital grants and contributions						100,000	
General revenues:							
Property taxes						34,899,834	32,903,341
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific purposes						290,190	255,731
Investment income						666,075	929,359
Miscellaneous						111,534	17,216
Total revenues						<u>43,969,203</u>	<u>37,621,541</u>
Program expenses:							
General government						3,286,740	2,926,556
Public safety						3,156,500	2,823,585
Public works						2,542,010	3,165,723
Health and welfare						385,297	332,090
Education						28,975,752	22,573,745
Library						711,604	724,807
Parks and recreation						779,966	771,168
Interest expense						1,699,680	1,630,197
Total expenses						<u>41,537,549</u>	<u>34,947,871</u>
Increase in Net Assets						2,431,654	2,673,670
Net Assets - Beginning of Year, as Restated						54,016,516	51,342,846
Net Assets - End of Year					\$	<u>56,448,170</u>	<u>54,016,516</u>

Property taxes increased by \$1,996,493 (6.1%) during the year. Most of this increase is to fund normal operating increases including debt service.

Operating grants increased by \$4,334,469 (225.2%) during the year. Most of this increase is due to the State pension payment for teachers' retirement which increased significantly this year.

Capital grants and contributions increased by \$100,000 (100%) during the year. This increase is due to a grant to fund the construction of the senior center.

**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 combined ending fund balances of \$4,845,886 an increase of \$415,837. All of this constitutes unreserved fund balance, which is available for spending at the Town's discretion.

The general fund is the operating fund of the Town. At the end of the current fiscal year, unreserved, undesignated fund balance was \$4,898,593. As a measure of the general fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare the unreserved fund balance to total general fund expenditures. Unreserved and undesignated fund balance represents 11.7% of total general fund expenditures and other financing uses, while total fund balance represents 13.2% of that same amount.

### **General Fund Budgetary Highlights**

The most significant difference between the original budget and the final amended budget included additional appropriations of \$152,969 and budget transfers of \$120,500 from various departments to the transfers out account to purchase equipment and provide for a Special Revenue Account for the Land Purchase Authority. The Board of Finance made special appropriations to the Technology, Assessor, Registrar of Voters, and the Town Attorneys budgets. The Town Meeting approved special appropriations to the Debt Service and Town Attorney budgets.

Significant budget variances were positive variances as follows: \$139,022 in the 660 Morehouse Road budget due to two position vacant during part of the year and a mild winter that left funds in the utility line; \$75,226 in the Fire Department budget due to workers' compensation insurance payments to reimburse salaries and a mild winter that required less storm overtime coverage; \$62,874 in the Library budget due to employees leaving and positions not immediately being replaced; \$312,320 in the Public Works budget due to positions vacancies during the year, employees out on workers' compensation and the town receiving insurance reimbursement and an excess in the overtime account due to a mild winter.

### **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. During the year ended June 30, 2008, there were no significant expenditures.

### **Capital Assets and Debt Administration**

**Capital assets.** The Town's investment in capital assets as of June 30, 2008 is \$86,217,338 (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:

- The completion of the ball field at the SSES property location fund with the Open Space Fund.
- The beginning of the Senior Center Renovation Capital Project that a Town Meeting appropriated \$75,000 and this project is being paid by a Small Cities Grant, Steap Grants and a LoCIP grant of \$20,000.
- The beginning of the Central Office move from Monroe to the 660 Morehouse Road location (the old SSES Building).
- A project to place Fire Suppression Systems in the Old SSES Building.
- The remaining additions and deletions consisted of various equipment and vehicles for Town departments including an Aerial Bucket Truck.

**TOWN OF EASTON CAPITAL ASSETS**  
(Net of Depreciation)

		<b>Governmental</b>	
		<b>Activities</b>	
		<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Land	\$	12,878,656	\$ 12,878,656
Construction in progress		8,420	
Land improvements		236,876	16,332
Buildings		54,686,832	55,503,308
Building improvements		172,868	15,628
Machinery and equipment		323,273	351,475
Vehicles		1,645,589	1,525,386
Infrastructure		16,264,824	16,603,678
Total	\$	86,217,338	\$ 86,894,463

Additional information on the Town's capital assets can be found in Note 5 of this report.

