

Stacy Gravano, CTC

~~TOWN CLERK~~ EAST HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2019

In accordance with Chapter III, Section 6 of the East Haven Town Charter, the East Haven Town Council Hearing Committee held a public hearing meeting Tuesday, October 1, 2019, at 7:00PM at the East Haven Senior Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, CT 06512.

Chairman Ken Mckay calls the meeting to order at 7:04PM.

Item #2

Roll Call for Hearing Committee-14 present – 1 absent (Hennessey)
A quorum is present.

Item #2

To conduct Public Hearing #1 regarding "AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AGGREGATING \$4,755,000.00 FOR THE 2019-2020 CAPITAL BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$4,755,000.00 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATIONS AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE."

AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AGGREGATING \$4,755,000 FOR THE 2019-2020 CAPITAL BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$4,755,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATIONS AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF EAST HAVEN:

Section 1. The sums set opposite the public improvements hereinafter listed are hereby appropriated to meet the costs thereof respectively, and for administrative, legal and financing costs related thereto, said appropriations to be inclusive of any and all State and Federal grants in aid thereof:

DEPARTMENT	AMOUNT
Computers (9)	
Validators (3)	
Scanners (3)	
Desk Printers (6)	
Laser Printer (1)	\$15,000
Assessor	
Revaluation	\$144,500
Server	\$12,000

Town Clerk	
Restoration	\$30,000
<u>Registrar of Voters</u>	
Privacy Booth	\$16,000
<u>Administration/Management</u>	
Business Development	\$50,000
Grant Match	\$100,000
200 Tyler Street Remodel Plans	\$250,000
200 Tyler Street Windows	\$375,000
200 Tyler Street Roof Replacement	\$425,000
200 Tyler Street HVAC	\$750,000
Engineering	
MS4 Program Compliance	\$15,000
<u>Public Services Department</u>	
Landfill Improvements	\$25,000
Library Roof	\$70,000
Paving	\$625,000
Sidewalk Repair	\$40,000
Med. Dump truck	\$160,000
Backhoe	\$130,000
Maint. Van	\$27,000
<u>Police Department</u>	
Police Vehicles	\$285,000
Emergency Team Equipment	\$20,000
<u>Fire Department</u>	
Command Vehicle	\$75,000
Marshall Car	\$35,000
Knox Security	\$25,000
<u>Dispatch Center</u>	
Upgrade Radios (Phase 2)	\$800,000
<u>Counseling</u>	
Heat/Cooling System	\$10,000
<u>Recreation</u>	
Replace Rubber Floor	\$25,000
<u>Education</u>	
Paving	\$58,000
Sidewalks	\$57,000
Ferrara Refurbish	\$35,000
<u>Financing Costs</u>	\$70,500
TOTAL ALL PROJECTS	\$4,755,000

Section 2. To meet said appropriations, \$4,755,000 bonds of the Town or so much thereof as shall be necessary for such purposes, shall be issued, maturing not later than the twentieth year after their date. Said bonds may be issued in one or more series in the amount necessary to meet the Town's share of the cost of the project determined after considering the estimated amounts of the State or Federal grants in aid of any of the public improvements listed in Section 1, or the actual amounts thereof, if this be ascertainable and the anticipated times of the receipt of the proceeds thereof, provided that the total amount of bonds to be issued shall not be less than an amount which will provide funds sufficient with other funds available for such purpose to pay the principal of and the interest on all temporary borrowings in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds of said bonds outstanding at the time of the issuance thereof, and to pay for the administrative, printing and legal costs of issuing the bonds. The bonds shall be in the denomination of \$5,000 or a whole multiple thereof, be issued in fully registered form, be executed in the name and on behalf of the Town by the facsimile or manual signatures of the Mayor and the Town Treasurer, bear the Town seal or a facsimile thereof, be certified by a bank or trust company which bank or trust company may be designated the registrar and transfer agent, be payable at a bank or trust company and be approved as to their legality by Pullman & Comley LLC, of Hartford, CT. The bonds shall be general obligations of the Town and each of the bonds shall recite that every requirement of law relating to its issue has been duly complied with, that such bond is within every debt and other limit prescribed by law, and that the full faith and credit of the Town are pledged to the payment of the principal thereof and interest thereon. The aggregate principal amount of the bonds of each series to be issued, the annual installments of principal, redemption provisions, if any, the certifying, registrar and transfer agent and paying agent, the date, time of issue and sale and other terms, details and particulars of such bonds including approval of the rate or rates of interest shall be determined by the Mayor and the Director of Finance in accordance with the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, as amended.

