

EAST HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 2, 2010

The East Haven Town Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 2, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. at the East Haven Senior Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, CT and transacted the following:

Chairman Dougherty called the meeting to order at 7:30.

*Roll call –*

*15 Present* (Camera, McKay, Arpino, Santino, Donahue, DePalma, Dougherty, P. Thompson, Cofrancesco, J. Badamo, Garguilo, Riolino, Anania, D. Badamo Carbo)

Quorum Present.

*Staff Present:* Paul Hongo, Deputy Director; Patty Cofrancesco, Town Attorney; Thomas Thompson, Finance Director

1. Subcommittee Reports.

Councilman Thompson reported the recent events at a Board of Education meeting; revealing there may be restructuring of the East Haven Academy and that the Board of Education is looking for a 3.7% increase from last years approved funding. He also reported that the BOE needs the increase in part for contractual increases, in the amount of 2.9 million.

Councilman Cofrancesco reported for the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee; he stated there are many great programs for children in town.

For the Public Safety Sub-commission, Councilman Carbo reported that he and Councilman Santino attended the Board of Police Commissioners meeting. At that meeting he learned that there is no DARE officer and there is a problem with the False Alarm Ordinance. Specifically that the ordinance is not being enforced. He stated that we are missing out on a lot of revenue. Not to mention putting Officer's in harm's way en route to calls that are false. There was discussion as to who should instruct the Police Chief to begin enforcing this Ordinance, the Board of Police Commissioners, the Town Council or the Administration. Councilman Badamo also stated the since the ordinance is old it should also be updated, newer fines and restrictions, etc. Councilman Carbo agreed and said they should take into consideration the wear and tear on the vehicles and gas.

Attorney Cofrancesco inquired as to how the Town can gage a figure of the lost revenue from not enforcing the ordinance. She also stated that the ordinance should first be enforced then looking into raising the fees and so on can be addressed at a later date. Councilman Camera agreed with everyone and wants this ordinance to be enforced, in addition to looking into the fees and language of the ordinance. Chairman Dougherty stated that the Council seemed to have no objection to have the current administration see that this ordinance gets enforced immediately.

The housing and finance subcommittee had nothing to report. Chairman Dougherty reported for the Economic Development Subcommittee, he stated that there was an ad placed in Business New Haven stating the attributes that a shoreline town, such as East Haven has to offer. Also, the COG group is working on a website to market all of the towns in the group to entice developers. By identifying additional sites that are vacant and available for lease for commercial, industrial and business space we can market them.

2. Correspondence. None.

3. Vice Chairman motioned to approve of minutes from January Meeting with changes.

Seconded by Councilman Santino.

No further comments.

Roll Call.

All in Favor

None Opposed

Motion Passes.

4. Paul Hongo, Jr., Director of Administration and Management addressed the Council.

Mr. Hongo reported the Blight Ordinance, section 41.14, where it discusses the subcommittees has to be changed to reflect the terms the council members can serve. In addition, the other appointments should reflect a staggered term made up of 2 or 3 years. He also reported that blight tickets have been issued by code enforcement officers.

Mr. Hongo also stated, keeping the budget in mind, which several of the union contracts are silent regarding vacation carry over. Going forward

he asked the council to institute a resolution that would not allow vacation time carry over and require special permission from the administration to carry over vacation time. The concern Mr. Hongo expressed was purely financial because there are several people currently building a “nest egg” and carrying weeks and weeks of vacation time. Although he is not looking for something tonight from the council, eventually he hoping the Council will help address where the contracts are silent.

Councilman Thompson asked what is past practice and if al the contracts are silent on carry over vacation time.

Mr. Hongo stated that all of the contracts are silent on this issue, and that the problem isn’t reflected as a day or two, that the problem that is occurring now is that the carry over represents weeks and weeks of time, that typically results in \$20,000 pay outs from the Town. Currently, the employee sends a letter to the Mayor or Administration and Management requesting to carry over the vacation time. Typically it’s a day or two. Councilman Anania asked about non union employees. Mr. Hongo stated that the Council could add a provision to include non union employees as well.

