

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

November 9, 2010

MINUTES

The following Minutes are a record of the Regular Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council held in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall on Tuesday, November 9, 2010. The Meeting was Called to Order at 6:30 P.M. by Chairman Robert F. Parisi. Responding present to the Roll Call given by Town Clerk Barbara Thompson were Councilors Vincent Cervoni, Nick Economopoulos, Jerry Farrell, Jr., Craig C. Fishbein, John LeTourneau, Robert F. Parisi, Rosemary Rascati, John J. Sullivan and Vincent F. Testa, Jr. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and Town Attorney Janis Small were also in attendance. Comptroller James Bowes arrived at 6:40 P.M.

The meeting began with a prayer by The Reverend Margaret Jay, First Congregational Church of Wallingford. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The Roll Call was taken.

Chairman Parisi asked for a moment of silence to acknowledge the death of John 'Blackie' Riccitelli on November 7, 2010, recalling that he was a decorated veteran of WWII, a teacher, beloved coach and just an altogether beautiful human being. He said that he was a very dear friend.

2. *Consider and Approve Appointment of James D. McManus to Pension Commission for a term effective immediately and expiring December 31, 2011 – Mayor*

Withdrawn

3. Consider and Approve the Appointment of Debra Buckman to the Wallingford Housing Authority as Tenant Commissioner for a five-year term effective immediately and expiring October 31, 2015 – Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

MOTION Mr. Farrell made a motion to and Approve the Appointment of Debra Buckman to the Wallingford Housing Authority as Tenant Commissioner for a five-year term effective immediately and expiring October 31, 2015 as requested by Chairman Robert F. Parisi.

SECOND Mrs. Rascati seconded.

Ms. Buckman was thanked by Councilor Sullivan for coming back for the interview at his request.

Bob Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, spoke about the accomplishments of outgoing Commissioner Pat Hogan, who has done such good for the Housing Authority. He said he thinks that it makes no sense to remove from the Tenant Commissioner post.

VOTE Each Councilor called out their own vote individually as follows.
LeTourneau-yes; Cervoni-yes; Fishbein-yes; Farrell-yes; Rascati-yes;
Sullivan-no; Testa-yes; Economopoulos-yes; Parisi-yes
8 Aye; 1 Nay

The motion passed.

4. Consent Agenda

- 4a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#428 - #458) totaling \$2,422.85
Acct. # 001-1000-010-1170 - Tax Collector

- 4b. Acceptance of Donation from Jason Michael, Wallingford resident and local businessman, for Disc Gold course, removable targets valued at \$2,893 for use at Lufbery Park – Parks and Recreation
- 4c. Consider and Approve a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to make application to the Department of Social Services in such amounts as may be made available for undertaking a Hispanic Human Resource Development Program – Program Planning
- 4d. Consider and Approve an Agreement that requires S.C.O.W. as our subcontractor to fulfill all terms and conditions of the Hispanic Human Resources Development Program Grant – Program Planning
- 4e. Consider and Approve Job Description for Stockperson - Electric Division – Personnel
- 4f. Consider and Approve Job Description for Drafting Technician - Electric Division – Personnel
- 4g. Consider and Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to enter into and amend Contractual Instruments in the Name of and on Behalf of the Wallingford Community Day Care Center Inc. with the Department of Social Services of the State of Connecticut for a Child Day Care Program – Mayor
- 4h. Consider and Approve an Agreement between the Town of Wallingford and the Wallingford Community Day Care Center, Inc. recognizing that the Town has executed a contract with the State of Connecticut Commissioner of Social Services for Funding Programs to be carried out by said Day Care Center Acting of Behalf of the Town – Mayor
- 4i. Consider and Approve a Resolution permitting the Wallingford Community Day Care Center Inc. to borrow from the Town of Wallingford amounts necessary to meet the essential operation expenses of said Day Care Center prior to the time its program is approved for funding from the State of Connecticut - Mayor
- 4j. Consider and approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$22,000 to Tools, Shop and Garage Equipment Acct # 394 from Distribution Plant-Station Equipment Acct # 362 - Electric Division
- 4k. Approve minutes of Special Town Council meeting of November 1, 2010

MOTION Mr. Farrell made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda 4a-4k.

SECOND Mrs. Rascati seconded.

VOTE All Councilors present (9) voted Aye.

The motion passed.

5. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

None

6. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER

Bob Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, asked about certain features with regard to the new contract the town just entered into with AT & T, and inquired whether the features were included in the contract. He was curious about the fact that the town has a lower rate than the State of Connecticut. He asked about going out to bid and that he thinks it could save money because this contract is for over one million dollars.

He tied the town spending money without going out to bid, which could save money, into the possibility of funding employee positions that are probably in jeopardy. The Mayor pointed out that this contract does save money for the town as the costs are about the same as they were ten (10) years ago. The town is going from \$.11 down to \$.09. Mr. Gross said again that this was a one million dollar contract without going out to bid. Mr. Gross also asked about Covanta's environmental team coming to the Council and why they aren't here. He expressed his concern about the release of dioxins, which he said by standards of DEP and EPA are a known carcinogen. Chairman Parisi said that Covanta will attend a future meeting.

Mr. LeTourneau responded to Mr. Gross with regard his statements to the public that the plant spewing cancers. Mr. LeTourneau said that he thinks that this is way out of line and that Mr. Gross is not a certified scientist in this field. He said that he should preface his statements and say that this is his opinion. In response to another statement made by Mr. Gross, Mr. LeTourneau said that the Council cares very much about the residents of this town and that this item will be appear on the Council's timetable, and not that of Mr. Gross.

Louis Pontecorvo, 26 Pine Glen Terrace, spoke about the growing population of the United States and that of Wallingford. He noted that 'land was recently purchased on North Farms Road' for the construction of a new, enlarged firehouse. With difficulty, Mr. Pontecorvo recalled that on November 11, 2006, these firemen saved his life. He questioned the Council and asked why would they, as the Town Council, advocate a reduction of fire services to this community, which they as a matter of fact serve. Chairman Parisi stated that the Council hasn't had any action yet and said that this situation will play out.

Joseph Centnar, 5 Tom's Drive, career fire officer, captain, shift commander, in the Wallingford Fire Department. He asked to make a statement with regard to Item 8, and Chairman Parisi asked him to wait for that item to be called.

William Adams, 712 North Farms Road, made a plea to support the firemen as they also saved his life. He said that he wouldn't be standing in front of the Town Council is it were not for the firemen.

7. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$8,200 to Purchased Professional Services - Negotiations Acct # 001-1300-901-9002-00 from Contingency General Purpose Acct # 001-7060-800-3190-00 – Mayor

MOTION Mr. Farrell made a motion to approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$8,200 to Purchased Professional Services - Negotiations Acct # 001-1300-901-9002-00 from Contingency General Purpose Acct # 001-7060-800-3190-00 as requested by the Mayor

SECOND Mrs. Rascati seconded.

Mayor Dickinson said that he is short \$8,200. He said that they budgeted \$10,000 in the line item and the bills total \$18,154.67. He stated that they need the transfer to cover the balance.

Mr. Sullivan asked for more specifics in what this dollar value will go to. Mayor Dickinson said that this pays for the arbitrators on the panel and that \$10,000 was budgeted. He said it's always an estimate.

Mr. Testa stated that the cost for the town in arbitrating the two contracts that were recently in arbitration was \$18,000. Mayor Dickinson said that was correct.

