

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Town Council Chambers

February 23, 2010

6:30 P.M

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, February 9, 2010. The Meeting was Called to Order at 6:38 P. M. 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, Rosemary Rascati, John J. Sullivan and Vincent F. Testa, Jr. Councilor Robert F. Parisi was absent for personal reasons. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Town Attorney Janis Small and Comptroller James Bowes were also present.

The meeting began with an Opening Prayer, led by Father Gary Simone, Most Holy Trinity Church; and then the Pledge of Allegiance and the Roll Call.

The meeting was conducted by Vice-Chairman Jerry Farrell, Jr. in the absence of Chairman Parisi. Ms. Rascati acted as Vice-Chairwoman.

- 3.** Consent Agenda
- 3a.** Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#563 - #596) totaling \$9,025.60
Acct. # 001-1000-010-1170 - Tax Collector
 - 3b.** Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$2,000 to Fuel Crisis
Community Acct # 001-3070-600-6810 from Contingency-General Purpose
Acct # 001-7060-800-3190 - Mayor
 - 3c.** Consider and Approve a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract
with Capital Community College, 950 Main Street, Hartford, CT and the Wallingford
Fire Department and designate Peter Struble, Fire Chief, as the administrator for the
EMT-Paramedic internship program for the purpose of furthering paramedic education of
students – Fire Chief.
 - 3d.** Acceptance of Grant Appropriation of \$2,399.40 to Revenue Highway Safety Acct # 001-
1050-050-5883 and to Police Overtime Acct # 001-2005-101-1400– Police Chief
 - 3e.** Approve Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting of February 9, 2010

MOTION

Ms. Rascati made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda 3a. to 3e. Mr. Cervoni seconded.

By voice seven (7) Councilors present Voted Aye. Mr. Fishbein abstained and Chairman Parisi was absent from the meeting. The motion passed.

4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

None

WAIVE RULE V

MOTION

Ms. Rascati made a motion to Waive Rule V for the purpose of taking up three (3) appointments. Mr. LeTourneau seconded. Eight (8) Councilors present voted Aye. Chairman Parisi was absent. The motion passed to Waive Rule V.

- A. Consider and Approve the Appointment of Armand Menard to Constable for a two-year term ending January 8, 2012 – Chairman Robert F. Parisi

MOTION

Ms. Rascati made a motion to approve the Appointment of Armand Menard to Constable for a two-year term ending January 8, 2012 as requested by Chairman Robert F. Parisi. Mr. Cervoni seconded. There were no comments from the Council or from the public.

By voice eight (8) Councilors present Voted Aye. Chairman Parisi was absent from the meeting. The motion passed.

- B. Consider and Approve the Appointment of James Kovach as a Regular member of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission for a five-year term ending March 1, 2015 – Chairman Robert F. Parisi

MOTION

Ms. Rascati made a motion to approve the Appointment of James Kovach as a Regular member of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission for a five-year term ending March 1, 2015 as requested by Chairman Robert F. Parisi. Mr. Fishbein seconded. There were no comments from the Council or from the public.

By voice eight (8) Councilors present Voted Aye. Chairman Parisi was absent from the meeting. The motion passed.

- C. Consider and Approve the Appointment of Michael Glidden as a Regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals to fill a vacancy due to a resignation and complete the term ending January 8, 2012 – Chairman Robert F. Parisi

MOTION

Ms. Rascati made a motion to approve the Appointment of Michael Glidden as a Regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals to fill a vacancy due to a resignation and complete the term ending January 8, 2012 as requested by Chairman Robert F. Parisi. Mr. Cervoni seconded.

Robert Gross asked what does a constable do, and are any of these paid positions, and who resigned from Planning and Zoning, and was the public made aware of these openings because all of these appear to be tied to one party or another. Vice-Chairman Farrell said that in his personal knowledge, he doesn't believe that any of these are paid positions. He said that openings come up all the time, so anyone who is interested has the opportunity to put a letter in if they are interested. He said that is what the process is. Mr. Gross made lengthy

comments regarding the resignation and the appointment and when the public would send in a letter if there was an opening and that they are tied one way to the other to the Republican or the Democrat parties.

Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk, offered that Brian Leslie informed the Chairman of the Republican Party sometime in the last two weeks that he would be resigning his position on the Zoning Board of Appeals, not Planning and Zoning. Vice-Chairman Farrell said that if anyone has an interest in serving that sending a letter to a Town Councilor or the Mayor makes someone aware of that interest. In response to Mr. Gross, Vice-Chairman Farrell said that if he received that kind of letter that he would get back to someone.

Ben Martin, Ward Street, asked what a constable does. Vice-Chairman Farrell said that on certain occasions, a constable would serve legal process within the borders of Wallingford and that they would have duties similar to a state marshal who serves county-wide. He said they do not work with the police department but may serve legal papers for lawyers. He said that this is in the Charter and in the state statute with regard as to what a constable does. He said that they serve legal process in the same way that state marshals are private individuals. They are not town employees. They hold a position and are privately hired to serve legal process.

