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EAST HAVEN
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Town Council Minutes

The East Haven Town Council held its Regular Meeting Tuesday, February 2, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. Via Zoom in order to transact the following:

Chairman Deko called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

Staff Present: Michael Luzzi Town Attorney, James Keeley Finance Director, and Fire Chief Matt Marcarelli.

Item #1

Roll Call-14 Present 1 Absent (Ruggiero)

Item #3

Correspondence/None

Item #4

Subcommittee Reports:

- a. Education, Library and School Building Inaudible
- b. Public Health, Safety, and Welfare
- c. Finance

Jim Keeley addressed the Council with regard to the audit that involves all state and federal funds to be accounted for correctly and it has been determined that the town has done their job. They have no problems with the way the town is recording and documentation of any audited monies. You will find in the audit on pages 4 and 11 that it states that they have not found any deficiencies with control and compliance. On pages 5 and 12 it further states the federal and state awarded funds accounting was satisfied as a whole. What the audit is basically saying is the funds were accounted for properly. Anyone can request a copy of the audit to review.

Chairman Deko asked Mr. Keeley to clarify which budget year this was from.

Mr. Keeley indicated that this is from the FY ending June of 2020. This is the last budget of the Maturo administration.

Chairman Deko clarified that this was from the previous administrations' Council.

Mr. Keeley then addressed the town's regular audit and stated please call him if you have any questions. The first paragraph states that they found no problems with the numbers submitted to them for this audit. On page 11 under discussions and analysis; he had to reduce the fund balance by 1.8 million. Expenditures exceeded the revenue by 1.8 million and the reasons for that on page 11 is the taxes came in under the project assessments.

Chairman Deko stated that he did read due to the current administration actions with regard to the town's finances it could have been much more of a deficit.

Mr. Keeley stated that early on in this administration, December and January, they had determined deficiencies in the prior budget. As a result, cuts were made and spending was frozen in an effort to close the gap. We were expecting to close the gap and break-even but then Covid-19 hit. The added expenses for safety and loss revenues due to the pandemic too. He addressed some bullet points. The town is in a downward trend with regard to self-insurance, workman's comp, and medical insurance, which is a positive.

d. Public Services, Parks, and Recreation

Vice Chairman Pacelli indicated public works did a great job with the snow storm and they are starting the clean-up of the Farm River. The tree truck is on the road still doing clean up from the microburst in the fall.

Councilman Santino added that after speaking with the foremen at public works the drivers are having a difficult time with cars parked on the road during a storm. Last evening's storm documented hundreds of cars parked on the road. We need to set up a meeting with the Police Department to address this issue and resolve it.

Attorney Luzzi understands that the cars parked on the road during a storm is a very difficult situation and will have some sort of enforcement action for this problem. Mayor Carfora will be addressing this tomorrow with a post storm meeting.

e. Urban Renewal/Housing

No report.

Item #2

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the appointment of Allen Vincent to the Board of Assessment Appeals in order to fill the unexpired term of Robert Falcigno term commencing February 1, 2019 to January 31, 2022.

Councilman Butler second the motion

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

Approved

Item #3

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the re-appointment of Robert Cubellotti to the Board of Assessment Appeals in order to fill the term commencing February 1, 2021 to January 31, 2024.

Councilwoman Cesare second the motion

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

Approved

Item #4

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the appointment of Edward Donroe to the Board of Assessment Appeals in order to fill the term commencing February 1, 2021 to January 31, 2023.

Councilman Butler second the motion
Voice vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.
Approved

Item #5

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the appointment of John Wobensmith to the Zoning Board of Appeals be approved in order to fill the term commencing February 1, 2021 to, January 31, 2024.

Councilwoman Lesco second the motion.

Mr. Wobensmith thanked the council for their support.

Councilman Balter stated that he wholeheartedly supports this appointment.

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

Approved

Item #6

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the appointment of Marissa Bateman to the East Shore Health Board in order to fill the term commencing February 1, 2021 to January 31, 2024.

Councilwoman Lesco second the motion

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

Approved

Item #7

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the appointment of Phoebe B. Burbine to the American Disability Act Commission in order to fill the term commencing February 1, 2021 to an Indefinite Term.

