Legal Services

Todd H. Gelston

First Selectman

To defend the town in a legally sound manner about lawsuits, contracts, employee negotiations and general matters.

Attorneys for East Haddam

Type of Counsel	Attorney	Firm
Bond Counsel	Michael Botelho	Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, PC
Construction Counsel	Timothy Herbst	Zabel Schellenberg, PLLC
General Counsel	Timothy Herbst	Zabel Schellenberg, PLLC
Labor Counsel	Nicholas Grello	Zangari, Cohn, Cuthbertson, Duhl & Grello
Land Use Counsel	Mark Branse	Halloran & Sage LLP
Miscellaneous Counsels	Richard Carella	Updike, Kelly, & Spellacy, P. C.
	Richard Roberts	Halloran & Sage LLP
	John Bennet	Gould, Larson, Bennet, McDonnell, Quilliam & McGlinchey, PC
Tax Counsel	Adam Cohen	Pullman & Comley LLC

Collective Bargaining Information

Description	Departments/Positions	Contract Term
General Teamsters Union Local 493	Public Works	July 1, 2024—June 30, 2027
CSEA, SEIU, Local 2001, CTW	Assistants for the following departments: Assessor, Building, Finance, Land Use, Public Works, Town Clerk	July 1, 2025—June 30, 2028
International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 30	Transfer Station	July 1, 2024—June 30, 2027
East Haddam Firefighters Union, UPPFA, IAFF, Local #3831	Career Firefighters	July 1, 2023—June 30, 2028
International Brotherhood of Police Officers, Local 394	Police	July 1, 2025—June 30, 2028

Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Service Level Accomplishments

- Town Counsel reviewed numerous contracts, prepared resolutions for Boards and Town Meetings, defended town personnel and commission members from lawsuits and managed the town in a legally sound manner.
- Negotiated labor contracts in the best interest of the town.

Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Service Level Goals

- To continue to keep our procedures legally sound.
- Negotiate upcoming labor contracts in the best interest of the town.

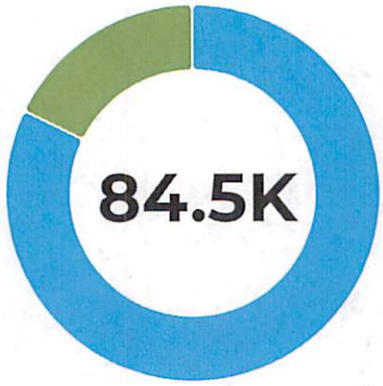
Additional Budget Information

Town Counsel Firms: No change in legal counsel firms is anticipated at this time.
Planning & Zoning: Legal costs increased last year for Planning & Zoning enforcement needs for blighted properties. This project is ongoing.

Legal Financials

Expenditures by Object Summary

FY27 Expenditures by Object Summary



Purchased Professional Services	$69,500	82.25%
Redevelopment Agency Legal	$15,000	17.75%

Expenditures by Object Summary

Category	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Approved 2025-2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budgeted	FY 2026 Approved 2025-2026 Budget vs. FY 2027 Budgeted ($ Change)	FY 2026 Approved 2025-2026 Budget vs. FY 2027 Budgeted (% Change)
Purchased Professional Services	$68,094.69	$94,905.27	$69,500.00	$69,500.00	-	0.00%
PLANNING & ZONING	$960.00	$260.00	$12,500.00	$12,500.00	-	0.00%
INLAND WETLANDS	$160.00	$80.00	$3,000.00	$3,000.00	-	0.00%
TOWN COUNSEL	$30,385.95	$69,044.51	$25,000.00	$25,000.00	-	0.00%
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	-	-	$1,500.00	$1,500.00	-	0.00%
LABOR COUNSEL	$34,565.24	$24,403.26	$25,000.00	$25,000.00	-	0.00%
OPEN SPACE	$2,023.50	$1,117.50	$2,000.00	$2,000.00	-	0.00%
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY	-	-	$500.00	$500.00	-	0.00%
Redevelopment Agency Legal	$850.00	$2,025.00	$15,000.00	$15,000.00	-	0.00%
REDEVLOPMENT AGENCY	$850.00	$2,025.00	$15,000.00	$15,000.00	-	0.00%
Total Expenditures	**$68,944.69**	**$96,930.27**	**$84,500.00**	**$84,500.00**	-	**0.00%**