By voice eight (8) Councilors present Voted Aye. Chairman Parisi was absent from the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The Town Clerk swore in Armand Menard and Michael Glidden.

Vice-Chairman Farrell thanked all three people for their willingness to serve the Town of Wallingford.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER

Geno Zandri, 9 Balsam Ridge Road, asked whether the town has closed on the North Farms Road property, asked where is the town looking for property and offered that he knows a site that is half the cost of the site that is being negotiated for. Town Attorney Janis Small said that no closing has transpired between the town and the owners of the North Farms Road property. Mr. Zandri asked about the the restrictions with regard to the present fire house and the I-91 ramps on the search for a parcel. Mr. Farrell said that there has been public discussion when the Council has taken up the issue in the past when they talked about the perimeters that Chief Struble and the volunteer chiefs felt they needed to be met for the building. He said that sites on the other side of I-91 were not considered because it would delay response time and prove to be a logistical problem for the volunteers to get to the fire house.

Ben Martin, Ward Street, asked about the swearing in process. Vice-Chairman Farrell said that people go into the Town Clerk's Office to be sworn in. Mr. Martin asked who decides how an employee's suspension from work is determined, and then commented that he thinks that five Monday's sounds like a reward and not a punishment. Vice-Chairman Farrell said that it is an executive decision. Mayor Dickinson said that he makes the decision and that you can put any spin on it that you like but that he decides based on the work that has to be performed. He noted that it is budget time and the duties of whatever the employee, in what position they hold and what duties they may have in regard to their duties and other budgets. He said that that are a variety of things that have to be considered.

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, talked about Third Party Administrators (TPA) for the Town of Wallingford and that the Mayor said that he will not go out to bid because of the union contracts. Mr. Gross wanted to know if the Mayor has approached the unions because in these economic times, this could save thousands of dollars, and therefore someone's job.

Mayor Dickinson said that, as he stated at that previous meeting, we have just been dealing with one arbitration appeal with regard to our actions on the self-insurance and that was withdrawn. He continued stating that we have two others that are pending, so there is currently disagreement, or I would have to assume disagreement, with the actions the town has taken thus far with regard to the health insurance on the part of bargaining units. He said that given that picture, he doubts that it would be a great time to be dealing with trying to change a third party administrator.

He said we are looking to receive changes in language that will allow the town to proceed with that potential, that is, bidding that is actually not only just bidding but also being able to award to another third party administrator the duties. He said that it will take changes in just about every contract to allow that to happen and that they are working on all of those things.

Ben Martin, Ward Street, asked about tax credits for hybrid cars. Mr. Bowes believes that the Council passed an ordinance and does not think that it sunsets. He noted, however, that the application process is an annual process.

6. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$75,000 to Materials and Supplies Acct # 001-5015-401-4100 from Contingency-General Purpose Acct # 001-7060-800-3190 - Public Works

MOTION

Ms. Rascati made a motion to approve a transfer in the Amount of \$75,000 to Materials and Supplies Acct # 001-5015-401-4100 from Contingency-General Purpose Acct # 001-7060-800-3190 as requested by Public Works. Mr. Sullivan seconded.

In Attendance:
Henry McCully, Director Public Works

Mr. McCully said we continue to get a lot of snow and that the trucks were loaded up this afternoon in preparation of the coming storm. He said that last Tuesday's ten inches was a surprise which set them back. They are continuing to use the material. Mr. McCully said that he does not know if the \$75,000 request tonight will be enough since it depends on the weather. Mr. LeTourneau expressed concern that it might not be enough and that there is another two weeks until the next Town Council meeting. Mr. McCully said that they still have a 500 ton stock pile plus 200 tons on the trucks. He said that it is going to start to warm up.

Mr. Testa made comments and discussed with Mr. McCully on the way the work is managed in response to storms, when a storm happens, and when trucks are ready and then the storm doesn't materialize. Mr. McCully said some of the men are called in, especially when the police notify them of roads that need plowing. Today some personnel are working on the Reskin Drive project and some are working on trees on Grieb Road, some are painting and doing maintenance. Mr. Testa was interested in overtime pay and what the contracts say. Mr. McCully explained that when staff people are called in, it is overtime, for instance, if you are called in a 5:00 AM, you are

paid for 4 hours, and that time is time and one-half overtime. If it is on a holiday or a Sunday, it is double-time. He said that anytime worked after 3:30 P.M. is time and one-half. He said that if he informs people to report to work two hours earlier than their start time, then it is called 'planned' overtime, and they would only be paid for two hours overtime. Mr. Testa said he asks because he would like to see ways for this to be improved in the future. Mr. McCully said that if the roads do not need to be treated, then there are multiple tasks that need to be accomplished in town. Mr. McCully said that even with rain today his crews worked outside all day today, and then they came in tonight to prepare the trucks to make them ready for the storm, so they could be ready to work in the night. They talked about a variety of overtime scenarios, including times when the Director of Public Works can send workers home early, especially when they are fatigued, and it becomes a safety issue. He said using the 'send home' option is rare.

