

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

October 8, 2013

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was called to order at 6:47 P.M. The Opening Prayer was offered by Deacon Eugene Riotte, Most Holy Trinity Church of Wallingford, and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were as follows: Vincent Cervoni, Nick Economopoulos, Craig Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, John Letourneau, Chairman Robert F. Parisi, Rosemary Rascati, John Sullivan and Jason Zandri. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Town Attorney G.E Farrell, Sr. and Comptroller James Bowes were present at the meeting.

Chairman Parisi acknowledged Wallingford Center, Inc. and its Executive Director, Elizabeth Landow, for the great success of *Celebrate Wallingford*, the town's annual festival. He said that he had never seen so many people. He also acknowledged Joan Stave, Mayor's Aide, and Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk for recent assistance.

2. Correspondence - None

3. Consent Agenda

- 3a.** Consider and Approve Tax Refunds totaling \$8,858.36 (#226-296)
Acct. #1001001-41020 – Tax Collector
- 3b.** Consider and Approve Appropriation in the amount of \$40.00
Youth and Social Services Special Fund-Babysitting Course
Registration to Fees Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditure
Acct. #21340100-58830 – Youth and Social Services
- 3c.** Consider and Approve Appropriation in the amount of \$25.00
Youth and Social Services Special Fund-STEM Academy Registration
to Fees Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures Acct. # 21340100-58830 – Youth and
Social Services
- 3d.** Consider and Approve Appropriation in the amount of \$40.00
Youth and Social Services Special Fund-Babysitting Course
Registration to Fees Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures
Acct. #21340100-58830 – Youth and Social Services
- 3e.** Consider and Approve a Budget Amendment in the Amount
of \$2,000 to Laboratory Equipment Acct. #43300395 from
Property Insurance Acct. #43100924 – Water Division
- 3f.** Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$8,010
to Maintenance of Collecting & Impounding Resources Acct. #43100612 from Outside
Services Employed Acct. #43100923 – Water Division
- 3g.** Consider and Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to execute
a Personal Services Agreement with the State of Connecticut for financial assistance for
various improvements to Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park,
STEAP 2014-04 and authorize the Mayor to enter into such agreements,

contracts and execute all documents necessary to said grant with the State of Connecticut – Grants Administrator

- 3h. Approve Minutes of Regular Town Council meeting of September 24, 2013
MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

3a. – 3h.

MADE BY: CERVONI

SECONDED BY: RASCATI

VOTE: 8-AYE; 1-NAY (ECONOMOPOULOS)

MOTION PASSED.

4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda -None

5. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Vincent Avallone, Ashford Court, spoke about 91 North Turnpike Road, saying he was shocked. In his opinion, the town's treatment of the aquifer problem has been sorely lacking.

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, asked if another location has been identified for dumping of snow other than at Garden Road.

Councilor Economopoulos said that as a reminder, he has already put in his agenda item for the next meeting.

6. Discussion and possible action regarding Collective Bargaining Agreement between Town of Wallingford Board of Education and United Public Service Employees Union, Local 424, Unit 18 (Management) effective July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2016 – Board of Education

*In attendance: Superintendent of Wallingford Schools, Dr. Salvatore Menzo
Chairwoman of the Board of Education, Roxane McKay
Assistant Superintendent of Wallingford Schools for Personnel, Colin McNamara*

Mr. McNamara reviewed the highlights of the contract for the Council, discussing the following areas: Severance pay, Vacation days; Health Care Insurance; Insurance Waiver; Wages [Year 1(2014) -1.95%, Year 2 (2015)-2.0 and Year 3 (2016)-2.5]; Bi-Weekly pay with regard to Direct Deposit; Bereavement Leave.

**MOTION TO REJECT THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE TOWN OF WALLINGFORD
BOARD OF EDUCATION AND UNITED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
UNION, LOCAL 424, UNIT 18 (MANAGEMENT) EFFECTIVE
JULY 1, 2013 TO JUNE 30, 2016.**

MADE BY: CERVONI

SECONDED BY: RASCATI

Councilor Fishbein asked about and made comments with regard to the following: Vacation time; health care waiver clarification and the waiver payment; transportation allowance and Bereavement leave.

