

**EAST HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2016**

In accordance with Chapter III, Section 6 of the East Haven Town Charter, the East Haven Legislative Town Council conducted a Public Hearing meeting on Wednesday, April 20, 2016, at 7:00PM at the East Haven Senior Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, CT 06512 in order to transact the following:

Chairman Fred Parlato calls the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

**Item #1**

Roll Call for Public Hearing #1- 11 present – 4 absent (Sand, Hennessey, Archambault and Butler III).

A quorum is present.

**Item #2**

To conduct Public Hearing #1 to discuss an “Ordinance adopting the Town and Board of Education Budgets and fixing the tax rate in mills for the 2016-2017 fiscal year of the Town of East Haven.” - Town Side of the Budget.

Public comment:

- Bruce George- Director, Hagan Memorial Library- 227 Main Street, East Haven, CT- Mr. George says he is speaking to the Council in regards to an increase in funding for health insurance costs and salary costs for FY 2016-2017. He provided a one-page explanation of the health insurance plan and the library's health reimbursement account. It also contains information on the annual deductible towards the health insurance. He moves to increase the library's health insurance costs. For the Library's 2016-2017 health insurance costs there was a library employee that was married in October 2015 and his spouse was added to the employee's health insurance, which will increase the library's health insurance cost by \$12,180 per year. Second, there was an estimated increase in health insurance costs of 7% overall which equals \$9,289. In reviewing matters the Library is requesting that the following be considered at minimum in addition to the \$10,247 increase in health insurance cost in the Mayor's recommended budget for the Library. Funding the full increase in the cost of the employee's health insurance for the addition of a spouse. This is an increase of \$1,916 over the \$10,247 and funding an increase of \$4,644 dollars in overall health care increase or 3.5% increase in health insurance costs. Total increase of funding requested is \$6,560. The Library is requesting consideration of full funding of salaries request; this would be an additional \$8,904 over the \$10,361 increase in the Mayor's recommended budget. The additional \$8,904

will fund the exceptional work of a part time employee whose services were recognized both on the local, State and National level and will fund a 2% salary cost of living increase for the Library staff. The purpose of the Hagan Memorial Library is to meet community needs; the library staff solves problems that come in or human needs that matter. For example the library provides resources for self-education. There was much discussion at the April 14<sup>th</sup> Town Council Meeting in the general review about former education in the East Haven school system, continued education and self-education are an essential part of life. The Library's structure for continued education is through literacy books, materials and programming. They also provide senior citizens reading magnifiers and a variety of programs and volunteer opportunities. To repeat the funding increases the Library's request for FY 16-17 budget is \$6,560 for health insurance and \$8,904 for salaries.

- Ronald Whitney- 361 North High Street, East Haven, CT - Mr. Whitney says Bruce George mentioned that they are looking for increases in their budget this year for salaries and health care. He is going to talk about their staff and things that have been going on at the Library. Starting with the children's section, Sascha Gardiner their children's librarian worked hard this year setting up new programs for after school. They have programs such as food fun with Becky from ShopRite, Lego Builder's club, chess club, movie nights, craft programs and reading programs. This week they have school vacation and special programs are set-up for school age children; there was a cartooning workshop on Monday, a digital photo workshop held Tuesday, Wednesday was a craft workshop focused on Where the Wild Things are and tomorrow is the Lego builder's club. In the children's department the attendance is up 33.6% over the same quarter from last year. They have 1,283 people attending versus 960 in 2015. There was a library card drive at JMMS, which had 575 students, 69 of the students are now new cardholders. The Library also has a partnership with the family resource center and they host playgroups on Friday's attended by about 15 families. He shows a photo of their therapy dog named Denver, he works with the kids and the program involves children reading to the dog and helps the kids express themselves and helps them become better readers later on in life. Moving onto the teen section this year Sarah Mallory took over and became the teen librarian. Her teen group became 1 of 15 groups in the country to make the ALA's national book panel called "Teen's top 10". This is an advisory group made up of East Haven teenagers; they read books months before they are published and they are able to select books as part of the teens top 10 for 2016. April 15<sup>th</sup> the Hagan Memorial Library hosted its first coffee house & open-mic event open to middle and high school students there were refreshments and an opportunity for our young adults to express their talent in music and other performances in front of a supportive audience. Approximately 50 teens showed up and 12 of them took the stage in front of their peers with the acts including song writing, poetry, piano recitals and electric guitar, in today's East Haven Courier the front page shows the electric guitar solo. The teen group provides a safe environment for socializing, it engages the teens in active community service, encourages literacy through the review program, etc. In addition continuing to provide these programs will encourage life-long use of the library going further down the

generations. Sarah commented that receiving such a mass turnout for this event highlights our Town's need for additional enrichment programs for our young adults. The Library has another coffee house and open mic event planned for early June, with the support of the Town they can continue to offer this and other arts based programs. It keeps the young adults actively involved with the Town and the community. Moving onto Community Services Librarian Cynthia Gwiazda- there will be a Mariachi Trio band concert in May with all the hard work being put into it by the multi-cultural committee which includes the East Haven adult learning center, the Director of ESL programs for East Haven, Vincent DeNuzzo principal of EHHS, Bob Petrucelli- Director of Social Services, Laura Lynn-Principal JMMS, Marisa Velazquez- Director of Family Resource Center, Director of Girls Scouts of CT, Director of Literacy GNH, members of the Old Stone Church Organization East Haven United and representatives from East Shore Health District. The East Haven School district donated money towards the cost of the concert, the Library has also received monetary donations, Bistro Mediterranean, Chili's Restaurant and Gutiz Bakery are donating food for the event. It's an interactive bi-lingual concert with singing and dancing open to the public. On the 28<sup>th</sup> there will be a presentation of the movie "Bridge of Spies" at 5:00. Last year they were here asking for money for their computers, they have installed them and year to date including the 8 months to now they have had a 3% or 500 more sessions in the same period as last year which correlates to about 100 sessions a day. Reference/Preservation Librarian Fawn Gillespie has the WWII veterans discussion group made of veterans and those interested in WWII, there was an article in the New Haven Register regarding that, it meets on the last Wednesday of every month. They had a speaker on the subject of "This place matters" which is an effort with the national trust and preservation to shine light on all special places that are important, Fawn has been collecting photographs and will submit them to the National trust to promote their library.