**Long-term debt.** At the end of the current fiscal year, the Town had total debt outstanding of \$37,920,000. All of this debt comprises debt backed by the full faith and credit of the Town.

**TOWN OF EASTON OUTSTANDING DEBT**  
**General Obligation Bonds and Notes**

		<b>Governmental</b>	
		<b>Activities</b>	
		<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
General obligation bonds - Town improvements	\$	7,841,500	\$ 7,183,500
General obligation bonds - School improvements		27,544,500	29,616,500
Bond anticipation notes		3,850,000	3,900,000
Total	\$	39,236,000	\$ 40,700,000

The Town is also obligated for a portion of the Regional School District No. 9 general obligation debt in the net amount of \$11,857,884.

In February 2008, the Town issued \$3,850,000 in bond anticipation notes. The interest rates for the notes were 3.0%.

During the fiscal year, the Town made bond principal payments of \$2,730,000 and interest payments of \$1,434,912 for school and general purpose debt.

The Town maintains an "Aa1" credit rating from Moody's Investors Service, Inc., 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 \$264,618,914, 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 8 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 2009 fiscal year:

- The unemployment rate for the Town is currently 3.1%. This compares favorably to the state's average unemployment rate of 4.5% and the national average rate of 4.7 %.
- Inflationary trends in the region compare favorably to national indices.
- The former elementary school building is partially leased to a private school and partially utilized by the Town's Senior Center that will begin renovations with a Small Cities Grant and State Steap Grant.
- Town's elected and appointed officials considered Town-wide trends when setting the fiscal year 2008 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. In order to meet these objectives, the Town recognized the need to continue its pattern of conservative budgeting while at the same time providing excellent services to our residents and taxpayers.
- At June 30, 2008, unreserved and undesignated fund balance in the general fund was \$4,898,593.

### **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 Controller, Town of Easton, 225 Center Road, Easton, Connecticut 06612.



## TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT

## STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS

JUNE 30, 2008

	<b><u>Governmental Activities</u></b>
Assets:	
Current assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 6,300,461
Investments	5,857,646
Receivables, net	1,392,057
Bond issuance costs	104,640
Total current assets	<u>13,654,804</u>
Noncurrent assets:	
Capital assets:	
Assets not being depreciated	12,887,076
Assets being depreciated, net	73,330,262
Total capital assets	<u>86,217,338</u>
Net pension asset	321,584
Total noncurrent assets	<u>86,538,922</u>
Total assets	<u>100,193,726</u>
Liabilities:	
Current liabilities:	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	3,579,848
Due to Regional School District No. 9	418,239
Unearned revenue	40,285
Unamortized bond premiums	23,565
Bond anticipation notes	3,850,000
Total current liabilities	<u>7,911,937</u>
Noncurrent liabilities:	
Long-term liabilities due within one year	2,884,618
Long-term liabilities due in more than one year	32,949,001
Total noncurrent liabilities	<u>35,833,619</u>
Total liabilities	<u>43,745,556</u>
Net Assets:	
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	48,297,338
Unrestricted	<u>8,150,832</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>\$ 56,448,170</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

**TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT**  
**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008**

Functions/Programs	Program Revenues				Net Expenses and Changes in Net Assets
	Expenses	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Total Governmental Activities
Governmental activities:					
General government	\$ 3,286,740	\$ 653,834	\$ 36,400	\$	\$ (2,596,506)
Public safety	3,156,500	220,107	139,094		(2,797,299)
Public works	2,542,010	250,872			(2,291,138)
Health and welfare	385,297	194,443		100,000	(90,854)
Education	28,975,752	10,815	6,083,826		(22,881,111)
Library	711,604	15,049			(696,555)
Parks and recreation	779,966	297,130			(482,836)
Interest expense	1,699,680				(1,699,680)
Total governmental activities	<u>\$ 41,537,549</u>	<u>\$ 1,642,250</u>	<u>\$ 6,259,320</u>	<u>\$ 100,000</u>	<u>(33,535,979)</u>
General revenues:					
Property taxes					34,899,834
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs					290,190
Investment income					666,075
Miscellaneous					111,534
Total general revenues					<u>35,967,633</u>
Change in net assets					2,431,654
Net Assets - Beginning of Year					<u>54,016,516</u>
Net Assets - End of Year					<u>\$ 56,448,170</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

**TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT**  
**BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**

**JUNE 30, 2008**

	<u>General</u>	<u>Bonded Capital Projects</u>	<u>Nonmajor Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,541,540	\$ 631,240	\$ 3,127,681	\$ 6,300,461
Investments	4,998,085		859,561	5,857,646
Receivables:				
Property taxes	555,547			555,547
Accounts	14,756	10,000	75,199	99,955
Intergovernmental	515,619		4,619	520,238
Total Assets	<u>\$ 8,625,547</u>	<u>\$ 641,240</u>	<u>\$ 4,067,060</u>	<u>\$ 13,333,847</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>				
Liabilities:				
Accounts payable	\$ 582,173	\$ 1,005,065	\$ 551,142	\$ 2,138,380
Accrued liabilities	883,111			883,111
Due to Regional School District No. 9	418,239			418,239
Due to other funds	182,378			182,378
Unearned revenue	1,015,853			1,015,853
Bond anticipation notes		3,850,000		3,850,000
Total liabilities	<u>3,081,754</u>	<u>4,855,065</u>	<u>551,142</u>	<u>8,487,961</u>
Fund balances:				
Unreserved, reported in:				
Designated for subsequent year's budget	408,000			408,000
Designated for potential claims	140,000			140,000
Designated for debt service	97,200			97,200
General Fund	4,898,593			4,898,593
Special revenue funds			2,452,278	2,452,278
Capital projects funds		(4,213,825)	1,063,640	(3,150,185)
Total fund balances	<u>5,543,793</u>	<u>(4,213,825)</u>	<u>3,515,918</u>	<u>4,845,886</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>\$ 8,625,547</u>	<u>\$ 641,240</u>	<u>\$ 4,067,060</u>	<u>\$ 13,333,847</u>

(Continued on next page)

## TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT

## BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS (CONTINUED)

JUNE 30, 2008

Reconciliation of fund balances - governmental funds to net assets of governmental activities:

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net assets (Exhibit I) are different from the governmental funds balance sheet. The details of this difference are as follows:

Total fund balances (Exhibit III)	\$ 4,845,886
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Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds:

Beginning net capital assets and current additions	87,638,832
Depreciation expense	(1,406,212)
Disposal of capital assets	(15,282)

Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current period expenditures and, therefore, are deferred in the funds:

Property tax interest and lien accrual	316,317
Property tax receivable - accrual basis change	501,171
School building grant receivable	474,397
Allowance for doubtful accounts	(100,000)
Bond issue costs	104,640
Net pension asset	321,584

Internal service funds are used by management to charge the cost of medical insurance to individual departments:

The assets and liabilities of the internal service funds are included in governmental activities in the statement of net assets	(16,785)
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Some liabilities, including bonds payable, are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds:

Beginning long-term liabilities and current year additions	(38,695,857)
Long-term liability payments	2,730,000
Accrued interest payable	(359,194)
Deferred charges	132,238
Bond premium	(23,565)

Net Assets of Governmental Activities (Exhibit I)	\$ <u>56,448,170</u>
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

## TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES -  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

	<u>General</u>	<u>Bonded Capital Projects</u>	<u>Nonmajor Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
Revenues:				
Property taxes	\$ 34,821,666	\$	\$	\$ 34,821,666
Intergovernmental	6,195,139		332,655	6,527,794
Charges for services	763,090	19,678	848,941	1,631,709
Investment income	577,147	6,352	82,576	666,075
Contributions			237,354	237,354
Total revenues	<u>42,357,042</u>	<u>26,030</u>	<u>1,501,526</u>	<u>43,884,598</u>
Expenditures:				
Current:				
General government	2,030,157		242,112	2,272,269
Public safety	2,215,303		106,276	2,321,579
Public works	1,696,685		257,117	1,953,802
Health and welfare	333,887		22,689	356,576
Education	27,632,800		175,678	27,808,478
Library	486,545		33,207	519,752
Parks and recreation	361,831		272,987	634,818
Employee benefits	2,433,012			2,433,012
Insurance	432,683			432,683
Debt service	4,389,475			4,389,475
Capital outlay		48,033	309,484	357,517
Total expenditures	<u>42,012,378</u>	<u>48,033</u>	<u>1,419,550</u>	<u>43,479,961</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures	<u>344,664</u>	<u>(22,003)</u>	<u>81,976</u>	<u>404,637</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses):				
Sale of capital assets	11,200			11,200
Transfers in			175,735	175,735
Transfers out	(175,735)			(175,735)
Net other financing sources (uses)	<u>(164,535)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>175,735</u>	<u>11,200</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	180,129	(22,003)	257,711	415,837
Fund Balances - Beginning of Year	<u>5,363,664</u>	<u>(4,191,822)</u>	<u>3,258,207</u>	<u>4,430,049</u>
Fund Balances - End of Year	<u>\$ 5,543,793</u>	<u>\$ (4,213,825)</u>	<u>\$ 3,515,918</u>	<u>\$ 4,845,886</u>

(Continued on next page)



## TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES -  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

Reconciliation of changes in fund balances - governmental funds to changes in net assets of governmental activities

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities (Exhibit II) are due to:

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds (Exhibit IV) \$ 415,837

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	744,369
Depreciation expense	(1,406,212)

The net effect of various miscellaneous transactions involving capital assets (i.e., sales, trade-ins and donations) is to increase net assets. 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 assets differs from the change in fund balance by the cost of the capital assets sold (15,282)

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:

School building grant receipts	(154,512)
Increase in property tax receivable - accrual basis change	73,035
Decrease in property tax interest and lien revenue	5,132

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 assets. Also, governmental funds report the effect of issuance costs, 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:

Debt issued or incurred:	
General obligation bonds and bond anticipation notes	2,730,000

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:

Landfill postclosure care	
Heart and hypertension claims	(3,463)
Compensated absences	(101,148)
Accrued interest payable	(15,342)
Amortization of bond premium	3,366
Amortization of bond issue costs	(9,338)
Amortization of deferred charges	(18,891)
Net pension asset	87,722

Internal Service Funds are used by management to charge costs of medical insurance to individual departments:

The net revenue of the activities of the Internal Service Fund is reported with governmental activities	<u>96,381</u>
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Change in Net Assets of Governmental Activities (Exhibit II)	<u>\$ 2,431,654</u>
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

## TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT

**GENERAL FUND**  
**SCHEDULE OF REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES**  
**BUDGET AND ACTUAL**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance With Final Budget</u>
Property Taxes:				
Property taxes, current and prior	\$ 34,896,282	\$ 34,896,282	\$ 34,642,917	\$ (253,365)
Interest and lien fees	100,000	100,000	134,601	34,601
Telephone access	41,350	41,350	44,148	2,798
Total property taxes	<u>35,037,632</u>	<u>35,037,632</u>	<u>34,821,666</u>	<u>(215,966)</u>
Intergovernmental:				
Educational assistance:				
Special education and education cost share	400,287	400,287	645,602	245,315
Regional School District No. 9	13,405	13,405	29,670	16,265
School building grant	162,516	162,516	153,578	(8,938)
Other	727	727		(727)
Total educational assistance	<u>576,935</u>	<u>576,935</u>	<u>828,850</u>	<u>251,915</u>
Town Assistance:				
Town aid roads	83,473	83,473	113,775	30,302
Infrastructure	615,613	615,613		(615,613)
In lieu of tax loss - boats	4,814	4,814	4,814	-
Elderly tax relief	41,075	41,075	38,067	(3,008)
Tax relief for the totally disabled			189	189
State owned property	54,577	54,577	59,688	5,111
Mashantucket Pequot grant	13,039	13,039	21,200	8,161
Civil preparedness	2,052	2,052	3,834	1,782
Property tax relief (veterans)	10,329	10,329	10,795	466
Tax relief - elderly freeze	2,000	2,000		(2,000)
Miscellaneous	276,421	276,421	41,663	(234,758)
Total Town assistance	<u>1,103,393</u>	<u>1,103,393</u>	<u>294,025</u>	<u>(809,368)</u>
Total intergovernmental	<u>1,680,328</u>	<u>1,680,328</u>	<u>1,122,875</u>	<u>(557,453)</u>
Investment Income	<u>375,000</u>	<u>375,000</u>	<u>577,147</u>	<u>202,147</u>
Charges for Services:				
Town clerk	200,000	200,000	253,152	53,152
Building inspection fees and permits	150,000	150,000	157,710	7,710
Health department	18,000	18,000	21,740	3,740
Planning and zoning	15,000	15,000	22,281	7,281
Conservation commission	15,000	15,000	11,016	(3,984)
Police department	65,000	65,000	80,655	15,655
First selectman	165,000	165,000	143,300	(21,700)
Municipal Building Leases	82,500	82,500	55,417	(27,083)

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## TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT

## GENERAL FUND

## SCHEDULE OF REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES

## BUDGET AND ACTUAL (CONTINUED)

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance With Final Budget
Fire marshall	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$	\$ (200)
Parks and recreation	2,900	2,900	850	(2,050)
Region 9 tuition	3,245	3,245		(3,245)
BOE tuition	2,092	2,092	10,815	8,723
Recycling bins			1,011	1,011
Highway department	1,400	1,400	1,603	203
Other	500	500	3,540	3,040
Total charges for services	<u>720,837</u>	<u>720,837</u>	<u>763,090</u>	<u>42,253</u>
Total Revenues	<u>37,813,797</u>	<u>37,813,797</u>	<u>37,284,778</u>	<u>(529,019)</u>
Other Financing Sources:				
Sale of capital assets			11,200	11,200
Total other financing sources	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,200</u>	<u>11,200</u>
Surplus Appropriated to Finance Budget	<u>332,000</u>	<u>332,000</u>		<u>(332,000)</u>
Total Revenues and Other Financing Sources	<u>\$ 38,145,797</u>	<u>\$ 38,145,797</u>	<u>37,295,978</u>	<u>\$ (517,819)</u>
Budgetary revenues are different than GAAP revenues because:				
State of Connecticut on-behalf contributions to the Connecticut				
State Teachers' Retirement System for Town teachers are not budgeted			<u>5,072,264</u>	
Total Revenues and Other Financing Sources as Reported on the Statement of Revenues,				
Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds -				
Exhibit IV			<u>\$ 42,368,242</u>	

## TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT

**GENERAL FUND**  
**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES**  
**BUDGET AND ACTUAL**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008**

