

**EAST HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 4, 2011**

The East Haven Town Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 4, 2011, at 7:30p.m., at the East Haven Senior Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, Connecticut, 06512.

Chairman Dougherty asks all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.
Chairman Dougherty called the Meeting to order at 7:33p.m.

Roll Call-

13 Present- (Camera, Dougherty, McKay, Santino, DePalma, Arpino, Donahue J, Thompson, Cofrancesco, Garguilo, Riolino, Badamo D. and Anania)

2 Not in Attendance- (Badamo, J. and Carbo)

Staff- Hongo, Paul (Deputy Director), Tom Thompson (Finance Director),
Attorney Patricia A. Cofrancesco (Town Attorney)

Quorum Present.

#2 Correspondence

Chairman Dougherty states correspondence received from Mayor Capone Almon.

It is dated January 3, 2011, stating that she received an offer of employment beginning January 21, 2011 from Gateway Community College. She will become a part time professor teaching one class a week in the Spring semester. This position does not appear to conflict with duties as the Mayor of the Town of East Haven.

3 Approval of Minutes from the December Meeting

Motion by Santino

2nd by Riolino

Chairman Dougherty has comments regarding the Minutes. Public Hearing Minutes, change header to read Public Hearing Minutes as opposed to Special Meeting Minutes. The first paragraph should also read the East Haven Town Council on Tuesday, December 7, 2010. There are a few typos that are not necessary to discuss right now. On page two, midway down, there is an incomplete statement by myself when talking about the Tow Ordinance. It is not specific.

Motion to Approve Amended Minutes by Santino
2nd by Camera.
All in Favor.
None Opposed. So moved.

#4 Subcommittee Reports

Councilman Camera states there is no new information for the Economic Development at this time.

Councilman McKay states regarding the Blight Assistance Committee (district one) that they had a very productive meeting. It had to do with item number eight with the roosters in the Town. After reviewing a lot of information we didn't feel it was necessary to come up with a new Ordinance, there was enough on the books. No further action was warranted. It was a very productive meeting. There was a lot of input from the citizens of the Town.

Councilman Arpino from the second district. He feels the meeting went very well for all parties. He believes they came up with a good solution.

Councilwoman Badamo states from her district (5), she agrees with the council. We satisfied the citizens, and the rooster keepers and we felt that the things on the books are fine for now; we don't have to reinvent the new law. We should be fine. Everyone is very happy with our decision.

Councilman Anania also states that there were two people found in violation. It was just for cleanliness and their coup wasn't in a proper distance from the property lines and they were cited and must be corrected. The meeting went very well and all parties seem to be happy with the decisions. I think the decision was well made to keep everything as is.

Councilman Riolino states he thought it was a good meeting, he was happy with the entire process.

Councilman Garguilo agrees and is happy with the results.

Chairman Dougherty states that he appreciates the attendance of them at the meeting and the Blight Committee is working hard and it's nice to get together to review. Councilman Riolino states regarding the Board of Finance Meeting and that they did discuss the issue regarding the appropriations of monies for litigation to the Town. Aside from that, at that meeting, Jason from the Board of Ed. They were very pleased with his report and everyone seems to be working in harmony. Everyone is being informed and in the loop and the Board of Ed is working closer to having a stable accounting system and willing and eager to report to the Town. Everyone is happy that the relationship has been developed.

Councilman Cofrancesco states for the Board of Education he agrees with Councilman Riolino.

Councilwoman Badamo states there is nothing new for Public Service. Councilman Santino states that for the Public Service Subcommittee, as discussed earlier, the Police Department was in need for two new computer servers and unfortunately there was an accident involving water damage so it was an emergency that they be replaced and they are in the process of ordering those. The computer company came and stated that they could go at any time so they are in the process of being ordered. On another note, in mid-September, the alarm violations through December collected \$3,327.00 for the Town. Councilman Thompson states that the servers will be able to be upgraded at a lower cost to the Town when needed over the next ten years. Chairman Dougherty states that he was under the impression that the meeting for the Dell Servers were in addition to servers we already had to support the plate finder. Councilman Thompson states that there would be enough storage in these servers to include the plate finder. Councilman Camera states that from what we are hearing we are collecting three thousand dollars now, which has never been done in the past. I think everyone did their job here, good job. Councilman Depalma states that they get cancelled before they actually go out to the property. The people are a lot more diligent in letting their alarm companies know it was a false alarm to cancel us before we arrive. It helps us.

