

TOWN OF EASTON



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

ABOUT THE COVER

“New Engine 4”

September 2020

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



Town of Easton **ANNUAL REPORT**



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Provided here are reports from our Officials, Commissions and heads of departments of the Town and General Purpose Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 and some information by calendar year 2021. 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 Sophia Vournazos, who was responsible for the overall coordination and planning.

Andrew Kachele - Chair
Board of Finance

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Board of Selectmen	1
Town Clerk & Registrar of Vital Statistics	1
Town Treasurer	2
Tax Collector	2
Assessor	3
Registrar of Voters	5
Building Department	6
Municipal Agent for the Aging	6
Easton Senior Center	7
Health District	8

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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

COMMITTEES

Cemetery Committee	16
Recycling Committee	17
Solid Waste Report	17

PUBLIC SAFETY

Board of Police Commissioners	18
Police Department	18
Municipal Animal Control Officer	19
Communication Center	20
Board of Fire Commissioners	20
Fire Department	21
Easton Volunteer Emergency Medical Service	21

PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

EDUCATION

Easton Board of Education	23
Regional School District 9	24
Debt Service and Benefits Accounts - Selectmen's Budget for the Board of Education	24

PROBATE COURT - DISTRICT OF TRUMBULL	25
--	----

SUMMARIES OF TOWN MEETINGS	25
----------------------------------	----

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

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

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

ADMINISTRATION AND TEACHING STAFF	31
---	----

TOWN DIRECTORY & IMPORTANT DATES	34
--	----

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS	37-43
-------------------------	-------

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

In 2020-2021 the Board of Selectmen made numerous appointments to Easton's Boards, Committees and Commissions. We continue to look for volunteers for various openings. Check our website for openings.

Please go to www.eastonct.gov where you will find information about everything from our form of government to local hiking trails; schools, sports teams and other activities in town. Be sure to sign up for e-notification for information posted on the website by selecting "Subscribe to News" on the town homepage.

TOWN CLERK REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS TOWN SEXTON

As the hub of local government and a valuable public resource linking the past, present, and future of Easton, the Town Clerk's office ensures the public receives open, transparent communication with municipal information and access to records. Since Easton's incorporation in 1845, the Town Clerk has been the official record keeper and impartial liaison between the public and local government. The Secretary of State delegates and entrusts the Town Clerk with multi-faceted responsibilities for land records, public documents, licensing, vital records, elections, records management and retention duties. In addition, as Registrar of Vital Statistics, the Town Clerk's office maintains and certifies a registry of births, marriages, civil unions, deaths, and fetal deaths. As Town Sexton, duties include permit processing and reporting of all Town burials/interments, disinterments, and removals. Our staff includes one Town Clerk (full-time) and two Assistant Town Clerks (one full-time and one part-time).

Responsibilities:

- Maintain, manage and provide transparent access to public records per state law and regulations.
- Record, index, retain, and preserve municipal records, including vital records.

- Post public meeting notices, agendas and minutes.
- Record and retain trade names and military discharges.
- Issue certificates of authority to justices of the peace and notary publics.
- Act as filing repository for municipal office candidates' campaign finance statements.
- Issue new/renewal dog licenses, including maintenance of database for Animal Control.
- Issue fishing and hiking permits for Aquarion Water Company.
- Maintain and provide guidance for the Town's general records retention and essential records management duties according to the Connecticut State Library's Office of Public Records Administrator.
- Convene the Annual Town Meeting and special town meetings.
- Maintain records for appointed and elected members of boards, commissions, committees and task forces.
- Collaborate with the Registrars of Voters for primaries, elections and referenda. (Due to continual changes in election laws and voting procedures, accuracy, alertness and knowledge are vital.)
- Coordinate with the Town of Redding with the Region 9 (Easton and Redding) school district.
- Maintain the Town of Easton website www.eastonct.gov with updated information regarding Town Hall departments and services, resources, board and commission meeting information, and Town news and announcements.
- Provide and maintain land records and maps in an online in searchable database with indexes/images (subscription service).
- Offer e-recording, notary public services, and Justice of the Peace resources.

Below is a listing of various Town Clerk records for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021:

TYPE	NO. ISSUED
LAND RECORDS	1708
BIRTHS	64
MARRIAGES	27
DEATHS	48
BURIAL PERMITS	8
MAPS AND SURVEYS	5
TRADE NAME CERTIFICATES	8
MILITARY DISCHARGES	5
DOG LICENSES / KENNELS	1028 / 4
TRANSFERS OF PROPERTY	236
AQUARION FISHING PERMITS	6
SPORTSMAN LICENSES	Online only

With the dedicated and enthusiastic support of Assistant Town Clerks, Joan Kirk and Deborah Szegedi, our office is genuinely personable and always committed to proudly serving our residents and customers with information, knowledge, and efficiency.

Serving as your elected Town Clerk with integrity and commitment continues to be my sincere honor and pleasure!

Submitted by,
Christine Halloran, CCTC, CMC
(Certified Connecticut Town Clerk and
Certified Municipal Clerk)
Easton Town Clerk

TOWN TREASURER

Elected for a two year term, the Treasurer of the Town of Easton is charged with managing the receipt, investment, and disbursement of the Town's money. This involves maximizing revenues received, establishing accounts that prudently garnish returns and accounting for the Town's financial activities during the fiscal year. Duties also include overseeing the bonding and debt service for the Town. The Treasurer operates and monitors an active investment account. The goals are to invest funds in anticipation of long term projects and capital needs and maximize investment income. The Town continued to maintain a AAA rating by Standard and Poor's, the highest rating possible. Holding this rating allows the Town to borrow and refund debt at relatively low rates. Retaining this rating is a testament to the Town's long-term commitment to prudent, measured financial management. The Treasurer's office is responsible for Easton's accounting and reporting as well as gathering information for and the preparation and monitoring of each year's budget.

Sophia Vournazos has continued guiding our visitors and citizens through Town Hall. In addition to accounts payable role, she has been cross trained to process payroll.

The Finance Department looks forward to serving the public.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Calvert, Treasurer

TAX COLLECTOR

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

The Tax Collector performs administrative functions as follows: plans, organizes, directs, and participates in the tax

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

Also: Coordinates with the Assessor and Town Clerk the recording of new and changed property tax information; computes and records certificates of change and lawful corrections in accordance with Sec. 12-167(5); computes and issues prorated motor vehicle tax credits for vehicles that were sold, stolen, or totally damaged during the tax year in accordance with PA 82-459; coordinates activities with the Board of Tax Review; prepares paperwork for issuing tax refunds in accordance with Sec. 12-129 and maintains all records of same; coordinates escrow payment systems with financial institutions holding mortgages on properties located in town; assists the Assessor in the preparation of revenue loss reports for the state regarding totally disabled, and circuit breaker state tax relief programs; in conjunction with the Assessor's Office, 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; 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, Director of Finance, Treasurer, external auditors, Selectmen and Town Attorney on matters relating to the collection of taxes; posts payments 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, 2019 grand list were issued at the rate of 31.00 mills, which is equivalent to \$31.00 in taxes per \$1,000 of net assessed property value. Real estate and personal property tax bills exceeding \$100 were payable in two installments, due July 1, 2020 and January 1, 2021. Motor vehicle taxes were due in full July 1, 2020. Supplemental motor vehicle taxes for newly acquired motor vehicles registered subsequent to October 1, 2019 were due in full January 1, 2021 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 \$40,679,708.11 in taxes, interest and lien fees was collected during fiscal year 2020-2021.
- 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 \$35,555.64 in additions, and \$132,867.37 in deductions were made to the grand lists of 2005-2019.
- c. A total of \$41,992.90 was transferred to suspense.
- d. Report of refunds, Sec.12-129, detailing list year, name, amount and reason. A total of refunds were granted in the amount of \$115,450.90. Liens: 54 liens for unpaid real estate taxes on the 2019 grand list were filed June 8th, 9th, and 10th, 2021. Copies

of these liens and all lien releases are on file in the town land records.

In response to taxpayer requests, in July of 2020, our office implemented an online payment option through our vendor, Invoice Cloud, which can be accessed through our web page at eastonct.gov. Please be advised that vendor convenience fees apply.

As always, I thank the Town and its taxpayers for the opportunity to serve as Tax Collector. I also extend my appreciation to my assistant Lisa Krohne. We look forward to the coming year, serving the Town's taxpayers in whatever ways we are able.

Respectfully submitted,
Krista Kot, Tax Collector, CCMC
Lisa Krohne, Assistant Tax Collector, CCMC

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT ON COLLECTIONS:

Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/2021
(Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 12-167(1-3))

<u>Grand List Year</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2005-2018</u>
Total amount of unpaid taxes on each rate bill at start of fiscal year	\$40,123,144	\$1,957,775
Lawful corrections	-64,423	-32,889
Suspense	- 0 -	-41,993
Total amount collected on each rate bill during the fiscal year (tax, int., lien, legal)	T: 39,672,208 I: 82,461 L: 372	643,870 278,798 1,999
Total amount uncollected on each rate bill at end of fiscal year (excluding interest & liens)	\$386,513	\$1,239,023

ASSESSOR

It is the responsibility of the Assessor's Office primarily to discover, list and assess all taxable and non-taxable properties in the Town of Easton. The three categories of taxable properties are Real Estate, Motor Vehicles, and Personal Property. Property is assessed as of the October 1st assessment date pursuant to C.G.S. 12-62a. Pursuant to C.G.S. 12-62 a (b) all property is assessed at 70% of its appraised value.

Each property must appear on the Grand List which is an annual record of all taxable and tax-exempt properties in Town. The Grand List also reflects all property tax exemptions granted to property owners. The Net Taxable Grand List is used to calculate property tax bills. The yearly

mill rate for taxes is determined by the Grand Levy (Town Budget less other income) divided by the Net Grand List then multiplied by 1,000.

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. 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 judgement.

Revaluations are conducted every 5 years and the 10th year requires a physical inspection per State Statute. This is most difficult as the normal duties of the Assessor's Office and the work involved in performing the revaluation must be conducted concurrently. For this process, the Town hires a certified Revaluation Company with the oversight and approval of the Assessor.

The Assessor works with the Building Official and his office and on a monthly basis provides a list of new building permits to the Assessor. The Assessor then visits these properties to measure any new construction a few times during the year. The Assessor 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. In addition to measuring, the Assessor also lists and values the property for tax purposes. The Assessor also uses active real estate listings to discover, list and value taxable improvements that have been omitted or completed without permits.

The Assessor and Assistant coordinate with the Town Clerk and Tax Collector on any new changes in property ownership, foreclosures, survey maps, etc., and record them on the property field card and input all the information in the computer for the tax bills. Deeds are proof read and property sales are then determined to be usable or non-usable, which must be reported monthly to the State. All files, Assessor's Maps, and field cards are updated regularly to reflect changes of ownership, land splits, subdivisions, assessment changes and exemptions.

All owners of business/commercial personal property are required to file annually a Personal Property Declaration with the Assessor's Office no later than November 1st in accordance with C.G.S. 12-41. Owners of business personal property include anyone who conducts any type of business, own horses, farmers, owns non-registered motor vehicles, and owners of motor vehicles registered out of state but garaged in Easton. Connecticut law levies a 25% penalty assessment for failure to file a declaration, omitting property, or filing a declaration late after November 1st without having been approved by the Assessor for a filing extension.

During the tax year, the Assessor and Assistant price and pro rate motor vehicle assessments in accordance with section

12-71 and issue lawful certificate of correction when proof of sale, trade-in, moved out of state, donated or junked, with a plate cancellation receipt from DMV are provided to the Assessor's 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's Office whenever necessary, to assist the physically handicapped taxpayer.

On matters relating to assessments and elderly programs, the Assessor's Office prepares the forms for taxpayers for the State Elderly Homeowners' Program as well as calculates the forms which are then sent to the State for approval. When a taxpayer sells their home the benefit is then pro-rated. The Town Tax Relief for the Elderly program is also the responsibility of our office and can be applied for if elderly income complies with the Town's requirements.

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

The Assessor's Office recognizes and applies Public Act 490 Farm and Forest. Forest reductions are applied when a property owner owns more than 25 acres and applies with a State Certified Forester. The forms are checked yearly for those eligible for a farm or forest exemption to make sure that Taxpayers are complying with State Statutes.

Services are provided to Town officials, departments, and/or commissions, surveyors, attorneys, title searchers, real estate appraisers, F.B.I., U.S. IRS, etc.

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

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

The Office of Policy and Management determines the responsibility of the Assessor's Office through General Statutes of the State of Connecticut.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Maciulewski, Assessor
Pam Ferraina, Assessor's Assistant

SUMMARY OF 2019-2020 GRAND LISTS

NET VALUE OF TAXABLE PROPERTY

	2019	2020	Difference
Real Estate	\$1,195,140,960	\$1,197,527,050	+2,386,090
Personal Property	18,831,890	18,663,108	- 168,782
Motor Vehicles	<u>80,149,785</u>	<u>82,854,889</u>	<u>+2,705,104</u>
TOTAL	\$1,294,122,635	\$1,299,045,047	+4,922,412

FIGURES ARE PRIOR TO ADJUSTMENTS OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Easton is served by two Registrars of Voters, one Democrat and one Republican, who are elected state officials. They are charged to guarantee and preserve the voting rights of the citizens of our town in a fair and equitable manner. Upon their election, each Registrar appoints a Deputy who assists their respective Registrar in the performance of his or her duties. In November, 2020 David Smith was reelected for his fifth term as the Democratic Registrar, and Dori Wollen was elected for her first term as the Republican Registrar. Both Registrars serve the public in an apolitical manner to ensure a fair and non-partisan experience for everyone. Jim Bromer continues to serve as the Democratic Deputy Registrar and Tom Herrmann as the Republican Deputy Registrar. Susanne Smith and John Allan are the Assistant Registrars.

The Registrars are responsible for most all of the duties concerning elections, with few exceptions. The Town Clerk is responsible for absentee ballots until they are delivered to the Registrars, the ballot layout and submission of nominating petitions. The Secretary of the State's office has put a lot of attention to election security and in turn increased the educational requirements re cyber security. Also, while the voting process has become more efficient during the past several years, , technical training and reporting responsibilities, as well as changes and additions to the regulations and statutes have increased the workload of both the Registrars, and the Election Moderators.

On July 1, 2020, there were 5650 registered voters in Easton, representing 1601 Republicans, 1659 Democrats, 2303 unaffiliated, with another 87 split among a number of minor parties.

The Covid-19 pandemic caused much havoc for the Registrars. First, the postponement of the Presidential Primary from April 2020 to August 2020, followed by a town-wide referendum in March 2021, where the pandemic forced us to a machine vote

election, i.e. social distancing, sanitizing and all the related paraphernalia put additional pressure on all of us. We were lucky that the Secretary of State's Office reimbursed every town for the unexpected costs so our budget was not affected.

We could not accomplish all that we do in making sure that elections run smoothly, efficiently, and accurately, without the dedicated assistance of so many election workers, and Town Clerk Christine Halloran and her staff. We extend special thanks to the administration, staff and maintenance crew of Samuel Staples Elementary School, to the Public Works Department for all their cooperation and assistance leading up

versus voting at a Town Meeting. Next, the logistics of each

to and including Election Day, and to the officers of the Easton Police Department who, as usual, kept a watchful eye on traffic control and ensured the safety of our citizens and election staff throughout the day of each election.

Residents may register to vote or change their registration in person at our office in Town Hall within certain time guidelines, or by using the online voter registration options at <http://govote.ct.gov>. Periodically, the Registrars hold voter registration sessions at Joel Barlow High School to encourage young people to register. This year, due to the pandemic, we have been unable to meet with the students at the high school. Instead we contacted them electronically reminding them of the importance of everyone's voting rights and urged them to register as soon as they turned eighteen years of age. In addition, we also hold special sessions, at Town Hall, throughout the year for registering new voters. The annual canvassing required by CGS 9-32 takes place, between January 1st and May 1st which helps to ascertain the number of eligible voters. We encourage everyone contacted to respond to the inquiry to maintain their voting rights. Election Day Registration (EDR) is held during Federal and Municipal Elections to enable all eligible voters to register and vote on Election Day. As Registrars, we are working to heighten the awareness of the opportunities Easton residents have to voice their opinion at every electoral opportunity, whether budget referendum, Municipal, State or Federal election.

The Registrars' Office is located in Town Hall and is open on Mondays, from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., and Thursdays from 12:00 noon until 4:00 p.m. Either Registrar or Deputy or Assistant Registrar will gladly assist town residents with any voter registration or voting issue, regardless of party affiliation.

We encourage residents to contact the Registrar's Office if they would like to participate as poll workers for upcoming elections. If anyone is interested, please email the office at voters@eastonct.gov or call 203-268-6291 Ext. 171.