	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Additional Appropriations and Transfers</b>	<b>Final Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance With Final Budget</b>
General Government:					
Town clerk	\$ 144,272	\$	\$ 144,272	\$ 135,724	\$ 8,548
First selectman	153,405		153,405	146,787	6,618
Probate court	3,750	782	4,532	4,532	-
Registrar of voters	62,890	4,000	66,890	59,119	7,771
Board of finance	7,100		7,100	6,842	258
Auditors	34,180		34,180	32,732	1,448
Treasurer	180,393		180,393	178,355	2,038
Assessor	106,363	1,530	107,893	107,123	770
Board of assessment appeals	600	30	630	630	-
Tax collector	88,268		88,268	86,266	2,002
Town attorney	100,000	60,000	160,000	148,423	11,577
Planning and zoning commission	108,866		108,866	99,450	9,416
Zoning board of appeals	6,752		6,752	6,094	658
Building department	90,266		90,266	85,461	4,805
Technology Computer		35,874	35,874	31,240	4,634
Town Hall	165,510	(28,544)	136,966	123,255	13,711
Communication dispatchers	201,764		201,764	187,207	14,557
Commission for the elderly	53,495		53,495	52,998	497
Senior center	160,818		160,818	157,512	3,306
SSS building	375,824		375,824	236,802	139,022
Cemetery	2,500		2,500	2,500	-
Public celebrations	500		500	493	7
Total general government	<u>2,047,516</u>	<u>73,672</u>	<u>2,121,188</u>	<u>1,889,545</u>	<u>231,643</u>
Public Safety:					
Police department	1,386,673	45,254	1,431,927	1,431,413	514
Fire department	744,216		744,216	668,990	75,226
Fire marshall	28,910		28,910	18,088	10,822
Emergency management	15,875		15,875	14,075	1,800
Firehouse rent	40,000		40,000	40,000	-
Conservation commission	48,028		48,028	42,737	5,291
Total public safety	<u>2,263,702</u>	<u>45,254</u>	<u>2,308,956</u>	<u>2,215,303</u>	<u>93,653</u>
Public Works:					
Recycling	130,278	23	130,301	130,301	-
Highway department	1,840,119		1,840,119	1,527,799	312,320
Street lights	1,667	19	1,686	1,686	-
Engineering and professional services	45,500		45,500	36,899	8,601
Total public works	<u>2,017,564</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>2,017,606</u>	<u>1,696,685</u>	<u>320,921</u>
Health and Welfare:					
PHNA	700		700	100	600
Health director	81,075		81,075	79,881	1,194
EMS commission	268,259		268,259	251,607	16,652
Welfare	4,190		4,190	2,299	1,891
Total health and welfare	<u>354,224</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>354,224</u>	<u>333,887</u>	<u>20,337</u>

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## TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT

**GENERAL FUND**  
**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES**  
**BUDGET AND ACTUAL (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Additional Appropriations and Transfers</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance With Final Budget</u>
Education:					
Easton Board of Education:					
General instruction	\$ 6,875,740	\$ (74,709)	\$ 6,801,031	\$ 6,845,384	\$ (44,353)
Kindergarten	8,368		8,368	8,087	281
Humanities	34,996	(3,889)	31,107	27,302	3,805
Integrated language arts	33,585	(11,758)	21,827	21,178	649
Curriculum	47,026		47,026	43,945	3,081
Industrial technology	8,470		8,470	7,361	1,109
Science/math technology	41,983	(5,471)	36,512	34,658	1,854
Physical education/health	4,755	(281)	4,474	4,438	36
Special services	27,720		27,720	17,100	10,620
Special education	2,859,489		2,859,489	2,879,475	(19,986)
Guidance	7,145	(372)	6,773	6,540	233
Health services	152,116	(2,816)	149,300	155,050	(5,750)
Psychological services	50,500	(1,375)	49,125	29,003	20,122
Speech services	14,350	(2,500)	11,850	5,201	6,649
Educational media services	74,485	(10,148)	64,337	65,302	(965)
Technology plan	189,978	1,760	191,738	200,558	(8,820)
Board of education	48,430	(5,407)	43,023	58,500	(15,477)
Central administration	483,789	(199)	483,590	483,590	-
School administration	859,828	(8,159)	851,669	872,971	(21,302)
Operation/maintenance					
physical plant	1,262,707	84,046	1,346,753	1,303,179	43,574
Student transportation	766,422	41,278	807,700	783,058	24,642
Total Easton Board of Education	13,851,882		13,851,882	13,851,880	2
Regional School District No. 9	8,708,656		8,708,656	8,708,656	
Total education	22,560,538	-	22,560,538	22,560,536	2
Library	533,286		533,286	486,545	46,741
Parks and Recreation:					
Parks and recreation commission	330,162	5,080	335,242	328,166	7,076
Tree warden	43,059		43,059	33,665	9,394
Total parks and recreation	373,221	5,080	378,301	361,831	16,470
Employee Benefits:					
Pensions	554,152	251	554,403	551,376	3,027
Fringe benefits	1,577,591		1,577,591	1,508,279	69,312
Social Security and Medicare	362,250	11,107	373,357	373,357	-
Total employee benefits	2,493,993	11,358	2,505,351	2,433,012	72,339

