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*Stacy Grassino, CTC*  
TOWN CLERK

## **East Haven Town Council Minutes**

The East Haven Town Council held its Regular Meeting Tuesday, September 1, 2020, at 7:30 p.m. or immediately following certain public hearings Via Zoom in order to transact the following:

Chairman Deko called the meeting to order at 7:27 p.m.

Staff Present: James Keeley, Finance Director, Town Attorney Michael Luzzi, Matthew Marcarelli Fire Chief, Charles Coyle Superintendent Public Works, and Katie DePonte Purchasing Agent.

Chairman Deko read the executive order and the Zoom process.

Chairman Deko requested the Pledge of Allegiance. He then stated, thoughts and prayers go out to all those residents who sustain damage as a result of the storm. Public Works is doing a great job and will get to your home to pick up debris. Also, a big thanks for the great work from the Police Department, Fire Department and all the Volunteer Firefighters, and Public Works for all their hard work.

### **Item #1**

Roll Call-13 Present    2 Absent (Capatoro and Parlato)

### **Item #2**

Approval of Minutes August 17, 2020 Special Meeting.

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to approve the minutes.

Councilwoman Lesco second the motion.

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

Motion carried

**Approved**

### **Item #3**

Correspondence

None

### **Item #4**

Subcommittee Reports:

a.     Education, Library and School Building

Councilwoman Cesare stated that sadly the beautiful turf field is now destroyed. It is important to know the BOE is self-insured, she believes that they will be starting the process of installing a new field soon. We all should have received the email from the parent committee; they indicate they are upset over the handling of the opening of school. Although the Council has no jurisdiction over the BOE, please read the email so that their voices are heard.

Attorney Luzzi stated that the field was not complete; there was a walk through the Wednesday night before the storm. The field had not been turned-over to the Town and BOE the insurance coverage is theirs for the contractor and architect. It is not our responsibility in this situation. We

are very fortunate no one got hurt. We have asked Mr. Coyle, Superintendent of Public Works not to move any of the damage until it can be assessed. If there is a possibility the turf could be utilized. The insurance adjusters need to evaluate the damage for coverage purposes. We are evaluating the bleacher situation.

- b. Public Health, Safety, and Welfare  
Councilman Ranfone indicated that the Police Commission meeting was cancelled.
- c. Finance  
Councilwoman Glassman stated that the Council has the minutes of the last Finance meeting where they mention the Capital Improvement Plan it has been provided for the council's review, it is a 5 year plan.  
Chairman Deko stated that the Council will be scheduling a Special meeting with regard to the state funding.
- d. Public Services, Parks, and Recreation  
Vice Chairman Pacelli echoed the Chairman's comments that Public Works did an outstanding job cleaning up from the storms. Also, they cleaned up Michael Street park and did an amazing job as well.
- e. Urban Renewal/Housing  
Councilwoman Lesco indicated no commission meetings have taken place.

**Item #5**

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon an ordinance entitled an "Ordinance transferring from various budget accounts for year-end financial purposes—as follow:

General Fund		
To: 01-885-0195	Special Assignment	\$105,000.00
From: 01-885-0689	Contingency	\$105,000.00

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

Councilman Butler second the motion.  
Roll call vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.  
Motion Carried

**Item #6**

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon an ordinance entitled an "Ordinance transferring from various budget accounts for year-end financial purposes—as follow:

Public Works		
To: 01-226-0677	Recycling Service	\$50,000.00
01-226-0676	Waste Collection	\$110,000.00
01-226-0674	Trash Masters	<u>\$62,000.00</u>
Total		\$222,000.00
From: 01-665-0110	Senior Center Salaries	\$45,000.00
01-665-0115	Senior Center PT wages	\$12,000.00
01-444-0694	Other Contractual	\$20,000.00
01-885-0255	Street and Traffic Lights	\$83,000.00
01-167-0910	Retirement Fund	<u>\$62,000.00</u>

Total

\$222,000.00

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

Councilman Santino second the motion.

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

Motion Carried

**Item #7**

Town Attorney Luzzi made a recommendation to the Council to remove the Chevy Silverado from the motion.

Chairman Deko indicated to the Vice Chairman, if he chooses, to omit the Chevy Silverado from the motion based upon the Attorney Luzzi's recommendation.

