

EAST HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2012

The regular meeting of the East Haven Legislative Town Council was held Tuesday, August 7, 2012 at the East Haven Senior Center located at 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, Connecticut.

Chairman Richard Anania calls the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Chairman Anania asks all to stand for the pledge of allegiance.

Chairman Anania asks all to take a moment of silence for the tragedy that happened to previous Town official Ralph Mauro.

Item #1

Roll call: 12 present - 3 absent (Santino, Sand and Cubellotti)

Item #2

Councilman Anthony Purificato makes a motion to approve minutes from July 10, 2012 special meeting.

Councilman Paul Carbo seconds the motion.

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

Item #3

No correspondence.

Item #4

Subcommittee Reports-

- Chairman Anania informs the Council that Mayor Joseph Maturo Jr. asked that a committee be formed to gather information on the repair of the chiller at the High School. Mr. Anania states that he appointed Councilwoman Beverly Gravino and Councilman Robert Sand while the Board of Education is represented by Chairman Tom Hennessey and Christine Maisano. Councilwoman Beverly Gravino explains several weeks back they had one meeting. There was not enough paperwork regarding costs. She adds that they asked Superintendent Tony Serio to send a letter to the company and they have not to date heard back

from Mr. Serio. She states that they are reminding him that this meeting needs to be set up in order for the company to get paid. Chairman Anania adds that this report was given to the Mayor and he is looking to be updated to ensure everything is being done properly.

- Public Safety- Councilman Carbo explains that the committee met regarding parking down at the Beach. There were several residents who stated that there was no parking available due to overcrowding. Mr. Carbo says he contacted all Council members via email asking for a list of names so that the residents can be reached in order to determine exactly what is going on down at the Beach. He and Councilman Santino checked out the lots, there are kids working in the lots and next year he suggests there should possibly be a new procedure regarding parking. Mr. Carbo adds that last year the Towing procedure was changed and he was approached recently by displeased companies being charged but not getting any of the tows. Councilman Gary Depalma explains that tows have increased significantly and there is a tow log that is used.
- Board of Education- nothing to report at this time.
- Parks/Recreation- there was no meeting last month, nothing to report at this time.
- Urban Renewal- nothing to report at this time.
- Finance- Councilman William Richardson states the two transfers discussed earlier from the Fund Balance Contribution were discussed, nothing else to report at this time.

Item #5

To consider and act upon a Resolution authorizing Mayor Joseph Maturo, Jr., on behalf of the East Haven Town Council and the Town of East Haven, to enter into a traffic enforcement and mutual aid compact known as the "South Central Connecticut Regional Traffic Unit Mutual Police Assistance Compact."

- Deputy Chief of Police John Mannion explains that this is something Lieutenant Edward Lennon has been going over for several months acting as the coordinator with the Federal Government and the Connecticut Department of Transportation regarding all grants for traffic enforcement, DWI checks, click it or tick it, etc. Each Police Department in surrounding areas submits their own grants to the Department of Transportation. The idea here is to regionalize this type of enforcement in order to expedite the grant writing process. It can be consolidated down to one regional traffic enforcement unit and they can now staff and equip the various functions with a regional team including the four surrounding Police Departments. If approved, an accident investigative team, primarily with instances of serious accidents or fatalities, can consist of officers from surrounding areas.

- Councilman Richardson asks if there is any estimate on the cost of this and was there enough budgeted for this to happen this year?
- Deputy Mannion explains there is enough money for the equipment but there is additional training of the officers that will need to take place. The need at this time is not equipment, it is the man power so that officers don't need to be called in on days off or work extra hours, and instead surrounding towns can provide assistance with their officers already working that day.
- Chairman Anania asks how many officers are certified to which Lt. Lennon answers 5.
- Councilman Parlato asks if anyone has done an inventory of the accident reconstruction equipment to ensure everyone has the same equipment and if anything needs to be replaced, the tools are all the same. Deputy Mannion explains that all of that with several other areas were all discussed.
- Councilman Richardson asks if any other towns have this.
- Lt. Lennon states that towns in the Hartford area as well as the Fairfield area are doing this. He adds that it is suggested by the Department of Transportation.
- Councilman Purificato asks if there is any cost involved when sharing officers.
- Deputy Mannion explains that how it works is if there are currently officers working a shift in one Town that a surrounding Town may need, they can provide the aide. For instance if they need a Certified Officer and one is working in East Haven they can go provide assistance to another Town Department.
- Councilman Carbo asks if there is a flat fee for the officers to go to another Town to which Deputy Mannion explains it is time and a half rates. Carbo asks if there are any problems with the Union to which Lt. Lennon states as long as they stay within contract there should not be any issues.
- Councilman Depalma explains that this will allow them to pull officers in from other areas for instance if there is a checkpoint and more officers are needed, they could call Branford or another neighboring Town to see if they have extra officers available.
- Councilman Anthony Mansi asks if there are additional grants for doing this program. Deputy Mannion says they are more so trying to streamline and regionalize by having one grant rather than dealing with four different Departments. They can provide one grant for DWI enforcement, click it or tick it, traffic enforcement, etc.
- Councilman Parente asks if this is for equipment, training or both to which Deputy Chief Mannion explains that it is for operations. Councilman Parente asks if they anticipate having to come before the Council for additional funding or if they have enough in the budget now. Deputy Chief Mannion explains they are pretty well cross-trained and there is state of the art equipment already within the Department.

