

Stacy Graving, CTC  
TOWN CLERK

EAST HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019

The East Haven Town Council held a regular meeting Tuesday, January 8, 2019, at 7:00PM at the East Haven Senior Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, CT 06512.

Chairman Ken Mckay calls the meeting to order at 7:00PM.  
He asks all to stand for the pledge of allegiance.

**Item #1**

Roll Call-13 present – 2 absent (Badamo and Butler III).  
A quorum is present.

**Item #2**

Approval of minutes from the December 4, 2018 Regular Meeting.

Councilman Joseph Santino makes a motion  
Councilman Big Steve Tracey seconds the motion.  
Voice vote: all in favor-none oppose-none abstain. Motion carries.

**Item #3**

Approval of minutes from the December 4, 2018 Public Hearing.

Councilwoman Loria Jaffe makes a motion  
Councilman Big Steve Tracey seconds the motion.  
Voice vote: all in favor-none oppose-none abstain. Motion carries.

**Item #4**

Correspondence- a holiday card to the Town Council from the Assessor's Office.

**Item #5**

Subcommittee Reports:

- a. Subcommittee on Education, Library, and School Building; **no report**  
(Robert Parente, Lou Pacelli, Linda Hennessey)

b. Subcommittee on Public Safety, Health, & Welfare;

*("BIG" Steve Tracey, Rich Anania, Joe Santino)*

- Councilman Joseph Santino says last month they talked about the fireboat and he said he would look into it and report back. He says they installed a pump on the fireboat and for the installation they had to drill a hole in the bottom of the boat and it turned out the pump was too heavy for the boat so they removed it and were left with a hole in the boat. Everything went through Paul Rizza and they turned the boat in for an even exchange on a 2018 wave runner. He took a copy of all of the bids; three companies bid on it-Diamond, New England Power Sports and Libby's Yamaha. They ended up getting it from Bob Gargano at Diamond at no cost to the Town; it was an even exchange. His recommendation is that from now on they need to go through the Council when they get rid of any Town equipment or anything like that.
- Councilman Big Steve Tracey asked who put the hole in the boat to install the pump.
- Councilman Joseph Santino says he is sure someone at the firehouse did it.
- Councilman Big Steve Tracey says why are our fireman doing that, they aren't boat people and now they got rid of a boat that could hold 9 people and they have a jet ski that can hold one.
- Chairman Ken McKay says they can have the clerk write a letter to the Fire Chief asking for answers on what happened to the boat and why we installed the pump ourselves.
- Councilman Joseph Deko says the original fireboat was bought on a port security grant.
- Attorney Zullo explains that he was asked to look into this and it is not a requirement that it come to the Council there is just a requirement that it be properly bid out if it is going to be sold. As a courtesy they can ask to be informed so they can monitor it and weigh in. Certain things come to the Council with such as large-scale pieces of equipment. He says they sent out charter revision packets they could consider it as part of a charter revision if they choose to pursue that.
- Councilman Joseph Santino says they can ask Paul to notify them when vehicles or equipment are being sold. In reality the boat was worth \$15,000 because we got a \$15,000 wave runner for it, so you can't say the boat wasn't worth anything.
- Councilwoman Linda Hennessey asks who did the appraisal on the boat.
- Councilman Joseph Deko says the boat was at Diamond Marine for an appraisal, so he would assume since they had possession of the boat they gave the appraisal and they are the ones that gave us the wave runner.

