

East Haven Town Council
Minutes

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
EAST HAVEN, CONN.

Stacy Gravano, CTC
TOWN CLERK

The East Haven Town Council held a Regular Meeting Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at 7:30 p.m. or immediately following certain public hearings located at the East Haven Community Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, CT in order to transact the following:

Chairman Deko called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Item #1

Roll Call - 12 Members Present 3 Members Absent (Maltese, Pompano, and Ruggiero)
Staff Present: Town Attorney Michael Luzzi.
Quorum Present
Pledge of Allegiance

Item #2

Approval of Minutes February 4, 2020, Special Meeting.
Councilman Santino moved to accept the minutes of February 4, 2020.
Councilman Butler second the motion.
Councilwoman Parlato indicated that the public safety report was not part of the attachments.
Clerk-Duly Noted
Voice Vote-All in Favor. None opposed. No abstentions.
Motion Carried.
Approved

Item #3

Correspondence-None

Item #4

Subcommittee Reports:

a. Education, Library and School Building.

Board of Education-

- The High School will be working with Yale University for students to experience hands on science, social studies, and equity art opportunities on the Yale Campus
- Potential turf field vendors gave a short presentation to Board members

The facade at the high school is being worked on and should be complete within one month.

The Library Committee-

- Forming an Election Committee for Appointment of Library Officers to the Board of Trustees
- Forming a Building Committee
- Library becoming an American Library Association International Sister Library.
- Grant workshops were attending to gain information on grant opportunities

The School Building Committee-

- A Special meeting was held to discuss the High School's turf field.
- A discussion on the timeline for the completion, an RFP was requested to go out ASAP.
- Bids were opened on February 27, interviews were scheduled for tonight at 5pm with recommendations being brought to the Board of Education at their 7pm meeting.

b. Public Health, Safety, and Welfare.

This report is being presented on behalf of Councilman Butler, Councilwoman Ruggerio and Councilwoman Parlato.

East Haven Fire Department-

- New Officers were elected Commissioner DeLucia was elected Chairman and Commissioner Verderam as Vice Chairman
- The Ladder truck is being repaired and while not in service surrounding towns have been contacted for mutual aid response.
- The department is fully staffed with all candidates graduating from the academy

East Haven Police Department-

- New Officers were elected Commissioner Carbo was elected Chairman and Chairman Balletto as Vice Chairman
- There are a few vacancies on the commission
- The Police Athletic League hosted a Bingo Night on Friday February 29
- Superintendent Forti asked for a review of the crosswalk at the bottom of the High School
- A second K9 was recently delivered and a local business has offered to donate a third K9, once all details are finalized a formal ceremony will be scheduled.

Staffing

1. 2 members remain on long-term injured status
2. 2 vacancies in the Detective Bureau with Civil Service scheduling a test for April.

Health and Welfare

American Disabilities Act Commission- did not have a meeting

Youth Services Commission-

Had a meeting on February 12th and discussed the following:

- Welcomed a new commissioner

- Discussion on finding a new space for the Teen Center
- Discussed future fundraisers

c. Finance

Presented by Councilman Balter stated that the Board of Finance discussed that the funds for recycling have now been exhausted. In the past the town profited with recycling, it is no longer profitable and the account will need additional funds transferred.

d. Public Services, Parks, and Recreation

Presented by Vice Chairman Pacelli who met with Town Engineer, Kevin White and Superintendent, Charles Coyle who indicated that the town took delivery of the two trucks and one SUV. They also indicated that due to the mild winter they have begun spring clean-up at EHHS and new fencing at Momauguin School, along with some capital projects.

e. Urban Renewal/Housing

No report available/no meeting took place.

Item #5

Vice Chairman Pacelli entertained a motion for the following resolution.

A Resolution to provide a tax refund of \$1,361.64 to ACAR Leasing LTD

WHEREAS, C.G.S. Section 12-129 provides that a local board of selectmen, or its equivalent, may, upon recommendation and certification of the Tax Collector, issue a refund for tax overpayments;

AND, WHEREAS, the following entity or person has requested a refund for the following overpayment: **ACAR Leasing LTD**

**PO Box 1990
Fort Worth, TX 76102**

Account #/List:	2018-03-50300
Reason:	Vehicle Sold
Total:	\$1,361.64

TOTAL:	\$1.361.64
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AND, WHEREAS, the Tax Collector, via backup paperwork submitted to this Council, has recommended and certified the accuracy of this refund;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that said refund is approved and the tax collector is authorized to effectuate said refund.

This resolution shall be effective in accordance with the provisions of the East Haven Town Charter.

