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East Haven Town Council Minutes

The East Haven Town Council held its Regularly Scheduled Meeting for Tuesday, April 7, 2020, to commence at 7:30 .m. Via Zoom, in order to transact the following:

Chairman Deko called the meeting to order at 7:44 p.m.

Item #1

Roll Call- 13 present, 2 Absent (Maltese and Butler) A quorum present.

Staff present and signed into the meeting: James Keeley, Interim Finance Director, Michelle Benivenga, Assistant Director, Fire Chief, Matthew Marcarelli, Assistant Fire Chief, Charles Licata, Police Chief, Edward Lennon, Deputy Police Chief, Patrick Tracy, Charles Coyle, Superintendent of Public Works, Town Attorney, Michael Luzzi, and Assistant Town Attorney, Jennifer Coppola.

Attorney Michael Luzzi addressed the process of this remotely conducted meeting.

Chairman Deko called for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence in the fight against the Coronavirus. He then thanked all the first responders, medical personnel, and the administration for their dedication.

Item #2

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2020 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting and the Special Meeting of March 19, 2020 of the East Haven Town Council. Councilwoman Hennessey second the motion.

Roll call vote-All in Favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

Approved Unanimously

Item #3

Chairman Deko asked that all sub-committee reports be submitted in writing due to the nature of this meeting being conducted via Zoom.

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to submit all sub-committee reports in writing.

Subcommittee Reports:

- a. Education, Library and School Building
- b. Public Health, Safety, and Welfare
- c. Finance
- d. Public Services, Parks, and Recreation
- e. Urban Renewal/Housing

Councilwoman Lesco second the motion.

Roll Call Vote-12 In Favor. 1 Opposed. (Parlato) No Abstentions.

Motion Carried.

Report submitted by Councilman Butler, Councilwoman Ruggerio and Councilwoman Parlato.

Public Safety Sub-committee Report

Police and Fire Departments-

The Police and Fire Commission did not have a meeting last month. Councilwoman Parlato reached out to the Fire and Police Chief's for any information they would like to share with the Council. At this time the departments are busy with the pandemic, they did not have the time to formally make a report for us to share with the Council.

Health and Welfare-

American Disabilities Act Commission- Did not meet

Youth Services Commission-Did not meet

Subcommittee Report for Education/Library and School Building

Report submitted by Councilman Pompano, Councilwoman Cesare, and Councilwoman Parlato.

Board of Education-

- The BOE has begun distance Learning at all schools which includes the following:
 - Designing a website that houses all learning materials and resources with short how to videos for parents and tech support sessions for teachers and parents
 - All staff participated in PD/work time for 5 days prior to the April 1st launch

- Handed out over 400 Chromebooks to students and staff prior to the launch
- Worked with families to ensure they had internet and connectivity
- Tech services has responded to over 300 help tickets
- Pupil Services is finding innovative and creative ways to connect and provide services to students with disabilities
- They are supporting paraprofessionals and setting them up for professional learning and getting involved in distance learning.
- Following up with the Learning by:
 - Sending a survey to parents about distance learning to inform us of any adjustments that need to be made
 - Putting a structure in place to repair damaged or broken Chromebooks
 - Adjusting and responding to executive orders and updates as they become available from the Governor and State Department of Education
 - Moving forward on school maintenance and capital improvements while there are no students and staff in the buildings.
- Other benefits they have taken advantage of:
 - Alliance districts were able to apply for book packs and laptops as part of the State's Learn From Home Task Force initiative
 - They have applied for 900 laptops for high school students (although most likely will not arrive until June)
 - Have applied for a book pack for every Pre-K - 8 student in district and will deploy at school sites (similar to how they did for chromebooks) upon arrival
- They are continuing their food distribution at Tuttle, Momauguin and EHHS daily with breakfast and lunch and will give out enough food on Fridays to get students fed through the weekend.

The Library Committee-

- There is fine forgiveness into place and will be honored when the library reopens.
- The library is working on getting a self registration form on the website, it will be in the catalog tab) that people can register for a library card. The library will then process the application, and then either phone or get out the library card barcode number to the person so they can use the downloadable/streaming materials available.
- The library is working in conjunction with the high school librarian here. She will be giving the library names of students in need of library cards. The library will register the students for cards and give the high school librarian the bar code number for her to get to the students.
- Staff is working online with programming and Facebook as well as other programs. The Children's librarian is posting story time on Facebook.
- Staff members are working remotely to access their work computers from home. The library is working on a number of matters to keep staff working and/or engaged. They are doing mandatory state required sexual harassment prevention training online.
- Mr. George the Director is the only person on site at this time.
- The CT State Library on its researchIT CT website (www.researchgutct.org) has made a number of databases and sources free without the need of using a library card available.

Video resources are available at the following addresses:

From:

97-2-03 Boiler HVAC

\$120,200.00

TOTAL

\$120,200.00

Councilwoman Hennessey second the motion.

Roll Call Vote-12 In Favor. None opposed. 1 Abstention (Parlato)

Motion Carried.

