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**TOWN OF EAST HAVEN
BOARD OF FINANCE**

**MINUTES FOR REGULAR BOF MEETING ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 21,
2021, 7:00 P.M.**

Noreen Clough read into the record:

**TO THE RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS OF THE TOWN OF EAST HAVEN
AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:**

Due to Governor Ned Lamont's March 10, 2020 declaration of a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency and his subsequently issued Executive Orders 7B and 7D: and, due to the spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 in the State of Connecticut including New Haven County, in-person public access to this meeting will not be permitted. **This will be a 100% electronic meeting.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85880560472?pwd=QjcrMkZZWk1qaFlwdnc2WGJhOUUpJdz09>

Meeting ID: 858 8056 0472

Passcode: 12345

**If you do not have internet access, you can DIAL IN using your phone:
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)**

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The East Haven Board of Finance held a Regular Meeting on April 21, 2021, which commenced at 7:00 P.M. via ZOOM, in order to transact the following:

I. Roll Call

Mayor Carfora, Rich DePalma, Noreen Clough, Beth Purcell, Rich Esposito and Al Purzycki were present. Ralph Vitale was absent. Jim Keeley, Finance Director was also present.

II. Read and Approve Regular Meeting Minutes from Special Meeting on March 23, 2021.

Rich DePalma made a motion to approve Special Meeting Minutes from March 23, 2021 with correction to add a proper identifier under Public Comment. The request was to add the full first and last name: Lorena Venegas. Beth Purcell seconds

All in favor, motion carried.

III. Old Business

None

IV. New Business

Noreen asked Jim for the monthly reports. Jim Keeley stated he was going to send and include the revenue as well.

Mayor Carfora thanked everyone for approving the budget with a bipartisan vote. He thanked Noreen Clough, as she is not seeking re-election and is resigning after 18 years. He appreciates all she has done for the Town.

V. Public Comment

Lorena Venegas spoke and thanked the board. She is thrilled that they were able to support Owen's vehicle request and also the adjustment at the assessor's office. Lorena Venegas made a note regarding DC Moore purchasing sales contract. At this point we are 9 months since the 8/2020 meeting held here, where there was an interchange of the old business discussed of DC Moore purchasing sales contract. Since then, we have done some FOI requests, but we have quite received the documentation that we requested. So, I am going to re do that but we need help, including the finance department. I understand from Jim Keeley we are still using the old financial system where we can't run things by vendor by department and we have not changed to Munis yet. Anything that the Board can do to support the change over, I think it would strengthen our operating procedures in town. I appreciate all you do.

VI. Community Services

To: 01-880-0893 July 4th Celebration \$10,000.00

From: 01-880-0823 Adult Day Care \$10,000.00

Noreen Clough made a motion to discuss, Beth Purcell seconds.

Discussion:

Rich DePalma asked if the town was solely putting on this celebration. Michelle Benivegna stated the Veterans have decided not to participate this year which we found out 2 weeks ago. This has set back the fundraising efforts for this celebration. As of right now we will be doing the event solely ourselves. We are reaching out to another organization to support us more with more volunteering for the night of event but the fundraising efforts will be spearheaded by the Town, so having these extra funds will help make up the shortfall for the event taking place this year. Noreen asked how much it would cost in total. Michelle stated it was \$25,000.00 for the fireworks which is a 23 minute show, \$10,00.00 for the barge and \$8,000.00 to \$10,000.00 for everything else, entertainment the bands and everything. With this transfer we would still need to fund raise about \$10-15,000.00. Rich DePalma asked if there will be restrictions. Michelle stated that as the governor announced starting May 1, 2021 and additional restrictions being restricted on May 19, 2021, there are no capacities for outside venues. There will be signage reminding people of social distancing and wearing masks if masks are still mandatory. We will be doing pretty much how we have done all the concerts that we were successful with last summer. People can come at their own risk. We will provide the best environment that we can, but it is up to everyone to make their own choice. The numbers in East Haven for vaccinations and the fact that we are having a significant amount of extra vaccines in clinics that are being held, with 2 months from now people who want to be vaccinated can be vaccinated.

Rich DePalma stated it will be a lot tougher than the concerts on the green. Michelle stated it is a very different event and the world is very different than it was last summer. A lot of Towns have announced their summer activities. The firework's company cannot keep up with the bookings.

Roll call, all in favor, motion carried.

VII. Public Works

To: 01-224-0480 Ground Maintenance
Equipment \$ 24,900.00

From: 01-661-0118 Seasonal Wages

\$ 24,900.00

Noreen Clough made a motion to discuss, Al Purzycki seconds

Discussion:

Charlie Coyle stated that we are using this money to upgrade a lot of our park areas and to fix what is broken and update a lot of newer stuff.

Noreen stated that people are happy that the parks are being upgraded and fenced.

Roll call, all in favor, motion carried.

VIII. An ordinance making appropriations for various public improvements aggregating \$995,134 for the 2021-2022 Capital Budget and authorizing the issuance of \$995,134 Bonds of the town to meet said appropriations and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose. Refer to Town Council.

Noreen made a motion to discuss for bonding and refer to Town Council, Beth Purcell seconds.

Discussion:

Noreen asked if this includes all the fees or the actual department request. This is just a cost of what they have asked for. Jim Keeley stated the plan right now is to not borrow it immediately. We are looking good financially for the current year. We feel very good about the budget for next year and we are trying to postpone bonding and at the same time keep an eye on the market and when we do do it, you don't want to wait until the interest rates start going up before we do it. Until we need the money, it does not make a lot of sense to start paying interest.

Rich DePalma asked if the Mayor would like to make any comments of the improvements that this bonding will enhance to our Town. The Mayor stated we oversaw this whole capital request and I told Jim what we were shooting for so I am very happy with this capital. Like Jim stated we are going to hold off on actually going on and getting the money until we need it.

Al asked what the last bond we had issued, the amount? Jim Keeley/Mayor Carfora stated it was 2.7 million. Al stated we are going from 2.7 million down to less than one million so that is good. I like some of things like we are expensing police cars. It makes sense. Noreen agreed. Mayor stated we are definitely not bonding for police cars. We wanted to stay at a certain limit, and Jim and I worked tirelessly through this whole process and it is a good bonding package.

Rich DePalma asked if our total debt package is about 35 or 36 million. Jim Keeley stated yes. It sounds like a lot to general public. By the bonding statute, you can bond up to 7 times to your taxable grand list and we are never going to get there, we don't ever want to get there.

Mayor stated last year it was 2.7 when we started our bonding package last year, we wanted to stay under 2 million and we got it down to where we wanted to and then a week after Jim and I got our figure we got hit with the skating rink. That pushed it up to 2.7. We had no choice so we had to go with that but this year we are doing ok.

Roll call, all in favor. Motion carried.

IX. Adjournment

Noreen Clough made a motion to adjourn at 7:18. Beth Purcell seconds.

All in favor.

Susan Mauro, Board of Finance Clerk