

**EAST HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 2014**

In accordance with Chapter III, Section 6 of the East Haven Town Charter, the East Haven Town Council held a public hearing meeting Tuesday, June 3, 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.

Item #1

Roll Call for Public Hearing #1 - 13 present – 2 absent (Palladino and Mckay).
A quorum is present.

Item #2

To conduct Public Hearing #1 regarding ““An Ordinance authorizing transfers aggregating \$300,000.00 for the East Haven Police Department” as follows:

East Haven Police Department

To:

01-332-0190	Overtime Wages	\$300,000.00
TOTAL		\$300,000.00

From:

01-885-0689	Contingency	\$300,000.00
TOTAL		\$300,000.00

Reason: Funds needed for overtime – to close out FY 2013-2014.

Public comment:

- Andy Esposito- 8 Ann Street, East Haven, CT- Mr. Esposito states that these bills have been encumbered and the officers involved deserve their overtime pay. For many years this has been happening, it is not just a reflection of today. He thinks there is a manifestation in the budgetary system. There is no reason why they have to rush to get these transfers through. He thinks there needs to be a better notification system so there aren't all of these emergency sessions; this is not the way to the run a Town. Secondly, he looks at the Town website to get a feel for the transfers that take place. The Finance Department does a good job at posting the reports that the Council receives, but they omit the addendums that

directly address overtime. As a member of the public he doesn't have a way to do an analysis to determine if this is something that happens on a regular basis or if it's one of those things that happens every now and then. He thinks there needs to be a way to better keep track of the management of Town Departments and a way to have knowledge of what is happening. His main point is that the debt has been encumbered, it has to be paid due to contractual obligations and the officers deserve their pay.

Council comment:

- Councilman Joseph Badamo asks did we or did we not a while back bond for \$2.5 million for Police overtime. It is to his understanding that \$500,000 was spent and there is still \$2,000,000 there to be played with. He asks if that is true why we are going to the contingency instead of using that money.
- Finance Director Paul Rizza states that the bonded money is strictly for the Department of Justice compliance agreement. It can't be used for regular overtime without changing the original ordinance. As the money was bonded it was reviewed by our joint compliance expert who is monitoring all of our transactions and training for the Department of Justice. That \$2.5 million is strictly for one purpose and one purpose only; compliance with the DOJ.
- Councilman Badamo says then most of this is not due to the DOJ?
- Mr. Rizza says not a penny has to do with the DOJ; the DOJ stands alone as far as training, overtime, new procedures, etc. It is all strictly charged to DOJ. Anything DOJ goes to one account which is where the \$2.5 million borrowed is.
- Councilman Badamo asks if the only place to go for this money is the contingency is there anywhere else.
- Mr. Rizza says no, it is not inside the general fund.
- Councilman Joseph Santino asks if this is more or less road job money.
- Mr. Rizza says none of it is road job money; road job is accounted for separately with a totally different account number.

Item #3

Adjournment of Public Hearing #1.

Councilman Santino makes a motion.

Councilman Vincent Spaduzzi seconds the motion.

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

Item #4

To conduct Public Hearing #2 regarding “An Ordinance authorizing transfers aggregating \$79,000.00 for the Legal Services Department” as follows:

Legal Services**To:**

01-113-0668	Legal and Lawyer Fees	\$79,000.00
-------------	-----------------------	-------------

TOTAL		\$79,000.00
--------------	--	--------------------

From:

01-881-0950	Self Insurance	\$79,000.00
-------------	----------------	-------------

TOTAL		\$79,000.00
--------------	--	--------------------

Reason: Funds needed to close out FY 2013-2014.

No public comment.

Council comment:

- Councilman Michael Riolino says this transfer is coming out of self-insurance rather than contingency, are we permitted to use the self-insurance fund for legal and lawyer fees.
- Town Attorney Joseph Zullo says we are permitted to do so. In past practice by prior administrations they would write checks directly out of self-insurance which is against the rules of the funds. He can come to the Council to request a transfer which is allowed. For the record, they have run a \$174,000 surplus in self-insurance for the year so even with this transfer they will still have about a \$100,000 surplus in the account which will go to the sinking self-insurance fund which is up to about \$700,000; up from \$300,000 when they got took over.

Item #5

Adjournment of Public Hearing #2.

Councilman Santino makes a motion.

Councilman Spaduzzi seconds the motion.

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

Item #6

Roll Call for Hearing Committee - 13 present – 2 absent (Palladino and McKay).

Item #7

Hearing Committee report to the full Town Council and recommendation of action on Public Hearings #1 and #2.

Councilman Robert Sand makes a motion.

Councilman Santino seconds the motion.

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

Item #8

Adjournment of Hearing Committee.

Councilman Santino makes a motion.

Councilman Sand seconds the motion.

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

Meeting is adjourned at 7:11PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danelle Feeley, Clerk, East Haven Legislative Town Council