

Town of East Haven
Board of Finance – Amended Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 19, 2014

The East Haven Board of Finance held its Regular Meeting on Wednesday February 19, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. in the Mario Giaimo, Joseph Vitale Meeting Room on the lower level of East Haven Town Hall, 250 Main Street, East Haven, CT 06512

Ralph Vitale called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Ralph Vitale, Beth Purcell, Salvatore Maltese, Noreen Clough, Richard DePalma and Maria Tonelli– All Present. Also in attendance were Police Chief Brent Larrabee, Superintendent of Public Works Robert Parente, Town Attorney - Mr. Joseph Zullo, Finance Director Paul Rizza and Director of Administration, Management and Economic Development, - Mr. Arthur DeSorbo.

2. Read and Approve Minutes from Special Meeting held December 18, 2013

Noreen Clough made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 18, 2013 meeting. Beth Purcell seconded. All in Favor. Motion Approved.

3. Old Business

Noreen Clough asks Paul Rizza if there will be an auditors meeting. Paul Rizza states yes he is trying to put one together as a combined meeting with the Board of Education and Town Council. Noreen Clough asks about FEMA money. Paul Rizza states that there is a very small amount still due less than \$8,000.

4. New Business

Richard DePalma asks Paul Rizza if we owe any outstanding bills for paving and milling. Paul Rizza state we do not owe on any milling, paving however we still have a balance with Tilcon. We did mail them a check for around \$151,000, the outstanding amount is maybe about \$300 - \$400 dollars. Richard DePalma asks if this is all from bonding? Paul Rizza states no its LOSA. LOSA does allow you to contact them via email to let them know you need to move the money – so we will be clearing the balance up in the next few weeks. Beth Purcell asks where do the ice rink revenues go and if another group comes in and uses our fields and they have to pay what account does that get placed in? Paul Rizza states there are two accounts, Recreation Fees and Athletic Accounts. Athletic Accounts is ice rink and fields. Recreation Fees is for what he charges for the teams and the summer camps. Beth Purcell states that she notices the Fire Department has a few negatives in there. Paul Rizza states that yes they will be cleared up this month.

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5. Public Comment

None

6. Discussion of Board of Finance Workshop Schedule

Noreen Clough asks when will they receive the books? Paul Rizza states that day on the 3rd.

7. East Haven Police Department – Animal Control

To:	01-331-0190	Overtime	\$4,200
From:	01-331-0667	Temp. Part-Time Help	\$4,200

Funds needed to cover overtime when ACO are called back after hours. Also need to cover overtime when ACO is out sick, or on vacation, per Union Contract for Local 818.

Noreen Clough makes a motion. Beth Purcell seconds. Discussion. Paul Rizza states that this falls under part of their union contract. Roll Call Vote. All in Favor. Motion Carries.

8. Public Works

To:	01-229-0190	O/T Wages	\$3,000
From:	01-229-0203	Natural Gas	\$3,000

Funds needed due to shortage in overtime account.

Noreen Clough makes a motion. Richard DePalma seconds. Discussion. Noreen Clough asks for the natural gas and it was a cold winter will we have enough to cover the gas? Paul Rizza states we will probably have to move money back into there. We are running about 15% colder with degree days than normal. Richard DePalma asks if this will be enough to cover O/T will it get you through the next few weeks? Robert Parente states that we are on our 19th storm and I would be lying to you if I say yes we are at the mercy of the weather conditions. Roll Call Vote – All in Favor – Motion Carries.

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9. Public Works

To:	01-224-0192	Seasonal OT/Parks	\$10,100
	01-224-0580	Road Maint & Material	\$ 9,100
	01-224-0575	Clothing & Uniforms	\$ 300
	01-224-0450	Bldg & Maint. Equipment	<u>\$ 50</u>
			\$19,550

From:	01-224-0120	Snow & Ice Wages	\$11,550
	01-224-0644	Rental of Equipment	<u>\$ 8,000</u>
			\$19,550

Noreen Clough makes a motion to waive the reading of all the accounts. Beth Purcell Seconds. Noreen Clough makes a motion – Beth Purcell seconds. Discussion. Noreen Clough asks what are snow and ice wages? Paul Rizza states that there are a couple of places out of accounts that we pay snow storm O/T, one is this account but this is not the primary account. We also have town aid road monies available and that is where the bulk of the money comes from. Roll Call Vote – All in Favor – Motion Carries .