Respectfully submitted,
David Smith, Democratic Registrar
Dori Wollen, Republican Registrar

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The 2020-2021 Annual Report summarizes the Easton Building Departments highlights and major accomplishments during this fiscal year. In the midst of the COVID-19 fighting pandemic and the sudden loss of our building official Anthony Ballaro the Building Department maintained the quality of professionalism keeping the number of permits and revenue consistent.

We have re-invented the wheel by making the permit packages more user friendly and making all applications available for print out on our eastonct.gov website. The ease of clicking on a package and having a checklist makes the permitting move quicker with less room for error. The Building Department continues to work diligently to provide prompt turnaround of all permits, to be readily accessible to the homeowners, contractors, plumbers, electricians etc.

As we say goodbye to “Tony” we will forever miss the joy he brought town hall each day, his knowledge, kindness, and infectious laugh we now hold those great memories of “Tony” in our hearts. As we move on to a new chapter, I am honored to be your new Interim Building Official.

I am a lifelong resident of Easton and have more than 20 years of experience in the building inspection industry. My love for this town and the residents makes me a perfect fit for this position. My transition into the Easton Building Department has been flawless and effortless.

Our department guarantees to maintain a cohesive work ethic while making changes to better serve the residents in our town by introducing new methods, ideas and procedures. We will work diligently to provide the best possible service to our community and to keep this amazing town “AMAZING”.

The Building Department includes a Building Official certified by the State of Connecticut to enforce the State Building Code and a part-time administrator who helps with the permits and all other aspects as to maintain the efficacy of this department.

- Building Department office is located in the Town Hall open Monday through Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

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-A, adopts as a reference code to the 2018 Connecticut State Building Code; 2015 IRC International Residential Code, 2015 IBC International Building Code, 2015 IPC International Plumbing Code, 2015 IMC International Mechanical Code, 2015 IECC International Energy Conservation Code, 2015 IEBC International Existing Building Code, ICC/ANSI A117.1 2009

Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities, 2017 NEC National Electric Code, 2015 NFPA 54 and their amendments The Building Official prepares the annual operating budget for activities under his control and is responsible for the maintenance of building plans and records. He determines and initiates regulatory or legal action in cases of violation of building codes.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Howard
Interim Building Official

Fiscal Year 2020-2021

	<u>Permits</u>	<u>Estimated Value</u>
<u>Building & Zoning Permits</u>		
New Homes	14	\$8,206,415.00
Additions, Conversions, Renovations	31	\$3,114,590.00
Accessory Structure/Outbuild	29	\$1,086,780.00
Pools & Hot Tubs	28	\$1,400,876.00
Solar	19	\$1,023,772.00
Wood Stoves	1	\$5,500.00
Demo	6	\$167,750.00
Zoning	85	\$18,745.00
TOTAL	213	\$15,024,428.00
<u>Mechanical Permits</u>		
Electrical	224	\$31,386.00
Plumbing	115	\$9,870.00
HVAC	82	\$14,005.00
Tanks	102	\$7,767.00
Single Building Permits	128	\$144,545.00
TOTAL	651	\$207,573.00
F.Y. TOTALS	864	\$15,232,001.00

MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE AGING

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

The MAA assists seniors with programs such as adult day care, elder abuse prevention, meals on wheels, housing, home

health care, mental health, legal referrals, elderly state and town tax relief, Medicare enrollment, Medicare insurances, Social Security benefits, and Veterans' programs. Issues dealing with family adjustment to aging and health problems are addressed. Children of the elderly may also use the MAA by requesting information and referrals, as their parents are at risk living alone, or perhaps now living with them. Caregiver stress on the spouse or adult child is becoming more common and requires education and referral prior to a crisis.

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

The Municipal Agent is available to visit home bound seniors who welcome a friendly visit.

Where appropriate, Fuel Assistance applications are filed by appointment only from September through March. Strict financial guidelines are set forth by state mandate. The Municipal Agent can help with these applications, or more information can be obtained on the Alliance for Community Empowerment website: alliancect.org

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

The Commission for the Aging is comprised of six members who meet with the Municipal Agent on the first Monday of every month at 5pm in the Easton Senior Center (the CFA does not meet in July, August and January). The Chairman is Lisa Tasi.

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

Security Administration office located at 35 Courtland Street, 2nd Floor, Bridgeport, CT 06604 or call S.S.A. at either 1-866-331-6399 or 1-800-325-0778.

The Municipal Agent is also responsible for the social services support for the Easton residents under 60, which may include but is not limited to fuel assistance, utilizing Salvation Army Assistance when appropriate, food assistance from the pantry, mental health referrals and referrals to employment assistance programs.

The Municipal Agent office hours are Monday through Friday 8:30am to 3:30pm. The office is located in the Easton Senior Center. Please call 203-268-1137 to make an appointment or drop in during business hours. The MAA is also available by email at awitherbee@eastonct.gov

Alison Witherbee, MSW

Municipal Agent for the Aging/ Social Services

EASTON SENIOR CENTER

The Easton Senior Center has been very fortunate this year, that in spite of COVID, we have had the support of so many special folks in our "family". The latter consists of local residents of Easton and so many surrounding towns, businesses, corporations, religious institutions, and a plethora of enthusiastic support systems that have spent endless hours raising funds for a multitude of projects to the advantage of our center. How could we have managed without their efforts? To our great surprise this has been one of our most successful years. In financial terms, when we were awarded at least two thirds of the cost of a new Senior Center van, we were overjoyed when we were able to raise the balance of the full price in only a few weeks. To date, we are expecting a slight delay in delivery because of frustrating parts needs, but we are really pleased and are looking forward to a new van by November 2022.

Our success has always been the fund-raising ability of our wonderful volunteers. It is impossible to understand the total hours and effort that each chairperson and his or her team put into each Tag Sale, Boutique, or Raffle bringing in this huge success.

New furniture in our main room has brightened our lives and made relaxing hours of comfortable seating an advantage to our health.

Randy Shapiro, Assistant Director, helped for weeks during COVID vaccination and booster registration time. CVS from Fairway Plaza in Fairfield helped our Senior Center with two successful flu clinics. Diane Tatnall, a recent multi-faceted helper who resides in Monroe, went on her Facebook page asking for jewelry and pocketbooks to be collected, and sold

at the Easton Senior Center. Her resulting collection was remarkable!! The jewelry and pocketbooks collected almost daily was so successful that sales were spread into the main large room.

During the last few months we have enjoyed a pleasurable learning experience with the Easton Speech Academy senior students. What a great sense of humor they have! They really made our day.

Beth Dobseavage, a licensed acupuncturist, now offers acupuncture and tui na therapeutic massage for pain relief and general well-being. Trained at the Swedish Institute in New York City for acupuncture and massage therapy, Beth has 20+ years of experience in therapeutic and sports massage. She has worked for physical therapists and in luxury hotels in New York City, and has 15+ years in private practice in New York City. We are growing professionally by leaps and bounds. At this time, I would like to acknowledge the many years of service that Anne Fiyalka has dedicated to the Easton Senior Center and to the Easton Senior Center Advisory Board. Her 30 years of service is a shining example of her dedication to the service of the senior community.

The new Senior Center Advisory Board Chair is being headed by Althea Falco. Wendy Bowditch will serve as Vice Chair, and Pradha Gupta as Secretary. At this time, we would like to thank Maryann Freeman for her service as Chair over the past years.

God Bless Everyone.
Val Buckley, Director

HEALTH DISTRICT

The Town has taken a big step and joined the Aspetuck Health District. Formally known as the Westport Weston Health District, the Health District's Board of Directors officially changed the name effective January 1, 2022, in response to Easton's joining and to be more inclusive. The Health District was the first Health District formed and recognized in the state of Connecticut in 1965 as the Aspetuck Valley Health District. In 1983 the name was changed to the Westport Weston Health District for easier identification because they were the only two towns that had joined.

The Aspetuck Health District will maintain a satellite office at the Easton Town Hall in the same location it has always been and can be reached by calling 203.268.6291. The office is staffed and open to the public with set office hours as in the past. Contractors and residents are welcome at any of the Health District's offices for regular or urgent business needs and have access to all of the Health District's resources.

Although the pandemic changed the way residents and business interacted the past two years, state directives and

restrictions have now been relaxed. No one knows for sure what will come next but there is great hope the worst of the pandemic is behind us. With some return to normalcy, the Health District can restart community public programming at town senior centers, libraries, and other locations.

Public Health is concerned with safeguarding and improving the physical, mental, and social well-being of the community as a whole. Staff administers and enforces the applicable State of Connecticut General Statutes, Public Health Code, and the ever-changing state environmental regulations.

Examples of services provided by the Aspetuck Health District include:

- Inspecting food service establishments and day care centers;
- Reviewing and approving plans for septic systems, soil testing and wells;
- Conducting public health nuisance investigations;
- Providing health guidance to residents;
- Monitoring for reportable diseases and conditions (e.g., tuberculosis, elevated blood lead levels, food borne illnesses, STDs) through surveillance, report analysis, case investigation and coordination with state and local health facilities and providers in an effort to reduce disease transmission throughout the community;
- Conducting surveillance for potential bioterrorism agents, responding to a flu pandemic, and preparing responses to emergency situations;
- Travel and routine vaccinations;
- Community health programming.

This report highlights the accomplishments of the Easton Health Department over the past year.

JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021 HEALTH PERMITS

<u>PERMIT TYPE</u>	<u>Total # of Permits</u>
NEW HOMES	14
ADDITIONS	24
RENOVATIONS	8
ACCESSORY STRUCTURES	17
POOL	22
SEPTIC	54
SOIL TEST	45
WELL/WATER	23
FOOD LICENSE	16
TANKS	33
GENERATORS	54
HVAC	<u>12</u>
TOTAL	322

Respectfully Submitted by,
Mark A.R. Cooper, Director of Health
Aspetuck Health District
180 Bayberry Lane, Westport, CT
(203) 227-9571

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

EASTON PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Easton Public Works Department continued in its efforts to maintain and improve the 94.41 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, pavement preservation, 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, repair and maintenance, the department is most always in people's minds when snow and icy roads occur. Easton had a total of 47.5" inches of snowfall, which required the Department to plow on 9 different occasions. Salting of the Town roads occurred 20 times consuming 1290 tons of salt 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 roads, installation of any needed drainage or repairs to existing drainage, crack sealing of existing pavement, sweeping of the road and the application of a leveling course of hot mixed asphalt to maintain proper drainage, which leads to the application of hot liquid asphalt and then covered with a layer of 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, 8.7 miles of road was involved in this program, with the use of 43,841 gallons of road oil.

This past year the department's drainage program entailed:

- 1 New precast manhole
- 5 Catch basins were repaired or rebuilt
- 27 Feet of 6" Perforated PVC under drain pipe installed
- 120 Feet of 15" R.C.P. storm drainage pipe installed
- 96 Feet of 48" R.C.P. storm drainage pipe installed

The department takes care of all street and traffic control signs on the Town's roads. This past year saw 24 new signs and 19 posts installed and 22 signs repaired and reset.

A section of Judd Road, from Skyline Drive south to 222 Judd Rd and from Rocky Ridge Rd south to Route 59 were upgraded by installing additional and rebuilding catch basins, installing additional storm drainage pipe, and the pavement

base was reclaimed and overlayed with hot mix asphalt. Drainage work was performed on Delaware Rd.

Reconstruction of the South Park Avenue Bridge #04213, by Riverside Lane began in May 2021. A State LOTCIP Grant funded 100% of the construction. The Bridge is on schedule to be completed November 2021.

This year's projects include the removal of the 10,000-gallon UST oil tank from the south side of the building at 660 Morehouse Rd and the installation of a new steam boiler on the north end of the building as well as the conversion of the two boilers on the south side to natural gas. DPW also retrofitted Town buildings for covid safety such as hands-free soap and sanitizer dispensers and well as plexy glass partitions in office areas.

The Town's crew continued scheduled work with the bucket truck to render needed attention to dead trees and hazardous limbs hanging over the Town roadways. The Emerald Ash Borer has decimated the Town's Ash trees which required removal. The Town's crew removed 214 trees this year. The tree work was done in unison with the Town Tree Warden. The Town's crews also worked extensively with members of the Conservation Commission to identify and removed numerous hazardous trees from the Paine Open Space trails. The crews also used the bucket truck to maintain the Town's parking lot lights.

The Town purchased a new grapple for the loaders.

Applications for 44 driveway permits and 20 road-opening permits brought in \$2,550 in fees.

The department continued the maintenance responsibility of the former Samuel Staples School, now known as 660 Morehouse Rd. along with working outside of the Public Works Department which accounted for over 1735.25 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, EMS and the Conservation Commission.

Edward Nagy, P.E.
Director of Public Works/Town Engineer

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BOARD OF FINANCE

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

In the performance of its duties, the Board exercises all administrative functions necessary in preparing the annual budget for the Town. This process includes discussing with Town officials and department heads their proposed operating and capital expenditures, after which these requests are presented at a public budget hearing for questions and comments. The Board then prepares a final budget which is presented to the Town at the Annual Town Meeting held on the last Monday in April. 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 2020-2021 Town Budget in the amount of \$44,639,809 included appropriations of \$16,500,736 (includes Debt Service) in the Selectman's accounts, \$17,015,420 for the Easton Board of Education, and \$11,123,653 for the Region 9 Board of Education. On the basis of a Grand List of \$1,293,030,580 the Board set a tax rate of 31.00 mills for real estate and personal property and motor vehicles for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Respectively submitted by
Andrew Kachele, Chair

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

The Board of Assessment Appeals met for public sessions in fiscal year 2020-2021 during the months of March and September.

The March 2021 sessions were for taxpayers with a grievance on their 2020 Real Estate and Personal Property Grand List values. Taxpayers by State Statute must file a form prescribed by law for Real Estate and Personal Property on or before February 20th of any given year to appeal their value.

In September 2020 the Board of Assessment Appeal met for the 2019 Motor Vehicle Grand List appeals.

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

Submitted by:
Adam Bonoff
Chairman

Board Members:
John Miranda
Scott Charmoy
Thomas Schick
Lise Fleurette
Kenneth Delvecchio

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

The Town of Easton Zoning Regulations were completely rewritten and reorganized and became effective July 27, 2019. In this fiscal year, the Planning and Zoning Commission, in response to working with these new Regulations, amended a few Sections of the Easton Zoning Regulations to further provide the citizens of Easton with a clearer understanding of the Zoning regulation. The following Sections were added at the beginning of the next fiscal year: Commercial Vehicle Storage, Solar Panels (Flush) and Propane Tanks, Accessory Apartment Standards, and Managed Residential Homes. [Adopted August 9, 2021, Effective September 21, 2021] In addition to clarifying the newly adopted Regulations the Commission also added a new Section to the Town Plan of Conservation and Development (TPCD), Section 6.6, Recommend Plans and programs. [Adopted August 9, 2021, Effective September 21, 2021]

Two major projects were undertaken towards the end of the past fiscal year by the Commission, each of which will significantly impact the future of the town, the first updating the Subdivision regulations and the second was an application for a Technical Assistance Grant to prepare an Affordable Housing Plan in accordance with State mandate by June 2022. The Subdivision Regulations will be completely rewritten and reorganized with assistance from Planimetrics. Inc. They were engaged by the Commission at the end of last fiscal year and will assist with updating the regulations for consistency with the Town Plan, compliance with current State law, and administrative clarity. Planning and Zoning sent a Technical Assistance Grant to the Board of Selectmen for Resolution and Certification and ultimately the Town of Easton received \$15,000 towards the preparation of their Affordable Housing Plan.

The Town of Easton received a request from Eversource and Aquarion Water Company in October of 2020 to transport water from the Greater Bridgeport area to Towns in lower Fairfield County of up to 14 million gallons of water per day. After holding a public information meeting in January of 2021, the Planning and Zoning Commission sent a letter to the Board of Selectmen.

The Planning and Zoning Commission engaged with MetroCOG and the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) to conduct a Road Safety Audit along Route 59 (Sport Hill Road) from the Fairfield border to Center Road then along Center Road to the intersection with Route 136 (Westport Road). An RSA is a formal safety assessment of the existing roadway. It is a qualitative review by an independent team experienced in traffic, pedestrian, and bicycle operations and design that considers the safety of all road users and proactively assesses mitigation measures to improve the safe operation of the facility by reducing the potential crash risk frequency and/or severity. RSAs in this program are fully funded by CTDOT at no cost to municipalities.

