

Town of Easton CT
Board of Finance – Special Meeting Minutes
Meeting held Jointly with Board of Selectmen

Date/Time: Thursday September 19, 2024 – 8:30 pm
Location: Easton Senior Center, 650 Morehouse Road; also on Zoom
Recording: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/easton-board-of-finance>

Attendees: Members in person: Andy Kachele, Paul Skrtich, Ira Kaplan, Jackie Kaufman, Michael Gutowski
Alternates in person: Maureen Williams, Joe Glavan
Absentees: Member Art Laske, Alternate Gregg Saunders
Guests: Christine Calvert, Treasurer and Finance Director
Dave Bindelglass, First Selectman
Kristi Sogofsky and Nick D’Addario, Selectmen
Rob Klem, Fire Chief
Call to Order: By Meeting Chair Ira Kaplan at 8:34 pm

Ira announces that Chair Art Laske is away but appointed alternate Maureen (via email) to vote in his place, and Art asked that Ira assume duties as Chair for this meeting. Motion to appoint Ira as meeting chair, by Mike/Jackie. Passes 5 for – 0 against – 1 abstain (Andy). Ira calls BOF meeting into recess, so that BOS meeting can proceed. BOS meeting proceeds, and then is called into recess, at which time (9:27) the BOF meeting is called back into order. Motion to reverse agenda items #1 and #2, by Andy/Jackie. Passes 6-0.

1. (New agenda item #1) Discuss and possible action on creating a capital project fund for the Police and Fire radio and infrastructure.
Motion to create a capital project fund for the Police and Fire radio and infrastructure, by Jackie/Mike. Passes 6-0.
2. Discuss and possible action on allocating \$3,017,023 for RF and Dispatch Upgrade for Police and Fire Radios and Infrastructure. (9:29)
Jackie requests we first address the total amount to be allocated, considering Andy’s point about the need to increase for contingency. We settle by consensus without vote on Paul’s suggestion of \$3,100,000. Chris states that, after \$75,000 in allocated but unused funds is returned to ARPA bucket, available funds from ARPA will be \$1,833,365.34.
Discussion ensues about whether ARPA funds should be used for radios, or held for EMS building project. Because of remaining uncertainty about the timing of the EMS project, and the deadline for spending the ARPA funds, a consensus emerges to use ARPA for the radios. Motion to recommend to town meeting the approval of appropriation of \$1,266,635 from the undesignated fund balance to the Police and Fire radio and infrastructure Capital Project Fund, with the understanding that \$1,833,365 from ARPA funds will be additionally allocated to the Capital Project Fund, to cover a total of \$3,100,000, by Andy/Paul. Passes 6-0.
3. Motion to adjourn by Paul/Mike. Passes 6-0 at 10:05.
Next regular meeting Tuesday, October 1, 2024.

Submitted 9/23/24 by Ira Kaplan, BOF Clerk