The Public was asked for comments at this point, and there were none.

Pg. 2

Councilor Cervoni expressed concerns with respect to the third year wage increase of 2.25%.

Councilor Zandri clarified that a 'yes' vote is to reject the agreement. He spoke about the costs of arbitration and the possibility that an arbiter may say that this is the best agreement.

Councilor Fishbein said that his hope was that it was only one issue with the contract. He discussed more concerns. Councilor Economopoulos said he will support the contract, saying that the Board of Education worked very hard on this contract.

There was a brief discussion with regard to the process of arbitration. Mrs. McKay reported that the Board has worked very hard over the past years to chip away at the contracts bringing about many savings to the town.

Dr. Menzo said that this contract went through mediation, explaining that the mediator decides on each party's last best offer.

Mayor Dickinson spoke about the impact of a contract on other unions in negotiations. He said that this has a ripple effect into pension which have been increasing and problems occur in pensions and the inability to fund them.

Councilor Sullivan acknowledged the negotiating work which he witnessed by attending a "couple of" sessions in the spring. He expressed his concerns about the third year of the contract with regard to wages, stating that he would have approved 2.0%. He cannot support the agreement saying he is worried about the future.

Councilor Economopoulos compared the Board of Education management team with that of the town's management team in that the latter receives merit pay increases, comp time, transportation reimbursement, different vacation and insurance while the former team does not.

Councilor Laffin asked how many contracts are being negotiated. Mayor responded that he thought two in negotiation and two in arbitration.

The following people from the public spoke Gina Morgenstein; Peg Bently, Constitution Street; and Bob Gross, 114 Long Hill Road.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

**CERVONI: YES ECONOMOPOULOS: NO FISHBEIN: YES
LAFFIN: YES LETOURNEAU: YES RASCATI: YES
SULLIVAN: YES ZANDRI: NO
CHAIRMAN PARISI: YES**

7- AYE; 2- NAY (ECONOMOPOULOS AND ZANDRI)

THE MOTION PASSED.

THE CONTRACT WAS REJECTED BY THE COUNCIL.

7. Discussion and possible action regarding bid waiver request to evaluate three proposals from Public Bid 13-020 for a Procurement Card Rebate System Program. Action taken may require the BOE to report back to the Council prior to awarding a contract to any vendor.

- Board of Education

*In attendance: Superintendent of Wallingford Schools, Dr. Salvatore Menzo
Chairwoman of the Board of Education, Roxane McKay
Business Manager of Wallingford Schools, Linda Winters*

Ms. Winters and Dr. Menzo explained the system stating that the three responses to their bid were rejected because none of them met the specifications of the bid. They have, however, found another opportunity through the State of Connecticut, Director of Administrative Services (DAS). They are always looking for ways to save money and the projection is to save the Board approximately \$102,000. They explained that the DAS Program may bring one of their bidders back into the loop, or it may not.

Councilor Cervoni and Comptroller Bowes agreed that it would be a good idea to codify vendor requirements in an Ordinance. Mr. Bowes stated that it is always good to have a policy.

There was talk of the definition of the use of the word 'card' as it relates to a vendor.

Mr. Cervoni amended his motion.

AMENDMENT: THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION BE ALLOWED TO CONSIDER OTHER CONTRACTORS IN ADDITION TO THE THREE CONTRACTORS ALREADY CONSIDERED AND THAT THE TOWN PIGGYBACK ON THE SAME NEGOTIATIONS AND TO REPORT BACK TO THE COUNCIL BEFORE ANY AWARD OF A CONTRACT IS MADE.

**MADE BY: CERVONI
SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN**

VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT

ROLL CALL VOTE:

**CERVONI: YES ECONOMOPOULOS: YES FISHBEIN: YES
LAFFIN: YES LETOURNEAU: YES RASCATI: YES
SULLIVAN: YES ZANDRI: YES
CHAIRMAN PARISI: YES**

9- AYE

THE AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION PASSED.