#5 Paul Hongo addresses the Council

Paul Hongo presents. He is glad to hear that the meeting on December 13 was a productive meeting. What got us to better understand got us to the point that we are at now is when our choice to take no action is the intent. We have rules on the books to address abnormal conditions. That was a key critical component. The rules are there and we have those things on the books. The last time we met I talked about Councilman Cofrancesco's concerns regarding Tweed. We have something in writing that addresses that issue. You also talked about the Board of Finance meeting and I need to go on record and state I don't believe that was by accident, I actually had a grievance filed by the Finance Department and the nature of the grievance was such that they were tired of doing someone else's work. The resolution was that we would all work very diligently to get the audit done, and once that was done we would reconvene with the Auditor and sit down with all the parties. If there is an error we can find it and address it. That's all I have at this point.

#7 Tom Thompson, Finance Director addresses the Council

Tom Thompson reports. He has the financial reports through November.

Chairman Dougherty states they do not have copies.

Through November there is a plus \$2,099,163.00. We are about 685k short. We still have a half a year to go. December tax collections we collected \$3,203,770.00. so that was very good. I think that the current year taxes will overcome the prior years. Some of the other revenues- the sale of town property; we are going to collect from the sale of Cosey Beach and the Foxon paper road. As a result, I am predicting we will be 407k short in total revenues for the year. Expenditure side, the problem areas are again the police and fire overtime. We have already made a 25k transfer from his budget for a line item from the police vehicle within his budget. We will have to make around a 275k transfer to the overtime, as much as I can from within his budget or contingency or some from debt service. I think that going forward I am very excited. We will collect what we have too. Its going to help us toward our fund balance and work ourselves out of the situation that we are in. I commend you all. As we go forward, if we leave it the same way, it will work to our advantage.

Councilman Thompson asks about the new police servers. Did we get other quotes?

Tom Thompson states that he sat with Nexgen and Dell. The equipment cost \$37,721.00. A person from Nexgen and I called Dell and we confirmed it was the best price we could get.

Councilman Anania has a question. The transfer of 25k was taken from a line item that was budgeted to purchase another vehicle? So we will not be buying that vehicle?

Tom Thompson states no, we bought five the prior year. And again, when I come to you in February I will have the tax collections from January. I also emailed the Auditor and that should be issued in mid-January. We gave him all of the information and we should have it soon.

Councilman McKay asks when we will receive the Audit.

Tom Thompson states by mid-January. And that Northeast Financial Management is handling the back-owed taxes and they have gone back from 2007, 2008 and 2009. They have collected around 44,269.00 and we have to give them 30%. I thought that there numbers would be a lot higher than that.

Councilman Riolino asks if his projected revenue includes the 1.5 million for the sale of Tweed.

Tom Thompson states no, that was last year's audit, but it could still come in.

Chairman Dougherty asks if he could please share with us about the excess liability.

Tom Thompson states that at this time when we went out to bid it has only been one bidder. In 2007, the premium was around 120k. In 2008, we paid around 88k. By not going out to bid, I'd rather lock in a bid now under our circumstances. Chairman Dougherty asks what does the excess liability include again?

Tom Thompson states we are self-funded up to one million dollars and over that, they would step in. the premium that I was quoted for this year is 94,550.00. It is up about six percent from last year.

Chairman Dougherty asks if we are looking to change our coverage.

Tom Thompson states that they are looking to change the deductible at 500k and 250k and see what the premium is, I'm sure it will go way up. I will have this information within the next week or so. They have all the loss information. One agent did inquire about the loss information. One said he couldn't give me a quote.

No further questions.

#7 Chairman DePalma reads the following:

Be it resolved that the Town Council of the Town of East Haven hereby elects to undertaking no affirmative action on a Motion entitled "Setting of a Public Hearing date and time for a bid waiver for excess liability insurance," that was tabled at its December 7, 2010 meeting due to its receipt of a legal opinion that renders said affirmative action unnecessary.

Attorney Patricia Cofrancesco states at the last meeting there was a request for a legal opinion regarding a waiver of competitive bidding. Within your packet is the legal opinion which indicates under the circumstances, it would be legally appropriate for competitive bidding to be waived. The legal opinion states that under these circumstances the service that is being provided is expert professional service which under the language in the Charter this can be considered an expert professional service for which competitive bidding can be waived. It would be appropriate for bidding to be waived.