Mr. Sullivan asked about the cost difference between the initial purchase of road treatment materials before the snow flies and purchasing now. Mr. McCully said that it is a state bid, and he finds that using that realizes very little difference. He said they usually wait for the bids to come in before determining how much to purchase. He said that this is year-3 in using the treated salt. He said that he expects to request a salt increase for the next year calculating from a 5-year average. Mr. Sullivan asked if the storage facility for the material is adequate, and, if it was larger, could we purchase more. Mr. McCully said the facility is ten-years old, and is one of the best in the state. He said that it holds about 5,000 tons, and noted, "that's a lot of salt." Mr. Sullivan wanted to know if the supply is running out. Mr. McCully said he never puts the Town in that position and that we always need to have enough to cover a storm. He said you can't equate salt to the amount of snow that we get. He said that each driver gets two loads even if we get 60 inches of snow.

Mr. Fishbein asked with respect to the environment if there is any problem stock-piling the road salt material. Mr. McCully said that the DEP only required that the material be under cover. He said that the range in cost is minimal. Mr. Fishbein wanted to know when Public Works will be out of Grieb Road. Mr. McCully said in the late spring, finishing the drainage this winter. The paving will take place at the beginning of June with money that is already budgeted. There were no comments from the public.

By voice eight (8) Councilors present Voted Aye. Chairman Parisi was absent from the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and Possible Action regarding the Board of Education requests for proposals for strategic plan, transportation analysis, facility use/redistricting
– Superintendent of Schools

In attendance:

*Dr. Salvatore Menzo, Superintendent of Schools
Thomas Hennessey, Chairman, Board of Education,*

At 7:13 P.M., following a handout by the Board of Education Chairman, Mr. LeTourneau made a motion for a five-minute recess to read the material in the handout. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. All Councilors present (8) voted Aye. Mr. Parisi was absent. The motion passed.

Vice-Chairman Farrell reconvened the meeting at 7:17 P.M. and said that he spoke with the Town Attorney during the break about the new Purchasing Ordinance, which would explain to people

why the Board of Education is in front of the Town Council and what the Council may or may not need to do. Vice-Chairman Farrell addressed Dr. Menzo and Mr. Hennessey regarding the three programs covered in the handout material and asked whether there were any (of the three) that they wanted to walk out of the meeting with, or are they just putting them forward for the Council's information.

Mr. Hennessey said that they are looking for all that is in front of the Council to be passed.

Dr. Menzo thanked the Council for inviting them to come forward to present the (1) Strategic Plan; (2) Long-Range School Facility and Redistricting Study; and (3) Transportation Consulting Services. Dr. Menzo said that the ordinance that was recently changed permits organizations or groups, such as the school district, to come forward and request a *Request for Proposal* (RFP) in lieu of using the bid process for such things as consulting or professional services. He said that with Comptroller James Bowes and Purchasing Agent Salvatore Amadeo it was discussed and decided that the avenue for the school system to pursue for a Strategic Plan as well as a facility use plan and also a transportation analysis was that of an RFP, that it was the best way to proceed due to the technical services unlike that of traditional things that would go out in the bidding process. He said that he is glad that he is the first to come forward before the Town Council with this great opportunity of participating in the RFP process. He said that there are three proposals, two of which are connected, and all of which come under the umbrella of 'repairing' for the educational and financial future of the district.

(1) Strategic Plan

Dr. Menzo said that it is tradition for school districts in Connecticut to have a strategic plan, which is not only educational specifications and expectations for students in K-12 but also acts as a road-map as the district works toward achieving those goals – the educational practices and financial ramifications for those practices. In discussing the two-parts of the Strategic Planning Services hand-out sheet, he said it includes the scope of work along with an "aggressive" timeline for work completion. He said that he has talked with consultants that do offer this service. He hopes to have this plan in place for the next school year with presentation to the Board of Education at the August school board meeting. This would afford them the road-map for the school year on the town side and the educational side of the equation. He said it would provide an opportunity for a variety of constituents – parents, students, staff, Board of Education members, town officials and interested public - to have/provide feedback, opportunities to share concerns, questions and comments and to make recommendation. He described that procedure. This would be Phase One of the road-map. He said that this is the first of a five-year incremental plan, with a five year implementation plan, including action steps while asking what the financial requirements are and what the human resource requirements are. This would also include named outcomes and where they see the district in five years. Dr. Menzo said the cost of the consultant for the strategic plan is \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Vice-Chairman Farrell asked if these come together as one package or is there a dollar range on each of these.