The Commission received several Section 8-24 referrals from the Board of Selectman during this fiscal year. In April of 2021 the Commission received an 8-24 Referral for the installation of a Batting/Pitching Cage at the Field of Dreams, 515 Morehouse Rd. The Commission gave a favorable report on this project and stated its consistency with the Town Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) and the Morehouse Civic Park Master Plan, noting this area would provide active recreation to a diversity of public active recreational needs and provides for the safety of the players warming up. In April of 2021, Planning and Zoning received an 8-24 Referral from the Board of Selectmen regarding a request for roadway discontinuance of "Old Burrs Highway" received by an Attorney representing the owners of a property at the end of "Old Burrs Highway", north of Freeborn Road. The Commission ultimately gave a favorable report noting that there is no purpose for this portion of road, and the property around it has been developed. The Commission also determined that this discontinuance would not be inconsistent with the Town Plan of Conservation and Development; a letter was sent to the Board of Selectmen in May of 2021.

The Commission received several Special Permit Applications this fiscal year, a couple were for minor amendments to existing Special Permits: one was for a sign at the Easton Public Library, approved in November of 2020, and the other was for a minor amendment to the Special Permit at Helen Keller Middle School for an Outdoor Classroom in the South fields and fencing/shrubbery in the front of the school by the main entrance, approved at the beginning of next fiscal year in July of 2021. In October of 2020, the Commission received a Special Permit Applicant for a ground-mount solar PV/system to be installed at 81 Tranquility Drive, this application was approved in November of 2020 but ultimately withdrawn by the Applicant in 2021. In April of 2021 the Commission received a Special Permit from the Easton Racquet Club for the construction of two additional paddle ball courts with lights and two, 4-bay pickle ball courts with lights which was ultimately approved in June of 2021.

The Commission did not receive any Subdivision Applications in this fiscal year, probably largely due to the Covid-19 Restrictions, but did release two Subdivision bonds, one on North Park Avenue and the other on Adirondack Trail.

The Commission proposed to hold a competition for renditions of two gateway signs to Easton and contacted the Easton Schools' Art Departments to hold this competition. This item will be addressed in the next fiscal year.

The Commission was tasked with making an interpretation of its Zoning Regulations regarding a property located on lower Sport Hill Road regarding a change in non-conforming use. Section 7130 a. of the Easton Zoning Regulations allows for a non-conforming use to be changed to another non-conforming use provided that the Commission shall find that the proposed use is equally appropriate or more appropriate for the district than the existing non-conforming use. It ultimately found that this property could be used for the other non-conforming use but required the owners to get the necessary permission from the Zoning Board of Appeals for its non-conformities with the Easton Zoning Regulations regarding its structure.

Enforcement action was undertaken by the Commission against home businesses, storage of commercial vehicles and recreational vehicles, and other minor infractions. One Cease and Desist was issued for a property located on Maple Road in October of 2020 for a home business. A total of 189 zoning permits were issued during the last fiscal year, eight for new dwellings and 87 for electric generators and propane tanks. This marks a notable increase in zoning permits during a time when significantly more residents have been working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Regular Meetings of the Commission were typically scheduled for the second and fourth Mondays of each month, at 7:00PM, with public hearings usually commencing at 7:30PM, unless noted differently. The meetings were usually held at the Town Hall Conference Room, unless otherwise noted, until the onset of restrictions due to COVID-19 when the Commission eventually began holding meetings via ZOOM over the internet and phone. During this fiscal year the Commission held 22 regular meetings and no special meetings. Inquiries on development questions were generally directed to the Commission staff on weekdays 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 appointed to three-year terms, attend meetings and complement the Commission membership whenever vacancies or absences occur.

Respectfully submitted,
Raymond Martin, Chairman

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

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

During the fiscal year 2020-2021 the Zoning Board of Appeals met in session on five occasions and heard 3 applications for variance and one appeal of the decision of the Zoning Enforcement Officer to issue a Zoning Permit. The three applications for variances were approved and the one appeal of the decision of the Zoning Enforcement Officer was denied.

Thomas Dollard, Vice-Chairman

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

As the Inland Wetlands Agency, it enforces the provisions of the State of Connecticut's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act. In this capacity, it reviews applications for regulated activities, conducts site visits, and if appropriate, holds public hearings prior to approving or denying a permit application. During the fiscal year of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, seventeen Inland Wetlands applications were received, fifteen approved, 1 denied and 1 withdrawn. Three violations were lifted and one permit extension was approved. There were no public hearings.

Currently there are eight outstanding violations. Periodically the Commission also receives pesticide application notices and notifications from neighboring municipalities of projects within 500 feet of the town line.

In the past year two Commissioners, Steven Corti and Steven Hume retired after many years of service. Two alternate Commissioners, Steve Montgomery and Dave Logie were appointed as full time Commissioners. Maria Corti and Karin Niesyn were appointed as new alternate Commissioners. Phil Doremus, the Wetlands Enforcement Officer retired after 20 years of service and was replaced by Mark DeLieto. The Commission thanks each and every retiree for their many years of service to the Town.

As the Conservation Commission it is responsible for maintaining town-owned land designated as "Open Space", as

well as for planning future open space acquisitions. To that effect, it works closely with developers and conservation groups, recommending to the Planning and Zoning Commission specific areas to be acquired or otherwise protected, which are in line with the Town's Open Space Plan of 2016. The Commission also renders comments to Planning and Zoning on certain applications or issues when requested. Currently, the Town owns 618 acres of town-managed open space areas, with the single largest piece being the Paine Open Space property on Maple Road. Since the effects of the Pandemic began to be felt in our area, there has been an increase in usage of all open spaces including Paine Open Space. The increase in usage and the recent major storms have resulted in greater need to maintain trails. Former Commissioner Steve Corti, Aspetuck Land Trust trail steward Michael Wallace, neighbor Peter Smith and the staff of the Department of Public Works (DPW) have all stepped up their continued support in keeping the trails safe. The Commission would like to thank them all for their assistance.

Current and future projects include creating a formal maintenance plan, finishing the entrance at Carriage Drive and clarifying access to other town owned open space areas.

Dori Wollen, Chair

Officers for the Easton Conservation Commission:

Dori Wollen, Chair

Catherine Alfandre, Vice Chair

Department Secretary, Frances M. Daly

COMMISSION FOR THE AGING

The Commission for the Aging was established pursuant to Section 7-127a of the General statutes and a Town Ordinance to develop and coordinate programs for the aging in the Town.

The Commission consists of five (5) electors of the town of Easton, appointed for 3-year terms, at least three (3) of whom shall be representative the age group concerned, and three (3) alternates in accordance with the by-laws. The Municipal Agent is appointed by the First Selectman, serves as an ex-officio member of the Commission in accordance with State Statutes. The Municipal Agent interacts with many seniors and very closely with the Commission. Alison Witherbee serves as the Municipal Agent and also serves as the Social Services Director.

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, the region and the State of Connecticut, both by public and private agencies.

- c. Provide information on diverse senior issues and promote practical solutions to help seniors make informed decisions on ongoing changes in the health-care system.
- d. Develop and coordinate programs for education and enhancement of senior lifestyle.
- e. Advocate for the health, safety and well-being of the town's older residents.
- f. Make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen regarding the development and integration of public and private agencies in co-operation with State and other services to the extent possible.

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

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

The Commission for the Aging Goals for 2022-2023:

- Continue our efforts to assist, support, advocate and educate Easton seniors.
- Serve as an active voice promoting programs and services on behalf of the elderly.
- Work tirelessly to move projects forward to completion and reschedule those that were canceled due to the pandemic. These include collaborations with other Senior Citizens and Aging Groups within the state and at national level as well as our local first responders.

The Commission will continue to sponsor and support various seminars and workshops for Easton seniors in cooperation with SWCCA (Southwestern CT Agency on Aging), CHOICES (Connecticut's programs for Health Insurance, Outreach, Information and Eligibility Screening) and SMP (The Senior Medicare Patrol Program).

We look forward to supporting our seniors, assisting and enhancing efforts to meet the needs of our aging population. As community ambassadors, the Commission on Aging provides leadership, advocacy, community awareness and partnerships to initiate change toward an all-age-friendly, livable community.

Commission members are: Chair, Lisa Tasi; Linda Dollard, Anne Hughes, and Melinda O'Brien. Alternate members are Nanette DeWester and Cheryl Constand.

EASTON PARK AND RECREATION

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

Easton Park and Recreation has continued its field development and maintenance programs throughout the Town of Easton. The parks department manages over 60 acres of playing fields and school property including; multiple baseball fields, several cemeteries, Aspetuck Park, 5 playgrounds, 2 tennis courts, 7 soccer / multi-purpose fields and one football field. We continued with our baseball infield 5-year renovation plan and completed the 50/70 field fencing/infield project courtesy of Easton/Redding Baseball and completed the infield renovation on our ECD front little league field at 660 Morehouse Rd.

Easton Park and Recreation has remained vigilant in its mission to offer free and cost-effective programs to Easton residents. While COVID changed what our department was able to offer, we were still able to run multiple outdoor programs quite successfully and continue running our Extended Day program.

The Extended Day Program at Samuel Staples Elementary School continues to provide a service to working parents and is 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 Park and Recreation Department will strive to continue to offer quality programs and cost-effective municipal recreational opportunities to all of the residents of Easton.

Members of the Park and Recreation Commission are: Phil Tamallanca – Chairman, Tom Cable, Chris Barcello, Rocky Sullivan, Dave Gombos, Anthony Martinich and Ray Longo.

INSURANCE COMMISSION
Town of Easton and Easton Board of Education
Insurance Scheduled
7/01/20 - 6/30/21

Commercial Property Coverage

Blanket Building & Contents	
Agreed Amount and Replacement	\$84,100,779
Contractor's Equipment	718,656
Fine Arts - Exhibition Floater	200,000
Deductible	1,000

<u>Commercial General Liability</u>	Each occurrence	\$ 1,000,000/3,000,000
Personal Injury/Advertising Injury	Each occurrence	\$ 1,000,000
Medical Expense	Each person	\$ 10,000

<u>Equipment Breakdown</u>	\$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

<u>Public Officials Library</u>	Each claim	\$ 1,000,000
Deductible	Each claim	10,000

<u>Law Enforcement Liability</u>	Each claim	\$1,000,000
Deductible	Each claim	10,000

<u>School Leader's Legal Liability</u>	Each claim	\$ 1,000,000
Deductible	Each claim	10,000

<u>Following-Form Excess Liability</u>	\$10,000,000
--	--------------

<u>Pollution Liability</u> (Underground Oil Tanks)	per release	\$ 1,000,000
Deductible	per release	10,000
	per release	25,000

<u>Workers' Compensation & Employer Liability</u>	Statutory
Exp. Mod. 1.19	
Employer's Liability	
Each Accident	\$1,000,000
Disease - Policy Limit	\$1,000,000
Disease - Each Employee	\$1,000,000

<u>Blanket Public Employee Dishonesty Bond</u>	\$ 500,000
Excess Position Limit for:	\$ 100,000
Treasurer	
Comptroller	
Accounts Payable/Receptionist	
Human Resources/Comp. Coordinator	
Retirement Plan Bond	\$1,000,000
Surety Bonds	
Tax Collector	\$ 187,500
Assistant Tax Collector	\$ 187,500

<u>Cyber Liability</u>	per occurrence	\$1,000,000/2,000,000
Retention	per loss	\$ 10,000

<u>Fiduciary</u>	Limit of Liability \$1,000,000 Retention 0
------------------	--

The Insurance Commission is responsible for managing and evaluating Insurance coverage for the Town of Easton. We work closely with Town Hall to contain the costs of all our policies and have enjoyed some success in this regard the past few years. We enjoy a good relationship with our main insurer CIRMA (Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency) who provides us with information on any new changes in the Municipal Insurance Industry, as well as helping us to make sure all our workers are protected and safe.

Gerard O'Brien, Chair
Insurance Commission

**PENSION AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS
COMMISSION**

The commission is comprised of seven appointed electors who serve four-year overlapping terms. The First Selectman is an Ex Officio member. Currently serving are First Selectman Dr. David Bindelglass, Chairman Alan P. Goldbecker, Vice-chairman A. Reynolds Gordon, David Bussolatta, John Harrington, Robert Sadowski and Logan Shedd.

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

The assets of the pension plan continue to be invested in domestic and international stocks and fixed income securities. The overall investment performance of the pension fund assets have performed in line with a multi-asset class diversified portfolio. The Town's pension obligations at July 1, 2021 were 113.6% funded.

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

In 2009 the state unilaterally and dramatically enhanced pension benefits for state sponsored pension plans. The same benefits were requested by town employees. Resolution was reached by adopting much of the greatly enhanced benefits with increased contributions from the Town and Town employees. Current and future costs of the enhanced benefits

should increase at a moderate rate. Increase in costs of the Town's group health insurance program have moderated due to pressure from competitive bidding. Future costs are expected to rise with the general rise in medical costs.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Alan P. Goldbecker, Chairman

EASTON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT TASK FORCE

The mission of the Easton Energy & Environment Task Force is to enhance municipal, commercial, and residential environmental stewardship by identifying, proposing, and implementing measures that improve the town's sustainability and (where possible) cost savings, and by promoting important initiatives that may benefit residents. Some of the Task Force's activities in 2020-21 included:

- Ongoing oversight of a 600+ kw solar installation at Samuel Staples Elementary School, tracking performance metrics and staying in communication with the two system owners, CT Green Bank and Skyview Ventures. Together, phases 1 and 2 generate enough electricity to cover nearly 100% of the school's demand and in 2020-21 saved the town more than \$43,500. The task force developed a spreadsheet to track costs and savings that is now updated regularly.
- A 3-in-1 Recycling Event (electronics recycling, prescription drug take-back, and returnable cans/bottles recycling) in October 2020 that included "curbside pickup" for seniors. The event, which was coordinated with the Easton Police and Easton EMS, generated more than 15,500 pounds of electronics, almost 100 pounds of prescription drugs, and more than 8,000 bottles and cans to benefit the EMS.
- Successful application for a "Grow Grant" from New England Grassroots Fund that provided funds for discounted smart power strips and helped build awareness about "vampire draw" and energy saving tips. Proceeds will be used to benefit Easton's Energy Assistance Program participants.
- Exploration of a possible energy efficiency project at Helen Keller Middle School and a possible Virtual Net Metering project to benefit the school district.
- Exploration of additional solar installations on municipal buildings through the state's Solar Municipal Assessment

Program. Extensive data analysis, including site visits, pointed to a possible future project at Joel Barlow High School.

- Food scrap recycling discussion with representatives from Darien and Westport, and preliminary exploration of a possible food scrap composting program at Helen Keller Middle School.
- Hosting of an online (zoom) composting workshop for Earth Day, delivered by Master Composter, Alastair Ong.
- Article on "Rethinking Recycling," published in the Easton Courier in September 2020.
- Formal support for the new CT "Bottle Bill" which was signed into law in June 2021.
- Participation on the team pursuing Sustainable CT certification for the town. The Task Force also participated periodically in regional and statewide forums like Sustainable Fairfield County, a regional Electric School Bus workshop, and the CT Energy Network.

In the coming year, the Task Force will facilitate further municipal action to reduce energy consumption, improve recycling, assess readiness for municipal electric vehicles, and promote recycling and other environmental initiatives.

The 2020-21 task force members were: Cathy Alfandre, Heidi Armster, Katie Callahan, Lise Fleurette, Bobby Morganti, and Deidre Williams. Other members of the community participated regularly in meetings and projects, including Dana Ceva, Abbie Winter, and Joan Winter.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Alfandre (Chair)

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

The purpose of the Agricultural Commission is to act in an advisory capacity to the Board of Selectmen and other town boards and commissions on agricultural matters.

The Commission consists of five members and two alternates who are electors of the town of Easton. Serving during this reporting period are members Jean Stetz-Puchalski (Chair), Victor Alfandre (Secretary), Lori Cochran Dougall, Matt Oricchio, Irv Silverman and alternates Denise Hebner and Sage Rega.

The Commission is charged with supporting and promoting agriculture and agricultural pursuits in the town of Easton. It serves as a conduit between non-profit agencies, civic organizations, municipal boards and commissions, elected and

appointed government officials, businesses, farmers, and persons engaged in agricultural pursuits at the local, state, and federal level. The Commission advises the Board of Selectmen, the land use boards, commissions and officials on issues relating to agriculture and planning for agriculture in Easton.

