

TOWN OF EASTON, CT 06612



TOWN OF EASTON



ANNUAL REPORT
2009

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, 2009. The information compiled provides residents of Easton with a comprehensive review of the operation of the Town, its finances, and educational system.

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

Andrew R Kachele, Chairman
Board of Finance

THE NEW EASTON SENIOR CENTER

Photo taken of the front entrance and spring garden at the New Easton Senior Center on its Dedication Day, May 9, 2009.

The cover photograph was taken by Cheryl Norton.



Town of Easton

ANNUAL REPORT

Town Hall
Easton, Connecticut

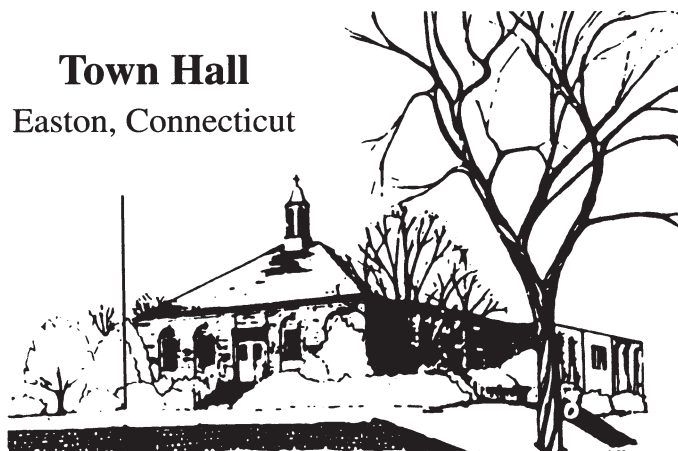


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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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 November of 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.

The new Senior Center opened in March 2009. 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 was renewed on September 1, 2009, for an additional term of seven years with an option that could run another eight years.. There also remains open space in the northerly portion of the building and the selectmen are in the process of considering a number of proposed, cost effective uses for this area. Meanwhile, some of this space is 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, 2012 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 Connecticut Brown trout. 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, Saddle Ridge Developers, has been approved for a 21 lot subdivision with plans to provide for the construction of ten bedroom homes. Following the approval, Saddle Ridge began developing a plan to construct 110, two bedroom residences and has submitted a septic plan for preliminary review by the Health Department.

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 two offices and the Town Sexton 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.
- Sell dog kennel licenses
- 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 Land Records, Maps, 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. This has been implemented this year for Board of Selectmen, and Board of Finance agendas and minutes.

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 Absentee Ballots and 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:

- The Town Clerk's office is now completely automated.
- 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 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 now 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
- Software has been developed for numbering, date, and time stamping Agendas and Minutes. It is in use for the following boards:
 - Board of Selectmen 1983 to date
 - Board of Finance 1981 to date
 - P & Z 1953 to date
 - Easton Board of Education 1958 to date
 - Region 9 Board of Education 1964 to date
 - Town Reports 1986 to date
 - Assignments and Resignations

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. Extension of the database back to 1970 is in progress.
- Operational improvements permitted the return to normal office hours
- This year we addressed the space and operational limits on the vault. The vault was redesigned and new shelving installed to house the Land Records, Minutes and Agendas, and Maps and other documents. This extended the life of the vault by about 20 years avoiding an expense of at least \$500,000 and was funded off budget.
- We began the process of updating the Town Ordinances ready for on line availability. This will be the first update since 1984

The first phase of the long-term plan to automate the major operations of the office is essentially complete.

There is still work to be done on Agendas and Minutes but Land Records are now available within 24 hours compared to more than one month. Agendas and minutes are available as soon as received which is generally within 48 hours.

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 remaining 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 database of images of Minutes and Agendas awaits funding

The next phase is to make these records available to the public

and others more conveniently. We are in the planning stage to upgrade the systems to permit online access. As usual, the intent is to try and fund these improvements with no impact on the town budget.

OPERATIONS

Fees Collected

The Town Clerk's office collects recording fees, conveyance taxes and other fees. The total amount collected in 2008 was \$224,466. This included \$99,044 of conveyance taxes, \$94,853 of recording fees and \$15,448 of dog license fees.

Real Estate Sales

In fiscal year, 2009 there was a total of 152 properties transferred. Of these, 67 were for \$100,000 or more. This excludes foreclosures, whose value is generally not known. The total value of these sales was \$50,508,575.

The average sales price was \$752,000 and the median was \$625,000. The strong disparity between these numbers means that the distribution of sales values is distorted by the market, and neither one is a reliable measure of market value, or changes.

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. The numbers reported above apply only to homes sold in Easton.

It would be an error to over interpret this information. For example, the 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.

In past years, there appeared to be a tri-modal distribution of home sales. At the lower end of the range, the few sales below \$100,000 probably represented 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 2008-2009 the distribution seems to have shifted towards bi-modal with the higher priced homes not in evidence.

| Fiscal Year | Marriage | Civil Union | Total |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 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% |

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.

This year, without budget impact on the town, we installed new vertical map holders. This was part of the overall effort to increase vault capacity and improve storage conditions for historic documents and maps.

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

Civil unions were not authorized in Connecticut until 2005. In fiscal year, 2009 there were 33 marriages and no civil unions in Easton

Births

In fiscal year 2009, there were 40 births to Easton parents.

Deaths

In fiscal year 2009, there were 40 deaths of Easton residents.

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]

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 1,425 licenses of all kinds. The total fee paid was \$15,448. The table below summarizes the licenses issued:

| DOG LICENSES | |
|--------------|------|
| MALE | 91 |
| FEMALE | 53 |
| SPAYED | 632 |
| NEUTERED | 641 |
| KENNEL | 8 |
| TOTAL | 1425 |

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 several year's 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 is divided into departmental sectors. The Town Clerk's section includes the following:

- Calendar of Meetings and Agendas
- Voter Information
- Voter Registration
- Absentee Ballot information
- Marriage License Application
- Marriage License Information
- Dog License information
- Recording Information
- Election Results
- Upcoming Events
- Announcements
- Sample Petition form

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 Sexton

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.

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. During fiscal year 2009 the income derived from this program continued to slide. The Federal Reserve Bank's aggressive use of lower short-term interest rate targeting to stabilize the economy and encourage lending at attractive rates has had the simultaneous effect of dramatically constricting the interest returns offered by financial institutions and money market investment vehicles. Since most of the Town's revenues are disbursed to meet budgetary commitments relatively quickly, and therefore, are only held for short periods of time, interest income is focused on short-term investments which have generated returns below historic norms.

The Town's longer-term investments did contribute significantly to the income that was generated. However, exposure to these investments, which unlike money market investments, are exposed to market fluctuation, has to be tempered in order to minimize risk.

Town of Easton Investment Income

| Year Ended June 30 | General Fund | Other Funds | Total |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 2009 | \$424,605 | \$4,746 | \$429,351 |
| 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 |

Fiscal year 2008/2009 saw a borrowing environment, which proved to be both harrowing and ultimately rewarding. Serious dislocations in financial markets worldwide ultimately influenced the US municipal bond market making issuing debt nearly impossible for several weeks in the Fall of 2008. Unfortunately, the Town's one -year Notes matured during this period and had to be reissued at a relatively high interest rate, but the issuance of the Notes was accomplished despite the difficult, nearly "frozen" market conditions.

By the Spring of 2009 the municipal market had turned extremely favorable to borrowers and the Treasurer's office returned to a focus on refinancing a \$17.1 million Bond originally issued in 2001. The refinancing of this Bond had been actively pursued periodically since late 2006, but market conditions, which occasionally turned toward favorable, never made refinancing sufficiently advantageous. In May, however, with the aid of its Financial Advisor, Phoenix Advisors, LLC, the Town was able to refinance the remaining \$9.4 million outstanding on the Bond at lower interest rates generating a savings of \$365,960 over the remaining life of the issue with \$187,998 of that savings earmarked for fiscal year 2009/2010.

During the refinancing process, the Town engaged Standard & Poor's to conduct a review of Easton's financial position. That review resulted in S&P elevating the Town of Easton's credit rating to "AAA", its highest rating reserved for municipalities it considers to be the most credit-worthy borrowers. Receipt of this rating is a testament to the Town's long-term commitment to prudent, measured financial management and the contribution of all those who built that record throughout the years.

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. Fiscal year 2009 was the first year that the Town's financial statements and audit were produced solely on the new system installed by the Comptroller and all requirements were met fully and in a timely fashion.

Beyond its expected financial duties, the Treasurer's office is

responsible for the Town's full range of Human Resources responsibilities including payroll management, new employee processing and retirement planning.

The staff experienced no changes during the year. Grace Stanczyk, the Town Comptroller, 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. Carmen Montero continues as payroll and human resources coordinator responsible for overseeing the daily operation of the Town's relatively small, but not uncomplicated, payroll system. Lauren Miller carries on in her role as processor of the Town's payables, a highly visible position that provides a "window" to the Town's ability to conduct its daily business activities in an efficient, professional manner.

Respectfully submitted,
John F. Campbell, Treasurer

TOWN ATTORNEY

Since November of 1997, there has been no single Town attorney for Easton. Attorney services were engaged on a case by case basis. On September 2, 2004, the Board of Selectmen adopted a written policy governing the method of selecting attorneys. Attorneys are now regularly selected by vote of 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, 2007 grand list were issued at the rate of 21.6 mills, which is equivalent to \$21.60 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, 2008 and January 1, 2009. Motor vehicle taxes were due in full July 1, 2008. Supplemental motor vehicle taxes for newly acquired motor vehicles registered subsequent to October 1, 2007 were due in full January 1, 2009 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 \$35,853,737 in taxes, interest and lien fees was collected during fiscal year 2008-2009.
- 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 \$83,582 in additions, and \$108,466 in deductions were made to the grand lists of 2002-2007.
- c. Report of transfers to suspense, Sec. 12-165 and 167, detailing list year, name, amount and reason. A total of \$8,905 was transferred to suspense from the grand list of 2004-2005.
- d. Report of refunds, Sec.12-129, detailing list year, name, amount and reason. A total of 194 refunds were given, totaling \$52,712 on the grand lists of 2002-2007.
- e. Liens: 61 liens for unpaid real estate taxes on the 2007 grand list were filed on June 30, 2009. 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, Rachel Maciulewski, and Jane Allen, my temporary help, for their professional and loyal support.

Patrice Hildenbrand, CCMC, Tax Collector
Rachel Maciulewski, Assistant Tax Collector

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT ON COLLECTIONS:

Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/2009
(Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 12-167(1-3))

| <u>List Year</u> | <u>2007</u> | <u>1990-2006</u> |
|---|---------------|------------------|
| Total amount of unpaid taxes on each rate bill at start of fiscal year | \$35,797,184 | \$551,957 |
| Lawful corrections | -28,891 | -30,819 |
| Suspense | - 0 - | -8,905 |
| Total amount collected on each rate bill during the fiscal year (tax, int., lien) | T: 35,453,602 | 202,846 |
| | I: 84,554 | 111,314 |
| | L: 432 | 840 |
| Total amount uncollected on each rate bill at end of fiscal year (excluding interest & liens) | \$314,691 | \$309,387 |

ASSESSOR

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

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

Revaluations are conducted every 5 years and the 10th year a physical inspection is required per State Statute. This is most difficult since the normal duties of the assessor's office and the work involved in performing the revaluation must be conducted concurrently. The last revaluation was done for the October 1, 2006 Grand List, and the next revaluation will be for October 1, 2011.

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 sale, which must be reported monthly to the State. All files, map book, street books and field cards are constantly updated as to changes of ownership and all are entered into the computer.

During the tax year, 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, donation or loss of cars & plate receipt is provided to the Assessors office in accordance with section 12-60 of the general statutes.

Services are also offered to all taxpayers who may have questions regarding their assessments. If the need arises, home visits are also made personally by the Assessor 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. Applications are sent out and appointments made. Later the Assessor inputs all the dollar amount in the computer which is reflected on the bill for seniors that qualify for the Town Tax Relief.

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

The Assessors office implements all public Act 490 Farm and Forest reductions. The forms are checked yearly for those eligible for a farm exemption to make sure that Taxpayers are complying 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 Assessor also works with the Board of Assessment Appeals on any questions they may have on Tax Payers who appeal their assessments. When and if any adjustments are made the Assessor then inputs all the information into the computer to reflect any changes on the field cards.

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

SUMMARY OF 2008 AND 2009 GRAND LIST

| Number of Assessment Lists | 2008 | 2009 | Difference |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Real Estate | 3340 | 3347 | +7 |
| Personal Property | 408 | 433 | +25 |
| Motor Vehicles | 7516 | 7439 | -77 |
| Gross value of taxable property | | | |
| | 2008 | 2009 | Decrease |
| Real Estate | 1,581,351,980 | 1,585,595,630 | +4,243,650 |
| Personal Property | 12,678,778 | 13,053,333 | +374,555 |
| Motor Vehicles | 69,445,650 | 69,054,630 | -401,020 |
| TOTAL | 1,663,846,408 | 1,667,703,593 | +4,217,185 |

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 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, the 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 for the November 3, 2009 Municipal Election was, total ballots 2206. Included in that were 87 absentee ballots.

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 1172, Republican 1721, Unaffiliated 2296 and 27 Other for a total of 5216 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:
Monday - Friday 8:30 - 12:30 and 1:00 - 4:30. Permits are accepted 8:30 to 12:00, and 2:00 to 4:00 by appointment.

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 ICC Building Codes”, including the Mechanical and Plumbing Codes, 2003 ICC International 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

| Building & Zoning Permits 2008/2009 | No. of Permits Issued | Estimated Value |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| New Houses | 4 | \$2,192,094.00 |
| Additions/Alterations | 57 | \$2,206,497.00 |
| Non-Residential | 30 | \$981,445.00 |
| Swimming Pools | 12 | \$467,900.00 |
| Above Ground Pool | 1 | \$3,500.00 |
| Demolition 2 Pools, 3 Residence, 3 Solar | | \$69,095.00 |
| MECHANICAL PERMITS | | |
| Plumbing | 88 | \$7,944.00 |
| Heating | 66 | \$12,885.00 |
| Electric | 137 | \$12,610.00 |
| Tanks New/Remove | 47 | \$3,525.00 |
| Caretakers Quarters | | |
| Affordable Apartment | | |
| Tennis Courts | | |
| Wood-Burn Stove Insert | | |
| Wood Stove Outside | | |

ANNUAL REPORT MONTH OF JULY 1, 2008 TO JUNE 30, 2009

| Zoning | Building | Total |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| \$8,927.00 | \$66,125.00 | \$75,052.00 |

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 seniors or someone who has been referred to as needing a visit. She is a much-valued extension to the Municipal Agent and can provide 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 is an exceptional help

Fuel Assistance applications are completed on an appointment basis from October through March. Financial guidelines are separated into two categories: households with someone age sixty plus or households with no elders residing in them. Thirteen fuel assistance applications were completed by seniors. Four applications were also completed by families with no elders residing in the home. Three of these applications were homes in foreclosure.