Section 3. Said bonds shall be sold by the Director of Finance in a competitive offering or by negotiation, in his discretion. If sold in a competitive offering, the bonds shall be sold at not less than par and accrued interest on the basis of the lowest true interest cost to the Town. If the bonds are sold by negotiation, the terms and conditions of the purchase agreement shall be approved by the Mayor and the Director of Finance.

Section 4. The Director of Finance is authorized to make temporary borrowings in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds of said bonds. Notes evidencing such borrowings shall be signed by the Mayor and the Town Treasurer, have the seal of the Town affixed, be payable at a bank or trust company designated by the Director of Finance, be approved as to their legality by Pullman & Comley LLC, of Hartford, CT and be certified by a bank or trust company designated by the Director of Finance. They shall be issued with maturity dates which comply with the provisions of the General Statutes governing the issuance of such notes, as the same may be amended from time to time. The notes shall be general obligations of the Town and each of the notes shall recite that every requirement of law relating to its issue has been duly complied with, that such note is within every debt and other limit prescribed by law, and that the full faith and credit of the Town are pledged to the payment of the principal thereof and the interest thereon. The net interest cost on such notes, including renewals thereof, and the expense of preparing, issuing and marketing them, to the extent paid from the proceeds of such renewals or said bonds, shall be included as a cost of the project. Upon the sale of the bonds, the proceeds thereof, to the extent required, shall be applied forthwith to the payment of the principal of and the interest on any such notes then outstanding or shall be deposited with a bank or trust company in trust for such purpose.

Section 5. The balance of any appropriation not needed to meet the cost of any improvement included in Section 1, or the proceeds of any bonds not needed to meet the cost of any such improvement, may, on the recommendation of the Board of Finance, be transferred by resolution of the Town Council, to meet the additional cost of any other improvement included in Section 1 or the cost of any additional capital improvement.

Section 6. The Town hereby expresses its official intent pursuant to §1.150-2 of the Federal Income Tax Regulations, Title 26 (the "Regulations"), to reimburse expenditures paid sixty days prior to and anytime after the date of passage of this ordinance in the maximum amount and for the projects defined in Section 1 with the proceeds of bonds, notes, or other obligations ("Bonds") authorized to be

issued by the Town. The Bonds shall be issued to reimburse such expenditures not later than 18 months after the later of the date of the expenditure or the substantial completion of the project, or such later date the Regulations may authorize. The Town hereby certifies that the intention to reimburse as expressed herein is based upon its reasonable expectations as of this date. The Director of Finance or his designee is authorized to pay project expenses in accordance herewith pending the issuance of reimbursement bonds.

Section 7. The Mayor, Director of Finance and the Town Treasurer, or any two of them, are hereby authorized, on behalf of the Town of East Haven, to enter into agreements or otherwise covenant for the benefit of bondholders to provide information on an annual or other periodic basis to the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (the "MSRB") and to provide notices to the MSRB of material events as enumerated in Securities and Exchange Commission Exchange Act Rule 15c2-12, as amended, as may be necessary, appropriate or desirable to effect the sale of the bonds and notes authorized by this ordinance. Any agreements or representations to provide information to the MSRB made prior hereto are hereby confirmed, ratified and approved,

Enacted by the Town Council: _____ (Date) Approved by the Mayor:

(Signature)

(Date)