- Chairman Ken McKay says they will get a letter from the Chief for an explanation and answers so they don't have to assume.
- c. Subcommittee on Finance; **no report**  
(Judy Sittnick, Joseph Badamo, Joseph Carfora)
- d. Subcommittee on Public Services, Parks, & Recreation;  
(Robert Parente, Joseph Deko, Lori Jaffe)
  - Councilman Joseph Santino says they did the sand bid today and it was awarded to a company JAC so they will have sand coming.
  - Councilman Robert Parente says the sand bid was in fact awarded so they are ready to go for any snow there are a couple trucks that need minor repairs but they are in decent shape. He adds that so far they have put 65 traps around 200 Tyler Street and caught zero rats or rodents. They are either coming from the neighborhoods or other areas.
  - Councilman Joseph Carfora asks about the windows that were put there, did the Town pay for them?
  - Councilman Robert Parente says no Winn Development did them because it was the last piece with regard to them getting their historic grants. The windows have to meet the insulation specifications that the government was concerned about and upon the inspection they were satisfied with them.
  - Councilman Joseph Carfora asks if the Town is going to be paying for the 73 wing to be cleaned out or is that part of the deal.
  - Councilman Robert Parente says the Town still has some records and personal items there.
  - Sal Brancati-Director of Administration & Management addresses the Council and says over the last year or so they have moved eviction property in the school and ideally you want to move that out monthly after the 30 day period has expired and people have not claimed it. Our obligation right now is to remove the furniture and make arrangements for it to be done. They hold an auction at the end of the 30 days and if it is unclaimed it becomes ours to bring to the landfill/dump to dispose of.
  - Councilwoman Judy Sittnick asks if there were auctions done on the property.
  - Mr. Brancati says unfortunately with the break-ins at the school most of the stuff is damaged; it is past the 30-day period and they wouldn't get anything for this stuff. There is no salvage value for what is in there now. So they will have to get the best price they can to remove it and put it into containers for disposal. They are in negotiations on that now.
  - Councilwoman Linda Hennessey asks if we are doing anything on a weekly or monthly basis to start cleaning it out.
  - Mr. Brancati says they just rented three 40 ft. containers to be placed at the public works department and 2 of the containers will be used for the eviction property and they will be exposed of at the end of the 30 day period. The third container will be used for records. The police department has records that

have been stored in the 73 wing and the Chief informed him some of these records have to be stored indefinitely some go back to the 1950's. The legal records the Town Attorney has and the Police Department has will be stored in the third container under lock and key. They are going to lease the containers for 6 months and for next year's budget he will ask for funding to buy the containers because they are \$95 per month to rent and they would like to buy them and leave them at public works permanently.

e. Subcommittee on Urban Renewal/Housing; **no report**

*(Richard Anania, Henry Butler, III, Joseph Deko)*

f. Temporary Subcommittee on Community Group Stipends; **no report**

*(Kenneth McKay, Nick Palladino, Robert Parente)*

Councilman Joseph Santino makes a motion to waive the reading of the full resolution in items #6-11.

Councilman Nicholas Palladino seconds the motion.

Voice vote: all in favor-none oppose-none abstain. Motion carries.

**Item #6**

To consider and act upon a Resolution to provide a tax refund of \$549.29 to Vault Trust - Ally Financial as follows:

**A Resolution to provide a tax refund of \$549.29 to Vault Trust - Ally Financial**

**WHEREAS**, C.G.S. Section 12-129 provides that a local board of selectmen, or its equivalent, may, upon recommendation and certification of the Tax Collector, issue a refund for tax overpayments;

**AND, WHEREAS**, the following entity or person has requested a refund for the following overpayment:

**Vault Trust - Ally Financial**

Louisville PPC  
PO BOX 9001951  
Louisville KY

**Acct:** 2016-03-72658  
**Reason:** Bill was adjusted  
**Amount:** \$549.29

**TOTAL:** \$549.29

**AND, WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector, via backup paperwork submitted to this Council, has recommended and certified the accuracy of this refund;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that said refund is approved and the tax collector is authorized to effectuate said refund.

This resolution shall be effective in accordance with the provisions of the East Haven Town Charter.

Councilman Joseph Deko makes a motion  
Councilman Nicholas Palladino seconds the motion.

No public comment.

No Council comment.

Roll call vote: all in favor-none oppose-none abstain. Motion carries.

#### **Item #7**

To consider and act upon a Resolution to provide a tax refund of \$1,796.46 to Richard Fisk as follows:

#### **A Resolution to provide a tax refund of \$1,796.46 to Richard Fisk**

**WHEREAS**, C.G.S. Section 12-129 provides that a local board of selectmen, or its equivalent, may, upon recommendation and certification of the Tax Collector, issue a refund for tax overpayments;

**AND, WHEREAS**, the following entity or person has requested a refund for the following overpayment:

**Richard Fisk**  
66 Burr Street  
New Haven, CT 06512

**Acct./List:** 2015-01-008853  
**Reason:** Overpayment  
**Amount:** \$1,796.46

**TOTAL:** \$1,796.46

**AND, WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector, via backup paperwork submitted to this Council, has recommended and certified the accuracy of this refund;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that said refund is approved and the tax collector is authorized to effectuate said refund.