VOTE ON THE AMENDED MOTION

ROLL CALL VOTE:

**CERVONI: YES ECONOMOPOULOS: YES FISHBEIN: YES
LAFFIN: YES LETOURNEAU: YES RASCATI: YES
SULLIVAN: YES ZANDRI: YES
CHAIRMAN PARISI: YES**

9- AYE

THE AMENDED MOTION PASSED.

8. Report out from Craig Turner regarding Red Ribbon Week and report out from Ken Welch regarding update on Coalition for a Better Wallingford – Chairman Robert Parisi

In attendance: Craig Turner, Chairman, Youth & Social Services
Kenneth Welch, President, Coalition for a Better Wallingford

Mr. Turner presented the calendar of events with regard to Red Ribbon Week (Appendix 1).

Mr. Welch presented a most heartfelt statement with regard to the activities of the *Coalition for a Better Wallingford* (Appendix 2).

9. Consider and Approve a Town Council Resolution approving the Incentive Housing Zone as presented by the Planning & Zoning Commission and authorizing submittal of the Application to the Office of Policy and Management for a preliminary determination of eligibility for zone adoption payment, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 8-13m, et seq. – Councilor Vinnie Cervoni

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION approving the Incentive Housing Zone as presented by the Planning & Zoning Commission and authorizing submittal of the Application to the Office of Policy and Management for a preliminary determination of eligibility for zone adoption payment, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 8-13m, et seq.

MADE BY: CERVONI

SECONDED BY: RASCATI

In attendance: Jim Seichter, Chairman, Planning & Zoning Commission
Kacie Costello, Town Planner

Mr. Seichter and Ms. Costello reviewed the particulars of the Incentive Housing Zone that included affordable housing, its meaning and its measurement for qualification. Occupation was described as 1st floor commercial occupants and upper floors a mixed use of residential and office. Cherry and Meadow Streets were discussed. This application allows Wallingford to design what this zone will look like, an unusual feature. The planning includes 368 residential units. Councilor Fishbein said he is warming up to the plan but is concerned with four stories. This plan allows Wallingford to reach for the ten percent (10%) goal of affordable housing set by the state. There is currently about 6.5% to 7.0%. The clause with regard to affordable housing stands at fifty (50) years, which is standard.

Councilor Cervoni read the Resolution.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

CERVONI: YES ECONOMOPOULOS: YES FISHBEIN: YES

LAFFIN: YES LETOURNEAU: YES RASCATI: YES

SULLIVAN: YES ZANDRI: YES

CHAIRMAN PARISI: YES

9- 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

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO §1-200(6) (D) of the Connecticut General Statutes with respect to the purchase, sale and/or leasing of property.

**MADE BY: CERVONI
SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN
VOTE: 9-AYE
MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION.

**MADE BY: CERVONI
SECONDED BY: RASCATI
VOTE: 7-AYE; 2-ABSENT (DURING THE EXECUTIVE SESSION COUNCILOR LETOURNEAU AND CHAIRMAN PARISI LEFT THE MEETING FOR THE EVENING).**

MOTION PASSED.

TIME OF EXECUTIVE SESSIONS: 9:15 P.M. TO 9:25 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ATTENDANCE

NINE (9) TOWN COUNCILORS TO BEGIN; MAYOR DICKINSON AND TOWN ATTORNEY G.E. FARRELL, SR.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**MADE BY: CERVONI
SECONDED BY: RASCATI
VOTE: 7-AYE; 2-ABSENT (LETOURNEAU & PARISI)
MOTION PASSED.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra R. Weekes
Secretary to the Town Council
Meeting digitally recorded

Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

Date

Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

Date

Wallingford Red Ribbon Week – October 23-31, 2013

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, Oct. 23 Noon – 1PM “Meet and Greet” with Wallingford Medical Community @ Midstate M. C.
7PM “Faces of Addiction” @ Lyman Hall VoAg Hall, Presenter Rich Figlewski Every one is invited!

