

**EAST HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2014**

The East Haven Town Council held a regular meeting Tuesday, January 7, 2014, at 7:00PM at the East Haven Senior Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, CT 06512.

Chairman Richard Anania calls the meeting to order at 7:00PM.
Chairman Anania asks all to stand for the pledge of allegiance.

Item #1

Roll Call- 14 present – 1 absent (Parlato).
A quorum is present.

Item #2

Approval of minutes from the December 3, 2013 Regular Meeting.

Councilman Robert Sand makes a motion.
Vice Chairman Robert Parente seconds the motion.
Voice vote: all in favor- none oppose- none abstain. Motion carries.

Item #3

Approval of minutes from the December 11, 2013 Special Meeting.

Councilman Ken Mckay makes a motion.
Councilman Joseph Santino seconds the motion.
Voice vote: all in favor- none oppose- none abstain. Motion carries.

Item #4

Correspondence- Chairman Anania reads a letter of resignation from Marcia Federico from the Old Cemetery Board because she is no longer an East Haven resident.

Item #5

Subcommittee Reports-

- Public Safety- Councilman Sand states that they had scheduled a meeting with Police Chief Brent Larrabee, but it had to be postponed because it was not posted. The meeting will be rescheduled for a future date.

- Board of Education- nothing to report.
- Parks/Rec- nothing to report.
- Urban Renewal- nothing to report.
- Finance- nothing to report.

Item #6

Finance Director Paul Rizza to address the Council.

- Mr. Rizza refers to a packet he has provided to the Council which provides an update of the Town's finances for the first six months of the fiscal year. He has put together a summary page as to where they stand with several detailed pages following.
 - Beginning first with revenue, he states that the budgeted number for taxes is \$61,460,095.00. Through the end of December, we collected \$38,139,593.00 which is 62% of what we budgeted. He looked back at what we had collected as of December 31 of last year and we were at slightly over 58%, so we are running a little above last year. January is the big collection month with our second installment. Come February we will have a much better picture of where we are for tax collections. The next area are the State Grants and this includes ECS (educational cost sharing) which we have acclaimed 25% of the approximate \$19,000,000 budgeted in the first six months of the year. The overall total is 29%, those grants are fixed once the State passes their budget, which they have, so now we just wait for our collection. The next area is the State Grants PILOT which includes our Regional Water Authority and Greater New Haven WPCA, we are at about 50% so we are doing fairly well there. We do have a couple of other small grants which are at 52%. Our investments are at 41% of the total budget; this usually runs behind because you get reports later and we will have more cash by the end of the month. Licenses and permits is the section where building permits are and we are at 54% there. Our miscellaneous category which includes employee benefits, cost sharing, Police special assignment money we take in, worker's compensation reimbursement and a miscellaneous line item in the miscellaneous section which covers everything else; this number is at 37% which isn't bad at this point. The overall total collected is \$46,480,342.00 or 53% of the budgeted revenue. This is being driven by tax collections, licenses and being on target with everything else. For the state grants, roughly 75% of them will come in during the next six months.

- On the expense or appropriation side of the budget, he has broken it down into our general categories. Just to touch on a couple, our general government which is a host of Departments is at 53% expended, but we do have some front loaded expenditures which are usually done in July and August. Employee benefits we are at 43% which is good but we will eventually move closer to the number. Our Public Services which is engineering and sanitation as well as general public works department is slightly underspent at 48%. Public Safety which includes Police, Fire, the Commissions and Animal Control Officers is at approximately 50%. Health is at 49%. The smaller ones such as social services, counseling, housing, urban renewal, school building committee are all under budget. The Library is at exactly 50%. The Ice Rink is at 55% but there is some front loaded expenditure there. Senior Center is at 49%. Our Debt Service is at 89% but we do pay the bulk of our bond principle and interest in August so all we have left is the second installment of interest in February. Our community services are at 62%. Insurance at this point is 20%. General Services is 27%. We have not spent or transferred any money out of our Fund Balance Contribution so there is still \$900,000.00 there. Education has spent 44% which is roughly \$20,000,000.00 of their budgeted amount. The overall expenditure level is at 48% and at the end of the calendar year we had roughly \$5,000,000.00 in the bank in the general fund.
- All in all, in his point of view financially, we have gone through half of our year and a lot of our expenditures will come later in the year. At this point in time he is very pleased with this financial report. There are some things we are going to see going into the actual detail. There are some overages. All of the salary accounts are extremely accurate and have already been checked and balanced. There are some non-salary line items that may be in the negative, many of those have to be adjusted because they were charged to the wrong place but they did not have a chance to go through that; it will be done by the end of this week. There are some that are currently negative but they are pending transfer.

Council comment:

- Vice Chairman Parente asks Mr. Rizza if there are any numbers or percentages that he is either concerned about or happy about.
- Mr. Rizza says he is happy with the tax collection rate. Right now at this point, we are doing extremely well in our delinquent collections. He is also pleased that when we put our budget together last April, the state hadn't finished their budget and the numbers that we utilized for our revenues have been extremely accurate up to this point. On the negative side, his concerns are with our largest

departments such as Fire, Police and Public Works. Depending on snow, things can go very bad very quickly as they did last year. Right now he is happy about where we are, but there will still be some outstanding problems. At the end of the year, hopefully we won't have as many transfers but there will be some. The Mayor has put in a purchasing freeze, overtime now needs approval and also a hiring freeze with the exception of Police. We have had some retirements in the Fire Department so they may need a replacement or two as well.