Fifteen seniors took a trip to Wesley Village in Shelton and toured the site. A van was provided by the facility and car pools were also arranged. Five seniors also visited the 3030 Watermark in Bridgeport, six toured Atria in Stratford, 5 toured Spring Meadows in Trumbull. Those attending felt the tours were very helpful and less intimidating as a group.

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 the late 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/Senior Social Services

EASTON SENIOR CENTER

The "new" Easton Senior Center opened on Saturday, May 9th 2009 to a great reception from over 350 residents and friends.

Police Chief Solomon and the Easton Policemen's Benevolent Association Inc. dedicated the new flagpole and flag that they had purchased for the occasion. Senator John McKinney, State Representative John Stripp, Congressman Himes, First Selectman Tom Herrmann, previous First Selectman, Bill Kupinse, and Building Committee Chairman, John Bromer, addressed the audience and thanked everyone for their long and hard-working efforts to complete the project.

There are not enough words to express thanks to Building Committee Chairman, John Bromer, Vice-Chairman, Foster McKeon, Joseph Schettino and Rocky Sullivan who spent at least three plus years of dedication on the building committee in order to complete such a great facility.

The total expenditure of the project was assessed at approximately \$1,725,000. Only \$75,000 was paid from the Easton Town Budget. All other funds were raised from federal, state and foundation grants. The cost to each taxpayer in Easton was approximately \$10.

As many residents and visitors to the center may have noticed the renovations inside the old Samuel Staples School were not the only benefits to the town. Shortly after the opening ceremony a special endowment from the family of Marion Penn and the William Morris Foundation allowed for extensive landscaping renovations to all the garden areas surrounding the building. Plantings were completed before the onset of winter and it is expected that Spring will be a wonderful time for seniors to spend outdoors with friends when visiting the center. Kudos to Foster McKeon who donated many hours of extra labor to beautify the whole area.

This has been a wonderful year for the Easton Senior Center. With the introduction of so many more innovative programs there has been overwhelming financial support to make sure that the goal of \$50,000 annually is maintained to sustain such programs. As you may already know the Easton Senior Center Inc. provides funds for all programs at the center. This arrangement has been this way since the opening of the first facility in 1989, so that the very folks that enjoy the facility will not have any further tax burden.

There have been exciting new changes in senior transportation also this year. A state grant of \$19,600 now provides extra funds to finance more efficient van service for homebound and physically challenged Easton residents, even in the evenings and at weekends. A generous gift from both the Fairfield County Community Foundation and the William Morris Foundation has also supported a further expansion of transportation services to include entertainment outings for the homebound. We have two wonderful drivers, Aimee Georg and Heriberto Torres that share the responsibility of watching out for the needs of all seniors that need assistance with doctor's visits, shopping, banking and such.

There is no doubt that one of the greatest strengths of the center is the wonderful support system of volunteers and a

dedicated staff, not to mention the community service high school students, all who spend endless hours in support of senior programs. Profound thanks are due to my assistant Kay Oestreicher who is an incredible support and who always works way beyond the “call of duty.”

Kudos to Attorney David McDonald, Chairman of the Easton Senior Citizen’s Center Inc., Vice-Chairman, Nancy Graham, Treasurer, Walter Eastwood, Secretary, Jackie Reck, Theresa Kelso, and Eleanor Clark. Also Easton Senior Center Advisory Board members: Chairwoman, Attorney, Sharon Cregeen, Vice Chairwoman, Bridgette Shkreli, Secretary, Prabha Gupta, Joan Kirk, Dr. Claire Paolini, Dr. David Pearlstone, Dr. Sal Santella, Marilyn Santella, Alice Weissman, and Attorney Robert Tellalian (ex-officio), for all their continued support.

Best wishes and thanks to retiring Chairwoman, Janet Gordon, and to Municipal Agent, Pat Finick. Welcome and best wishes to Katie Tressler, the new Municipal Agent.

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, a part-time field worker, 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 closely with the Epidemiology Section of the State Health Department. We have free literature covering a wide array of public health topics that we keep available to local residents.

We have again had a very busy year. Our protocols for flu pandemic were put to the test in the fall of 2009 as we worked closely with the Fairfield Health Department in providing town wide H1N1 flu vaccinations. The new Easton Senior Center, with the help of Val Buckley, provided the perfect space for running the local clinics. Joint clinics were also run successfully by Fairfield and Easton in a number of sites in Fairfield.

Throughout the year we attended numerous training seminars in bioterrorism, emergency preparedness, food service sanitation, sewage disposal, drinking water safety, and public health education. We also 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 | 2008/2009 Permits Totals | Fee Totals |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| SEPTIC (NEW) | 25 | \$4,400.00 |
| SEPTIC (REPAIRS) | 15 | \$1,475.00 |
| SEPTIC (REVIEWS) | 92 | \$5,400.00 |
| WELLS | 12 | \$900.00 |
| SOIL TESTS | 33 | \$2,800.00 |
| FOOD SERVICE | 19 | \$1,900.00 |
| TEMP FOOD SERVICE | 13 | \$605.00 |

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 44" inches of snowfall, which required the Department to plow on 11 different occasions. Sanding of the Town roads occurred 25 times consuming 4,794 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, 13.93 miles of road were involved in this program, with the use of 45,016 gallons of road oil, 1,756 tons of 3/8" Stone and 3,623 tons of bituminous concrete.

This past year the Department's drainage program entailed:

- 1 New manhole was installed
- 3 New catch basins were installed
- 39 Catch basins were repaired or rebuilt
- 160 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 36 new signs and posts installed and 21 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.

With the purchase of the new aerial bucket truck last year, the Town's crew was able to once again maintain the Town's parking lot lights and also able to render needed attention

to dead trees and hazardous limbs hanging over the Town roadways. The tree work was done in unison with the Town Tree Warden.

Applications for 15 driveway permits and 6 road-opening permits brought in \$525 in fees.

The department joined the Easton Garden Club for its 29th 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 1,382 hours of work throughout the Town in unison with the Park and Recreation Department, Board of Education, Town Hall, Library, Easton Police Department, Animal Control, Easton Fire Department, EMS and the Conservation Commission.

At the Special Town Meeting held on May 18, 2009, a special appropriation in the amount of \$614,000 was authorized for the Wells Hill Road Bridge project which included the costs associated with the planning, design, replacement and construction of the new bridge. At the June 9, 2009 Board of Selectmen Meeting, Guerrero Construction Company was awarded the bid in the amount of \$539,949 for the construction of the new bridge.

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 2008-2009 Town Budget in the amount of \$39,390,785 included appropriations of \$15,561,585 (includes Debt Service) in the Selectman's accounts, \$14,419,258 for the Easton Board of Education, and \$9,393,702 for the Region 9 Board of Education. On the basis of a Grand List of \$1,662,883,678 the Board set a tax rate of 21.6 mills for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

A significant event in the past fiscal year was the first ever achievement of a triple A rating by Standard and Poor's. This rating lowers our cost of borrowing and reflects S&P's assessment of the soundness of our fiscal policies. Easton is one of the few municipalities in the State to achieve this rating.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Tom Partridge for his many years of service to the Town as a member and past Chairman of the Board. His wise counsel, good humor and selfless dedication will be missed.

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 2009-2010 during the month of March. The Board of Assessment Appeals also met in September of 2009 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

Long-range planning for the future of Easton and conservation of the town's historic and natural resources were parallel goals underlying much of the Commission's work during Fiscal 2008-2009.

In July 2008 the Town's new comprehensive Plan of Conservation and Development, adopted in 2007, was published and distributed to Town officials. This 112-page report, complete with maps and illustrations, is available for purchase at the Town Hall and may also be viewed on the Town's website. The Town Plan expresses a vision for the future of Easton and proposes steps to conserve the spacious, semi-rural, residential character of the community.

A two-year historical and archaeological survey of the town, sponsored by the Planning and Zoning Commission and partially funded by the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, was successfully completed in May 2009. This study, by Aspetuck Landways consultants, supplements a key recommendation of the Town Plan for conservation of the town's cultural heritage and presents a fascinating picture of Easton's pre-history and its land use development since the beginning of the seventeenth century. The final report, which contains 185 pages of text, tables and historic maps, is accompanied by GIS large-scale maps and many bound appendices which replicate historic records from Easton and adjacent towns. This document is available for public inspection at the Town Clerk's office and at the Easton Public Library, as well as at the office of the Planning and Zoning Commission where the maps and appendices are also available for viewing during regular hours.

Planning for the future of the Town's 127-acre tract of land along Morehouse and Banks Roads, commenced in 2007, continued during the fiscal year. Following completion of the new Samuel Staples School in 2005, on approximately 18 acres at the northerly extremity of the tract, the Commission has compiled detailed mapping of the entire tract, has located and approved sites for an animal control shelter and several recreational ballfields, and has plotted tentative locations for a long hiking trail, a passive recreational meadow, farmland conservation, future ballfields, other public facilities and open space.

Other planning studies have focused on appropriate future development for two of the five local "centers" identified in the Town Plan. These are located at the vicinity of the Town Hall, Public Library and Old Staples School, and in the vicinity of the Sport Hill Road-Center Road intersection. Detailed plans for these localities are under continuing study.

With one major exception, new development activity was considerably subdued in reflection of the national economic recession. Application was made in September 2008 for a subdivision of 21 new lots on 124 acres of the Stone property between Sport Hill, Silver Hill and Cedar Hill Roads. The plan

proposed new roads and oversized septic designs for all of the dwellings. After six public hearings extending through January 2009 and several plan revisions the Commission approved the plan in March 2009 subject to various modifications to conform to Town regulations. However the applicant has appealed the Commission decision and litigation is pending. Three minor subdivision proposals were also considered by the Commission; of these one was disapproved, one was denied without prejudice due to a minor lot shape insufficiency, and one was approved, resulting in the creation of three new lots at the end of Ridgeway Road.

There were no applications for new permitted special uses during the fiscal year. However several minor amendments to previously approved special permits were authorized, for fencing at the Town's Little League ballfield and for site plans associated with two home occupations.

In December 2008 the Commission met with members of the Town "9/11 Memorial Committee" to discuss the Committee's request to erect a memorial structure on the public green between the Library and the Town Hall. After deliberation the Commission determined the requested site to be inappropriate and not consistent with the Town Plan, and so advised the Board of Selectmen in a referral letter dated 12/23/08. The Commission noted that on-going-planning studies of the area had identified several suitable alternative sites for the memorials, and urged reconsideration. In a subsequent referral the Commission endorsed an alternative location for the proposed memorial on the Public Library site.

New construction activity declined from the previous fiscal year in which 117 permits were issued and seven new dwellings were authorized. During 2008-09 only 94 zoning permits were issued and only three new dwellings were authorized. However each of the three new dwellings replaced a demolished dwelling on the same site, so there was no net gain in total dwellings in Easton. No applications were received for affordable accessory apartments.

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. Both regular members and alternate members are empowered by the Connecticut General Statutes under Section 8-5. In accordance with a town ordinance effective March 6, 1974, alternates are appointed by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Easton for a term of six years.

During the fiscal year 2008-2009 the Zoning Board of Appeals met in session on eight occasions and heard ten appeals. Variances were granted to eight applicants, and two were denied.

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, 2008 to June 30, 2009, seventeen applications were received. Fourteen were approved. Two were denied, and one application was deemed not necessary. Of the seventeen applications received, six were reviewed and approved by the Designated Agent. One Public Hearing was held. There were two requests for extensions of time and both were approved. The Wetland Enforcement Officer issued five violations, one warning letter and one cease and Remediate letter.

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

All new homeowners 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. With the help of a number of neighbors and the Public Works Department, the Commission is able to maintain two farm fields on the property to encourage different species of wild life. There are three gates to the property to help deter unauthorized vehicles. These gates are located at the eastern access way, at the main entrance, and at the end of the Oak Ridge Trail on the Paine Property. The property has posted signs 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 has developed Paine Open Space Maps showing both the Skyline Drive and the Carriage Drive Open Spaces, as well as any new trails that have been developed on the property.

The Commission is looking for a new home for the English Barn located on the Paine Open Space property. The barn, which is in dire need of repair, must be removed from it's present location and is being offered to potential buyers who must demonstrate the ability to take down the barn from it's present site and reconstruct it on their own lot.

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 the Easton Library. This map locates all the town-owned open space parcels.

The Commission is a member of the Endangered Lands Coalition, which works to protect the watershed lands that surround and purify the reservoirs, rivers and streams.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Roy Gosse, Chairman

Officers for the Easton Conservation Commission:
Roy Gosse, 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 the age group concerned, and three (3) alternates in accordance with the by-laws. The Municipal Agent is appointed by the First Selectman, serves as an ex-officio member of the Commission in accordance with State Statutes. The long time Municipal Agent, Pat Finick, retired after many years of dedicated service. Katie Tressler has recently been hired as her successor.

The Commission shall:

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

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

Commission meetings are held at 5:00pm 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. Both were well attended and well received. More will be held in the future.

Commission members are Cecelia Campbell, Nancy Gavigan, Gail Gay, Carol Hume, Janet Klein, and Joel Peskay.

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, 3 softball fields, several cemeteries, Toth park, 7 playgrounds, 4 tennis courts, 7 soccer / multi-purpose fields and one football field. Recently the department partnered with Easton little league to construct a new regulation baseball field, this joint venture was made possible by the hard work of many Easton volunteers. The department is extremely proud of all the work that has been accomplished at the Morehouse road facility; in addition to the 4 acres of playing fields, the department has installed a state of the art irrigation system, along with the installation of water and electricity for future needs.

Easton 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 2,500 participants in our free and cost-effective programming.

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

The 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, Kathi Smith, Steve Lichtman, Mark D’Augelli, and John Broadbin.

INSURANCE COMMISSION

TOWN OF EASTON INSURANCE SCHEDULE 7/01/08 -7/01/09

Commercial Property Coverage

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Blanket Building & Contents | |
| Agreed Amount and Replacement | \$81,727,188 |
| Contractor’s Equipment | 695,065 |
| Fine Arts - Exhibition Floater | 200,000 |
| Miscellaneous Leased Property | 51,963 |
| 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 Library

| | |
|------------|-------------------|
| Each claim | \$ 1,000,000 |
| Deductible | Each claim 10,000 |

Law Enforcement Liability

| | |
|------------|-------------------|
| Each claim | \$1,000,000 |
| Deductible | Each claim 10,000 |

School Leader’s Legal Liability

| | |
|------------|-------------------|
| Each claim | \$ 1,000,000 |
| Deductible | Each claim 10,000 |

Following-Form Excess Liability

\$10,000,000

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

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Treasurer | |
| Comptroller | |
| Accounts Payable/Receptionist | |
| Human Resources/Comp. Coordinator | |
| Retirement Plan Bond | \$ 160,000 |
| Surety Bonds | |
| Tax Collector | \$ 187,500 |
| Assistant Tax Collector | \$ 187,500 |

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 declined dramatically during the recent financial market drop but less than the market indices. The Town's pension obligations at July 1, 2009 were 67.9% funded. Subsequent stock market conditions have positively 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
Rob Ehlers
Irv Snow – Alternate
Jeff Borofsky - 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 (AJ) Afridi, Chair
Land Preservation & Acquisition Authority

COMMITTEES

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

TOWN SEXTON

The Town Sexton for Abandoned Cemeteries and the Easton Cemetery Committee were established in 2004 as a permanent position and 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 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.