This resolution shall be effective in accordance with the provisions of the East Haven Town Charter.

Councilman Robert Parente makes a motion  
Councilman Louis Pacelli seconds the motion.

No public comment.

No Council comment.

Roll call vote: all in favor-none oppose-none abstain. Motion carries.

**Item #8**

To consider and act upon a Resolution to provide a tax refund of \$1,778.00 Erik W. Bradley as follows:

**A Resolution to provide a tax refund of \$1,778.00 to Eric W. Bradley**

**WHEREAS**, C.G.S. Section 12-129 provides that a local board of selectmen, or its equivalent, may, upon recommendation and certification of the Tax Collector, issue a refund for tax overpayments;

**AND, WHEREAS**, the following entity or person has requested a refund for the following overpayment:

**Eric W. Bradley**  
506 Strong Street  
East Haven, CT 06512

**Acct:/List:** 2015-01-001074  
**Reason:** Overpayment  
**Amount:** \$1,778.00

**TOTAL:** \$1,778.00

**AND, WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector, via backup paperwork submitted to this Council, has recommended and certified the accuracy of this refund;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that said refund is approved and the tax collector is authorized to effectuate said refund.

This resolution shall be effective in accordance with the provisions of the East Haven Town Charter.

Councilman Robert Parente makes a motion  
Councilman Louis Pacelli seconds the motion.

No public comment.

No Council comment.

Roll call vote: all in favor-none oppose-none abstain. Motion carries.

#### **Item #9**

To consider and act upon a Resolution to provide a tax refund of \$672.79 to Cab East LLC - Ford Credit as follows:

#### **A Resolution to provide a tax refund of \$672.79 to Cab East LLC - Ford Credit**

**WHEREAS**, C.G.S. Section 12-129 provides that a local board of selectmen, or its equivalent, may, upon recommendation and certification of the Tax Collector, issue a refund for tax overpayments;

**AND, WHEREAS**, the following entity or person has requested a refund for the following overpayment:

#### **Cab East LLC - Ford Credit**

P.O. Box 67000

Department: 231601

Detroit, MI 48267-5704

**Acct./List:** 2017-03-52957

**Reason:** Bill was adjusted

**Amount:** \$672.79

**TOTAL:** \$672.79

**AND, WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector, via backup paperwork submitted to this Council, has recommended and certified the accuracy of this refund;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that said refund is approved and the tax collector is authorized to effectuate said refund.

This resolution shall be effective in accordance with the provisions of the East Haven Town Charter.

Councilman Robert Parente makes a motion  
Councilman Louis Pacelli seconds the motion.

No public comment.

No Council comment.

Roll call vote: all in favor-none oppose-none abstain. Motion carries.

#### **Item #10**

To consider and act upon a Resolution to provide a tax refund of \$898.29 to Ally Bank as follows:

#### **A Resolution to provide a tax refund of \$898.29 to Ally Bank - Louisville PPC**

**WHEREAS**, C.G.S. Section 12-129 provides that a local board of selectmen, or its equivalent, may, upon recommendation and certification of the Tax Collector, issue a refund for tax overpayments;

**AND, WHEREAS**, the following entity or person has requested a refund for the following overpayment:

**Ally Bank - Louisville PPC**  
P.O. Box 9001951  
Louisville, KY 40290 – 0001

**Acct./List:** 2017-03-0072454  
**Reason:** Bill was adjusted  
**Amount:** \$898.29

**TOTAL:** \$898.29

**AND, WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector, via backup paperwork submitted to this Council, has recommended and certified the accuracy of this refund;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that said refund is approved and the tax collector is authorized to effectuate said refund.



This resolution shall be effective in accordance with the provisions of the East Haven Town Charter.

Councilman Robert Parente makes a motion  
Councilwoman Judy Sittnick seconds the motion.

No public comment.

No Council comment.

Roll call vote: all in favor-none oppose-none abstain. Motion carries.