- Mary Cannata- 75 Frank Street, East Haven, CT- Ms. Cannata says in 1992 she came before the Town Council to express her support for the Hagan Library. She had just bought a house and when she went to the Library and the sign on the door said closed Monday's, lack of funding. Several citizens in Town stated their support for the Library at the Council meeting, thankfully the Monday hours were restored. This evening she is before this Council to ask again for continued funding for the Library which would include support of the excellent library staff and monies for programs such as the creative writing class that has been met with great enthusiasm and is packed with talent. The Library is a great resource that provides learning and creativity, our Library needs to stay fresh, advanced and competitive. She hopes that the Council can view the Library as an important part of their community. Please provide our Library all of the funding that is needed to excel. She received the Courier and the gentleman in it mentions the Library and growing up in East Haven utilizing the Library to study history, especially the history of East Haven. She understands how the Library educated him because when she was in elementary school the Library was a great resource to learn independently on your own time. She will always fight for this Library she started in 1992 and will always be there to continue fighting for it because it is very important.

- Barbara Pochan-East Haven, CT- Ms. Pochan thanks the Council for their time and attention. She is speaking on behalf of the Library, she is in the creative writing group and she is on the older end of the people who use the library, it starts with young kids all the way to people older than she is. It is a treasure trove full of energy. The creative writing group is so fun and interesting and you never know what you are going to be writing about until it comes to your mind. They have been meeting religiously, everyone gets there on time. It is the secular heart of East Haven because all different people in the Town go there for a variety of different reasons that are all interesting. There's the chess club, WWII club, etc. and she would really appreciate if they could come up with as much money as possible to keep this all going because it is a treasure trove and they always want it to be there. She used to go to the Library all the time as a child.
- Leah Russell- 191 Morgan Ave, East Haven, CT- Mrs. Russell states that she is 30 years old and her and her husband moved to East Haven last June and the first thing they did before setting up gas or electricity they went to the Library and got their Library cards because the Library has always been important to them. This year especially they have been going through a period of unemployment and change in career and it has been a challenging year in other ways such as her mother in law dying of cancer, her parents are going through a divorce and she has gone to the Library 4-5 times a week, it is the place she goes. It is a wonderful place to work, get involved in the community. She has also been in the creative writing class; the attendance is incredibly high especially because it is for free which is often taken for granted. It has inspired several of them to start novels, when she started she thought it was a club type thing but it has been incredible and life changing. She will go as far as saying it has given her a new way of looking at the world; every class has been enlightening in some way. Half of the class is here tonight and she thanks them for supporting the programming and she hopes with more funding they can expand the programming and offer other quality programs such as this.
- Chairman Parlato thanks them all for coming, they are voting on a \$90,000,000 budget. He says to keep in mind that they know the Library is a jewel; they don't even have to advertise all of the things that go on. If there is any area of the Library that needs improvement, it is financing. Whether they realize it or not, the Library medical payment for staff is on the low end of all of the employees in Town which puts us at a disadvantage when negotiating with other Unions. When you add staff, it needs to be taken into account that cost is going to affect them in many different ways. He knows they want to improve their programs but like anything else they have to have the funding in place. This Council will do what it can with the resources they have available, they may not please everybody but they are all aware of the financial state the Town, State and Federal Government are in, we are just a small part of that but we are part of it. He thanks them for coming and they will do what they can.
- Councilman Robert Parente says he is very familiar with the Library in his capacity on a daily basis, every time he goes in there he is appreciative of what he sees and astounded by the different people from the back door when he walks in going all the way through to the third floor. It is an amazing building without question and he always learns something when he is there whether it is a

piece of history on Mr. Hagaman and his hotels in New York or whatever else. He also goes down to another building in Town which is the animal shelter, when he goes down there he is amazed at what Owen Little does in that building with just him and one other employee. By that he means just in the years he has been employed with the Town he has raised thousands and thousands of dollars; he is putting up a brand new pavilion at the cost of \$20,000 or so dollars, he has put in garage doors for \$10,000. Whatever he wanted, he had a fundraiser for. He would love to see the Library utilize their resources and do some fundraiser to offset some of the expenses. A book fair, something that costs \$1 for admissions, there are so many avenues where he feels they should think outside the box. They can generate thousands of dollars with something that is fun and community oriented and brings revenue into the place. He is not saying he is looking to deny them any money he would love to give them funding for everything they ask for but there are ways for generating a lot of funding in their own house of the Library. When they do a fundraiser at the animal shelter they raise thousands and thousands of dollars at the snap of a finger and they build and buy. There are so many avenues and resources for income that if the Library thought outside of the box a little bit they wouldn't be asking for additional monies, they would be expanding on their own on things that they would be able to afford. Is there any revenue producing play or party? If not, maybe they need to look into something on a minimal monetary basis; they should look to other sources of revenue other than the Town. They want to supply enough money for them to do everything but sometimes they can't; it is a \$90,000,000 budget. There are times he sits with Paul Rizza and they look for pennies, they are not bad or heartless people but he asks them to use their ability as intelligent and creative people to raise money, he knows they can do it he would love to see it and participate it.

- Mr. George comments that the Library does get grants and do fundraising, they can look at it further but with the programming the library is working on a shoestring budget. They get funding for a program but it doesn't necessarily cover the labor cost to conduct the program for an hour and a half.
- Councilman Parente says if they had a book fair and asked the residents to donate books they would probably get 10,000 books and 3,000 people looking to buy the books and make a serious income for one day. You could get the businesses in Town to donate pizza and coffee and have a successful event.
- Mr. George says the fundraising has various aspects; the library does seek grants and have fundraising in place. It is listed in the revenue in their budget. The book fair takes a lot of labor.
- Ms. Cannata points out that the friends group, which is a separate entity of volunteers, does the fall festival every year and sells books for 3 days. They have done other stuff over the years to raise money and have purchased things for the library. It is a lot of manpower when people work and try to get there after. They do the best they can, they can't bake sale and sell themselves to death to get something. If they want something for their Town whether it is for education, the library or other things to raise the status of the citizens they have to get the money to do it. It can't all be a volunteer thing they do what they can and the friend's group does a lot of work. She understands where he is coming

from they have to think of other things and she doesn't know the detail of funding and grants but she thought it was important to point out the friend's group.

- Councilman Nicholas Palladino says he understands what she is saying but the problem with funding everything is right now the Board of Education informed us that they have reached the 50% level of families that are getting free or reduced lunches which means the people that live in this Town, the people they are elected to represent and themselves included, are not exactly rolling in dough. So it is very hard, as Councilman Parente says, sometimes you have to grab the bull by the horn. They are fortunate to have a lot of volunteers, high school kids need to get community service hours and fundraising for the Library would come under community service hours. Running a book fair and selling them, they will get books donated for nothing and sell them for whatever and it all adds up. If you have to pay people to run the fundraiser they are going backwards, they need volunteers like all of the sports organizations do fundraising with volunteers, the coaches are all volunteers; this Town is very big on volunteering. He thinks maybe they need to pull the volunteers in and say they need to raise \$20,000-\$30,000 this month, let's not raise it and spend it on running it. He wishes they could tell everyone they can have the money, but they can't and they can't raise the taxes.

