

Town of East Haven, CT
Board of Finance –Minutes
Regular Meeting – January 16, 2013

The East Haven Board of Finance held its Regular Meeting on Wednesday January 16, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. in the Mario Giaimo, Joseph Vitale Meeting Room on the lower level of East Haven Town Hall, 250 Main Street, East Haven, CT 06512

1. Roll Call

Board of Finance Chairman - Mr. Ralph Vitale called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the following Board of Finance members in attendance; Ms. Marlene Asid, Ms. Beth Purcell, Ms. Noreen Clough, Mr. Salvatore Maltese and Mr. Richard DePalma. Also present were the Director of Finance - Mr. Paul Rizza, Town Attorney - Mr. Joseph Zullo Jr, Attorney Mr. Joseph Zullo Sr., Chief of Police- Mr. Brent Larrabee, and Lieutenant - Mr. Edward Lennon, Attorney Mr. Lawrence Sqrignari, and Town Clerk - Ms. Stacy Piccirillo, Superintendent of Public Services - Mr. Robert Parente.

2. Read and Approve Minutes from Special Meeting held November 5, 2012 & January 2, 2013

Mrs. Noreen Clough makes a motion to accept the minutes from November 5, 2012 & January 2, 2013. Ms. Marlene Asid seconds. All in Favor – Motion Carries

3. Correspondence Received

None

4. Correspondence Sent

None

5. Old Business

Ms. Noreen Clough asks Mr. Paul Rizza regarding when they will be seeing the budget schedule for the new year? Mr. Rizza states probably in 2 weeks. I will send you a schedule draft for review. Ms. Beth Purcell asks Mr. Paul Rizza regarding the December report (year to date) the fire department has \$350,000 for water and nothing has been incurred yet? Mr. Rizza states that you will probably see that in January report.

6. New Business

None

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7. Public Comment

Mr. Rizza states that there is an add item for Public Services and is requesting to add item the agenda. Ms. Noreen Clough makes a motion to add Public Services item to the agenda. Ms. Beth Purcell seconds. – All in Favor – Motion Carries.

7a. Public Services

To:	01-224-0580	Road Maintenance	\$5,000.00
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From:	01-224-0644	Rental of Equipment	\$5,000.00
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Needed for road patching due to weather.

Ms. Noreen Clough makes a motion to discuss, Ms. Beth Purcell seconds. Mr. Richard DePalma asks Mr. Robert Parente are we patching once winter is over we are not patching now are we? Mr. Robert Parente states that there are some areas that are in dire need and are considered hazards such as pot holes, people tripping, etc. A lot of this payment goes back to hurricane sandy and whatever is in dire need to get patched. The plants are closed for at least another month and a half so we cannot do anything hot patching or concrete at this time – we have a complete list of road work including sidewalks and curbing that will start as soon as the weather breaks come March/April but we are in need this \$5,000 for some immediate patching until then.

Roll Call Vote – All in Favor – Motion Carries.

8. Police Department

To:	01-332-0190	Overtime Wages	\$75,000.00
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From:	01-332-0110	Regular Salaries	\$75,000.00
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Needed for shortage in overtime account. – Refer to Town Council

Ms. Noreen Clough makes a motion to Refer to the Town Council. Mr. Richard DePalma seconds. Discussion. Ms. Noreen Clough states we are down to 36 now you are asking for 75 and it is coming out of your regular salaries, what are you averaging a month? Chief Larrabee states heMr. Richard DePalma states this isn't going to go too far...Chief Larrabee states he does not know how far that will go we've done \$500k already in the first 6 mo. Then we are averaging 85 – 90k – some of that number is from Super storm Sandy and the murder that was

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probably 100 plus right there maybe a little bit more from the investigation from the bank robbery those three put that number minus a 100k a lot of it is supervisory overtime we have one that just went on long term injury/disability. I have worked it out with Paul and Ed that we have held off hiring some folks because we wanted to use some unused salary to offset some healthy overtime. Feb. 7th is the supervisor test so by mid-February we will get the results of that and by March we will be able to promote 4 new sergeants that will cut back our o/t. We still have 4 people in training one just got out of the academy he is in field training so he has 2 weeks or more left on that, and we have 2 in the academy half way through and one just started. We will see them in the fall and that will help – in the short term I do not see any relief, hopefully in the next fiscal year there will be enough people to offset that. I think 48 on the rolls of that we have two on long term disability and one on admin. Leave so we are working with about 45 people. I say this to everyone I agonize over this money that is being spent I know it's always been a problem in public service and I do not see a short term solution on it. We have held off paying the South Central bill that is about \$16,000. Mr. Richard DePalma asks about FEMA and where are we on that? Mr. Rizza states he is still compiling some number and he just paid a bill last Friday for the dumpsters. No ball park as of yet. Those dumpster payments were in two checks to about \$45,000. Chief Larrabee also states that we also have recertification for a lot of officers this year in May and we will have numbers there also that will be higher than anticipated. Roll Call Vote – All In Favor – Motion Carries to Refer to the Town Council.

