

**EAST HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2013**

In accordance with Chapter III, Section 6 of the East Haven Town Charter, the East Haven Town Council held a public hearing meeting Wednesday, July 24, 2013, at 7:00PM at the Mario Giaimo Room, East Haven Town Hall, 250 Main Street, East Haven, CT 06512.

Chairman Richard Anania calls the public hearing to order at 7:10PM.

**Item #1**

Roll Call for Public Hearing #1: 8 present - 7 absent (Depalma, Esposito, Richardson, Badamo, Riolino, Carbo and Mansi).

A quorum is present.

**Item #2**

To conduct Public Hearing #1 regarding 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 2013-2014 and waiving any bidding requirements associated therewith.

**AUTHORIZING ORDINANCE OF THE  
East Haven Town Council**

**CERTIFICATION:**

I, Stacy Piccirillo, the Town Clerk of the Town of East Haven, do certify that the following is a true and correct copy of an ordinance adopted by the East Haven Town Council at its duly called and held meeting on \_\_\_\_\_, 2013, at which a quorum was present and acting throughout, and that the ordinance has not been modified, rescinded, or revoked and is at present in full force and effect:

**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 2013-2014 and waiving any bidding requirements associated therewith.**

**Master Lease Purchase Agreement #6888253  
Lease Schedule #015**

**WHEREAS**, the East Haven Board of Education and the Town of East Haven are parties to an existing Lease Agreement with GE Capital for computer technology;

**AND WHEREAS**, the East Haven Board of Education and the Town of East Haven wish to amend the current lease to provide for the leasing of new computer technology for an additional year for the Board of Education at a cost of \$262,000.00;

**AND WHEREAS**, Chapter 6, Section 4(C) of the East Haven Town Charter contains bidding requirements for certain expenditures;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Town Charter's bidding requirements may be waived by two-thirds of the members present and voting;

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it **ORDAINED** by the Town Council of the Town of East Haven that the Town of East Haven and the Board of Education, acting by their duly authorized agents, are authorized to amend and extend an existing Lease Agreement with GE Capital to fund technology projects for FY 2013-2014 and to obligate the Town and Board of Education for the payment of \$262,000.00 in furtherance of this extension and, be it **FURTHER ORDAINED**, that any bidding requirements associated with said transaction are hereby waived.

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

Submitted by: Danelle Feeley, Council Clerk Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by: Joseph Maturo, Jr., Mayor Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Received by: Stacy Piccirillo, Town Clerk Date: \_\_\_\_\_

IN WITNESS WHEREOF:

The undersigned has executed this certificate this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stacy Piccirillo, Town Clerk

Randel Osborne addresses the Council regarding the Lease Agreement. Mr. Osborne states that for many years the East Haven Public Schools have funded their technology projects through a lease, which the Town Council graciously writes for them. He explains that the Town Council as a municipality capable of levying taxes gets a much better lease rate than the Public Schools do. He explains historically they have always made the lease payment and have always done good things with the technology. The lease rate is the most favorable it has been since they executed this. He states that a logical question is what is going to be done with the lease. On Monday he had a very good idea of what was going to be done; the East Haven Public Schools have adopted Google and Google apps for education as a platform for computing, collaborating and sharing documents and emails. He explains that one of the best devices to run Google is a chrome book, which is a little portable handheld device that they get for \$250.00, and these can be put in the hands of a lot of kids from grades 3-5 in the elementary schools. On Tuesday afternoon, the Governor released a \$10,000,000 grant funding technology initiatives in Connecticut to support State testing initiatives. For the past two days, he has been working very hard with the assistant Superintendent in writing this grant that is due in early August. This will allow us to purchase technology with a reimbursement rate of over 70%. Any money we expend, we are able to buy \$.30 on the dollar. The goal is to take the bulk of the lease and apply it towards technology purposes and they may be able to do something on a K-12 level this year.