2. **A Resolution to provide a tax refund of \$2,435.66 to Citizens Bank**

WHEREAS, C.G.S. Section 12-129 provides that a local board of selectmen, or its equivalent, may, upon recommendation and certification of the Tax Collector, issue a refund for tax overpayments;

AND, WHEREAS, the following entity or person has requested a refund for the following overpayment: **Citizens Bank**

**C/O Mark Toledo
955 Washington Street
Middletown, CT 06457**

Account #/List:	2018-01-2958
REASON:	Bank overpayment
Total:	\$2,435.66

TOTAL: \$2,435.66

AND, WHEREAS, the Tax Collector, via backup paperwork submitted to this Council, has recommended and certified the accuracy of this refund;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that said refund is approved and the tax collector is authorized to effectuate said refund.

This resolution shall be effective in accordance with the provisions of the East Haven Town Charter.

Councilman Santino moved to approve the tax refund resolution.

Councilman Butler second the motion.

Roll Call Vote - All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

Motion Carried.

Approved

Item #6

Vice Chairman Pacelli entertained a motion to table the following item "An Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinance Section 16.5-14 Use of Town Landfill Fees."

Councilman Santino moved to table item #6.

Vice Chairman Pacelli second the motion.

Roll Call Vote - All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

Motion Carried. Tabled.

Item #7

Vice Chairman Pacelli entertained a motion for the following ordinance:

**TO CONSIDER AND ACT UPON AUTHORIZING AN ORDINANCE OF THE
East Haven Town Council**

**An Ordinance Reallocating \$150,000.00 of Capital Funds between Capital Accounts #99-1-05
(Town Wide Roof) and #99-8-02 (Pool Desert Air System)**

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of East Haven, upon recommendation of the Board of Finance, must approve both transfers of monies in excess of \$50,000.00 in any given fiscal year and reallocations of previous bond authorizations;

AND WHEREAS, the Board of Finance, on January 15, 2020, approved and recommended the following transfers/bond reauthorizations to the Town Council:

Accounts

To:	For:	
99-1-05	Town Wide Roof	\$150,000.00
TOTAL		\$150,000.00

From:

99-8-02	Pool Desert Aire	\$150,000.00
TOTAL		\$150,000.00

Reason: Transfer needed for roof repairs.

NOW THEREFORE, be it **ORDAINED** by the Town Council of the Town of East Haven that said transfers/bond reauthorizations are approved.

This Ordinance shall be effective in accordance with the provisions of the East Haven Town Charter.

Councilman Santino moved to approve the ordinance the transfer of \$150,000.00.

Councilwoman Hennessey second the motion.

Roll Call Vote - All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

Motion Carried. Approved

Item #8

Vice Chairman Pacelli entertained a motion for the following resolution.

**A Resolution Waiving the Town Charter's Competitive Bidding Requirements in Connection
with an upgrade of the Town Hall phone systems.**

WHEREAS, the Town Hall requires an upgraded and updated integrated phone system installation of a new chemical control and feed system;

AND WHEREAS, the speedy repair and replacement of these systems is necessary to properly integrate with the Police and Fire Department and to provide 24-hour emergency access;

AND WHEREAS, this update to be completed by the company that completed both the Fire and Police phone systems and is a continuation of that process;

AND WHEREAS, the formal, competitive bidding process would delay the speedy and efficient update and integration of the phone system;

AND WHEREAS, Chapter 6, Section 4(C) of the East Haven Town Charter provides that contracts for certain goods and services exceeding the bid cap shall be by competitive bidding;

AND WHEREAS, the Town Charter's bidding requirements may be waived by two-thirds of the members present and voting;

AND WHEREAS, the Finance Director recommends that the Council waive the competitive bidding requirement to allow the

NOW THEREFORE, be it **RESOLVED** by the Town Council of the Town of East Haven that any competitive bidding requirements associated with the updating of the Town's phone systems apparently they went out

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this bid waiver shall expire on May 1, 2020;

Town Attorney Luzzi explained to the Council that a few years back the Police Chief and the Fire Chief requested funds and went out to bid for a new phone system that could meet today's technology for their departments. Both Chiefs feel there is a need for Town Hall to upgrade their system; it's very old and obsolete. If there is a power outage they cannot contact the town hall. Therefore, the police department is going to transfer funds in order to upgrade and interface the system at Town Hall for \$20,000.

Vice Chairman Pacelli read a letter from Acting Finance Director, Jim Keeley requesting to waive the bidding process in order to upgrade the phone system in town hall.

Chairman Deko asked if there is any public comment.

Chairman Deko recognized Donna Richo, 67 Charnes Drive, East Haven who asked if this is a budgeted item.

Chairman Deko indicated these were Capital Funds that were allocated for a boiler and HVAC system at the Police Department. It is no longer needed for that use as it fell under the Honeywell project that was performed throughout town. Therefore, it is unused capital money.