10PM 93 Minutes of Reflection – Stories from our Neighbors@ Free Speech Square/WPAA-TV, 28 So. Orchard St. (Refreshments by Dry Dock/ Neil’s Donuts)

Thursday, Oct. 24 10PM – 93 Minutes of Reflection - Free Speech Square, WPAA-TV, 28 So. Orchard St.

Friday, Oct. 25 9AM-10:30AM ‘Faces of Addiction’ Presentation @ South Central CT Substance Abuse
5 Brookside Dr., Wlfd. (This presentation is for social agencies and professionals.)

10PM 93 Minutes of Reflection – Free Speech Square, 28 Orchard St

Saturday, Oct. 26 10PM 93 Minutes of Reflection – Free Speech Square, 28 Orchard St.

Monday, Oct. 28 Noon – 1PM Red Ribbon Week Dedication @ Town Hall, Presented by Mayor’s
Council on Substance Abuse Prevention

10PM 93 Minutes of Reflection – Stories from our Neighbors@ Free Speech Square/
WPAA-TV (Refreshments provided by The Dry Dock/Neil’s Donuts)

Tuesday, Oct. 29 7PM Interfaith Vigil on the Parade Grounds – Rev. Margaret Jay Officiating –
“Reflect-Connect-Recover” then...Tolling of the bells...

8PM 93 Minutes of Reflection – Stories from our neighbors@ Free Speech Square

Other Events happening this week:

“Faces of Addiction” Presentations in both high schools, presented by the Dry Dock and Rich Figlewski

SADD Presentation @ Sheehan and Lyman Hall High Schools Event TBD

Hair/Beauty Salons throughout Wallingford will be offering Red Extensions

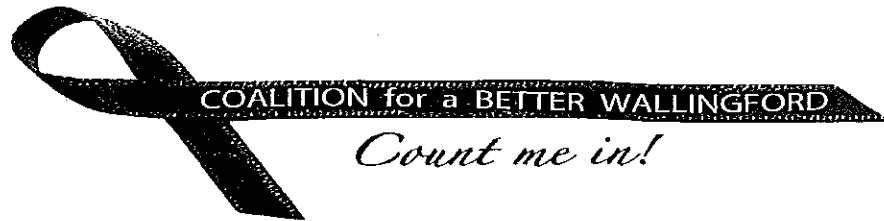
Bakeries will be offering ‘Red Ribbon’ pastries

Wallingford Elks is bringing Milton Cree to Sheehan for a talk on October 18th.

YMCA is offering free day passes to either location this week.

Everyone is encouraged to display their “red ribbon”!!!

For more info or help with your activity, visit [The DryDock.org](http://TheDryDock.org) or cbwlfd.org



Coalition for a Better Wallingford is a grassroots organization committed to building Healthy, Caring, and Responsible Citizens. Working as a community to promote positive attitudes, improve the health and welfare of our families, and build a strong Wallingford.

Wallingford Town Council Address – October 8, 2013

I am here to update the council on the activities of the Coalition for a Better Wallingford and to thank every council member who supported our efforts throughout this difficult year. When Jen first approached you, shortly after Taylor's passing, we were angry, confused, and scared. We started with "Kids are Dying" and worked hard to define the scope of what that meant to us and to the rest of Wallingford. As we stated then and this is important to say again – We found many good people and programs dedicated to awareness, education, prevention, and treatment for substance abuse.

Unfortunately, we also saw gaps in communication and coordination. Comparing our community to others throughout the region and across the United States, there seemed to be areas that needed "updating". In some cases, programs needed to be more relevant - based on the needs of our community. It didn't go without notice that we have a parent population that is challenged by the systems and culture of our times. As you may already be aware, through the efforts of Dr. Menzo, Craig Turner, and the Board of Education, the **CT Dept of PublicHealth -Youth Risk Behavior Survey** is being administered in both high schools this fall. Those results should provide an accurate picture of youth behaviors in our town.

