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Lisa Balter

TOWN CLERK

**East Haven Board of Finance
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2024**

The East Haven Board of Finance held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. at the Mario Giaimo, Joseph Vitale Meeting Room Lower Level of East Haven Town Hall, 250 Main Street, East Haven, CT.

1. Roll Call

Mayor Joseph Carfora was not present. Rich Esposito, Beth Purcell, Ralph Vitale (via phone), Al Purzycki, Chris Perdo and Ronald DeSena were present. Jim Keeley, Finance Director, was present.

The undersigned clerk stated there is a clerical error in the February 21, 2024 item 2 minutes. In place of Beth Purcell seconding, it should read Al Purzycki seconds.

2. Read and Approve Minutes from February 21, 2024

Rich Esposito made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes, Al Purzycki seconds. Rich Esposito made a motion to approve the meeting minutes with the change, Al Purzycki seconds. All in favor.

3. Old Business

None

4. New Business

Jim stated we talked about some changes. I had discussions with department heads, Union personnel, and legal. There are problems with getting rid of union positions and not funding them. I think at a minimum we can look at in the future. Jim recommends that they stay as is for this budget. Chris stated that for next year, it is hard because when we get our books, to talk to these dept heads, I know Charlie was not here to reciprocate and give us reasoning and I appreciate that but going forward hopefully we can work out a better arrangement on the dates. Jim agreed that and there probably should be a day buffer to send out emails and state what the thoughts are. Jim stated he would love to have the books earlier but it is not always up to me. I have to wait on department heads. Al asked if Town Council meets on this. Jim stated he believes the State of the Town address is the 26th of March. I think by Town Charter it has to be done by the 28th. We have a couple of days. Beth stated inudible add a vacancy factor in. One of things they brought up is Public Works, we already factored in a vacancy and they seemed fine with that, but when it comes to specifically cutting individual positions, it is a contractual issue. Hopefully next year it would be electronic. Chris stated if we had a little more time to go over things, that would be helpful next budget season. Rich thanked Jim for providing the new sheets tonight. Ralph wanted to understand something. He stated basically everything we did last night is no good. Jim stated not everything. We did take \$9,000.00 from Recreational Electricity for ROV. That was the only item that was a non-contractual item. Ralph stated the BOE is back to flat. Correct, per Jim Keeley. All the savings we had from the contractual positions is what we were utilizing to fund the BOE. Rich Esposito stated and without increasing the mill rate any further this is where we stand. Jim stated correct. Chris stated the \$9,000.00 that we took closes the gab for the ROV. It is a good number. Beth asked if we could ask the Town Attorney to come to the next meeting. It was discussed that there is a Town Council meeting that night and the

night before and I believe there is a Public Hearing. We can call a special meeting. Or have him attend May 15th. Ralph asked if he is going to have an executive session that one of the Town Council meetings that we could attend to get an update sooner than later. Ralph stated we are spending legal money so the sooner the better.

5. **Public Comment**

Amy Durbacher thanked the Board for their hard work and time.

6. **Return Budget to the Mayor**

Rich Esposito state we have the budget in front of us and proposes a vote. Roll call, Rich Esposito, Ralph Vitale (via phone), Al Purzycki, Chris Perdo and Ronald DeSena approved budget, Beth Purcell denied budget.

7. **Recreation**

To:	01-661-0541 (56541)	Arts and Crafts	\$3,700.00
From:	01-661-0697 (59697)	Bus Transportation	\$3,700.00

Rich Esposito made a motion to discuss, Chris Perdo seconds.

Liz Franco Spano presented and stated we need to pay our supervisors. We are going to seriously look at our Bus Transportation, it is not just there to transfer out. We plan on doing things. On professional development days for school offer a bus trip for the kids and it would be free for next year. We could use the money this year to pay money for our programs. We have basketball referees to pay, we did not start softball yet and our new pickle ball programs and bocci lessons we need to pay the supervisors. Chris stated this is where during the budget the increase due to things like that. Jim stated for clarification, supervisors are not town employees. If we have a cooking class we need someone there to supervise. We do save on some things. For pickle ball, I am there so we do not need to hire anyone.

Roll call, all in favor Motion carried.

8. **Recreation/Rink**

To:	10045661-56541 (01-661-0541)	Rec Arts/Program Exp	\$18,000.00
From:	10045662-55201 (01-662-0201)	Electricity	\$18,000.00

Al Purzycki made a motion to discuss, Beth Purcell seconds.