- Councilman Nicholas Palladino says this may be a minor thing, but for School Building Committee they show \$600 for part time wages and there have not been any meetings scheduled or posted.
- Mr. Rizza says they have scheduled a few meetings and when they do so, even if they are cancelled, the clerk is paid for putting out the agenda or the notice of cancellation.
- Councilman Palladino asks if the clerk gets paid \$300 a meeting, since they scheduled two and cancelled two totaling \$600.
- Mr. Rizza says it is \$150 per meeting, but there are two transactions taken into account when they post a meeting and cancel a meeting. He says he was estimating two meetings but there may have been more. They did meet in July but the next few months after he believes they did not meet. He can say that before the end of the fiscal year they will meet because there have been many discussions with the Board of Education regarding the number of school buildings and the topic of whether to build new or renovate.

Item #7

To consider and act upon a Resolution setting a Public Hearing date and time to discuss an Ordinance authorizing the following transfer at the recommendation of the Board of Finance:

East Haven Police Department

To:

01-332-0190	Overtime Wages	\$40,000.00
TOTAL		\$40,000.00

From:

01-332-0192	Replacement Vacation Days	\$40,000.00
TOTAL		\$40,000.00

Reason: Funds needed for overtime.

The public hearing shall take place on February 4, 2014, at 7:00PM, at the East Haven Senior Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, Connecticut.

Councilman Santino makes a motion.

Councilman Mckay seconds the motion.

Roll call vote: all in favor- none oppose- none abstain. Motion carries.

Item #8

To consider and act upon a Resolution setting a Public Hearing date and time to discuss an Ordinance expanding property tax exemptions for completely disabled veterans. The public hearing shall take place on February 4, 2014, at 7:00PM, at the East Haven Senior Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, Connecticut.

Councilman Santino makes a motion.

Councilman Sand seconds the motion.

Roll call vote: all in favor- none oppose- none abstain. Motion carries.

Item #9

To consider and act upon a Resolution setting a Public Hearing date and time to discuss an Ordinance re-allocating the following FY 2011-2012 Capital Funds:

Public Works

To:

92-03-103-03	Capital – Light Vehicle and Equipment	\$170,000.00
TOTAL		\$170,000.00

From:

92-03-113-01	Chiller	\$170,000.00
TOTAL		\$170,000.00

Reason: Funds needed to purchase a front-end loader.

The public hearing shall take place on February 4, 2014, at 7:00PM, at the East Haven Senior Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, Connecticut.

Councilman Santino makes a motion.

Councilman Sand seconds the motion.

Roll call vote: all in favor- none oppose- none abstain. Motion carries.

Item #10

To consider and act upon a Resolution to provide the following tax refund:

Nissan Infiniti-LT
Tax Operations
P.O. Box 650214
Dallas TX 75265-0214

Acct./List: 2012-03-65683 E/S 22911
Reason: Sold in October 2012

TOTAL: \$ 517.12.

Councilman Santino makes a motion.

Councilman Palladino seconds the motion.

Roll call vote: all in favor- none oppose- none abstain. Motion carries.

Item #11

To consider and act upon a Resolution to provide the following tax refund:

Ally Financial
Louisville PPC
P.O. Box 9001951
Louisville KY 40290-1951

Acct./List: 2011-03-59260 E/S 22873
Reason: Overpayment made

TOTAL: \$527.70.

Councilman Mckay makes a motion.

Councilman Santino seconds the motion.

Roll call vote: all in favor- none oppose- none abstain. Motion carries.

Item #12

To consider and act upon a Resolution to provide the following tax refund:

Perfect Landscaping
80 Salvatore Dr
North Haven CT 06473

Acct./List: 2011-03-66762
Reason: Garaged in No Haven
Amount: \$625.85

Acct./List: 2011-03-66764
Reason: Garaged in No Haven
Amount: **\$672.45**

TOTAL: **\$1,298.30.**

Councilman Michael Riolino makes a motion.
Councilman Henry Butler III seconds the motion.

Council comment:

- Councilman Mckay says that Salvatore Drive is in East Haven.
- Chairman Anania says he believes it is on the border line.
- Town Attorney Joseph Zullo explains that the vehicles weren't actually garaged on Salvatore Drive; they were garaged on State Street which is specified in the notes of the tax rolls. The legal address of this business may be here, but they may own a separate facility where it houses these vehicles.
- Councilman Palladino says some of them are trucks, some are cars. So they are paying taxes in North Haven for the vehicles but the business is in East Haven and they are paying taxes to East Haven. The billing address is East Haven. He says he can understand the truck, but how is the car not located in East Haven.
- Councilman Santino asks about the tax records proving they are paying taxes in North Haven. They can be telling both Towns two different things.
- Attorney Zullo says they would have to ask the Tax Collector Lisa Basilicato. He states that they can table this and request Lisa to come and explain it at the next meeting.

Councilman Palladino makes a motion to table this agenda item pending additional information from the tax collector.

Councilman Santino seconds the motion.

Roll call vote: all in favor- none oppose- none abstain. Motion carries.

Item #13

Legal claim review with the Town Council by Town Attorney Joseph Zullo.

Likely executive Session pursuant to C.G.S. §1-200(6)(B) for the purpose of discussing strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and pending litigation.

Councilman Mckay makes a motion to enter into executive session.

Councilman Vincent Spaduzzi seconds the motion.

Roll call vote: all in favor- none oppose- none abstain. Motion carries.

Executive session begins at 7:29PM.

Councilman Mckay makes a motion to return from executive session.

Councilman Sand seconds the motion.

Executive session ends at 8:15PM.

Item #14

Adjournment of Regular Meeting.

Councilman Santino makes a motion to adjourn.

Councilman Sand seconds the motion.

Voice vote: all in favor- none oppose- none abstain. Motion carries.

Meeting is adjourned at 8:15PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danelle Feeley, Clerk, East Haven Legislative Town Council