Attorney Cofrancesco stated that in her experience serving fire unions when a contract is silent on an issue that typically past practice prevails. She stated that she respected what Mr. Hongo was trying to do; ultimately saving the town a lot of money, however, she didn’t think a town council resolution would help him accomplish it. She suggested he try to negotiate it on a going forward basis with the individual unions. Mr. Hondo stated his experience past practice is hard to prove and he stated something that would shield the town from payouts such as this would help him. Ultimately saving the tax payers money on this item is his goal.

Attorney Cofrancesco stated that a resolution would not help him.

5. Vice Chairman motioned to consider and act upon an Ordinance entitled, “An ordinance authorizing a transfer at the recommendation of the Board of Finance, To: 01-771-0710 Principal Payment/Debt \$93,750.00 From: 01-771-0711 Interest Payment Debt \$93,750.00”

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Town Council of the Town of East Haven, that said transfer be effected, as in the best interest in the Town of East Haven.

Seconded by Councilman Riolino.

Donna Riccio, Charnes Drive, asked how they town was able to make this transfer. Mr. Thompson, Finance Director explained that the town over budgeted on the interest and that was how they were able to transfer this now.

No further comments.

Roll Call.

All in Favor

None Opposed

Motion Passes.

6. Vice Chairman motioned to consider and act upon setting a Public Hearing on March 2, 2010, to Consider and Act Upon an Ordinance authorizing Estimates of State Aide to Municipalities/Education Cost Sharing Grant for a Budget Adjustment, to take place at the East Haven Community Center, 91 Tyler Avenue, East Haven, Connecticut, at 7:00 p.m.

Seconded by Councilman Thompson.

No further comments.

Roll Call.

All in Favor

None Opposed

Motion Passes.

7. Vice Chairman motioned to consider and act upon the following appointments:

Board:	Name:	Term:
Board of Assessment Appeals	Maria Ferrucci	February 1 2010- February 1 2013
Constable	Anna Rose Russo	Nov 17 2009 – Nov 17 2011
East Shore Health	Dennis Nastri	February 1 2010- February 1 2013
Fire Commission	Mark Esposito	Feb 1 2010 – Feb 1 2013

Housing Authority	Barbara Natarajan	Feb 1 2010 – Feb 1 2013
Housing Authority	Jeff Cheney	Feb 1 2009 – Feb 1 2012
Old Cemetery	Marcia Federico	Feb1 2009 – Feb 1 2012
School Building	Sam Giglio	Feb 1 2010 – Feb 1 2013
School Building	Ed Fusco	Feb 1 2010 – Feb 1 2013
School Building	Norman Brody	Feb 1 2009 – Feb 1 2012
School Building	Joe Luciano	Feb 1 2010 – Feb 1 2013
Selectman	Barbara Brow	Nov 17 2009 – Nov 17 2012
Tweed	Bob Markowski	Feb 1 2010 – June 30 2012
Urban	James Albis	Feb 1 2010 – Feb 1 2013
ZBA	Anthony Redente	Feb 1 2010 – Feb 1 2013

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Council of the Town of East Haven, herewith resolves to approve the above referenced appointments, as being in the best interest of the Town of East Haven. Seconded by Councilman Badamo.

No further comments.

Roll Call.

All in Favor

None Opposed

Motion Passes.

8. Vice Chairman motioned to schedule a Public Hearing for the following purpose: “ To consider and act upon a Resolution authorizing Mayor April Capone Almon to enter into an agreement with the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation to accept its offer to sell town owned property for a right of way/ easement,” to take place on March 2,

2010, at the East Haven Community Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, Connecticut to take place immediately following the previously scheduled Hearing.

Seconded by Councilman Arpino.

No further comments.

Roll Call.

All in Favor

None Opposed

Motion Passes.

9. Vice Chairman motioned to consider and act upon setting a Public Hearing for the following purpose: "To consider and act upon an Ordinance authorizing the East Haven Animal Shelter to be renamed" immediately follow the previously scheduled Public Hearing to take place on March 2, 2010, at the East Haven Community Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, Connecticut.

Seconded by Councilman Badamo.

No further comments.

Roll Call.

All in Favor

None Opposed

Motion Passes.

Councilman Arpino motioned to adjourn.

Seconded by Councilman McKay.

All in favor.

Adjourned at 8:23.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erica Berg, Council Clerk