Rich Benham, 21 South Whittlesey, asked the Mayor how much is left in the Contingency-General Purpose account. Comptroller James Bowes responded that the fiscal year started with \$350,000 in the account minus this transfer of \$8,500.

VOTE All Councilors present (9) voted Aye.

The motion passed.

8. Report regarding implementation of arbitration awards for IAFF, Local 1326 and AFSCME, Council 4, Local 1183 – Mayor

Mayor Dickinson commented that we are faced with some very, serious circumstances. Recent reports show that bankruptcies are up 14% nationwide and that unemployment in the United States is at 9.6%. The effective unemployment is actually 17%. The depression years had unemployment at 25%. Connecticut has an unemployment rate of 9% with the effective unemployment rate, counting all of those out of work, at 14% to 15%. As of September, Wallingford has 8.1% unemployment and that varies with 2004, 2005, 2006, prior to difficulties really beginning, at somewhere around 4%.

Where do we look to...where revenue comes from. He said let's look to the State of Connecticut, a \$3 billion dollar deficit for this year and that next year another \$3 billion deficit. He said let's go to the federal, it has to be better there. We know it isn't, and that all we hear of is talk of extending tax cuts, and nothing of where we will attain new revenue. He said then we come to the local government and where do we get our revenue. We get it from a grand list. This current year, the taxes were built upon a dead-even grand list with no increase. We are in the midst of revaluation and the expectation is that we will be fortunate if it's a dead-even grand list coming out of it.

There will be two years in a row of no increase for those on social security, based upon the CPI, zero percent two years in a row. We are a nation in economic crisis. He told of a report he heard from the lunch program last night. Last year the free public school lunch program, which is available to those who financially meet requirements, had 551 children involved, and this year 703 children will be involved. This is a 27.6% increase for the free lunch program.

Mayor Dickinson stated that these are things that we cannot ignore. Unless there is serious change at the federal or the state level, he is telling everyone that we are headed down a path that is continuing to get worse. He said he can't ignore these things, and he is asking everyone else to not ignore them because they are not going away.

Mayor Dickinson stated that the Fire Department arbitration award for Fiscal Year 2011 awarded a 2.2%, increase, \$105,000, and 1183 award which includes: Public Works, General Government and Water-Sewer, primarily, Utilities Fiscal Year 2011 was a 2% wage increase, \$240,000 for General Government and Public Works, for Sewer \$102,000 and \$14,000 in Water. He said that if you add up the Fire Department and Public Works without the Utilities, it is approximately a \$300,000 - \$350,000 impact. With regard to implementation, Mayor Dickinson said that in 2009 the Fire Department ramped up the paramedic service. It was expanded and expanded by increasing overtime. Paramedics were added to the two career fire engines for nights and week-ends, adding to the existing ambulance service. The increase in costs, funding for the additional paramedics nights and weekends, will be eliminated. He said that we will still have emergency response, including the paramedic on ambulance as was the case prior to 2009.

In order to implement the changes on the 1183 contract, we have layoffs of three (3) part-time employees: Tax Office, Public Works and Recreation, one individual in each of those departments. We are not filling open positions, 2 positions in Public Works, one full-time and one part-time clerk position in the Police Department. With regard to other efforts to save money, we will eliminate the Sheehan pool use this spring. We have reduced hours for a position in Program Planning. We have eliminated part-time hours in the Mayor's Office and reduced some hours in Government Television. He said that hopefully that will give us sufficient money the \$240,000-\$250,000 impact on that contract.

With regard to the Utilities, we are not filling open positions – some positions have been open, so there is money there that can be used, and they will be cutting back on some outside contractor work for lining of pipes. In Water, there is a position that has not been filled, therefore, there is money there that can be used to cover the difference in wages.

We are in the midst of serious change. We cannot, as a local government, as a state or as a society continue to do all of the things that we have previously done. If we ignore the telltales in the wind, ignore the sign posts, then this situation is going to get steadily worse. He has not heard one positive note about the economy and its direction from any source in weeks and even months. We must begin to address what we are facing. It's not going to be easy, and he is telling us that we are all in the same boat, and if you are in a boat, everyone has to pull on a oar. If one group doesn't pull as much as another, what happens? He said the boat goes no where, it might go in a circle but it goes no where. It is incumbent upon all of us together to get through these times.

We've had decades of regularity in what we could expect and receive with regard to employment, wages, etc. and now we've hit a period that approaches some of the worst times that this country has had and somehow, he hopes, that we're not believing that we are going to skate through this with all of the same perimeters, all the same standards, all the same expectations that we have had for decades of great prosperity. Ladies and gentlemen, it is impossible. Something has to give in the process. We all have to be part of that. We are either part of the solution or we are part of a problem that will drown all of us. He asks us all to be part of a solution.

Mr. Economopoulos asked if furloughs were offered by these unions to our town back when the negotiations started and did we turn those furlough offers down. Mayor Dickinson said that he believes the offers were not formal. Mr. Economopoulos said he remembers that there were those offers but the town stood their ground and did not accept them.

Mr. Terence Sullivan, Personnel Director, stated that the town approached the unions before collective bargaining on a successor contract, and they talked about some concessions, and furloughs were discussed. Ultimately the town chose not to go with that idea. The concern was that the general wage increases and the savings by furloughing employees would just compound the wage increase, so those wages would still go up and cost the town money eventually. He said that not all unions agreed to furloughs like the police union who didn't want to talk about it, and the fire union had some different ideas. Local 1183 seemed to warm to the idea.

Mr. Economopoulos asked how many of the unions received a zero percent raise in their first years or any of the years. Mr. Terence Sullivan, Personnel Director, stated two unions on the town side, not including Board of Education, Local 1183 has a zero next year in their award, and for Local 1326, Fire, the award was zero last year. Mr. Economopoulos added but they did have zeroes, and then said how did we do in arbitration? Did we offer zero, zero, zero? Mr. Terence Sullivan said that we offered zeroes with a re-opener in the last year for Local 1183. Mr. Economopoulos asked how we did we do with that, offering three zeroes. Mr. Terence Sullivan reported that we got one and lost two others. Mr. Economopoulos said that he just doesn't understand because he knows that what the Mayor is saying is true and that it is fine with him if the Mayor wants to start it right here in Wallingford but that the Mayor should have started it with the teachers union. Now we are starting it with the firefighters, after we lose an arbitration award. He doesn't see how we can even promote that; how we can even justify that ethically, morally and safety-wise. He commented that the Mayor is presenting us with a lot of problems when we need solutions. He added that arbitrators are not awarding zero, zero, zero. Mr. Terence Sullivan said that the manager's union is now in arbitration with an upcoming, first hearing and that he cannot publicly talk about it.

Mr. Economopoulos noted that past action is usually an indicator of future decisions. Mr. Economopoulos said that he just doesn't understand why we are doing this.

Mayor Dickinson commented that he doesn't think that we would have any (zeroes) if we didn't take a firm stand. He said that he thinks that nurses have zero, so there is another unit out there that has zeroes. We would have no zeroes if we weren't firm about this. The Mayor said let's face it, the arbitration process is not a system that analyzes all the factual material and that given the current economic climate, he regards arbitration as a broken watch. The system is broken, and he thinks that it is going to take some pretty tough action at the state level to correct what is going on. He doesn't see how the state is going to pull itself out of what is going on, short of the economy miraculously turning around. He stated that being fairly tough about things is not easy. He said that he has great respect for all of the town employees, and certainly the police department. Who does not? It's impossible to play favorites. We have to be dealing with the entire picture, which is difficult at best, and unless we stick with a message that is consistent, no one is going to agree. Once you say to anyone that it's OK for you then everyone else says, well, I'm just as important, the teacher in the classroom, the person running the pump at the treatment plant for our water, the police officer responding to a domestic; they all say I am just as important. He said he doesn't know how you sort out who is more important. Each of our services is something that on a daily basis the public relies upon on. He said that he doesn't know how to separate that.