- Councilman Michael Riolino asks if there is going to be a representative from each Department on the authority board. Lt. Lennon explains that there is an assistant coordinator from North Branford who would be the primary contact and there will be a coordinator for the operations. Mr. Riolino asks if there is a trustee for this grant money or someone who looks over the account. Lt. Lennon responds the Police Department fills out the paperwork currently and then it is sent to the Finance Department who primarily deals with the account.

Public Comment:

- Donna Richo- 67 Charnes Drive East Haven, Connecticut. Ms. Richo asks how much in grant money is being talked about. Lt. Lennon explains that the grant application period has just been opened, so at this time he does not know the amount. Ms. Richo asks what the cost would be to run the program to which Lt. Lennon responds that the grant funds for itself in regards to traffic enforcement, the rest depends on whether it is busy or not. Deputy Mannion states that they try to do things on a voluntary basis so that officers from surrounding Towns can help out rather than encouraging East Haven officers to work on their time off.

Councilman Purificato makes a motion.

Councilman Parente seconds the motion.

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

Item #6

To consider and act upon an Ordinance authorizing the Town of East Haven and the East Haven Board of Education to extend an existing Lease Agreement with GE Capital to fund technology projects for FY 2012-2013 and waiving any bidding requirements associated therewith. Councilman Parente makes a motion.

Councilman Parlato seconds the motion.

No council comment.

No public comment.

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

Item #7

To consider and act upon an Ordinance authorizing the following transfer at the recommendation of the Board of Finance:

| | | | |
|-------|-------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| To: | 01-167-0972 | Retirement – Lump Sum Payment | \$247,880.00 |
| From: | 01-886-0001 | Fund Balance Contribution | \$247,880.00 |

No council comment.

No public comment.

Councilman Parente makes a motion.

Councilman Carbo seconds the motion.

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

Item #8

To consider and act upon an Ordinance authorizing the following transfer at the recommendation of the Board of Finance

| | | | |
|-------|-------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| To: | 01-167-0910 | Retirement Fund Contribution | \$364,946.00 |
| From: | 01-886-0001 | Fund Balance Contribution | \$364,946.00 |

No council comment.

No public comment.

Councilman Richardson makes a motion.

Councilman Purificato seconds the motion.

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

Item #9

To consider and act upon a Resolution authorizing, Mayor Joseph Maturo, Jr., on behalf of the Town of East Haven, to execute a Tax Assessment Agreement regarding 90 Foxon Boulevard and approving said agreement.

- Arthur DeSorbo, Director of Administration and Management explains that the correct address is 35 Foxon Boulevard, 90 is the property owner's home address.

Councilman Depalma makes a motion to accept the change.

Councilman Carbo seconds the motion.

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

- Michael Milici, Town Assessor explains that when Henry Luzzi was Mayor, he put together an economic development task force comprised of elected officials, town officials, business owners, etc. to try and attract businesses to come to Town. There were essentially two programs, one which deals with new construction and one that deals with rehabilitation for existing structures. The first one is written by state statute and has guidelines based on the construction cost. The thresholds are \$500,000 or less, \$3,000,000 or greater and the interim of \$500,000 to \$3,000,000. The property that will be discussed tonight is less than \$500,000. He explains that the tax incentives in the past have all been successful and are done in order to add attractiveness to the Town.
- Mr. DeSorbo adds that the taxes in the first year are never less than the taxes on the original property, so the Town never loses anything. He explains the property owner, Arnold Popolizio, had an unattractive piece of property which became a nuisance for vandalism. The property owner has since turned it into an attractive commercial building. The taxes collected by the Town when it was in bad conditions are lower than the first year of the new building, so there is no loss to the Town. Mr. DeSorbo explains that incentive programs help when we are against a city like New Haven. Mr. DeSorbo explains that the Town is working with Mr. Popolizio on finding people to lease the building but there are no commitments yet.
- Mr. Milici adds that this was a two family house originally; it no longer being a two family home removes a burden from the Town itself.

Council comment:

- Councilman Richardson asks if this agreement is for future agreements and if there was an assessment done on the property. Mr. Milici explains that the way this program is written by the State, the assessment has to be done when the property is completed.

Public comment:

- Donna Richo- 67 Charnes Drive East Haven, Connecticut. Ms. Richo asks to see photos of the property to which Mr. DeSorbo provides a before and after picture. She asks what the use would be to which Mr. DeSorbo said it is currently up for lease it could be a number of things such as a law office, accounting office, etc. Ms. Richo asks for the tax breakdown. Mr. DeSorbo states that when it was a house the taxes were \$3,466.00, after the house was demolished and vacant

the taxes were \$2,108.00 and now the taxes are \$5,337.00, when complete will be \$5,555.00 for the three year abatement and on the fourth year when it is 100% of the value the taxes will be \$8,177.00 given the current mil rate.