- Erica Forti-Superintendent of Schools- Mrs. Forti indicates that there was an original 5-year capital improvement plan for 2019-2024 that had approximately \$4.6 million dollars in capital improvement requests in year one. Tonight they bring forth a revised capital improvement plan for 2019-2024 with modifications in year one reduced down to just over \$2.3 million dollars solely focusing on the capital improvements that directly impact the safety and security of the students. She mentions the inclusion of security and fire panels in the schools, replacement of rugs for health related allergens/asthma/breathing problems, upgrades to ventilation and hoods in the culinary department, exterior lighting for dark areas that are often vandalized, façade repair to East Haven High School, sidewalk repairs, lavatory renovations as well as the turf repair and an ADA compliant elevator. She references a document that gives them an at-a-glance view of all capital projects that are currently underway, have been completed or are not yet started. For some of the projects that have not been started or are not completed they are in need of these year one funds to complete them. Their request includes the replacement of the turf field at the High School for just about \$1 million dollars of the \$2.3 million dollar request.
- Michele DeLucia- Chairperson, Board of Education- Mrs. DeLucia asks that the Council carefully considers the revised capital funds requests as it relates directly to the safety of the students and children of the community. This will be the last year the athletes will be able to play on this field, she doesn't think it will be safe to use at the end of this season. She asks that they consider the wellbeing of the students in the district.
- Anthony Verderame- Athletic Director- Board of Education- Mr. Verderame says he implores them to consider the \$1 million dollars for the track and field. He

references some bid specs that were provided. The football field was initially installed in 2004 and is past due it's shelf life. The track is cracked creating safety issues; after the winter they will see what they can fill in but that would be throwing good money into a bad product. This is a desperate need for their athletes and the community because the community members also use the track on the weekends or the field to play football on Sundays. Our band uses it for several hours in the evening. It is a high use facility and they can use the Council's support on this.

- Joshua Balter- 35 Red Bluff Road, East Haven- Mr. Balter says his biggest concern with the bond proposal is the clause about if there is extra money we can spend it any way we want. He is opposed to that, the Council is being asked for money for very specific items and if the Town doesn't need all of the money and won't be incurring all that debt then we shouldn't borrow it. If the Town needs these items it should budget for them and if it needs to be bonded or taxed it should be done for those items. He asks that the Town Council strike that portion of the proposal tonight. Everything that is listed is wonderful things, with his background in the military he has ran medical clinics and had budgets all over the place and has had budgets of \$8 million dollars and often he would have people say they want things but he had to budget and spending on a credit card is not fiscally proper. He asks if they have seen the details for everything that is being asked for and why and the bidding process and purchasing process going into these things. He mentions bonding for police cars or any other vehicles, he guesses we will spend 10x what the actual cost of the police car is by the time they are done with it. He served in combat, he wants the people in emergency services to have everything they need but that doesn't mean they need the shiniest pen. Do we all need all the things being requested?
- Robert Sand- 501 Thompson Street, East Haven- Mr. Sand says when he was on the Council they were addressing an important issue at the high school. The building is a little over 20 years old and there were emergency repairs needed for the brick of about \$10,000 because it was in danger of falling and has been taken care of over the last couple of months; it was done by Capasso and overseen by Vin Consiglio. The pictures taken and the report/assessment done of the school show the significant deterioration and it mentions the expansion joints that have compressed and are putting pressure on the brick, which is then causing the cracking and the problem. It is happening in the back, front and sides and needs to be addressed now. Cutting the brick, repointing or sealing the seams to not allow the water to penetrate or the jamming to continue is very important. He believes there were figures given to them for some of these corrections for about \$100,000 and that starts the process. He implores the Council to look into additional monies or a re-appropriation for this because everything going on inside is in danger because of the structure issues on the outside. He thinks they need to take the reports seriously, he doesn't think they have any more time to

wait. He mentions the police cars and he has been through the discussion of if they should bond or pay out of pocket and it has been explained very eloquently by the Finance Director Mr. Rizza and it can go either way. He sees the other items as items to keep departments going, they can always add more but it is a hard choice. His emphasis is on the school building that needs to be addressed now.