### **Item #11**

To consider and act upon a Resolution to provide a tax refund of \$2,283.64 to Toyota Lease Trust as follows:

#### **A Resolution to provide a tax refund of \$2,283.64 to Toyota Lease Trust**

**WHEREAS**, C.G.S. Section 12-129 provides that a local board of selectmen, or its equivalent, may, upon recommendation and certification of the Tax Collector, issue a refund for tax overpayments;

**AND, WHEREAS**, the following entity or person has requested a refund for the following overpayment:

**Toyota Lease Trust**  
20 Commerce Way Suite 800  
Woburn, MA 01801-2455

**Acct:** 2017-03-71737  
**Reason:** Bill was adjusted  
**Amount:** \$421.14

**Acct:** 2017-03-71729  
**Reason:** Bill was adjusted  
**Amount:** \$246.95

**Acct:** 2017-03-71745  
**Reason:** Bill was adjusted  
**Amount:** \$249.38

**Acct:** 2017-03-71753

**Reason:** Bill was adjusted  
**Amount:** \$141.41

**Acct:** 2017-03-71749  
**Reason:** Bill was adjusted  
**Amount:** \$182.83

**Acct:** 2017-03-71782  
**Reason:** Bill was adjusted  
**Amount:** \$188.55

**Acct:** 2017-03-71744  
**Reason:** Bill was adjusted  
**Amount:** \$141.41

**Acct:** 2017-03-71642  
**Reason:** Bill was adjusted  
**Amount:** \$123.19

**Acct:** 2017-03-71754  
**Reason:** Bill was adjusted  
**Amount:** \$169.55

**Acct:** 2017-03-71592  
**Reason:** Bill was adjusted  
**Amount:** \$419.23

**TOTAL:** \$2,283.64

**AND, WHEREAS,** the Tax Collector, via backup paperwork submitted to this Council, has recommended and certified the accuracy of this refund;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that said refund is approved and the tax collector is authorized to effectuate said refund.

This resolution shall be effective in accordance with the provisions of the East Haven Town Charter.

Councilman Robert Parente makes a motion  
 Councilwoman Judy Sittnick seconds the motion.

No public comment.

No Council comment.

Roll call vote: all in favor-none oppose-none abstain. Motion carries.

Attorney Joseph Zullo says on behalf of Sal Brancati he has two time sensitive matters that total three additional items to be added onto the Agenda tonight. The first is to waive competitive bidding requirements in connection with the repair of the traffic signal on Messina Drive. The second is a resolution authorizing the sale of tax liens. The third is a resolution waiving competitive bidding in association with the sale of the tax liens.

Councilman Nicholas Palladino makes a motion to add Item #11A- A resolution waiving the Town Charter's Competitive Bidding Requirements in Connection with the Repair of the Traffic Signal at Messina Drive.

Councilwoman Loria Jaffe seconds the motion.

Roll call vote: all in favor-none oppose-none abstain. Motion carries.

Councilman Nicholas Palladino makes a motion to add Item #11B- A resolution, pursuant to C.G.S. Sec. 12-195h, approving the assignment of tax liens encumbering 31 Cove Street, East Haven, CT and authorizing Mayor Joseph Maturo Jr., or his designee, to sign any and all documents, including but not limited to an "Assignment of Municipal Tax Liens," in order to effectuate the same.

Councilman Louis Pacelli seconds the motion.

Roll call vote: all in favor-none oppose-none abstain. Motion carries.

Councilman Nicholas Palladino makes a motion to add Item #11C- A Resolution Waiving the Town Charter's Competitive Bidding Requirements in Connection with the assignment of Municipal Tax Liens Encumbering and Affecting 31 Cove Street.

Councilwoman Loria Jaffe seconds the motion.

Roll call vote: all in favor-none oppose-none abstain. Motion carries.

Councilman Nicholas Palladino asks if they can add Item# 11D for Mr. Brancati to explain to them how they got Caroline Rd situation all set? Mr. Brancati says he does not have information on Caroline Rd with him tonight.

Councilman Joseph Deko makes a motion to add Item#11D to allow a presentation from representatives of the East Haven Food Pantry who are there tonight.

Councilman Joseph Carfora seconds the motion.

Roll call vote: all in favor-none oppose-none abstain. Motion carries.