- Chairman Anania asks about the Town Council getting tablets, would they be able to include that with this lease.
- Mr. Osborne says that the tablets are a part of it and they are also moving to wireless. Paperless meetings are an objective of the Board of Education. The tablets are one part of this and the Google Apps are another part where everyone has an account and there is a mechanism to organize all of the information and get it to the members. The Google Apps for a municipality is a free thing, he can work with someone to get them set up and start the flow of information, which is the biggest step. In terms of the tablets, he can make that happen as well. There is no rate discount on iPads whether you buy 1, 50 or 500. We can ensure the municipal rate is extended and try to make it happen.
- Councilman Fred Parlato refers to Randel's comment that 9 million Xerox copies done this year equates to \$250,000, so this would be a step in the direction of the 5 year plan goal of becoming paperless?
- Mr. Osborne explains that one of the plans in the 5 year plan was to do one to one computing; one computer per child in grades 3-12. If we get this grant, we can do it this year. The question was how we can make it happen in 5 years; with this fund we can do it. Once documents are grouped and can be shared easily, the need to copy and print is diminished. There needs to be a viable

solution to printing, it can't just stop completely. There needs to be a way to get information to parents, teachers, administrators, etc. and we have built a way to do that and we will expand on it. He hopes the initiative with Chrome book devices will do more with it. There will be a way to print, it won't be celebrated, but it can be done if it has to be.

- Councilman Parlato asks if there will be a system to monitor the devices as far as mortality rates, if they were lost stolen or misplaced. Will it be done a regular basis?
- Mr. Osborne explains that there are 600 iPads out in the field right now; they are tracked as far as physical location, status and serial number. Of the 600, we have had about 1 failure in the two years. Looking at thousands of devices in the hands of thousands of kids, we need to ramp that up. We need to ensure the device stays with the child, we need to be sure exactly where it is, if what is being done on it is appropriate, that we get it back and we keep it in service.
- Mr. Parlato asks what liability the parents will have with this.
- Mr. Osborne says there has to be a best practice and we have to communicate that best practice to our constituents, both kids and parents. There has to be an agreement about the practice and what the consequences will be if that practice is not followed. He does not have all of those answers tonight but it is certainly something that is a big part of this plan.
- Councilman Robert Parente asks how much of the grant is contingent on going through with this program.
- Mr. Osborne states that if the grant is not funded or if it is partially funded, we will scale back. They will do devices in each of the elementary schools next year. If the grant isn't funded, they will still be doing Chrome books, but they will simply not do as many. If they are funded, they will expand in a big way.
- Vice Chairman Sand asks if this will require additional staffing in the Department and if they are prepared for it.
- Mr. Osborne says that it may, it is all happening rather quickly because they found out about it two days ago. There was a Board of Education meeting last night and a discussion took place about this project. He can't suggest they commit to greater staffing before they finish the grant. If they ramp up the number of devices which are being used by students and families at their home, it allows them to be using them out of the hours of a regular business day when they do the technology services in the Public Schools. He would suggest they will need additional staffing at least to service those after hours.
- Councilman Sand asks if they are successful in doing this, would it mean they have a greater need for a larger lease in order to maintain the additional equipment because the grant is for one year presumably.

- Mr. Osborne says the grant is equipment purchase only and this is the first time to his knowledge the State has funded computer technology; they have funded infrastructure and servers and wire projects. Our staff is funded almost entirely through the Board of Education operating budget and perhaps they would need to expand the budget to grow the staff.
- Councilman Parente asks if they will not be considering personnel in the grant.
- Mr. Osborne says no, they cannot.

No public comment.

### **Item #3**

Adjournment of Public Hearing #1

Councilman Anthony Purificato makes a motion.

Councilman Joseph Santino seconds the motion.

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

### **Item #4**

Roll Call for Hearing Committee: 8 present - 7 absent (Depalma, Esposito, Richardson, Badamo, Riolino, Carbo and Mansi).

### **Item #5**

Hearing Committee report to the full Town Council to recommend action on Public Hearing 1

Councilman Santino makes a motion.

Councilman Robert Cubellotti seconds the motion.

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

### **Item #6**

Councilman Parlato makes a motion to adjourn.

Councilman Santino seconds the motion.

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

Meeting is adjourned at 7:23PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danelle Feeley, Clerk, East Haven Legislative Town Council