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## TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT

**GENERAL FUND**  
**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES**  
**BUDGET AND ACTUAL (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Additional Appropriations and Transfers</b>	<b>Final Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance With Final Budget</b>
Insurance	\$ 435,800	\$	\$ 435,800	\$ 432,683	\$ 3,117
Other	175,744	(32,437)	143,307	140,612	2,695
Debt Service:					
Principal retirement	2,730,000	50,000	2,780,000	2,780,000	-
Interest	1,590,479		1,590,479	1,590,478	1
Fiscal agent fees	50,900		50,900	18,997	31,903
Legal costs					-
Total debt service	<u>4,371,379</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>4,421,379</u>	<u>4,389,475</u>	<u>31,904</u>
Total expenditures	<u>37,626,967</u>	<u>152,969</u>	<u>37,779,936</u>	<u>36,940,114</u>	<u>839,822</u>
Other Financing Uses:					
Transfers out:					
Dog fund	55,235		55,235	55,235	-
Capital nonrecurring	120,500		120,500	120,500	-
Total other financing uses	<u>175,735</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>175,735</u>	<u>175,735</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses	<u>\$ 37,802,702</u>	<u>\$ 152,969</u>	<u>\$ 37,955,671</u>	37,115,849	<u>\$ 839,822</u>

Budgetary expenditures are different than GAAP expenditures because:

State of Connecticut on-behalf payments to the Connecticut

State Teachers' Retirement System for Town teachers are not budgeted

5,072,264

Total Expenditures and Other Financing Sources as Reported on the Statement

Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Fund

Exhibit IV

\$ 42,188,113

**TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT  
REPORT OF TAX COLLECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008**

Grand List Year	Uncollected Taxes July 1, 2007	Current Year Levy	Lawful Corrections		Transfers to Suspense	Adjusted Taxes Collectible	Collections		Uncollected Taxes June 30, 2008
			Additions	Deductions			Taxes	Interest and Liens	
2006	\$	\$ 34,786,928	\$	\$ 69,272	\$	\$ 34,717,656	\$ 34,478,448	\$ 87,846	\$ 239,208
2005	166,298			2,213		164,085	65,173	10,867	98,912
2004	103,333			4,966	10,318	88,049	32,323	7,704	55,726
2003	39,513		4,630			44,143	16,758	7,496	27,385
2002	27,605		4,247			31,852	12,428	1,228	19,424
2001	19,883		3,508			23,391	5,644	218	17,747
2000	13,365			1,799		11,566	197	260	11,369
1999	14,440			1,703		12,737	236	746	12,501
1998	12,403					12,403	1,639	2,311	10,764
1997	13,110					13,110	1,608	2,556	11,502
1996	15,561					15,561	1,537	2,722	14,024
1995	12,114					12,114	1,493	2,912	10,621
1994	10,829					10,829	1,416	3,019	9,413
1993	9,561					9,561	1,015	1,130	8,546
1992	8,460					8,460	55	141	8,405
1991	8,444			8,444		-		2,611	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 308,621</b>	<b>\$ 34,786,928</b>	<b>\$ 12,385</b>	<b>\$ 88,397</b>	<b>\$ 10,318</b>	<b>\$ 35,175,517</b>	<b>\$ 34,619,970</b>	<b>\$ 133,767</b>	<b>\$ 555,547</b>

Property taxes receivable considered available:

June 30, 2007	(41,071)
June 30, 2008	54,376

Property Tax Revenues \$ 34,633,275





**TOWN OF EASTON, CT 06612**