Ms. Richo asked why are you transferring \$150,000, for the phone system and taking it from the town pool.

Chairman Deko corrected Ms. Richo by stating it is \$120,200.00, \$20,000 of which will be utilized for the phone system at Town Hall and the balance will be used for a police response vehicle and police maintenance van.

Ms. Richo asked what are the problems with the current phone system?

Town Attorney Luzzi stated that you are allowed to make your comment and follow up after the meeting that would be acceptable.

Ms. Richo stated that public meetings are no longer what they once were.

The Town Attorney stated that you are more than welcome to make any comment.

Ms. Richo does not believe that you should go outside of the bidding process; you should never forego the bidding process. You do not know what prices are available, along with technology.

Councilman Balter indicated it does make sense that the systems should be working together. Is the town paying a premium with this vendor?

Chairman Deko indicated the answer to that question is "no."

Vice Chairman Pacelli stated that the system is much older than 30 years and doesn't have caller ID.

Councilman Butler stated that if we were to go back into the records when the Police Department upgraded their system; he is confident at that time it was put out to bid and they used the low bidder, so this makes sense.

Councilman Ranfone asked how long the system at town hall will be down?

Attorney Luzzi indicated that's a good question but he is not sure he will find out.

Councilwoman Glassman asked what the Town Charter dictates as the amount when the town has to go out for a competitive bid.

Chairman Deko indicated \$7,000.

Councilwoman Glassman stated and this is just \$20,000.00.

Councilman Santino stated that the system is so old that Town Hall employees have a cardboard box with parts for phones in the event their phones aren't working.

Councilwoman Hennessey made the motion to approve.

Councilwoman Cesare second the motion.

Roll Call Vote - 10 In Favor. None opposed. 2 - Abstentions (Balter and Ranfone)

Motion Carried. Approved.

Item #9

Vice Chairman Pacelli entertained a motion for the following resolution.

BE IT RESOLVED, that Tax Collector of The Town of East Haven is authorized to make tax refunds not to exceed \$2,000.00 and is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of East Haven and to do and perform all acts and things which are deemed to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the Town of East Haven tax refunds not to exceed \$2,000.00.

Town Attorney Luzzi explained that since Yolanda Barraco was the Tax Collector in 1983, the resolution has not changed. The Tax Collector, Lucille Huelin, requested this increase during our weekly meeting in order to meet the needs of the taxpayers and the department since times have changed. It is currently set at \$500.00 and we are requesting the amount not to exceed \$2,000.00 anything to exceed that amount will have to come before the Council.

Councilman Santino moved to approve the resolution.

Councilman Butler second the motion.

Roll Call Vote - 11 in Favor. None opposed. One abstention (Deko).

Motion Carried. Approved.

Item #10

Vice Chairman Pacelli entertained a motion for the following resolution.

BE IT RESOLVED, for the Town of East Haven to support and to participate in the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification Program

WHEREAS, Sustainable CT is a comprehensive, statewide, action-oriented volunteer certification program, built by and for municipalities, with the vision that: Sustainable CT communities strive to be thriving, resilient, collaborative, and forward-looking. They build community and local economy. They equitably promote the health and well-being of current and future residents. And they respect the finite capacity of the natural environment.

AND, WHEREAS, Sustainable CT is designed to boost local economies, help municipal operations become more efficient, reduce operating costs, and provide grants and additional support to municipalities.

AND, WHEREAS, East Haven embraces an ongoing process of working toward greater sustainability, selecting which actions it chooses to pursue from the voluntary menu of actions provided by Sustainable CT.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of East Haven that we do hereby authorize Samantha Parlato to serve as East Haven's Sustainable CT contact person for the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification process and authorize her to complete Municipal Registration on behalf of East Haven.

AND, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that no focus attention and effort within East Haven on matters of sustainability, and in order to promote the Town Council's local initiatives and actions toward Sustainable CT Municipal Certification, The Town Council establish an advisory Sustainability Team.

AND, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the first meeting of the Sustainability Team must be held within 90 days of passing this resolution and that the Sustainability Team shall meet as frequently as needed, but no less than quarterly.

Chairman Deko recognized Councilwoman Parlato who made a quick presentation with regard to this aforementioned Resolution.

Councilman Balter stated he supports this fantastic program; it might save money on our recycling and make the town environmentally stronger, giving the town a better rating. Also, it helps civic organizations that do green deeds to get recognition.

Councilman Santino moved to approve the motion
Councilwoman Glassman second the motion.

Donna Richo asked what is the purpose or benefit to this program.

Councilwoman Parlato stated it certifies the town as sustainable as we utilize different programs such as the solar farm and food service program instituted at Momauguin School.