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 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.
- Legislation was introduced in Hartford to permit the town to take ownership of the abandoned cemeteries. Although not controversial, the legislation did not get through the busy legislative calendar and was deferred to the following year.

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 2009 year, the Committee reviewed and proposed adjustments, as appropriate, of selected job grade classifications and compensation rates.

The membership of the Committee during 2008-09 was Thomas A. Herrmann, Chair; William J. Kupinse, Jr., Elise Broach, Valerie Buckley; Grace Stanczyk and Carmen Montero.

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 882.87 tons.

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

The Towns of Trumbull, Easton and Monroe have put our resources together to form TEaM, which is our combined effort to operate a recycling drop-off center for scrap metal, commingled beverage containers, mixed paper, corrugated cardboard, newspaper, and used tires. 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 158.65 tons.

The volume of waste motor oil that was brought to the Public Works facility by Town residents for recycling was 900 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 (CRRRA) 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 2,734 tons of solid waste during the 2008-2009 fiscal year. The disposal fee for this solid waste was \$99.00 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:

Robert Nicola, Commission Chairman
Raymond Martin, Vice-Chairman
Marvin Gelfand, Secretary
Richard Colangelo, Commissioner
Ronald Kowalski, 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,
Robert Nicola, 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, 2008 - JUNE 30, 2009

| <u>ENFORCEMENT</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2008</u> | <u>2007</u> |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| MV Violations | 489 | 1165 | 686 |
| Parking Tickets | 19 | 14 | 9 |
| MV Warnings | 718 | 824 | 1352 |

| <u>CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS</u> | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|------|
| ACO Arrests | 27 | 39 | 27 |
| Arson | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Assault | 6 | 6 | 4 |
| Breach of Peace | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Burglary | 9 | 2 | 2 |
| Criminal Mischief | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| Criminal Trespassing | 2 | 11 | 4 |
| Disorderly Conduct | 20 | 19 | 14 |
| Drugs | 11 | 21 | 22 |
| JV Referral | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| DWI | 6 | 25 | 30 |
| Larceny | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| Liquor Law Viol. | 1 | 25 | 0 |
| Robbery | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sex Crimes/Rape | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Stolen MV | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Weapons Violation | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Warrants | 17 | 27 | 23 |
| Other | 9 | 13 | 16 |
| Enforcement/Violations Totals | 1339 | 1725 | 2684 |

| <u>COMPS & Investigations</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2008</u> | <u>2007</u> |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Accidents | 158 | 189 | 203 |
| Aided Cases | 328 | 292 | 294 |
| Alarms | 970 | 846 | 969 |
| Animals | 826 | 860 | 875 |
| Arson | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Assault | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Assistance | 533 | 613 | 570 |
| Asst Other Dept | 313 | 246 | 228 |
| Bomb Threats | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Burglary | 9 | 12 | 11 |
| Child Safety Restraint | 88 | 50 | 67 |
| Computer Crime | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Counterfeit | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Crim Mischief/Prop Dmg | 52 | 48 | 65 |
| C.M. Mailbox | 34 | 64 | 82 |
| Credit Card/Fraud | 9 | 2 | 10 |
| Disabled M/V | 194 | 182 | 222 |
| Domestics | 43 | 32 | 15 |
| Fingerprints | 311 | 256 | 265 |
| Fires | 138 | 117 | 149 |
| Found Prop & Released | 63 | 53 | 43 |
| Other/General/Littering | 36 | 35 | 49 |
| Impersonation | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Homicide | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Juvenile Referrals | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Larceny | 35 | 27 | 23 |
| Lost Property | 1 | 33 | 50 |
| M/V Found/Lost | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| M/V Impound | 0 | 5 | 11 |
| M/V Stolen | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Missing Person/Fnd | 4 | 9 | 11 |
| Narcotics/Drugs | 4 | 11 | 18 |
| Noise Complaints | 79 | 94 | 102 |
| Phone Calls | 56 | 34 | 38 |
| Permits | 41 | 26 | 27 |
| Record Check | 139 | 103 | 72 |
| Robbery | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Select Enforcement | 158 | 183 | 249 |
| Sex Crimes | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Soliciting | 9 | 10 | 17 |
| State Property | 89 | 109 | 116 |
| Subpoena | 33 | 14 | 23 |
| Suspicious Activity | 70 | 76 | 110 |
| Suspicious M/V | 321 | 367 | 377 |
| Suspicious Person | 97 | 78 | 92 |
| Teletype | 106 | 94 | 64 |
| Threatening | 4 | 2 | 5 |
| Town Property | 254 | 266 | 258 |
| Trespassing | 9 | 6 | 5 |
| Trucks | 4 | 15 | 10 |
| Utilities | 462 | 507 | 577 |
| Validation | 9 | 13 | 13 |
| Warrants/Arrests/Application | 9 | 57 | 42 |
| Weapon Law Viol | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Youths | 48 | 36 | 42 |
| M/V Stops/Arrests | 1059 | 1351 | 2303 |
| DWI | 6 | 26 | 29 |
| Liquor Law Viols | 2 | 8 | 5 |
| Supplement Rpts. | 239 | 201 | 151 |
| TOTAL | 7491 | 7674 | 8978 |

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. It is anticipated that the building will be completed in 2010.

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, 2008 - JUNE 30, 2009

| | <u>2009</u> | <u>2008</u> | <u>2007</u> |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Comps Investigated | 829 | 864 | 877 |
| Dogs Destroyed | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| Cats Destroyed | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Dogs Redeemed | 59 | 77 | 85 |
| Cats Redeemed | 1 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | |
|----------------------|------|------|------|
| Dogs Sold | 7 | 24 | 19 |
| Cats Sold | 26 | 18 | 7 |
| Other | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Dog Owner Arrests | 27 | 39 | 26 |
| Dog Bites | 14 | 11 | 11 |
| Cat Bites | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Other | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Phone Calls Received | 2195 | 2038 | 2570 |
| Notices to License | 657 | 576 | 501 |

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 Tara Candee. 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. The Board manages and controls all matters pertaining to fire protection within the Town of Easton in coordination with the Easton Fire Department's eight employed fire fighters, the Easton Volunteer Fire Company #1, a separate non-town support corporation which furnishes the volunteer man power, the Fire Marshal's office.

Some of the duties The Board is charged with include: selection and recommendation of the acquisition of sites for location of facilities and review the adequacy of existing facilities, to assure adequate fire protection within the Town. Supervise the purchase of the fire fighting equipment and supplies after reviewing with the Volunteer Fire Company its requirements and to make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance. Prepare each proposed annual operating budget for the Fire Protection of the Town. Supervise the care of equipment, deportment and dress of all career firefighters ensure proper training of new recruits.

The commission public meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM in the firehouse training room. Fire Marshal Peter Neary, Chief Jim Girardi the company officers and the five fire commissioners are in attendance.

The eight career firefighters provide 24 hour coverage, with two on duty to answer the alarm, we have an immediate

response to our emergency calls.

Fire protection and coverage is the Commissions major concern, we meet with representatives from the Insurance Standard Organization to understand were the Department can make improvements in fire protection. Capt. Paul Skirtch will chair a committee to review Fire Department policies, preplans and mutual aid response.

Currently the town owns four firefighting vehicles. The Department is working on plans for replacing the 1987 rescue truck, Engine 3.

Dry hydrants are an on going project for the Department. Dry hydrants are water supply's that are either ponds or underground water storage tanks, The Department continually test and maintains them on a yearly bases.

Roberta Cable was appointed to the Commission this year she replaces the late Teresa O'Connell. Commissioner Beno step down as chairman after a long and much appreciated tenure.

The Commission would like to thank our Fire Fighters, Fire Marshals and the men and women of the Easton Vol. Fire Co. #1 for their dedication and countless hour of service to the town of Easton.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Monda Chairman
George A. Beno
Ralph Alteri
Anthony Colonnese
Roberta Cable

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 while responding to calls and training as one cohesive unit. The Elected Chiefs of the Volunteer Fire Company are the Chiefs of both agencies.

The establishment of the Easton Volunteer Fire Company #1 happened in November of 1921 and has continuously provided fire protection to the Town of Easton. Currently there are 40 +/-active firefighters serving in the Fire Company. These volunteers come from a wide cross-section of Easton's diverse community. They are Lawyers, General Contractors, Aircraft Mechanics, Architects, etc. These men and woman spend countless hours training for and responding to the wide variety of calls for help. The elected line officers in 2009 were Chiefs Doug von Holtz and Jim Girardi, 1st Assistant Chiefs Jim Girardi and Steve Waugh, and 2nd Assistant Chief Eric Resko. The executive officers in 2009 were President Paul Skrtich, Vice President Jim Warner, 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 rolls of the Fire Department. In 1968 the fourth a position was added to the roster. In 2007 the first change in 39 years took place. During contract negotiations Local 1426 asked for four additional Firefighters, the Town agreed to the need and sent four Recruit Firefighters to the Connecticut State Fire Academy. Upon graduation the four Recruit Firefighters joined Easton's Fire Fighting Force as Probationary Career Firefighters. A firefighter works 24 straight hours and then has 72 hours off. This provides staffing in the Fire House 24 hours a day 365 days a year. Many times during the workweek, due to Easton being a bedroom community, the "on-duty" firefighters are at times, the only ones responding to calls. The career firefighters perform the crucial task of maintaining the Town's firefighting equipment. The Town's current career fighters are Wayne Crossman, James Wright, Michael Ohradan, and David Davies. The newest Firefighters are Al Doty, Martin Ohradan, Michael Sabia, and Michael Streahan. Mark Mirowski was hired on as a temporary to cover for Michael Streahan and his injuries.

The 2009 calendar year turned out to be a busy year. The Department responded to 390 calls during the year. The calls types varied greatly. A breakdown of the most frequent types of calls is as follows: 115 alarm activations, 56 lock-outs, 28 vehicle accidents, and 8 building fires. We also responded to 20 of hazardous material releases. All told the Department personnel expended over 1,250 person hours responding to calls for help.

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
Chief Jim Girardi

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 as well as to act in accordance with the ordinance established to run the emergency medical service

for the Town of Easton.

The Easton Volunteer Emergency Medical Service consists of 34 volunteers, including college students, who participate when they are available. Officers and Directors are Mrs. Marge Smith, President and Chief of the Department, Police Officer 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, Mrs. Michelle Goldstein, Director of Scheduling, and Mrs. Peggy 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. Homeland security meetings continue to be conducted on local, regional and state levels which were attended by both Chief Smith and Assistant Chief Arnold, as well as Tri-Town Meetings with Easton, Monroe and Trumbull. 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 340 total calls and plus the standbys noted below. A breakdown of call types indicates: 77 trauma; 184 medical; Paramedics on transport 108; 79 refused to be transported. In addition to this, there were 14 standbys: Five nights Firemen's Carnival; 5-K Hope Run for Life for benefit of Norma F. Pfriem Breast Cancer Center and co-sponsored by Easton Park and Recreation; Cystic Fibrosis Bike Tour; Halloween bonfire; Indoor Rowing Championships at the ECC; 5-K Annual DARE Race; Touch-a-Truck; Easton Country Day; Bloomin 2009 Metric Bike Tour; Memorial Day Parade. There are also times when we are called upon to standby for other major town events.

Two EMTs work on full time basis from 7:00 am till 3:00 pm supplemented by two additional per diem EMTs working the 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm and then followed by our volunteer schedule for 6:00 pm to 6:00 am. The two full-time EMTs are John Snyder and Andrew Rosenthal. The one hour 6:00 am to 7:00 am is covered by agreement with Nelson Ambulance Service who is our designated paramedic intercept service. In the event of multiple calls or occasional non-availability of volunteers, a mutual aid agreement is in place for backup by Nelson paramedic ambulance, as well as, area towns.

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.

Monies generated by Easton EMS billing for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 are noted below. Please take special note that since the beginning, billing by the Easton Volunteer Emergency Service has generated nearly half a million dollars for the Town of Easton. Figures are as follows:

Collected from the beginning January 1, 2004:
\$ 448,405.93
Collected from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009:
\$ 104,709.05 (included in above figure)

Our overall collection rate of over is considered very good. Monies collected go into the general fund.

Respiratory evaluations and fit testing for high efficiency filter masks continue 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. The EVEMS, with help from the nurses in our service, assisted the emergency services in town with hepatitis vaccination, and annual TB skin testing. Cross training on extrication of accident victims continues each year with the Fire Department.

The Easton Volunteer Emergency Medical Services honored Victor Malindretos with the “Easton MRT of the Year Award for 2009”. This award was established to honor Herb Goldman who served Easton for 7 years before his death untimely on January 22, 2002.

EVEMS has participated in various community educational projects as well as providing on site support when necessary. For example, EVEMS shares the requirement for ambulance standby at Joel Barlow High School Football games with Redding, although this year we were not called upon. 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 or the Scouts 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.

We encourage Easton residents to call our headquarters to

inquire about EMT and CPR courses and/or visit our website at Easton EMS.com.

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Robert Adriani, Chairman | Marge Smith, Chief |
| Easton EMS Commission | Easton Volunteer EMS Inc. |

PUBLIC LIBRARY

EASTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Library spent FY2008-2009 focused on increasing the educational and social opportunities it delivers to Easton’s citizens. These opportunities depend on the quality of the Library’s staff, collections, programs, community support and facility.

As the new Library celebrated its 12th anniversary, the Board of Trustees decided to take a hard look at the condition of the facility and how well it is serving Library patrons. In the autumn of 2008, Board members and staff embarked on a post occupancy study by meeting with members of the architectural firm that designed the Library. The study revealed that the exterior of the building, the mechanical systems, and the building’s interior are in good condition. The study also placed the spotlight on the problems faced by the Library in its mission to serve the public. The study revealed the lack of space—floor space, storage space and shelving space—as the Library’s biggest dilemma.

The parties involved in the study took a proactive stance in dealing with the space issue. Each area of the Library was examined; the objective—better use of the available space. The post occupancy study resulted in plans to alter five separate areas of the Library.

Being good stewards of the Library, the Board of Trustees elected to implement the recommended changes in phases. The first phase focused on the Library’s browsing area located at the entrance of the building. This area houses the adult new book and AV collections. It has been reconfigured with custom book cases adding much needed shelving space and ambiance to the space. Additional DVD shelving relieved crowding and has made for comfortable browsing. The newspaper and magazine collections were moved to the Reference area allowing more space for audio books and PlayAways. These changes translate into more attractive and functional grab and go space.