Councilman Santino second the motion

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

Approved

Item #8

To consider and act upon the appointment of Doreen Pinkerton to the American Disability Act Commission in order to fill the term commencing February 1, 2021 to an Indefinite Term.

Councilman Balter second the motion.

Ms. Pinkerton stated she is honored to fill this position.

Councilman Balter indicated he spoke with Ms. Pinkerton is happy to appoint her and have this commission at full strength.

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

Approved

Item #9

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the appointment of Robin Carlson to the American Disability Act Commission in order to fill the term commencing February 1, 2021 to an Indefinite Term.

Councilwoman Glassman second the motion
Voice vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.
Approved

Item #10

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the appointment of Lia Sabin to the Board of Ethics in order to fill the term commencing February 1, 2021 to January 31, 2024.
Councilman Balter second the motion.
Vice Chairman Pacelli is in total support of this appointment.
Voice vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.
Approved

Item #11

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the appointment of Barbara Natarjan to the Housing Authority Board in order to fill the term commencing February 1, 2019 to January 31, 2022.
Councilwoman Cesare second the motion.
Voice vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.
Approved

Item #12

To consider and act upon the appointment of David Sagnella to the Housing Authority Board in order to fill the term commencing February 1, 2020 to January 31, 2023.
Councilman Butler second the motion
Voice vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.
Approved

Item #13

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the re-appointment of Michael Enders to the Housing Authority Board in order to fill the term commencing February 1, 2021 to January 31, 2024.
Councilman Balter second the motion
Voice vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.
Approved

Item #14

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the appointment of Judy Ruggiero to the Old Cemetery Board in order to fill the term commencing February 1, 2021 to January 31, 2024.
Councilwoman Cesare second the motion.
Voice vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.
Approved

Item #15

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the appointment of Barbara Buonome to the Old Cemetery Board in order to fill the term commencing February 1, 2019 to January 31, 2022.
Councilman Butler second the motion

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

Approved

Item #16

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the appointment of Marcia Federico to the Old Cemetery Board in order to fill the term commencing February 1, 2019 to January 31, 2022.

Councilwoman Cesare second the motion

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

Approved

Item #17

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the appointment of Melanie Johnson to the Old Cemetery Board in order to fill the term commencing February 1, 2019 to January 31, 2022.

Councilwoman Hennessey second the motion

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

Approved

Item #18

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the re-appointment of Steven DeLucia to the School Building Committee in order to fill the term commencing February 1, 2021 to January 31, 2024.

Councilman Pompano second the motion

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

Approved

Item #19

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the re-appointment of David Gersz to the School Building Committee in order to fill the term commencing February 1, 2021 to January 31, 2024.

Councilman Butler second the motion

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

Approved

Item #20

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the re-appointment of Lewis Langella to the School Building Committee in order to fill the term commencing February 1, 2020 to January 31, 2023.

Councilwoman Hennessey second the motion

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

Approved

Item #21

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the appointment of George Smith to the Board of Selectmen in order to fill the term commencing November 16, 2019 to November 13, 2021.

Councilwoman Glassman second the motion

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

Approved

Item #22

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the appointment of Robert Limoncelli to the Board of Selectmen in order to fill the term commencing November 16, 2019 to November 13, 2021.

Councilwoman Cesare second the motion

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

Approved

Item #23

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the appointment of Robert Schumitz to the Board of Selectmen in order to fill the term commencing November 16, 2019 to November 13, 2021.

Councilwoman Cesare second the motion

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

Approved

Item #24

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the appointment of Roger Senserrich to the Urban Renewal Commission in order to fill the vacant term commencing February 1, 2020 to January 31, 2023.

Councilwoman Glassman second the motion

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

Approved

Item #25

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the re-appointment of William DeMayo to the Urban Renewal Commission in order to fill the vacant term commencing February 1, 2021 to January 31, 2024.

Councilwoman Glassman second the motion

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

Approved

Item #26

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the re-appointment of Albert Fucci to the Urban Renewal Commission in order to fill the vacant term commencing February 1, 2020 to January 31, 2023.

Councilman Butler second the motion

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

Approved

Item #27

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the re-appointment of Anthony Moscato to the Urban Renewal Commission in order to fill the vacant term commencing February 1, 2021 to January 31, 2024.

Councilwoman Cesare second the motion.

Chairman Deko stated that Mr. Fucci and Mr. Moscato have been on this commission for numerous years and they do a great job. They both like working with one another.