During this reporting period we emphasized educational, preservation and economic development. We:

- Worked to understand the needs of local farmers in order to support success, increase economic viability, and promote a future for agriculture in Easton.
- Provided Covid-19 guidelines to help Town, farms, and farm stands adapt and comply to changing conditions during the pandemic. Conducted site visits and provided access to print and online resources.
- Kept current with agricultural grant opportunities and educational programming/vocational/business training available to Easton farmers and communicated these offerings through word of mouth and the enhanced, self-serve portal on the Agricultural Commission page of our Town of Easton website.
- Collaborated with other Connecticut Ag Commissions, federal and state level agricultural organizations, our Easton Planning and Zoning commission (P&Z), and other Easton Town commissions and committees, to help identify issues and concerns relating to planning for and supporting agriculture in Easton.
- Partnered with federal, state, and local agencies to preserve 37.29 acres of Easton farmland.
- Continued collaboration with the Town assessor's office to help farms understand how to obtain and file for Farm Classification to qualify for agricultural tax exemptions. Maintained Farm Classification link on the Ag Commission website encouraging farms to prepare for filing with the Town Assessor's office.
- Continued promoting Easton as a destination for local agriculture and agritourism.
- Communicated the important role agriculture plays in attracting residents and maintaining open space.

Current farming projects on town land include the leasing of two sections of the property located at Morehouse and Banks Road in front of Samuel Staples Elementary School (SSES). The plots are being farmed organically. The project provides an educational opportunity for the students at the school as well as an historical lesson in Easton's agrarian roots.

Regular meetings of the Agricultural Commission are scheduled for the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:45PM at the Easton Public Library Community Room unless otherwise noted.

Submitted by,
Jean Stetz-Puchalski, Chair

COMMITTEES

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The Cemetery Committee's restoration, maintenance, and engagement goals were successfully met with the help of new committee members and contractor support as needed. The 2020--2021 Committee Members included Nanette DeWester (Chair), Frank Pagliaro, Deirdra Preis and Jamie Weinstein; Joan Kirk was Secretary but not a voting member. During the 2020--2021 fiscal year the tasks accomplished were:

Center Street Cemetery

Cleaned cemetery sign, gravestones with D2 solution, cleaned bench, provided consistent landscape maintenance and leaf/debris removal as needed, cleaned memorial plaque at the "potters' field" gravesite and site area, maintained the Fanton Family grave area, and reset Fanton boundary stones. Removed and replaced bases for the Freeborn family stones and rebuilt the foundation. Dug up and reset the husband/wife stones in the Hill Family plot. Reset the MR Rowell stone, dug out the Mother and Father Rowell stones. Historic Center Street gate was repaired and the post set for spring installation at the memorial gravesite.

Gilbertown Cemetery

Cleaned cemetery sign, provided consistent landscape maintenance and leaf /debris removal as needed, planned the removal of dead dogwood trees on 58, reset Lavinia Scott's gravestone, cleaned, repaired the Jennings' tombstone and re-epoxied, dug up the Perry gravestone to reset a new base, and, applied D2 cleaning solution to the backs and edges of all tombstones at Gilbertown.

Lyon Cemetery

Cleaned sign, provided consistent landscape maintenance and leaf /debris removal as needed.

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

1. Reset headstones that are leaning in our cemeteries;
2. Install in new fabricated bases all headstones that have broken below ground level and are too short to be reset;
3. Repair with epoxy, the remaining headstones that have broken above ground level;
4. Reset footstones in Gilbertown, Center, and Lyon Cemeteries;
5. Maintain any brush and tree growth that is encroaching upon the perimeter of all cemeteries.
6. Apply D2 biological cleaning solution to tombstones.

Committee Engagement Accomplishments:

1. Three tours given (and recorded) of Gilberttown, Center Street, and Lyon Cemetery by committee member Frank Pagliaro to increase awareness, education, and promote community engagement. A recognition ceremony for retired Cemetery Committee Chair Gary Haines was held at the Gilberttown tour in October 2020.
2. Cross-organizational partnerships were developed to increase collaboration with; the Easton Garden Club (to collaborate on property design and beautification initiatives), the Historical Society of Easton (to foster research and education of the historic cemeteries), the Easton Courier (to increase outreach opportunities and promote community awareness by writing articles and participating on the launch of a new podcast), and the 175th Anniversary Committee (to celebrate Easton's anniversary, legacy, and build community connections).
3. Looking Ahead to 2021-2022: A Strategic Planning process was kicked off and hosted by committee members Jamie Weinstein and Deirdra Preis. The process will aid in developing a vision which will drive goal setting, budgeting, resource management, and selection of short and long term objectives; it will empower the committee's work to not only preserve and maintain our historic cemeteries but also to foster engagement ensuring that the cemeteries are a living memorial that honors our past while serving the present and future of Easton.

EASTON RECYCLING

The purpose of the Committee is to operate a recycling program for Easton within the guidelines of the Greater Bridgeport Regional Recycling Interlocal Committee (GBRRIC) and the State DEEP Mandate. The Town of Easton voted at a Town Meeting held on April 30, 2018 to join GBRRIC, for a recycling program in the Town of Easton. GBRRIC has contracted with Oak Ridge Recycling in Shelton, which accepts recyclable materials. Curbside recycling pickup started January 7, 1991. Recycling tonnage collected by the Town this Fiscal Year was 945 tons. Monthly, the Town pays Oak Ridge Recycling to process our recycling and ship it to Asia. The cost began the year at \$82.29 per ton and decreased quarterly to the current rate of \$65.74 per ton.

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

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

cardboard, newspaper, and used tires and electronics, including computers, printers, FAX machines, television sets, etc. It is TEaM's goal to expand this center's capabilities to accept additional recyclable products.

The volume of waste motor oil that was brought to the Public Works facility by Town residents for recycling was 425 gallons.

Edward Nagy, P.E.
Director of Public Works

SOLID WASTE REPORT

July 5, 1988, began the commercial operation of the Bridgeport Resource Recovery plant. As of that date, Easton no longer deposited solid waste directly at the Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority (CRRA) Landfill located in Shelton, Connecticut. The ash produced by the plant is deposited at a Putnam, Connecticut ash landfill. The Town of Easton voted at a Town Meeting held on January 13, 2014 to join Greater Bridgeport Regional Solid Waste Interlocal Committee known as (GBRSWC). 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 2,993 tons of solid waste during the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The disposal fee for this solid waste was \$109.00 per ton.

PUBLIC SAFETY

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

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

The members are:

Richard Colangelo Jr., Chairman
David Smith, Vice-chairman
Thomas Herrmann, Secretary
Laurie Israel, Commissioner
Vincent Battaglia, Commissioner

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Richard J. Colangelo Jr., Chairman

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

Richard Doyle is the current Chief of the Easton Police Department. In addition to the Chief there are 14 other Police Officers in Easton. A Captain, Detective, three Sergeants and nine Police Officers. One officer is a School Resource Officer and one is a K-9 Officer.

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

All 15 police officers are certified by the Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council. In order to keep their certification officers must attend a minimum of sixty hours of review training every three years. Many Easton officers exceed this minimum.

This year was a demanding year with Storm Isaias and Covid 19. Storm Isaias raced thru the town in August 2020 and presented many challenges such as power outages and road closures due to downed trees. The year also saw the continuation of Covid 19 protocols and procedures. On May 10, 2021 the Easton Police department held an awards ceremony to honor three police officers, two dispatchers and one civilian for their exemplary actions involving two different incidents in town.

We dedicate ourselves to work in partnership with the community to provide public safety and to improve the quality of life for all those that live, work, or pass through the Town of Easton. In turn the men and women illustrate the dedication that Easton police officers have towards their community as well as to their brother and sister officers. Thank you to the residents of Easton for their continued support.

Richard J. Doyle
Chief of Police

EASTON POLICE DEPARTMENT FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

<u>ENFORCEMENT</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
MV Violations	106	312	319
MV Written & Verbal Warnings	377	861	1063
Parking Violations	2	2	26

CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS & OTHER

ACO Arrests	2	3	2
Arson	0	0	0
Assault	1	2	5
Bad Check	0	1	0
Breach of Peace	1	5	3
Burglary	7	11	4
Criminal Arrests/Misdemeanors	44	83	36
Criminal Mischief	26	18	10
Criminal Trespassing	2	1	1
Disorderly Conduct	9	11	10
DUI	10	6	9
K9 Assist	37	50	43
Liquor Law Violation	0	0	3
Narcotics/Drugs	14	15	21
Other Offenses (90Z)	18	35	55
Robbery	0	0	0
Sexual Offense	1	1	1
Warrant Entry	9	15	18
Weapon Violation	1	1	1

EASTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

<u>Comps & Investigations</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
911 Error/Transfer/Abandon Calls*	651	521	427
Accident	130	134	192
Aided Case	449	425	483
Alarm	605	629	776
Animal	422	454	533
Assistance, All Other	585	678	660
Bomb Threat	0	0	0
Burglary	7	11	5
Child Safety Restraint	3	0	22
Citizen Complaint	0	0	0
Computer Crime	1	0	0
Criminal Mischief Mailbox	8	9	9
Criminal Mischief/Prop Dmg	18	9	1
Disabled Motor Vehicle	129	123	178
Domestic	18	29	18
Dumping/General Littering	46	41	44
Erratic Driver	101	86	100
Extortion/Blackmail	0	1	1
False Impersonation/Identity Theft	23	20	9
Fingerprint	375	334	287
Fire Call	132	96	108
Found Property	45	41	31
Fraud Credit Card Theft/ATM	4	6	3
Fraud False Pretense	10	4	8
Fraud SCAM (call-electronic-mail)	35	44	60
Fraud Wire	6	0	2
JV Assistance	36	18	17
Larceny	50	52	31
Lockout, MV/Building	18	14	31
Lost Property	23	15	18
Missing Person	5	6	4
Motor Vehicle Found/Locate	7	5	2
Motor Vehicle Impound	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Stolen	9	9	3
Motor Vehicle Stops	493	1,213	1,313
Noise	74	87	62
Permit, All Other	40	15	29
Permit, Pistol Temporary	128	25	41
PO Admin	271	216	500
Programmed Patrol	504	494	632
Records Request	300	277	301
School Detail	447	270	360
Selective Enforcement	144	153	293
Soliciting Complaint	3	2	6
Subpoena	4	2	7
Supplement Reports	150	193	182
Suspicious Activity	85	78	90
Suspicious Motor Vehicle	217	234	260
Suspicious Person	70	83	67
Teletype	130	161	155
Threatening/Intimidation/Harassing	15	20	28
Total Records	7,700	8,128	9,010
Town-State-Utility Properties	549	439	665
Traffic Complaint	34	35	24
Trespassing, Simple	14	15	28
Trucks, Thru	0	1	4
Vacant House Check	5	150	96
Vandalism	2	3	1
Voluntary Firearms Surrender	2	11	6
Welfare Check	64	70	174

MUNICIPAL ANIMAL CONTROL

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

The Municipal Animal Control Department is currently staffed by three part time Animal Control Officers. ACO Deb Ice, Assistant Animal Control Officers (AACO) Tamar Klein and Donielle Kish who patrol the Town of Easton to enforce animal control, ordinance and related regulations and laws. These officers are empowered by state statute to conduct investigations, issue written complaints and summonses and to arrest any person found in violation of state animal control laws. The Town of Easton conducts a survey of unlicensed dogs annually, all licenses are required annually between June 1st and July 1st of each year.

The Animal Control Department is located at 385 Morehouse Road. Many thanks to the staff and all the citizens who have donated to the shelter. Your continued support is sincerely appreciated.

Richard J. Doyle
Chief of Police

MUNICIPAL ANIMAL CONTROL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Comps Investigated	1396	946	929
Dogs Euthanized	0	1	1
Cats Euthanized	0	0	0
Other Euthanized	0	0	0
Dogs Redeemed	7	21	33
Cats Redeemed	0	0	0
Others Redeemed	0	0	0
Dogs Adopted	7	11	8
Cats Adopted	13	17	25
Other Adopted	14	4	8
Owner Arrests	2	3	2
Dog Bites	4	10	7
Cat Bites	0	0	0
Other Bites	0	0	0
Phone Calls Received	1389	1575	1691
Notice To License	289	331	438

THE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

The Communications Center is under the direction of the Chief of Police who appoints a sergeant to supervise the daily operations. There are three full time and six part time dispatchers that man the center.

The dispatch center has two dispatch consoles which improve the efficiency of the center.

The Center, staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by a single certified telecommunications specialist, is the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for the Town. All E911 calls received, including fire and EMS, at the PSAP are answered by the specialist who is responsible for dispatching the appropriate emergency service. Nine radio systems are also monitored.

Communications Center personnel are trained in: 911 call-taking, Emergency Medical Dispatching, NCIC/Collect, and the Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunication Dispatch Protocols.

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

Richard J. Doyle
Chief of Police

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Fire protection in our Town is provided by a combination fire service consisting of Career Firefighters, who are Town employees, and Volunteer Firefighters, who are members of Easton Volunteer Fire Company No. 1, Inc., an independent entity whose membership provides manpower and much other valuable support to our fire service. All of Easton's firefighters are trained and perform as professionals, and the Town relies on the Volunteers for the additional personnel beyond the Career Firefighters to accomplish the missions assigned. The Board is concerned with continuing reduction of volunteerism in our society and reviews closely volunteer participation in our system. Finding effective means for stimulating volunteer participation has proven problematic. The Board of Fire Commissioners (Board) encourages residents to consider becoming a Volunteer Firefighter.

The Pandemic of 2020-2021 challenged Easton's Fire Service personnel and their flexibility, creativity, professionalism and cooperation proved what a fine team has been assembled and works together to handle any challenge. Staffing challenges

from covid related matters were met, calls were covered, training continued in an effective manner. Through much of the year Fire Headquarters was closed to all but our career and responding volunteers, and the Commission honored the restrictions with virtual meetings.

During the year, we had one career retirement and prepared for another in the middle of the next year. Using a cooperative testing and initial candidate interview process with several other Connecticut fire departments, we prepared for filling the vacancies in a economical plan that would allow us to send two new hires through the Connecticut Fire Academy together for mutual support and building a spirit of unity in your Department. As of this writing, the plan has worked well with 2 new probationary firefighters on board.

Also, during the year, Deputy Fire Marshal Lucy Crossman retired from Town service, though she still is active in the Easton Volunteer Fire Company. Amongst her duties as a Marshal, she spearheaded our Educational program. She will be missed, though we are not filling this position until we know what our needs will be post Covid. The Fire Marshal's department continued to smoothly execute their duties. The Fire Safety Education program continued on a limited basis. The safety of our public buildings is assured through the continuing vigilance and cooperative attitude towards problem solving of that office. Necessary Fire Investigations, various reports and special approvals required of that office are efficiently handled in a timely manner.

The call volume was within our normal range of calls. Supplemental First Responder medical call volume has stabilized. The replacement engine for Engine 4 was delivered and, after a shakedown period, is performing well.

The Volunteer's Carnival returned in July. It is always uplifting to see the community's support of the Carnival, and to have a sound Volunteer Company as part of the Fire Service in Town. The career firefighters continue their outstanding efforts to care for our equipment.

The Department is always working to economize where possible while maintaining quality service and complying with governmental regulation and NFPA standards. During the budget process for 2021-22, as in the 2020-2021 process, the need for an outside study fire service planning, including communications, rural water supply, response distances and personnel issues came into discussion. Obviously, this matter also affects other Easton departments, as we share dispatch capacity, jointly respond to various calls and such. The Board and the Chiefs continue to work with Selectman's office and the matter is moving forward. This Board, the Department and the Fire Marshal's office will continue to work to enhance the safety of the community through cooperation with other Town entities on issues that involve multiple agencies in the belief that cooperation will provide a lasting and better end result at the lowest cost.

The Board thanks Volunteer Fire Company No. 1, Inc., the Career Firefighters, the Fire Marshal and his Deputies, and the Fire Chief and other fire officers for their contribution to the Town.

For the Board of Fire Commissioners:
David H. Buchanan, Jr., Chairman

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

The Easton Volunteer Fire Company N#1 Inc was established in 1921. Since then, it has provided continuous fire protection to the Town of Easton. Currently there are 16 active firefighters serving in the Fire Company. These volunteers come from a wide cross-section of Easton's community and spend countless hours training for and responding to a wide variety of calls for help. The elected line officers in 2020/2021 were Chief Steven Waugh and 1st Assistant Chief Greg Fracassini. The Fire Company executive officers in 2020/2021 were President Rob Klem, Vice President Dave Wheatley, Secretary Lucy Crossman, and Treasurer Jim Wright.

The Easton Fire Department was created in 1947. There are currently eight career firefighters who are on staff with the Easton Fire Department. The firehouse is staffed by a rotating crew of two firefighters working a 24-hour shift. This provides staffing in the Fire House 24 hours a day 365 days a year. In addition to their other duties, the career firefighters perform the crucial task of maintaining the Town's firefighting equipment. The Town's career fighters in 2020/2021 were James Wright, Michael Ohradan, David Davies, Al Doty, Martin Ohradan, Michael Sabia, Mark Mirowski and Jon Davis. As of this writing Firefighter Mike Ohradan has retired from the department after 26 years of service. I would like to thank Mike for his service to the town and wish him the best in his future endeavors. Former EVFC volunteer Alex Cohen will replace Mike.