Phases two through four will involve the Library’s reference, young adult, and children’s areas, and the creation of a business nook. The project will be completed in 2010.

In September, the Library held its first ‘Practically Perfect Potato Bake’. This intergenerational event harkened back to simpler times when people gathered to celebrate the harvest season. The seventy attendees enjoyed baked potatoes with all the fixins’ while listening to live music and chatting with their neighbors. This program and many more are made possible through the generosity of the Friends of the Library. The Story Book Parade, Holiday Party, Holiday House Tour, and Family Fun Night are annual programs subsidized by the Friends’ group. The Friends continue to provide the prizes for the children’s and young adult summer programs, provide funds for the purchase of new materials and computers. In addition, this year the Friends sponsored the Library team that participated in the ELF Trivia contest. The Library’s team made it to the final round!

For a weekend in April 2009 the Library partnered with the Westport Public Library to present “Murder 203: Connecticut’s Mystery Festival”, a two day event. On Saturday and Sunday morning, thirty mystery authors converged on Easton for panel discussions, interviews and book signings. Best selling author Linda Fairstein was the guest of honor and all aspects of the genre were addressed. On Sunday afternoon, the group met at the Westport Public Library to attend panel discussion on writing and publishing mystery novels and true-crime non-fiction. More than one hundred people attended the two day meeting of the mystery minded and were most complimentary, praising the quality and organization of the event. With such positive feedback, the organizers have decided to make Murder 203 an annual affair.

The Library initiated a new program which piggy backs on Samuel Staples Elementary School’s Kindergarten orientation event. The young students and their parents were invited to the Library for a snack, tour and explanation of all the services and materials available to the children beginning their formal school careers. The Library continues to collaborate with Helen Keller Middle School, the local nursery schools, Phoenix Academy by hosting classes, visiting the schools, and sharing resources. And once again, the Library hosted Joel Barlow’s art department’s charity event. On another cooperative note, Ms Baldino, the Library’s Director, was asked to judge entries Easton students submitted to the school system’s “Reflections Program”, a young writers’ program endorsed by the National PTA. The school system and the Library share the same goal: the creation of life long learners.

In FY 2008-09, the Library enjoyed a full compliment of staff in the Children’s area. The progrm statistics reflect this very welcome situation and the expertise of our children’s and young adult librarians and part time Programming Assistant. Programs for pre-schoolers ages 0-5 increased by 52% and programs for children 6-11 years of age doubled. The Library circulated 55,758 children’s items in this fiscal year, an increase of 25% over last year. Overall, circulation rose by 23%.

In June 2008, Bernadette Baldino, the Library’s Director

received the Jan Gluz Cooperative Spirit Award from the Connecticut Library Consortium. This award recognizes Ms. Baldino’s willingness to share her experience and knowledge with her colleagues and her efforts on behalf of the library community throughout the state.

Experience has proven that when the economy falters library usage increases. As Easton is impacted by the current economic downturn, the Library pledges to strive to meet the information and recreation needs of the community. The Library will remain a social gathering place and cultural hub for Easton’s citizens as we all navigate an uncertain economic future.

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

FY2008-2009 Statistics

Circulation: 123,891

Registered Borrowers: 5,721

Total Materials: 60,860

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.

Easton's school enrollment continues to grow. As of October 1, 2008, Samuel Staples (K-5) student enrollment was 769, and Helen Keller Middle School (6-8) student enrollment was 387.

The Easton Board of Education provides funding for curriculum development, particularly summer curriculum work in integrated language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, guidance, health, world languages, information technology, fine arts, and physical education. In consultation with the superintendent of schools, the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction works closely with school personnel in the development of assessment criteria to measure student achievement in relation to local academic standards and to the academic standards of the Connecticut State Department of Education. The Easton Technology Committee developed a three-year technology plan in the 2008-09 school year, which identifies funding and strategies to ensure that all students become competent in the use of technology.

Professional development for teachers is based on the goals and objectives of the ER9 Strategic Plan, which focuses primarily on curriculum alignment, personalized learning, assessment of student performance and character development. Instructional practices and assessment data designed to assist teachers in working with students, including those who have special needs, are a primary focus of professional development. The school district's standards-based curriculum requires each student to perform academically at a proficient level; school-wide differentiated instruction facilitates student learning.

The Easton School District is 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 completed training in the Tri-State Evaluation Protocol and have participated in the evaluation of Tri-State Schools.

The district continues to participate in the Open Choice Program to meet the state mandate to reduce racial isolation. Three children from the Bridgeport School District were enrolled at Helen Keller Middle School, and seven children

were enrolled at Samuel Staples Elementary School during the 2008-2009 school year.

The taxpayers of Easton approved a 2008-2009 budget of \$14,419,258 for the Easton School District.

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

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #9

Joel Barlow High School is within the purview of Connecticut Regional Board of Education No. 9; the school is located at 100 Black Rock Turnpike (Route 58) in Redding. As of October 1, 2008, 957 students were enrolled in grades nine through twelve.

Of the 99 high school faculty members, 3 have doctoral degrees, 42 have sixth-year professional certificates, 41 have master's degrees, and 13 have bachelor's degrees. The school's picturesque campus of 113 acres accommodates 29 varsity, 11 junior varsity, and 6 freshmen sport teams. The school's unique Student Activity Program sponsors 58 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 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 2008-2009 four awards from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education for its program of studies, student/parent/guardian handbook, ninth grade student and parent orientation, and its Achieving With Integrity Program. 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 the state for student performance on the mandated Connecticut Academic Performance Test. Student performance on the SAT, SAT II, and Advanced Placement Examinations have been noteworthy. In 2008-2009, seniors who took the SAT I achieved a mean score of 584 out of a possible score of 800 in writing, 569 in mathematics, and 571

in reading. Six students were semi-finalists and 13 students were commended scholars in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program. In 2009, 177 students took a total of 312 Advanced Placement Examinations in 20 Advanced Placement Subjects. Eighty-one percent of the students achieved a grade of 3 (out of 5) or higher in the examinations. Seventy-five students took two or more Advanced Placement examinations. Ninety-four percent of the Class of 2009 planned to attend post-secondary 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.

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

The taxpayers of Easton and Redding approved a 2008-2009 budget of \$20,245,046 for Joel Barlow High School/Regional School District No. 9.

For more information about Joel Barlow High School, please visit the ER9 central-office Web site at www.er9.org and the high school's Web site at www.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, 2008 - June 30, 2009

IN KIND SERVICES:

PENSION

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| TOWN'S CONTRIBUTION FOR EMPLOYEES | \$67,000 |
|--------------------------------------|----------|

ACTUARY FEES

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| 1/2 ANNUAL FEE | \$5,000 |
| CHECK WRITING/REFUNDS/MISC. | \$2,092 |

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| UNEMPLOYMENT | \$0 |
|--------------|-----|

EASTON FIRE DISTRICT

| | |
|-----|---------|
| Tax | \$2,484 |
|-----|---------|

INSURANCE

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| GENERAL LIABILITY | \$52,997 |
| WORKER'S COMPENSATION | \$51,107 |

DEBT SERVICE

| | |
|-----------|-------------|
| PRINCIPAL | \$2,055,500 |
| INTEREST | \$1,075,277 |

PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT SERVICES

| | |
|--|---------|
| MAINTENANCE OF GROUNDS-LABOR COST Helen Keller & Samuel Staples Schools | \$7,500 |
|--|---------|

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SERVICES

| | |
|--|----------|
| BOE TRASH | \$100 |
| PLOWING | \$1,760 |
| SAND & SALT | \$4,000 |
| SWEEPING | \$1,440 |
| OTHER NECESSARY REPAIRS | \$61 |
| PERSONNEL WAGES PROVIDED FOR 515 MOREHOUSE ROAD | \$46,201 |

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$3,372,518 |
|----------------|-------------|

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 public was served by the Bridgeport Probate Court.

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, 2008, to June 30, 2009, the Trumbull Probate Court processed 1035 new matters. The new matters included the following:

| | |
|--|-----|
| Fee Waivers | 18 |
| Estates with Wills | 164 |
| Estate without Wills | 22 |
| Estate Sales of Real Estate | 22 |
| Compromise of Claims | 11 |
| Allowance of Final Accounts | 203 |
| Other Applications or Petitions | |
| Small Estate Affidavits | 69 |
| Estates for Tax Purposes Only | 51 |
| State Aid 4a-16 Estates | 82 |
| Other Applications with Hearing | 77 |
| Under the Category of Children's Matters: | |
| Adoptions, Termination of Parental Rights, Emancipations, Temporary Guardianship & Dispositional Hearing | 55 |
| Under the Category of Guardians: | |
| Appointment of Guardians of the Estate | 12 |
| Compromise of Claims | 8 |
| Allowance of Accounts | 8 |
| Other Applications with hearing on Guardians of Estate | 13 |
| Guardianship of the Mentally Retarded | 59 |
| Under the Category of Conservators: | |
| Conservator of Estate/Person | 34 |
| Sales of Real Estate | 6 |
| Allowance of Accounts | 17 |
| Other Applications | 25 |
| Three Year Reviews | 1 |
| Under Miscellaneous: | |
| Trust Applications and | |
| Accounts Requiring Hearings | 58 |
| Name Changes | 20 |

The Honorable John P. Chiota is Judge of Probate: Clerk is 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 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

SUMMARIES OF TOWN MEETINGS

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING AND HEARING SEPTEMBER 15, 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
Elise Broach, Member of the Board of Finance
Lee Hanson, Member of the Board of Finance
Grace Stanczyk, Comptroller

Public – approximately 55 people in total

The First Selectman called the meeting to order at 8.03pm.

The First Selectman called upon the Town Clerk to read the Notice of the Meeting. The attached Notice was read to the audience.

The First Selectman called for nominations of a moderator. Robert H. Lessler was nominated by Grace Stanczyk, seconded and elected by unanimous voice vote

The Moderator called upon Reynolds Gordon Chairman of the Tax Relief Committee to address the first item on the Agenda.

1. Proposed 2009 Tax Relief for the Elderly Ordinance
After a brief introduction of the three proposed programs, Reynolds Gordon introduced Paul Lindoerfer to describe the programs in more detail. The meeting then addressed questions from the audience. These included:

- If your income qualifies this year and your income increases in subsequent years what are the consequences. Reyn Gordon answered that each year stands alone and must be qualified for separately.
- What happens if the house is sold? Answer all outstanding liens must be paid off.
- What happens if the house is in trust? Reyn answered that relief applies only to principal residence, which must be owned. Revocable trusts count as ownership, irrevocable trusts do not.

- Does all self-employed income count? Answer - yes it does.
- How will the program be administered? Answer not yet been addressed.
- What happens to Tax Freeze after 7 years? Answer - the taxes increase at same rate as mill rate.
- What happens if one spouse dies and surviving spouse does not qualify? Answer – the liens must be paid off.

Howard Collis moved that the ordinance be accepted. Janet Gordon seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

The Moderator called upon the First Selectman to introduce the second Agenda item.

2. Proposed Ordinance for Administrative Fees for the Use of Town of Easton Facilities and For Conducting Activities within the Town of Easton

The First Selectman explained that the State gives tax benefits to the movie industry to encourage them to locate in Connecticut. This will benefit both State and local economies. Easton does not benefit because of the absence of commercial and industrial facilities. The proposed ordinance is designed to provide certain economic benefit to the town in consideration of an organization using town facilities and/or imposing on town residents.

At the request of Dori Wollen, the First Selectman read the proposed Ordinance.

There followed extensive discussion of the proposal, primarily of the Exempt Parties section.

Andrew Kachele commented that definitions should include other town buildings, exempt parties and ensure the same fee for the same purpose. He noted that these issues should be addressed before adopting an ordinance.

Roger Wollen noted that the public need additional opportunities to review the proposed ordinance before voting on it. He suggested a deferral until the public has had more opportunity too review the ordinance.

Bev Dacey noted that the Tax Relief ordinance was better publicized by the media than this one and wondered why.

It was noted that the proposed ordinance empowered the First Selectman directly and appeared to by pass the Board of Selectmen who have the power according to other town ordinance.

The Selectmen agreed to table the proposal to allow for further public comment.

Andrew Kachele moved and Roger Wollen seconded a motion to table the proposed ordinance. This motion passed by

unanimous voice vote.

The Moderator called upon the First Selectman to introduce the third Agenda item.

3. Acceptance of a Proposed Conservation Easement

A motion to accept the Easement was proposed, seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote, without discussion.

The Moderator called upon the First Selectman to introduce the fourth Agenda item.

4. Lease and Purchase Option Agreement with NEW ENGLAND PRAYER CENTER, INC.

The First Selectman explained that the previous public hearing on this issue did not comply fully with the notice requirements of Public Act 07-218.

As requested, the First Selectman read Public Act 07-218.

Selectman Centrella explained that the Act required the posting of a public notice in a prominent location on the property before the public hearing. That was not done because the town was not aware of the requirement. This deficiency has been corrected prior to this hearing.

In the absence of any further discussion, Andrew Kachele moved to adjourn. This motion was seconded by Ron Kowalski, and passed by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9.20pm.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING SEPTEMBER 29, 2008; 8.00PM SAMUEL STAPLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Present:

Thomas A. Herrmann, First Selectman

Scott S. Centrella, Selectman

W. Derek Buckley, Town Clerk

Other Town Officials:

Andrew Kachele, Chair Board of Finance

Public – approximately seven people in total

The First Selectman called the meeting to order at 8.03pm.

The First Selectman called for nominations of a moderator. Andrew Kachele nominated Thomas A. Herrmann. The nomination was seconded by Clarence Jennings and approved by unanimous voice vote.

The Moderator called upon the Town Clerk to read the Notice of the Meeting. The attached Notice was read to the audience by the Town Clerk.

Andrew Kachele moved and Scott Centrella seconded the following motion:

“Discuss and approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$35,000 for the construction of a Little League field. These funds will be reimbursed upon completion of the project through a STEAP grant.”

John Broadbin described the project.

Clarence Jennings noted that the project was already started and did not have the required state sign posted. This is a violation of state regulations and could result in the loss of the funds.

John Broadbin said he would check and comply, but all of the work done so far was paid for by town, or donated funds. No state funds have been spent so far.

Clarence Jennings responded that a sign was required if the project was started even if it was finance by seed money. Andrew Kachele noted that the Board of Finance had created a \$10,000 activity fund, Little League had donated \$50,000 and private funds had contributed another \$10,000.

Andrew Kachele moved an amendment that was seconded by John Broadbin. The amendment was required to make the motion approved conform to the Board of Finance motion. The amended motion was read by the Town Clerk, and is summarized below:

“Discuss and approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$35,000 for the construction of a Little League field. These funds will be reimbursed upon completion of the project through a STEAP grant. The approval is contingent upon the remaining balance needed to complete the Little League Field at Morehouse Road being in place within this fund.”

