

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

January 13, 2009

The following is a record of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council held Tuesday, January 13, 2009 Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall. The Meeting was Called to Order at 6:37 P.M. Responding present to the Roll Call given by Town Council Secretary Sandra Weekes were Councilors Mike Brodinsky, Vincenzo M. DiNatale, Nick Economopoulos, Jerry Farrell, Jr., John LeTourneau, Rosemary Rascati, Michael Spiteri and Vincent F. Testa, Jr. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and Town Attorney Janis Small were also present. Councilor Robert F. Parisi, was absent from the meeting.

The meeting began with a Moment of Silence, the Pledge of Allegiance and the Roll Call.

3. Consent Agenda

- 3a.** Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#406- #428) totaling \$8,052.58
Acct. # 001-1000-010-1170 - Tax Collector
- 3b.** Acceptance donation from St. John's Episcopal Church, North Haven,
in the amount of \$1,500 to Wallingford Fuel Bank - Mayor
- 3c.** Approve One Merit Review - Mayor
- 3d.** Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) any and all documents, which it deems to be necessary or appropriate, to carry out the terms of such documents (In reference to MOA between the State of Connecticut DEMHS and the Town of Wallingford regarding state use of funding granted by the Department of Homeland Security - Mayor
- 3e.** Resolution to contract with the Connecticut Association of Director's of Health, fiduciary for the Connecticut Department of Public Health, Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, in the amount of \$2,722 and any amended amounts to conduct educational outreach and awareness to prevent lead poisoning – Health Director
- 3f.** Consider and Approve an Appropriation in the amount of \$2,722 Lead Poisoning Prevention & Control Grant to Revenue-Grant Acct # 224-1040-050-5000 and to Expenditures Acct # 224-3010-605-6000 – Health Director
- 3g.** Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$6,500 to Miscellaneous General Expenses Acct # 431-8920-930 from Employee Pension and Benefits Acct # 431-8920-926 – Water Division
- 3h.** Resolution authorizing the Mayor to make, execute and approve any and all contracts or amendments with the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health to acquire EMS Training for use by the Wallingford Fire Department – Fire Chief
- 3i** Consider and Approve an Appropriation in the amount of \$2,999 to Miscellaneous State Grant Revenues Acct # 001-1040-050-5520 and to Continuing Education & Training Acct # 001-2030-501-5700 – Fire Chief

- 3j. Acceptance and Appropriation of Homeland Security – Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the Amount of \$127,514 to Federal Fire Act Grant Acct # 204-1050-050-5010 and to Radio Equipment Acct # 204-2030-999-9905 – Fire Chief
- 3k. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$30,000 to Training Tower Stairs Acct #001-2030-999-9083 from Base Station Radio Replacement Acct # 001-2030-999-9110 – Fire Chief
- 3l. *Consider and Approve Lease Agreement with SNET-Pistapaug Pond – Water Division*

Removed from Consent Agenda

- 3m. Approve Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2008

Mr. Testa Made a motion, seconded by Mr. Farrell, to Approve Consent Agenda items 3a. to 3k. and 3m., announcing that 3l. was removed from the Consent Agenda and would be taken up under Item 4.

All Councilors present (8) voted Aye, and the motion passed.

4. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

- 3l. Consider and Approve Lease Agreement with SNET-Pistapaug Pond – Water Division

Chairman Brodinsky announced the he removed this item as Councilors had questions about it.

Roger Dann, General Manager, Water Division, was present. Mr. Dann said that since the tower has been in its present location for decades and the carriers, Sprint and T-Mobile, are already located on the tower, there would be no environmental impact, and that there is no present anticipation that anyone else is going to be located there. He said that if that does happen, there are provisions in the lease for that purpose.

Mr. Dann described the new terms of the Water Division lease of land at Pistapaug Pond with SNET. He stated that the first lease goes back to 1957, and that it was renewed in 1987. He said that the tower is an old, steel red and white tower that has been in use for microwave communications. He said that since 1987 cellular technology has considerably changed and a new, more contemporary lease was needed in terms of the value of a tower site. He responded to questions regarding lease payments that will go to the Water Division, stating that the increase is to \$2,500 month, effective October 2007 and will increase at the rate of three percent during the initial four-year term, and during the second and third terms, the rate will increase by five percent per year. He said that these rates are comparable to another site that the Water Division operates and that after considerable research, they believe that they have gotten the value that is to be obtained for the site. He said that the value is a function of its location and also the availability of alternative sites that might exist in the area. He thinks that they have gotten a fair value. Mr. Dann's letter states that if there new users of the tower, the lease payment would increase by \$666.66 per month, or thirty percent of fair market value, and that it shall increase annually in the same manner as the base rent.

All Councilors present (8) voted Aye, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Chairman's Report

Chairman Brodinsky made comments on the Workshop procedure in Item #8, and its relation to the Public Question and Answer portion of the meeting where question regarding the Workshop will be addressed.

