

**EAST HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2015**

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, March 3, 2015, at 7:00PM at the East Haven Senior Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, CT 06512.

Chairman Richard Anania calls the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Item#1

Roll Call for Hearing Committee-12 present- 3 absent (Santino, Esposito, Badamo)
Riolino arrived at 7:05PM.
A quorum is present.

Item #2

To conduct Public Hearing #1 regarding "Ordinance approving a transfer of \$100,000.00 for the Police Department" as follows:

Police Department

To:

01-332-0190	Overtime Wages	\$100,000.00
TOTAL		\$100,000.00

From:

01-332-0110	Unused Salaries	\$100,000.00
TOTAL		\$100,000.00

Reason: Funds needed for overtime.

No public comment.

Council comment:

- Councilman Nicholas Palladino asks how there were these unused salaries, what positions weren't filled or where did this come from.
- Deputy Police Chief Ed Lennon says he doesn't know exactly what the transfer was but he believes it is from the three vacant detective positions they have right now. There is currently a test going on right now for it.

- Councilman Palladino asks if they have a youth officer yet to which Deputy Chief Lennon says no.
- Councilwoman Beverly Gravino asks if we are still going through the DOJ or is this strictly because we are short handed? She asks what the reason is for so much overtime.
- Deputy Chief Lennon says they are actually at full staff for patrol officers; they have a few vacancies for the detective positions, which they are in the process of testing for right now as well as the youth detective. Some of the officers were in the Academy and they had to back fill them and pay the regular pay while the officers were in the Academy.
- Councilman Robert Sand asks about the balance of the monies they are currently projecting to have by the end of June, is that number available.
- Deputy Chief Lennon says he doesn't know off hand and Paul Rizza isn't here tonight.
- Councilman Sand says assuming there were positions that weren't filled and are about to be filled, you would have to assume there are unused monies for the unfilled positions.
- Deputy Chief Lennon says he doesn't think there will be much left.
- Councilman Sand asks if they are depleting it, taking all of the monies.
- Deputy Chief Lennon says he believes some of the money was taken from a couple of places.
- Chairman Anania points out that the overtime is a large figure but it is a good thing that it is being done as an in house transfer, its not coming from contingency or any other spare money. We are usually taking money from the contingency to cover overtime.
- Councilman Anthony Mansi says as we go into the budget season, is this something budgetary wise that could be correct in the upcoming years? It seems like every few months we are doing this, cant we project this in the budget. He says if we've done it 4 or 5 times that's half a million dollars, cant we predict that in the budget.
- Chairman Anania says it is hard to predict overtime. They have been short handed in the past, now they are pretty much up to staff. Things happen that can't be predicted such as injuries.
- Councilman Mansi says he knows things are going to happen and he can understand it for the first couple of years after the DOJ. But can't we get it closer so maybe we are only doing this once a year rather than 4 or 5.
- Chairman Anania says when they get the budget they will look and see what the numbers are. It's definitely not an easy task to even get close, there can be 10 officers that go out tomorrow and you have the overtime. The main concern is that the money is there within their own budget right now, which is a good thing.

- Councilman Ken McKay says he has done 18 budgets and Councilman Parlato has done 20 and can say this is such an unpredictable thing because you never know what can happen. God forbid someone goes out on long-term disability; we have to fill that position because of manpower protocols in their contract. You don't know if you will have to subsidize in the overtime account, you can't predict that. Same thing for the Fire Department or Public Services with all of the snow. We try to get it as close as we can by looking at previous years but it always changes.
- Councilman Mansi says when people are out, does any of it come out of other funds or is it just straight pay?
- Councilman McKay says they get paid and worker's compensation kicks in but you have to initial pay and collect it back from worker's compensation.
- Councilman Henry Butler III says at the last Board of Finance meeting the Chief said this was the first time they had no one on long-term disability. He also said the positions are just about all filled, they were just making the last round of promotions so they had to back fill the positions until then but then overtime should drop substantially.
- Councilman Fred Parlato says the Police Department has gone through a complete metamorphosis in the last 4 or 5 years with all of the turmoil both internal and external and he is quite impressed we are to the point where we are now, between people who were out injured, some out on indictment. A budget is a guestimate because you don't know what is going to happen, you look at past history but you get blindsided. His daughter is going to be out on comp due to a work related injury, which was unexpected. Thousands of dollars were put back in the PD every time we turned around; to him \$100,000 is small. They still have the funds within their budget to recoup the costs and if they have to come to us to take it out of the contingency, that's what it is going to be. A small Town like ours doesn't have a lot of money to back us up, and the taxpayers' cant afford it. For the service we get from the Police Department and what they have done in the last two years to reconcile everything is amazing and he thinks we are on the right track especially being almost to full staff. He applauds them for that.
- Town Attorney Joseph Zullo says in response to Councilman Sand's note, through the first 7 months of this fiscal year (58% of the fiscal year), the Police Department has used 50% of its salaries. That equates to about \$360,000 of slack on the salaries side, but you can't use it all for transfers because some of it will get eaten up at the end with all of the new hires. To answer his question, there may very well be some money left before going to the contingency, but it's not fair to hold them to a hard number because they don't really know when everyone will come on and how much the salaries will be at the end of the year. But there is probably a little more, they may just be hesitant to use it.

Item #3

Adjournment of Public Hearing #1.

Councilman Mckay makes a motion.

Councilman Palladino 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 Sand makes a motion.

Councilman Mckay seconds the motion.

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

Item #5

Adjournment of Hearing Committee.

Vice Chairman Robert Parente makes a motion.

Councilman Palladino seconds the motion.

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

Meeting is adjourned at 7:12PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danelle Feeley, Clerk, East Haven Legislative Town Council