No public comment.

No council comment.

Roll Call-

All in Favor- (Camera, Dougherty, McKay, Santino, DePalma, Arpino, Donahue J, Thompson, Cofrancesco, Garguilo, Riolino, Badamo D. and Anania)

None Opposed.

Motion carries.

#8 Chairman DePalma reads the following:

Be it resolved that the Town Council of the Town of East Haven hereby elects to undertaking no affirmative action on a Motion entitled “Ordinance authorizing the Town of East Haven to restrict the Keeping of Roosters whereby the crowing thereof is annoying to any person occupying the premises in the vicinity,” that was tabled at its November 9, 2010 Meeting.

2nd by McKay.

No public comment.

No council comment.

Roll Call-

All in Favor- (Camera, Dougherty, McKay, Santino, DePalma, Arpino, Donahue J, Thompson, Cofrancesco, Garguilo, Riolino, Badamo D. and Anania)

None Opposed.

Motion carries.

#9 Chairman DePalma reads the following:

To consider and act upon setting a Public hearing for “An Ordinance to allow the Town of East Haven to take delivery of a piece of equipment called “salamander tracking equipment.” This equipment is being issued to each of the five health districts but needs to be issued to a municipality. The State of Connecticut wants us to take delivery of it and allow the East Shore Health Dept. to hold and maintain it at no cost to us. So it will be owned by the Town, kept with the health department. All costs associated with the care and maintenance will be the responsibility of the East Shore Health Dept,” to take place at the East Haven Community Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, CT on February 1, 2010 at 7:00p.m.

Chairman Dougherty states that there was a typo and should read 2011.

Motion to Amend the Agenda Item to reflect the 2011 date by Thompson.

Dougherty motions to amend agenda item as reflective of 2011 date.

2nd by Badamo.

All in Favor.

No public comment.

No council comment.

Roll Call-

All in Favor- (Camera, Dougherty, McKay, Santino, DePalma, Arpino, Donahue J, Thompson, Cofrancesco, Garguilo, Riolino, Badamo D. and Anania)

None Opposed.

Motion carries.

#10 Chairman DePalma reads the following:

To consider and act upon setting a Public hearing for “An Ordinance Committing the Town of East Haven for Participation in a Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014,” to take place at the East Haven Community Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, CT, immediately following the previously scheduled Hearing on February 1, 2011.

No public comment.

No council comment.

Roll Call-

All in Favor- (Camera, Dougherty, McKay, Santino, DePalma, Arpino, Donahue J, Thompson, Cofrancesco, Garguilo, Riolino, Badamo D. and Anania)

None Opposed.

Motion carries.

#11 Chairman DePalma reads the following:

To consider and act upon setting a Public hearing for “An Ordinance Appropriating \$1,250,000.00 for the settlement of litigation against the Town and for related costs and authoring the issuance of \$1,250,000.00 Bonds of the Town to meet such appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose,” to take place at the East Haven Community Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, CT, immediately following the previously scheduled Meeting on February 1, 2011.

No public comment.

No council comment.

Roll Call-

11 in Favor- (Camera, Dougherty, Santino, DePalma, Arpino, Donahue J, Thompson, Cofrancesco, Garguilo, Riolino and Badamo D.)

2 Oppose- (McKay and Anania)

Motion carries.

#12 Councilman Thompson motions to waive the reading of all the names for appointments and reappointments.

2nd by Santino.

All in favor

None opposed.

So moved.

Councilman McKay asks if the new appointments have resumes on file with the Town.

Chairman Dougherty states that they are all currently serving on other capacities for the Town and should have them on file.

Mckay asks do the new appointments have resumes on file with the town.

Chairman Dougherty states that they are currently serving on other capacities for the town that are previously reviewed.

No public comment.

No council comment.

Roll Call-

All in Favor- (Camera, Dougherty, McKay, Santino, DePalma, Arpino, Donahue J, Thompson, Cofrancesco, Garguilo, Riolino, Badamo D. and Anania)

None Opposed.

Motion Carries

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting of the Town Council made by Councilman Santino.

2nd by Arpino.

Meeting closed at 8:21p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bianca Genovesi
Council Clerk