9. Police Department

To:	01-885-0694	Other Contractual Services - DOJ	\$200,000.00
From:	01-885-0689	Contingency Account	\$200,000.00

Funds needed for compliance expenses regarding the Department of Justice. – Refer to Town Council.

Ms. Noreen Clough makes a motion to Refer to the Town Council. Ms. Beth Purcell seconds. Discussion.

Ms. Noreen Clough asks if they have come up with a person for a compliance expert. Atty. Sqrignari states not as of yet. We had a lengthy discussion with the Dept. of Justice today along with the Chief, Lt. Lennon and reps from the Dept. of Justice. We have narrowed the pool somewhat to 4 possible candidates. I sent them an email telling them that they are still being considered and asking them for more information and an overview of costs. After we receive those proposals we can negotiate something with one of them, I cannot give to many details in open session but I can in an executive session I can tell you the process has been going relatively well with the DOJ – when they got back to us with our candidates they decided to keep two in the mix moving forward and proposed 4 candidates of their own. We spent quite a bit of time investigating the background of those individuals. The Chief was of great assistance in that

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process. I interviewed each candidate extensively and decided to move forward with 2 of the 4 they proposed and as a result of that I advised justice today that we now have 4 people in the mix for the compliance expert. The town stand point feels that this is the single most important part of the agreement component to get the right individual for the compliance expert. We need some who is detail oriented and can work well with both the town and the DOJ. The agreement and the judge did enter the order as Dec. 21 which mean the clock is ticking which is one of the reasons we are here requesting the transfer and even though we do not have the joint compliance expert in place we are not relived of any obligations of commencing the process of implementing the provisions of the agreement including the early training that needs to be done and we've determined that in order to make sure things move forward correctly and some of the equipment purchases that need to happen should be done sooner than later so the equipment can be used as part of the training moving forward. Lt. Lennon has spent a lot time putting a plan together for the implementation of the agreement he has a very aggressive plan to train every member of the department over the course of 9 sessions spread out over 3 -4 days. We are moving forward on that process. The short-term (date agreement was implemented to the end of this fiscal year) the best estimate we came up with minus the joint compliance expert and policy re-writes so those number can change but as of right now we have to comply with the 60 day - certain training done by Feb. 21st – instructor development training – the Tasers, the electronic control weapons, there are estimates of 65 – 85 k depending on which unit we will secure – that if off a state bid, everything we are doing is we are either looking at existing state bids or we will bid it unless it's the joint compliance experts which will be done by negotiations. Those components at this point will get us to the end of the current fiscal year; we are still developing a long term budget as part of the budget process. We will then be in a position to give more concrete numbers and will be able to give more accurate estimates going forward. The time limits on the agreement are not going to give us the time to go through the process of BOF, then to Town Council then to train for each component– so we are at this stage comfortable with this number to get us through the fiscal year that is why this number is where it is. That is a rough overview of what is going on with all of this the last couple of months. Ms. Noreen Clough asks how are you with making the deadlines so far. Chief Larrabee states that we have not had to meet any yet – we are in the process of doing the training sessions in certain fields – in post field they have to train to be a trainer then train so we have seen interest from some in that area. We have several industry experts to give us a price to do our policies and procedures manual. This is so in depth and unless you have been though if from start to finish this is so in-depth and broad and difficult and would like a number of officials to sit in on this for a learning process. In addition to other trainings on this. Ms. Marlene Asid asks with all the training will this contribute to overtime as well. Chief Larrabee state yes that is going to be a separate issue we have to make sure we back it out of the DOJ issue vs. the town side piece that adds a charge to the number and we've already started that process. For instance we price the Tasers and were notified that the Tasers we wanted are being discontinued and the price bumped up to an additional \$16,000 – so we do not know if we are going to do those or not. So these are some of the things we are facing moving forward.

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Atty. Sqrignari states he wants to have the joint compliance person in place because if we move forward with training and the compliance person comes in and says well I don't like that training that would not be good.

Ms. Beth Purcell asks so is this \$200,000 part of that is expected to cover a portion of the salary of the compliance officer? Atty. Sqrignari states yes I would expect it to through June 30th with a little bit of luck.

Roll Call Vote – All In Favor – Motion Carried

10. **Adjournment**

Mr. Vitale made a motion to adjourn at 7:32 p.m. Mr. DePalma seconded. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Mrs. Temple Smith
Board of Finance Clerk