Council comment:

- Councilman Louis Pacelli says it's awesome that we are upgrading the fire alarms; he asks if it will give the Fire Department the ability to monitor all schools in one location. Are these upgrades for multiple schools?
- Mrs. Forti says yes. Some schools have already been taken care of. The upgrades are for the Middle School/Academy, Ferrara School and Tuttle School. They are the last remaining schools to be upgraded and they will function exactly like the other schools relative to the monitoring and dispatch.
- Councilman Louis Pacelli says the football field probably should have been replaced years back, he asks what the life is on it.
- Mr. Verderame says the life expectancy is anywhere from 8-12 years depending on the sports being played on it. This one was installed in 2004 and they have considerable waste in maintaining it yearly; they add fill, clean it, re-glue the seams, etc. and spend about \$6,000 per year to keep it status quo. He adds that the new fields come with a grooming machine now; public works does a great job grooming and cleaning and mowing the fields but the new machine cleans, grooms and has a magnet that picks up all the clips and barrettes that they have to pick up to keep it safe before games.
- Mrs. Forti says while the field is used for athletic teams at the high school it is a community field used by a ton of youth sport teams, the marching band, fundraisers are done to walk the track and raise funds, etc. Collectively as a community to not be able to use it and to reassess after the winter is upsetting.
- Councilman Louis Pacelli asks how long it would take to get it done.
- Mr. Verderame says the person he spoke to who provided the figures they have there tonight is the person who originally installed the field and they have also recently done Branford and Shelton and other schools. They assured them that they would be able to start right after football season including demolition of the facility and most of the work could be done before winter hits with the last piece being the track. That requires a certain temperature so they may lose one month of their track season. He spoke with the track coach and the athletes and they are 1000% amicable to working around that for a new track.
- Mrs. Forti says because it is a capital project they will need to go through the bidding process and guidelines as outlined in the Town Charter.

- Councilman Big Steve Tracey asks why they didn't get a bid from any other company, why did they just go to one?
- Mr. Verderame says this was just to get a general number for the Council on what it would be, he did speak to other companies and schools and they were all around \$1 million dollars for the rug and the track. He went with this company because they were the original company that did our track and they were willing to come in and put some details/specs up for free whereas a number of companies charge for that work. This will definitely go out to bid per the Town's specs.
- Councilman Joseph Badamo asks how long ago the field was put in and was there any kind of warranty?
- Mr. Verderame says it was put in in 2004 which he was not present for but he spoke to Mr. Balzamo who was the Athletic Director at the time and typically it is a 1-2 year warranty but they can put in as big of a warranty as they want in the bid specs. He adds that they have added additional fill but the problem now is that the fibers of the grass have been shortened and are unable to hold additional fill now.
- Councilwoman Judy Esposito asks how long the life of the new field will be.
- Mr. Verderame says the technology now has greatly improved with the way the seams are put together; the one we have now is glued together. The new ones are stitched and the quality is much better so he would expect greater than 15 years like we got out of this one but it depends on wear and use.
- Councilman Joseph Badamo asks if they still use the football field at the middle school.
- Mr. Verderame says yes the original Crisafi Field on Hudson Street is used by the middle school track and field and soccer and also shared with youth football. It is usable but not a viable alternative for the athletics at the high school.
- Councilman Louis Pacelli asks how this would impact the track.
- Mr. Verderame says they would have to do both, the track is in dire straits as well and there would be a general contractor that oversees it but they may have two companies come in to do the work but it would be done collaboratively. The field is actually anchored into the concrete that barriers the drainage system that goes into the track so once they remove one it affects the other so it has to be done together.
- Councilman Robert Parente says back in January/February/March the Council was meeting for their budget and the Board of Ed. presented their budget and needs and the entire Town Council requested something that he was told after the meeting would never happen. They asked for a report every month on the finances of the Board of Education, everyone voted on it and demanded a monthly report. He was told he is crazy and the Board is autonomous and can care less because they get their money and that is the end of it. Everyone on the

Town Council, democrats and republicans, made it clear they want a report and here it is October 1st. Paul has been working on the capital requests for 5 months and tonight they are being told they want a \$2 million dollar adjustment; where were the reports for the last several months? We asked for a monthly report of where the finances are so maybe next year they could justify giving them more money. He asks them to please explain.