Mr. Economopoulos stated that he doesn't think you can say who is more important but when his staff goes to the unions and tries to settle an agreement, and they don't, or they can't, then our only choice is arbitration. He said that the zero, zero, zero offers aren't winning, and he agrees that this has to change but he doesn't see us taking it on the chin each time this happens. Instead we start laying off our people and laying off our services. He said he doesn't understand how it works.

Mayor Dickinson said that ultimately it becomes a question of where the money comes from. That is ultimately the question. We are going to be faced with a budget coming up, and undoubtedly, there's going to be a tax increase. The only question is how high will the tax increase be. He will be surprised if there is any increase of state aid for education or anything else. He said if they had just stayed even all of the increases, and all of what goes on, becomes something that we have to deal with. With these two units you are looking at \$350,000, and adding on all of the other units, and you approach one million dollars. He said he wished that he had a magic wand. He would use it on behalf of everyone but he doesn't have a magic wand, and he thinks that the public needs to know that they are trying hard to balance a multitude of interests all of which are very important.

Mr. Economopoulos said that he isn't disagreeing with the Mayor at all but that holding steadfast in the sand of no furloughs or trying to holdfast to the zero percent raises on three years across is not working at least with arbitrators, who have not changed their feelings to the way the Mayor feels. He said that he feels the same way as the Mayor and that they do have to start holding them to zeros across the board. Right now it is not working for our town, and he suggests that we have to make some changes on that.

Councilor John Sullivan directed his comments to Fire Chief Struble and reported that based on the arbitration decision, his figures indicate that for Fiscal Year 2010 the shortfall is \$104,288. Chief Struble agreed. Councilor Sullivan referred to a letter in his possession dated October 15th in which Chief Struble offered the Mayor three different options to resolve the shortfall. The first option discussed in the letter is the ambulance service and the money that it generates. He asked for an explanation on how the ambulance service generates money for the town.

Chief Struble said that Wallingford Fire Department operates a licensed ambulance that has rates that are set by the State of Connecticut that they apply for every year and patient's insurance company, Medicare,

Medicaide and private payers are billed for the service when someone is transported to the hospital. He stated that when they recover those revenues, they are sent to the General Fund. Other ambulance companies bill for the same service if someone is transported by them. He said that the estimate for the Comptroller each year how much they are going to recover and is included in the revenue projections of the budget.

Councilor Sullivan asked for the first quarter numbers for the ambulance transport. Chief Struble stated that it would appear for 2009-2010, it would be in the range of was just over one million in cash and it should be one million fifty thousand this year. Councilor Sullivan asked how the Fire Department arrives at the rates for transport in an ambulance. Chief Struble said that it is a regulated system. He said that there is an ambulance committee in Wallingford, and each year he has to complete an application to the State of Connecticut to the state health department. He said that at application time he meets with the committee, and they approve the rate recommendation or make adjustments to the rate recommendation. He said that the State of Connecticut issues a recommended maximum rate and he said that they accept that rate and that there is parity among all ambulance service companies. He reported that he applies in June or July and is notified in December the result of that application so that the new rate can be applied in January. He said that generally the rate is related to inflation and is presently around 2%.

Councilor Sullivan commented that this is a sustainable rate year to year. Chief Struble said that it was that they have been billing for the service as long as he has been a chief officer, twenty-plus year. Councilor Sullivan asked if Chief Struble felt strongly that this money could be used to offset the \$104,000 for fiscal year 2010 and the \$117,000 in 2011-12 fiscal year. Chief Struble said that when he knew they would be short in the budget that he likes to look for a solution. He said he does not have this money in his budget and that there is no way to find it in a budget that is as lean as his is. He said that he predicted \$950,000 last year for the current fiscal year, which is on the conservative side, and that he spoke about this with the Comptroller. He doesn't want to come in short. He said that after the report of the first quarter, it was going to be enough and that is why he is trying to recommend a solution.

Councilor Sullivan asked that if the tonight the Council agrees not to fund the arbitrator's decisions, how will that impact the fire department. Chief Struble commented that it is important to make a decision soon because this is November and to have enough money in the payroll accounts to make the rest of the year, then we must realize some savings. He said that if they have to have a service reduction that they we're trying to make that service reduction with the least amount of impact. He discussed how they make this plan using the number of people for instance, 13 people at night and on weekends. They take a rescue truck out of service during the day. He said that allows them to run paramedics on both of the career engines. He said the extra person there is that sometimes a paramedic has to ride in with an ambulance because there may not be a paramedic on the ambulance or they might need a second paramedic.

Councilor Sullivan interjected, asking for clarification of what is a paramedic. Chief Struble said that they have three (3) levels of medical response, the first and basic medical response technician, MRT, level is taught to new recruits. It is like advanced first aide providing assistance to EMTs and paramedics. The EMT can provide basic airway management, stabilize the spine, CPR and basic defibrillation and take a history. The paramedic is well in excess of 3,000 hours of training to become a paramedic. Paramedics bring the first 25 minutes of the emergency room to the scene of the event. They do IV therapy, defibrillate, EKGs, advanced airway techniques and provide about 25 medications, including techniques with regard to the heart, give drugs to comatose people, treat hypoglycemia. He said that the concept in para medicine is early intervention within eight minutes of the 911 call and keep that person from getting any more unstable and get them to the hospital in better condition that they found them in and to get certain medications started before they arrive at the hospital. He said that with the paramedic treatment that the patient does better and their hospital stay is shorter.

Councilor Sullivan stated that the savings is about \$140,000 annually. Chief Struble said that figure is for the entire 12 months, and it will be tight even with that service reduction. Councilor Sullivan commented that firefighters are really counting on an ambulance before the proper care can be given to a patient because without a paramedic on the truck proper care will not take place. Chief Struble said that his system is set up so that the first call, the first responder unit might be a paramedic unit and the paramedic transport ambulance but it should be considered that 1/3 of their calls are simultaneous. This means that they can receive a second and third call after that first one. As a result they have a contract with Hunter's Ambulance for advanced life support (ALS) calls, the one that the paramedics are needed for and Hunter's are required via the contract to get an ambulance there in twelve (12) minutes with a paramedic. They average between 12 to 13 minutes. He explained how critical it becomes when they get beyond the second call. Councilor Sullivan talked about a recent call when two ambulances were not available on other calls and Hunter's was called but they had no ambulance that could respond at the time. Hunter's backup is New Haven Ambulance. He said that he was told that it was almost 20 minutes before New Haven Ambulance could respond to this resident's home. He recalled the two people who spoke earlier stating that the firefighters sitting in the auditorium had saved their lives and said that if you have a need for an ambulance, and a fire truck arrives, the firefighters cannot administer drugs, or re-start your heart, or take EKG readings. Chief Struble stated that there are times when the system gets very, very busy, and if someone is waiting for an ambulance from North Branford or New Haven, that would be an approximate time. He said that Hunter's is a fantastic partner, and they have a great relationship but there are days when the need for an ambulance must come from another town, He said that they have a dispatch center in New Haven with a hot phone that get implemented when the second call comes in within a minute or two.

