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**East Haven Town Council Public Hearings**  
Minutes

The Hearing Committee of the East Haven Town Council held certain Public Hearings, Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., at 91 Taylor Avenue East Haven for the purpose of holding public hearings on the following items:

Chairman Deko called the public hearings to order at 7:01 p.m. and read the Governor's executive order. Roll call-11 present 4 absent (Parlato, Hennessey, Ruggiero, and Maltese)  
Staff Present-Mayor Joseph Carfora, James Keeley Finance Director, Michael Luzzi Town Attorney, Ray Baldwin Director of Administration, Edward Lennon Police Chief, Patrick Tracy Assistant Chief, and Charles Coyle Superintendent Public Works.

**Public Hearing #1**

Vice Chairman Pacelli read the following ordinance entitled an "Ordinance transferring from Principal Payment Debt account to Retirement Lump Sum accounts \$625,000.00"—as follow:

To:	01-167-0972	Retirement Lump Sum	\$625,000.00
From	01-771-0710	Principal Payment Debt	\$625,000.00

This Ordinance shall be effective in accordance with the provisions of the East Haven Town Charter.

Chairman Deko recognized Jim Keeley, Finance Director who explained that the reason for the transfer is due to close to 20 retirements within the Fire Department and we won't experience this many retirements for a long time to come.

No public comment.

**Public Hearing #2**

Vice Chairman Pacelli read the following ordinance entitled an "Ordinance transferring from Various Budget Accounts to Other Contractual Accounts \$135,784.00"—as follow:

To:	01-334-0110	Regular Salaries	\$ 44,695.00
	01-334-0190	Overtime	<u>\$ 90,819.00</u>
			\$135,784.00
From:	01-334-0150	Vacation Pay	\$107,671.00
	01-334-0175	Education Incentive	<u>\$ 28,113.00</u>
			\$135,784.00

This Ordinance shall be effective in accordance with the provisions of the East Haven Town Charter.

Chairman Deko recognized Jim Keeley, Finance Director who explained that due to those retirements overtime was increased. The way they pay their overtime comes out of regular salary line items. We are taking it out of overtime and education incentives. As it stands now the fire department will be \$145,000 under-spent for the whole budget, which is good.

Donald Supernat, 501 Strong Street asked why when we are only a quarter of the way into the budget we need to make a transfer for overtime for the fire department aren't those overtime line items considered when preparing the budget.

James Keeley Finance Director stated that this is not for the current year, so let the record show that all the transfers the council is addressing tonight are for fiscal year 20/21, not the current budget. We are closing out last year's budget.

Mr. Supernat asked why we would be doing the transfer now and not at the end of June when the fiscal year ends.

Mr. Keeley stated that the audit is ongoing and the town must make accruals and it takes a little while, it goes through the board of finance, referred to town council, then set public hearings the following month so it takes time.

Mr. Supernat would have appreciated an explanation prior to the hearing.

Councilwoman Glassman stated that our public safety departments were at the front lines of a global pandemic where several of our public safety employees had to be quarantined, along with all the retirements. Obviously, other members had to cover, which creates overtime. Our Fire Department and Police Department did an excellent job of keeping the residents and the town safe, which was a monumental undertaking, which she is grateful for.

Councilman Pompano asked for a better explanation with regard to the overtime.

Jim Keeley stated that because the Fire Department works in 24 hour shifts and some weeks they could be working 80 hours, therefore when it comes to overtime it gets confusing. The way it works is that some weeks its 80 hours and the following week its much less, in some instances the work week overlaps.

Councilman Balter stated that he echoes what Councilwoman Glass said and is grateful to the Police and Fire Departments for the way they stepped up in the middle of a pandemic.

### **Public Hearing #3**

Vice Chairman Pacelli read the following ordinance entitled an "Ordinance transferring from Contingency Account \$41,150.00 to Special Assignments Account \$44,150.00"—as follow:

To:	01-885-0195	Special Assignments	\$ 44,150.00
From	01-885-0689	Contingency	\$ 44,150.00

This Ordinance shall be effective in accordance with the provisions of the East Haven Town Charter.

Chairman Deko recognized Jim Keeley, Finance Director who explained that special assignments are budgeted every year and it is just an estimate. Last year we hit record proportions; it's two parts of the budget. When the special assignments go up so do our revenues. We typically make money on the special assignments. The contingency fund is fine, after this transfer the balance will be \$144,000. The way its budgeted one side is expenditures and the other budget line is revenue.

Chairman Deko recognized Donna Richo, 67 Charnes Drive who commented on what Councilwoman Glassman stated about Covid-19 having impact on our overtime. The town has \$4.8M for expenses related to Covid-19, have we utilized any of those funds to cover any of those expenses.

Jim Keeley stated no, not to date.

Donna Richo asked what part of the \$4.8M have you use and for what.