(2) Long-Range School Facility and Redistricting Study

Dr. Menzo said that the Long-Range School Facility and Redistricting Study is directly connected to the Strategic Plan because when you begin the strategic planning process, you look at the district's vision and mission, and what you want to accomplish for Wallingford's children but

you also want to look at how this can be sustained, physically. He said that the Long-Range School Facility Study may lead to the Redistricting Study, or pocket redistricting, or reconfiguration. He said that the key thing with Long-Range School Facility Study is that we need to take into account, and take stock of, what we have in the district in terms of programs and resources, meaning classrooms, and asking how many do we need for all those programs. He said it is a very big concern. It also looks at, and takes into account, the data that they have acquired this year, which deals with community demographics and long-range enrollment projections. To summarize, he said that it takes into account the programs that we have in our schools, and it overlays on top of that the actual enrollment that we have in our district. It allows you to look at and ask what the district need in terms of facilities. This will be predominately focused on the elementary level schools, eight of them, and asks how can we most efficiently use our buildings. At present, we have some empty classrooms, and in the future, depending on where we end up with the budget, we may have schools with several empty classrooms.

Part of what they want to ascertain is will these classrooms remain empty, so that demographics can be charted over time. He said that from their internal review of data over the past 10-15 years, they believe there will be pockets where there will be buildings that will be less inhabited than others over the next several years. Our enrollment will drop over the next five to ten to fifteen years, and the pace is anywhere from 40 to 100 students for at least five years and greater as you move forward. The school district currently uses portable classrooms, and there might be an opportunity to not have to use those rooms.

He said that the plan for the next school year is to bring back two resources that are currently leased – office for special services and an alternative program. He said that he feels strongly that the Long-Range School Facility portion of this study be completed by the end of May or the beginning of June, so that there can be a plan to know where certain programs can be placed for the fall. He said that the follow up study is a two-phase process. Questions arise out of the Long Range Facility Study. The consultant will ask the Board of Education questions like what does the board want them to look at, what are the goals – is it to redistrict; is it to close a building. He discussed the challenge with the elementary schools due to the recent construction projects in that if we close a school, then we owe the state money because the schools have to be kept open as elementary schools for 20 years. To address these questions, they would have to craft questions with the board that they could entertain with focus groups in the community and then offer plans. This can take 12 to 15 months. We don't want a lot of lag time with this piece. Responding to Vice-Chairman Farrell's question, Dr. Menzo said this piece is \$25,000 to \$35,000.

(3) Transportation Consulting Services

Dr. Menzo said that the Transportation Consulting Services part is connected in an ancillary way. He said the first step would be to hire a consultant to study the transportation services. The study would evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the current system and would assist with the development of detailed bid specifications, involving service descriptions, pricing models, performance issues and regulatory compliance mandates. The study would review the current contract, transportation routes, transportation policies and procedures, communication systems with the transportation provider/contractor, financial efficiency, and present alternatives by which transportation services are provided. It would review field-trip, athletic and summer school transportation programs and develop bid specifications based on those kinds of program needs.

Dr. Menzo said that the school system has to go out to bid next spring to acquire transportation services for July 1, 2011. He said that the study is very timely in that the consultant would look at the bid specifications, which are very specific, and include motor vehicle issues in terms of the Motor Vehicle Department, the fleet requirements and the environmental requirements. Presently the bids specs have not been reviewed for several years. He said that this two-part study will cost \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Vice-Chairman Farrell said that if he understands the new purchasing ordinance, Dr. Menzo is here to give the Council this information and to put us on notice under the ordinance that you are going to go the proposal route rather than the strictly traditional bidding route and that it is up to us, if we, the Town Council, wish to object. He asked the Council if they were all on the same page. Dr. Menzo said that with the Request for Proposals still have criteria by which all participants in the RFP have to submit appropriate paperwork and go through the normal process. With this process, the Board of Education is able to hire a person with the highest qualifications. He said that pricing does factor into the decision as well.

Mr. Hennessey acknowledged all of the work that has gone into the preparation of these plans, and he thinks that they have a responsibility in the education of our kids and in considering the financial part as well. He said that these plans will make the district more lean. He said that the Long-Range School Facility and Redistricting Study piece of this has the potential of being split into two documents, if the Town Council wants to pare something down to pick their own priority list.

Mr. Cervoni asked if the purpose of the Board of Education tonight is to invoke this process and inquired what action the Council could take with respect to their request to go the RFP route.

Town Attorney Janis Small said that the ordinance requires that anyone wanting to use the RFP process to give the Council 'notice', and if the Council has an objection within 30 days, the Council can vote to not allow that methodology. This is *only* about the methodology that they are using to hire these services. She said that she thinks that the board is looking to move quite of a tight timeframe, so they are here to have it resolved one way or the other tonight and to see if the Council has an objection, or not, to do it tonight. She said that if there is an objection in the use of this methodology, then this is the opportunity for the Council to say 'no' and that it would be appropriate to use a straight bid or bid the two-envelope system.

Mr. Cervoni wanted to know when the timing of when the Council is 'on notice'. Attorney Small said that the Council would have a record of that. Mr. Cervoni asked what time period the Council is being asked to waive. Attorney Small said that the Council had the letter dated February 16th in time for the agenda.

