

**TOWN OF EASTON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024, 6:30 PM  
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Bruce Flewelling, Douglas Blackstone, Scott Allen, Norm Trask, and Cheryl Clark

Chairman Flewelling called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

School Board Members Penney Siddiqui – Chair, Andrew King – Vice Chair, Michele MacPherson, Bradley Trask and Richard Henderson, as well as, Mark Stanley, Superintendent presented the Easton School Department's FY2024-2025 budget. Board of Selectmen asked a few questions about bus lease proposal and Cheryl explained current cash flow deficit. School Board left and Board of Selectmen signed School Budget Town Meeting Warrant for June 3, 2024 Town Meeting.

It was moved by Scott Allen and seconded by Doug Blackstone to approve the minutes of April 8, 2024 regular Board of Selectmen's meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

It was moved by Doug Blackstone and seconded by Scott Allen to approve and sign treasurer's warrants #15-#23. Motion carried 4-0.

It was moved by Scott Allen and seconded by Norm Trask to approve the Financial Figures through May 9, 2024. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussed Hayden Scholarship applications and reviewed minutes of the Hayden Scholarship Committee Meeting from May 6, 2024. It was moved by Scott Allen and seconded by Norm Trask to award \$2,500 to each of the 16 qualifying graduating students. Motion carried 4-0.

Reviewed appraisals of McCain's Foods, Inc. and Huber Engineered Woods, LLC by Marshall and Stevens. Cheryl reported that Huber's real estate assessment for Map 7 Lot 21 went from \$18,868,600 to \$18,750,000, a decrease of \$118,600 and McCain's real estate assessment for Map 7 Lot 22, 23, 24 and 15 went from \$47,316,900 to \$54,200,000, an increase of \$6,883,100. It was moved by Doug Blackstone and seconded by Scott Allen that Bruce Flewelling and Cheryl Clark meet with Dave McKenney, McCain Plant Manager to discuss updated value as part of 2020 settlement agreement. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussed Certified Ratio Declaration. Tony Pinette from Maine Revenue Service conducted an audit in April 2024 and reported back that Easton's ratio for the State Valuation that they finalized came in at 93%. That puts us well within the 10% to declare a certified ratio of 100%.

Selectmen reviewed and signed an abatement request for Edward Johnston. Edward passed away last year and the property, a mobile home in a park, was torn down.

Selectmen reviewed and discussed Quit Claim deed to Bindar Construction Services, Inc. The deed was to transfer lots 13 and 18 of the Village Acres Subdivision. Cheryl will contact Tim Rioux with BSRA to research easement and property line adjoining property. It was moved by Scott Allen and seconded by Norm Trask to withdraw sale of lot 13 (and 14) until further investigation is done to confirm lot lines and easements. Adam can pick any one of the other lots for sale as a replacement. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussed and reviewed report from MMA Risk Management Services regarding the Hazard Survey conducted April 30, 2024. Five hazards were reported and corrective actions are being taken and will be reported back to MMA.

Discussed and reviewed Recreation Activities Books.

Discussed status of Congressionally Directed Spending application to Senator Collins. Equipment costs totaling \$109,594 were submitted, completing the cost of project estimate. Special Town Meeting minutes from May 7, 2024 town meeting were submitted as well.

Discussed renovations required to make the Odd Fellows' Hall/Community Center bathroom ADA compliant and add some storage space. It was moved by Doug Blackstone and seconded by Scott Allen to call Mandy from BRSA for help with a design. Motion carried 4-0.

It was moved by Bruce Flewelling and seconded by Doug Blackstone to invest the \$1,000,000 principal of the Hayden Scholarship money in a CDARS account through Machias Savings Bank with the highest interest and corresponding term. Interest accrued at maturity will be transferred to the Hayden Scholarship account in Other Funds ICS for accessibility and the \$1,000,000 will be reinvested. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussed shortage of funds to complete Prestile Park Project by September 30, 2024 deadline. It was moved by Scott Allen and seconded by Doug Blackstone to allow the Prestile Park Project to borrow up to \$30,000 from the UDAG to complete the project. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussed and reviewed Denise Clark's resignation email as Animal Control Officer. Ryan Gundy, current Animal Control Officer has requested a cell phone for this purpose. It was moved by Scott Allen and seconded by Bruce Flewelling to supply a cell phone to Ryan Gundy as Animal Control Officer. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussed Adoption of Domestic Partner Coverage through MMEHT. It was moved by Scott Allen and seconded by Bruce Flewelling to adopt the following:

Effective 8/1/2024, the Town of Easton amends its personnel benefits policy to allow any employee who is eligible to enroll in the employer benefits the option of enrolling a domestic partner. \*

Any employee who wishes to add a domestic partner will be advised of the requirements set forth in the Domestic Partner Affidavit to add said partner. Furthermore, said employee has been advised there could be tax implications for adding a domestic partner.

The Domestic Partner of an Employee shall be:

- A "life partner of either the same sex or opposite sex of the employee;
- Not legally married or separated, to either the employee or anyone else;
- At least 18 years of age and mentally competent to consent to contract;
- Are each other's Domestic Partners and intend to remain so indefinitely;
- Have been each other's Domestic Partner for at least 12 months prior to the date of the signed Affidavit;
- Are not related by blood to a degree of closeness that would prohibit marriage in the State of Maine
- Are jointly responsible for each other's common welfare; share financial obligations and share their primary residence

**Please note:**

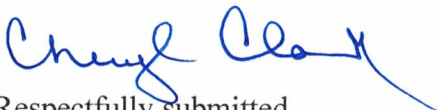
Passage of Domestic Partner coverage will allow enrollment in all of the following MMEHT applicable benefits offered by the employer group: **Medical, Dental and Vision**. Domestic Partner coverage must be employer-wide. It cannot be limited to specific unions, departments, or certain hours worked.

Motion carried 4-0.

In Manager's Report, Cheryl requested two windows and some shelving for her office. It was moved by Scott Allen and seconded by Doug Blackstone to allow two windows and shelving for the Town Manager's office with funds coming from Building Repair and Municipal Building Repair designated fund balances. Motion carried 4-0.

In Selectmen's items, Selectmen discussed Elementary School lot at the corner of Center and Bangor Roads as a potential site for the Fire Station. The elementary school's septic system is current there but the system is failing and will most likely need to be replaced soon. Cheryl will contact Tim Rioux of BRSA to request he take a look at the lot and give us an opinion on whether it would be a suitable site for the fire station and if he (or someone he recommends) could also do study of the whole school lot and determine if there is another place to put the septic system if we have to replace it.

It was moved by Scott Allen and seconded by Bruce Flewelling to adjourn at 8:39 PM. Motion carried 4-0



Respectfully submitted  
Cheryl Clark  
Easton Town Manager