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**East Haven Board of Finance
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 19, 2023**

The East Haven Board of Finance held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday July 19, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. in the Senior Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, CT 06512.

1. **Roll Call**

Mayor Joseph Carfora was not present, Rich Esposito, Beth Purcell, Al Purzycki and Chris Perdo were present. Ralph Vitale was also present via telephone. Jim Keeley, Finance Director, and Attorney Michael Luzzi were also present.

2. **Read and Approve Minutes from June 21, 2023 & July 5, 2023**

Al made a motion to waive reading of the minutes and approve, Beth seconds. All in favor.

3. **Old Business**

None

4. **New Business**

Beth requested that the Agenda be given more than one day in advance. Attorney Luzzi stated that the undersigned clerk was more than ready to get the Agenda to the Board ahead of time but he was working through the executive session item and that was the cause for the delay.

Ralph asked about a bid for 126 Hunt Lane. Attorney Luzzi responded that this was a small cities grant. There is a home improvement grant from the federal government and it has to go out to bid. This particular property is for air conditioning and electrical and that is what that bid is for. The entity that we are contracted with, prior to this administration, we are going to go out to bid again, handles all the bidding whenever there is federal funding involved with these home improvement type of loans. We have about \$200,000.00 in our small cities grant. We try to help homeowners with money to upgrade their homes. Jim said it is separate from the Town General Funds. It comes from a grant, specific for small cities.

Ralph asked about airplanes and if we get taxed. Shayna Acampora, Tax Collector, stated that once a year, airplanes that are registered to the Town of East Haven are given a registration fee based on the size of the airplane. In lieu of taxes they get a registration fee. Attorney Luzzi stated they are exempt. Shayna stated they don't have many, last year they collected about less than 35 aircraft registered to the Town.

Ralph asked if the Board of Finance could find out how much of the current budget is being funded by ARPA funds. Jim asked what fiscal year. Ralph stated 23/24. We have earmarked \$225,000.00 for the general fund budget per say. Everything else was earmarked for a project. Most of it we would have done over time, the objective of using the money was trying to get rid of some of the capital projects. If you go back the last 2 or 3 years, except for year 23/24, we kept capital requests very low. Some of the projects we have done would have been bonded over time. Doing them through ARPA eliminates us going out to bond. We have spent quite a bit of money in IT which is now part of our budget. We have had 7 to 10 years worth of improvements in IT over the past few years. We are unfortunately about 25 years behind. Ralph's concern is what happens after.

Jim stated worst case scenario is ARPA funds have gotten us this far with keeping the mill rate stable, without having to raise it.

Ralph asked about the ice rink, ice skating and roller skating and if we are keeping track. Jim stated that last year we only had ice skating, roller skating just started. This is one of the things we are looking to track. It is a process and we need a system to do that. We are looking at ways to get additional revenues through the Town. Beth asked if that revenue shows up in Revenue. Jim stated yes.

5. **Public Comment**

None

6. **Employee Benefits-Referral to Town Council**

To:	01-167-0910	Retirement Fund Contribution	\$553,844.00
From:	01-885-0689	Contingency	\$150,000.00
	01-885-0255	Street & Traffic Lights	\$228,844.00
	01-167-0972	Retirement Lump Sum	\$120,000.00
	01-167-0965	Unemployment	\$ 20,000.00
	01-167-0970	Labor Negotiations	\$ 35,000.00
			\$553,844.00

Al made a motion to discuss and refer to Town Council. Beth seconds.

Danelle Feeley, Benefits Coordinator, spoke and stated the Retirement Fund Contribution is the Town's pension contribution. It is a large transfer however rates increase. They generally increase every year and they often come in after the budget process. They increased on top of what was supposed to be the estimated increase. Settlements in contracts for retro payments and that was for Fire, Public Works and Town Hall. When we have retro pay we have to pay on the pension contribution as well. Increase of Special Police Duty of \$400,000.00. Danelle stated it was good in one hand because the Town gets money, but we have to contribute on the pension as well.

Rich stated basically it is all contractual. Danelle stated yes. Jim stated the State is looking at redoing the structure to bring the rates back down.

Roll call, all in favor, motion carried.

7. **Tax Collector**

To:	01-106-0657	Data Processing	\$5,200.00
From:	01-106-0110	Regular Salaries	\$5,200.00

Al made a motion to discuss, Beth seconds.

Shayna Acampora, Tax Collector, stated we were about \$5,100.00 + short in our data processing and I am looking to transfer this to cover this cost. It is our software program QDS who we need to pay. I asked for an increase this new year for this.

Roll call, all in favor, motion carried.

8. **Registrar of Voters**

To: 01-110-0410 Office & Lab Equip. \$1,700.00

From: 01-110-0615 Printing and Binding \$1,700.00

Al made a motion to discuss, Beth seconds.

Jim stated that the only reason this is coming before the board is because they already moved \$1,200.00. I agree with their reasoning for getting this laptop. Al asked if it was repairable. Alberta stated IT stated it was not repairable.

Roll call, all in favor, motion carried.

9. **Executive Session:**

Upon 2/3 vote, convene into executive session per C.G.S. § 1-200(6) the status of, and possible action pertaining to pending litigation regarding One Barberry Real Estate Holding, LLC, et al. v. Joseph Maturo, et al. (Case No. 3:17-cv-00985-KAD); and, Town of East Haven et al v. Allied World Insurance Company, Allied World National Assurance, and Starr Indemnity and Liability Company (Case No. 3:17-cv-01004).

Upon 2/3 vote, convene into executive session pursuant to C.G.S. §§ 1-200(6)(E) and 1-210(b)(10) to discuss with legal counsel strategy and opinions relative to the proposed expansion of Tweed-New Haven Airport.

Upon 2/3 vote, convene into executive session per C.G.S. § 1-200(6) the status of, and possible action pertaining to pending litigation regarding ANDREA HARNEDY AND LISA LASPINAWILLIAMS, ADMINISTRATORS OF ESTATE OF ELENA LASPINO V. TOWN OF EAST HAVEN, ET AL, Superior Court New Haven - NNH-CV21-6118629-S

Upon 2/3 vote, convene into executive session per C.G.S. § 1-200(6) the status of, and possible action pertaining to pending litigation regarding ANDREA HARNEDY AND LISA LASPINAWILLIAMS, ADMINISTRATORS OF ESTATE OF ELENA LASPINO V. GREGORY BORER, ET AL, Superior Court New Haven- NNH-CV22-6122310-S

Beth made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:25 to discuss items under 9 on the Agenda. Chris seconds.

10. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Dated This this 2nd Day of August, 2023,
East Haven, CT 06512

Susan Mauro, Board of Finance Clerk