

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Town Council Chambers

December 18, 2012

RECORD OF VOTES AND MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was called to order at 6:31P.M. The Opening Prayer was offered by Deacon Eugene C. Riotte, Most Holy Trinity Church of Wallingford. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance as follows: Vincent Cervoni, Craig Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, John Letourneau, Chairman Robert F. Parisi, Rosemary Rascati, John J. Sullivan and Jason Zandri. Councilor Nick Economopoulos had an excused absence. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell, Sr. and Comptroller James Bowes were also in attendance at the meeting.

WAIVE RULE V.

WAIVE RULE V. FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING A RESOLUTION TO BE SENT TO THE TOWN OF NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT.

MADE BY: CERVONI

SECONDED BY: RASCATI

VOTE: AYE (8); ABSENT (1) ECONOMOPOULOS

MOTION PASSED TO WAIVE RULE V.

A MOTION WAS MADE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING A RESOLUTION FOR THE TOWN OF NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT.

MADE BY: CERVONI

SECONDED BY: RASCATI

The Resolution, which expressed sympathy and support for the people of Newtown, Connecticut from the people of Wallingford, was read. (Appendix I)

VOTE: AYE (8); ABSENT (1) ECONOMOPOULOS

MOTION PASSED.

Chairman Parisi congratulated the Town Clerk, Barbara Thompson, for being appointed to the Advisory Board of the Connecticut Town Clerks Legislative Committee.

2. Correspondence – *No correspondence*

3. Consent Agenda

3a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds totaling \$4,427.27 (#426 - #444)
Acct. # 001-1000-010-1170 - Tax Collector

3b. Acceptance of Donation and Appropriation in the Amount of \$ *Youth and Social Services Special Fund* to Donations Acct # 2134002-47152
and to Expenditures Acct # 21340100-58830 – Youth and Social Services

3c. Consider and Approve an Appropriation in the Amount of \$319,400 – Electric Division

- 3d. Consider and Approve an Appropriation in the Amount of \$500,000 CRRF Funds – Fire Chief
- 3e. Approve minutes of Regular Town Council meeting of November 27, 2012
- 3f. Consider and Approve Merit Anniversary Increase – Mayor

Councilor Cervoni announced a correction to the November 27, 2012 minutes on page 5, which changes Councilor Laffin’s vote to ‘call the question’ from ‘Absent’ to ‘Yes.’
(NOTE: The vote that was recorded was correct and did not need to be changed.)

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, INCLUDING THE ANNOUNCED AMENDMENT.

MADE BY: CERVONI
SECONDED BY: RASCATI
VOTE: AYE (8); ABSENT (1) Economopoulos
MOTION PASSED.

- 4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda - None

5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

Jennifer Johnson Short, 21 Pleasant Street, read a statement (Appendix II) with regard to addressing “the circumstances of her daughter’s passing and of the critical role this community played in her short life.” In speaking about the number of deaths of young people in a relatively short time due to drugs/alcohol, she asked for a call to action stating that the “train is broken.” This problem needs to be looked at from all levels.

Craig Turner, Director, Youth and Social Services, said this is a compelling issue and it is hoped that to shift the tide, it is hoped that the addition of family members who have personally experienced these issues to be given an opportunity to voice their experiences within the context of looking to solve this with new strategies. He said that this comes at a time when the education department and some of the strategies they are looking at to enhance their programs and student success by incorporating the entire community.

Dr. Salvatore Menzo, Superintendent of Schools, presented a town-wide initiative, spurred on by the Innovation Team and the Wallingford Public Schools, to do a community read of the book Mindset by Carol Dweck, which looks at ‘growth mindset’ as opposed to ‘fixed mindset’. He said that the author would skype from California into book discussions in Wallingford called ‘March Madness for Mindset’. At a concluding meeting on March 20, Dr. Menzo said Al Terzi would facilitate a community conversation about investigating and developing core values. He said they have also embarked on an initiative called the “Wallingford 100,” which is about “100% community plus 100% engagement equals 100% graduation rate.” He stated that the focus isn’t solely on getting students through high school, but getting them through high school with productive end-points, academically, socially, emotionally and to be true citizens in which they can themselves be proud. He gave the Town Council copies of the book.

Rich Figlewski, owner of ‘Dry Dock’ spoke about addiction in our community and the initiative look at core values; He said we need to love and care for each other.

Mary Ann Gracie, former, Wallingford educator, stated that this is a problem of the community. It does not belong to just the parents, or to the schools or to the police department. She said we all need to work together and not against each other.