Thomas A. Herrmann noted that the town had, in hand, \$50,000 from the Little League, \$10,000 of private funds and \$10,000 from the activity fund. The remaining \$35,000 would come from the STEAP grant. This would fund a playable field that did not include a dugout or an outfield fence.

The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

In the absence of any further agenda items, Andrew Kachele moved to adjourn. This motion was seconded by John Broadbin and passed by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8.19pm.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING DECEMBER 8, 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

Ed Nagy, Director of Public Works

Public – approximately nine people in total

The First Selectman called the meeting to order at 8.08pm.

The First Selectman called for nominations of a moderator. Tony Colonnese nominated Bill Kupinse and Daisy Colonnese seconded the nomination. The nomination was approved by unanimous voice vote.

The Moderator called upon the Town Clerk to read the Notice of the Meeting. The attached Notice was read to the audience by the Town Clerk.

The Moderator then addressed this first agenda item.

1. “Discuss and approve an Ordinance for Administrative Fees for Use of Town of Easton Facilities and For Conducting Activities within the Town of Easton”

This was proposed and seconded.

The First Selectman explained that the ordinance had been modified based on the comments made at the last Town Meeting. Robert Lessler read an email from John Bromer who could not attend. John noted that the ordinance authorized the First Selectman to set the fees and approve use of facilities. He suggested that to be consistent with the Easton government practice this power should rest with the Board of Selectmen.

James Reppucci asked if sanitation service businesses using town roads were exempt. The First Selectman confirmed that they were.

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

The Moderator then addressed this second agenda item.

2. “A revised Ordinance Providing for Tax Exemption for Certain Solar Energy Systems, Solar Energy Generating Systems and Passive Solar Energy Systems”

This was proposed and seconded.

The First Selectman explained that the modification reflected the statutory elimination of sunset dates, which are shown in bold on the document.

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

The Moderator then addressed this third agenda item.
3.“ Discuss and approve a summary publication of he 2009 Tax Relief for the elderly Ordinance approved by the Special Town Meeting on September 15, 2008”

This was proposed and seconded.

The First Selectman explained that the ordinance was a long document and would cost approximately \$4,000 to publish the full text in a local newspaper. Publication is required to enable the legislation.

Publication of a summary was permitted if the full text is available in the Town Clerk’s office provided the town meeting approves. This is a more efficient use of town funds.

It was noted that the attached summary had errors. The First Selectman explained that the committee would be asked to correct the summary. The vote was to approve publication of a summary and not the specific language.

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

The Moderator then addressed this fourth agenda item.
4.” Discuss and approve a Municipal Services Agreement, Solid Waste Disposal Agreement and an Interlocal Agreement for the Town’s solid waste disposal to take effect January 1, 2009

The First Selectman explained that the purpose of the agenda item was to discuss and receive public comment on all three agreements. However, action needed only to be taken on the Interlocal Agreement, authorizing the town’s participation. Ed Nagy explained that overall, this would reduce the cost to the town and its residents. In response to James Reppucci, he noted that the cost might be reduced from \$99 per ton to approximately \$88 per ton, at some time in the future.

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

In the absence of any further agenda items, the moderator called for a motion to adjourn. This motion was proposed, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8.25pm.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
March 23, 2009; 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
Members of the Board of Finance

Public – approximately 200 people
This was a Special Town Meeting followed immediately by a Public Budget Hearing. The Special Town Meeting was:

“to discuss and approve an appropriation of \$22,830 from the State LOCIP fund for ADA and code projects for the new senior center”.

The moderator called upon the Town Clerk to read the notice of the meeting [attached].

The First Selectman called the meeting to order at 8.05pm.

The First Selectman called for nominations of a moderator. Robert Lessler nominated Scott Centrella. His nomination was seconded from the public, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

The First Selectman explained that the new Senior Center was located in the old Samuel Staples school and was nearing completion. It would be completed within budget. LOCIP, [local capital improvement program] is a state funded program for local capital programs. The \$22,830 will be used for ADA and other code work. It is 100% state funded. The town advances the money and the state provides a full refund. This appropriation has been approved by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance.

The moderator requested a motion to open this agenda item to public discussion. This was approved and seconded by the public. In the absence of any discussion, the moderator called for a vote. The appropriation was approved by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8.10pm.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
APRIL 27, 2009; 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:
Val Buckley, Senior Center Director
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 Easton Board of Education
Grace Stanczyk, Comptroller
Elise Broach Member of the Board of Finance
Claire Gold Member of the Board of Finance
Arthur Laske Member of the Board of Finance

Mark Pompa Member of the Board of Finance
Public – about 40 to 50 people in total excluding public officials

The First Selectman called the meeting to order at 8.07pm. He called for nominations of a moderator. Scott S. Centrella was nominated by Lee Hanson, seconded by John Campbell, and elected unanimously by voice vote.

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

Item 1. Acceptance of the 2008 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 detailed presentation of the proposed Annual Town Budget for 2009-2010 as recommended by the Board of Finance. The attachments were used to illustrate the presentation and were available to the public. He explained that the Town Hall and the local Board of Education had cooperated in presenting an austere budget proposal. In lieu of no layoffs or reductions in hours at the town hall, Town Hall employees had agreed to a pay freeze.

He noted that the Regional Board of Education budget was only subject to overall approval by the Board of Finance. Region 9 had not been able to affect a pay freeze

Dr Katz described highlights of the local Board of Education budget. The attachments were used to illustrate the presentation and were available to the public. He had recently met with the teachers asking for a contribution. They were sympathetic and he is optimistic and awaiting a response.

Bucky Stone described highlights of the Regional Board of Education budget.

At this time, the meeting was opened to public comment.

Roger Wollen asked several questions. These included the following:

- Senior Tax Relief- why did it increase this year. Andrew Kachele said it was controlled by a separate ordinance passed by a town meeting
- Why did the Board of Finance not give an amount to the teachers and let them decide on staff reductions or reductions in hours. Dr. Katz said that salaries were governed by contract. Historically teachers have had a smaller increase while industrial workers got very large increases. Roger disputed this statement.

Public Comment: The only thing we have in town is home value. This is determined by the quality of education. If we continue to degrade the school system, home prices will fall because education quality will decline. What is the long-term

strategy for maintaining the quality of education and home prices?

Andrew Kachele. This is largely a rhetorical question. There are many viewpoints involved. For example, it is not clear that educational quality is determined by spending level. Similarly, home value may be related to low taxes and not educational spending. The main point is that residents can vote on the budget and change the amount if they do not agree with it.

Roger Wollen – he refuses to believe that the education system is a house of cards that will collapse if they do not get all that they want.

Public comment: why did the Board of Finance ignore the input from voters before setting the budget along party lines?
Andrew Kachele responded that they could only submit one number, which was the consensus of the individual board members of what the public would accept in these difficult economic times. The majority vote was reached in public and not by caucusing privately.

Public: when times are hard, the public needs more public services such as the library or the public schools. He personally would support the small increase needed to support existing services.

Ira Kaplan asked what was the most recent teacher pay increase. Dr. Katz responded that basic pay increased 2% and the total increase was 3.9% including steps.

Public: Why did pension costs increase by 67%? Andrew Kachele responded that this is the increase in the town's contribution to the pension fund. It is actuarially based. The statutes require the town, on average, to fund at 100%. Easton has usually been more than 100% funded but the recent economic problems have significantly decreased the funds value so that a larger contribution is necessary. Essentially the town is trying to catch up.

Public: why are you trying to catch up when the voters 401k's are all depleted? Andrew Kachele responded that the statutes require it.

Public: why does the Board of Finance always cut the education budget? Why not less police cars or a fire truck? Why not regionalize EMS or fire?
Why does Easton have eight paid firefighters and Monroe has none?

Andrew Kachele responded to all of these questions as follows: Regionalization discussions have taken place and the First Selectman is still involved in those discussions. Easton has paid firefighters because it is a bedroom community. The 30 volunteer firefighters work out of town and are not available during the day. Initially Easton had four firefighters on 6-hour shifts to complete a 24-hour day. This was

considered unsafe since firefighters alone could be injured and nobody would know for many hours. Hence, Easton now has eight firefighters.

The member of the public responded that he did not agree with any of these responses.

Gowan Dacey. Asked the Town Clerk if the advisory question on the website is correct. When this was confirmed, he asked who formulated it. He was told that it originated with the Board of Selectmen. The First Selectman responded that the board designed the advisory question so that everybody would respond and not a subset of voters.

Andrew Kachele responded that he was uncertain whether the advisory question would produce a clear picture if the budget fails. He noted that Seymour had a similar advisory question and the budget failed by 44% to 56% but the advisory question split 50% to 50%. He recommended clear information from the public if the budget fails.

Gowan Dacey asked about the health insurance cost of a married couple and a single person who works for the town. He noted his company pays \$11,000 compared to about \$30,000 for the town. The First Selectman responded that it was a complex issue. For example, Mr. Dacey's company may operate nationally or globally and benefit from cost averaging.

Gowan Dacey asked if a new school Superintendent had been found. Dr. Katz responded that one had and the announcement would be made in about a week.

Andrew Kachele noted that the budget contained many concessions that were good only for this budget vote. If it failed then changes would have to be made in all budgets and not just the Board of Education.

Arthur Laske noted that the budget was unbalanced. Town employees had voluntarily made sacrifices but not the public or the teachers. A shared sacrifice is fairer and would require only a modest tax increase to maintain the status quo. He recommended a no vote.

Bud Jennings asked why do teachers get a \$5,000 bonus for being able to teach English even if they do not? Why are there 8 to 15 people in the Superintendent's office when there used to be three?

Val Buckley said the Senior Center, Town Clerk and other town offices had decide to preserve jobs and forgo pay raises. Many seniors have lost savings and cannot afford a tax increase. This budget does not enable the Senior Center to buy paper towels. I have always supported education and still do. However, if this budget fails and further cuts are made the Senior Center will be unable to function. I have already lost \$5,000 from a \$21,000 budget and cannot afford more reductions. It is time to take what we have and accept the budget recognizing that it is less than perfect.

Kathy Dunsby asked how did the Board of Finance arrive at the budget number? Why are letters to the Board not in the public record?

Andrew Kachele responded that the process was based on experience, the economy, tone, judgment and public comments and lack of public comments. Kathy asked for statistics of letters received. Andrew responded that other additional factors were involved.

Bud Jennings asked why did Easton vacate the old Samuel Staples School and are we currently profiting from the Easton Country Day School lease. The First Selectman responded that we are renegotiating this lease. The lease with The Board of Education will recover the renovation cost over 5 years and be profitable thereafter. All leases will be profitable on a 10-year net present value basis.

Val Buckley noted that the new Senior Center brought in \$1,750,000 in this year to renovate a large section of the building at a cost of less than \$10 per resident.

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 on this agenda item.

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 2008 grand list tax bills

A motion to accept 7/1/2009 and 1/2/2010 for the grand list tax bills was moved, seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Item 5. Appropriate of \$26,000 for EMS restroom renovation
Andrew Kachele explained that the EMS building used to house the firefighters. The restrooms have not been renovated for many years. The renovation would be financed out of LOCIP funds at no cost to the town. The motion was moved, seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Item 6. Adjournment to a Machine Vote on Tuesday 5/5/2009
The Board of Selectmen had voted to adjourn to a machine vote on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at Samuel Staples Elementary School from 6.00am to 8.00pm

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 10.06pm.

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 18, 2009; 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:

Val Buckley, Senior Center Director
John Campbell, Treasurer
Andrew Kachele, Chair Board of Finance
Ed Nagy, Director of Public Works,
Grace Stanczyk, Comptroller
Elise Broach Member of the Board of Finance
Claire Gold Member of the Board of Finance
Mark Pompa Member of the Board of Finance

Public – about 20 to 30 people in total excluding public officials

The First Selectman called the meeting to order at 8.07pm.

At the request of the First Selectman, the Town Clerk read the Notice of the Meeting.

The First Selectman then called for nominations of a Moderator. Al Treidel nominated Scott Centrella. This nomination was seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

The Moderator asked for a motion to consider the Resolution read. This action was taken because the Resolution was more than two pages and was available to the public in the meeting room and prior to the meeting at the Town Clerk's office. This motion was proposed, seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Wells Hill Bridge

The Moderator then took up the Wells Hill Bridge Agenda item. A motion to discuss the resolution was proposed, seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

The First Selectman first provided an overview as follows. In April 2006, the bridge abutments were washed out in a storm.

The town then began to evaluate repair options. It was decided that the bridge had to be replaced. An engineering firm was retained. The engineers proposed a two-lane bridge to conform to state standards. After much public discussion, it was decided that a one-lane bridge was preferred.

Designs were solicited from seven engineering companies. Only one was willing to design a one-lane bridge. The design was put out to bid in late April 2009 and the bids were opened on May 5, 2009. The bids ranged from approximately \$540,000 to approximately \$1,000,000. The proposal for

\$540,000 was chosen. An additional \$50,000 is required for engineering and test. The total cost will be \$640,000 less the \$26,000 already appropriated. Therefore, an additional \$614,000 is required.

Ed Nagy, Director of Public Works described the proposed bridge and showed diagrams of how it would appear. He noted that it was designed for a ten-year storm. Designing for a one hundred year storm would require a six hundred foot bridge. The cost is prohibitive even if desired. Consequently, the bridge will flood on occasions. The bridge will be made of precast concrete with a stone fascia to present a rustic appearance. It will have a "Merritt Parkway" type guardrail along both sides. Construction will take about one hundred days if there is no weather or other delays, or unforeseen problems.

In answer to questions, he responded:

- The bridge lifetime is at least fifty years
- The opening size and width will be the same as before
- Traffic will be controlled by stop signs and road marks on both sides

The Moderator then asked for a motion to vote on the resolution. This was proposed, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

The Moderator then called for a vote on the resolution. The Moderator ruled that the resolution was approved by majority voice vote.

Annual Town Budget

Andy Kachele, Chair of the Board of Finance noted that the first budget vote was confusing. The Region 9 budget was approved by a large margin but the advisory question had a margin against a higher budget.

The new budget proposal incorporated this result and two other factors. First, it was found that the recycling budget did not need the \$20,000 that was budgeted. Second, after trying since 2006, the town got an improved credit rating to "AAA".

This permitted bond refinancing that would save \$360,000 over the life of the bonds and \$187,000 from next year's budget. The Board of Finance allocated \$40,000 each to the town accounts and the local education budget. The balance of \$107,000 reduced the budget by reducing debt service costs. Town employees would have pay raises deferred from July 1, 2009 to January 1, 2010.

One member of the public, Sachi Rochlin, thanked the board for the increased education allocation.

Andy Kachele noted that he had polled several interest groups at the Board of Finance meeting and they all indicated they would support the new budget. If this budget fails then the Board of Finance would take it as an indication that a lower budget was required.

The Moderator asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn to a machine vote at Samuel Staples Elementary School on May 26, 2009 from 6.00am to 8.00pm.

A motion to adjourn was proposed by Al Treidel, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8.35pm.

