

Town of East Haven, CT  
Recreation & Athletic Complex Zoom Meeting Minutes  
February 8, 2021  
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**Members Present:**

Chairman Pat Paulson  
Commissioner Sue Crisafi  
Vice-Chair Liz Franco-Spano  
Commissioner Dom Milano

**Staff Present:**

Frank Butler  
Atty. Mike Luzzi  
Michelle Benivegna

**Members Absent:**

Commissioner Woody Esposito

Chairman Paulson called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Roll was called, and a quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes**

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Milano to approve the minutes of the December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner Crisafi seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed and there were no abstentions. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Status of Rink Request for Proposals**

Atty. Luzzi informed the commission that a bid would be going out seeking services for the rink and said that not a lot of groups do this kind of repair, but there are a few good ones. An RFP did go out to get the bid specs and packages would be available with the bidding requirements stated and the deadline would be next week. He is hoping that the top groups will bid and bid optimistically.

Chairman Paulson asked about asbestos in the building. Atty. Luzzi stated that if they think there might be they will prepare for that and that would have to be bid out as well. Commissioner Crisafi asked where the high school team was playing, and Frank Butler stated they were playing in Northford.

Atty. Luzzi thanked Frank for doing all the work to get the bid together. Chairman Paulson asked if the system would be recycling the water or would it be constantly running. Frank stated that it is a closed system and once it fills it stays that way and only goes on when the temperature drops below the set temperature and only runs when needed. Commissioner Milano asked if the bid for the 12-month use was approved, would it bring back the youth teams to the town. Frank stated that there are leagues in the summer that could help kids stay in town if the bid for the 12-month usage was approved.

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Public Comment

Ann Pennington asked if there would just be one contractor and if fundraising could be done to assist with funds to repair. Atty. Luzzi said that would be evaluated and stated that when the locker room was redone, the trade unions donated their labor, so that could be a possibility again.

Lorena Venegas asked about the RFP for the 2 consultants, and Atty. Luzzi stated that it would be posted tomorrow.

Old Business

Michelle Benivegna stated that she met with the Recreation Director Alex Palluzzi from Branford and had a great conversation about the goals and visions that the Town should look for. This is the first time in a very long time that this position was open and there would be revisions as to the job description. It is not a civil service position, but it is part of the supervisor's union and that salary has already been accounted for. There may be an interview panel involved in the process and will let the commission know when that would be. There may be a decision by April but she can't guarantee that.

Commissioner Crisafi asked about the beach and how they are going to handle the pandemic this summer seeing there are not the same orders in place this year as there was last year. Michelle stated that safety is a priority even if orders are lifted, including masks and social distancing. This will be discussed again at another meeting. Chairman Paulson said that we are bombarded with rec activities that happen in the spring but it is still on hold with the health department. They are allowing teams to start the registration process but there will be clauses in the paperwork with regard to safety measures. Having complete rosters are important to contract trace should anyone contract COVID and we can act right away and thinks that teams will be more than willing to do as such.

New Business

None

There being no further business to come before the commission, a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Milano and seconded by Commissioner Crisafi at 7:36 pm. All were in favor; none were opposed, and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Linda S. LaLuna*

Linda S. LaLuna  
Clerk