The Department responded to 554 calls during the year ending June 30, 2021. The call types varied greatly. A breakdown of the most frequent types of calls are as follows: 165 medicals, 94 alarm activations, 25 vehicle accidents, 25 fire related incidents 23 lockouts and 18 Carbon Monoxide related incidents.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Easton for their continued support of both agencies. I would also like to thank the Volunteer and Career Firefighters for

their countless hours of dedicated service to the town and the organization. It is their constant vigilance that help to keep the citizens of Easton safe throughout the year.

Like many organizations in Easton, the volunteer fire company relies on volunteers to fulfill its mission. Also like many organizations in town we are seeing a significant decline in volunteer participation in our organization. Easton like many small towns relies on volunteers to fill a wide variety of rolls in the community. I would urge all of you to get involved in an aspect of your community, whether it is one of the many boards and commissions in town government, sports teams, scouting, EMS or the organization that I am a member of – The Easton Volunteer Fire Company. Please volunteer in your community, you will not regret it.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven Waugh, Chief
EFD / EVFC

EASTON VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

Easton Volunteer Emergency Medical Service (EVEMS) strives to provide full time, year round coverage to the community. In the 2020-2021 fiscal year we provided pre-hospital care for a wide range of medical emergencies including, but not limited to, motor vehicle accidents, cardiac arrests, chest pain, breathing emergencies, drug overdoses, assaults, and psychiatric issues. Our average response time of 8.3 minutes continues to be significantly below the state average of twelve minutes. This year members stayed on duty, again, throughout the most uncertain months of the pandemic and transported dozens of potential COVID positive patients to local hospitals for care. For 10 consecutive months our dedicated volunteers did not drop below a 95% call coverage.

EVEMS consists of 36 active volunteers and two paid EMT's, staffing two town owned ambulance, a Polaris all-terrain vehicle and a 2013 Chevy Tahoe. We also added 8 new members to our service. Our dedicated volunteers, many of whom hold full time jobs, come from Easton and the surrounding towns. Our paid EMT's provide coverage Monday through Friday from 7 am to 3 pm, and are supplemented by two additional per diem EMT/EMR's who work from 3:00 pm until 6:00 pm, when our volunteers take over. Our volunteers typically work a three-man crew and staff the ambulances from 6:00 pm until Midnight. Our live-in program consisting of College students cover midnight to 7am. Additionally, we have an agreement with, local area ambulance services, to provide back up and paramedic support when needed.

EVEMS received 603 emergency calls in 2020-2021 and responded to 585, or 96.92%, of them with a full crew. Our weekend response rates were up again, thanks in part to the

incentive program initiated by the town. Overall, EVEMS response rate continues to meet and exceed the state required minimums. In 2021 we noted a sharp increase in providing mutual aid to surrounding towns. Easton EMS responded to help our neighbors 101 times.

In addition to responding to calls, our members stood by at over two dozen special events and attended skill and knowledge-based training sessions monthly. Some of the events covered in 2020-2021 included Fire Dept Carnival, Dare Race and Covid test kit and N95 distribution. Our members attended numerous “Zoom” training sessions, and the 75th anniversary Easton EMS Fireworks. Our recycling program, initiated eight years ago as a means of earning money for training devices, has continued to be a big success. All told, our 36 members (active and administrative) logged over 14,436 volunteer hours in 2021.

EVEMS Officers and Directors:

Jonathan Arnold, Chief of Service
Carolyn Kearny, Asst. Chief of Operations
Adam Goldstein, Asst. Chief of Administration,
Coordinator of Continuing Education
Mary Pat O’Neil, Director of Personnel
Matt Caldwell, Secretary
Lorraine Mercede, Co-Treasurer
Adam Goldstein, Co-Treasurer
Margie Arnold, Director of Training
Andrew Tisdale, Director of Field Training
Peggy Shukie, Director of Public Relations
Victor Malindretos, Director of Communications,
President of EVEMS Inc.
Peter Fiore, Full Time, day EMT
Josh Meszaros, Full Time, day EMT

In addition to their service in our community, some of our officers represent the service and the town in other capacities. Mr. Malindretos sits on the Board of Directors of the Emergency Medical Communications Center (C-MED). C-MED facilitates communications between our ambulance and area hospitals and between area ambulances as needed. Mr. Malindretos presence on this board insures that the Town’s interests and concerns are well represented at their meetings. Mrs. Kearney and Mrs. Arnold represent EVEMS at the Southwest EMS Council monthly meetings. These meetings provide a regional forum where all EMS organizations are invited to share information regarding patient care. Mr. Goldstein represents EVEMS at the monthly joint hospitals meetings. These meetings provide direct connection and feedback from Bridgeport and St. Vincent’s Hospitals to our members on patient outcome and updates in the latest trends in medical science. Our members, volunteer and paid, are dedicated to the service and the town and we thank each and every one of them for their contributions.

Members of the EMS Commission:

Robert Adriani, Chairman
Gloria Bindelglass, Secretary
James Spak, MD
Vincent Mase, MD
Thomas Bladek, MD

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

EVEMS continues to use “insurance only billing” whereby the town of Easton will only bill the patient’s insurance company. Additionally, we will not bill a patient who refuses transport, or those with no insurance. All billing proceeds are reverted to the Town of Easton and EVEMS does not receive any compensation from the insurance billing. For 2021 the billing proceeds totaled over \$156,000.

We would like to thank the citizens of Easton for all their continued support and encourage residents to call our headquarters to inquire about EMT and CPR courses. To learn more about us, please check our web site, www.Eastonems.com or visit us on FACEBOOK and Instagram.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

EASTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

On July 6, 2020, the Library re-opened after being closed for several months due to COVID. We continued to offer curbside pickup and homebound delivery services, with Penelope Papadoulis making the deliveries. All of our programs continued to be delivered virtually, via Zoom. The Youth Services Department began to offer “Grab & Go” crafts, and community members of all ages were encouraged to participate in a Town Scavenger Hunt and post photos to our Facebook or Instagram accounts. The Library also made a commitment to engage in regular collaborations with other Town departments and organizations, including Park & Recreation, the Senior Center, Easton Community Center (ECC), Easton/Redding schools, and the Town’s Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Task Force (EDIT), as well as other area libraries. Examples of programs that came out of these collaborations include Scratch Programming and Computer Processing with the JBHS Robotics Team, Improv Comedy with the Brookfield Library, Cards for Seniors with the Senior Center, and Trivia, Bingo, and Comedy Nights with Park & Recreation and ECC. In addition, the Library participated in the Town’s PRIDE event in June.

In an effort to further engage with the community, the Library installed a “Voices of Diversity” lawn sign exhibit on the grounds, beginning in late winter. This exhibit was spearheaded by Mary Beth Rassulo, Assistant Director/Head of Youth Services, and co-sponsored by EDIT. Members of the community were encouraged to submit quotes on diversity by famous people. In addition to being displayed on the lawn signs, these submitted quotes were also featured in an online exhibit on our website. Youth Services Librarian Kristine Oulman created a monthly program, “Community Book Chat,” in which she interviews a well-known Town personality about a favorite book. These interviews are recorded and posted on the Library’s website and YouTube channel.

After 25 years in this building, the Library finally got its own sign, which was generously created and donated by Easton resident Michael Ogrinz and his family. A new five-year strategic plan was created, bringing the Library to 2025. The Library created an EDI/Social Justice Task Force, which is chaired by Mary Beth Rassulo. The Library Board of Trustees awarded the 2021 Anne Lindquist Library Spirit Award to Dolly Curtis - longtime Easton resident, co-founder of the Easton Arts Council, and curator of the Library’s art exhibits. An outdoor reception was held in Dolly’s honor, with many friends, family members, colleagues, and local dignitaries in attendance.

The Friends of the Library group was re-invigorated with new members, new officers, and lots of fresh, new ideas. Their first two fundraisers, Library Giving Day and the Wine & Cheese

Tasting, were both very successful. Beth Cliff is the new Friends’ president.

The Library said goodbye to Circulation Assistants Debby Holland and Kevin Krug. They were replaced by Kerry Santoro (furloughed from another position) and Bob Knapik. With our collections, programs, services, partnerships, and knowledgeable and friendly staff, the Library continues to be an important and valued community asset.

FY ‘20-‘21 Statistics

Circulation: 56,666

Total Print/AV/Digital Collections: 66,333

Registered Borrowers: 3,903

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Zaffino, Library Director

EDUCATION

EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Town of Easton is served by Samuel Staples Elementary School, Helen Keller Middle School and Joel Barlow High School. The six-member Easton Board of Education is responsible for the elementary and middle schools; the high school is under the purview of the Region #9 Board of Education. The three autonomous boards of education of Easton, Redding, and Region #9 (the “E/R/9 Schools”) share a superintendent, an assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, and a director of finance and operations. Rydell Harrison, Ed.D. is the Superintendent; Stephanie Pierson Ugol, Ed.D. is the Assistant Superintendent; and Clarence Zachery is the Director of Finance and Operations.

The 2020-2021 budget for Easton was \$17,015,420. There were 539 students in preK-5 at Samuel Staples Elementary School and 317 students in grades 6-8 in Helen Keller Middle School. The schools employ 157 individuals as teachers, administrators, support personnel and custodians.

Easton students benefit from the caring and committed efforts of dedicated professionals who are adept at nurturing student academic and social wellbeing. A comprehensive curriculum equips students with the core competencies delineated in state and national curriculum standards. District personnel continue shifting instructional practices to ensure that our students will be well prepared to meet heightened academic expectations.

Both the elementary and the middle schools consistently rank among the highest performing schools in the state and in Fairfield County as measured by standardized tests. Recognizing, however, that we should aspire to more than high test scores, we aim to help educate the whole child for life-

long learning. Toward that end, partnerships between home and school, as well as between our schools and the whole community, are critical. When woven together, these partnerships create an educational fabric of particular distinction.

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

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 9 JOEL BARLOW HIGH SCHOOL

The Region 9 School District is a separate school district from Redding and Easton that covers the regional high school known as Joel Barlow, which provides high school education to Redding and Easton students. Joel Barlow High School enjoys a strong reputation based on articulating specific goals and aligning the efforts of faculty, staff, and students toward achieving them.

Academically, Barlow's stated goal is for students *"to grow as knowledgeable and skilled critical thinkers who communicate effectively and are capable of resolving complex problems by working individually and in community on authentic work."*

Equally important is Barlow's complementary focus on the social climate at the high school, for which the stated goal is *"to promote a culture and climate in which staff and students live as active and informed citizens who collaborate effectively to achieve common goals; and that they do this by treating each other with respect while assuming personal responsibility for their action and success."*

Barlow continues to be one of the highest-performing high schools in the state academically, while at the same time, student participation in co-curricular activities and athletics is also exceptionally high. Barlow sports teams are not only competitive on the field, but are consistently recognized by their opponents for qualities of sportsmanship.

To further integrate Barlow within its surrounding communities, the school has developed and launched the "Community Assets Network," an internet-supported program with three main goals: to provide career exploration and experience; enhance what is taught in the classroom; and to serve the community. "Assets" -- individuals, groups or places that serve as resources for students -- will be mapped online to connect students with residents, businesses and nonprofits in Easton, Redding and surrounding areas. Professionals willing to speak in schools or host students for internships or job shadowing, and organizations offering volunteer opportunities and field trip destinations to show classroom material in the real world, are examples of what the program will offer.

Barlow's student population, which peaked in 2014, now stands at 826 and is expected to continue a gradual decline

following the experience of the Easton and Redding elementary and middle schools. Accordingly, one of the Board's challenges is to assure sufficient staffing and other resources to continue to provide excellent education to current and future students while making cost and associated programmatic adjustments appropriate to the reduction in student body.

The Region 9 Board of Education, consisting of four members from each town, both oversees Barlow's operation and, by law, serves as its own Board of Finance, responsible for setting the annual operating budget and putting forward major capital projects for approval by a combined majority of Redding and Easton voters. Region 9 shares the superintendent and other key administrative personnel and services with its sister districts in the two towns.

DEBT SERVICE AND BENEFITS ACCOUNT

Debt Service and Benefits Account
Selectmen's Budget for the Board of Education
Fiscal year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

IN KIND SERVICES:

PENSION

TOWN'S CONTRIBUTION FOR EMPLOYEES	\$238,701
--------------------------------------	-----------

ACTUARY FEES

1/2 ANNUAL FEE	\$6,330
CHECK WRITING/REFUNDS/MISC.	

UNEMPLOYMENT

\$0

EASTON FIRE DISTRICT

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

INSURANCE

GENERAL LIABILITY	\$85,300
WORKER'S COMPENSATION	\$96,020
CYBER	\$6,809

DEBT SERVICE

PRINCIPAL	\$1,910,000
INTEREST	\$222,480

PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT SERVICES

MAINTENANCE OF GROUNDS-LABOR COST	
Helen Keller & Samuel Staples Schools	\$4,400

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SERVICES

BOE MISC WORK	\$4,719
---------------	---------

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,574,759
-----------------------	--------------------

PROBATE COURT DISTRICT OF TRUMBULL

The Trumbull Probate Court, serving Easton, Monroe and Trumbull was established by Connecticut State Statute on January 2, 1959. Connecticut's Probate Courts are responsible for a broad range of cases involving children, seniors, adults with intellectual disability and decedent estates. The mission of the Probate Court system, given the sensitive nature of the matters that we handle, is to provide an approachable forum for families to resolve their cases in a fair economical manner.

During the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, the Trumbull Probate Court processed 1,760 applications. This does not include many of the filings that are made subsequent to the application, nor does it account for the numerous open files the Court continues to handle on an ongoing basis.

The application breakdown is as follows:

Under the Category of Estates:

Estates, Testate & Intestate	261
Allowance of Final Accounts	153
Other Applications (includes, but not limited to, state examiner, custody of the remains, sale of real estate, motions, objections, insolvency, release of funds, and status)	223

Other Applications or Petitions

Small Estate Applications	252
Succession Tax Returns and Extensions	473

Under the Category of Guardianships:

Adoptions, Termination of Parental Rights, Emancipations, Paternity, Temporary Guardianship, Guardian of Estates and Intellectually Disabled	99
--	----

Under the Category of Conservators:

Conservator of Estate/Person: Appointments, Sales of Real Estate, Allowance of Accounts, etc.	189
---	-----

Under Miscellaneous:

Trust Applications and Accounts	51
Name Changes	59

The Honorable T. R. Rowe is Judge of Probate

Court Staff:

Gail J. Hanna, Chief Clerk
Renata Olechno, Assistant Clerk
Christy Hayes, Assistant Clerk
Michelle Rivera, Assistant Clerk

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

SUMMARIES OF TOWN MEETINGS

(Reference attachments and detailed minutes are available for review in the Town Clerk's office or on the Town of Easton website www.eastonct.gov)

Town of Easton – Special Town Meeting MINUTES

March 23, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

Samuel Staples Elementary School, 515 Morehouse Road, Easton

Present:

David Bindelglass, First Selectman
Kristi Sogofsky, Selectman
Robert Lessler, Selectman
Christine Halloran, Town Clerk

Attendees:

Richard Doyle, Chief of Police
Steve Waugh, Fire Chief
Paul Lindorfer, Chair, Tax Relief for the Elderly Committee
Mark Cooper, Director, Westport Weston Health District
Justin Giorlando, Land Use Consultant
About 35 members of the public

Registrars of Voters checked-in attendees with identification at entrance.

David Bindelglass convened the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting.

The First Selectman asked for a motion to nominate a Moderator. Jeffrey Parker nominated Maureen Williams. No further nominations. The motion was seconded. The nomination was approved by voice vote.

1. Appropriate the sum of \$49,770 for the purchase of body and dash cam cameras for the Easton Police Department as mandated by state law.

The Moderator called for official comments from the Easton Chief of Police, Richard Doyle. The Moderator called for public comment. A resident commented. Andy Kachele, Chair of the Board of Finance, commented about the procedure for appropriations presented to a Town Meeting and the unanimous support of this item from the Board of Finance. The Moderator called for any other discussion. With no additional comments, the Moderator indicated that the item would go to a machine vote.

2. Appropriate an ordinance change increasing the stipend available to volunteers to our Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

The Moderator called for official comments from the Easton Fire Chief, Steve Waugh. The Moderator indicated that the item would go to a machine vote.

3. Approve the Tax Relief for the Elderly Ordinance as recommended by the 2021 Senior Tax Relief for the Elderly Committee.

The Moderator called for official comments from the Chair for the Tax Relief for the Elderly Committee, Paul Lindoerfer. The Moderator indicated that the item would go to a machine vote.