### **Item #3**

#### **Adjournment of Public Hearing #1**

Councilman Joseph Santino makes a motion.

Councilman Gary DePalma seconds the motion.

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

Chairman Parlato says the Historical Society which probably has 5 active members; they filled this room on a bingo night and had to refuse people at the door. It didn't cost a lot of money and didn't require that many people to volunteer. A few thousand dollars here and there, there are fundraisers that don't require a lot of money which may help them out.

### **Item #4**

Roll call for hearing committee- 11 present – 4 absent (Sand, Hennessey, Archambault and Butler III).

- Town Attorney Joseph Zullo explains for those who are new, at this point in the budget process or any point within the process the Council has the right to amend the budget as presented by the Mayor if they so desire based on the work done in the workshops. They can enact every amendment as 1 part if they all agree on them. To make it cleaner and because it is easier he has always asked that they enact each one individually; there usually aren't a lot of them. It makes it easier and clearer and someone may feel strongly about one but not another, and they don't want to hamstring someone into voting for one thing because they

are doing them all together. It is at the Chairman's discretion to recognize members with amendments.

- Chairman Parlato says because of the turmoil on the State level in terms of our reimbursement he sat with Mr. Rizza this morning and he has made some adjustments that he is going to recommend to the Council and they can discuss them. He knows there are certain members that have some things they wish to express and now is the time to do it. He says Paul Rizza has done a yeomen's job keeping track of what we have gotten and what we have not gotten yet.
- Finance Director Paul Rizza says he made some notes as they went along over the last couple of weeks of the things that came up as they met. One he brought up himself is concerning the buildings that will be turned back to the Town- Hays School and DC Moore School. They are going to need some funding for utilities, electricity, heat, water and sewer. They are not going to be running the lights all day like when it was a school so at this point they did some hypothetical guesses of what they will spend over the next fiscal year. Based on past performance of those buildings he is recommending to increase the three categories of expense in department 229, which is building maintenance where we keep funding for electricity, heat and water. He is recommending \$15,000 for heat, \$15,000 for electricity and \$10,000 for water and that is for both buildings. He spoke with Councilman Butler a few weeks back and he asked if they considered shutting the buildings down totally, draining pipes and things to that degree and he told him there hasn't really been a discussion as to what they do when they get it back. Those types of discussions will have to take place and one thing he thought of was maintaining the electricity and possibly increasing the security with motion cameras on the outside and having them alarmed. They are both nice buildings at this point so hopefully they don't have any problems with vandalism. He knows there has been some discussion and basically whatever the Council wants to do he will do. There was a lot discussion about the registrar of voters who had originally asked for \$16,000 in total for a salary increase for both which is \$8,000 each, the Mayor had recommended status quo which is currently at \$10,000 and he has heard a couple of different numbers. Very recently he heard the idea of not increasing the total bottom line budget of the registrar, but moving money from the part time salary account to the regular salary account and the last amount he heard was \$1,500 per registrar.
- Councilman Santino asks if that will change the office hours if there is no part time clerk anymore once they take that out.
- Mr. Rizza says there was discussion of hiring a clerk.
- Attorney Zullo says he can shed some light on that; there is actually not a clerk position in the registrar's office. Back in the 80's there was a clerk position but for a variety of reasons the Council defunded it. The way State Statute is set up the registrar's have the authority to appoint deputy registrars and assistant registrars, so those people who have been working in the capacity as clerk's are really assistant registrars. They are not governed by civil service, we don't pay their benefits, sick time or vacation time; they are strictly under the terms governed by the registrar. The registrar rarely spends out their part time wages account because they are conservative and the people who serve in that capacity have not commanded high salaries; traditionally they have come in under budget. The

recommendation Paul came up with when he told them this was if they move the money they will still have plenty of money if they were going to hire an assistant registrar to staff the office and it will also give them a raise without impacting the budget at all; it would be a net 0 affect.

- Councilman Santino asks if they need a motion on this.
- Attorney Zullo says they need a motion on each of these and he has been keeping track of them so that at the end at the end of the discussions they can make a motion on each one.
- Councilman Ken Mckay asks how much they make now, is it \$10,000 per year. Mr. Rizza says yes. He says so they want to increase it by \$1,500?
- Mr. Rizza says that was one recommendation.
- Councilman Mckay says he thinks it should be \$1,000 per person.
- Councilman Parente asks Mr. Rizza if they are at \$1,500 per person now.
- Mr. Rizza says he has nothing now, no increase per person as it is now.
- Councilman William Richardson says they are getting \$10,000/year now and the recommendation is to give them \$11,500?
- Mr. Rizza says yes, he knew \$8,000 was too high, he has heard discussions with the board members and other folks who have said \$3,000 or \$1,500 per. The registrars themselves said when they were here before the Council that they asked for \$8,000 but would be very happy even getting \$3,000.
- Councilwoman Letizia Lettieri-Morales asks when their last raise was.
- Mr. Rizza says according to them it was 8 years ago.
- Councilman Santino says apparently they are taking a lot more classes that they have to take; there is a lot more detail now.
- Chairman Parlato says because of the fiasco in Bridgeport and Hartford a few years back there has been a tightening of registrar's responsibilities and duties. He thinks as far as a raise he doesn't think \$8,000 is called for, he thinks \$1,500 more is more than sufficient plus the addition of a clerk. He doesn't think they should be working for the people who voted for them, he thinks there should be a separation on it, even though it is not illegal he thinks someone else should be doing it. It is a seasonal thing depending on if there are primaries.
- Councilman Santino agrees it is reasonable.
- Councilman Vincent Spaduzzi asks about the part time wages account, they will be using \$20,000 less?
- Mr. Rizza says they lump all of the poll workers together in that one account with the \$94,000 or whatever it is. He doesn't think \$20,000 is available that may be too high. If he had to guess a number maybe \$3,000 or \$4,000.
- Councilwoman Lettieri-Morales says so they are going to take \$1,500 for each and pull it from the \$94,000?
- Mr. Rizza says yes if that's the amount they take for each they will take \$3,000 out of that \$94,000 and put it into the \$20,000.
- Councilwoman Lettieri-Morales says to her it looks like the part time wages are really high. In 2014-2015 they spent \$73,209 but we appropriated \$94,000. Was that turned back?