Councilor Sullivan made comments on the arbitration decisions. He said that most people go to the wage increases immediately but that it is necessary to look at the whole contract. He said that the fire department and public works did get wage increases but that the town also won on these decisions, and he thinks that we don't seem to put enough light on that. In looking at the fire department award, the employee's health insurance cost share will be increasing from 10% to 12 % immediately, and then in July 1, 2011, it will go to 13%. The office co-pay will increase to \$25 immediately. The new hospital co-pay for inpatient admissions and outpatient visits is of significance. Emergency and urgent care visits co-pays will also increase. He stated that the employees will be required to pay higher prescription co-pays and contribute and additional \$5 per week for retiree health insurance while they are active employees. Local 1183 is similar in employee cost shares increased to 9% immediately and to 10% July 1, 2011, and office visit co-pays increased to \$20 immediately, and as do co-pays for prescriptions. It is the same with the hospital, urgent care and emergency room visit co-pays, which are also increasing. Our employees have just their pension. There is no long-term care.

Councilor Sullivan said that he does not disagree with what the Mayor said earlier about the economy but that in 2009 the Police Department received a 3.3% increase, in 2010 they received 3.5% increase and in 2011, they will receive a 4.0% increase, or 10.1% over only three years. He recalled that the Mayor said that the arbitration system is broken, it was the town who sent the contracts to the broken arbitration system, and tonight prior to coming to this agenda item, this Council agreed to place another \$8,200 into the professional services account to cover the cost of the arbitrators. He said the arbitrators looked at the town's books, and he stated that the Mayor is a victim of his own success. He said that in 2009, resources available for this town were \$2.8 million more than budgeted, and expenses were \$3.5 million less than budgeted. He said that unrestricted net assets, the part of the net assets that can be used to finance day-to-day operations without constraint established by debt covenants enabling legislation or legal requirements, increased from \$11.9 million in June 2008 to \$16 million at the end of this year. CRRA distributed \$7.2 million to the town. The town's general revenue from property tax increased by 5.5%. The state granted \$435,000 more than anticipated for the manufacturer's machinery and equipment program. Insurance costs were \$512,000 less than budgeted. Public safety expenditures were \$893,000 less than budgeted. Public Works expenditures were \$461,000 less than budgeted. Electric rates went up 6%. Sewer rates went up by 1.2%, and water rates went up by 4%. He said that actual tax revenue was \$1,244,000 more than budgeted.

The electric division turned a \$2.7 million profit on top of a \$6.4 million profit the year before. This is 2009 and this is what the arbitrator sees when the decision is made as to who will be awarded what.

Councilor Sullivan said that the Mayor has done a good job at keeping the books balanced and keeping the town's triple A bond rating and maintaining a rainy day account; however, when it comes to labor relations, Councilor Sullivan stated that he thinks that we are not bargaining in good faith. It bothers him. He agrees the road ahead is going to be rocky but we continue to take it out on the backs of the employees. He pointed out that we do not look at the municipal operations and say we could be more efficient, and we could do things that would offer a return on investment and save us money. He commented that we continue to use antiquated systems in payroll. We fund a very old fashioned pension fund. He said that there are things that we can change without laying people off and reducing services to residents. He stated that he is in support of the wage increases for both the fire department and the public works (Local 1183). He also supports the emergency personnel and in maintaining the current levels of paramedics on the engines. He said that a life in this town is worth a lot more than the \$104,000 that we are short for 2010 and the \$117,000 for 2011. He asked the Mayor to please consider using the ambulance transport funds to fund this instead of putting the funds into the general fund. He said that he thinks that the chief came up with a good way to use funds that are earned through the fire department to offset the increases would also maintain services. He made a statement stressing the importance the having our ambulances.

Mayor Dickinson stated that the ambulance revenues do not pay for the entire cost of our emergency ambulance service. If they did, we could set up a separate entity and have it totally funded which would mean obviously the ambulance rates would have to go up in accordance with salaries and whatever costs are associated with it but it does not. He said that it would be akin to having pay raises in the tax office be always covered because the tax office collects a lot of revenue, or the Town Clerk's Office or any revenue producing office. He stated that it would not stand the test of a prudent use of the funds to cover the present gap. He stated that the funds do go into the general fund but they also end up offsetting reductions of funds in other places. It all becomes pooled. Mayor Dickinson commented that every year there is a tax increase. All of the sound financing is built upon a number of principles, one of which is the necessity of tax increases, and typically, they are larger than the cost of living, which is where he would like it to be. He said that however the town's fiscal situation is colored, it is build upon everyone paying their tax obligations. We don't go without a tax increase every year.

Councilor Fishbein asked Mr. Terence Sullivan, Personnel Director, if the arbitrator's decision put some new, added premium costs on the shoulders of the municipal workers and wouldn't that reflect a decrease in expected expenditure by the town. Mr. Terence Sullivan agreed that it would and for the fire contract it is approximately \$44,000 in the reduction in health insurance costs. Mr. Fishbein pointed out that somewhere there is already \$44,000 that has been appropriated to spend for fire that is not going to be spent. Since the town is now self-insured, Mr. Terence Sullivan said that they budget individually for every person in town by class size just what the equivalent premium would be for insurance. Mr. Fishbein asked if this is already calculated in the \$104,000 shortfall. Mr. Sullivan said that it was not. Mr. Fishbein stated that essentially we have found half of the money. Mr. Sullivan said that that is an annual number and we are already into November, or one-third of the year. Mr. Fishbein said then we have found one-third of the money.

Mr. Fishbein turned to Chief Struble and asked about the actual impact on paramedic services because of the misconceptions about the paramedic services that he is hearing from residents. Chief Struble acknowledged that it is a complicated system. He said that the plan this week is to implement what he describes as Phase I Service Reductions, which will mean that their on-duty career staff will drop from 13 people on duty to 12 people on duty nights and weekends and that when that happens, they cannot feasibly provide paramedic level service on the two engines during that period of time. He said that paramedic level service will be provided on the ambulance, so the first call will have paramedics but subsequent calls on nights and weekends will not have paramedic level service. Mr. Fishbein added that paramedic level

service on the engines during the day. Chief Struble said that they will have a rescue still operating during the day. He said that the reason that he is pushing for a fast solution is that the longer they wait to make those service reductions on nights and weekends, then the greater the daytime service is at risk. He said that as they move through the year then he will have to look at other options, if this is not enough money saved to make payroll. Mr. Fishbein said that he is a proponent of user taxes that you pay more for then service when you use the service. Why do we apply to the state for the rates and why don't we don't we just set our own rates. Chief Struble said that the delivery of ambulance transport services is regulated under state statutes in Connecticut so you can't just provide the service. You have to be licensed and to be licensed and to bill for the service you are required to submit a rate application to the state. It is a regulated allowable rate industry which states what you can charge for what service. Generally we accept that rate schedule, and the few that go beyond that rate schedule are very large companies, such as AMR. He said that you have to be able to prove the rate you request and be able to demonstrate that you need that higher rate to stay in business. Mr. Fishbein asked if it wouldn't be appropriate to tell the state that we have a reduction in services and therefore it is financially feasible to raise our rates. Chief Struble said that the time period to do this is in June-July each year.