10. East Haven Police Department

To:	01-332-0190	O/T Wages	\$100,000
From:	01-332-0110	Regular Salaries	\$100,000

Funds needed to cover overtime wages. Refer to Town Council.

Noreen Clough makes a motion to refer to Town Council. Richard DePalma seconds. Discussion. Chief Larrabee submits a hand-out for the Council to review what is going on and why. Chief Larrabee reviews how many personnel the police department has, what their duties entail as well as who can be used for O/T and who cannot. The mayor has been very supportive with us hiring – and we have been very aggressive and actively looking and when you hire in an officer it takes one year before it counts toward minimums to offset O/T. What it boils down to is currently we have 18 officers to fill 13 shifts per day that does not count for anyone out on vacation, sick time etc. In addition we are losing one officer to New Britain, so we will be down to 17 officers. This \$100,000 is not going to get us very far. Richard DePalma asks if we have any transfers pending with the Town Council? Pau Rizza states no those are all through. Chief Larrabee states that there have been 26 people that have left. 26 people is enormous, $\frac{3}{4}$ left because of normal retirement or disability not because of what the New Haven Register had stated which was incorrect. We along with other towns are in a cycle where officers are jumping from town to town. The state took away the mandate of time an officer once trained by that town

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are to stay employed by that town. We have now through civil service are requiring upon completion of the academy you must stay three years, we have gone a step further with pre-employment contracts for each individual. Roll Call Vote – All in Favor – Motion Carries.

11. Legal

Amendment:

Noreen Clough makes a motion to add 11 A for legal services. Beth Purcell seconds. Roll Call Vote – All in Favor – Motion Carries.

Noreen Clough makes a motion to add 11 B for legal services. Beth Purcell seconds. Roll Call Vote – All in Favor – Motion Carries.

11A.

To:	01-113-0668	Legal & Lawyer Fees	\$47,500	
From:	01-885-0689	Contingency		\$47,500

Funds need for complex litigation.

Noreen Clough makes a motion to refer to the Town Council. Beth Purcell seconds. Discussion. Attorney Zullo states that the bottom line is that we have had some very difficult litigation, punctuated by the 12.1 million dollar verdict which we are doing everything possible to aggressively defend and resolve to the most favorable light to the town. Up ahead are the remainders of some difficult cases forthcoming. These fees are associated with various pieces of litigation. I would be more than happy to go more into detail with you so you fully understand what we have been dealing with in executive session.

Roll Call Vote – All in Favor – Motion Carries.

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11.B

To:	01-113-0694	Other Contractual Services	\$8,000
From:	01-885-0689	Contingency	\$8,000

Funds needed for complex litigation.

Noreen Clough makes a motion. Richard DePalma seconds. Discussion. Attorney Zullo states that this was for a neurological expert for a case we were working on – it was absolutely necessary.

Roll Call Vote – All in Favor – Motion Carries.

12. Any Other Business that May Come Before This Board.

Noreen Clough makes a motion to add to the agenda item 12A. to go into executive session for a claims review. Beth Purcell seconds. Roll Call Vote – All in Favor – Motion Carries.

12A. Legal – Claims Review

Noreen Clough makes a motion at 7:45 p.m. to go into executive session including, Town Attorney and Finance Direction. Richard DePalma seconds. Roll Call Vote – All in Favor – Motion Carries.

Noreen Clough makes a motion to end executive session at 8:32 p.m. and resume regular meeting. Beth Purcell seconds.

13. Adjourn

Noreen Clough makes a motion to adjourn regular meeting at 8:35 p.m. Richard DePalma seconds. All in Favor – Motion Carries

Temple Smith

Board of Finance Clerk