- Mr. Rizza says it depends on the election year, if they have two elections because of a primary the expenses go up. Sometimes they plan for a primary; in that case they would probably spend the \$94,000.
- Councilwoman Lettieri-Morales says if not then it gets turned back over to the general fund?
- Mr. Rizza says if it is unspent it is then transferable.
- Mr. Rizza says he did have discussion with the Mayor early on regarding the non-union employees. For the people who don't know, people like the Mayor's Office Executive Ass't, Director, Assistant Director and Admin. Assistant in Administration and Management, Town Engineer, Public Services Supt. Operations, Police and Fire Chief and Deputy Chief and Finance Director are not in a union so they can't bargain. It was the Mayor's recommendation based on the settled contract to give a 2.5% raise, this shows by individual what they are currently making and then the new total and the total of that is \$22,518.33, which is also for their consideration.
- Councilman Anania says didn't they give raises to these people last year at the Mayor's recommendation?
- Mr. Rizza says yes.
- Councilman Spaduzzi says with these other raises he has no problem giving the registrar of voters \$3,000.
- Councilwoman Lettieri-Morales says talking about these Department raises, when we vote on this do we have to vote straight down, she doesn't think one Department deserves 2.5%, she sees one guy that she would give 1% and that is being generous. Do we vote on this as a total or go down for each one?
- Mr. Rizza says usually they are voted on as a group but the Council can do anything he doesn't think it is illegal.
- Attorney Zullo says no there is nothing illegal, he can tell them the reason they were voted on as a group, he is not advocating either way, is because every one of these people with the exception of the Police Chief and Fire Chief are at will employees that can be fired at any time, because of that they were all treated the same. There was always the consideration if one person gets 2.5% they should all get 2.5%, he understands she may have a merit or performance reason to say otherwise and it is totally at their discretion. Because it was done one way doesn't mean they have to.
- Councilwoman Lettieri-Morales says for example the Finance Director does a great job and deserves the 2.5%, but there may be someone else on this list that she really doesn't think does their job the right way why should they get it.
- Attorney Zullo says there is nothing illegal about doing it individually if that is what they chose to do.
- Councilman Richardson asks when the last time was that they got a raise.
- Mr. Rizza says last year.
- Councilwoman Judy Esposito asks what percentage they got last year.
- Mr. Rizza says it may have been 2.25%, no higher than that.
- Councilman Parente says the increase from last year was probably the first increase in 10 years in speaking for his position specifically. These are people that are admirable people and they could be gone tomorrow. He doesn't think it

is unfair since every union has settled with increases that are yearly. The only ones that have not settled are Police and Fire.

- Councilman Palladino says he doesn't have a problem with people getting a raise but he does have a problem with a Police Chief and Deputy Chief and Fire Chief and Asst. Fire Chief who got a 2.5% last year giving them another 2.5% raise and the people who do their jobs haven't gotten anything in years because we can't seem to settle these contracts. His recommendation is to hold off, they are making a good salary comparative to surrounding Towns plus the perks of the take home car. He doesn't think they need a raise, the other people ok he can understand. They got a raise last year and we specifically said let's get moving with these union contracts and it didn't happen. As far as the Police and Fire Chief he is still adamantly upset that when they asked questions about the 911 center, they said the Council has more questions than they have answers to. He wishes he could have made a motion to not pay them anymore until they have the answers because they should have answers for the Council when they are going to spend \$1.2 million, they should have answers and they didn't. It's nothing against them personally but they are not getting their men and woman the raises they have been fighting for, then they should sit for another year and would be fine.
- Councilman DePalma says he agrees with Councilman Palladino, until the contracts are settled their raises should be put on hold. Also regarding the 911 dispatch, \$1.2 million is a lot of money. Looking at a Library board they are looking for pennies, \$1,900 for health insurance. If we could give these raises we can give the Library what they need.
- Councilwoman Lettieri-Morales says she understands what Councilman Palladino and DePalma are saying, but those are not the people she has a problem with. She has a problem with the Town Engineer; he does not do his job. He doesn't listen to the people in Town and he doesn't correct things when she calls him. As far as the Police and Fire Chiefs go, she understands what they are saying about the 911-dispatch center costing way more than anybody had anticipated. That being said, we needed one but she thinks it was sold to them not in the right way. Does she think the Police and Fire Chief should suffer for that, she doesn't, there should be some other solution to that other than not giving them a raise. She respects Councilman Palladino's opinion saying they are not doing their job like she is saying about the Town Engineer.
- Councilman McKay disagrees with Councilman Palladino. He has no problem with this because he thinks the Police Chief has gone through a lot in the past few years with the DOJ. He agrees in regards to the 911 center, they have not been getting answers.
- Chairman Parlato says in terms of the dispatch center he doesn't think anyone tried to deceive anyone about the costs, something had to be done and they did it. We are spending more than we should have because of whatever happened but he is not qualified to make that decision; he is not in public safety. When they presented their reports, the amount of calls and the way it has changed he is glad it is there. This group runs the Town and singling one person out of the group because we don't think they are doing their job, maybe it should be done by the people they work for not by the Town Council. The budget was presented

by the Mayor, he is in charge of the Administration, it may look like a lot of money, he'd like to give Paul a 20% raise, but he doesn't play that kind of game with singling one person out.