6. 6:45 p.m. Executive Session pursuant to §1-200(b) and §1-200(6)(E) of the Connecticut General Statutes to discuss estimates relative to a prospective public construction contract
– Chairman Mike Brodinsky, School Roof Building Committee

MOTION WAS MADE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO §1-200(b) and §1-200(6)(E) OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES TO DISCUSS ESTIMATES RELATIVE TO A PROSPECTIVE PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT.

**MADE BY: CERVONI
SECONDED BY: RASCATI
VOTE: AYE (8); ABSENT (1) Economopoulos
MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION WAS MADE TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION.

**MADE BY: CERVONI
SECONDED BY: RASCATI
VOTE: AYE (8); ABSENT (1) Economopoulos
MOTION PASSED.**

ATTENDANCE AT EXECUTIVE SESSION:

NINE (9) TOWN COUNCILORS; MAYOR DICKINSON; TOWN ATTORNEY GERALD E. FARRELL, SR.; MIKE BRODINSKY, CHAIRMAN, SCHOOL ROOF BUILDING COMMITTEE; DAVID STEIN, ARCHITECT; GENE TYRONE OWNER'S REP AND LARRY ZABROWSKY OF THE BUILDING COMMITTEE.

TIME OF EXECUTIVE SESSION: 6:51 P.M. to 7:05 P.M.

7. Conduct a Public Hearing at 7:00 P.M. on December 18, 2012 to consider and act upon the following proposed Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$9,352,000 FOR THE TOWN OF WALLINGFORD 2011 SCHOOL ROOF PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$9,352,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE

(The purpose of the amendment is to increase the appropriation and bond authorization by \$4,000,000 from \$9,352,000 to \$13,352,000 and to ratify, confirm and adopt all prior authorizations and ordinances in connection therewith.)

MOTION TO CONVENE THE PUBLIC HEARING.

**MADE BY: CERVONI
SECONDED BY: RASCATI
VOTE: AYE (8); ABSENT (1) Economopoulos
THE MOTION PASSED.**

Chairman Parisi convened the Public Hearing at 7:08 P.M. stating that the \$4,000,000 increase to the \$9,352,000 2011 School Roof Program appropriation and bond authorization is the subject of this Public Hearing. The Ordinance is available to the Public and may be obtained at this meeting from the Town Clerk.

*In attendance: Mike Brodinski, Chairman, School Roof Building Committee
David Stein, Architect
Gene Tyrone, Owner's Rep
In the audience: Larry Zabrowski, Member, School Roof Building Committee*

Geno Zandri, 9 Balsam Ridge Circle, asked for a summary of what has been accomplished so far, and what the additional dollars would produce going forward.

Mr. Brodinsky introduced the panel (*as above*). The roof work began in 2012. All roofs that were worked on are finished, and most of the paper work has been completed with warranties in hand. He said that the 2012 project went well and smoothly and commented that they are happy with how things went. He noted that the community has been well served through the Council's decisions. He continued that they are now looking toward 2013 and six more school roof projects. This hearing is for getting additional sources of funds for 1) to satisfy the State of Connecticut in that we have locally committed to do these projects in 2013 but also 2) they need money in hand, so when bids are returned, provided the bids are approved, that there are funds to pay the roofers at least part-way through the projects.

The 2013 Construction Documents for the roofs for Cook Hill, Pond Hill, Moses Y. Beach, Parker Farms, Highland School and Rock Hill School are a work in progress. They anticipate receiving the final form of the documents in January. The local level review of those plans for code compliance will be done in February. In March, possibly March 6, the State of Connecticut will review the documentation and procedures, and everything that has been done to date. Bidding is next, probably in April 2013, and then construction can begin on July 1. He reviewed the plans that include hot-tarring to be completed by July 16 and all the rest by August 26.

He stated that the funds expended in 2012 are about \$9.8 million. He said the bonding authority is for \$9,352,000. Going into 2013 they need more bonding authority and the \$4 million on the agenda gets them to where they want to be going into 2013.

MOTION WAS MADE TO READ THE TITLE ONLY OF THE ORDINANCE AS PROPOSED TO BE AMENDED AND TO WAIVE THE READING OF THE REMAINDER OF THE ORDINANCE, INCORPORATING ITS FULL TEXT INTO THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING.

MADE BY: CERVONI

SECONDED BY: RASCATI

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

AYE (8); ABSENT (1) Economopoulos

Wallingford Town Hall, 45 South Main Street

THE MOTION PASSED.