Mr. Cervoni asked if they are asking the Council to cut short the 30-day period that the Council is entitled to under the ordinance by hoping for an answer tonight. He asked if this is correct. Mr. Hennessey said that yes, they are. Mr. Hennessey said that if they get approval, they can send this out immediately, potentially deriving cost savings on any one of the three programs. Mr. Hennessey added that it can be implemented in their budget process in June. Mr. Cervoni said that the positive impact from the point of view of the board is that the Council is giving you advanced determination of a couple of weeks of whether you can start this process on the RFP

route. He said that the other option is to put this out to bid, in which case you wouldn't have to come in front of us.

Mr. Economopoulos asked when did the school district last look at these three things. Mr. Hennessey said that the last redistricting was done around 1995, and that there has never been a Strategic Plan for the Board of Education, and there has never been a Facilities Study by the Board of Education. Mr. Economopoulos said based on the school renovation project of millions of dollars, we have possibly put the cart before the horse. He asked isn't that correct? Mr. Economopoulos said renovating all of these schools, and coming up with a project like this where the Council finds out that perhaps schools aren't needed.

Mr. Hennessey said that the beginning of the building process that the Town Council and the town entered into started around 1999, eleven years ago. He discussed enrollment and its predicted decline and with the coming reduction of classroom size. He said that if we eliminate the cheapest elementary school, then somebody would owe the State of Connecticut \$2.1 million, or if the highest is chosen, it would be approximately \$2.7 million to \$4 million.

Mr. Economopoulos asked if these three things are new to school districts or have these studies been going on for a long time. Dr. Menzo said that they have been going on since the 1990s. He said that he is sure that the town did a study prior to the renovations. Mr. Economopoulos asked if they really need a study of the transportation consulting service because when you see buses coming in at 25% capacity and going home at 10% -15% capacity, then do we need to spend \$10,000 to \$15,000 to tell us that people aren't taking the bus. Mr. Hennessey said it is a matter of looking at the routes and trying to find the most efficient way. Mr. Economopoulos said that he will support the RFP route that the board is requesting.

Dr. Menzo said that the bus company asked for an efficiency study.

Mr. Fishbein thanked them for the presentation and asked why not do the Strategic Plan and the Long Range Study together because you end up with two providers who could take the data and come up with different conclusions. He asked why do them separately because they do overlap.

Dr. Menzo said that there are certain providers who offer both services. In order to get more in the RFP process that splitting them up would get them more participants. He said that they can submit both proposals.

Mr. Fishbein said that he understands that with the RFP that they don't have to go with the lowest bidder but rather they could go with the group with whom board is most comfortable. Dr. Menzo said that they agree with that. Mr. Fishbein said that it seems to him that a major portion of where this school district goes is the budget. He then asked how could they say that they can immediately act upon this, when they don't reasonably anticipate knowing what a number is for a month and one half or so. Mr. Fishbein said he thinks that they will spend up to \$40,000 and what they get is an unattainable wish list. He thinks that they take the data and say this is what you should do but the component of what *can* be done is missing.

Dr. Menzo responded that the six weeks between now and the time that they get a budget from the Mayor will be the time it takes to get the document out, to interview and to begin the process. It will be off by maybe a week. He said that there will set guidelines as to expectations of the consultant and that they will come back with a five-year strategic plan and a plan for the

immediate present that will deal with next year's budget. He agreed that 'yes' the facilities study is an overlap but it does not compete with the strategic plan. Dr. Menzo said that they will have realistic goals but also be mindful of the aspirations of the vision that it will inspire. This will take us into August and the big piece, the facilities' study, if done prior to May, would influence the space right now.

Mr. Fishbein and Dr. Menzo discussed the timeline. Mr. Fishbein asked how a transportation study can be done now before the long range plan. Dr. Menzo said that they already know where the enrollment is now, where they live, so the budget they are dealing with now will not change anything for the near future or the fall. Mr. Fishbein pointed out the under-use of buses. How do you solve it. Dr. Menzo said that they would re-design bus routes. It's not about re-districting. He said the goal is for fewer buses. The study has not been done in a long, long time.

Mr. Hennessey said that when they pay for buses that their cost, what they pay per bus, is for the elementary students that they have in the morning for the delivery of the elementary students. We pay for the bus all day long. So if the buses are not full of high school students that 'that' is not a problem

Mr. Fishbein stated that based on that, then he has some trouble supporting the transportation study.

Mr. Testa expressed appreciation of the presentation and said that really all the Board of Education needs is permission from the Town Council to use the RFP, and that's it. He sees the advantage of these services and thinks that the RFP is the way to go. He said that he assumes that they are using Board of Education money, so they aren't here to ask for the money. He said we are not approving studies. He commented that the district has done some pretty intensive facility studies over the last 20 years, since there has been two major building projects related to enrollment, one for overcrowding, and one with more efficient use and the need to upgrade the buildings themselves. He said that we shouldn't imply that we have never done this before and that the past studies were detailed. Mr. Testa addressed the strategic plan asking about the difference between a 'strategic plan' and what we've had as a 'master plan' along with curriculum revisions.