MACHINE VOTES QUESTIONS SAMUEL STAPLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTE RESULTS FOURTH DISTRICT SAMUEL STAPLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 8/12/2008

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Jim Himes | 112 |
| L. Lee Whitnum | 11 |

NOVEMBER 4, 2008 ELECTION RESULTS SAMUEL STAPLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

| | | VOTES # |
|---------------------------------------|----------|---------|
| <u>State Question 1</u> | 1556 Yes | 3993 |
| Constitutional Convention | 2437 No | |
| <u>State Question 2</u> | 2497 Yes | 3983 |
| 17 Year Old Voting | 1486 No | |
| <u>President</u> | | |
| McCain & Palin | 2259 | 4523 |
| Obama & Biden | 2238 | |
| Nader & Gonzalez | 26 | |
| <u>Representative in Congress</u> | | |
| C.Shays | 2613 | 4424 |
| J.Himes | 1746 | |
| M.A. Carrano | 40 | |
| R.Z. Duffee | 25 | |
| <u>State Senator</u> | | |
| J.McKinney | 2786 | 4263 |
| M.A. Goldberg | 1477 | |
| <u>State Representative</u> | | |
| J. Stripp | 2872 | 3425 |
| R.Chevalier | 553 | |
| <u>Registrar of Voters</u> | | |
| E. K. Hanson | 2488 | 4191 |
| N.V.Soares Jr. | 1703 | |
| Number of Voters | 5492 | |

OFFICIAL RESULTS BUDGET REFERENDUM SAMUEL STAPLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Question 1

“Shall the Town of Easton appropriate the sum of Thirty Nine Million, Nine Hundred Forty One Thousand Forty Four Dollars (\$39,941,044) for the annual Town budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010? (This includes Easton’s share of the Region 9 budget)”

YES 853 NO 936 DEFEATED BY 83 VOTES

Question 2

“If the proposed budget in question 1 is defeated, would you support a budget that calls for a higher level of spending?”

YES 821 NO 956 DEFEATED BY 135 VOTES

Question 3

‘Shall the Regional School District Number 9, composed of the Towns of Easton and Redding appropriate and authorize the expenditure of Twenty Million, Six Hundred Forty Two Thousand, and Five Hundred Forty Seven Dollars (\$20,642,547) as the Operating Budget of the District for the fiscal year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010? (Easton’s share is \$9,619,427and Redding’s share is \$11,023,120)”

EASTON: YES 1114 NO 666 PASSED BY 135 VOTES

REDDING: YES 1155 NO 728 PASSED BY 135 VOTES

REGION 9: YES 2269 NO 1394 PASSED BY 875 VOTES

OFFICIAL RESULTS BUDGET REFERENDUM SAMUEL STAPLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Tuesday, May 26, 2009

Question 1

Shall the Town of Easton appropriate the sum of Thirty Nine Million, Eight Hundred Thirty-Four Thousand, Forty Four Dollars (\$39,834,044) for the annual Town budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010? (This includes Easton’s share of the Region 9 budget.)

YES 903 NO 432 PASSED BY 471 VOTES

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

Andrew Kachele
C. Lee Hanson
Salvatore Tartaglione
Mark Pompa
Elise Broach
Arthur Laske III

Alternates – Christian D. Griffin

Clair Gold

Fred Knopf

Board of Assessment Appeals

Hugh Barry
Donald Calvert
Judy K. Weinstein

Alternates – A. Reynolds Gordon

Lori Mezes

Thomas Sheehan

Library Board

Rita Seclow-Chair
Jon Sonneborn
Gina Orticelli
John Vance Hancock
Gail V. Gay
Elaine H. Spicer

Easton Board of Education

Adamy Dunsby
Glenn Maiorano
Alfred Treidel
Dr. Daniel Underberger
Vida Peskey
Regina Bobroske

Regional Board of Education (Easton Members)

Catherine Gombos
William Baker
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

James Girardi

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
John Smith
Thomas A. Herrmann

Solid Waste Commission

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

Advisory Board for the Easton Senior Center

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
Dori Wollen
Eleanor Sylvestro
Peggy Macaluso
Stephen Corti
Roy Gosse
Alternates –Marla Manning
John Mchanna
Catherine Alfandre

Commission for the Aging

Terri Kelso
Cecilia Campbell
Carol Hume
Gail Gay
Joel Peskay
Alternates - Janet Klein
Nancy Gavigan
Vacancy

Area Nine Cable Council Representatives

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
Kathleen Loudon
Elise Broach
Thomas A. Herrmann

Safety and Health Committee

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

Social Services

Josephine Stenqvist, Director

Tax Relief for the Elderly Committee 2007

Sharon Cregeen
Linda Dollard
Marvin Gelfand
A. Reynolds Gordon
Cecelia Campbell

Paul Lindoerfer
Pat Finick
John Gavigan

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 Hackson
Clarence Jennings

Clean Energy Task Force

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

9-11 Memorial Committee

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

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, Clerk

Assessor's Office

Teresa Rainieri, Assessor
Louise Oakes, Assessor's Assistant

Tax Collector

Patrice Hildenbrand, Tax Collector
Rachel Maciulewski, Assistant Tax Collector

Municipal Agent for the Elderly

Pat Finick, Agent
Pamela Healy, Outreach Worker

Senior Center

Valerie Buckley, Director
Cheryl (Kay) Oestreicher, Asst Director
Aimee Goerg, Driver
Heriberto Torres, P/T 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
Kristina Sorfozo

Aides

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Lisa Macaluso | Ryan Santoro |
| Evan March | Taylor Smith |
| Amanda Wenger | Margaret Timlin |
| Brenden Santoro | Jamie VanClief |
| Justin Santoro | |

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
Onoria Sierra
Donald Kinahan
Jay Festa

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, 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
Marjorie 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

James Girardi, Fire Chief
Steve Waugh, Asst Fire Chief
Mark Mirowski, Asst Fire 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
Bajda, Katie
Barrows, Rachel
Bates, Allan
Brakeman, John
Brown, Carmen
Chatfield, Callen
Clark, Jessica
Clark, Russell
Colasanto, Kristen
Cooper, Donald
Corsino, Kristin
Cox, Kelly
Duffy, Lynne
Durette, Kay
Edwards, Jennifer
Fuller, Amy
Giglio-Opalinski, Elizabeth
Haber, Rachel
Hobbs, Laura
Holroyd, Stephanie
Keleher, Robin
Kloeblen, Elizabeth
Kuruc, Jill M.
Lambert, Courtney
Lazar, Diane
Linker, Ellen
MacArthur, Carey
Maggi, Courtney
Marchetti, Emily
Menegay, Judith
Menegay, Robert
Minty, Paige
Muccio, Mary
Murray, Timothy
Olschan, Kathryn
Paciello, Sunny Michelle
Pilkington, Dawn
Remmell, Diana
Russo, Christopher
Scholz, Darcy
Simmons, Helen
Traggainese, Amy
Woodford, Karen

Special Ed Teachers

Barnard, Stacey
Breuer, Wanda
Edwards, Tracy
Herman, Kristina
Herrick, Robert
Husted, Shani
Keating, Geraldine
Kessler, Melissa
Langlois, Laura
Morrow, Patricia
Skoczylas, Julianne
Stern, Karen
Wulf, Linda

HELEN KELLER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal

Parker, Joan

Assistant Principal

Kaplan, Sue

Teachers

Ahearn, Allison
Astle, Kyle
Baker, Michelle
Breyer, David A.
Broas, Sarah
Brodeur, Cynthia
Carlucci, Katharine
Cioppa, Roberta
Cockerham, Arthur
Culliton, Nancy
Dunkerton, Amber
Harrington, Calico
Henry, Paula
Honychurch, Betsey
King, Jean
Kirk, Megan
Klein, Nicole
LaValle, Robert
Maggi, Linda
Marusa, Debora
Moore, Ashleigh
Murphy, Nancy
Powell, Stacey
Rose, Jennifer
Schweikert, Karen
Scrivani, Ann
Solis, Nicole
Studeney, Jason
Thomas, Patricia
Tramontano, Jean
Ustie, Elizabeth
Walsh, Brian
Weinshel, Carol

Special Ed Teachers

Cuttner, Nancy
Donegan, Tracey
Heran, Kimberly
Klatt, Meredith

Pearson, Eric
Richter, Leslie

JOEL BARLOW REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL #9

Principal

McMorran, Thomas

Assistant Principal

Kipp, Anne

Pin, Gina

Director of Special Services

Patricia Roszko

Teachers

Albano, Donna
Anderson, Michelle
Angelis, Michael
Angell, Christopher
Antal, Steven
Atkinson, Mary
Bailey, Beth
Barcham, Dale
Barna, Frederick
Bernardo, Margaret
Breault, Christopher
Brix, Nancy
Brown, Jeffrey
Budd, Jonathan S.
Ciancio, Brian
Correa, Catherine
Crowley, John
D'Amato, Daniela
DelAngelo, Henry
Desmarais, Jennifer
Detelich, Charles
DeVoto, James
Ecsedy, Michael
Egan, Jeanne
Eller, George
Erickson, Ashley
Estes, Lori
Fallo, Kristin
Fricker, Jacob
Gang, Scott
Garvey, Janice
Gervasoni, Fred
Giordano, Ralph
Givoni, Julianne
Goodpaster, Pamela
Hamlin, Paul B.
Horton, Cheryl
Huminski, Carolyn
Huminski, Tim
Huot, Charles
Intemann, Michael
Kaldawy, Nicole
Keeney, Kristin
Kilbourn, Maureen
Kilbourn, Thomas
Light, Randall
Lipton, Matthew

Luzietti, Brian H.
Magrino, Filomena
Matthews, Jonathan
McElwee, Michael
McNulty, Vincenza Jane
McTague, Julie
Morosky, Katherine
Nocturne, Margaret
Nuzzo, Katherine
Panos, Paula
Pieratti, Maryanne
Pinsky, Jordan
Potpinka, Thomas
Poulos, Christopher
Ramirez, Jennifer Short
Rao, Christina
Rappelfeld, Brian
Reimold, Scott
Richter, Thomas
Rivers, Daniel
Rowland, Andrea
Salko-Peddle, Shelia
Santangeli, Michael
Sheehy, Mary Ann
Siddell, Kathleen
Skalkos, Leann
Smith, Barbara
Smith, Randall
Sopko, Joseph
Spinner, Daniel
Staley, Jessica
Sugden, Mary Elizabeth
Taubner, Debra
Therien, Beth
VanAusdal, Sandra
Vialotti, Laura
Waterman, Waltraut
Whiting, Jackie
Wright, Alison

Special Ed Teachers

Egan, Margaret
Feranec, Sandra
Hoyt, Rebecca
Hrebin, Mary Pat
Powers, John
Queen, Christine
Roberts, Marlene
Schutt, Cheryl
Stragazzi, Matt
Sullivan, Karen E.

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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

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

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS - BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

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

TOWN CALENDAR

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

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. In the past, the Town of Easton directed their distributive share into the General Fund of the Town, but in recent years has redirected those payments to the Staples Free School Fund.

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.

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BlumShapiro

Accounting Tax Business Consulting

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, 2009, 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, 2009, 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 45 through 48 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 24, 2009 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.

Blum, Shapiro & Company, P.C.

December 24, 2009

**TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2009**

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, 2009.

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 \$58,560,418 (*net assets*). Of this amount, \$6,959,997 (*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 \$2,112,248. 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 a combined deficit ending fund balance of \$(2,054,116). The deficit is attributable to capital projects that have not yet been permanently financed.
- At the end of the current fiscal year, unreserved and undesignated fund balance for the general fund was \$3,685,291 or 9.2 % of total general fund expenditures and transfers out.
- The Town's total long-term obligations decreased by \$2,610,000 during the current fiscal year.

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 \$58,560,418 at the close of the most recent fiscal year.

A large portion of the Town's net assets (88.1%) 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.

NET ASSETS JUNE 30, 2009 AND 2008

| | Governmental Activities | |
|---|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 |
| Current and other assets | \$ 13,388,939 | \$ 13,976,388 |
| Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation | 92,872,074 | 86,217,338 |
| Total assets | <u>106,261,013</u> | <u>100,193,726</u> |
| Long-term debt outstanding | 33,352,859 | 35,833,619 |
| Other liabilities | 14,347,736 | 7,911,937 |
| Total liabilities | <u>47,700,595</u> | <u>43,745,556</u> |
| Net Assets: | | |
| Invested in capital assets, net of debt | 51,600,421 | 48,297,338 |
| Unrestricted | <u>6,959,997</u> | <u>8,150,832</u> |
| Total Net Assets | <u>\$ 58,560,418</u> | <u>\$ 56,448,170</u> |

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, \$6,959,997, 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.

**CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2009 AND 2008**

| | Governmental Activities | |
|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 |
| Revenues: | | |
| Program revenues: | | |
| Charges for services | \$ 2,532,048 | \$ 1,642,250 |
| Operating grants and contributions | 2,861,357 | 6,259,320 |
| Capital grants and contributions | 704,000 | 100,000 |
| General revenues: | | |
| Property taxes | 36,009,839 | 34,899,834 |
| Grants and contributions not restricted to specific purposes | 280,850 | 290,190 |
| Investment income | 474,555 | 666,075 |
| Miscellaneous | 47,636 | 111,534 |
| Total revenues | <u>42,910,285</u> | <u>43,969,203</u> |
| Program expenses: | | |
| General government | 4,092,538 | 3,286,740 |
| Public safety | 3,664,813 | 3,156,500 |
| Public works | 3,285,768 | 2,542,010 |
| Health and welfare | 1,062,518 | 385,297 |
| Education | 25,363,524 | 28,975,752 |
| Library | 776,519 | 711,604 |
| Parks and recreation | 979,176 | 779,966 |
| Interest expense | 1,573,181* | 1,699,680 |
| Total expenses | <u>40,798,037</u> | <u>41,537,549</u> |
| Increase in Net Assets | 2,112,248 | 2,431,654 |
| Net Assets - Beginning of Year | <u>56,448,170</u> | <u>54,016,516</u> |
| Net Assets - End of Year | <u><u>\$ 58,560,418</u></u> | <u><u>56,448,170</u></u> |

Property taxes increased by \$1,110,005 (3.2%) during the year. Most of this increase is to fund normal operating increases including debt service.

Operating grants decreased by \$3,397,963 (54.3%) during the year. Most of this decrease is due to the reduced contribution by the State for the teachers' retirement fund.

Capital grants and contributions increased by \$604,000 (604%) 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 a combined ending fund balance deficit of \$(2,054,116). This is mainly due to capital projects that have not yet been permanently financed.

The general fund is the operating fund of the Town. At the end of the current fiscal year, unreserved, undesignated fund balance was \$3,685,291. 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 9.2% of total general fund expenditures and other financing uses, while total fund balance represents 12.4% 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 \$69,695 and budget transfers of \$96,355 from various departments to the transfers out account to purchase equipment. The Board of Finance made special appropriations to the following departments: Technology, Senior Center, Municipal Agent, 660 Morehouse Road Facilities, Building, and Town Vault Renovations.

