

RECEIVED FOR FILING
January 19, 2021 6:00 P.M.
DATE TIME
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
EAST HAVEN, CT
Stacy Gravino, CCTC
TOWN CLERK

**TOWN OF EAST HAVEN
East Haven Town Council
Minutes**

The East Haven Town Council held its Regular Meeting Tuesday, January 5, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. Via Zoom in order to transact the following:

Chairman Deko called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. He then read the executive order and explained the Zoom the process.

Chairman Deko then requested a moment of silence for the passing of Mayor Carfora father and for all those who have lost their fight with Covid-19. The Council congratulated Councilwoman Glassman and her husband with the upcoming birth of their child.

Item #1

Roll Call-13 Present 2 Absent (Ranfone and Maltese)

Staff Present-Jim Keeley, Finance Director, Charlie Coyle Superintendent, and Anna Della Rosso Tax Collector, and Town Attorney Michael Luzzi.

Item #2

Approval of Minutes November 10, 2020 Regular Meeting.

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to approve the minutes.

Councilman Butler second the motion.

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

Approved

Item #3

Correspondence

None

Item #4

Subcommittee Reports:

- a. Education, Library and School Building
Councilwoman Parlato presented the report in conjunction with Councilman Pompano and Councilwoman Cesar. The entire school system is still dealing with the pandemic and has made adjustments for parents who want their children to learn from home. The school calendar was adjusted for half days on Friday. The BOE held a special meeting to discuss the learning modules and also met with East Shore Health District to discuss the pandemic. She will forward the Library Committee information and the School Building Committee did not meet.

Chairman Deko added that the Superintendent and the BOE work closely with the administration to keep us informed.

b. Public Health, Safety, and Welfare

Councilwoman Parlato presented the report in conjunction with Councilman Butler and Councilwoman Ruggiero.

The Fire Department is following Covid-19 protocols, there was one member who had tested positive along with some quarantine situations. Vaccines have been scheduled to be administered the prior week. The Fire Department has had numerous retirements with more than 25 years of service to the town. Their replacements have been posted with Civil Services. The Police Department also had some exposure to Covid-19 with some quarantining. Sgt. Anthony Ryburak has retired due to being injured on the job and we thank him for his 15 years' service. There were several Grade C police officers hired. Health and Welfare, American's with Disabilities Commission and Counseling did not hold a meeting.

c. Finance

Tax Collector presented a report: She stated that the town utilizes Rossi Law Firm and they have agreed to work with those residents who are having a hardship and will refer back to the tax office without collecting additional fees of 15%. The tax department reviewed the past 3 years for any refunds to residents for overpayment and have addressed over 300 accounts, 137 of which have been refunded with a total of \$28,000 right before the holiday. Any taxpayer who had a refund or overpayment will have a credit to their open account. This was a large task to undertake and the staff did an amazing job. We addressed every leasing company for the past three years for overpayments as well. Also, those accounts on payment plans will be reviewed. The Governor gave the towns a low interest process until March 31, 2021.

Chairman Deko thanked the Tax Department for their efforts and also mentioned that Rossi Law has been assisting with collection for numerous years.

Councilwoman Cesare stated since the Town Hall is closed how will those residents who want to pay in person do so. Also, is there a fee to pay online?

The Tax Collector indicated that they can call ahead and the staff will meet them at the door or they can mail a check and we will mail out the receipt. To pay online by check is \$.95 and to pay by credit card is a percentage that the town does not keep.

Attorney Luzzi pointed out that all our departments are taking phone calls, including the Town Clerk's department for any essential business every department has gone above and beyond to assist the public by meeting with them where necessary.

Councilman Balter stated the minutes are online from the Board of Finance and anything of consequence does come before the town council.

d. Public Services, Parks, and Recreation

Vice Chairman Pacelli stated that the town had their first major storm, public works did a great job while it was a very difficult storm to deal with along with equipment from years past that was not maintained properly. Sand and salt is adequate and he believes they have completed the clean-up from the last microburst we experienced.

Chairman Deko stated that if there are any complaints with regard to the clean-up of a storm to please contact him and he can bring it up at the next post storm meeting.

- e. Urban Renewal/Housing
No meeting took place.

Item #5

Vice Chairman Pacelli made the following motion, Be it Resolved that the appointment of Joseph Ginnetti to the East Haven Zoning Board of Appeals be approved in order to fill the unexpired term of Joseph Proto which is set to expire on January 31, 2023.

Councilman Balter second the motion.

Roll call-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

Approved

Item #6

Vice Chairman Pacelli made the following motion, Be it Resolved that the appointment of Judy Mison to the East Haven Zoning Board of Appeals be approved in order to fill the unexpired and vacant term that commenced on February 1, 2019 which is set to expire January 31, 2022.

Councilwoman Capotorto second the motion.

Roll call-All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

Approved

Item #7

Councilman Balter stated that he was disheartened to hear during the holidays some of the educators had a holiday party/gathered during this pandemic.

Councilwoman Cesare moved to adjourn.

Councilman Butler second the motion.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Roberta A. DeLuca
Town Council Clerk