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EAST HAVEN, CT
Stacy Gravino, CCTC
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**East Haven Town Council
Public Hearing**

The East Haven Town Council Held a Public Hearing Monday, April 26, 2021 via Zoom in order to hear the following:

Chairman Deko called the hearing to order at 7:04 p.m.

Roll Call-10 Present 4-Absent (Ranfone, Caportorto, Maltese, and Ruggiero)

Staff Present: Stacy Gravino Town Clerk and James Keeley Finance Director.

**TOWN OF EAST HAVEN NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE 2021 – 2022 FY
TOWN BUDGET**

In accordance with Chapter VII, Section 5 of the East Haven Town Charter, the East Haven Town Council will hold two public hearings regarding the proposed 2021 - 2022 fiscal year Town Budget, as follows:

Public Hearing #2

Vice Chairman Pacelli read the following:

A Public Hearing with regard to the Town of East Haven portion of said budget will be held via Zoom, Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Councilman Ranfone arrived at 7:09 p.m.

Chairman Deko recognized Jim Keeley, Finance Director. Mr. Keeley stated the following with regard to the budget that was presented to the council on March 31, 2021, he thanked the Town Council Members and the Board of Finance for their input, it really was a bipartisan effort to provide and increase services to the residents of East Haven without any tax increases for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year. The budget that was proposed was flat lined at \$93,455,354 the same exact number as last fiscal year. In doing that, we still managed to give the Board of Education a slight increase. We increased the workforce for both

police and fire departments, increased services for the senior center, summer youth programs, and we have eliminated bonding for vehicles such as patrol cars, animal shelter truck, and sidewalk repairs and maintenance. We also eliminated a \$50,000 service contract that predated the administration that goes with the Honeywell agreement. The Mayor and his staff have for-gone raises in this budget, as well. This is a sound and fiscally responsible budget with no tax increase to the residents.

Chairman Deko recognized Bob Schumitz had two points to address; between the Board of Finance, Town Council, and Board of Education it has been a very arduous several months and he wanted to give the council a lot of credit. This council is all volunteers although you do run and are voted in; he's not sure who or where you came up with that you want to discontinue the stipend. So he is asking why you would want to do that because 6 or 7 thousand dollars is not going to make a difference.

Chairman Deko stated that we are not doing this for the \$50 a month as was discussed during a workshop. Collectively it is \$9,000 a month and this budget has not eliminated the stipend. The chairman donates his stipend and those that want to can donate to the community, so it will remain in the budget.

Bob Schumitz believes this should not be a discussion, the councilman put in their time to improve the town.

Councilman Balter indicated it was more of a symbolic gesture to help the town financially. So the members use the stipend for a meal or a babysitter while in these meetings.

Mr. Schumitz you all put your time and you deserve this however menial it is, you guys are worth it. This is for you Chairman as a joke; last month you indicated that most of you will be on the council in this coming year. Don't count your chickens before they are hatched.

Chairman Deko stated I meant we all will be running again.

Mr. Schumitz stated nothing discouraging about the members, just joking. You all do great work and he is honored to listen to the meetings.

No comment from the council.

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to adjourn.

Councilwoman Cesare second the motion.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta A. DeLuca
Council Clerk