Liz Franco Spano stated when we budgeted for our rink and recreation, especially the rink because it was our second full year, we kept electricity up because it does increase, but because we are energy efficient now we completely dropped on that. Before regarding the \$9,000.00, which we knew was going to happen because electricity went down, it may increase again. Gas they already took \$8,000.00 off. I figured we have the extra money in here now because it is in my budget, can we use it. We have 16 East Haven resident teams on a waiting list waiting to get on the bocci list. Right now, we play on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. We are there until 10 or 10:30 at night. If we get 2 more courts, we can get everyone on the wait list

in and I can run tournaments. I know we can make significant revenue. With 4 courts and the IA club helping we can make money. Also, at \$175.00 per team on the low end, just with 32 teams we have now which will increase (inaudible) We will make \$5,600.00 in one year. This will take less than 2 years to pay back the \$18,000.00. We also have a fall league, which there are 16 teams for \$2400.00 which is included in that, we will still get more fall teams. If you take the summer revenue and the fall revenue it comes to almost \$16,000.00 on the low end. Liz called companies for quotes for the past 3 weeks. On average on the low end the cost is \$22.50 a court per sq. foot. A court is 13x80, 1040 sq foot. It would cost \$23,400.00 for one court and for 2 courts it would cost \$46,800.00. On the high end is 27.00 per square foot. For 2 courts it would be \$56,160.00. I have a resident in Town who owns a construction company who plays bocci and we have this discussion all the time, he did some of our courts last year for nothing. He cannot do that again, but is willing to do all the courts for \$18,580.00. That is with labor of \$10,000.00 but will donate \$5,000.00 back. I do know it has to go out to bid, we will not get lower bids, or maybe we do a bid waiver but that is a discussion with Jim. I have a quote here with all the wood, etc. I would like to take the opportunity to get these for the residents and the revenue we can make. Chris Perdo asked if this was a locked in quote. Liz stated yes. Ralph asked if it was cleared with legal. Jim asked Ralph what part needed to be cleared with legal. Ralph stated there is a bid process and you did not give other people a chance. Jim stated this should and will go out to bid and it seems like we have enough information to get specs out there and we can get it done in a timely fashion. I cannot tell you if it is a good number or not, it seems reasonable. To abide by the charter, we will go out to bid. Ralph stated he wanted to make sure we are not putting anyone else at a disadvantage that could come back and say we circumvented the bid process. Liz reiterated that she wanted to bring the numbers here to show what we can get and obviously when it goes out to bid and they come in lower then of course we will take the lower bid. I will follow the same process as I did for pickle ball. Jim stated Liz and he discussed it and he asked her to get a quote to have for you so we have an idea.

Roll call, all in favor, motion carried.

9. **Recreation/Rink**

Jim proposed that this item get tabled right now until we can get more information. Al made a motion to table item 9, Chris seconds, all in favor.

To:	10045662-54430 (01-662-0430)	Mechanical & Manual Oper.Equip	\$17,000.00
To:	1004445662-55203 (01-662-0203)	Natural Gas	\$17,000.00

Ralph wanted to state that we got an email at 12:51 today from Jim. I thought I saw the changes that we discussed last night, and he asked when did we get a legal decision on this. Ralph stated we should have known about this before the meeting took place. Jim stated he is not an expert in all fields. Legal is one of those. Jim Jim stated it is a short turn around for you, it was for me to. It took take some time to figure out the best avenue to go. Ralph was not trying to state Jim did anything wrong. Ralph thinks this process needs to be extended out a little longer in the future. We sat through all the budget meetings and it would be nice to have more time to figure out things. Jim agreed. Ralph stated we got your email at 12:51, I spoke with the Town Attorney around 12 and then it takes me to 7:06 to find out that what we did was actually (inaudible) It is the only reason why I asked. Jim understands and stated he would try to get revisions to him earlier. Jim stated we are swamped right now between the new system and down a purchasing agent. Jim stated thinks that everyone could use some more time to think about what we are going to do and double check. It is good intentions all around. Ralph stated he was not questioning the intentions, rather the process.

10. **Adjournment**

Beth made a motion to Adjourn at 7:31 P.M. Chris seconds.

Dated This 26nd day of March, 2024,
East Haven, CT 06512

Susan Mauro, Board of Finance Clerk