## **Item #11A**

### **A Resolution Waiving the Town Charter's Competitive Bidding Requirements in Connection with the Repair of the Traffic Signal at Messina Drive**

**WHEREAS**, the traffic signal on Messina Drive at its intersection with the Stop and Shop plaza is in need of replacement;

**AND WHEREAS**, the intersection is heavily traveled by both pedestrians and automobiles, making it necessary to replace the signal as quickly as possible;

**AND WHEREAS**, the number of companies capable of performing this specialized work is relatively small in number;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Town has informally obtained two written quotes for the repair and replacement of the traffic signal;

**AND WHEREAS**, based on the quotes obtained, the Town desires to engage "CN Electric Company" to perform the repair work to the traffic signal;

**AND WHEREAS**, given the relative specialty of the work and the need to repair the signal as quickly as possible due to the high traffic in that area, the Town is seeking a waiver of the Town Charter's bidding requirements;

**AND WHEREAS**, Chapter 6, Section 4(C) of the East Haven Town Charter provides that all sales of real property by the Town shall be by competitive bidding;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Finance Director recommends that the Council waive the competitive bidding requirement to allow the Town to repair the traffic signal;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Town Charter's bidding requirements may be waived by two-thirds of the members present and voting;

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it **RESOLVED** by the Town Council of the Town of East Haven that any competitive bidding requirements associated with the engagement of "CN Electric Company" for the repair of the traffic signal at Messina Drive are hereby waived;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this bid waiver shall expire on August 1, 2019.

Councilman Robert Parente makes a motion.

Councilman Big Steve Tracey seconds the motion.

- Chairman Ken Mckay says anyone who has been in the area of Stop & Shop and Messina Drive knows the hazard of people crossing over there. They tried to do a fix on it and the whole box is burnt out and beyond repairs.
- Mr. Brancati explains that they have been working on this project for about 5 or 6 months when it first started blinking and failing. Peter Shove from the Police Department has sort of been putting a Band-Aid on it for a few months and came to the conclusion that the circuits inside the box are burnt out. The system itself is about 26 years old so it is difficult to find parts for the circuit board and replace what needs to be replaced. They were able to get bids on it; the first bid came in at \$35,000 to replace the box and after doing some research they felt that was a lot of money to do that so they went out looking for other vendors. They found CN Electric who gave them a price of \$21,750 for parts and labor. The signal as

of today at 2pm is working; CN came in to put in a temporary service and made it functional. The rest of the equipment will take 12-16 weeks to come in and they will remain functional during that waiting time. CN is on the State bid list for the temporary repair that was done but they could not confirm if they are on the permanent repair list of the State bid list. So that is why they are coming to the Council tonight. They may find out that they are on there because when he spoke with Chief Lennon earlier he thought they may have found a number that does put them on the permanent repair list. He spoke with Attorney Zullo about doing this bid waiver so there is no question that everything is being done the right way in case CN Electric is not on the bid list for the permanent repair. The cost of the temporary repair was \$2,910 and they want \$21,750 for the whole project, which would be done over the next couple of weeks. The residents are very happy that they are now safe again crossing the street.

No public comment.

Council comment:

- Councilman Nicholas Palladino says the light is there because Stop & Shop is on one side and Messina Drive facility is on the other; both are for profit private entities that the Town doesn't own. Shouldn't both of them kick in a couple of dollars for the traffic light because if they were not there, we would not have a light there?
- Mr. Brancati says that thought has come to them but the Town owns the traffic signals and keeping them functional is the Town's responsibility. In the future or at least after this is repaired they can approach the facilities and see if they would be willing to contribute. Their priority was the residents that were calling every day about the light.
- Councilman Louis Pacelli asks if the total cost of \$21,750 is including the temporary work that was done.
- Mr. Brancati says yes. But as of right now they don't have LED lights in the signals, so they thought it would be appropriate to do that in this day and age.
- Councilman Louis Pacelli says he mentioned they got 26 years out of that light, have they had to service it over the 26 years other than changing bulbs? Wouldn't the LED lights bring down the need for service?
- Mr. Brancati says they have only had to do minor maintenance such as bulb replacement, and adds that the additional cost for the LED bulb upgrade is \$1,120 above the original total cost.
- Councilwoman Judy Sittnick says not having a functional light there is suicide and the Town not paying for it; our precious seniors are there and what would happen if one of them were hit crossing.
- Chairman Ken McKay says they were lucky they did not have one accident there during the time it was not functional.

