

**East Haven Board of Finance  
Special Meeting Agenda Minutes  
December 21, 2022**

The East Haven Board of Finance held a Special Meeting on Wednesday December 21, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. in the Senior Center at 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, CT. 06512.

**1. Roll Call**

Vice Chair Rich Esposito, Beth Purcell,, Ralph Vitale (via phone), Al Purzycki and Chris Perdo were present. Jim Keeley, Finance Director was present as well as Town Attorney Mike Luzzi. Mayor Carfora was not present.

**2. Read and Approve Minutes from September 21, 2022 and August 16, 2022.**

Rich Esposito made a motion to approve the September 21, 2022 and August 16, 2022, meeting minutes. Beth Purcell seconds. *Roll call, all in favor.*

**3. Old Business**

None

**4. New Business**

Ralph asked the undersigned clerk about getting an accounting as requested at last meeting about the ice rink. The undersigned clerk stated she sent Jim Keeley an email regarding same. Jim Keeley stated we should have that accounting in the next week or week and a half. Jim stated we were waiting on a few things to come in. Ralph asked if there is money left to spend that hasn't been spent. (For the rink) Jim Keeley stated there were a couple of small things. They are still projecting for it to come under budget. Jim stated that his guess would be close to budget, slightly under. Roughly between \$10,000.00 and \$30,000. Ralph asked if it was in the recreation budget. Jim stated the operations is in the recreation budget. Ralph stated we have to hire custodians and people to watch it when it is open above and beyond the hours of the recreation department. Ralph asked if there will be new line items. Jim stated we're starting to go through the budget process now for next year's budget and this is one of the things that will have to be looked at to make sure we are fully staffed. We just opened the rink so we need to make some best guess estimates but we are looking to get people in place to see what we need as far as people power and make sure they get included in the next year's budget. Ralph asked about the income side. Mike Luzzi and Jim Keeley agreed and stated that they expect revenues to be much higher. More than likely, we will have teams come back that we're here prior, and more than likely teams that never played here before. Beth stated we will miss them this hockey season. Mike Luzzi stated we have Guilford back, a junior program, and hoping other New Haven County teams to come to us. We are selling ice time for earlier in the day. Chris is doing a great job. Al asked if we have seen anything from adult ?inaudible Groups yet? Attorney Luzzi stated it is starting. Attorney Luzzi stated he just went to the rec commission with the approved contracts, so we have given them rental contracts for that type of event, fundraising events, and school events. We have been actively marketing and we just got a field

trip from one of the New Haven schools, which is another avenue that historically has never been tapped. Liz and Chris have done a great job.

Ralph asked if we rent the concession stand and the skate rental. Jim stated at the concession stand we had a bidding process so there will be a subcontractor that goes in there. As far as the other things the ice-skating rentals that will be controlled through the Town. So, we will need employees for that. We have purchased ice skates and roller skates and skate sharpening, etc. Attorney Luzzi stated it is a no cash facility, just like the dump and other facilities. We anticipate being able to pre purchase things, that is the next step. We will be able to identify revenues quite easily. Quite advanced. Liz could tell you what the rentals are, but positive so far.

## 5. **Public Comment**

Lorena Venegas stated she loves the ice rink. She would like to make what you call a wish list. She would like to see our website more transparent. Show the big winners. It is a great way for the mayor to promote the biggest award. She pointed out that Madison puts a press release out. She is looking forward having Munis in 2023. We have the IT staff and budget allocated from prior year. Lorena has some Freedom of Informations that inaudible, D.C. Moore and the invoices attached has some missing invoice numbers and P.O. Numbers. She is concerned about that. I also have a Freedom of Information with Town Attorney Luzzi for aviation taxation report and that is overdue. Lorena is very concerned about the property assessment and the lawsuits that are happening. Some people who did the board of assessment appeals, those are the rich people in town, they are wealthy enough to hire an attorney go to court. Common people can't do that. When you read the court document what is happening is that things are being rubber-stamped. Finally, Tweed, Lorena wanted to show the BOF the summer months what it looks like. Inaudible, this is just one Freedom of Information from New Haven, it is a contract and some attorney privileged information that happened behind the scene. Today Lorena went to the Tweed meeting and three people didn't go from East Haven. Ray Pompano, Kevin Coyle and Joseph Ginnetti. Only Ken Dagliere and Linda Hennessy. She stated we need better representation. Lorena stated the Mayor has done an excellent job of being public and open about his stance on the inaudible. All those are all public documents. He went to the Tweed Board meeting on August 17 and was able to speak inaudible, she stated that because all those materials have been made public to date that anything in the executive session could be made public to us it would be enhanced communication.