Mr. Fishbein asked about the ambulance commission and wanted to know what they do. Chief Struble said that the Ambulance Committee is set up through a town ordinance and its mission is oversight of the town ambulance, which originally wasn't part of the fire department until the 1970s. He reports to the committee each year and submits an annual financial report with the rate for which they are applying that year. He said that he submits the application to the state after the Ambulance Committee approves it. Mr. Fishbein was perplexed and stated that we never challenge the rates; we take what the state gives us, and we rubber stamp it, so why do we even go to the Ambulance Committee. Chief Struble said that it states in the ordinance that they set the rates. He said that they could look into asking for higher rates and if this service reduction goes into place this Thursday, then he will be requesting it to be funded next year. He will ask for it to be restored July 1st.

Mr. Testa commented on the economy and agreed that it is in terrible shape but that he disagrees with all of the gloom and doom and that it will never get better. He has difficulty with the bleak view of the economy as only getting worse and a depiction of the arbitration system as a terrible horrible system that is broken and not working to set the stage as a justification for negotiation strategy that he has in the past criticized and will again. It is a strategy that is wrong. Every year for the last ten years in a reflection of the economy, the awards are getting slimmer and slimmer. He thinks that it is not realistic to approach a negotiation with a stand of 'we are offering nothing' and 'you are going to like it'. But we lose. We don't negotiate in good faith. We don't negotiate creatively. We don't look for ways to involve our bargaining units cooperatively, and we insist on one size fits all. He said that just isn't the way it works. He said that the reductions will bring us back to 2009 coverage. Chief Struble said that in 2000, they hired two additional firefighters to increase the platoons when they began to see a steady rise in their call volume. The Chief explained the increased platoons of people since 2003, the staffing to cover the increase in the call volume and the paramedic coverage. He said that the plan two years ago was to allow paramedics on the engines. Mr. Testa summarized stating that the fire department has expanded according to the need and asked if the need is decreasing. Chief Struble said, "No." Chief Struble spoke about the good feedback from hospital physicians since the increase in staffing. Chief Struble reported that with a decrease in paramedic staffing there will be no direct revenue reduction for ambulance transports. He said that in those instances where use of a paramedic is billed that the revenue loss to the fire department would be minimal.

Chairman Parisi was interested in how paramedics are assigned and that they can ride with Hunter's ambulance Service. Chief Struble said that this occurs about 160 times per year of 2,200 transports by the Fire Department while Hunter's transports 2,000 direct 911 calls.

Councilor Testa, recalling the budget process, said that there were discussions with department heads with regard to positions in the budget that were not filled. He asked if there were unfilled positions in the Police

Department. Mayor Dickinson said that there are positions that won't be filled because we don't have the funds to pay the wage increase. Mr. Testa noted that the salaries/wages are in the budget, without the wage increase, for these unfilled positions, and that in effect this can be looked to as opposed to reserves and other things.

Mayor Dickinson pointed out that the number of people in the department that it would find acceptable to provide whatever services were not expanded, so there is a reduction in service in the sense that you do not have as many people responding to whatever the situation is.

Mr. Testa said that the bottom line is that the money is there, and that he appreciates that these expenses are not just one year expenses. He respects the concern of the administration but in the overall budget that there is a healthy reserve account, and he is not one to dip into it to a great degree to cover operating expenses. He said that he agrees with the principal of using a one-time infusion of cash for capital expenses because they are one-time expenses. He referred to the oft referred to 'rainy day fund' and said, "It's raining." He asked when it would be used. He stated with the demonstrated need for the services and with the demonstrated success of those services that it would be irresponsible to make any potential cuts in the emergency response services at this time. He does not support any reduction. He offered compliments to the administration on finding areas to offset the Public Works expenses.

Mayor Dickinson said that he understood the 'rainy day fund' comment but he pointed out the 'rainy day fund' that the State of Connecticut had five years ago and that now we are looking at \$3 billion deficit and that is what occurs when you use 'rainy day fund' for operating costs.

Mr. Cervoni stated that he respects the position of the Mayor about the philosophy in dealing with the economy and in negotiating with the unions, and he wouldn't suggest that the Mayor change that and that he wouldn't fault the Mayor for where we are right now. He said that he knows that in negotiating you have to have a starting point to get to the result. Mr. Cervoni said that he is beyond that. He reported that he has had more calls from people with regard to concerns about public safety and paramedic and medical response in this town that any other issue in the eleven months that he has been sitting as a Town Councillor. He referred to his conversation with Chief Struble regarding these calls. He reviewed that the Chief has reported that there are 160 times per year when a paramedic rides with a private ambulance company to the hospital because that ambulance is short a paramedic and that this occurs about three (3) time per week. Chief Struble agreed that this has saved lives and added that this call could be the 3rd or 4th call they receive and he stressed that the service that they work with, Hunters, is very good but many time it is the 3rd or 4th call that they are on and that is why the paramedic is riding. Mr. Cervoni stated that if we go to a Phase 1 reduction, we are going to have a paramedic for the first call in the overnight call situation but what happens with the 2nd and the 3rd? And also he asked if Chief Struble has a perception as to how often those calls come close together, in what time frame does that occur?

Chief Struble said that the calls per year number 6,000 that 30% of the time results in multiple calls occurring at the same time. Chief Struble reviewed what happens during these times after the first call with regard to paramedics, who might not be on the engine companies at night. The situation is assessed and they wait for Hunters to come and that generally Hunters has a paramedic. He added that Hunters contract is response in 12 minutes, which is about their average. If there is a 3rd call then the average increases since Hunters covers other towns as well. He said it is unpredictable and that icy roads cause everyone to be tapped. They talked about CMED, a regional, dispatch company in New Haven. He said that the volume of calls is greater as the population ages, and the services are finite and are taxed.

Mr. Cervoni mentioned what OSHA recommends in terms of having available to respond to a fire and asked the Chief if he thinks Wallingford is lean in comparison to what OSHA requires. Chief Struble said that they are still a Fire Department that does EMS work and that while they can call Hunters to help them. He said that it takes a minimum of 15 firefighters to attack a fire and they are right at this edge now and the

reason why volunteer companies are so critical. He said they are the critical part of supplying the people that they need on the ground. He stated again that if a paramedic rides to the hospital, it could leave a company short in responding and that there are situations where an OSHA standard could be violated when dealing with a respiratory situation. Mr. Cervoni observed that to find the needed \$105,000 to balance the books to the end of this year would be about \$7 per household. Chief Struble reported that the entire impact of this award for 2010-11 is about \$105,000. Mr. Cervoni concluded by saying that he cannot in good conscience do anything resembling favoring cutting these services and that Wallingford is lucky to have Chief Struble. He said that Chief Struble is not only an advocate for safety of the public but also an advocate for the safety of the members his department. He said if at all possible, find the money.

Councilor LeTourneau said that he understands the Mayor's stance on this issue. He talked about unemployment and he can't see Wallingford adding to the problem by adding layoffs. He said that the folks sitting out there and other town employees need to work. He said that they are good employees. He feels that the town needs to negotiate better. He noted that the paramedic services are important, and we are talking about cutting services when we should be talking about increasing services. Mr. LeTourneau said that we need to find the money to increase services. He said how do you tell people that response will take one half hour. He said that paramedics came when he had a heart attack, and he learned that it is the first hour that makes the difference from irreparable damage. He was fortunate in having Wallingford's paramedic system treat him. He thinks that we can find the money. He mentioned some capital projects and commented that perhaps we need to prioritize and put our personnel first and right here with the fire department. He said that he is for funding both of the contracts and that it is something that we have to do. He believes that this is the consensus of the Council but how is it to be done. He thinks that the problem is that they as the Council may not have the power to do it. So how is this done to move forward?