Jim Keeley stated it is not \$4.8 it's \$4.2 we have already received those funds and the town has just reached an agreement with consultants this morning. We want to make sure we check with them prior to allocating any funds and make sure we meet the requirements. They give you 200 pages of requirements which is why we hired a consultant so that we spend the funds correctly.

Donna Richo stated the real question is why we aren't transferring those funds into the accounts where they are needed, instead of making transfers.

Councilwoman Glass stated that these funds come from the federal government through the state and there are strict guidelines imposed as to how those funds can be spent. Many of the towns are opting to hiring consultants to ensure they are applied appropriately to Covid-19 related costs.

Donna Richo stated her point is that we are transferring money in a budget that should have been close June 30<sup>th</sup>. and that we should have applied funding instead of making transfers just to close the books.

Councilwoman Glassman indicated she is not here to debate but to answer the question. Those funds have not been applied to ensure we meet our legal responsibilities with the consultant.

Donna Richo asked who is the consultant.

Attorney Luzzi stated that we did an RFQ to hire a consultant and you are more than welcome to review and ask any question in that regard with the finance director. Please contact Jim Keeley to review those documents. We are engaging a consultant to protect the community and make sure that the funds are spent appropriately. There would be an audit therefore we need those protections. Money for the consultant will come out of the grant no expenditure that will impact the town.

Donna Richo stated this will probably impact special assignments as well.

Jim Keeley he believes it must be directly related to Covid-19.

#### **Public Hearing #4**

Councilwoman Lesco moved to have only the total read.

Vice Chairman Pacelli second the motion.

Voice vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

Vice Chairman Pacelli read the following ordinance entitled an "Ordinance transferring from Various Budget Accounts to Police Services"—as follow:

To:	01-332-0190	Overtime	\$287,452.00
	01-332-0190	Overtime	\$ 28,766.00
	Total		<b><u>\$316,218.00</u></b>
FROM:	01-332-0110	Regular Salaries	\$189,677.00 y
	01-332-0115	Part-Time Wages	\$31,720.00
	01-332-0131	Perfect Attendance	\$100.00

01-332-0140	Longevity	\$600.00
01-332-0160	Holiday Pay	\$21,453.00
01-332-0175	Education Incentive	\$602.00
01-332-0178	No Smoking Incentive	\$1,900.00
01-332-0192	Repl. Vacation Days	\$25,000.00
01-332-0350	Prof. Development & Training	\$119.00
01-332-0410	Office & Lab Equipment	\$1,081.00
01-332-0420	Firearms, Police Equipment	\$511.00
01-332-0430	Mech. & Manual Equipment	\$597.00
01-332-0505	Books/Maps/Ref. Material	\$42.00
01-332-0510	Photo/Printing Supplies	\$663.00
01-332-0520	General Office Supplies	\$534.00
01-332-0561	Vehicle Supplies & Parts	\$64.00
01-332-0563	Tires & Tubes	\$68.00
01-332-0565	Motor Oil, Lubricants	\$36.00
01-332-0568	Food & Food Supplies	\$89.00
01-332-0570	Build. Maintenance Supplies	\$563.00
01-332-0578	Medical/First Aid Supplies	\$720.00
01-332-0590	Training Supplies	\$2,071.00
01-332-0592	Traffic & Street Signs	\$494.00
01-332-0594	Protective Safety Supplies	\$199.00
01-332-0615	Printing & Binding	\$369.00
01-332-0644	Rental of Equipment	\$1,033.00
01-332-0646	Registration Dues & Subscriptions	\$110.00
01-332-0657	Data Proc. Serv., Software	\$607.00
01-332-0658	Equipment Maintenance Services	\$5,039.00
01-332-0660	Building Maintenance/Repair Services	\$71.00
01-332-0662	Vehicle Repairs & Maintenance Services	\$39.00
01-332-0676	Waste Collection & Disposal	\$900.00
01-332-0682	Veterinary Services	\$284.00
01-332-0827	SCJAC MATCH	\$97.00

TOTAL **\$287,452.00**

\*\*\*FROM PSCC\*\*\*

FROM:

01-336-0110	Reg. Salaries	\$26,956.00
01-336-0115	PT Wages	<u>\$1,810.00</u>

TOTAL **\$316,218.0**

This Ordinance shall be effective in accordance with the provisions of the East Haven Town Charter.

No public comment.

No comment from the council.

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to adjourn the public hearings.

Councilwoman Cesare second the motion.

Hearing adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

## **The Hearing Committee of the East Haven Town Council**

Chairman Deko called the Hearing Committee of the East Haven Town Council to order at 7:22 p.m.  
Roll call-12 present 3 absent (Hennessey, Ruggiero, and Maltese)

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved that the Hearing Committee of the East Haven Town Council recommend to the Full Council adoption of the four aforementioned ordinances.

Councilman Balter second the motion.

Roll call-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

Motion Carried.

Chairman adjourned the hearing committee at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta A. DeLuca  
Town Council Clerk