- Councilwoman Lettieri-Morales says she gets calls from people in the 4<sup>th</sup> district regarding Hampton Road; they have been calling her for the past 6 months. She met with Kevin, she talked to the Mayor and Kevin is bull-headed.
- Chairman Parlato says there is something with that situation where they are in control but not, he is aware of Hampton Road and unless the Town Engineer is Moses and can move the Dead Sea out of the way, they are going to get water there. You have to look at the two parts of it. He does that when the Superintendent comes here, there are things she is getting told she is responsible for that she probably doesn't know anything about. This comes to him as a group and that is how he is going to vote on it, that is his opinion.
- Councilman Palladino says he understands what he is saying and some of the Council members mentioned this when discussing the Board of Education, where is the accountability? When they give this money and then ask for something and don't get it. He thinks the 911 dispatch center is a great thing its probably something they should have done 10 years ago, however, when a Police and Fire Chief can come to the Town Council and say they are spending \$60,000 in overtime and they are going to save money by doing this but then what we are doing costs \$1.2 million, it's not a savings it never was and it should have been brought to them what it is going to cost. For the Police Chief to say he was involved in two other Departments where they had that so he is well aware of it but then he doesn't have the answers to their questions. He thinks they were not up to snuff on this particular situation and now we are going to reward them with another raise. We gave them 2.5% last year and now we are going to say okay you buffaloeed us and didn't save the tax payers, you cost them money, but it's okay we will give a raise. There needs to be accountability, as Councilman Parente said to the Superintendent, we give them all this money and they pay all these administrators but the test scores are in the toilet; where is the accountability. We say we are going to lump these people together, maybe our Finance Director did a great job, but some of these other people didn't.
- Councilman Santino says in all fairness to the Police Chief, when he saw the overtime he freaked out about it and went to him. When they did the negotiations with this Union, they negotiated 12-hour shifts; every one of them is entitled to overtime because the Town negotiated 12-hour shifts with these people. There is nothing we can do about that, why they negotiated 12-hour shifts and not 8-hour shifts he has no idea, but that explains why we are paying that much money.
- Councilman DePalma says they should be leading by example; the people going out on the calls haven't had a contract since 2011 and haven't had a raise. He understands what Councilman Palladino is saying about the 911-dispatch. They gave them a raise last year, now another 2.5% this year. He's not saying they don't do their job but rank in file, those guys are out there every day and haven't had a raise in 5 years, he is saying the raise should come in conjunction now with the men and women.

- Chairman Parlato says they are still in negotiations, which are part of the collective bargaining process. He doesn't think the Council should say because they didn't settle the contract they are not going to get this. When they come to an agreement, they will be adjusted.
- Attorney Zullo advises, under the Charter, that he does have a relation to someone who holds a job on this list, not that he believes it influences his opinion how to vote on it, but under the Charter he does have to advise them of that for the record.
- Councilwoman Lettieri-Morales says she agrees with Councilman McKay because the Police Chief has done all this stuff for the DOJ, she did not like the old Chief of Police, she thinks this Chief came in did what he had to do and has turned the image around and has done a great job. Are we able to vote on if we want to vote on these individually or do we just go by what the Chairman says?
- Chairman Parlato says it is the Council's prerogative to vote on them individually, vote your conscience.
- Councilman Anania asks if this total change will affect the bottom line of the budget.
- Mr. Rizza says yes and we have the money for it.
- Councilwoman Lettieri-Morales asks if this was in the original \$90,000,000, Mr. Rizza says no.

Councilwoman Lettieri-Morales makes a motion to vote on these individually.

Councilman DePalma seconds the motion.

Roll call vote: 4 in favor- 7 oppose (Parente, McKay, Parlato, Esposito, Richardson, Spaduzzi, Anania- none abstain. Motion fails.

- Councilman Palladino says as a point of order, Mr. Parente should not vote on this because he is on this list. Should he abstain from voting?
- Attorney Zullo says that was a procedure motion, the procedural aspect of it is okay, ironically he might have been doing himself an injustice by putting himself into a group now but for the motion of the actual approval whether as a group or individually, he would have to abstain from that one.
- Chairman Parlato says they are going to vote on it as a group.
- Mr. Rizza says there were discussions and a number of individuals spoke for the Library. In discussion that he heard, there was talk about giving something to the Library, they requested additional money for medical benefits so he listed it and the dollar amount can be flexible.
- Councilman Santino asks if it is \$6,500 they are requesting?
- Councilman McKay says let's go back to their paper; they are looking for an increase of \$1,900 from what he is seeing.
- Mr. Rizza says the 01-551-0901 is called health reimbursement account, which is really a medical benefit account. For the current year they were appropriated \$120,193 and they have expended \$90,145 as of the end of March. They requested \$136,231 and then amended that another \$14,000 and the Mayor's recommendation was \$130,457. Basically, they are at \$120,000, the Mayor recommended \$130,000 and they had asked for \$136,000 and amended that to

roughly \$150,000. His own point of view since he is part of the negotiating team is that he has a problem with the cost share because it is extremely low. He doesn't look forward to sitting down with the other unions and they put this number in his face. Or with the Board of Education where there are administrators and teachers that are up over 17%. We are beating up everybody else to try and get as much money as they can in the cost share to offset the expense, as far as he can see the Library has not increased their cost share to their individuals and they are non-unionized. Last year they were at 7% so personally, financially, he thinks it is unfair. Why should Police, Fire, Public Works or Clerical people, Teachers, Paraprofessionals, etc. pay more? They are not all making over \$100,000, clerks that have been in his office for 20 years just started making \$45,000 a year. The medical benefits aren't based on how much money you make; it is the service you are paying for to go to the doctor, be hospitalized, prescriptions, etc. He has a discussion earlier about some tradesmen who are paying \$10/hour for medical benefits and they are making \$40/hour.

- Councilman McKay says that is what he wanted to look for when he was asked, he wanted to know the percentage. A few years ago they were paying \$0. He knows his recommendation is on the sheet for \$14,000,
- Mr. Rizza says no, that is what they asked for. He was careful not to recommend, he will let the Council recommend.
- Councilwoman Esposito asks if their plan includes their medications also.
- Mr. Rizza says yes it includes them.
- Councilman DePalma recommends adding the \$1,916 for the medical.
- Councilman Palladino says he has no problem giving them money but as the Finance Director stated, he has a problem with Police and Fire who work 24/7 in the middle of the night, weekends, holidays, etc. paying more for their health care than people who work Monday-Friday until the sun goes down. They are non-union so can this be adjusted at any time or does it have to be at a certain time?
- Chairman Parlato says they are not Town employees.
- Mr. Rizza says they are not Town employees so we have no say.
- Councilman Palladino says so we can't adjust them, who is it up to?
- Mr. Rizza says the Library's Board of Directors. They decide what they would pay.
- Councilman Parente says this 7% is an injustice to the Town; it puts Paul in a very tough position with the other unions. In this day and age that is unfound and it is not realistic anymore. He respectfully wishes they would get away from their tunnel vision of just asking for money and not looking for ways to fund things themselves. If the animal shelter is able to fundraise \$50,000 in two years they can do it too. There are resources available to them so they don't have to come back year after year asking this Board for more money. He doesn't recommend an increase; he thinks they should increase the 7% to a minimum of 10% if not 15%.
- Councilman Richardson seeks clarification, the Mayor's recommendation is \$130,000 for medical and they are looking for \$144,000?