4. Authorization for the Town of Easton to join the Westport Weston Health District.

The Moderator called for official comments from the Director of the Westport Weston Health District, Mark Cooper. The Moderator indicated that the item would go to a machine vote.

5. As an advisory question, should the town of Easton appropriate \$249,400 for the local match requirement (20% of the total project cost of \$1,247,000) for the costs associated with constructing a multi-use/pedestrian path along Sport Hill Road from the entrance of Helen Keller Middle School to the crosswalk at Silverman's Farm pursuant to the Town's "transportation alternatives set-aside" application submitted to the Connecticut Department of Transportation on August 29, 2019?

The Moderator called for official comments from the Easton Land Use Consultant, Justin Giorlando. The Moderator indicated that the item would go to a machine vote.

6. Adjournment of the Town Meeting to a machine vote to be held on Tuesday, March 30, 2021, 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Samuel Staples Elementary.

The Moderator adjourned the Town Meeting to a machine vote to be held on Tuesday, March 30, 2021, 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Samuel Staples Elementary School to vote on each agenda item. The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Submitted by,
Christine Halloran, CCTC, CMC
Easton Town Clerk

**Town of Easton – Annual Town Meeting
MINUTES
April 26, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.
Samuel Staples Elementary School, 515 Morehouse Road,
Easton**

Present:
David Bindelglass, First Selectman
Kristi Sogofsky, Selectman
Robert Lessler, Selectman
Christine Halloran, Town Clerk

Presenters and Attendees:
Andrew Kachele, Chair, Board of Finance
Jon Stinson, Chair, Board of Education
Todd Johnston, Chair, Region 9 Board of Education
Ed Nagy, Director, Public Works Department
Elaine O'Keefe, Member, Easton Diversity and Inclusion Task Force (EDIT)

About 34 Easton residents, 12 officials, 6 board members and 16 residents at large in attendance.

Meeting livestream available on Facebook and Zoom with over 125 total livestream viewers. Recording available at <https://www.facebook.com/EastonCTBOS/videos/160462182650793>.

Registrars of Voters checked-in attendees with identification at entrance.

David Bindelglass convened the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting.

The First Selectman commented that in honor of the late former First Selectman, Bill Kupinse, the Town would create an official Town gavel to commemorate his service to the Town of Easton.

The First Selectman asked for a motion to nominate a Moderator. Paul Lindoerfer nominated Maureen Williams. No further nominations. The motion was seconded. The nomination was approved by voice vote.

1. Discussion of the proposed Annual Town Budget of \$46,249,385 for fiscal year 2021-2022 as recommended by the Board of Finance. The Board of Selectmen on April 22, 2021 voted, pursuant to Section 7-7 of the General Statutes, to submit the 2021-2022 budget in the amount of \$46,249,385 as recommended by the Board of Finance, to a machine vote. The budget will be discussed at the Annual Town Meeting but will not be subject to any motions.

Presentation by Board of Finance.

Presentation by Board of Education.

Presentation by Region 9.

The Moderator called for presentations (available to view on Town of Easton website <https://www.eastonct.gov/town-meeting/agenda/annual-town-meeting-april-26-2021-agenda-and-information-updated-with-links-to>). Andrew Kachele, Chair of the Board of Finance summarized the presentation for the budget proposal for FY 2021/2022. Jon Stinson, Chair of the Easton Board of Education, summarized the presentation for the Final Board of Education 2021-2022 School Year Budget. Todd Johnston, Chair of the Region 9 Board of Education, summarized the presentation for the Region 9 2021-2022 Budget Presentation. The Moderator indicated that the item would go to a machine vote.

2. Acceptance of the five-year capital project plan.

Andrew Kachele, Chair of the Board of Finance, presented the five-year capital plan. The Moderator called for a motion to vote on acceptance of the five-year capital project plan. David Bindelglass moved. The motion was seconded. Motion carried by voice vote. The five-year capital plan was approved.

3. Set July 1, 2021 - January 2, 2022 for the 2020 Grand List bills.

The Moderator noted that there was no presenter for this item and called for a motion to set July 1, 2021 and January 2, 2022 for the 2020 grand list bills. Robert Lessler moved. The motion was seconded. Motion carried by voice vote. The dates for the grand list bills as set out in the motion were adopted.

4. Approve a special appropriation for the Judd Road bridge replacement in the amount of \$75,000 for the town's 50% share of the estimated cost of engineering design.

The Moderator called for official comments from Ed Nagy, Public Works Director. The Moderator called for a motion to approve the special appropriation. Paul Lindoerfer moved. The motion was seconded. Motion carried by voice vote. The special appropriation was approved.

5. Approve a special appropriation for the Valley Road bridge replacement in the amount of \$150,000 for the estimated cost of engineering design.

The Moderator called for official comments from Ed Nagy, Public Works Director. The Moderator called for discussion. The Moderator called for a motion to approve the special appropriation. Christine Calvert moved. The motion was seconded. Motion carried by voice vote. The special appropriation was approved.

6. Discussion of the Easton Resolution on Racism and Public Health.

The Moderator called for comments from Elaine O'Keefe, member of the Easton Diversity and Inclusion Task Force (EDIT). Kristi Sogofsky, Selectman, read the ballot question for this agenda item and the full text of the Easton Resolution on Racism and Public Health which is located on the town website. The Moderator indicated that the item would go to a machine vote.

Adjournment of the Annual Town Meeting to a machine vote to be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2021, 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Samuel Staples Elementary School to vote on the Annual Budget for 2021-2022 and the Easton Resolution on Racism and Public Health.

The Moderator adjourned the Town Meeting to a machine vote to be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2021, 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Samuel Staples Elementary School to vote on agenda items #1 and #6. No further discussion or public comment. The meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Submitted by,
Christine Halloran, CCTC, CMC
Easton Town Clerk

TOWN OFFICIALS

Board of Selectmen

Dr. Dave Bindelglass, First Selectman
Robert H. Lessler
Kristi Sogofsky

Town Clerk

Christine Halloran

Treasurer

Christine Calvert

Tax Collector

Krista Kot

Registrar of Voters

Dori Wollen - Republican
David Smith - Democrat

Board of Finance

Andrew Kachele - Chair
Wendy Bowditch
Michael Kot
Arthur Laske III
Paul Lindoerfer
Paul Skrtich

Alternates –

Ira Kaplan
Jacqueline Kaufman
Gregg H. Saunders

Board of Assessment Appeals

Adam Bonoff – Chair
Scott Charmoy
John Miranda

Alternates –

Kenneth DelVecchio
Lise Fluette
Thomas Schick

Library Board of Trustees

Veronica Rozo - Chair
Gloria Bindelglass
Adrienne Burke
Linda Dollard
Paul Wizda
Gail V. Gay

Board of Education (Easton)

Jon Stinson - Chair
Jenny Elisa Chieda
Gretchen Goldstein
Randy Hicks
Jeff F. Parker
Katherine L. Reed

Region 9 Board of Education (Easton Members)

Juliette Berry
Todd Andrew Johnston
Karen O'Brien
Maureen P. Williams

Constables

Gloria Bindelglass
Eric M. Frank
David Katz
Declan Kot
Anthony B. Farmer
Darrin Silhavy
Irv Silverman

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Public Works Director/Town Engineer

Edward L. Nagy, PE

Police Chief

Richard Doyle

Finance Director

Christine Calvert

Aspetuck Health District

Mark Cooper, MPH, RS - Director of Health
Eren Ceylan, MPH, RS - Sanitarian

Emergency Management Director

Chief Richard Doyle

Interim Building Official

Peter Howard

Assessor

Rachel Maciulewski

Municipal Agent for the Aging/Social Services Director

Alison Witherbee, MSW

Zoning Enforcement Officer/Wetlands Enforcement Officer

Phillip A. Doremus

Fire Chief

Steve Waugh

Park and Recreation Commission

Philip Tamallanca - Chair
Chris Barcello
Thomas Cable
Chase Cameron
David Gombos
Ray Longo
Rocky Sullivan

Planning and Zoning Commission

Raymond Martin - Chair
Robert Maquat
Thomas Maisano
Ross Ogden
Wallace Williams

Alternates -

Jay Habansky
Walter Kowalczyk
Alison Sternberg

Zoning Board of Appeals

John W. Harris - Chair
Stephanie Christie
Raymond W. Ganim
Victor George
James Wright

Alternates –

Thomas Dollard
Charles Lynch
Scott Charmoy

Insurance Commission

Gerard O'Brien - Chair
Ronald Berry
Dr. David Bindelglass - 1st Selectman
Randy Hicks – Board of Education Representative
Vacancy

Tree Warden

Richard J. Dina

Measurer of Wood

Irving Snow
Michael Sabia, Sr.

Fire Marshal

Peter G. Neary
Deputy Marshal -
Schuyler D. Sherwood

Board of Ethics

Peter Lannigan
Benjamin Lehberger
Mark Peyser
Vacant
Vacant

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

Carolyn Kearney

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

Victor Malindretos

Board of Police Commissioners

Richard J. Colangelo, Jr. – Chair
Laurie Israel
Vincent Battaglia
Thomas Herrmann
David Smith

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Commission

Robert Adriani – Chair
Gloria Bindelglass
Thomas Bladek, M.D.
Vincent Mase, M.D.
James Spak, M.D.

Pension and Employee Benefits Commission

Alan Goldbecker – Chair
Dr. Dave Bindelglass - 1st Selectman
David Bussolotta
A.Reynolds Gordon
John Harrington
Logan Shedd
Robert Sadowski
Vacant

Advisory Board for the Easton Senior Center

Mary Ann C. Freeman - Chair
Wendy Bowditch
Pat Camuto
Elizabeth Drinkwater-Ross
Sally England
Althea Falco
Anne Fiyalka
Prabha Gupta
Eunice Hanson
Randy Shapiro – Ex-Officio
Joan Kirk – Ex-Officio

Board of Fire Commissioners

Dave Buchanan - Chair
Roberta Cable
David Katz
John Miranda
James Yeotsas

Conservation Commission

Dori Wollen - Chair
Catherine Alfandre
Sarah Cwikla
Vivian Hardison
Elliott Leonard

David Logie
Steven Montgomery

Alternates -

Maria Corti
Karen Nieysen
Vacancy

Commission for the Aging

Lisa Tasi - Chair
Linda Dollard
Anne Hughes
Melinda Testa O'Brien

Alternates -

Nannette DeWester
Cheryl Constand
Vacancy

Area Nine Cable Council Representatives

Henry L. Anderson
Douglas Dempsey

Alternate -

David Smith

Safety and Health Committee

Martin Ohradan - Chair
Danielle Alves
Dr. Dave Bindelglass – 1st Selectman
Bruce Bombero
Terry Calgreen
Christine Calvert
Vicki Cram
Jay Festa
Peter Fiore
Randy Shaprio
Lynn Zaffino
Vacancy

Cemetery Committee

Nanette DeWester - Chair
Phillip Doremus
Ray Longo
Frank Pagliaro
Deidre Preis
Jonathan Fanton - Adjunct
Kevin A. King - Adjunct
Joan Kirk - Ex-Officio

Easton Energy & Environment Task Force

Catherine Alfandre - Chair
Heidi Armster
Katie Callahan
Lise Fluette
Bobby Morganti
Deirde Williams

Agricultural Commission

Jean Stetz-Puchalski - Chair
Victor Alfandre
Lori Cochran Dougall
Irv Silverman
Matt Oricchio

Alternates –

Denise Hebner
Sage Rega

Easton Diversity & Inclusion Task Force

Whendi Cook
Darrell Harris

Elaine O'Keefe
Kevin Oliver
Adam Parker
Chris Peritore
Vacancy
Vacancy

TOWN DEPARTMENTS AND EMPLOYEES

Selectman's Office

Dr. Dave Bindelglass, 1st Selectman

Robert Lessler, Selectman
Kristi Sogofsky, Selectman
Janet Haller, Administrative Assistant
Sophia Vournazos, Receptionist
Terry Calgreen, Custodian

Town Clerk

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

Treasurer's Office

Christine Calvert, Treasurer
Christine Calvert, Finance Director
Vacant, HRCC
Sophia Vournazos, Accounts Payable Clerk

Planning and Zoning Department

Justin Giorlando, Land Use Director
Phillip A. Doremus, Zoning Enforcement Officer
Margaret Anania, Clerk

Zoning Board of Appeals

Margaret Anania, Clerk

Building Department

Peter Howard, Interim Building Official
Nicole Costantino, Secretary

Aspetuck Health District

Mark Cooper, MPH, RS - Director of Health
Eren Ceylan, MPH, RS - Sanitarian
Nicole Costantino, Secretary

Conservation Department

Phillip A. Doremus, Wetlands Enforcement Officer
Fran Daly, Secretary

Assessor's Office

Rachel Maciulewski, Assessor
Pam Ferraina, Assessor's Assistant

Tax Collector

Krista Kot, Tax Collector
Lisa Krohne, Assistant Tax Collector

Municipal Agent for the Elderly/Social Services Director

Alison Witherbee, MSW

Senior Center

Valerie Buckley, Director
Randy Shapiro, Asst Director
Richard (Dennis) Scofield, Driver
Heriberto Torres, P/T Driver

Park and Recreation Department

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

Library

Lynn Zaffino, Director
Mary Beth Rassulo, Assistant Library Director/
Head of Youth Services
Kristine Oulman, Youth Services Librarian

Diane Tatnall, P/T Custodian

Library Assistants

Shannon Bruchal
Bob Knapik
Penelope
Papadoulis Kerry
Santoro
Ryan Tice

Police Department

Richard Doyle, Police
Chief Jonathan Arnold,
Captain Arthur Belile,
Sergeant Thomas
Ceccarelli, Sergeant
William Spencer, Sergeant
Kent Lyman, Detective

Police Officers

Massimo
D'Elia Jay
Festa
Tamra French
Michael
Kaluta Donald
Kinahan John
Sollazzo
Thomas
Steinke
Anthony
Telesco Craig
Tibbals

Office Staff

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

Communications**Department Dispatchers**

Matthew
Caldwell Tara
Candee Andrew
Tisdale

Part Time Dispatchers

Francisco Acosta
Marjorie Arnold
Gabrielle
Montanez John
Ojarovsky Dawn
Rice
Kevin Shevlin, Jr.

Animal Control

Deborah Ice - Assistant
Donielle Kish - Assistant
Tamar Klein - Assistant

Registrars of Voters

David Smith, Democrat
Dori Wollen, Republican
Jim Bromer, Assistant Registrar

Public Works Department

Edward L. Nagy, Director and Town Engineer, PE
 Bruce Bombero, Deputy Director/Asst Engineer
 PE LS

Jenna Licursi, Secretary
 Steve Haller, Garage Mgr/Lead Mechanic
 Jason Perkins, Highway Superintendent
 Gil Neves, Building Maintenance
 Martin Ohradan, P/T Maintenance Technician

Highwaymen

Mark Alves
 William Bantle, Jr.
 Craig Brotherton
 Michael Corning
 Jamie Correia
 Daniel Magner
 Don Perkins
 Oscar Sampaio
 Kenneth Schwartz, Jr.