- Gene Ruocco- Mr. Ruocco, chairman of Planning of Zoning explains that the property owner came before the Board regarding this. Mr. Ruocco asks if it is normal to build the structure and then ask for a tax assessment or do you use the tax assessment as something to attract a new building. Mr. Ruocco explains that he wanted to make sure that he didn't build and then come in for a tax break, rather did the work and then asked what the Town can do. Mr. DeSorbo explains that the owner came to the Town well before, asked what was available then went before planning and zoning.
- Mike Milici adds that there are guidelines within the Statute for this as well. This cannot be transferred if the building was then turned into something else; it is only for the building as it is at this time.
- Councilman Parlato states that this has been a practice with all administrations; it is one of the incentives that has always been approved and was highly successful.

Councilman Parlato makes a motion.

Councilman Carbo seconds the motion.

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

Item #10

To consider and act upon a Resolution authorizing the following transfer at the recommendation of the Board of Finance:

| | | | |
|-------|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| To: | 01-334-0202 | Water | \$35,430.00 |
| | Total: | | <u>\$35,430.00</u> |
| From: | 01-334-0150 | Vacation | \$27,888.00 |
| | 01-334-0165 | Personal Days | \$1,868.00 |
| | 01-334-0350 | Professional Dev. | \$5,674.00 |
| | Total | | <u>\$35,430.00</u> |

Mr. Rizza explains that this is out of the Fire Department for fire hydrant water. It is an end of year transfer.

No council comment.

No public comment.

Councilman Carbo makes a motion.

Councilman Richardson seconds the motion.

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

Item #11

To consider and act upon a Resolution authorizing the following transfer at the recommendation of the Board of Finance:

| | | | |
|-------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| To: | 01-662-0201 | Electricity | \$26,000.00 |
| | 01-661-0579 | Pool Chemicals | \$800.00 |
| | 01-662-0190 | Overtime Wages | \$100.00 |
| | 01-661-0118 | Seasonal Wages | \$2,320.00 |
| | 01-661-0570 | Bldg. Maintenance | \$300.00 |
| | Total | | <u>\$29,520.00</u> |
| From: | 01-661-0541 | Rec. Arts & Crafts | \$3,420.00 |
| | 01-661-0667 | Temp/PT | \$10,000.00 |
| | 01-662-0110 | Reg. Salaries | \$10,100.00 |
| | 01-662-0203 | Natural Gas | \$6,000.00 |
| | Total: | | <u>\$29,520.00</u> |

Mr. Rizza explains that this is another end of year transfer. The account 661 is the recreation department/pool and 662 is the ice rink. This would even off the accounts for end of year payments.

Council comment:

- Chairman Anania asked if the electricity in the ice rink went up to which Mr. Rizza states that money was taken out of the account and then put back in.
- Councilman Riolino asks if we have received the last bill for gas and Mr. Rizza confirms that all bills are in at this time.

No public comment.

Councilman Carbo makes a motion.

Councilman Parente seconds the motion.

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

Item #12

To consider and act upon setting a public hearing date and time to discuss action on a referral from the Board of Finance requesting the following transfer:

| | | | |
|-------|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| To: | 01-334-0110 | Regular Salaries | \$90,357.23 |
| | Total | | <u>\$90,357.23</u> |
| From: | 01-334-0561 | Vehicle Parts | \$89,857.23 |
| | 01-334-0470 | Recreation Equip. | \$500.00 |
| | Total: | | <u>\$90,357.23</u> |

The public hearing shall take place on September 4, 2012, at 7:00PM, at the East Haven Senior Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, Connecticut.

Councilman Parente makes a motion.

Councilman Parlato seconds the motion.

Council comment:

- Councilman Parlato asks what Department this is for. Mr. Rizza responds that it is from Fire to Fire.

No public comment.

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

Item #13

To consider and act upon the appointment of Wendy Bellmore to the Housing Authority for the unexpired term beginning 2/1/2011 and ending 2/1/2014.

Councilman Parente makes a motion.

Councilman Purificato seconds the motion.

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

Councilman Riolino makes a motion to add to the agenda to set a Public Hearing date and time regarding the 200 Tyler Street building for September 4, 2012.

Councilman Badamo seconds the motion.

Roll call: 9 in favor- 3 oppose (Parente, Parlato and Anania) – none abstain. Motion carries.

Item #14

To consider and act upon setting a Public Hearing date and time to discuss an ordinance revising towing procedures and guidelines utilized by the Town of East Haven. The public hearing shall take place on September 4, 2012, at 7:00PM, at the East Haven Senior Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, Connecticut.

Councilman Parente makes a motion.

Councilman Parlato seconds the motion.

No council comment.

No public comment.

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

Item #15

Councilman Parente makes a motion to adjourn.

Councilman Parlato seconds.

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

Meeting is adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Danelle Feeley, Clerk, East Haven Legislative Town Council