- Mr. Rizza says they are looking for \$150,000. The \$136,000 they requested plus \$14,000 more.
- Councilman Richardson says so they want \$20,000 more than the Mayor recommended. His recommendation, similar to Bob's is to go back to their employees and raise the co-pay. He would vote no.
- Councilwoman Esposito thinks the co-pay should be increased also.
- Councilman Spaduzzi says he does think they should increase the cost share but he agrees with Councilman DePalma that they should give them the \$1,900.
- Councilwoman Lettieri-Morales agrees with Councilman Parente and Councilman Richardson because they should increase their cost share. She works in a medical facility and pay so much more than this and it's not fair to the Police, Fire or Paraprofessionals. The paraprofessionals make nothing and they are important to our classrooms and they are getting killed on their insurance. This is not a dig against the library because they do great things but she thinks they should raise money, take the bull by the horn and fundraise for the money.
- Councilman Anania says basically the same as everyone else; talking about giving a 2.5% raise for these administrators he doesn't have a problem with that, the money the Library is asking for is peanuts compared to this. He doesn't have a problem giving them money but he has a problem with the copay being so low, that is unheard of in this day and age. He wouldn't have any problem giving them the money, but especially when negotiating with other unions it should kind of be standard across the board for everyone.
- Chairman Parlato asks for clarification, prior to the budget they are in now, what was the copay for the Library then?
- Mr. Rizza says a couple of years ago they were at \$0, maybe three years ago and then it moved up, he thinks it increased slightly less at the beginning of the fiscal year. But he isn't sure because we don't see it.
- Chairman Parlato says they are not Town employees they are run by their Board of Directors. He has no doubt they do a wonderful job on the Library aspect of it, but he thinks the issue is the Finance end of it. He doesn't want to put a lot of pressure on the people running the library because they work for the Board and if the Board doesn't realize that they need to come up to speed with everyone else they can't expect the Town side to keep picking it up when we are charging Town employees more. What kinds of affect is this going to have on the Library if we don't approve anything and just approve the Mayor's recommendation? Are they going to have to lay off, that is what he doesn't want to happen.
- Mr. Rizza says to be honest he can't answer the question, he doesn't know if that would be enough to increase the cost share to make up the money from the people in the plan, would they have to shop for a cheaper plan? They are part of the Anthem group and the Town doesn't see it, they don't even see their payroll. He has more information on the Board of Education.
- Chairman Parlato says the last thing he wants to see is the building closed due to budget cuts. He still wants to send the message that they can't keep helping someone along if they aren't helping themselves. He made the comment about the historical society and the dog pound and the funds that are being generated. They probably have more people that go to the Library than the dog pound, there

must be a lot more opportunity to get involved in fundraisers and grants than Owen has. They have a \$9,000 increase because someone got married.

- Councilman Santino asks about the Fire Department equipment line item, they are short \$10,500 that needs to be put in. Its account 01-334-0435 to pay for the new hose they need, the hose was already ordered.
- Mr. Rizza says it could come out of capital, since it has a useful life of more than 5 years. He says they are going to get capital next month.
- Chairman Parlato says the Fire Chief put in for a new vehicle, fully equipped and he didn't get it. But, he didn't put in for hoses and what happened is when they tested for hoses, they were no good and they had to get a truck that is offline being repaired and take the 5ft. hoses from there and put it on the truck that is online. When that truck is repaired and comes back, they are short hoses. When he was here he didn't mention it.
- Councilman Santino says this is important they are talking about public safety. He doesn't think they did the testing before they came before them.
- Chairman Parlato says they were testing hoses on North High Street so that may be when they found out. But they don't have anything in their reserve. What if they are on a fire and blow a hose?
- Councilman McKay asks if they need it this year or after July 1.
- Councilman Santino says they need it ASAP they don't have one.
- Chairman Parlato says if it comes out of capital do they do it tonight?
- Mr. Rizza says they budget became the priority, he has capital 90% done and it has to go to the Board of Finance first then to the Council. Even the budget won't be available to them until July 1. It would be a nip and tuck race going to the bonding because after the vote there is a 30-day wait period.
- Chairman Parlato says he has no doubt that if the Fire Chief gets into a critical situation, hopefully Branford, New Haven or someone would be able to give it to him until he gets the appropriation to go out and buy it.
- Mr. Rizza says he thinks there is another option, if it was an absolute emergency and they had to go out and get the hoses he would imagine within the Fire Department budget they could transfer money and take care of it. Or, they could always move from contingency if it was an absolute emergency, but someone has to say something. There is always contingency money to use.
- Mr. Rizza says the only thing there may have been discussion about that he didn't write down was something about recreation the 661 account. He doesn't know if there was anyone with feelings or thoughts.
- Chairman Parlato says because nobody from recreation showed up before the Council which the Council is not very pleased with, what they normally do is all of the athletic facilities that get a stipend and are using Town facilities, they have to have proper liability insurance. If they are a non-profit they have to be IRS compliant. They have to give documentation that they have that and those things have never been presented to them. The swim club is not a 501c3 non-profit; it is an LLC a limited liability corporation. He thinks we have a problem with that, we give them a \$7,500 stipend and he thinks there should be Council discussion on that.

- Councilman McKay says they were going to talk about it and nobody showed up from the recreation department.
- Chairman Parlato says Mr. Pane didn't show up, he sent a representative and when asked why he didn't show up he said nobody sent him a letter. He checked with Paul and he did send Paul a letter that he wasn't going to be able to come.
- Councilman McKay says the swim club is a profit organization, they are supposed to represent the Town yet they have outside people in it and are taking \$7,500 of the taxpayer's money to supplement operational expenses.
- Councilman Santino says youth hockey pays \$250/hour for ice time, which is more than any of the other ones yet they get less of a stipend than Biddy Basketball, which gives nothing and uses our facilities. He would like to bump youth hockey from \$9,000 to \$10,000 and make them even with Biddy Basketball because they get a \$10,000 stipend.
- Chairman Parlato says he thinks they had a discussion on fees and he doesn't think they have the authority to change the fees. As far as ice times and fees that is the power of the athletic commission but the stipend we do.
- Councilman Palladino says this is his pet peeve and he has done a lot of research on it. The East Haven swim club, there is no such thing; it is called East Haven Aquatics, LLC. It is a private corporation, a for profit corporation. It is not like every one of the other organizations they give a stipend to which is non-profit with volunteer coaches and everything else. The person who runs it wrote a nasty letter saying they didn't know what they were talking about because he has this special pool fund where he puts "thousands and thousands of dollars in". Mr. Rizza gave him the sheet which shows from 2011-2015/2016 the total put in there by that organization was \$5,975, of which almost \$2,000 was spent on the pool so it is a grand total of \$3,982.72; he guesses that is thousands and thousands of dollars to them, considering we give them thousands and thousands of dollars every year. The park/rec commission for reasons he does not understand waived the fee of the swimming pool. If anyone else wanted to use it, if he wanted to rent it for 2 hours it would cost him \$150.00. He uses approximately 12-14 hours per week for nothing and then we give him \$7,500 and he charges all of these people to have the swim club. Why don't we take the \$7,500 and teach the children of East Haven, a shoreline community, to learn how to swim for free. Why don't we do that instead of having them pay \$200-\$400 or whatever to go learn how to swim? What do we have a recreation department for? The hours needed for that can be taken from the hours being given away, make it a true non-profit like every other thing under recreation.
- Councilman Parente says his opinion is that the pool should be part of the recreation department; it should be run as part of the recreation department. Any employees paid out of it should be paid from any of the secretaries or people being paid from the rink. Anything from 200 Tyler Street should go into a particular fund as all the monies are collected from other establishments. There was a concern that they wanted to give the program back to Lou to run as part of the recreation department and he didn't want to be any part of it. Lou is being paid to look over this as a Recreation Director to look over the facilities of the Town including the fields, summer camp, the ice rink and the pool; he should do his job and oversee the pool. He is paid \$100,000 to do this. Any income to the