Significant budget variances were positive variances as follows: A total of \$77,441 for general government from various departments, \$79,712 from the police department due to new personnel rates and worker compensation reimbursements, \$74,990 from the public works department and \$35,736 from the EMS department due to workers' compensation reimbursements, \$85,215 from contingency as there were no significant compensation payouts, \$165,418 in the fringe benefits due to employees election to accept "in lieu of" the medical coverage and \$37,480 from debt service due to not permanently bonding this fiscal year.

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.

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

Capital assets. The Town's investment in capital assets as of June 30, 2009 is \$92,872,074 (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 a new Little League ball field at the SSES property location fund with the Little League Association, Park and Recreation Activity Fund and a Steap Grant.
- The completion of the new Senior Center Renovation Capital Project funded by a Small Cities Grant, Steap Grant and the Town.
- The Central Office of the Board of Education moved from Monroe to the 660 Morehouse Road location (the old SSES Building).
- The (Old SSES) 660 Morehouse Road facilities and the Easton Country Day School is being renovated with a Fire Suppression System.
- EMS Building Renovation Project to be reimbursed by LoCIP.
- The Wells Hill Bridge Project.
- The remaining additions and deletions consisted of various equipment and vehicles for Town departments.

CAPITAL ASSETS
(Net of Depreciation)

| | Governmental Activities | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 |
| Land | \$ 19,028,656 | \$ 12,878,656 |
| Construction in progress | 1,549,038 | 8,420 |
| Land improvements | 439,332 | 236,876 |
| Buildings | 53,822,153 | 54,686,832 |
| Building improvements | 247,665 | 172,868 |
| Machinery and equipment | 337,142 | 323,273 |
| Vehicles | 1,519,875 | 1,645,589 |
| Infrastructure | 15,928,213 | 16,264,824 |
| Total | \$ 92,872,074 | \$ 86,217,338 |

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 \$41,385,000. All of this debt comprises debt backed by the full faith and credit of the Town.

OUTSTANDING DEBT
General Obligation Bonds and Notes

| | Governmental Activities | |
|--|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 |
| General obligation bonds - Town improvements | \$ 5,902,500 | \$ 6,525,500 |
| General obligation bonds - School improvements | 25,557,500 | 27,544,500 |
| Bond anticipation notes | 9,925,000 | 3,850,000 |
| Total | \$ 41,385,000 | \$ 37,920,000 |

The Town is also obligated for a portion of the Regional School District No. 9 general obligation debt in the net amount of \$10,514,240.

On November 7, 2008, the Town issued \$9,925,000 in bond anticipation notes. The interest rate for the notes was 3.25%. The notes were for the elementary school, water main and land acquisition.

During the fiscal year, the Town made bond principal payments of \$12,115,000 for school and general purpose debt.

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

State statutes limit the amount of general obligation debt a governmental entity may issue to 7 times its tax collections including interest and lien fees and the tax relief for elderly freeze grant. The current debt limitation for the Town is \$251,017,305 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 2010 fiscal year:

- The unemployment rate for the Town is currently 5.3%. This compares favorably to the state's average unemployment rate of 7.9% and the national average rate of 9.5 %.
- 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 and leased by Central Office of the Board of Education.
- Town's elected and appointed officials considered Town-wide trends when setting the fiscal year 2010 budget. The Town decided that it was important to continue to support the school system and adopt a budget designed to promote long-term financial stability, conservative budgeting and at the same time, providing excellent services to our residents and taxpayers. In order to meet these objectives, some unions and non-represented employees have agreed to defer wages for (6) six months.
- At June 30, 2009, unreserved and undesignated fund balance in the general fund was \$3,685,291.

Requests for Information

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

TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS

JUNE 30, 2009

| | <u>Governmental Activities</u> |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Assets: | |
| Current assets: | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 4,214,604 |
| Investments | 7,487,592 |
| Receivables, net | 1,392,144 |
| Other assets | 1,522 |
| Bond issuance costs | 95,302 |
| Total current assets | <u>13,191,164</u> |
| Noncurrent assets: | |
| Capital assets: | |
| Assets not being depreciated | 20,577,694 |
| Assets being depreciated, net | 72,294,380 |
| Total capital assets | <u>92,872,074</u> |
| Net pension asset | 197,775 |
| Total noncurrent assets | <u>93,069,849</u> |
| Total assets | <u>106,261,013</u> |
| Liabilities: | |
| Current liabilities: | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | 3,704,958 |
| Due to Regional School District No. 9 | 600,723 |
| Unearned revenue | 96,856 |
| Unamortized bond premiums | 20,199 |
| Bond anticipation notes | 9,925,000 |
| Total current liabilities | <u>14,347,736</u> |
| Noncurrent liabilities: | |
| Long-term liabilities due within one year | 2,888,255 |
| Long-term liabilities due in more than one year | 30,464,604 |
| Total noncurrent liabilities | <u>33,352,859</u> |
| Total liabilities | <u>47,700,595</u> |
| Net Assets: | |
| Invested in capital assets, net of related debt | 51,600,421 |
| Unrestricted | 6,959,997 |
| Total Net Assets | <u>\$ 58,560,418</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, 2009

| 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 | \$ 4,092,538 | \$ 499,523 | \$ 729,492 | \$ | \$ (2,863,523) |
| Public safety | 3,664,813 | 222,509 | 1,242 | | (3,441,062) |
| Public works | 3,285,768 | 911,163 | 4,118 | | (2,370,487) |
| Health and welfare | 1,062,518 | 513,913 | | 704,000 | 155,395 |
| Education | 25,363,524 | 19,451 | 2,126,505 | | (23,217,568) |
| Library | 776,519 | 35,101 | | | (741,418) |
| Parks and recreation | 979,176 | 330,388 | | | (648,788) |
| Interest and fiscal charges | 1,573,181 | | | | (1,573,181) |
| Total governmental activities | <u>\$ 40,798,037</u> | <u>\$ 2,532,048</u> | <u>\$ 2,861,357</u> | <u>\$ 704,000</u> | <u>(34,700,632)</u> |
| General revenues: | | | | | |
| Property taxes | | | | | 36,009,839 |
| Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs | | | | | 280,850 |
| Investment income | | | | | 474,555 |
| Miscellaneous | | | | | 47,636 |
| Total general revenues | | | | | <u>36,812,880</u> |
| Change in net assets | | | | | 2,112,248 |
| Net Assets - Beginning of Year | | | | | <u>56,448,170</u> |
| Net Assets - End of Year | | | | | <u>\$ 58,560,418</u> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT
BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

JUNE 30, 2009

| | <u>General</u> | <u>Bonded Capital Projects</u> | <u>Nonmajor Governmental Funds</u> | <u>Total Governmental Funds</u> |
|---|---------------------|--|--|---|
| ASSETS | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 336,132 | \$ 814,310 | \$ 3,064,162 | \$ 4,214,604 |
| Investments | 6,908,138 | | 579,454 | 7,487,592 |
| Receivables: | | | | |
| Property taxes | 626,145 | | | 626,145 |
| Accounts | 65,917 | | 115,593 | 181,510 |
| Intergovernmental | 345,963 | | 1,010 | 346,973 |
| Other assets | <u>1,522</u> | | | <u>1,522</u> |
| Total Assets | <u>\$ 8,283,817</u> | <u>\$ 814,310</u> | <u>\$ 3,760,219</u> | <u>\$ 12,858,346</u> |
| LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES | | | | |
| Liabilities: | | | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 714,881 | \$ 751,381 | \$ 794,362 | \$ 2,260,624 |
| Accrued liabilities | 982,009 | | | 982,009 |
| Due to Regional School District No. 9 | 600,723 | | | 600,723 |
| Due to other funds | 144,385 | | | 144,385 |
| Unearned revenue | 919,328 | 80,393 | | 999,721 |
| Bond anticipation notes | | 9,925,000 | | 9,925,000 |
| Total liabilities | <u>3,361,326</u> | <u>10,756,774</u> | <u>794,362</u> | <u>14,912,462</u> |
| Fund balances: | | | | |
| Unreserved, reported in: | | | | |
| Designated for subsequent year's budget | 1,000,000 | | | 1,000,000 |
| Designated for potential claims | 140,000 | | | 140,000 |
| Designated for debt service | 97,200 | | | 97,200 |
| General Fund | 3,685,291 | | | 3,685,291 |
| Special revenue funds | | | 2,354,871 | 2,354,871 |
| Capital projects funds | | (9,942,464) | 610,986 | (9,331,478) |
| Total fund balances | <u>4,922,491</u> | <u>(9,942,464)</u> | <u>2,965,857</u> | <u>(2,054,116)</u> |
| Total Liabilities and Fund Balances | <u>\$ 8,283,817</u> | <u>\$ 814,310</u> | <u>\$ 3,760,219</u> | <u>\$ 12,858,346</u> |

(Continued on next page)

TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT

BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS (CONTINUED)

JUNE 30, 2009

Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds

to the Statement of Net Assets:

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net assets (Exhibit I) are different because of the following:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Fund balances - total governmental funds | \$ (2,054,116) |
|--|----------------|

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Governmental capital assets | \$ 118,781,319 | |
| Less accumulated depreciation | <u>(25,909,245)</u> | |
| Net capital assets | | 92,872,074 |

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

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Net pension asset | 197,775 |
| Property tax receivables greater than 60 days | 582,654 |
| Interest receivable on property taxes | 337,516 |
| Bond issue costs | 95,302 |
| Receivable from the state for school construction projects | 320,211 |
| Allowance for doubtful accounts | (100,000) |

Internal service funds are used by management to charge the costs of risk management to individual funds. The assets and liabilities of the internal service funds are reported with governmental activities in the statement of net assets.

(25,392)

Long-term liabilities, including bonds payable, are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Bonds and notes payable | (31,460,000) |
| Interest payable on bonds and notes | (292,548) |
| Compensated absences | (975,533) |
| Net OPEB obligation | (231,389) |
| Deferred charges on refunding | 213,347 |
| Bond premium | (20,199) |
| Heart and hypertension | <u>(899,284)</u> |

\$ 58,560,418

Net Assets of Governmental Activities (Exhibit I)

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, 2009

| | <u>General</u> | <u>Bonded Capital Projects</u> | <u>Nonmajor Governmental Funds</u> | <u>Total Governmental Funds</u> |
|---|---------------------|--|--|---|
| Revenues: | | | | |
| Property taxes | \$ 35,907,157 | \$ | \$ | \$ 35,907,157 |
| Intergovernmental | 2,126,327 | | 1,709,880 | 3,836,207 |
| Charges for services | 645,229 | 949,815 | 925,195 | 2,520,239 |
| Investment income | 429,351 | | 45,204 | 474,555 |
| Contributions | | | 69,445 | 69,445 |
| Total revenues | <u>39,108,064</u> | <u>949,815</u> | <u>2,749,724</u> | <u>42,807,603</u> |
| Expenditures: | | | | |
| Current: | | | | |
| General government | 2,147,026 | | 184,936 | 2,331,962 |
| Public safety | 2,298,181 | | 162,158 | 2,460,339 |
| Public works | 2,043,929 | | 328,146 | 2,372,075 |
| Health and welfare | 334,006 | | 25,089 | 359,095 |
| Education | 24,900,625 | | 287,730 | 25,188,355 |
| Library | 557,870 | | 44,270 | 602,140 |
| Parks and recreation | 379,754 | | 343,178 | 722,932 |
| Employee benefits | 2,366,129 | | | 2,366,129 |
| Insurance | 464,447 | | | 464,447 |
| Debt service | 4,183,436 | | | 4,183,436 |
| Capital outlay | | 6,678,454 | 1,988,641 | 8,667,095 |
| Total expenditures | <u>39,675,403</u> | <u>6,678,454</u> | <u>3,364,148</u> | <u>49,718,005</u> |
| Deficiency of Revenues over Expenditures | <u>(567,339)</u> | <u>(5,728,639)</u> | <u>(614,424)</u> | <u>(6,910,402)</u> |
| Other Financing Sources (Uses): | | | | |
| Sale of capital assets | 10,400 | | | 10,400 |
| Proceeds from sale of refunding bonds | 10,131,537 | | | 10,131,537 |
| Payment to refunded bond escrow | (10,131,537) | | | (10,131,537) |
| Transfers in | 122,065 | | 236,428 | 358,493 |
| Transfers out | (186,428) | | (172,065) | (358,493) |
| Net other financing sources (uses) | <u>(53,963)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>64,363</u> | <u>10,400</u> |
| Net Change in Fund Balances | (621,302) | (5,728,639) | (550,061) | (6,900,002) |
| Fund Balances - Beginning of Year | <u>5,543,793</u> | <u>(4,213,825)</u> | <u>3,515,918</u> | <u>4,845,886</u> |
| Fund Balances - End of Year | <u>\$ 4,922,491</u> | <u>\$ (9,942,464)</u> | <u>\$ 2,965,857</u> | <u>\$ (2,054,116)</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, 2009

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) \$ (6,900,002)

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 | 8,110,870 |
| Depreciation expense | (1,437,612) |

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.