Emergency Medical Services

Jonathan Arnold, EMS Service Chief
 Adam Goldstein, EMS Assistant Service Chief
 Carolyn Kearney, EMS Assistant Service Chief

Full Time EMS

Peter Fiore
 Josh Meszaros

Part Time EMS

Paco Acosta
 Marjorie Arnold
 Stephen Brunetii
 Matt Caldwell
 Cristina DiPalma
 Alexander Keaton
 Todd Olschan
 Mary Pat O'Neil
 Luis Rodriguez
 Joseph Seagren
 Jack Sheehan
 Kevin Shevlin, Jr.
 Margaret Shukie
 Max Victor

Emergency Management Director

Richard Doyle

Fire Department

Steve Waugh, Fire Chief
 Greg Fracassini, Sr., Asst. Fire Chief
 Peter Neary, Fire Marshal
 Schuyler Sherwood, Deputy Fire Marshal

Firefighters

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

**ADMINISTRATION AND
TEACHING STAFF****ADMINISTRATORS**

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
HKMS	Kaplan, Susan	Principal
HKMS	Mohr, Annie	Assistant Principal
HKMS/SSES	Del Conte, Jennifer	Director, Special Services
HKMS/SSES	DiBartolo, Kara	Supervisor, Special Services
SSES	Fox Santora, Kimberly	Principal
SSES	Brownstein, Michael	Assistant Principal

HELEN KELLER MIDDLE SCHOOL

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
Ackley, Douglas	Teacher
Aponte, Dana	Teacher
Ashby, Charleen	Teacher
Augustine, Tara	Special Education Teacher
Baca, Matthew	Teacher
Breyer, David	Teacher
Brodeur, Cynthia	Teacher
Burke, Jennifer	Teacher
Cerra, Jose	Teacher
Cerreta-Figueroa, Karen	Speech & Language Pathologist
Colasanto, Kristen	Teacher
D'Agostino, Paul	Teacher
Dolecki, Eric	Teacher
Donegan, Tracey	Special Education Teacher
Dunkerton, Amber	Teacher
Fearn, Ethan	Teacher
Gidley, Sarah	Teacher
Harington, Calico	Teacher
Heran, Kimberly	Social Worker
Hurta, Robin	Teacher
Jockers, Ryan	Teacher
Klatt, Meredith	School Psychologist
Langlois, Laura	Assistive Technology - HKMS/SSES
Lapane, Alyssa	Special Education Teacher
Macaluso, John	Teacher
Maggi, Linda	Teacher
Mancini, Erika	Teacher
Montaine, Erin	Special Education Teacher
Pearson, Eric	Special Education Teacher
Rogers, Kevin	Teacher
Rose, Jennifer	Teacher
Sather, Timothy	Academic Mentor/ School Counselor
Solis, Nicole	Teacher
Thomas, Patricia	Guidance Counselor
Trubiano, Meghan	Special Education Teacher
Walsh, Brian	Teacher

SAMUEL STAPLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
Adelman, Lori	Teacher
Bates, Allan	Teacher
Bizzotto, Melissa	Teacher
Blair, Mary	Teacher
Bourret, Adam	Teacher
Breuer, Wanda	Speech & Language Pathologist
Brophy, Tara	Teacher
Calhoun, Caroline	Teacher
Carr, Caitlin	School Psychologist
Carroll, Courtney	Teacher
Castaldo, Kristine	Library/Media Specialist
Cerone, Melissa	Special Education Teacher
Charles, Danica	School Psychologist
Chatfield, Callen	Teacher
Correa, Catherine	Teacher
D'Agostino, Melissa	Teacher
DeLise, Amelia	Teacher
Desiderio, Jillian	School Social Worker
Duffy, Kimberly D.	Teacher
Edwards, Jennifer	Teacher
Faiella, Kristina	Special Education Teacher
Forte, JodiAnn	Teacher
Foster, Giovanna	Teacher
Gentile, Amy	Teacher
Giglio, Elizabeth	Teacher
Hine, Megan	Special Education Teacher
Hobbs, Laura	Teacher
Holroyd, Stephanie	Teacher
Keating, Geraldine	Special Education Teacher
Keden, Kristen	Teacher
Lewis, Sarah	Teacher
Macaluso, Kaitlyn	Teacher
MacArthur, Carey	Teacher
Marchetti, Emily	Teacher
Marcioch, Jill	Teacher
Martin, Jeanine	Special Education Teacher
Mattera, Karen	Teacher
Murray, Heather	Special Education Teacher
Myers, Katherine	Special Education Teacher
Paciello, Michelle (Sunny)	Teacher
Pacino, Stacey	Teacher
Piacente, Courtney	Teacher
Pilkington, Dawn	Teacher
Scholz, Darcy	Teacher
Skoczylas, Julianne	Speech & Language Pathologist
Swanson, Alyssa	Teacher
Teixeira, Ashley	Special Education Teacher
Tilow, Jessica	Teacher
Turner, Hannah	Teacher
Velazquez, Alissa	Teacher
Vilanova, Heather	Teacher
Woodford, Karen	Teacher
Zazula, Kristin	Teacher

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

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
Albano, Donna	Teacher
Angelis, Michael	Teacher
Angell, Christopher	Director of LRIT, Teacher
Antal, Steven	Teacher
Atkinson, Mary	School Counselor
Bailey, Beth	Teacher
Barna, Fred	Teacher
Bernardo, Margaret	Teacher
Breault, Christopher	Teacher
Brown, Jeffrey	Teacher
Brown, Laura	Teacher
Cohen, Alyssa	School Psychologist
Cowit, Philip	Teacher of the Visually Impaired
D'Amato, Daniela	Teacher
DeAngelo, David	Special Education Dept. Chair
DeAngelo, Henry	School Counselor
DeVoto, James	Teacher
Ecsedy, Michael	Teacher
Egan, Jeanne	Teacher
Estes, Lori	Teacher
Fallo, Kristen	Teacher
Franco, Milton	Teacher
Fricker, Jacob	Teacher
Fulton, Shane	Speech & Language Pathologist
Gale, Lindsay	Teacher
Gang, Scott	Teacher
Gilmore, Maria	Teacher
Giordano, Ralph	Teacher
Gold, Elisabeth	School Counselor
Hoyt, Rebecca	School Psychologist
Hrebin, Mary Pat	Teacher
Huminski, Carolyn	Teacher
Huminski, Timothy	Teacher
Intemann, Michael	Teacher
Jordan, Sarah	Speech & Language Pathologist
Kaufman, Emily	Teacher
Keeney, Kristin	Teacher
Kennedy, Jessica	Teacher
Lane, Megan	Teacher
Lanehart, Megan	Teacher
Lavoie, Diane	Special Education Teacher
Light, Randall	Teacher
Luzietti, Brian	Teacher
Martorana, Kristina	Special Education Teacher
McElwee, Michael	Teacher
Nichols, Kelsey	Teacher
Nuzzo, Katharine	Teacher
O'Brien, Elizabeth	Speech & Language Pathologist
Pachas, Beth	Teacher
Panos, Paula	Director of School Counseling
Paola, Ryan	Teacher
Pieratti, Maryanne	School Social Worker
Pinsky, Erin	Teacher
Pinsky, Jordan	Teacher

Potpinka, Thomas	Teacher
Poulos, Christopher	Teacher
Powell, Barbara	Teacher
Ramirez, Jennifer	School Counselor
Reimold, Scott	School Counselor
Rhode, Jonathan	Special Education Teacher
Rivers, Daniel	Teacher
Roberts, Thomas	Special Education Teacher
Rowland, Andrea	Teacher
Salko-Peddle, Sheila	Special Education Teacher
Schaub, Charles	Teacher
Schemm, Jason	Teacher/STEM Dept. Chair
Scholl, Catherine	Special Education Teacher
Smith, Barbara	Teacher
Smith, Edouard	Teacher
Smith, Maeve	Teacher
Smith, Randall	Teacher
Sopko, Joseph	Teacher
Sopko, Michelle	Teacher
Staron, Angela	Teacher/Humanities Dept. Chair
Stephens, Kailyn	Teacher
Sugden, Mary Elizabeth	Teacher
Sullivan, Karen	Speech & Language Pathologist
Swift, Ryan	Teacher
Taubner, Debra	Teacher
Testa, Paul	Teacher
Torv, Daniel	Teacher
Veteri-Muntz, Toni	Special Education Teacher
Wittmann, Gwynne	Teacher

REGION 9 ADMINISTRATORS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
Pin, Gina	Head of School/Assistant Superintendent
Desmarais, Jennifer	Assistant Principal
McTague, Julie	Assistant Principal
DiStefano, Michael	Director, Special Educ. Services
Santangeli, Michael	Administrator Athletics, Health, PE

CENTRAL OFFICE STAFF

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
Harrison, Rydell	Superintendent of Schools
Pierson Ugol, Stephanie	Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Zachery, Clarence	Director of Finance & Operations
Cram, Vicki	Human Resources Manager
Gotthardt, Christine	Benefits/Payroll Clerk
Luciano, Sharon	Executive Secretary
Outhouse, Cathy	Senior Accountant
Pugliese, Carly	Administrative Assistant
Reed, Carolyn	Accounts Payable Clerk
Robushi, Deanna	Business Operations Manager
Skroubelos, Dimitra	Benefits/Payroll Clerk
Whalen, Launa	Administrative Assistant

TOWN DIRECTORY

*TO CHECK SPECIFIC DEPARTMENT HOURS AND INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT
WWW.EASTONCT.GOV*

Emergency - Police, Fire, Ambulance		911
Non-Emergency		203-268-4111
Town Hall	8:30am - 4:30pm	203-268-6291
Town Hall Fax		203-268-4928
Town Clerk Fax		203-261-6080
Animal Control		203-268-9172
Department of Public Works		203-268-0714
Easton Public Library		203-261-0134
Municipal Agent for the Aging		203-268-1137
Park and Recreation Department		203-268-7200
Senior Center		203-268-1145
Superintendent of Schools - Region 9		203-261-2513
Board of Education Central Office		
Samuel Staples Elementary School		203-261-3607
Helen Keller Middle School		203-268-8651
Joel Barlow High School		203-938-2508
Easton Post Office		203-261-8386
Probate Judge	T.R. Rowe	203-452-5068
	Fax	203-452-5092
State Officials	State Representative, District 135 – Anne Hughes State Senator, District 28 - Tony Hwang	
U.S. Officials	Senator - Richard Blumenthal Senator - Christopher Murphy Congressman, 4th District - Jim Himes	

IMPORTANT DATES:

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING **Last Monday in April 7:00pm**
Samuel Staples Elementary School

TAXES DUE **FIRST INSTALLMENT** **July 1st**
SECOND INSTALLMENT **January 1st**

DOG LICENSE MONTH IS JUNE (RENEW in June with no late fee penalty - online renewals available)

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS - BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

For specific meeting information, please visit our website www.eastonct.gov

Advisory Board Easton Senior Center	2nd Tuesday	3:30 p.m.
Senior Center		
Agricultural Commission	2nd Wednesday	7:45 p.m.
Easton Library Community Room		
Area 9 Cable Council	As Required	TBD
Board of Assessment Appeals		
Assessor's Office - Town Hall		
Property Tax Grievances	March	TBD
Motor Vehicle Tax Grievances	September	TBD
Board of Education	Monthly - Check www.eastonct.gov	7:30 p.m.
Helen Keller Middle School		
Board of Ethics	As Required	
Town Hall Conference Room		
Board of Finance	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m.
Senior Center Conference Room		
Board of Fire Commissioners	3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m.
Firehouse		
Board of Police Commissioners	2nd Monday	5:30 p.m.
Library Community Room		
Board of Selectmen	1st and 3rd Thursdays	7:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
Cemetery Committee	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m.
Senior Center		
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		
Easton Energy & Environment Task Force	3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
EMS Commission	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m.
EMS Headquarters		
Insurance Commission	As Required	6:00 p.m.
Library Conference Room		
Library Board of Trustees	1st Monday	7:00 p.m.
Library Conference Room		
Park and Recreation Commission	1st Monday	6:30 p.m.
Park and Recreation Office		
Pension and Employee Benefits	2 nd or 3 rd Tuesday - Bimonthly	8:30 a.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
Planning and Zoning Commission	2nd and 4th Mondays	7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
Regional Board of Education	Check www.eastonct.gov	7:30 p.m.
Joel Barlow High School		
Safety and Health Committee	Quarterly	10:00 a.m.
Library Conference Room		
Tax Relief for the Elderly	As Required	
Senior Center		
Town Meeting (ANNUAL)	Last Monday in April	7:00 p.m.
Samuel Staples Elementary School		
Town Meeting (SPECIAL)	As Required	7:00 p.m.
Samuel Staples Elementary School		
Zoning Board of Appeals	1st Monday	5:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		



*FINANCIALS**

**For complete financial information, please visit the Town of Easton website: www.eastonct.gov*



	Adopted Budget <u>FY 2020/2021</u>	Adopted Budget <u>FY 2021/2022</u>	\$ Amount Change <u>Prior Year</u>	% Change <u>Prior Year</u>
<u>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</u>				
TOWN CLERK	\$ 172,220	\$ 175,368	\$ 3,148	1.8%
FIRST SELECTMAN	140,506	162,368	21,862	15.6%
PROBATE COURT	3,418	3,440	22	0.6%
ELECTIONS	55,833	74,598	18,765	33.6%
BOARD OF FINANCE	3,300	3,000	(300)	-9.1%
AUDIT FEES	45,360	37,500	(7,860)	-17.3%
TREASURER	228,417	238,316	9,899	4.3%
ASSESSOR	135,821	135,158	(663)	-0.5%
BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS	350	350	0	0.0%
TAX COLLECTOR	107,302	108,755	1,453	1.4%
TOWN ATTORNEY	125,000	100,000	(25,000)	-20.0%
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION	124,111	126,953	2,842	2.3%
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	8,486	8,486	0	0.0%
BUILDING DEPARTMENT	99,544	98,024	(1,520)	-1.5%
TECHNOLOGY	27,000	42,000	15,000	55.6%
TOWN HALL	124,960	121,509	(3,451)	-2.8%
COMMISSION FOR ELDERLY	64,296	67,262	2,966	4.6%
SENIOR CENTER	211,561	215,969	4,408	2.1%
660 MOREHOUSE - OLD SSS BUILDING	272,298	271,238	(1,060)	-0.4%
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 1,949,783	\$ 1,990,294	\$ 40,511	2.1%
<u>PUBLIC SAFETY</u>				
COMM. DISPATCHERS	\$ 272,902	\$ 279,619	\$ 6,717	2.5%
POLICE DEPARTMENT	1,733,656	1,760,137	26,481	1.5%
FIRE DEPARTMENT	931,739	999,802	68,063	7.3%
FIRE MARSHAL	32,873	32,289	(584)	-1.8%
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	19,719	30,319	10,600	53.8%
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	\$ 2,990,889	\$ 3,102,166	\$ 111,277	3.7%
<u>PUBLIC WORKS</u>				
RECYCLING FUND	\$ 249,291	\$ 246,818	\$ (2,473)	-1.0%
PUBLIC WORKS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT	2,009,648	1,892,958	(116,690)	-5.8%
STREET LIGHTS	1,100	1,400	300	27.3%
ENGINEERING & PROF SERVICES	18,980	18,980	0	0.0%
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	\$ 2,279,019	\$ 2,160,156	\$ (118,863)	-5.2%

	Adopted Budget <u>FY 2020/2021</u>	Adopted Budget <u>FY 2021/2022</u>	\$ Amount Change <u>Prior Year</u>	% Change <u>Prior Year</u>
<u>HEALTH & SANITATION</u>				
HEALTH DEPARTMENT	\$ 82,482	\$ 120,000	\$ 37,518	45.5%
EMS COMMISSION	340,273	347,985	7,712	2.3%
TOTAL PUBLIC HEALTH	\$ 422,755	\$ 467,985	\$ 45,230	10.7%
<u>OTHER DEPARTMENTS</u>				
CONSERVATION COMMISSION	\$ 42,663	\$ 43,916	\$ 1,253	2.9%
PUBLIC WELFARE	4,779	5,244	465	9.7%
LIBRARY	605,184	618,377	13,193	2.2%
PARKS AND REC COMMISSION	383,958	384,748	790	0.2%
TREE WARDEN	19,642	20,110	468	2.4%
FIREHOUSE RENT	49,000	50,900	1,900	3.9%
CEMETERY	1,220	1,220	0	0.0%
ANIMAL CONTROL	81,241	81,092	(149)	-0.2%
TOTAL OTHER DEPARTMENTS	\$ 1,187,687	\$ 1,205,607	\$ 17,920	1.5%
<u>GENERAL</u>				
FRINGE BENEFITS	\$ 1,468,997	\$ 1,556,659	\$ 87,662	6.0%
SOCIAL SECURITY & MEDICARE	517,500	490,833	(26,667)	-5.2%
CONTINGENCY	100,000	125,000	25,000	25.0%
TOTAL GENERAL	\$ 2,086,497	\$ 2,172,492	\$ 85,995	4.1%
TOTAL NON EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTS	\$ 10,916,630	\$ 11,098,700	\$ 182,070	1.7%
TOWN'S CAPITAL	696,800	797,650	100,850	14.5%
DEBT SERVICE	3,033,206	2,922,864	(110,342)	-3.6%
PENSION COSTS	1,181,100	1,249,500	68,400	5.8%
IN KIND SERVICES	(2,791,000)	(2,791,000)	0	0.0%
INSURANCE COSTS	673,000	698,000	25,000	3.7%
TOTAL TOWN ACCOUNTS	\$ 13,709,736	\$ 13,975,714	\$ 265,978	1.9%
<u>EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTS</u>				
EASTON BOE	\$ 17,015,420	\$ 17,561,351	\$ 545,931	3.2%
IN KIND SERVICES	2,791,000	2,791,000	-	0.0%
TEACHER PENSIONS	-	-	-	
REGION 9 BOE	11,123,653	11,921,320	797,667	7.2%
TOTAL EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTS	\$ 30,930,073	\$ 32,273,671	\$ 1,343,598	4.3%
TOTAL TOWN BUDGET	\$ 44,639,809	\$ 46,249,385	\$ 1,609,576	3.6%

RECEIPTS AND ESTIMATED TAX CALCULATION

	Adopted Budget <u>FY2020/2021</u>	Adopted Budget <u>FY2021/2022</u>	% Change <u>Prior Year</u>
<u>RECEIPTS</u>			
PROPERTY TAXES			
CURRENT YEAR	\$ 39,478,556	\$ 41,503,548	5.13%
PRIOR YEAR	175,000	175,000	0.00%
INTEREST AND FEES	120,000	120,000	0.00%
MOTOR VEHICLES - SUPPLEMENTAL	150,000	150,000	0.00%
TELEPHONE ACCESS	14,409	14,409	0.00%
ELDERLY TAX RELIEF	(295,000)	(295,000)	0.00%
STATE CIRCUIT BREAKER	(27,082)	(27,082)	0.00%
SUB-TOTAL	\$ 39,615,883	\$ 41,640,875	5.11%
 TOWN RECEIPTS	 \$ 1,371,000	 \$ 1,269,700	 -7.39%
TREASURER INTEREST	75,000	75,000	0.00%
STATE GRANTS	452,926	513,810	13.44%
SURPLUS APPROPRIATED TO FINANCE BUDGET	3,125,000	2,750,000	-12.00%
SUB-TOTAL	\$ 5,023,926	\$ 4,608,510	-8.27%
 TOTAL REVENUE	 \$ 44,639,809	 \$ 46,249,385	 3.61%
 TOTAL EXPENDITURES	 \$ 44,639,809	 \$ 46,249,385	 3.61%
 Tax Revenue Required	 \$ 39,478,556	 \$ 41,503,548	 5.13%
Collection Rate	98.500%	98.785%	0.29%
Gross Revenue Required	40,079,753	42,014,019	4.83%
Grand List	1,293,030,580	1,298,879,767	0.45%
 Tax Rate	 31.00	 32.35	 4.35%

HISTORICAL FINANCIAL DATA

The following table and graphs show selected financial data for the past 10 years. The amounts for revenue and expenditures are actual amounts for each year. The financial data presented are:

Property Taxes: The total amount of taxes collected, including current and delinquent real estate, motor vehicle and personal property taxes, leans and interest. The data comes from the Required Supplementary Information section (RSI-1A) of the Town Financial Report.