- Mrs. Forti says with all due respect they submitted their 5-year capital improvement plan in April to the Finance Director. And her Finance Office told her that every month one of the staff accountants sends an electronic report to Attorney Zullo. She apologizes if they should send it to them directly, it is not a secret they do a budget projection every month.
- Councilman Robert Parente says Paul has been working on this for the last five months why just tonight are they coming with a \$2 million dollar increase.
- Mrs. Forti says the original request for capital came to the Town in April via email based on the Town's deadline. She then saw that at the Board of Finance the Board was only going to be getting \$150,000 and they decided to come back to advocate for additional funds. They completed the 5-year capital request per the timeline back in April. A few weeks ago when they saw the list that went to the Board of Finance they said they would come back to the Council to try and advocate for more funds. The original request was for \$4.6 million dollars back in April of 2019 so in realizing it would only be \$150,000 allocated, they came back with a revised plan with just those items related to safety and security.
- Chairman Ken McKay asks if they brought it back to the Board of Finance to reallocate it.
- Mrs. Forti says no.
- Chairman Ken McKay says that is the procedure; it needs to go to the Board of Finance before the Town Council.
- Town Attorney Joseph Zullo clarifies that the reports he gets every month are pursuant to an FOI request that has been ongoing for 8 years. It has nothing to do with the Town Council's request. He is not the Council Clerk or on the Council so when the Council requests something it should come to them via the Council Clerk.
- Councilman Nicholas Palladino asks the Finance Director about the money they are asking for, \$2.3 million, what the burden would be if we bonded that additional money.
- Finance Director Paul Rizza says they would have to start the whole process again. He says they are extremely late with the capital program; the request sent to all department heads including the Board of Education back in March was asking for 5 year capital plan and an upgrade of the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Everyone sent them in and he received nothing from the Board of Education; he received one in the beginning of April with no name on it and then at the end of

April with no name on that either. It had two numbers \$4.6 and \$4.8 million dollars. As of yesterday he received a copy of a colored piece of paper that he doesn't know what year it is for but he assumes it is for the year we are ¼ of the way into. If we are going to start again, then we stop what we are doing, wait for education to come back to the Board of Finance and back to the Council and then to be fair to the other Departments maybe we should ask all of them and reopen the whole thing.

- Councilman Nicholas Palladino says if the Council says they would like to give them the \$2.3 million it isn't that easy, we can't say tonight we will do it, we have to start a whole procedure. What is the time frame for that?
- Mr. Rizza says you have to go to the Board of Finance first and maybe someone else wants to come back if they forgot something or something else came up so his guess is 5-6 weeks.
- Councilman Nicholas Palladino says so tonight there is no way for them to add that money to the capital improvement plan.
- Mr. Rizza says no and we don't have \$2.3 million dollars lying around.
- Attorney Zullo says the Finance Director is correct that is the general process and they can't do anything tonight. He checked with Bond Counsel today and confirmed that the Town Council and Board of Finance must pass identical bonding packages so if after this hearing they make their report to the full Town Council and would like to amend the bonding ordinance to include this \$2.3 million they may do that. However, they would make the report on the ordinance with the recommendation that those line items be added and the amount be adjusted upward but they cannot act on it at the regular meeting like they normally would because that is not the same bond package that was passed by the Board of Finance. So they would table it and send it back for them to consider, if they voted on it with no changes it would come back to be acted on as amended. If they made other changes his recommendation would be to hold another public hearing out of fairness to other department heads and to act on it but that requires convening to set another hearing. If the Board of Finance makes only that one change it can come back without a public hearing.
- Councilman Nicholas Palladino says so they can't make a motion to add the money tonight but they can send it back to the Board of Finance and if they make just that change they can send it back without a public hearing but if they make other changes they need another public hearing. All the years he has been on they have not made a change to capital so he wants to make sure they do it the right way.
- Attorney Zullo clarifies that when he says there wouldn't be a public hearing if it comes back with only that one change, there would still be public comment on it at the regular meeting so the public wouldn't be foreclosed from commenting.