The timely and accurate nature of the survey results can then be compared to existing programs for adjustment, if necessary. The key element in this process is the transparency of the information and using it to make changes that will be effective. Just having dead kids isn't enough.

We have had meetings all year, some of you have been in attendance, including the Mayor. Our meetings generated lively debate at times, and led to important partnering relationships. All of this can be seen in the Red Ribbon Week activities that are planned. Specifically, there are three themes we are promoting:

- **Reflect** – on those that are no longer with us. The number – **93** – represents a costly loss of life and the hardship caused the families and friends left behind. The **Interfaith Vigil** planned for Tuesday, October 29th @7PM on the Parade Grounds will be a moving experience. The Reverends Margaret Jay from the First Congregational Church and Anne Bracket from Yalesville United Methodist Church are officiating. Appropriately designed to recognize the loss of neighbors and allow the community to show support for those who are still with us.(The bells in the center of town will toll 93 times, in honor of those passed.)

CBW c/o The Law Offices, 171 Center St., Wallingford, CT 06492

Email –cbwlfld@gmail.com Website - www.cbwlfld.org Facebook – Coalition for a Better Wallingford



Coalition for a Better Wallingford is a grassroots organization committed to building Healthy, Caring, and Responsible Citizens. Working as a community to promote positive attitudes, improve the health and welfare of our families, and build a strong Wallingford.

- **Connect** – with those that are here now. The “**Faces of Addiction**” presentations are designed to eliminate the fear and stigma associated with addiction and substance abuse. Rich Figlewski is presenting at several venues including a community assembly on Wednesday, October 23rd @ 7PM, at the Lyman Hall Voag Hall. Again, this is a very powerful presentation and everyone is invited.

- **Recovery** – There is hope for everyone. Through the challenge and pain of addiction, there is a path to a healthy, productive and stable life. Toward this end we have scheduled “**93 Minutes of Reflection**” which is being held @ the WPAA-TV’ Free Speech Square, every night from 10 PM – 11:33 PM. Support from the Dry Dock and refreshments from vendors around town are being offered. Anyone is invited to come talk freely about their personal experiences.

In addition, there are a number of activities by other businesses and groups in a show of support for the problem of Substance Abuse; Bakeries are making Red Ribbon donuts, cookies, and pastries, Hair salons are offering red extentions and hair colors, the Mayors’ office has allowed the distribution of red ribbons, the school system is being very proactive with sports teams displaying red ribbons, the faculty sharing the meaning of Red Ribbon Week, the Elks are bringing Milton Cree, and SADD, SCOW, and Boy Scouts are taking part in activities.

There are many ways to show support for this event and we are encouraging everyone to come up with their own unique way.

The Coalition is seeing increased support for our initiatives, We formed our board of directors – Ken Welch, President, Marion Gracey, Vice President, John Letourneau, Carol Renna, and Lars Edeen. We currently are looking for office space and have started a fundraising drive so we can become a presence in the community. We received our first grant from the AMA just two weeks ago. We had our first Parent Peer Support meeting just last night.

I don’t have time to share even a fraction of the heartbreaking stories we have heard this year. We have partnered with various organizations, and at the risk of leaving somebody out, let me acknowledge some of those entities: Youth and Social Services, BOE, The Dry Dock, SCCSAC, Health and Wellness Committee, Board for Youth, SCOW, YMCA, Wallingford Center Inc., Wallingford Elks, and of course, The Taylor Short Foundation.

If I might say one thing to those that are watching this: We are a grassroots organization, driven by the people of this town – a reflection of this community. We have an open door for anyone or any organization to join with us. Our goal is to represent all segments from family to businesses to clergy and government in an effort to create Caring, Healthy and Responsible Citizens. Our mission is available on the website - cbwlfld.org.

Ultimately, it was in these chambers that it all began. Thank you.