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Public Hearings

The Hearing Committee of the East Haven Town Council held certain Public Hearings, Tuesday, October 4, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., at the East Haven Community Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven for the purpose of holding public hearings on the following items:

Vice Chairman Pacelli called the hearing committee to order at 7:03 p.m.
Roll call-8 Present 6 Absent

Staff Present: Jim Keeley, Finance Director, Fire Chief Marcarelli, Police Chief Lennon, Assistant Chief Tracey, Owen Little Animal Control Officer, Michelle Benivegna Asst. Director of Administration and Management, and Town Attorney Michael Luzzi.

Attorney Luzzi indicated that public hearing #1 should be removed because we are still working on the language; clarification on definitions. With regard to public hearing #2, the Board of Education had a conflict and could not attend. We can remove this if Mr. Keeley feels it is necessary or go forward.

Jim Keeley stated he would like to go forward based on the rationale that we need to submit the requests in order to receive the town's LOCIP approvals. If it is delayed most of our funds are going into paving projects and we are getting colder weather, he would like to start sooner than later.

Councilwoman Lesco moved remove public hearing #1.
Vice Chairman Pacelli second the motion.
Roll call vote-all in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

Public Hearing #1

For an ordinance entitled "An ordinance amending Section 11-3 – Sale of Fuel for Vehicles Not Authorized to Operate on a Public Roadway, Public Highway, or Public Property."
Item Removed

Public Hearing #2

Councilwoman Lesco read the following "An Ordinance Making Appropriations for Various Public Improvements Aggregating \$1,520,191.00 for the 2022-2023 Capital Budget and Authorizing the Issuance of \$1,520,191.00 Bonds of the Town to Meet Said Appropriations and Pending the Issuance Thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowing for Such Purpose."

Vice Chairman Pacelli recognized Finance Director Jim Keeley; he explained that the council has the Capital Improvements in the amount of \$1.5 Million. Most of the accounts you see that are zeroed out are for ARPA funds. The town needs to replace the underground fuel tanks at public works and those tanks are utilized town wide. The removal of those tanks is \$100,000

and town wide paving is \$580,000 and the west end project is roughly about a million dollars and the town should receive 80% back from the state. We should receive \$240,000 approximately; we will know better when we start the project. The police department has requested rifles, vehicles, and road signage and funds for roadside maintenance. The Fire Department has requested funds for the Assistant Chief vehicle. Planning and Zoning has requested a printer for full size plans at \$9,500 and office equipment. We have a request to pave the area on Hudson Street of \$95,000 but with public works doing a portion of the work it should cost approximately \$50,000. The Registrar of Voters office will have a better idea of what is needed in that department next year. The Board of Education is requesting \$50,000 to refinish the gymnasium floor, the roof at the high school \$550,000 over 2 years it will be a million plus. The last item is for the ADA elevator at \$150,000, which is for a total of \$300,000 and this is the second half of that request.

Vice Chairman Pacelli asked if the \$100,000 is to restore just the tanks or the entire system?

Charlie Coyle Superintendent of Public Works stated that the state has been monitoring those tanks, as it does for every gas station and we have some reports stating that the holding tanks are collapsing. Can't give a detailed report until we open it up, we don't want the issue to get any worse because of the proximity to the Farm River. The 2 fuel tanks were replaced with used ones that are always being repaired.

Vice Chairman Pacelli stated, so a new system.

Charlie Coyle indicated yes.

Councilwoman Cesare asked if there are any plans to pave the parking areas at the schools; the Board of Education should use some funds to pave.

Mr. Keeley indicated that there are some line items for paving in the Board of Education's budget.

Councilwoman Cesare asked Mr. Coyle to fill some of the holes.

No public comment.

Public Hearing #3

Councilwoman Lesco read the following "An Ordinance Transferring \$188,884.00 To Various Fire Department Accounts From the Following Fire Department Accounts; 01-334-0150 Vacation Pay \$120,730.00, 01-334-0190 Overtime \$49,130.00, and 01-334-0175 \$19,024.00.

Vice Chairman Pacelli recognized Fire Chief Marcarelli who explained that these transfers are to cover the retirement payout to a battalion chief of \$88,051, funds to cover vacancies for the

current trainees, the Regional Water Authority for hydrant replacement, longevity payments, uniforms and EMS jackets, and the increase of the cost of fuel.

Councilman Thompson asked if this interdepartmental transfer will be short.

Chief Marcarelli indicated no it's the end of the year transfer.

No public comment.

Public Hearing #4

Councilwoman Lesco read the following “An Ordinance Transferring \$559,998.72 From Various General Accounts To the Following Accounts; 01-167-0972 Retirement Lump Sum \$115,554.26, 01-167-0910 Retirement Contribution \$194,915.93, 01-885-0195 Police Special Assignment \$231,432.81, and 01-885-0196, Town Regular Overtime \$18,095.72.

Vice Chairman Pacelli recognized Finance Director Jim Keeley and Danelle Feeley Benefits Coordinator. Mr. Keeley started with Police Special Assignment for last year, which was \$680,000 we were short on the expenditures. Jim and Danelle go through the employees to see who might be retiring in order to prepare for those funds. This year there were some unexpected retirements. In addition, we also pay pensions based on Special Assignments. Last year we had unexpected retirements but going forward we do not expect a lot of payouts. Regarding town over time; we had four large activities in town and these funds cover the overtime for public works, police, and fire.

Councilman Thompson asked if the funds are coming out of the general fund.

Mr. Keeley, yes.

No public comment.

Public Hearing #5

Councilwoman Lesco read the following “An Ordinance Transferring \$77,675.69 To Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Account 01-332-0530 From the Contingency Account 01-885-0689 for \$77,675.69.

Vice Chairman Pacelli recognized Police Chief Lennon who stated that to close out the year end and due to the reality of the increased cost of fuel a transfer is necessary.

No public comment.

Councilwoman Stacey arrived at 7:25 p.m.

Public Hearing #6

Councilwoman Lesco read the following “An Ordinance Transferring \$238,420.01 to Police Overtime Account 01-332-0190 From Various Accounts. (The detail of which is attached hereto as Schedule A and made part hereof)

Police Chief Lennon stated that these are all year end closeouts most of which are from the department and some from contingency at about 6% higher in service. This is a holdover from Covid and injury leave at \$197,000, it’s the cost of replacing those employees. Also, the cost of service of those employees for arrestees that are hospitalized for \$42,000.

Councilman Vollono asked Chief Lennon to elaborate on the arrestees.

Chief Lennon explained that if an arrestee requests medical attention we have to send an officer with that person to stay at the hospital.

No public comment.

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to close the public hearings at 7:26 p.m.

Councilwoman Lesco second the motion.

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

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.

Roll call-9 Present 5 Absent (Parlato, Deko, Santino, Capotorto, and Martin)

Councilman Thompson second the motion.

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

Public Hearing closed at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta A. DeLuca
Town Council Clerk