Other Revenue: All other revenue collected by the town including intergovernmental grants, investment income, fees for town services such as building and zoning permits, health permits and Town Clerk recording fees. The data comes from the Required Supplementary Information section (RSI-1A) of the Town Financial Report.

Education Expenditures (Easton & R9): Actual operating and capital expenditures for Samuel Staples Elementary School, Hellen Keller Middle School and the portion of the Region 9 School District budget allocated to Easton. The data comes from the Required Supplementary Information section (RSI-1B) of the Town Financial Report.

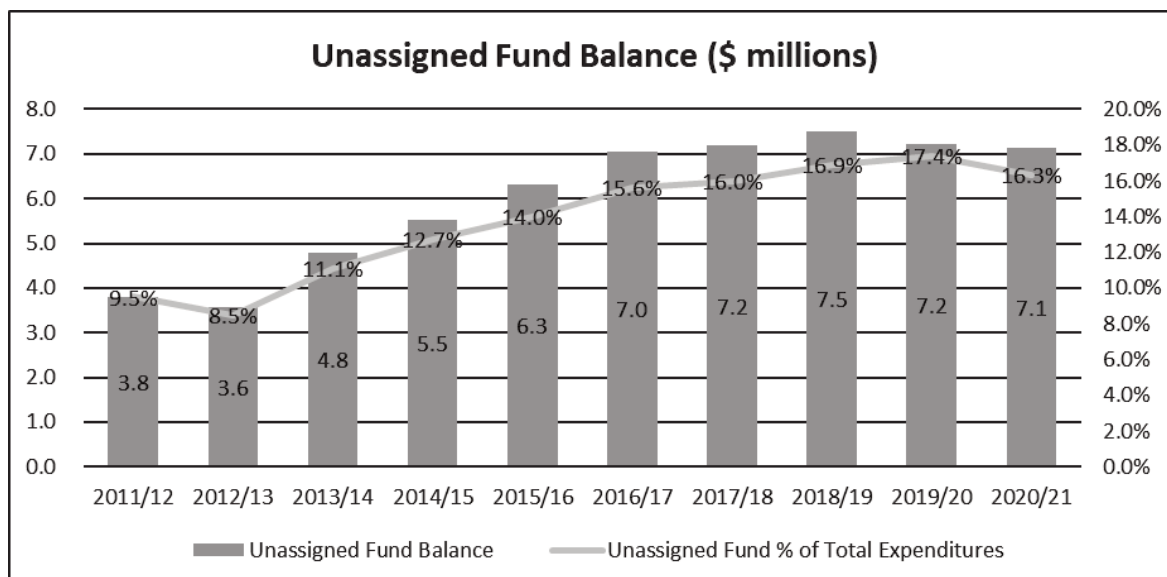
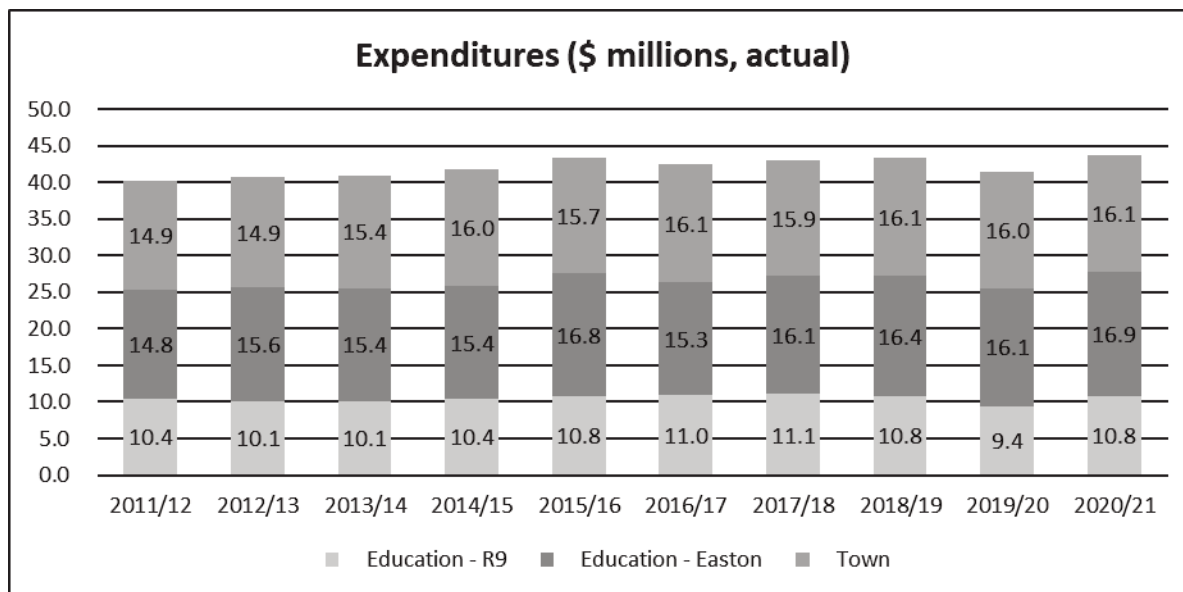
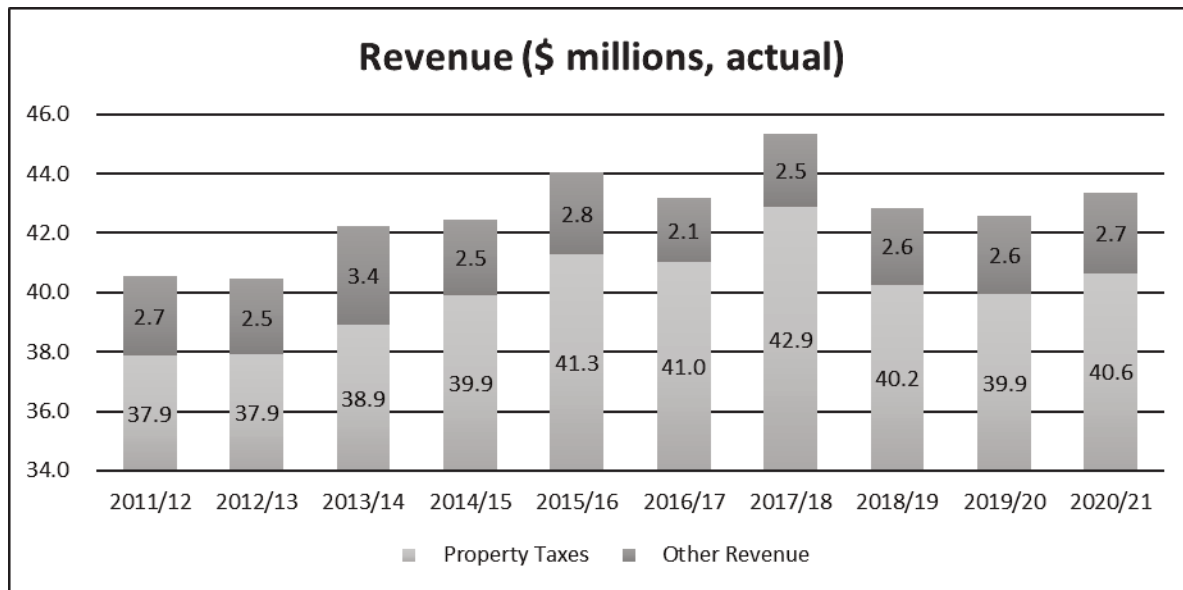
Other Town Expenditures: All other actual town expenditures (Police, Fire, Public Works, Parks & Rec, etc.) The data comes from the Required Supplementary Information section (RSI-1B) of the Town Financial Report.

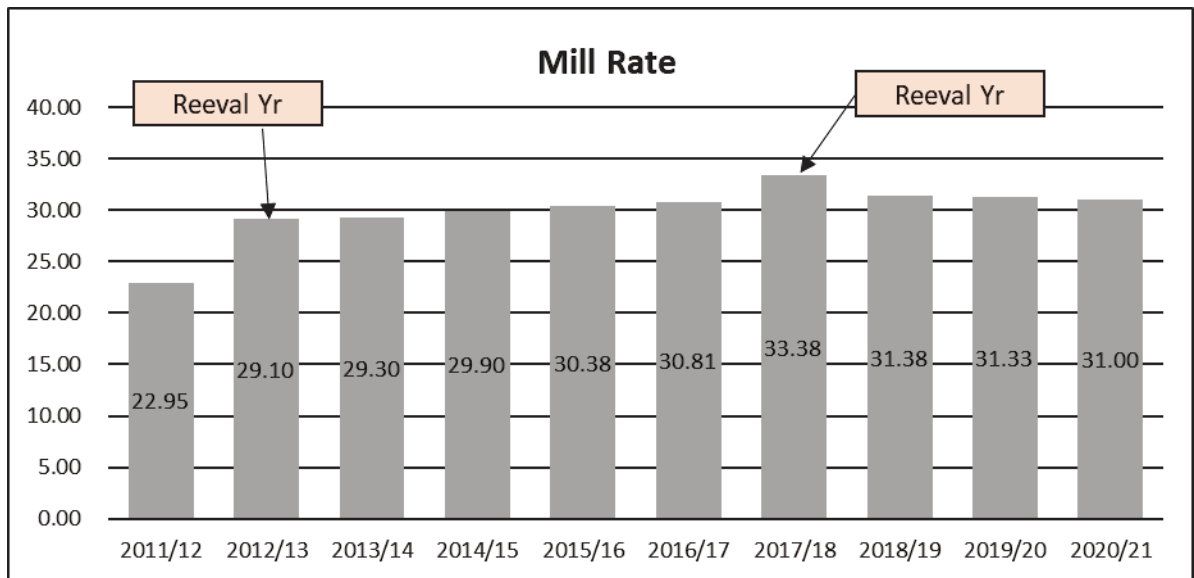
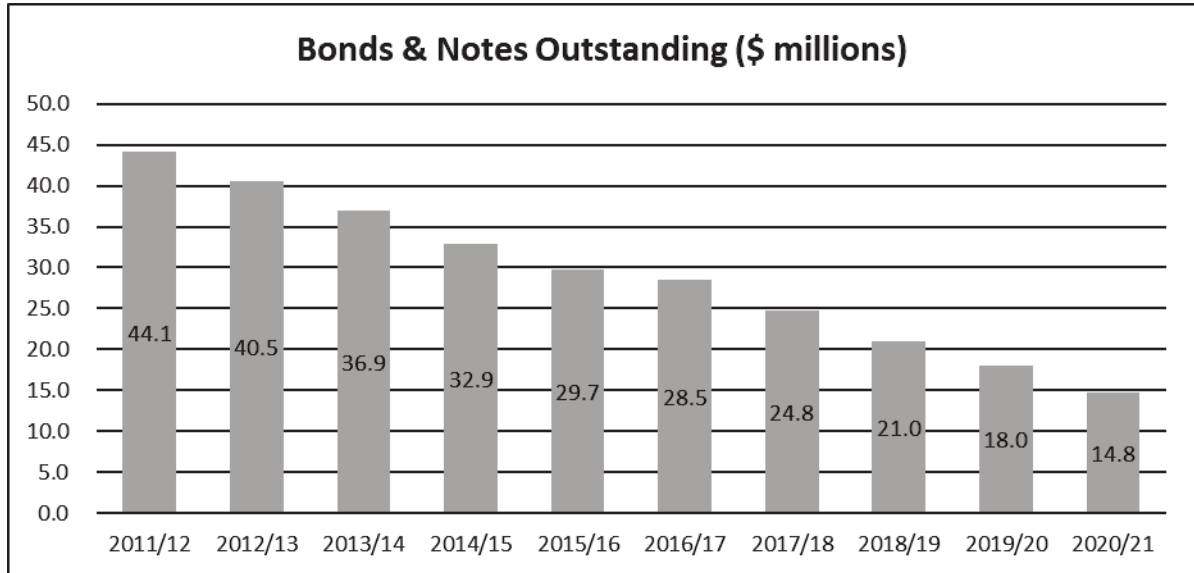
Unassigned Fund Balance: The portion of the Town's General Fund that is not assigned or committed to a budgeted item or otherwise restricted in its use. The Balance, and its percentage of total General Fund expenditures and transfers out, comes from the Financial Highlights section of the Management's Discussion and Analysis section of the Town Financial Report.

Bonds and Notes Outstanding: The total of all the Town's outstanding general obligation bonds plus the portion of the Region 9 School District general obligation debt to which the Town of Easton is obligated. The data comes from the Trend Information section of the Town Financial Report, Table 3 - "Direct and Overlapping Debt."

Mill Rate: As set by the Board of Finance each year. $\text{Property Tax} = (\text{Assessed Value}/1000) \times \text{Mill Rate}$

Fiscal Year	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Revenue (Actual)										
Property Taxes	37,864,061	37,901,617	38,898,014	39,914,489	41,275,805	41,038,854	42,869,128	40,238,403	39,935,561	40,649,362
Other Revenue	2,670,106	2,542,238	3,355,499	2,540,836	2,755,476	2,132,010	2,489,509	2,619,208	2,621,825	2,694,084
Total Revenue	40,534,167	40,443,855	42,253,513	42,455,325	44,031,281	43,170,864	45,358,637	42,857,611	42,557,386	43,343,446
Expenditures (Actual)										
Education - R9	10,448,550	10,115,368	10,132,633	10,417,741	10,808,101	10,987,100	11,063,430	10,842,772	9,410,311	10,846,068
Education - Easton	14,820,898	15,647,677	15,383,953	15,403,766	16,781,592	15,311,776	16,121,856	16,387,291	16,106,643	16,856,626
Town	14,897,480	14,907,529	15,444,171	15,965,202	15,721,457	16,134,643	15,897,899	16,079,743	16,004,660	16,103,062
Total Expenditures	40,166,928	40,670,574	40,960,757	41,786,709	43,311,150	42,433,519	43,083,185	43,309,806	41,521,614	43,805,756
Unassigned Fund Balance	3,795,019	3,568,300	4,780,254	5,536,960	6,305,761	7,043,106	7,189,734	7,506,363	7,221,149	7,133,839
Unassigned Fund %	9.5%	8.5%	11.1%	12.7%	14.0%	15.6%	16.0%	16.9%	17.4%	16.3%
Bonds and Notes Outstanding	44,112,133	40,536,710	36,912,669	32,911,040	29,704,430	28,545,495	24,837,775	21,011,390	18,036,599	14,809,848
Mill Rate	22.95	29.10	29.30	29.90	30.38	30.81	33.38	31.38	31.33	31.00





NOTES

TOWN OF EASTON, CT 06612