Mayor Dickinson stated that funding needs both branches. He said that there will be transfers for the retro pay obligations for Public Works. He said that this has not been completed yet since there are quite a few employees and Finance is still working on that. He said we will be coming forward with that retro pay, which is generally the money that has been saved in the 323 account. In general, approval of expenditures requires both branches of government. Mr. LeTourneau said that he understands that the Council cannot put this on the agenda to fund these contracts, so procedurally, he asked how do we do that. Mayor Dickinson said that you can put an item on the agenda for discussion at any time but when it gets into the formal procedures for transfers, appropriations, etc., he doesn't think that the Council can do that nor can the administrative departments decide to move money around without the Council. Mr. LeTourneau said, "So what is the mechanism? How do we do it?" Mayor Dickinson stated that the mechanism is a transfer request, which is reviewed, and then it is approved or disapproved. Mr. LeTourneau said that in order to fund these contracts, the Chief would have to put a request in. Mayor Dickinson said that he would have to have money to transfer from. Mr. LeTourneau said that the Chief is going to have to request a transfer from another area. Mayor Dickinson said in his opinion that the Chief really can't process that on his own. He supposes that if he had money in his budget that he wanted to transfer, then that would be one thing but if it comes from some other department, there isn't a mechanism short of the Mayor's Office being part of it. Mr. LeTourneau said he wanted to come back to this later.

Mrs. Rascati referred to the \$1 million income from the ambulance service. Chief Struble said for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2010, it was just over one million dollars which went to the general fund. Mrs. Rascati asked about the cost to run the ambulance service. Chief Struble explained about the cost center as it relates to the State of Connecticut rates. She asked about the number of paramedics. He said that the Fire Department has 26 active paramedics, and a group that work at the EMT level, and the balance of the people are all EMTs. He said that the volunteers are all MRTs and EMTs. He said that Hamden is the closest Fire Department operation to Wallingford, and they have as many paramedics as Wallingford but that they don't do transport work. He thinks that North Haven has about six paramedics, who are very new to the service. Meriden is completely covered with Hunter's paramedic system along with Fire Department

EMTs. Chief Struble reported that the 26 paramedics in Wallingford are divided up between 15 platoons. He explained the training and the experience of paramedics and the expense involved.

Councilor Farrell said that he has the utmost respect for the Mayor but he would like to find a way for the Council to do this. He reported that he often says that he would never want to live anywhere but Wallingford. He talked about the question of why is that. He said that one of the reasons is in a medical emergency when you get the finest, quickest medical treatment available. He let everyone know that he has had that experience with the Wallingford Fire Department and from another community where it took 45 minutes, and no paramedics. He does not want to see the ambulance service lessened to any degree.

Councilor Testa said that the administration can't spend, or collect, money if the Council says not to. He said that if we were to fund this, there is no assurance that the money would actually be spent as we are not the administrative authority in the community. It has to do with the separation of powers. To the Town Attorney, he stated that he can't make a motion to transfer \$150,000 from the town's contingency fund to the Fire Department's salary account, have it seconded and have it passed. He asked if that is what he is hearing forgetting about procedures and whether it is on the agenda or not because we can always find a way around that. He said in the Charter on page 32 in most cases a department would have to request a transfer, would have to go to the Mayor for approval, or disapproval, and it comes to the Town Council, if it is in excess of \$200, so that the Council could approve it. He read some of what the Charter said:

"When any department, commission, board or officer shall desire to secure a transfer of funds in its or his appropriation from funds set apart for one specific purpose to another..."

He said and so if it's not in the normal account and you want to transfer from another account or from another part of the budget, in the existing budget, within their own budget...

The Town Attorney said from somebody else's department in the last three months, you have that alternative and that appropriations above the budget...

Mr. Testa stated that has to do with any unencumbered appropriation and that is dealing with your balance in the last three months of the year. For example, how are we able to transfer \$8,200 from Contingency General Purpose Account to Purchased Professional Services Negotiations two hours ago, and whose budget did it go into. Chairman Parisi said it's because the Mayor requested it. He said that his point is that it can be done at any time but we may be in the situation that it has to be requested by the administration. He asked if that is what everyone is saying. The Town Attorney said she had not thought about the Contingency Fund, so she is not necessarily saying that in that she doesn't know the answer to that. She said that she agrees with even if you accomplish the transfer that the Mayor can direct any department to not spend money in their budget. She said that she would not make comments about the Contingency Account as she does not know where it fits but she would give it some thought. Mr. Testa said that he thinks that everyone is in agreement that there may be some, or could be some, disagreement as to whether or not the Charter would allow him to initiate a transfer and have the transfer happen. Is this allowed? It is important to note that the Council can transfer that money, but we may not be able to transfer if the Mayor doesn't ask us to but we cannot direct that it be expended. The Town Attorney said that is correct. He said that there seems to be enough support on the Council to support funding this. He directed his comment to the Mayor saying that it was in his hands.

Chairman Parisi during a discussion today that the Town Attorney said that the Council cannot expend any money without the approval of the Mayor and that the Mayor has to ask that the Council. Attorney Small said that you are talking about appropriations above the budget require the recommendation of the Mayor and the approval of the Council. You both have to approve it but the Mayor has to recommend it. She said that they didn't talk about the Contingency Account. Chairman Parisi said that it's an emergency account that they the name of it was changed. Attorney Small said that she is not clear as to whether the Council

needs the Mayor's recommendation. She said that even though it has always been done that way, she is not going to say categorically that you cannot. She said that she would give the Council an opinion on this subject reasonably quick.

Chairman Parisi asked if the Fire Chief had a shortage in the salary account, he would have to go to you for additional money. Mayor Dickinson said that was correct. Chairman Parisi asked the Mayor if he would determine what would be done. Mayor Dickinson said that generally they would talk it over and decide what would be appropriate. Chairman Parisi asked if it would then come to the Council. The Mayor said that it would have to in order to transfer money. Chairman Parisi said if in this circumstance if the Chief came to you with that situation in the salary account. With a shortage, Mayor Dickinson said that you either have a reduction in expenditures in order to accommodate the award or you look for additional money. He said that those are the two choices. Chairman Parisi asked if technically the Council is out of that process. Mayor Dickinson stated that based upon the way we have generally done business at the legislative body that is correct. He said that the Council's role is to approve the movement of money and initially approve a budget but the administration has the primary authority of seeing what services are rendered and how they are rendered. Chairman Parisi said that it would be upon the Mayor's initiative as to whether the Council has to approve any action. Mayor Dickinson said typically that is correct and that it is built upon a basis that if there is a need for a general reduction in expenditures, such as 5%. He said that if there weren't that authority, then there would be no way to do that, and there would be no central budget at that point. It would resemble a free-fall. This is basically the structure and they way things have operated here.

Chairman Parisi asked how much it costs to train a paramedic. Chief Struble said that in his career fire department that it is overtime is the big expenditure. He said that it has been a long time since the Fire Department sent someone to school but that he thinks that for 18 months it would be in excess of \$50,000 per paramedic. The Fire Department has no paramedic volunteers. He said that the existing paramedics require annual, ongoing training.