recreation Department for the pool should go to the department rather than a third party and there will be no more need for the stipend because it is part of the recreation department. Does this Board have the authority to make it part of recreation?

- Councilman Santino says it is simple they just stop funding it.
- Attorney Zullo says the position of head of recreation is a union position and any modification to the job description or duties, technically the administration should bargain the impact. The Chairman is correct in that respect, they have the authority to defund the swim club stipend, which would essentially have that effect, that person may not want to operate without it.
- Chairman Parlato says they control their purse string, which is their responsibility. Whether they are going to make their point by taking away their stipend that is what they will vote on.
- Councilman Richardson says he agrees with the comments and if it is an LLC, not a non-profit we should not be paying a stipend.
- Councilwoman Esposito says she agrees with Councilman Palladino, the whole thing with the pool, something is not kosher. She was on the subcommittee and stopped attending because all they do is bash the Mayor. He should have been here to also explain about the summer camp because she believes it is around \$300, there are a lot of kids in East Haven who can't afford that and can't afford to go.
- Chairman Parlato says he thinks someone broke it down on an hourly basis and it turned out to be about \$1/hour and compared to other facilities it is one of the cheapest ones around. Looking at the hours they can go, they have an early and a late timeslot.
- Councilman Spaduzzi says he would like to see them both privatized if anything.
- Councilwoman Letteri-Morales says she agrees with what everyone is saying about the stipend, does it affect the kids in any way taking the stipend? She agrees with Councilwoman Esposito that the camp is expensive; when her kids were younger she paid like \$300. She knows there is before and after but they paid for that, if she was one minute late they started running the clock and charging. There are a lot of families that can't afford it; she has a lot of friends that ask if there is something in the Town that can help put these kids in the program.
- Chairman Parlato says he is not aware if there is something for if they have two children or a certain income level; we don't have that information at this time.
- Councilwoman Letteri-Morales said shame on him for not showing up, she doesn't care if he did or didn't write a letter. It is a small Town and he knew he had to be here. It's his department, he is getting paid and he should be here.
- Councilman Anania asks why there is no line item in the recreation budget for maintenance for the ball fields, lighting at the park, etc. They do get revenue.
- Councilman Parente says it comes out of public works.
- Mr. Rizza says some time in the past prior to him, it seems like someone thought it would be a good idea to put the bulk of the repair/maintenance of fields, cutting, etc. under public services. To a degree it made sense, which is why they don't see in any department that has its own building or even Town Hall, none of the

departments have any outside maintenance. It is all done through the public services department; it centralizes it into one place rather than say recreation having maintenance money. This would give the opportunity to transfer it somewhere else. This is one of the things they will see in capital, he is going to put in building repair/maintenance because they are spending a lot of money especially in the winter, even in a mild winter like this one we spent more this year than last year repairing furnaces. It is going to have to be reoccurring money, if they put it into the general fund and they don't use it in that year it lapses. On the other hand, bond funding is available to be expended over the course of, at the maximum, 5 years. If they put \$100,000 and only spend \$50,000 in the first year, the balance could roll into the next. This is a way to not have it expire like the general fund would or maybe spend it in a way where they are not just spending it in order to spend it all out.

- Councilman Santino asks if there is anything on the revenue side that shows what the camp brings in.
- Mr. Rizza says it's under recreation fees, last year it was almost \$87,000 that the summer camp brought in.
- Councilman Santino says the parks/rec set the rate for summer camp?
- Mr. Rizza says yes, the board does.
- Councilman Santino says he thinks maybe the Council should send them a letter and maybe work on getting the rates lower.
- Chairman Parlato says don't forget the people they hire to run it have to be paid minimum wage and there are expenses.
- Councilman Santino says maybe Paul can look into what the profit of the camp is after the expenses, if it balances out for them.
- Councilman Parente says that is also looked at as revenue in their budget as part of the recreation fees.
- Mr. Rizza says yes that amount is their revenue for all fees, not just camp.
- Chairman Parlato says he doesn't know if the Council is left in the dark intentionally or what but they give out all these stipends to these groups that he thinks are terrific, but how many people in these groups are from East Haven, how many people from out of Town are in them? We don't have the authority over who benefits this; if they don't have enough kids for a team do they go out of town to get some? The control is non-existent with these organizations and the money comes from the taxpayers and he thinks the people involved in it should be rewarded, but they should have some sort of a business plan for all of them. They should all have to follow the same rules and submit the same documentation.
- Councilman Santino asks about the girl's swim team, do they contribute to us for using the pool? They gave it back to us because they didn't need the facility anymore yet they have a girls' team and the upkeep is costing us. The Board of Education doesn't kick anything back for that?
- Mr. Rizza says he is not sure he would have to check.
- Councilman Anania says a lot of the organizations did open up to outside of Town because the enrollment was down so rather than seeing the program close

up they opened it to children out of Town. To his knowledge you don't get many, he thinks hockey may have the most.