Vice Chairman moved to consider and act upon the leasing agreements for the leasing of a Plow Truck and Bucket/Tree Truck acquired from the State of Connecticut bid list an agreement with Mercedes-Benz Financial Services USA.

Councilwoman Lesco second the motion.

Chairman Deko recognized Charlie Coyle, Superintendent who explained that the current tree truck is a 1987 and the dump truck is 30 years old; this lease is for 7 years, \$59,000 per year with interest. Inaudible.

Chairman Deko stated that it is important to know that the tree truck can no longer be certified. *Inaudible*

Chairman Deko recognized Jim Keeley, Acting Finance Director. Mr. Keeley stated that the funds for this are received every year and we have not utilized those funds this year. We have a little bit of a surplus, although we have the funds, what is going on at the state level does not guarantee these funds in the future; so it is in the best interest of the town to lease these vehicles. It is not coming from the General Fund or Capital Improvements due to those funds having to be bonded. It is coming from State funding.

Chairman Deko added that the town will own these vehicles after 7 years. This makes financial sense and it's safer to operate.

Councilman Balter asked if it stated in the contract that these are leased to own at the end of the contract.

Mr. Keeley indicated that it does state that we will own at the end of the contract.

Councilman Balter stated this is a no brainer this makes financial sense and safer for the operators. To the Department of Public Works, Fire Department going door to door and the Police Department after the recent storm to all "Bravo Zulu."

Vice Chairman Pacelli stated that we are in dire need of trucks. It's been a very long time since the fleet has been refurbished, good job.

Councilwoman Parlato indicated that the contract states that the interest rate will expire after a certain date, what it will change to.

Mr. Coyle indicated that it will not change.

Mr. Keeley these contracts are always dated because when we ask for these quotes obviously they want us to get back to them quickly but with our process it takes longer. The town has never had an instance where they have not honored what is on the contract.

Councilwoman Parlato asked what the benefit of leasing as opposed to buying? After review of the documents we are paying almost \$40,000 in interest. Wouldn't it be beneficial for the town to buy outright rather than leasing to own.

Mr. Keeley indicated these funds are coming out of State Aid Roads and they give roughly \$400,000 per year. If we were to pay everything at once and we should have a bad winter we wouldn't have enough funds to cover salt and sand. Also, if the State decided to stop giving the town these funds we would have time to budget accordingly. We have continued to receive the State funds but this year it was very late getting to the town, which is one of the reasons there is a surplus because the Governor was trying to get the Toll Act passed and it held up these funds.

Councilman Ranfone asked Mr. Coyle what's the reach on the old Tree Truck and what's the reach on the new Tree Truck?

Mr. Coyle indicated the old truck had a reach of 65ft. and the new truck will have a reach of 75ft.

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

**Item #8**

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon setting a public hearing date of October 6, 2020, for an ordinance entitled an "Ordinance transferring from various budget accounts for year-end financial purposes—as follow:

To:	01-334-0110	Regular Salaries	\$125,588.00
	01-334-0110	Regular Salaries	<u>\$ 1,056.00</u>
			\$126,644.00
From:	01-334-0115	PT Wages	\$ 363.00
	01-334-0140	Longevity	\$ 400.00
	01-334-0150	Vacation	\$46,000.00
	01-334-0160	Holiday	\$ 5,786.00
	01-334-0165	Personal Day	\$ 216.00
	01-334-0191	Garcia	\$71,761.00
	01-334-0310	Mileage	\$ 100.00
	01-334-0450	Building Maintenance	\$ 30.00
	01-334-0482	Communication Equipment	\$ 189.00
	01-334-0505	Books and Maps	\$ 743.00
	01-334-0681	Physical & Medical	\$ 379.00
	01-334-0694	Other Contract	<u>\$ 677.00</u>
			\$126,644.00

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

Councilwoman Cesare moved to approve setting a public hearing date of October 6, 2020.  
Roll call vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

Motion Carried  
**Public Hearing Date for 10/6/2020**

**Item#9**

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon setting a public hearing date of October 6, 2020, for an ordinance entitled an “Ordinance transferring from various budget accounts for year-end financial purposes—as follow:

To:	01-334-0110	Regular Salary	\$66,678.72
	01-334-0190	Overtime	\$98,530.05
	01-334-0165	Personal Days	<u>\$ 1,939.11</u>
			\$167,147.88
From:	01-885-0255	Street and Traffic	\$ 45,000.00
	01-885-0689	Contingency	\$100,000.00
	01-885-0643	Postage and Freight	\$ 20,000.00
	01-885-0644	Rental of Equipment	<u>\$ 2,147.88</u>
			\$167,147.88

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

Councilman Santino moved to approve setting a public hearing date of October 6, 2020.  
Roll call vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

Motion Carried  
**Public Hearing Date Set for 10/6/2020**

**Item#10**

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon a resolution transferring funds To: 01-334-0202 Water Public Fire \$33,066.00, From: 01-334-0534 Fuel \$25,598.00 and 01-334-0191 Garcia \$7,468.00.

To:	01-334-0202	Water Public Fire	\$25,598.00
	01-334-0202	Water-Public Fire	<u>\$ 7,468.00</u>
			\$33,066.00
From:	01-334-0534	Fuel	\$25,598.00
	01-334-0191	Garcia	<u>\$ 7,468.00</u>
			\$33,066.00

Councilwoman Glassman second the motion.

Chairman Deko recognized Fire Chief Marcarelli.

Chief Marcarelli explained that this line item pays for the water main infrastructure for our hydrant system and in the past it has been habitually under-funded. Last year almost flat funded and the Water Company is just like other utilities and the rates do increase and the town did not take that into consideration when he submitted his budget request under the previous administration. In the upcoming budget the Mayor gave his department a considerable increase in that line item to cover the annual cost. It also takes into account the maintenance of the system. We lost 4 hydrants over the past year , which

were subrogated. Hopefully, the insurance companies from the vehicles will pay for them and that is why the overage occurred.

Councilwoman Cesare took this opportunity to thank the Chief for all he has done for the town.

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

Motion Carried

**Item#11**

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to consider and act upon a change request to the 2019-2020 Capital Funds/Board of Education.

Mr. Keeley explained that the line item is specific to Tuttle School HVAC but as part of the Honeywell project Tuttle School's HVAC was included in that project. The Superintendent of Schools is simply asking to move it to a line item to address HVAC district wide.

Chairman Deko read the letter from the Superintendent Erica Forti to change the account 90-040-601 Tuttle School HVAC \$80,000 from the 19/20 FY Capital Improvements to be used district wide.

Councilwoman Glassman second the motion.

Councilman Santino would like a report to ensure the funds go toward HVAC district wide.

Mr. Keeley indicated with regard to Capital Improvement funds we have to cut the checks therefore we see what it is being used for.

Councilman Balter asked if the Superintendent was present at the meeting. After being informed that she was not present Councilman Balter moved to table this item until we can get a better explanation.

Vice Chairman Pacelli second the motion.

Roll call vote-5 In favor (Balter, Lesco, Glassman, Pacelli, and Ranfone) 9 Opposed (Deko, Maltese, Santino, Cesare, Hennessey, Parlato, Butler, Pompano, and Ruggiero). No abstentions.

Motion Fail

Councilwoman Glassman moved to consider and act upon a change request to the 2019-2020 Capital Funds/Board of Education.

Councilman Santino second the motion.

Roll call vote-11 In favor . (Deko, Maltese, Santino, Cesare, Hennessey, Parlato, Butler, Pompano, and Ruggiero) 3 Opposed (Balter, Lesco, and Ranfone). No abstentions.

Motion carried.

**Item#12**

To consider and act upon any other matter that may come before the Council.

Councilman Ranfone stated with the rising cost of recycling the town should look into collecting and processing its own recycling, as well as surrounding towns. We have unique access to the railroad and we should look into utilizing our availability.

**Item #13**

**Executive Session**

Attorney Luzzi indicated that a link was sent to the council members specific to the executive session.

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to convene and discuss in executive session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-200(6) the status of the pending litigation matter of One Barberry Real Estate Holding, LLC, et al. v. Joseph Maturo, Jr. et al. (Case No. 3:17-cv- 00985-WWE).

Councilman Santino second the motion.

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

Council entered into executive session at 8:20 p.m.

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to exit the executive session and reconvene the meeting at 8:51 p.m..

Councilwoman Parlato second the motion.

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

Councilwoman Cesare moved to adjourn.

Vice Chairman Pacelli second the motion.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta A. DeLuca  
Town Council Clerk