Item #5

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to set a public hearing date for Tuesday, May 5, 2020, for “An Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinance Section 16.5-14 Use of Town Landfill Fees.”

Councilman Santino second the motion.

Roll Call Vote-All in Favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

Motion Carried. Public Hearing set for May 5, 2020.

Item #6

Vice Chairman Pacelli made the motion to consider and act upon a Resolution that the Town of East Haven may enter into a lease agreement with C.N. Wood Co., Inc. (merchant obtained from the State of Connecticut bid list) to lease a vactor truck for use at public works or any other department deemed proper and to execute any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate.

Councilwoman Cesare second the motion.

Chairman Deko stated during the past few years the town has paid \$100,000.00, for a company to come into town and clean the storm drains, out of 2,600 storm drains only 300 were clean by this outside company. The town is not in compliance with the DEEP MS4 requirement currently.

Chairman Deko recognized Charlie Coyle Superintendent of Operation for public works who stated that due to Tuttle Brook and the Farm River the town falls under the MS4 requirement, which the town files with the State of Connecticut and at this time the town is not in compliance. The town is required to have a vactor truck and a street sweeper. The sweeper is in working order at this time. The town has paid over \$100,000.00 to contract a vactor company to clean storm drains and the only thing the town has to show for it are receipts. It has been a blessing that we haven't had any major storms since the vactor was sold. We would lease the truck and all its components for 7 years the following are the options:

5 year lease@\$88,703.74 annually
 6 year lease@\$74,568.80 annually
 7 year lease@\$64,495.48 annually

The 7 year lease is more reasonable for the town to manage, the truck includes a stainless steel tank with a 10 year warranty. This truck will last many years provided it is maintained properly.

Councilwoman Lesco asked if the town will own the truck once the lease is paid; it's not indicated on the backup information.

Mr. Coyle indicated the town will own the vactor.

Councilwoman Glassman asked how long do these types of trucks typically last.
 Mr. Coyle indicated 25+ years if maintained properly.

Councilwoman Glassman asked if there are any grants or tax incentives available to the town.
 Mr. Coyle indicated, no.

Councilman Santino stated in the specification of the lease agreement it states that it is a TNT tank, not stainless steel.

Mr. Coyle indicated that it is indeed stainless steel, he has seen the truck.

Councilman Balter stated on the last page of the agreement it indicates Quotation #LY6867 is that the truck the town will be getting.
 Mr. Coyle indicated, yes.

Councilman Balter stated the \$117,020.00 is just for the truck not the tank and vactor and its components.

Mr. Coyle indicated that he is correct that it is just the truck.

Councilman Balter asked why we did not do a competitive bid and utilized the state bid list.
 Mr. Coyle stated that basically there are no other companies in the state that provided this type of truck and equipment. The purpose of utilizing the state bid list is that they have already been reviewed thoroughly by the state.

Councilman Balter moved to amend the motion that at the end of the lease the town will own the truck.

Councilwoman Cesare second the motion.

Point of order from the Chairman.

Vice Chairman Pacelli wanted to clarify that this truck is to clean storm drains and catch basins; not sanitary sewers.

Mr. Coyle stated that he is correct. It is also an asset to the town that CN Woods is located in North Haven and if we have any problems they are nearby to service the truck.

Vice Chairman Pacelli asked if there is enough manpower to operate the vactor daily.
 Mr. Coyle stated that the town is all set with capable staffing.

Chairman Deko stated that the 10 year warranty is on the truck but 2 or 3 years on pump parts.
Mr. Coyle stated yes with proper maintenance

Councilwoman Hennessey stated the town is purchasing the truck and its components from CN Woods but who is the leasing company.
Chairman Deko indicated Daimler.

Councilwoman Parlato after doing the math the truck is \$375,000 and the truck alone \$117,020 and the additional features are \$257,000.
Mr. Coyle stated yes there are a lot of mechanicals to the vactor.

Councilman Pompano understands that this is a lease but could the town sell it at any time.
Mr. Coyle indicated yes we would have to pay off the lease.

Chairman Deko recognized James Keeley who stated that first and foremost this is a DEEP regulation. We have spent \$100,000 contracting a vactor service company and in the end we have no asset. The rate of interest on the lease is 2.3% more than reasonable along with the terms of the lease, it is a worthy investment with the proper maintenance.

Vice Chairman Pacelli pointed out that this vehicle needs to be housed in a garage at all times, are there any issues storing it in the public works garage?
Mr. Coyle does not foresee any issues housing the new truck.

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to amend his motion to include "the holding tank is stainless steel and at the end of the lease agreement the town will own the vactor truck."

Councilman Balter second the motion as amended.
Roll Call Vote-All in Favor. None opposed. No abstentions.
Motion carried.

Chairman Deko stated before the adjournment he wanted to thank all the members of the Town Council, Mayor Carfora and the administration most of all all essential personnel first responders and all those people risking their lives, we thank them.

Councilman Santino moved to adjourn.
Councilwoman Cesare second the motion.
Voice Vote-All in Favor. None opposed. No abstentions.
Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Roberta A. DeLuca
Council Clerk