Dr. Menzo said that the 'master plan' is a purchasing plan, and that is all that it is. The master plan identifies the things that need to be purchased over a period of time. It is like the town's 'capital improvement plan'. There are very few pieces of the 'master plan' that actually deal with curriculum and instruction. He said that the 'strategic plan' melds the two together and gives a philosophy for the district that as a community we are all going to stand behind for the students in Wallingford. He said that is the difference. He referred to the significant national and State of Connecticut research results of which declared measurable, accountable and attainable objectives for school districts. Our goals and our master plan did not have that facet.

Dr. Menzo said that this year we put in place 'smart goals', which are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely goals directly connected to student improvement and achievement. He said that those are new to Wallingford. These are helpful to both students and teachers. He said that the strategic plan they are suggesting melds all of the this together, bringing the philosophy and the vision together. Dr. Menzo said the strategic plan pulls into place the

curriculum, the mission and vision, the building needs, and the procurement plan and synthesizes all of that together.

Mr. Sullivan said that he is happy to see a strategic plan put into place and commends the Board of Education. He also likes the plan for a transportation study as he feels that data analysis is important to determine how we spend our money. He referred to the Long-Range School Facility and Redistricting Study and said that he is concerned about the facilities, especially after the amount of funds spent on the renovation project. He stated that in view of declining enrollment, redistricting is something that we need to address even if we don't want to talk about it. He said that he will vote for the RFP process.

Dr. Menzo responded stating that the Long-Range Facility Study is not about systems. It is not going to be looking at engineering systems, like the heating and cooling systems, but this is purely about space analysis – class size, etc. Mr. Sullivan added that no one should be fooled because down the road, we will be putting money into schools.

Vice-Chairman Farrell asked which of these plans would they want to walk out with. He said that he is asking because if any Councilor feels strongly about one of the three, then he thinks he needs to hear the Board of Education say which ones. Mr. Hennessey said that if there is any thought of reducing any of the three he recommends splitting the green handout page into two 1) Long-Range School Facility and 2) Redistricting Study.

Town Attorney Janis Small injected that you can't tell them *not* to do the studies. That is a Board of Education decision. She said that it is the methodology that you would be deciding, and if you don't like the methodology, then you vote about the methodology.

The following people of the public spoke –
Lucille Trzcinski, 25 Turnberry Road, gave her appreciation of the plans.
Jay Cei, Board of Education member, stated that these plans are not a result of the budget process.
Robert Sheehan, 11 Cooper Avenue, spoke about the budget.

Mr. Fishbein said that he will support the RFP process.

Vice-Chairman Farrell said that unless the Town Attorney tells him differently, unless there is a motion to disapprove, he doesn't believe that any action is needed by the Council. He asked her if he is correct. Town Attorney Small said that is correct but she thinks that the Board of Education wants some comfort that your 30 days is not up, and they want to proceed, so if someone does have an objection, what they are looking for is to have someone make a motion and vote on it 'up' or 'down' and if no one has that motion, they have some comfort to move forward tomorrow.

MOTION

Mr. LeTourneau made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fishbein, to accept the RFP process for these studies by the Board of Education and to waive the Council's right to object.

Mr. Testa said that in effect it really doesn't achieve that. We are letting you know that through the course of a motion that no one objects but the ordinance would allow 'me' in two weeks to object, which none of us will do. He said he thinks that the motion is ceremonial. Attorney Small said that it gives the board comfort that if you were going to object that this is the time to do it. The Council put it on the agenda; it's here. They are looking to the Council asking is there

an objection, and please, tell us if there is one. The motion to approve it gives them additional comfort to go ahead at full speed.

There were no other comments.

By voice eight (8) Councilors present Voted Aye. Chairman Parisi was absent from the meeting. The motion passed.

Mr. Hennessey and Dr. Menzo thanked the Council.

8. Discussion regarding outside advertising on Board of Education property
– Councilor Economopoulos

Councilor Economopoulos said that in lieu of the budget that was passed by the Board of Education budget last night, he understands ‘pay-for-play’ is one of the items that the Board of Education has adopted and in lieu of the fact that when he was one the Board of Education, he made a proposal that we accept some advertising from corporate sponsorships, such as naming of ball-fields or gymnasiums or putting banners on the outfield walls. He said colleges do this as do some high schools. He also recalled the naming of tournaments. He said that when he proposed it five or six years ago, they were not too keen on the idea. He thinks that it is something that has to be addressed, if we can legally do it. He brings it up as a discussion item because a lot has to do with what the Town Attorney determines as to what can and cannot be done based on the Charter and ordinances. He commented that ‘pay-for-play’ is the worst to ever come about for high school sports because to coach high school sports the most difficult task a coach faces is not his strategies, it’s not how he handles the team but is basically is how he handles the parents when parents are upset with playing time. He commented if you don’t think that ‘paying-for-play’ gives a parent a sense of entitlement, then you are mistaken because it does, and it makes it much more difficult. He said that this is something that we can relieve, if we can do some corporate sponsorships.

Vice-Chairman Farrell asked if what Councilor Economopoulos is asking the Town Attorney to comment on what the legal issues would be in proceeding generally down this road.