- Mr. Brancati says they did put stop signs once the light went out. But the light is functioning now and the residents are happy.

Roll call vote: all in favor-none oppose-none abstain. Motion carries.

#### **Item #11B**

**A Resolution, pursuant to C.G.S. Sec. 12-195h, approving the assignment of tax liens encumbering 31 Cove Street, East Haven, CT and authorizing Mayor Joseph Mauro, Jr., or his designee, to sign any and all documents, including but not limited to an "Assignment of Municipal Tax Liens," in order to effectuate the same.**

**WHEREAS**, a substantial number of tax liens and a tax indebtedness presently encumber the property known as 31 Cove Street - MBLU 030/0320/009;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Town, pursuant to C.G.S. Sec. 12-195h, deems it appropriate to assign said liens and the rights to the same to Lobster Shack, LLC

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that pursuant to C.G.S. Sec. 12-195h, the assignment of municipal tax liens encumbering 31 Cove Street (MBLU 030/0320/009) for the grand list years 2003 through 2017 inclusively is hereby approved;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Mayor Joseph Mauro, Jr., or his designee, is authorized to enter into an agreement with Lobster Shack, LLC to complete such an assignment and to execute any and all documents deemed necessary to effectuate said assignment.

This resolution shall be effective in accordance with the provisions of the East Haven Town Charter.

Councilwoman Loria Jaffe makes a motion.

Councilman Big Steve Tracey seconds the motion.

No public comment.

Council comment:

- Councilman Joseph Deko says he thinks it is a great idea.

Roll call vote: all in favor-none oppose-none abstain. Motion carries.

**Item #11C**

**A Resolution Waiving the Town Charter's Competitive Bidding Requirements in Connection with the assignment of Municipal Tax Liens Encumbering and Affecting 31 Cove Street**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of East Haven is the present owner of municipal real estate tax liens, for the grand list years 2003 to 2017 inclusively, and encumbering and affecting the real property known as 31 Cove Street and identified by the following Map/Block/Lot Number: 030/0320/009;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Town wishes to assign said tax liens to Lobster Shack, LLC

**AND WHEREAS**, Chapter 6, Section 4 of the East Haven Town Charter provides that the sale of certain assets by the Town shall be by competitive bidding;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Town, based on a variety of unique circumstances, believes that effectuating the assignment outside of the competitive bidding process will fetch the best price for the liens which the Town wishes to assign;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Finance Director recommends that the Council waive the competitive bidding requirement to effectuate said assignment;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Town Charter's bidding requirements may be waived by two-thirds of the members present and voting;

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it **RESOLVED** by the Town Council of the Town of East Haven that any competitive bidding requirements associated with the Town's proposed assignment of municipal tax liens encumbering and affecting 31 Cove Street are hereby waived;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this bid waiver shall expire on July 1, 2019.

Councilman Joseph Santino makes a motion.  
Councilwoman Loria Jaffe seconds the motion.

No public comment.

- Mr. Brancati explains that there is a parking lot at the Beachhead that needs to have the tax liens sold to the new owner, which is Lobster Shack, because they need a parking lot to operate the restaurant.
- Councilman Joseph Santino asks if they own the Beachhead already.
- Mr. Brancati says they have not closed on it yet, they are waiting to see if this transaction goes forward because they would be foolish to close on it without knowing if it happened. Mr. Brancati clarifies that we did not foreclose, the agreement was to sell the tax liens and then the new owner takes care of the

foreclosure. There is an agreement between the purchaser and current owner of Beachhead that when they get the tax lien then they can close on the building because it would be foolish for them to buy the building without having a parking lot. Zoning never knew that they didn't own the parking lot.

- Councilman Big Steve Tracey says how did zoning not know that, how did they have a restaurant with no parking lot?

Roll call vote: all in favor-none oppose-none abstain. Motion carries.

#### **Item #11D**

Presentation from representatives of the East Haven Food Pantry.