- Councilman Nicholas Palladino asks if they find this is a serious situation that they have to handle, is there another way we can do it besides bonding. Is there another way to fix the field for the Town and students?
- Mr. Rizza says they don't have surplus money, they don't have millions rolling around so it would have to come from the general fund and everyone would take a 20% reduction in their current allocation for the current year and that wouldn't be popular. They would have to go with bonding, they could go with a 12 month or less short term borrowing but that would only speed up the process but the long part of the process is the appropriation via votes from the Boards; that is how we are controlled. We could maybe get the money three weeks earlier than the long way but it will still be a long road.
- Attorney Zullo says if the Council votes to amend and send it back to the Board of Finance, the Board of Finance can hold a special meeting on 24 hours notice and if they approve it solely with that one change the Council can hold a Special Meeting within a day or so of that. They aren't looking at a significantly long amount of time that this would be delayed if this is the only change. If they entertain other departments to make changes it would be the longer drawn out scenario. This can be a week or so turn around if it is that important.
- Councilman Nicholas Palladino asks if they got the bonding through, how much would it hurt the taxes/mill rate or would they be able to do it the way they are now.
- Mr. Rizza says they are injecting an unbudgeted expenditure of over \$2 million dollars and that would eventually have to be paid off.
- Mrs. DeLucia says it may be confusing that they are there tonight asking for an extra \$2 million dollars but they are actually asking for \$2 million less than they originally asked for. They put together this revised plan just so they could see the costs just relating to student safety that was ignored, completely disregarded when they were given \$150,000 out of over \$4 million dollars. \$2 million relates directly to student safety, nothing is extra or added to what they told them they originally needed they just wanted to highlight for every council person that is going to be reelected on how much they value student safety.
- Chairman Ken McKay says procedurally they should have gone to the Board of Finance first.
- Mrs. DeLucia says they just recently found out they were getting \$150,000, which is the lowest amount they have received in quite some time.
- Councilman Joseph Santino mentions the fire alarms, amount a month ago they had a drill and one of the pulls didn't work which is upsetting to him.
- Mrs. Forti says that was at the high school and the issue was rectified and turned out to be a short circuit in the box.
- Councilman Joseph Santino says the Middle School and Carbone are two separate schools but adjoin in the hallways and the fire alarms need to be

upgraded because if you pull it on the Middle School side it doesn't sound on the Academy side, which needs to be done.

- Mrs. Forti says that is correct and the request tonight would include the upgrade of those two systems.
- Councilman Joseph Santino says he was there when the company from Texas installed the football field. What are the safety issues besides it being hard? He knows it holds bacteria and the kids get burns and bad infections.
- Mr. Verderame says same as carpets in our houses we can clean them and after 15-20 years they need to be replaced. We are fortunate in East Haven to have one of the best athletic trainers in the country; our sports medicine is great. The hygiene aspect is huge because the clips, hair, etc. are always in there and with the newer technology/machine our public works department can have it clean every week. He implores them to do this, the kids deserve and need it so he hopes they can help and find a way to move money and make this happen.
- Councilman Joseph Santino asks about the lighting; why can't it go through the Honeywell project?
- Mrs. Forti says because it is for additional exterior lighting it is not replacing existing lighting.
- Lisa Geraci-Anastasio-Board of Education member- Ms. Geraci-Anastasio says that was her issue where they came in to assess everything but they weren't going to help with a lot of safety issues such as lighting.
- Mrs. Forti says the project has a lot of improvements but it has to do with energy conservation so they assessed the existing light fixtures and electrical systems and boilers and making the capital improvements to make them more efficient and save dollars on energy costs. It was designed to look at existing lighting and replace them with LED bulbs/more efficient bulbs not to expand or add additional. It was a Town project and they included us in the conversation and design of it so our most serious concerns were being met. Not all the Town and Board's needs could be met in this one project.
- Chairman Ken Mckay asks if it was every brought up in the discussions whether they could add or improve beyond the existing lighting?
- Mrs. Forti and Mrs. DeLucia say it was for existing lighting and an energy conservation project.
- Councilman Joseph Santino asks Sal Brancati if things can be added to it, isn't that part of the agreement. Because the Board of Education is looking for boilers and stuff.
- Sal Brancati-Director of Administration says they can add or deduct for efficiency purposes; that includes equipment, chillers, heaters, air conditioning, etc. He and Vin sit in a meeting every Thursday with Honeywell representatives and discuss taking things out or adding things. With regard to the boilers being referenced, Honeywell did an inspection of every unit in every building and if it