(18,522)

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 | (154,186) |
| Increase in property tax receivable - accrual basis change | 81,483 |
| Increase in property tax interest and lien revenue | 21,199 |
| Net pension asset | (123,809) |

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:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Principal repayments: | |
| Payments on bond principal | 2,610,000 |
| Proceeds from sale of refunding bonds | 10,131,537 |
| Payment to refund bond escrow | (10,131,537) |

Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Net OPEB expense | (231,389) |
| Heart and hypertension claims | 123,482 |
| Compensated absences | (102,442) |
| Accrued interest payable | 66,646 |
| Amortization of bond premium | 3,366 |
| Amortization of bond issue costs | (9,338) |
| Amortization of deferred charges | 81,109 |

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

| | |
|---|---------|
| The net expense of the activities of the Internal Service Fund is reported with governmental activities | (8,607) |
|---|---------|

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Change in Net Assets of Governmental Activities (Exhibit II) | \$ <u>2,112,248</u> |
|--|---------------------|

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, 2009

| | <u>Original Budget</u> | <u>Final Budget</u> | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Variance With Final Budget</u> |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Property Taxes: | | | | |
| Property taxes, current and prior | \$ 35,515,112 | 35,515,112 | \$ 35,645,562 | \$ 130,450 |
| Interest and lien fees | 100,000 | 100,000 | 203,168 | 103,168 |
| Telephone access | 44,148 | 44,148 | 58,427 | 14,279 |
| Total property taxes | <u>35,659,260</u> | <u>35,659,260</u> | <u>35,907,157</u> | <u>247,897</u> |
| Intergovernmental: | | | | |
| Educational assistance: | | | | |
| Special education and education cost share | 593,868 | 593,868 | 591,220 | (2,648) |
| Regional School District No. 9 | 13,392 | 13,392 | | (13,392) |
| School building grant | 409,469 | 409,469 | 154,691 | (254,778) |
| Other | 14,079 | 14,079 | 7,784 | (6,295) |
| Total educational assistance | <u>1,030,808</u> | <u>1,030,808</u> | <u>753,695</u> | <u>(277,113)</u> |
| Town Assistance: | | | | |
| Town aid roads | 113,775 | 113,775 | 113,635 | (140) |
| Infrastructure | 615,613 | 615,613 | | (615,613) |
| In lieu of tax loss - boats | 4,814 | 4,814 | 4,814 | - |
| Elderly tax relief | 41,225 | 41,225 | 37,294 | (3,931) |
| Tax relief for the totally disabled | | | 2,991 | 2,991 |
| State owned property | 74,287 | 74,287 | 74,532 | 245 |
| Mashantucket Pequot grant | 20,865 | 20,865 | 21,395 | 530 |
| Civil preparedness | 2,052 | 2,052 | 4,118 | 2,066 |
| Property tax relief (veterans) | 10,329 | 10,329 | 8,247 | (2,082) |
| Miscellaneous | 20,273 | 20,273 | 17,942 | (2,331) |
| Total town assistance | <u>903,233</u> | <u>903,233</u> | <u>284,968</u> | <u>(618,265)</u> |
| Total intergovernmental | <u>1,934,041</u> | <u>1,934,041</u> | <u>1,038,663</u> | <u>(895,378)</u> |
| Investment Income | <u>437,500</u> | <u>437,500</u> | <u>429,351</u> | <u>(8,149)</u> |
| Charges for Services: | | | | |
| Town clerk | 200,000 | 200,000 | 156,305 | (43,695) |
| Building inspection fees and permits | 120,000 | 120,000 | 108,429 | (11,571) |
| Health department | 18,000 | 18,000 | 17,640 | (360) |
| Planning and zoning | 15,000 | 15,000 | 17,293 | 2,293 |
| Conservation commission | 15,000 | 15,000 | 14,522 | (478) |
| Police department | 65,000 | 65,000 | 74,579 | 9,579 |
| First selectman | 85,000 | 85,000 | 78,682 | (6,318) |
| Municipal Building Leases | 105,000 | 105,000 | 137,171 | 32,171 |

(Continued on next page)

TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT

GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES

BUDGET AND ACTUAL (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2009

| | Original Budget | Final Budget | Actual | Variance With Final Budget |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Fire marshal | \$ 200 | 200 | \$ 20 | \$ (180) |
| Parks and recreation | 2,900 | 2,900 | 7,180 | 4,280 |
| Region 9 tuition | | | 10,378 | 10,378 |
| BOE tuition | 14,055 | 14,055 | 9,073 | (4,982) |
| Recycling bins | | | 689 | 689 |
| Highway department | 1,400 | 1,400 | 1,850 | 450 |
| EMS | | | | - |
| Other | 500 | 500 | 11,418 | 10,918 |
| Total charges for services | <u>642,055</u> | <u>642,055</u> | <u>645,229</u> | <u>3,174</u> |
| Total Revenues | <u>38,672,856</u> | <u>38,672,856</u> | <u>38,020,400</u> | <u>(652,456)</u> |
| Other Financing Sources: | | | | |
| Transfer in | 80,000 | 80,000 | 122,065 | 42,065 |
| Sale of capital assets | | | 10,400 | 10,400 |
| Total other financing sources | <u>80,000</u> | <u>80,000</u> | <u>132,465</u> | <u>52,465</u> |
| Surplus Appropriated to Finance Budget | <u>637,929</u> | <u>637,929</u> | | <u>(637,929)</u> |
| Total Revenues and Other Financing Sources | <u>\$ 39,390,785</u> | <u>\$ 39,390,785</u> | <u>38,152,865</u> | <u>\$ (1,237,920)</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

1,087,664

Total Revenues and Other Financing Sources as Reported on the Statement of
Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds -
Exhibit IV

\$ 39,240,529

TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2009

| | <u>Original Budget</u> | <u>Additional Appropriations and Transfers</u> | <u>Final Budget</u> | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Variance With Final Budget</u> |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|-------------------------|------------------|---|
| General Government: | | | | | |
| Town clerk | \$ 145,952 | \$ 19,675 | \$ 165,627 | \$ 163,506 | \$ 2,121 |
| First selectman | 159,213 | | 159,213 | 153,655 | 5,558 |
| Probate court | 6,400 | | 6,400 | 6,314 | 86 |
| Registrar of voters | 62,749 | | 62,749 | 48,311 | 14,438 |
| Board of finance | 7,200 | | 7,200 | 6,552 | 648 |
| Auditors | 35,000 | | 35,000 | 34,000 | 1,000 |
| Treasurer | 189,166 | 13,000 | 202,166 | 195,547 | 6,619 |
| Assessor | 111,220 | | 111,220 | 109,828 | 1,392 |
| Board of assessment appeals | 600 | | 600 | 358 | 242 |
| Tax collector | 92,001 | | 92,001 | 89,504 | 2,497 |
| Town attorney | 130,000 | | 130,000 | 129,824 | 176 |
| Planning and zoning commission | 114,146 | | 114,146 | 103,850 | 10,296 |
| Zoning board of appeals | 7,044 | | 7,044 | 6,111 | 933 |
| Building department | 91,716 | 2,782 | 94,498 | 94,440 | 58 |
| Technology Computer | 32,000 | 20,000 | 52,000 | 50,147 | 1,853 |
| Town Hall | 140,641 | | 140,641 | 136,033 | 4,608 |
| Communication dispatchers | 212,407 | | 212,407 | 192,424 | 19,983 |
| Commission for the elderly | 55,443 | 1,515 | 56,958 | 55,153 | 1,805 |
| Senior center | 148,081 | 7,429 | 155,510 | 155,362 | 148 |
| SSS building | 390,087 | 20,000 | 410,087 | 407,414 | 2,673 |
| Insurance service fee | | 8,500 | 8,500 | 8,500 | - |
| Public celebrations | 500 | | 500 | 193 | 307 |
| Total general government | <u>2,131,566</u> | <u>92,901</u> | <u>2,224,467</u> | <u>2,147,026</u> | <u>77,441</u> |
| Public Safety: | | | | | |
| Police department | 1,546,481 | | 1,546,481 | 1,466,769 | 79,712 |
| Fire department | 741,569 | | 741,569 | 730,506 | 11,063 |
| Fire marshal | 29,158 | | 29,158 | 22,243 | 6,915 |
| Emergency management | 8,522 | | 8,522 | 7,635 | 887 |
| Firehouse rent | 40,000 | | 40,000 | 40,000 | - |
| Conservation commission | 39,207 | | 39,207 | 31,028 | 8,179 |
| Total public safety | <u>2,404,937</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>2,404,937</u> | <u>2,298,181</u> | <u>106,756</u> |
| Public Works: | | | | | |
| Recycling | 136,810 | | 136,810 | 131,351 | 5,459 |
| Highway department | 1,973,504 | | 1,973,504 | 1,898,514 | 74,990 |
| Street lights | 1,703 | 79 | 1,782 | 1,782 | - |
| Engineering and professional services | 40,500 | | 40,500 | 12,282 | 28,218 |
| Total public works | <u>2,152,517</u> | <u>79</u> | <u>2,152,596</u> | <u>2,043,929</u> | <u>108,667</u> |
| Health and Welfare: | | | | | |
| PHNA | 100 | | 100 | 100 | - |
| Health director | 83,377 | | 83,377 | 81,920 | 1,457 |
| EMS commission | 281,838 | | 281,838 | 249,604 | 32,234 |
| Welfare | 4,427 | | 4,427 | 2,382 | 2,045 |
| Total health and welfare | <u>369,742</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>369,742</u> | <u>334,006</u> | <u>35,736</u> |

(Continued on next page)

TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2009

| | <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 | \$ 6,950,209 | \$ (99,850) | \$ 6,850,359 | \$ 6,850,359 | \$ - |
| Kindergarten | 11,100 | | 11,100 | 11,100 | - |
| Humanities | 37,115 | (123) | 36,992 | 36,992 | - |
| Integrated language arts | 25,177 | 3,167 | 28,344 | 28,344 | - |
| Curriculum | 52,757 | 3,363 | 56,120 | 56,120 | - |
| Industrial technology | 8,725 | (3,500) | 5,225 | 5,225 | - |
| Science/math technology | 32,929 | 3,714 | 36,643 | 36,643 | - |
| Physical education/health | 4,815 | | 4,815 | 4,815 | - |
| Special services | 31,205 | | 31,205 | 31,205 | - |
| Special education | 3,073,210 | (14,070) | 3,059,140 | 3,059,140 | - |
| Guidance | 7,725 | | 7,725 | 7,725 | - |
| Health services | 164,138 | (2,681) | 161,457 | 161,457 | - |
| Psychological services | 40,380 | (8,185) | 32,195 | 32,195 | - |
| Speech services | 14,350 | (2,625) | 11,725 | 11,725 | - |
| Educational media services | 85,741 | (2,998) | 82,743 | 82,743 | - |
| Technology plan | 198,193 | 9,756 | 207,949 | 207,949 | - |
| Board of education | 50,430 | | 50,430 | 50,430 | - |
| Central administration | 486,491 | | 486,491 | 486,491 | - |
| School administration | 905,613 | 94 | 905,707 | 905,707 | - |
| physical plant | 1,409,720 | 153,061 | 1,562,781 | 1,562,781 | - |
| Student transportation | 825,936 | (39,123) | 786,813 | 786,813 | - |
| Food service | 3,300 | | 3,300 | 3,300 | - |
| Total Easton Board of Education | 14,419,259 | - | 14,419,259 | 14,419,259 | - |
| Regional School District No. 9 | 9,409,942 | (16,240) | 9,393,702 | 9,393,702 | - |
| Total education | 23,829,201 | (16,240) | 23,812,961 | 23,812,961 | - |
| Library | 572,099 | | 572,099 | 557,870 | 14,229 |
| Parks and Recreation: | | | | | |
| Parks and recreation commission | 370,276 | | 370,276 | 341,223 | 29,053 |
| Tree warden | 43,780 | | 43,780 | 38,531 | 5,249 |
| Total parks and recreation | 414,056 | - | 414,056 | 379,754 | 34,302 |
| Employee Benefits: | | | | | |
| Pensions | 471,457 | | 471,457 | 449,413 | 22,044 |
| Fringe benefits | 1,692,211 | | 1,692,211 | 1,526,793 | 165,418 |
| Social Security and Medicare | 399,055 | | 399,055 | 389,923 | 9,132 |
| Total employee benefits | 2,562,723 | - | 2,562,723 | 2,366,129 | 196,594 |

(Continued on next page)

TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2009

| | Original Budget | Additional Appropriations and Transfers | Final Budget | Actual | Variance With Final Budget |
|--|----------------------------|--|-------------------------|---------------|---|
| Insurance | \$ 473,100 | \$ (8,500) | \$ 464,600 | \$ 464,447 | \$ 153 |
| Other-Contingency | 100,000 | (14,785) | 85,215 | - | 85,215 |
| Debt Service: | | | | | |
| Principal retirement | 2,785,000 | | 2,785,000 | 2,785,000 | - |
| Interest | 1,386,716 | | 1,386,716 | 1,386,716 | - |
| Fiscal agent fees | 49,200 | | 49,200 | 11,720 | 37,480 |
| Total debt service | 4,220,916 | - | 4,220,916 | 4,183,436 | 37,480 |
| Total expenditures | 39,230,857 | 53,455 | 39,284,312 | 38,587,739 | 696,573 |
| Other Financing Uses: | | | | | |
| Transfers out: | | | | | |
| Dog fund | 63,573 | | 63,573 | 63,573 | - |
| Capital nonrecurring | 96,355 | 26,500 | 122,855 | 122,855 | - |
| Total other financing uses | 159,928 | 26,500 | 186,428 | 186,428 | - |
| Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses | \$ 39,390,785 | \$ 79,955 | \$ 39,470,740 | 38,774,167 | \$ 696,573 |

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

1,087,664

Total Expenditures and Other Financing Sources as Reported on the Statement
of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental
Funds - Exhibit IV

\$ 39,861,831

**TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT
REPORT OF TAX COLLECTOR
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2009**

| Grand List Year | Uncollected Taxes July 1, 2008 | Current Year Levy | Lawful Corrections | | Transfers to Suspense | Adjusted Taxes Collectible | Collections | | Uncollected Taxes June 30, 2009 | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| | | | Additions | Deductions | | | Taxes | Interest and Liens | | Total |
| 2007 | \$ | \$ 35,797,184 | \$ 85,872 | \$ 114,763 | \$ | \$ 35,768,293 | \$ 35,453,602 | \$ 90,783 | \$ 35,544,385 | \$ 314,691 |
| 2006 | | 239,208 | 3,068 | 19,058 | | 223,218 | 88,902 | 24,940 | 113,842 | 134,316 |
| 2005 | | 98,912 | | 3,672 | 8,634 | 86,606 | 43,757 | 20,431 | 64,188 | 42,849 |
| 2004 | | 55,726 | 335 | 11,199 | 271 | 44,591 | 25,067 | 14,923 | 39,990 | 19,524 |
| 2003 | | 27,385 | | 2,824 | | 24,561 | 12,125 | 7,097 | 19,222 | 12,436 |
| 2002 | | 19,424 | | 1,473 | | 17,951 | 7,111 | 7,667 | 14,778 | 10,840 |
| 2001 | | 17,747 | | 85 | | 17,662 | 6,796 | 7,466 | 14,262 | 10,866 |
| 2000 | | 11,369 | | 10 | | 11,359 | 6,284 | 8,035 | 14,319 | 5,075 |
| 1999 | | 12,501 | 235 | | | 12,736 | 5,949 | 8,680 | 14,629 | 6,787 |
| 1998 | | 10,764 | 63 | | | 10,827 | 5,726 | 9,387 | 15,113 | 5,101 |
| 1997 | | 11,502 | 65 | | | 11,567 | 1,128 | 1,259 | 2,387 | 10,439 |
| 1996 | | 14,024 | 60 | | | 14,084 | | | | 14,084 |
| 1995 | | 10,621 | 1,710 | | | 12,331 | | | | 12,331 |
| 1994 | | 9,413 | 167 | | | 9,580 | | | | 9,580 |
| 1993 | | 8,546 | 410 | | | 8,956 | | | | 8,956 |
| 1992 | | 8,405 | | 135 | | 8,270 | | 2,500 | 2,500 | 8,270 |
| Total | \$ | \$ 35,797,184 | \$ 91,985 | \$ 153,219 | \$ 8,905 | \$ 36,282,592 | \$ 35,656,447 | \$ 203,168 | \$ 35,859,615 | \$ 626,145 |
| Property taxes receivable considered available: | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | (54,376) | | | |
| | | | | | | | 43,491 | | | |
| Property Tax Revenues | | | | | | | \$ 35,645,562 | | | |

NOTES