- Chairman Parlato says the Council should be aware of it because if someone asks them, the taxpayers are paying for it and out of town kids are using the ice and such.
- Councilman Spaduzzi says the money from the stipend being given to them should go to the Town residents.
- Chairman Parlato says we don't know what the balance is, to go in this year and take funds away, he doesn't know what kind of affect it will have. The Council will have to be diligent with all of these groups; they should get documentation. They don't want to tell them what to do but they want to know what they are doing and where the dollars are going and how successful the program is. They should make up a business plan because monies are getting scarce.
- Councilman Santino says the pool, which we all said is private, do they have to show an insurance certificate, have they submitted one to the Town?
- Attorney Zullo says the Town's facilities use agreement requires them to provide proof of insurance, he is not aware if he has one. If he submitted one it would be in the Finance office.
- Mr. Rizza says he's not sure, he doesn't personally maintain them his secretary or the staff usually does.
- Councilman Parente says Lou Pane indicated that this person did provide a certificate of insurance through his LLC.
- Councilwoman Lettieri-Morales asks if they re-arranged the money for Chris Soto, for the painting/remodeling for zoning.
- Mr. Rizza says they put it in capital; he was down there today. They will see the money for it; they will get to vote on it.
- Councilwoman Lettieri-Morales says another thing is when Jan Lougal came before them for the ice machine for the Senior Center.
- Mr. Rizza says he is already looking for that money, he thinks he is going to get something a little better than the \$1,000 one.
- Attorney Zullo says it looks like they have 5 items, and he recommends that they vote on each of the 5 separately.

### **Amendment #1**

Councilman McKay makes a motion to make an amendment for the utilities for school buildings being turned back over to the Town to be increased by \$15,000 for electricity, \$15,000 for heat and \$10,000 for water at the recommendation of the Finance Director. Councilman Palladino seconds the motion.

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

### **Amendment #2**

Councilman Spaduzzi makes a motion to increase the Library's funding by \$1,916 for medical.

Councilman Depalma seconds the motion.

Roll call vote: 8 in favor- 3 oppose (Parente, Richardson and Anania) – none abstain.  
Motion carries.

### **Amendment #3**

Councilman Palladino makes a motion to instruct the Finance Director to transfer \$3,000 from part time wages to full time wages in the registrar of voter's budget.

Councilman Santino seconds the motion.

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

### **Amendment #4**

#### Salary Increase Non Union Employees

| Dept | Position           | Current    | 2.50%    | New Rate   |
|------|--------------------|------------|----------|------------|
|      |                    | \$         | \$       | \$         |
| 103  | Exec. Admin. Ass't | 47,663.00  | 1,191.58 | 48,854.58  |
|      |                    | \$         | \$       | \$         |
| 104  | Finance Dir.       | 92,929.00  | 2,323.23 | 95,252.23  |
|      |                    | \$         | \$       | \$         |
| 120  | Dir. Adm.Mgt.      | 82,000.00  | 2,050.00 | 84,050.00  |
|      |                    | \$         | \$       | \$         |
| 120  | Asst. Director     | 82,000.00  | 2,050.00 | 84,050.00  |
|      |                    | \$         | \$       | \$         |
| 120  | Admin. Asst.       | 43,050.00  | 1,076.25 | 44,126.25  |
|      |                    | \$         | \$       | \$         |
| 223  | Town Engineer      | 89,688.00  | 2,242.20 | 91,930.20  |
|      |                    | \$         | \$       | \$         |
| 224  | Supt. Operations   | 76,875.00  | 1,921.88 | 78,796.88  |
|      |                    | \$         | \$       | \$         |
| 332  | Police Chief       | 103,525.00 | 2,588.13 | 106,113.13 |
|      |                    | \$         | \$       | \$         |
| 332  | Deputy Chief       | 89,739.00  | 2,243.48 | 91,982.48  |
|      |                    | \$         | \$       | \$         |
| 334  | Fire Chief         | 103,525.00 | 2,588.13 | 106,113.13 |
|      |                    | \$         | \$       | \$         |
| 334  | Asst. Chief        | 89,739.00  | 2,243.48 | 91,982.48  |

Councilman Mckay makes a motion to approve the salary increases of non-union employees as listed.

Councilman Richardson seconds the motion.

Roll call vote: 9 in favor-one oppose (Palladino)-1 abstention (Parente). Motion carries.

### **Amendment #5**

Councilman Santino makes a motion to increase the 0811 account for youth hockey from \$9,000 to \$10,000.

Councilman Palladino seconds the motion.

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

### **Amendment #6**

Councilman Palladino makes a motion to reduce the 0810 account for the East Haven Swim Club from \$7,500 to \$0.

Councilman Santino seconds the motion.

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

- Chairman Parlato explains that this has been an unusual budget and he appreciates the new members getting involved and he appreciates their input. This is the 21<sup>st</sup> time he has said it, this is Paul Rizza's budget, and the Council applauds him.
- Mr. Rizza thanks the Council for sitting with him all of these times and thanks them for being so helpful. In his 40 years of doing this job, this is probably the second worst budget he has ever done and it is not over yet. When they come Tuesday night to vote, he will clear up and change the summary page of expenditures, the revenue pages and hopefully we will get them out to them tomorrow some time electronically. As far as what is going on, on the State level, he thinks they finish either on the 3<sup>rd</sup> or the 4<sup>th</sup>. If the budget with the State changes significantly they may be coming back because they may need to re-open because if they are going to slash away \$700,000-\$900,000, we can't make that up because when we start looking at the breakdown we can't afford this. On the Town side they have debt service of about \$4.5 million that they have to pay and a bunch of people who work for them which have to be paid also. He thinks everyone worked hard on it, he thinks he took the most input from the Council on this budget and they may have to keep thinking outside of the box until the State's economy gets better.
- Chairman Anania says rock bottom if they do a job on us, we cannot take anything back from the Board of Education except the \$250,000, which Mr. Rizza says yes.
- Councilwoman Lettieri-Morales said she did some research on what is going on and she spoke with our State Representative who said the legislators are not in favor of the Governor's plan and it is not final. She thinks they should identify the areas in Town that they need finance for and see if there is grant money available.
- Mr. Rizza says grant money on the Town side is very scarce, on the Board side, in the booklet education had they had a page where they list the grants they have. A lot of that is very specific as to what is done with the money.
- Councilwoman Letteri-Morales says she asked the State rep what we can get from the State on the Town side, he said there is stuff available but they have to identify the areas. She asked him for a list of what is available. In the last 5 years we have seen a \$2,000,000 increase from the State and without that the mill rate would be like 43.

**Item #5**

Hearing Committee report to the full Town Council to recommend action on Public Hearing #1.

Councilman Santino makes a motion.

Councilman Anania seconds the motion.

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

**Item #6**

Adjournment of Hearing Committee.

Councilman Santino makes a motion.

Councilman McKay seconds the motion.

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

Meeting is adjourned at 9:19PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danelle Feeley, Clerk, East Haven Legislative Town Council