wasn't efficient then it would be on the list to be changed. That boiler was discussed as to whether it was efficient enough or it would save money to replace that boiler. It would have been on the list to be changed if it would save money. They have added insulation when they had extra money and if the boiler should be replaced, it would be.

- Attorney Zullo says to be clear, Sal should not use the word add so frivolously, they are adding projects but they are upgrade or replacement projects they are not additional footprints or units where units don't exist. What is being talked about is brand new lighting where lighting does not exist.
- Councilman Joseph Carfora says the field gets improved every year because it is past its life span. So there are safety issues here we have to address.
- Mr. Verderame yes, it is a year by year assessment just like with a tennis court you never know how the winter will affect it. But it is in a fragile state right now.
- Councilman Joseph Carfora asks what will happen if god forbid one of our athletes or an opposing team's athlete gets hurt. If next summer the contractor comes in and says it can't be improved anymore, what is the plan b if this Council doesn't give them the capital funds to fix the field?
- Mr. Verderame says the only plan b would be to have no home games and practices would have to be moved. There are no practice football fields or soccer fields at the beautiful facility they have so their grass areas would get completely destroyed. There is no real plan b. If they brought them down to the middle school it would completely eradicate youth football and soccer and middle school soccer. They are landlocked up there with no real alternative.
- Mrs. DeLucia says this isn't a new request and Mr. Pacelli should know from his time on the Board they have been requesting this since she joined in 2013 and maybe before. It shouldn't be a surprise, they got lucky the last few years and it has been in the capital fund plan for a long time.
- Councilman Joseph Santino asks what the liability is on this, is it negligence on our part if we don't do it. Is this field deemed unsafe?
- Mr. Verderame says there is never a way to answer the negligence question. The field is safe. There is someone that cleans and inspects it every year but the threads/fibers are so small that we can't add more fill so where we are is as good as it is going to get and right now it is barely good.
- Councilman Joseph Carfora asks if he isn't sure where this field will be in July or August with one more season.
- Mrs. DeLucia says this is it; there are no more seasons.
- Councilman Nicholas Palladino says when the original capital improvement comes into the Finance Director's office and he and whomever come up with the capital improvements, they were originally asking for \$4.8 million so how did it get down to \$150,000?

