

**TOWN OF EAST HAVEN**  
**East Haven Town Council**

**Minutes of the Special Meeting 3/31/09**

The East Haven Town Council held a special meeting Tuesday, March 31, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the East Haven Community Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, CT in order to transact the following:

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
Roll call – 14 Present 1 Absent (McKay)  
Quorum Present

Staff Present – Mayor April Capone Almon, Town Attorney Patricia Cofrancesco, Paul Hongo Jr., Ralph Mauro, Assistant Director, Paul Rizza, Finance Director

1. High Lights from Mayor April Capone Almon's budget presentation message.
  - “The budget has presented challenges never imagined a year ago or even last week. However, in spite of these challenges we will not see a cut in services or an increase in taxes.”
  - The Town will be honest about the revenue we do have and manage it more effectively. Spending wisely on line items that promote growth, strengthen the town infrastructure and protect taxpayer investments.
  - There were \$86 million in departmental requests. Although, it is not possible in these difficult times.
  - The Mayor and her Administration have taken Gov. Rell's directive to heart. We started with an honest look at realistic revenues and worked backwards from that number.
  - The Mayor and her Administration not only managed to keep our budget flat we have cut over \$1 million from the town side of the expenditures compared to last year's budget. We have balanced expenditures to revenues at \$79.7 million.

- The Town has accomplished this through energy efficiency projects in our buildings, through streamlining staff and utilizing our own forces to do more of the work in town.
- The Town will continue our aggressive road paving and roof replacement programs through the hard work of our Public Works Department.
- Our Fire Department will be presenting a plan to you in the coming months to generate revenue through insurance companies for services they are already providing.
- In these tough economic times the Town will increase the amount of free community activities available to the public. The Farmer's Market will return this year and offer more dates for folks to support local businesses. The Town will also offer a movie on the beach every month throughout the summer so that residents can come out and enjoy free entertainment while patronizing our local restaurants.
- Though the Town side of the budget there has been a reduction of a more than \$1 million over last year I am presenting a Board of Education budget that has no decrease over last year.
- The Mayor and her Administration met with Chairwoman Vitale and Superintendent of Schools Tony Serio and have their full support in holding the line on the budget for 2009-2010. They are committed to balancing the needs of our students with residents' ability to pay.
- The Mayor will be available to answer questions and concerns raised throughout the process. Her office is open at any time to any members of this Council, regardless of party lines, to help you do your job in an informed manner.

"Theses are challenging times. We have all been affected one way or another by this economic downturn. The task you have before you is serious and the decisions you make will affect 30,000 town residents. Please continue to make your decisions wisely and carefully to help see us through the months ahead. As President Obama said 'Our Nation as well as our town will rebuild and will recover, but it will not do so without the complete support of everyone' in this room and in this town. Now is the time, more than ever to come together as a community for the good of East Haven and the good of our country."-Mayor April Capone Almon

2. Councilman DePalma made the following motion to consider and act upon the setting of a public hearing date with regard to the Board of Education portion of the 2009-2010 fiscal year budget.

Seconded by Councilman Arpino

No public comment.

Roll Call - All in favor – None opposed. No Abstentions.

Motion carried.

3. Councilman DePalma made the following motion to consider and act upon the setting of a public hearing date with regard to the Town and Capital Improvement portions of the 2009-2010 fiscal year budget.

Seconded by Councilman Badamo

No public comment.

Roll Call - All in favor – None opposed. No Abstentions.

Motion carried.

Chairman Thompson motioned for the meeting to Adjourn, Seconded by Councilman Arpino.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erica Berg

Temporary Council Clerk