Mr. LeTourneau asked about the total cost for the new fire truck that money has been put aside for. Chief Struble said that it is about \$980,000 and that they have received a Federal Fire Act Grant of \$450,000. He said it is fully funded and that in fact the truck was delivered to New York today for prep. The final accounting will be within two months. Mr. LeTourneau thought that perhaps some of the funds for the truck could be used. Chief Struble said that there is work to be done to get it into service. Mr. LeTourneau said that the Council's hands are tied and the feeling on the Council is to fund this but we can't until the Mayor does something with it. He thinks a motion would show the consensus. Chairman Parisi responded that every Councilor should speak for himself. Chairman Parisi asked the Mayor what his procedure would be from here. Mayor Dickinson said that they will be putting together the information necessary to cover the retro payments for Local 1183 and any transfers necessary for the utility. He said that both of them need to be dealt with. He said that he will consider everything that has been said.

Chairman Parisi said that speaking sincerely that he has the deepest respect for what the Mayor is trying to accomplish and that he has great vision that he has demonstrated with the way he has led this town financially and how he is doing things; however, having said that, Chairman Parisi stated that it is very difficult for him to make a commitment where he knows that someone with cardiac arrest needs an ambulance. He asked what if there are two more at the same time. What happens to the other two? He said that doesn't want to be one of the other two. He hopes that in the future everyone in Wallingford, and especially the employees, understand that we are all in the boat that and that we all have to make sacrifices. He said that he knows that the everyday people in this town are making sacrifices and cutting back on a lot of things. He said he hopes that in any type of negotiation that this isn't forgotten. Everyone has to pitch in and everyone has to tighten their belt. He said that he has heard from rank and file and that they think that they can do it. He asked people to really think this out and that he knows people who have given furlough days, so they could have a colleague continue to work. He thinks that is what is going to be

needed to get through what is ahead of us. He asked the Mayor to make every effort to fund this for this year. He said that we cannot make a motion.

Mr. LeTourneau confirmed with Chief Struble that Phase 1 will begin this week on Thursday (*November 11, 2010*) and that Phase 2 is something the Chief is trying to stay out of because Phase 2 is very, very dangerous. Chief Struble said that if it looks like they are going to have to go to Phase 2, he will discuss it with the Mayor as he will not institute Phase 2 unilaterally by himself. He remarked that he would want to evaluate whether we want to go there since it is not a good situation. Mr. LeTourneau said that this is a sad and dangerous day for Wallingford in what has happened here. He stated that he is not happy about it, not happy about it at all. He said he does not like having his hands tied like this.

Chairman Parisi spoke to the many people in the auditorium stating that they have been a wonderful audience and very considerate and respectful of the Council, the Mayor and Chief Struble. He called for public comment.

Gene LeTourneau, 95 North Main Street, Treasurer, Local 1326, asked the Chief to explain Phase 2. Chief Struble responded stating that it would take the daytime paramedic rescue out of service Monday to Friday and that would leave the Fire Department with only the two fire engines that respond to the calls that they have during peak hours. He said that nights and weekends are a significant issue and that, cutting the rescue truck from the Fire Department's response capability, or Phase 2, is devastating. Mr. Gene Letourneau expressed concern about the importance of informing the public. He discussed how the response calls work with regard to paramedics. He addressed that heart attacks, diabetic emergencies, asthma attacks that all need paramedic care. He discussed negotiations that began in January and expressed his views on the arbitration award.

William Adams, 712 North Farms Road, stressed the importance of the Fire Department and that they saved his life by reviving him, adding that cuts should be made somewhere else because you are playing with people's lives. Mine. And others. He said that he thinks it is his duty to stand up and support the Wallingford Fire Department. He said that someone will be the 2nd and the 3rd. It could be you.

Joe Centnar, Wallingford, Fire Department Shift Commander, stated that he appreciates the support of the Council for the Fire Department and that of the Mayor. He said the Mayor has always supported the Fire Department. He reminded everyone that the emergency response personnel are not in it for the money. He said that they are in it to save lives, and as a shift commander, he sees that they are under staffed responding to two or three calls. He said that Chief Struble has gone out in his own car. That he has sent out a ladder company out. He reported that this is on a day-to-day basis. He said that the cut service starting on Thursday means that people will suffer and that people will die, and we won't be able to help them. It's sad. He urged the Mayor to reconsider.

William Fabiani, Ben Court, Fire Department for 32 years, and that he sees the evolution on the engine company of the medical service from basic first aid and people dying to the paramedic service that we have today. He said that our Fire Department is the envy of our state. He said it is a shame to put that money before the citizens of Wallingford. He said the way they interact and touch the lives of the citizens makes a difference for them. He appealed to the Mayor to try to put people before the amount of money we are talking about. He said that this amount when compared to the budget is miniscule. He said that as a citizen and as a member of the Fire Department that he is proud to be here and that he appreciates the Council and the Mayor.

Frank Ricci, 46 Chimney Sweep Road, stated that he has always been a supporter of the Mayor. He considers himself and fiscally conservative and as a conservative and that the last place he gave a talk was at the Reagan Library. He quoted words of Ronald Reagan with regard to public safety. He said it is very disturbing from the last meeting to this meeting since at the last meeting six million dollars was

approved and committed to build a fire house and another million dollars to build a garage. He looks forward to the additional ambulance that the town needs now. He said that it is not fiscally conservative to cut paramedic service while approving these other times. He complimented the Mayor's leadership and asked him to look in his heart with regard to paramedics. He said that we can't paint with a broad brush that everyone is equal because that is not the case when it comes to our military and our fire and police service. He stated that they are different. They put their lives on the line everyday. He said that removing the paramedic service has made him react physically and he asked the Mayor to rethink how to go forward.

Mayor Dickinson stated that we don't know what will happen with the arbitrators but as sure as he is sitting there if things do not change in this state, there will be problems far beyond what we are talking about tonight. He said that there are serious problems, and we cannot skate along with the old ways of looking at things. In the next several years there is no way that we will not return to the prosperity that allowed what we are talking about.

Rich Benham, 221 South Whittlesey, complimented the Council and the fact finding that was done. He thanked them for the great job. Wallingford is a great place to live because of its unmatched services and he stated that we need to go forward with those services. He said that he has been saved twice during heart attacks by the paramedics. He pleaded with the Mayor knowing that he sticks to his guns to not make this paramedic cuts. He asked him to move from the position of 'no'.

Louis Pontecorvo, 26 Pine Glen Terrace, stated that we, the public, deserve to know how each one of you stand on this issue by a show of hands. He remarked that Wallingford just doesn't deserve the negative attention its getting from the media.

Chairman Parisi responded that this isn't standard procedure and he thinks that everyone has already declared where they stand through the course of the meeting.

Richard Krombel, 38 North Elm Street, addresses his comments to the Mayor saying the one can debate the merits of allowing a building to fall into disrepair or whether to chip seal a road to save money or even whether to allow larger class sizes for our children but when it comes to issues of public health and safety, he does not think there should be a debate. It should be the very last thing that we should be willing to compromise. He said that Wallingford is blessed with great resources and great leadership and good fortune, and we have provided and rebuilt fine schools for our children. We have provided recreation activities for our citizens, including the rebuilding of the Community Pool. We have helped to build the linear trail and purchased land for open space, which is an item he says he sees frequently, rebuilt the library and beautified the downtown. The town recently elected a more expensive option to purchase land for a fire house to allow future expansion. He stated that the town isn't broke and that despite the news he thinks we should not be staring into a financial abyss. With the economy, he believes we need to be prudent, and to the Mayor, he said that he has been very prudent in the way the town has been managed. He said that even though the town identified some discretionary areas where the town chose to save money, he doesn't think public health and safety should be one of the areas to save money. We chose to spend one million plus dollars, above and beyond, to reserve future development options for a fire house and that money came from CRRA and there is more where that came from. He said that the citizens of Wallingford have to rely on the town to provide for the Fire Department and for paramedics. He asked that the residents not become pawns in the struggle. He thinks that there would be an overwhelming yes response from citizens if they were asked to spend a few more dollars to maintain the same level of public health and safety services that they now receive. He asked for other solutions to this issue.