Town Attorney Small asked Mr. Economopoulos to tell her the focus of what she could look at. When she saw the item on the agenda, she spoke briefly to Superintendent Menzo about some interest in it having to do with a business class and perhaps some ball-fields within the school system. She said that she can take a look at it and outline what she thinks are the legal issues are that may come up. She said that at some point it becomes a policy issue, which she does not look at.

Mayor Dickinson said that it becomes a question of how the authority to use public property for advertising, and how that authority is visited upon a private party. Is it a lease situation? What is the mechanism? If it has to follow the bidding procedures, then literally any business that is the highest bidder would obtain the right to have an advertisement, and there are businesses that we would not want to have their advertising on our fields. He said how is all of this policed, regarding our Charter requirements and the First Amendment rights, leasing, control of who advertises, etc. Mr. Economopoulos said the State of Connecticut had to face the same issues. He made comments regarding CAIC and suggested that she may want to speak with CAIC. He said that New Britain and Southington have legal advertising. He said that there are ways to get around having to display advertising that is not appropriate, like beer.

Mr. Hennessey said about three times at the Board of Education in the last five years. He said they received a legal opinion from Corporation Counsel that it was against the Town Charter. He said that they are interested in this subject to help fund the sports programs so they would not have to use 'pay-for-play'. This idea has been commenced in Southington on ball-fields under the Entrepreneurial Studies Program in the high school.

Attorney Small said that it is a leasing issue that has to do with the Town Charter and that that is a Council issue. She said that are a variety of issues that come to her mind. Mr. Economopoulos also asked her to keep in mind the two great high school bands and choirs and the Drama Department where this could also be used.

There were no other comments forthcoming. Mr. Economopoulos agreed with Mr. Farrell that this covers the item for the evening.

9. Discussion and Action with regard to the *Town Council Procedures* – Chairman Parisi

MOTION

Mrs. Rascati read the item and said so moved. Vice-Chairman Farrell said that with the new Council that there is a revisiting of the Town Council's *Rules of Procedure*, which has been in place for prior Town Council terms. It is the Council's pleasure of what it wishes to do this evening – to adopt the *Rules of Procedure* or to modify the *Rules of Procedure*. Vice-Chairman Farrell asked if there were comments or proposals for any amendment(s).

Mr. Fishbein said that he would second the motion. Vice-Chairman said that would be to approve the *Rules of Procedure* as presented and asked if that would be the motion that is on the floor at this moment.

Mr. Fishbein said however that he would like to propose modifying the procedures to add the following to the Town Council *Rules of Procedure-Section III: a blessing may be offered by a member of the local clergy, and*, following 'regularly scheduled meetings' in line 1. Ms. Rascati seconded. Vice-Chairman Farrell asked for discussion on the amendment.

The Council at this time had no comments. Vice-Chairman called upon the public.

Ben Martin, Ward Street, asked why this needs to be added since this is already being done. Mr. Fishbein said that the concern is doing something that is not in the procedures and being potentially accused of doing something that is not in the procedures. He said that in the past that Mr. Martin has questioned why this is being done, so that he, Mr. Fishbein felt that it was appropriate to have it part of the procedures. He said that each Council has made some modification to the *Rules of Procedure*. Mr. Martin said that in his mind it seems extraneous to add this because as he was informed by Mr. Parisi previously, it was checked legally and was deemed to be OK and to be at the will of the Council. Mr. Martin said that to put it into the record that even though it says 'may' almost makes it seem as though it has to be done. Mr. Martin added that he doesn't know if the language needs to be modified to say at the will of the Council, or if it could just be left out and then to proceed in the manner that we currently have. Mr. Fishbein said that the distinction is between the words 'shall' and 'may' and the proposed language is 'may,' which is permissive.

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Mr. Sullivan asked Mr. Fishbein to repeat his motion. Mr. Fishbein said that he moved the following, "a blessing may be offered by a member of local clergy". Mr. Sullivan said that this has been primarily the prerogative of the Council Chair and asked if this was correct. Vice-Chairman Farrell said he tends to agree that that is the way it has operated in the past.

Mr. Sullivan said that even with the language 'may', it would still really be the prerogative of the Chair when he/she is making out the agenda and asked if this was correct. Vice-Chairman Farrell said that beauty is in the eye of the beholder here, and that under Mr. Fishbein's proposal in the meeting procedures it is going to be an option. Mr. Sullivan asked, "At the option of whom?" Vice-Chairman Farrell responded that since the Chairman composes the agenda, one would say it's probably at the option of the Chairman. Mr. Sullivan said that we will really have the language but it will still be at the discretion of the Chair as to whether it's going to be done or not. Vice-Chairman Farrell said that beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Lucille Trzcinski, 25 Turnberry Road, asked since we have not seen this, can we safely assume that the procedures will not change, and will remain as they have been, except for this one thing. The response was yes.