6. Consider and Approve a Revised Job Description for Police Network Administrator
- Personnel Director

Mr. Testa Made a motion, seconded by Mr. Farrell, to Approve a Revised Job Description for Police Network Administrator as requested by the Personnel Director.

Chief Douglas Dortenzio and Terence Sullivan, Personnel Director were present to discuss this item. Mr. Sullivan referred to the Council's approval of the Police Network Administrator job description last November. That search resulted in attracting 38 candidates but not enough qualified individuals, who met all of the specifications as written. Mr. Sullivan said that the qualification for candidate to have experience with IMB 400 hardware was lacking in the applicants with only one or two with that background but didn't have the certifications that were asked for. He said that the certifications are quite important with current technologies and the IBM 400 is getting a little old. He said that they would like Council approval for a downgraded job description that states the experience with the IMB 400 is desirable or 'preferred' rather than 'required' in the job description. He said that there are nine applicants who have all the certifications and who would re-apply. Mr. Sullivan said that he doesn't think that they will have any trouble getting someone. He said technically they need to go back out.

Mr. DiNatale asked for clarification saying that they are going back out again with a new job description. Mr. Sullivan concurred and said that an applicant, who is a civilian, and not a police officer, will fill the job.

Chief Dortenzio said that the process for this position would be through Wallingford's own personnel office, and that it is unlike police officer recruitment.

Mr. Spiteri asked about IMB 400 certifications.

Mr. Sullivan said that the IMB 400 operations, which is a technology from the 1980s, is waning. He said because the IBM 400 is the hardware now used by the Police Department, the goal was to get someone with the IBM 400 background, who could ease that system into a more contemporary one. Mr. Sullivan said that he has spoken to people in the field who say that if the candidate has passed the exams necessary for the Microsoft certifications that they should be able to work with the IBM 400 fairly quickly.

Jason Zandri, 35 Lincoln Drive, asked if there was a timetable on the removal of the AS 400 system.

Chief Dortenzio said that it would not be removed for the next few years in that it still has a use, but when it exhausts its useful life span, they will transition to a Microsoft server. He said that the application conversion would be approximately \$350,000 just to change the software through the same vendor. He said that in view of the economy, he would not be making the transition in the next year or two. He continued saying that the software is comprised of a number of components all from the same vendor and some of which run on Microsoft servers and part of it still runs on the AS 400. Chief Dortenzio said that it is a product that has been around for more

than a decade, and the vendor is a private company with over 1,000 accounts in police departments. He added that they release new versions twice a year.

All Councilors present (8) voted Aye, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$15,000 Professional Services – Employment Exams Acct # 001-1600-901-9009 from Contingency-General Purposes Acct # 001-7060-800-3190 – Personnel Director

Mr. Testa Made a motion, seconded by Mr. Farrell, to Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$15,000 Professional Services – Employment Exams Acct # 001-1600-901-9009 from Contingency-General Purposes Acct # 001-7060-800-3190 as requested by the Personnel Director.

Mr. Sullivan referred to his memorandum to the Mayor, which explains that they have currently used 75% of their budget at 50% of the budget year. He said that recruitment for the Police Department and the Fire Department account for much of the expenditures. He said that the Police Department now has almost full staffing and that the transfer of \$15,000 should cover for the rest of the fiscal year.

All Councilors present (8) voted Aye, and the motion passed unanimously.

10. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$76,000 to Materials and Supplies Acct # 001-5015-401-4100 from Purchase Services-Recycling Contract Acct # 001-5015-901-9021 - Public Works Director

Mr. Testa Made a motion, seconded by Mr. Farrell, to Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$76,000 to Materials and Supplies Acct # 001-5015-401-4100 from Purchase Services-Recycling Contract Acct # 001-5015-901-9021 as requested by the Public Works Director.

Henry McCully, Director of Public Works, said that there have been a rash of storms and that Public Works are going through their supplies. He said that a full complement of personnel have been plowing and salting in icing conditions on the roads a total of eight times and that in the last storm of twenty hours, they used a lot of material.

Chairman Brodinsky asked Mr. McCully if he has been able to determine how many tons it takes for the trucks to put down one coat on the town's surfaces. Mr. McCully said that in the last storm, 90% of the trucks used two loads or 8 tons per trucks, or 16 tons for the entire storm. He said that with the material used in the past with a sand and salt mix using less salt, it would be 5 or 6 loads. He said that they get a much better end product with the treated salt that is currently being used. He said that the town has 22 full size trucks and 2 mid- size trucks, and the average cost is \$16,000 to load them all once.

Mr. Spiteri asked about the storage of the material. Mr. McCully explained that it is in a covered facility on a bituminous surface and it stays dry. He said that there is no problem of it leaching into water. Mr. Spiteri recalled a problem experienced by the BOE, and Mr. McCully said that covering the material is all that is required.