- Mr. Rizza says because there was no organization to what was submitted so he couldn't just decide to take \$1 million and do this. The problem goes back 3 years because they have been putting money in capital for the Board of Education and since there was lack of personnel to execute the projects, nothing was done. In April of this year they had unspent monies of over \$400,000 not in the current year but in the last three. So he looked at it and saw \$400,000 that could be used, it wasn't taken away and then they added another roughly \$150,000. He knew from talking to Vinny they did a lot of paving and sidewalk work and you can always spend money on those types of projects.
- Councilman Nicholas Palladino says so in his opinion when doing this he felt \$150,000 would be sufficient for what they needed.
- Mr. Rizza says to do something yes, but there was also \$400,000 so now it's \$550,000.
- Councilman Nicholas Palladino asks if they could find additional money to get the field done.
- Mr. Rizza says no. He says now they are talking about \$2.3 million for the field, track, fire alarms, etc. but how come he saw less than 3-4 months ago pictures of football fields sent into the Mayor where it said this could be our field for \$1.5 million. It wasn't in the \$2 million dollar range. It is going to go to bid and only he can go out to bid, people at the Board seem to have forgotten the only person in Town who can go out to bid is the Director of Finance.
- Mrs. DeLucia says they will go out to bid; all they did was give an example. They were asked before why they didn't go out to bid and it is because it isn't their job it is his.
- Mr. Rizza says they are out soliciting.
- Councilman Joseph Santino asks if he will submit them something showing they have the \$400,000 unspent.
- Mrs. Forti mentions the sheet that shows projects that are underway and completed and some that are not started because they are being backed up by capital fund requests for 2019-2020. They were under the impression for line items like fencing for Tuttle that they can only use those funds for fencing at Tuttle so they can't use them for a different location.
- Mr. Rizza says correct, it is very specific. That is a control item.
- Mrs. Forti says so if there is \$400,000 it is allocated to certain specific places so if it wasn't used it can't be used in a different place or for a different expense. She adds that on April 3rd they sent their 5-year capital plan to Mr. Rizza, Mr. Keeley, Candace, herself and Mr. Consiglio in the format they requested. When they recently saw they were only getting \$150,000 they felt obligated to come back and advocate for those items directly related to public safety and security.
- Councilman Joseph Deko asks if there is a way to get a copy for what we did not spend from last year's capital budget.

- Mr. Rizza says they run a monthly report but it doesn't stop in one year, it is for more than a 12-month period.
- Councilman Joseph Deko says they have on their agenda \$4.75 million dollars but some of the projects they allocated for last year haven't been completed yet. He thinks it would benefit the Council to see what we haven't spent from last year's capital budget before we go spending another \$4.75 million dollars.
- Mr. Rizza says that is doable they can run that report daily if necessary.
- Councilman Nicholas Palladino brings up the \$55,000 they had in capital to fix the truck they ended up selling and has now been fixed up and is being used. He asks the Town Attorney if they were able to use the \$55,000 for subcontracting.
- Attorney Zullo says bond counsel is going to answer their question now.
- Councilman Nicholas Palladino says if they say no and it was an inappropriate use of that money, then what? We have \$55,000 to fix a truck that we sold and they spent the money and have it working on the road and we are without a truck for the 2,400 catch basins we have.
- Attorney Zullo says he has also inquired as to what the remedy would be if it is not allowed. The question is whether the use that was made was contemplated within the intent of the bond. That is what he has asked.
- Mrs. Forti asks if there is a process for revising where funds can go. She was under the impression once it is in a specific funding it has to stay there.
- Attorney Zullo says when it is specific the Finance Director is correct such as fencing at a specific school then you are pigeonholed to do fencing at that school. When it says just fencing then that can go anywhere within the schools.
- Mrs. Forti says they are required to submit the request by school in the format the Town requests. It has to be by allocation per school and for each need so once it is there it is there. Is there a way to request that it be reallocated and if so what is that process?
- Attorney Zullo says it says it in the bond that reallocations can be approved through submission to the Board of Finance and then by resolution voted upon by the Council. We did it for the chillers years ago and other things.
- Councilman Nicholas Palladino says the \$55,000 never came to the Council to be reallocated.
- Attorney Zullo says that is the question he has asked, did it need to be reallocated and that is the answer he needs from bond counsel.
- Councilman Joseph Santino says if Vin requested fencing for schools in the budget for maintenance department he would have a line item that could be used for any school.

Item #3

Adjournment of Public Hearing #1.

Councilman Robert Parente makes a motion.

Councilman Richard Anania seconds the motion.

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

Item #4

Hearing Committee report to the full Town Council and recommendation of action on Public Hearing #1.

Councilman Joseph Santino makes a motion to recommend action to the Council to take action on the Ordinance with the amendment that \$2,345,000 million dollars of improvements be added to the bonding ordinance.

Councilman Louis Pacelli seconds the motion.

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

Item #5

Adjournment of Hearing Committee.

Councilman Joseph Santino makes a motion.

Councilman Louis Pacelli seconds the motion.

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

Meeting is adjourned at 8:31PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danelle Feeley

Danelle Feeley, Clerk, East Haven Legislative Town Council