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## **East Haven Town Council Public Hearing Minutes**

The East Haven Town Council held certain Public Hearings February 7, 2023, at 7:00p.m. at the East Haven Community Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven in person and via Zoom in order to transact the following:

Chairman Deko called the meeting to order at 7:03p.m.

Roll call-15 Present

Staff Present: Michael Luzzi Town Attorney, Jennifer Coppola Assistant Town Attorney, David Ryan Labor Attorney, Michelle Benivegna Director of Administration, James Keeley Finance Director, and Matthew Marcarelli Fire Chief.

### **Public Hearing #1**

Vice Chairman Pacelli read the following public hearing for an "Ordinance to Revise the Fee for the First \$1,000 Worth of Construction Value from \$25.00 to \$35.00."

Chairman Deko recognized Tina Headley, part of the IT department and Fire Marshal Charles Miller who gave an overview of the plan to have an online system for building permits, which will be integrated with planning and zoning, Fire Marshal, and the building department. Ms. Headley explain that there will be an increase of fees for the building department and the zoning department to cover the cost of the system being implemented and that the system is actually no cost to the town other than the increased fees of \$10 for the building department and the zoning department has not determined their cost to date.

Marshal Miller explained that to date they do not charge for reviews and the schedule that they would like to implement is what was forwarded to the council, which also covers the cost of the online program.

Town Attorney Michael Luzzi indicated that this is a long time coming and is needed to run more efficiently.

No public comment.

Chairman moved to close this public hearing.

Vice Chairman Pacelli second the motion.

**Item#2**

Vice Chairman Pacelli read the following public hearing for an “Ordinance Transferring \$300,000 from Self Insurance Reserve and Contingency to Legal and Lawyer Fees Account for \$300,000”— as follows:

To:	Legal and Lawyer Fees Account	#01-113-0668	\$300,000
From:	Self Insurance Reserve	#01-881-0950	\$150,000
	Contingency	#01-885-0689	\$150,00

Chairman Deko recognized Town Attorney Michael Luzzi who stated that for obvious reasons the driver in this transfer is the quarry trial, which they are 7 days in at this time. Funds were allocated last year, which covered one month of litigation but the judge thought differently.

Councilman Thompson asked who are the attorneys representing the town.

Attorney Luzzi indicated initially Hugh Keefe’s office; the judge requested briefs and Milano and Wanat are handling those. Pullman and Comley specialize in this kind of litigation as well as they specialize in taxation pre-emption, and land use. Speaking with Attorney Comley they are interviewing a traffic engineer and have engaged FAA and DSR counsel out of Colorado. The lawyers need more information to generate their strategy.

Councilwoman Glassman asked if this is normal in most lawsuits.

Attorney Luzzi indicated that these lawsuits could not be predicted as we inherited the Quarry and the Airport.

No public comment.

Chairman moved to close the public hearing.  
The Vice Chairman second the motion.

**Public Hearing #3**

The East Haven 2022-2027 Housing Plan, referred to the Town Council by the Affordable Housing Plan Advisory Committee. A copy of the draft Housing Plan is posted on the town website and copies available in the clerk's office.

The Assistant Town Attorney presented the draft page by page to the Council Members. She explained that first they appointed an Affordable Housing Committee and in combination with SCROOG they filled in the gaps to understand affordable housing, which is totally different from low income housing and not to be confused. The committee rose to the occasion and created the report and she thanked the following members of the committee: Chairwoman Amy Derbacher, Wendy Bellmore, Regina Comfort-Rodriguez, Louis Fusco, and Paul Salisbury.

Attorney Coppola presented each page to the council and further explained that this has to be done every 5 years and no town is excluded even if they meet the threshold. We emphasize senior housing so that they can age in place and affordable housing for young families as an incentive to town.

Chairman Deko recognized Cindy Sparago 42 Caroline Road who thanked the committee for their diligent hard work on this report.

Chairman Deko indicated at the request of Attorney Coppola the public hearing will remain open until the March 7, 2023 meeting.

## Hearing Committee

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved that the Hearing Committee of the East Haven Town Council recommend to the full Council adoption of the aforementioned ordinances and to adjourn the Public Hearing portion.

Councilwoman Cesare second the motion.

Voice vote-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

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Public Hearing adjourned at 8:16p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta A. DeLuca  
Town Council Clerk