Ms. Richo what is the benefit of a program that states we are sustainable and is there a cost to this program?

Councilwoman Parlato indicated no cost. The benefit is that we would be able to participate in different programs for sustainability.

Ms. Richo asked what does this program bring to the town.

Councilwoman Parlato stated a little notoriety. A team will oversee the program to obtain certification.

A motion was made.

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

Motion Carried.

Approved.

Item #11

Vice Chairman Pacelli entertained a motion for the following resolution.

Be it Resolved, that a public hearing date set for April 7, 2020 for "An Ordinance Reallocating \$120,200.00 of Capital Funds between Capital Accounts #97-2-03 (Boiler HVAC) and #97-5 - 05(Town Hall Phone)/ 97-02-06(Police Emergency Van/Traffic Main. Truck) " as follows:

To:	For:	
97-5-05	Town Hall Phone	\$20,00.00
97-2-06	Police Emergency Van/Traffic Main.	\$100,200.00

Truck

TOTAL	\$120,200.00
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From:

97-2-03	Boiler HVAC	\$120,200.00
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TOTAL	\$120,200.00
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Councilman Santino moved to approve the motion.

Councilman Balter second the motion.

Roll Call Vote - All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

Motion Carried.

Public Hearing set for April 7, 2020.

Item #12

Vice Chairman Pacelli entertained a motion for the following resolution.

A Resolution making various Boards and Commission Appointments:

WHEREAS, numerous Board and Commission appointments have expired or are vacant at this time;

AND, WHEREAS, pursuant to the East Haven Town Charter, the Town Council is designated at the appointing authority to re-appoint individuals to said positions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council hereby appoints the following individuals to the respectively named boards for the terms as set out herein.

Board/Commission	Name(s)	Term
American Disability Act	Lisa Mazzeo	2/1/2020 to Indefinite
Blight Appeals Board	Judy Mison	
Constables	Francesca Perri	11/16/2019 to 11/13/2021
Constables	Annarose Russo	11/16/2019 to 11/13/2021
Constables	Frank Cappelloni	11/16/2019 to 11/13/2021
Constables	David Sagnella	11/16/2019 to 11/13/2021
Constables	Robert Limoncelli	11/16/2019 to 11/13/2021
Constables	Tina Hedley	11/16/2019 to 11/13/2021
Constables	Richard Caponera	11/16/2019 to 11/13/2021
East Shore Health	Susan Deko	2/1/2020 to 1/31/2023
Board of Ethics	Holly A. Bryk	2/1/2020 to 1/31/2023
Board of Ethics	David Brennan	2/1/2020 to 1/31/2023
School Building Committee	Hank Prohaska	2/1/2019 to 1/31/2022
School Building Committee	Jeffery Lendroth	2/1/2019 to 1/31/2022
Zoning Board of Appeals	Robert Schumitz, Jr.	2/1/2019 to 1/31/2022

Said appointments shall be effective in accordance with the East Haven Town Charter

Chairman Deko stated that there are still vacant appointments they hope to fill. These boards and commissions have been advertised in the local paper for 3 weeks seeking appointees.

Councilman Balter asked why there is no expiration date next to one of the appointees.

The Clerk explained that in the past few years appointments were not made. It is a daunting task for the town clerk and Mayor's office to monitor these commissions and we have to make correct appointments. We will fill in that term limit, as there is more than one open position on that commission and we will assign the correct date.

Councilman Santino made the motion to approve.

Councilman Butler second the motion.

Roll Call Vote - All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

Motion Carried.

Approved.

Item #13

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to convene into executive session to include all 15 Town Council Members and Town Attorney, Michael Luzzi per C.G.S. § 1-200(6) the status of, and possible action pertaining to pending claims/litigation concerning property at 1 and 99 Barberry Road, East Haven. One Barberry Real Estate Holding, LLC et al. v. Joseph Maturo, et al. (Case No. 3:17-cv-00985-K

Councilwoman Cesare second the motion.

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

Motion Carried

The Executive Session began at 7:45 p.m.

Vice Chairman Pacelli moved to reconvene the Regular Meeting of the Town Council.

Councilwoman Lesco second the motion.

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

Motion Carried.

Meeting reconvened at 8:48 p.m.

Item #14

Chairman Deko recognized John Wobensmith, 93 Cosey Beach Avenue who asked if it would be possible to do the item to allow the public to speak come before any executive session.

Chairman Deko thanked him for his input.

Chairman Deko recognized Robert Albino with regard to 677 Thompson Street pertaining to a "Line of Sight Easement."

Town Attorney Luzzi stated to call him at his office to discuss as he is working on the issue.

Councilman Santino moved to adjourn.

Councilwoman Lesco second the motion.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Roberta A. DeLuca
Council Clerk