Leonard Gershan, 17 North Branford Road, 25-year paramedic, said that he has had the privilege of working with Chief Struble and many of the firefighters during his career and that they have done a good

job. Speaking to the Mayor, he said that he is as far as anyone from Fire Headquarters. He spoke about his asthmatic son. He implored the Mayor to do whatever is needed to reconsider this issue.

Mayor Dickinson said he understands and that he appreciates the comments; however, he asked that he wanted to know where all the concern was when the public safety capability was reduced in the police department. He said that he understands that people can look at different things in public safety differently but it's still public safety, and he doesn't think one can choose which public safety we think is most important. He said that depending on who you are, you may need a response from the police department and now they don't have the response that they had a year ago. He commented that everything has to be considered.

David Romano, 1459 Tuttle Avenue, spoke from 21 years with the Fire Department and 33 years of experience in emergency services. He said that sometimes you have to reduce things to a picture. He stated that if the plan goes into effect on Thursday night and the paramedic engines are taken out of service right now that the nearest paramedic unit is on Chapel Street in New Haven at St. Raphael's Hospital. He noted that the backup service will not guarantee a paramedic. Service will be 15 to 20 minutes away. He asked the Mayor to reconsider implementing the plan on the table for Thursday.

Clint Ross, 36 Saw Mill Drive, spoke about common sense and in that regard, he stated going into negotiations without putting money aside for what may happen is not common sense. He said having an arbitrator award something to you and not having something in your pocket is not common sense. He said people negotiated in good faith.

There were no more comments from the public or the Council. Chairman Parisi called a recess which began at 9:31 P.M. and ended at 9:43 P.M.

9. Consider and Approve Bid Waiver to utilize a process other than public bidding for consideration and selection of pension portfolio investment managers – Pension Commission

MOTION: Mr. Farrell made a motion to approve Bid Waiver to utilize a process other than public bidding for consideration and selection of pension portfolio investment managers as requested by the Pension Commission.

SECOND Mrs. Rascati seconded.

*In attendance: James Bowes, Comptroller
Mr. Tony Trangese, Fiduciary Investment Advisors*

Mr. Bowes explained that Fiduciary Investment Advisors were selected through the bid process about 18 months ago to serve as the investment consultant to the Town of Wallingford pension plan. He said that Mr. Trangese works on a straight fee, not on a commission that they have no allegiance or tie in to any investment house, which was a big part of the bid. He said that the request before the Council is for a process other than a public bid process to select investment managers for the pension plan.

Mr. Cervoni, referring to Mr. Bowes letter of November 1, 2010, that it seems to him that the factors that will be considered include but are not limited to performance, experience and compliance with the investment policy statement are a very general approach. He asked for more information. Mr. Bowes also included in that list risk tolerance and cost as it compares to performance. Mr. Cervoni asked if that meant what they are going to charge us for what they do

for us as compared to what we are likely to get in return. Mr. Bowes said that was correct. Mr. Cervoni asked is there was a selection process and solicit. Mr. Bowes said that he would turn it over to Mr. Trangese since the town will be using the talents of Fiduciary Investment Advisors to help the town with the process.

Mr. Trangese stated that the proposed process that has been discussed with the commission is for his firm to present from five to ten candidates in each on the individual asset classes as the searches are being conducted at which time the commission would narrow the list to three or four for interviews. He said those firms would present to the pension commission and then the final decision would be made..

Mr. Fishbein asked how long it is anticipated that this would be for. He said that the intent is to go outside the bid process to have this Fiduciary Investment Advisors advise the commission as to who takes the place of OFI. Mr. Bowes said that would be the first mission. Mr. Fishbein asked how long the engagement would be to select the replacement for OFI Mr. Bowes stated 4 to 6 weeks. Mr. Fishbein stated that would be to arrange for the process that we are talking about tonight to be completed, but then, he asked, how long will the Pension Commission work with the group that is selected Mr. Bowes stated until they aren't performing up to the standards that they set. Mr. Fishbein talked about the bid process stating that it is possible to craft a bid document that has very clear-cut requirements/characteristics and gives the option to the Purchasing Agent to accept or to reject. He said that he favors going outside the regular bid process when there is high quality of expertise that is necessary. He inquired as to why Mr. Bowes thinks that he can't craft a bid here that would properly conform. Mr. Bowes said that the primary driver for a bid is cost or price. He added that you can try to write the bid document so that you can weigh other factors but still at least 50 % of that is going to be cost. He said that they don't want to use a firm that doesn't have the experience in management assets of a pension fund of our size. Mr. Fishbein wanted to know why he can't craft a bid document that takes the characteristics that he likes in Mr. Trangese's firm and make those the requirements for the bid document. He said that it doesn't seem that difficult. Mr. Bowes said that it has to do with the ability to reach as many potential investment houses that you can. He said that you won't get that by putting a document announcement in a newspapers, Record-Journal, the Hartford Courant, and Wall Street Journal. On the other hand, he said you could get inundated with 2,000 responses, and we don't have the technical expertise to deal with them. Mr. Trangese and FIA through their process of dealing with thousands and thousands of investment firms and products has already weaned some of those firms out of the general equation as potential for any of their clients. Mr. Fishbein commented that the result of this arrangement with FIA selection on the group to replace OFI is very long-term. Mr. Bowes said in two years they could evaluate and could accept, reject or change at that time. Mr. Bowes said that the commission has tackled these questions before.

Mr. Testa commented that the contracts are open-ended and could be ended tomorrow and there is no short-term or long-term. Mr. Bowes said that was correct. Mr. Testa asked if it was fair to say that the fees that are paid to this type of firm are fairly all in the same ball park.. Mr. Trangese said reasonably so. Mr. Testa wanted to know that it really isn't an price issue in the selection of them. Mr. Bowes said that it is a low priority. The last time this was done was in the late 1980s. Mr. Bowes said that they reported to the Council at the last meeting when they said that they would be back to ask for this bid waiver. Mr. Bowes responded to Mr. Testa that the bid waiver is being designed strictly for this purpose. They discussed that they will be back for a bid waiver to sign the contract. Mr. Bowes confirmed that saying it would occur after the Law Department reviews it.

There were no more comments or questions from the Council or from the public.

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, asked who drew up the bid specs. Mr. Bowes said that there are no bid specs and only his letter on behalf of the Pension Commission. Mr. Gross asked about asset classes and managers.

VOTE All Councilors present (9) voted Aye.

The motion passed.

- 10.** Executive Session pursuant to §1-200 (6) (D) of the Connecticut General Statutes with respect to the purchase, sale and/or leasing of property – Mayor

Withdrawn

Mr. Farrell made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Rascati seconded. All Councilors present (9) voiced Aye. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra R. Weekes
Town Council Secretary
Meeting digitally recorded

Robert F. Parisi, Town Council Chairman

Date

Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

Date