## 6. **Schedule of Meetings List for 2023**

Beth made a motion to approve the Schedule of Meetings List for 2023, Rich seconds. Roll call, all in favor.

## 7. **IT: *Refer to the Town Council***

To:	01-339-0110	Regular Salaries	\$75,238.00
From:	01-339-0694	Other Contractual	\$75,238.00

Al made motion to discuss and refer to Town Council, Beth seconds.

Jim stated last year we didn't have the approval yet to have someone in the Union as far as having salaries, so we left the number and the other contractual amount. All we are asking now is to move it now that we went through proper procedures to have the job there. Beth asked if this is just for one person. Jim stated yes. There are two people. One is paid for out of ARPA and we are going to review the job after the year is finished to see whether or not it continues to be a 2 person job or one person job.

Since it is a new department, it is a trial and error. We are in the process of going through Munis so I would rather more bodies than not enough. Rich stated he was happy to see it.

***Roll call, all in favor.***

8. **Assessor:**

Al made motion to discuss and refer to Town Council, Beth seconds.

To:	01-107-0657	Data Processing	\$24,900.00
From:	01-107-0110	Wages	\$24,900.00

Al made motion to discuss Beth seconds. Jim stated we are still in the process of trying to find a full time Assessor. We are working with some people, and we hired some more staff in the last few months. We are outsourcing some of this work to QDS, we need to pay them. Al asked how we are doing in process of finding a replacement. Jim stated it has been a slow painful process, not from lack of effort. Attorney Mike Luzzi stated there are a number of Towns without an Assessor, but we are fortunate to use Gary Johns. He has been incredible. Frankly, better than ever. Chris asked about the data processing. Jim stated that QDS does our data processing, so they are helping in the void.

***Roll call, all in favor***

9 **Fire Department: *Refer to the Town Council***

To:	01-334-0662	Vehicle repairs	\$47,000.00
From:	01-334-0840	Volunteer Tax Abatement	\$47,000.00

Al made motion to discuss and refer to Town Council, Beth seconds.

We have had several catastrophic repairs to apparatus this year. It is very early in the fiscal year. Chief is anticipating we will have normal maintenance and other repairs and to be on the safe side I had a surplus on the tax abatement which has been paid out already and move that money to the repair acct so I can keep the fleet running. Al asked if it is aging pf equipment? It is routine maintenance. The fleet is young with the exception of the ladder truck which is the oldest frontline apparatus. It's 11 years old and should be slated for replacement in the next couple years. The modern emission systems and diesel apparatus are problematic, and they require very costly repairs. Anticipating seeking an increase in that line next year. The tax abatement is about \$2k. There are about 60 that qualify for the tax abatement but there are only about 16 who are active. Beth asked if this vehicle repair number will get him through the year. Chief hopes so.

***Roll call, all in favor, Chris Perdo abstains.***

10. **Executive Session:**

Upon 2/3 vote, convene into executive session per C.G.S. § 1-200(6) the status of, and possible action pertaining to pending litigation regarding One Barberry Real Estate Holding, LLC, et al. v. Joseph Maturo, et al. (Case No. 3:17-cv-00985-KAD); and, Town of East Haven et al v. Allied World Insurance Company, Allied World National Assurance, and Starr Indemnity and Liability Company (Case No. 3:17-cv-01004).

\*see 11 below

11. **Executive Session:**

Upon 2/3 vote, convene into executive session pursuant to C.G.S. §§ 1-200(6)(E) and 1-210(b)(10) to discuss with legal counsel strategy and opinions relative to the proposed expansion of Tweed-New Haven Airport.

10 & 11 were read. Beth made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss items 10 and 11 and include Mike Luzzi and Jim Keeley and release the clerk. Chris Seconds.  
Meeting ended at 7:25 and went into Executive Session.

12. **Adjournment**

The undersigned was informed by Vice Chair Esposito that Executive Session ended at 7:51. Rich made motion to adjourn, Beth seconds.

Dated This 17th Day of January, 2023,  
East Haven, CT 06512

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Susan Mauro, Board of Finance Clerk