Mr. LeTourneau reported that he has had a number of conversations with residents who have said that they are happy with the care of the roads. Mr. LeTourneau said that on the flip side he has spoken with at least two people, some senior citizens, per week who ask why they can't get some material for personal use, especially as the winter progresses with more ice and snow. He said that they are aware that they can purchase it at home centers but most of them are watching their

dollars. He said that they don't understand why they can't get a little salt material for their front steps.

Mr. McCully said that a few senior citizens have visited his office, and he said that it has been explained that Public Works no longer uses sand to treat the roads and that they can purchase the material at any home service center. He said that they had no problem with that. He said that it is a problem when you put out material because it isn't the citizens who use it up. He said that the treatment they are now using makes for cleaner streets, and the streams and rivers are cleaner. Mr. LeTourneau asked if the citizens could get a little bit of the new material. Mr. McCully said that at \$84 per ton; he didn't see that he could hand it out. He said that he does not see that \$2 or \$5 is a hardship for people to purchase their own material.

Mr. LeTourneau commented that these are taxpaying citizens, who just want a bucket full for their own front steps. Mr. McCully said that they don't give out sand in the summer either. Mr. LeTourneau said that he was very, very disappointed that a citizen of this town can't go to Public Works and get some material. He added that he would support the motion but that this is a conversation that will continue in the future.

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, said that his calculations show that the material is \$.04 per pound. He then asked about the cost of a storm. Mr. McCully said that the approximate cost for the entire last storm is \$30,000, and if overtime is added, the total cost would be \$30,000 plus. Mr. Gross asked about the materials budget. Mr. McCully said that there are other types of materials & supplies in that line item in his budget, and of that total, \$225,000 is allocated to the road salt. In response to Mr. Gross' question, Mr. McCully said that in working with the State of Connecticut the trucks are calibrated to the amount of salt that goes on the roads, and that all of the trucks are calibrated.

Phil Wright, Sr. 60 Cedar Street, said that he agrees with Councilor LeTourneau that materials should be available to senior citizens. He expressed concern that someone else could judge on whether he can afford something or not. Mr. McCully said that he does not believe that \$20 for a winter season is a hardship for anyone. Mr. Wright asked about the town's sweepers. Mr. McCully said that the town is down to two sweepers, since no sand is being used and that this was all presented to the Council last year in reporting the new plan to use the treated salt.

Jason Zandri, Lincoln Drive, made a suggestion about a program to distribute the materials to the residents.

All Councilors present (8) voted Aye, and the motion passed unanimously.

8. Workshop:

Discussion and Review of Comprehensive Annual Financial Report: Part 1:
Pages 1-42 (excluding Pension information, which will be discussed during Part 2,
which will be during the next Council meeting).
-Chairman Mike Brodinsky

Mr. Testa read the item. Chairman Brodinsky explained the Workshop and the item format.

He said that the purpose of the workshop is to ask questions about what the Council may not understand and that it is an opportunity to focus on the information in the report as to what is important. Chairman Brodinsky directed the discussion of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report page by page with the Comptroller. They discussed the definition of terms used in the report and identified items that could be used as a tool during the budgetary process. Items of interest that were discussed included the following: the term re-appropriation; use of financial

trends in the report; “major funds” of which the general fund is one; cap and non-recurring; proprietary funds; bonds; interest rates; and pre-buying. Mr. Testa had a particular interest in the bonds discussion and in interest rates related to the Town’s bonds. Mr. Economopolous expressed his opinion about pre-buying as it relates to budget planning and asked for the opinion of the Mayor and of the Comptroller. Mayor Dickinson said that it is a matter of practicalities and that the Board of Education cannot be prevented from spending what is budgeted. He said that it probably cannot be accurately tracked. Mr. Bowes concurred with the Mayor and said that somewhere the cart got before the horse. Chairman Brodinsky noted that in FY 2008 \$1.3 million came out of the general fund. Mayor Dickinson said that the town is not in compliance with the State of Connecticut law in that we do not have a balanced budget since Reserves are not part of the budget, so they don’t show.

9. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road asked about the Pension, which will be taken up at the next Town Council meeting. He wanted to know if the Pension Commission would be attending. Mr. Bowes said that the consultant and the Chairman of the Pension Commission would be present. Mr. Gross asked if something could be done about the appearance of 390 Center Street. Mayor Dickinson said that he doesn’t like the way it looks and would like to see something done but doesn’t want to something done that will only have to be torn up. He said that it is being studied as to how to best deal with the site.

11. Discussion and possible action on appropriations, which have lapsed, per Chapter XV, Section 4 of the Charter – Chairman Mike Brodinsky

Chairman Brodinsky posed questions with regard to Chapter XV, Section 4 of the Wallingford Town Charter in a discussion with Comptroller James Bowes. They discussed the meaning of appropriations that lapse.

12. 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

Respectfully submitted.

Sandra R. Weekes
Town Council Secretary

Meeting recorded by Sandra Weekes

Chairman, Mike Brodinsky

Date

Town Clerk, Barbara Kapi

Date