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, said, "When it's up to the Chair's position then to pick, you are saying 'clergy', then is it his discretion to not allow a member of a clergy to speak if that person wants to speak. Is that what you are sort of saying?" Vice-Chairman Farrell asked as to content. Mr. Gross said 'no' content would have to be within the establishment clause of the constitution; otherwise, you would be outside those boundaries and then you be shut down. Mr. Gross said that what he is saying is because clergy speaking – there is a fine line between church and state and the Constitution has a provision for that. Mr. Gross asked if the Chair can pick or choose which clergy, who he wants, to be up there, and essentially he could then. It is also not a reasonable – it's either any clergy from town who wants to speak or none of the clergy from town. Vice Chairman outlined the procedure from the past that the Council secretary calls around and attempts to get clergy people here. They are busy people in what their main focus is, and he does not know if anyone is left out, and there is an effort to include everyone. Mr. Gross said that he is not saying that anyone is left out. He said that there are recognized religions that might not

be so recognized by the Council, or by the general public, and if they so desire to speak and that becomes a fine line of whether you are allowing clergy to speak. He continued that then it becomes an issue with allowing prayer and allowing whoever is recognized as a clergy and then not allowing somebody else not to speak.

Mr. Fishbein said that the language is written very generally to call for a blessing, not a prophesizing or praying in general but a blessing as to what we do which is recognized in our state legislature and our Congress. It doesn't say priest or rabbi or anything like that. It is very general. Mr. Gross retorted that anytime you invoke God in a prayer, it's a prayer.

There were no further comments.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT:

Cervoni – Yes; Economopoulos – No; Farrell – Yes; Fishbein – Yes; LeTourneau – Yes;

Parisi – Absent; Rascati – Yes; Sullivan – Yes; Testa – Yes

7 - Aye; 1- Nay; 1 – Absent

The motion passed.

Vice-Chairman Farrell said that the procedures as proposed are amended. He asked if there are further amendments to the procedures.

Mr. Economopoulos drew attention to Section X.

X. The Comptroller will provide the members of the Council with a monthly financial report of all department budgets.

He asked if a Councilor could request that instead of automatically receiving it.

Mayor Dickinson said that if a member of the Council does not want that give it to Finance in writing and the copy won't be run.

There were no further comments.

Ben Martin said he wants to be clear on what is happening. He said it was mentioned that these are proposed changes and asked if these are proposed until everyone votes on them. Vice-Chairman Farrell said until we get to calling a vote this evening. Mr. Martin asked if these are the ongoing procedures until this Council or another changes them or is it with any new Council? Vice-Chairman Farrell said that certainly any Council sitting can come back and amend its procedures if it so wishes. If it fails to do so, those procedures would continue until another Council comes in and changes them. He said that for housekeeping purposes they are on the agenda because this Council has been sitting for a month or so and it's time to do this.

Seeing nothing further on the procedures as amended, Vice-Chairman Farrell called the vote. By voice, eight Councilors (8) voted Aye. Chairman Parisi was absent. The item passed unanimously.

10. Executive Session pursuant to §1-200 (6)(E), 1-210 (b)(5)(B), 1-210 (b)(7) and 7-232a of the Connecticut General Statutes to discuss the possible acquisition of transmission assets by CT TRANSCO – Director Public Utilities

11. 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

MOTION

Ms. Rascati made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 10.) §1-200 (6)(E), 1-210 (b)(5)(B), 1-210 (b)(7) and 7-232a of the Connecticut General Statutes to discuss the possible acquisition of transmission assets by CT TRANSCO as requested by the Director Public Utilities.

11.) and pursuant to §1-200 (6)(D) of the Connecticut General Statutes with respect to the purchase, sale and/or leasing of property as requested by the Mayor.

Mr. Sullivan seconded. All Councilors present (8) voted Aye. Chairman Parisi was absent from the meeting. The motion passed, and the Council entered into Executive Session at 8:42 P.M.

At 9:47 P.M., Mrs. Rascati moved that the Town Council exit Executive Session. Mr. Fishbein seconded this motion. All Councilors present (8) voted Aye. Chairman Parisi was absent from the meeting. The motion passed, and the Council exited Executive Session.

Executive Session attendance:

Executive Session Item 10. 8:45 P.M. to 9:32 P.M.

Eight (8) Town Council members. Chairman Parisi was absent from the meeting.

Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr.

Town Attorney Janis Small

Comptroller James Bowes

Public Utilities Director George Adair

Public Utilities Commission Secretary Richard Nunn

Executive Director Maurice Scully, Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative (CMEEC)

Philip Sussler, General Counsel, CMEEC

Executive Session Item 11. 9:33 P.M. to 9:45 P.M.

Eight (8) Town Council members. Chairman Parisi was absent from the meeting.

Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and Town Attorney Janis Small

MOTION

Ms. Rascati made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fishbein, to adjourn the meeting. All Councilors present (8) voted Aye. Chairman Parisi was absent from the meeting. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra R. Weekes
Town Council Secretary

Meeting digitally recorded

Vice- Chairman, Jerry Farrell, Jr.

Date

Town Clerk, Barbara Thompson

Date

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