- Dianne Romans-President of the East Haven Food Pantry-4 Ellen Place, East Haven, CT and Christine Sandford-Vice President of the East Haven Food Pantry-350 Mansfield Grove Road, East Haven, CT come before the Council. Ms. Romans says they just wanted to share with the Council some of the numbers and all of the clients they have been serving over the last year. She states that to be eligible to get food from the East Haven Food Pantry you have to be an East Haven resident. They run strictly on donations, both monetary and food. They are open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays for clients to come in. They provide thanksgiving baskets and in 2016 implemented the backpack program, which is a program where children are identified from the school administrators or social workers and are in need of food for the weekends so they provide breakfast, lunch and snacks for them on the weekends or holiday vacations. When they started the program in 2016 they had 60 elementary students and today they serve 97 students. In 2018 they have provided over 104,000 meals, serving over 449 families where they are seeing 8-11 people living in one household. They don't ask for income verification they just ask for an id and bill/mail that shows they are a resident of that location in East Haven. In 2017 they served approximately 59,000 meals. The food pantry is run strictly by volunteers; they currently have about 60 volunteers that help out and make it all possible. Lastly, they are located currently in the Christ & the Epiphany Church and they do not have any handicap accessibility so they were hoping that what is going on with the old high school renovations that they would be able to get some space in there so that handicap clients can come in to get the food. Now they either have to find someone to come pick it up for them or volunteers walk it out to the car for them.
- Mrs. Sandford says they wanted to come before them tonight because these are the people they serve and they are residents of East Haven. These numbers were outstanding to her when she saw them in print so they thought it was important that the leaders of the community understand the pantry and what they



do. Also if they know anyone who needs to use the pantry they can send them to them so they can offer their services. Their largest supporters are organizations within the Town such as the churches, Stop & Shop, ShopRite, Big Y in North Branford, individuals who send in checks monthly, supplies from Cumberland farms in Branford. They get a small stipend from the Town and they generously got what the Christmas party would have been and that money is what they use to give to the church to supplement being there for electricity, heat, etc. and they have been very generous to them since they moved in back in 1994. She thinks it would be a good opportunity to be in a town building and she thanks public works for their help at thanksgiving time.

Council comment:

- Councilman Joseph Carfora thanks them and says they are doing a great job and he is blown away by the statistics, it more than doubled from 2017 to 2018.
- Mrs. Sanford explains how they got the number of meals is based on them giving a 3-day food supply, which is about 9 meals, and then it depends on how many people are in the family.
- Councilman Nicholas Palladino asks if the church has gone for a State grant to gain handicap accessibility for their parishioners and the food pantry. The church should apply through the ADA.
- Ms. Romans says they have not seen any grants available for this as of yet but the church entrance is not the same for the food pantry because the church has a ramp at its entrance. They will mention it to them.
- Councilman Joseph Carfora says aside from the grant is there any State or Federal aide to supply them with more food or finances.
- Mrs. Sanford says they work with the Connecticut Food Bank so they do get State and Federal surplus as far as food is concerned. Part of the problem is that they now have to go to Wallingford to shop so it requires volunteers and trucks to get it all and bring it in. Every week the church is bringing food in so they have been able to sustain themselves through all of that.
- Councilman Louis Pacelli asks if they are seeing an influx as a result of the government shutdown.
- Ms. Romans says they are anticipating they will, they have had a lot of clients complain that their food stamps have been cut substantially.
- Councilman Louis Pacelli says with regard to the handicap accessibility, have they reached out to any of the local stores to see if they can set up a donation?
- Ms. Romans says they do get donations from the local grocery stores but they have not asked for donations for a ramp and part of the reason is because it is not their building. She knows from applying for grants one of the questions is if they are a church or religious groups so she doesn't think a lot of the churches are eligible for the grants.

- Mrs. Sanford says Stop & Shop is very supportive, they provide surplus meats and they come 2-3 times per week.

**Item #12**

Adjournment of Regular Meeting.

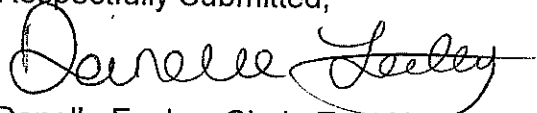
Councilman Robert Parente makes a motion

Councilman Nicholas Palladino seconds the motion.

Voice vote: all in favor-none oppose-none abstain. Motion carries.

Meeting is adjourned at 7:53PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danelle Feeley", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Danelle Feeley, Clerk, East Haven Legislative Town Council