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

Approved

Item #28

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the appointment of Judy Mison to the Blight Appeals Committee in order to fill the term commencing February 1, 2021 to January 31, 2024.
Councilwoman Glassman second the motion.

Councilwoman Parlato questioned the dates of her term.

The Clerk explained that boards and commissions, in the past few years, were not maintained by the administration as they should have been and working with the Town Clerk we had to satisfy the affiliations and the correct appointed dates.

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

Approved

Item #29

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the appointment of Paul Norwood to the Blight Appeals Committee in order to fill the term commencing February 1, 2021 to January 31, 2024.
Councilman Pompano second the motion.

Mr. Norwood thanked the council for their trust in him to fill this position.

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

Approved

Item #30

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the re-appointment of Vincent Lettieri as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals in order to fill the vacant term commencing February 1, 2021 to January 31, 2024.

Councilwoman Cesare second the motion

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

Approved

Item #31

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon the appointment of Hope Dacey to the Blight Appeals Committee in order to fill the term commencing February 1, 2020 to January 31, 2023.

Councilwoman Lesco second the motion

Voice vote-13 in favor. None opposed. One abstention (Cesare).

Approved

Item #32

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon anything that may come before the council.

Vice Chairman Pacelli then moved to add to the agenda to enter into a lease agreement for a Model One (1) Spartan Pumper truck from New England Fire Equipment and Apparatus Corporation of North Haven and to authorize the mayor to execute said lease and all relevant and necessary paperwork.

Councilman Santino second the motion.

Chairman Deko recognized Fire Chief Marcarelli who stated that he is asking the council to approve this item which was started in last year's capital improvement budget. Inaudible. The town typically purchases fire apparatus with a 10 or 20 year bond, while the life of any apparatus is 20 years at that point the town will have to sell for scrap. Currently, we have three apparatus that are over 20 years old, the NFPA which governs fire apparatus dictates that after 15 years the apparatus is placed in a standby mode and should be completely retired after 25 years. There are two apparatus that meet the NFPA standards that should be retired. He is asking the council to allow the department to lease this apparatus with the \$200,000 in the capital improvement budget. Then we will finance the remainder over the next 6 years making installment payments with the paramedic assessment fund, when paramedics respond to calls and are escorted to the hospital we are remunerated and those funds go into an enterprise account used to subsidize two apparatus currently. We go out to bid through a cooperative purchasing agreement called Source-Well and they handle the financing. The truck has already gone out to bid as their requirements are more stringent than the towns.

Chairman Deko asked the Chief Marcarelli if this is the bid process that we were asked to take part in last year.

Chief Marcarelli stated that the town is already a member of Source-Well.

Vice Chairman Pacelli made the following motion, BE IT RESOLVED, that Joseph Carfora, as Mayor of The Town of East Haven or his designee, is authorized and directed to execute and to deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of East Haven to enter into a lease agreement for a Model One (1) Spartan Pumper truck from New England Fire Equipment and Apparatus Corporation of North Haven and to authorize the mayor to execute said lease and all relevant and necessary paperwork.

Councilwoman Cesare second the motion.

Councilman Santino asked Chief Marcarelli which truck this would be replacing.

Chief Marcarelli indicated it is replacing Engine #4, which is at the Bradford Manor Fire House and will be sent to reserve apparatus at Headquarters. It has yet to be determined, which truck Engine #4 will be replacing in reserve. In all likelihood it will be replacing Engine #6, which is the oldest apparatus with the least amount of safety features.

Councilman Balter reiterated that these are funds that have already been set aside therefore we are not increasing the current budget. We had appropriated \$300,000 but you are utilizing only \$200,000 because you are using grant money to pay off the balance.

Chief Marcarelli stated the balance will be paid off through an enterprise account, which is basically a revenue account through our paramedic service provided to the town. This being revenue generated by the paramedic service it must go into our enterprise account to be utilized by the fire department's paramedic unit, which Engine #4 is a paramedic unit.

Councilman Balter stated outstanding, thank you for not sending our first responders out in antiquated equipment, thank you again for doing this, as it is not causing any economic difficulty for the town.

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

Approved

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to adjourn.

Councilwoman Cesare second the motion.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta A. DeLuca

Town Council Clerk