COUNCILOR CERVONI READ THE TITLE OF THE ORDINANCE AS FOLLOWS:

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATION \$13,352,000 FOR THE TOWN OF WALLINGFORD 2011 SCHOOL ROOF PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$13,352,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING TH ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE.

Geno Zandri, 9 Balsam Ridge Circle, asked if all the roofs that were worked on this year are complete. Mr. Brodinsky said yes, all are totally complete and that the plan is that all of the upcoming roofs would also be complete. When all that is complete then there is nothing left to do in this project.

James Bowes, Comptroller, added that this money is enough to get the project up to the bidding process, and then the roofing committee would come back to get the authorization increased.

With no one else coming forward, Chairman Parisi closed the Public Hearing.

Councilor Fishbein stated that the language of the ordinance does not mention the increase. He questioned that this seems like a new \$13,352,000, referring to the language of the proposed ordinance. He said he understands the intent but that is not expressed in the bold language.

Councilor Cervoni responded that it is to increase the overall authorization to include the \$4 million. Mr. Bowes confirmed this statement and added that currently what is authorized is the \$9,352,000 and that is what is being amended tonight.

Councilor Fishbein stated firmly that this language does not state that.

Mr. Bowes said this is how it has always been done, and there has never been any interpretation that this is an additional \$13 million on top of the \$9 million. He said that this will wipe out anything that said \$9,352,000 prior to tonight and replaces it with \$13,352,000. It is the authorization to spend an additional \$4,000,000.

Councilor Fishbein said that he understands the intent but that is not what this says.

Mayor Dickinson said that the current title is for \$9,352,000, and in the body of the ordinance, it describes that the title amount of \$9,352,000 is being amended to reflect \$13,352, 000 with the addition of \$4,000,000, Section I of the ordinance.

Councilor Fishbein seemed to be satisfied.

MOTION WAS MADE THAT THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CURRENT \$9,352,000 2011 SCHOOL ROOF PROGRAM APPROPRIATION AND BOND AUTHORIZATION BY INCREASING IT TO \$13,352,000 BE ADOPTED.

MADE BY: CERVONI
SECONDED BY: RASCATI

Councilor Sullivan commended Chairman Brodinsky and the Committee along with Mr. Stein and Mr. Tyrone. He acknowledged the countless hours that have been contributed to the project. Chairman Parisi echoed for the entire Council what Councilor Sullivan said.

Councilor Fishbein asked about the funds that have been expended. Mr. Brodinsky said that \$9.8 million has been spent and been spoken for. He said that there is no 'budget'; the bids come in and are approved, and then the bonding funds are used to pay for the work. Mr. Brodinsky continued that if the bonding money proves insufficient, then the committee comes back to the Council for more bonding money. Bonds are not sold if all of the funds that are authorized are not used.

Councilor Fishbein asked about Phase 1 where it seems that the committee is over-budget under the current bonding authorization of \$9,352,000. Mr. Brodinsky said no because there is no budget. He added in response to Councilor Fishbein that solar will be installed in 2013.

Councilor Fishbein wanted to know about DEEP funds awarded to the town as a result of a violation of emissions in town. A letter went to the state asking that the award, or part of it, be applied to an energy project. He said he asked this be done in a prior discussion about solar projects at the schools related to energy conservation projects. The Mayor has not had a response to his letter to DEEP but will look into this further.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

**AYE (8); ABSENT (1) Economopoulos
THE MOTION PASSED.**

The ordinance was adopted. (APPENDIX III)

8. Consider and Accept tentative agreements for a successor pension contract to extend the current contracts with no changes from February 4, 2012 to August 31, 2012 for the following units:

UPSEU Local 424-27 (managers)
UPSEU Local 424-18 (school managers)
UPSEU Local 424-18B (school computer technicians)
UPSEU Local 424-30 (school food service workers)
UPSEU Local 424-31 (school secretaries)

- Personnel

**MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT TENTATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR A
SUCCESSOR PENSION CONTRACT TO ENTEND THE CURRENT CONTRACTS
WITH NO CHANGES FROM FEBRUARY 4, 2012 TO AUGUST 31, 2012 FOR THE
FOLLOWING UNITS:**

**Group 1.
UPSEU Local 424-27 (managers)
UPSEU Local 424-18 (school managers)**

Group2.

UPSEU Local 424-18B (school computer technicians)

UPSEU Local 424-30 (school food service workers)

UPSEU Local 424-31 (school secretaries)

MADE BY: CERVONI

SECONDED BY: RASCATI

In attendance: Terence Sullivan, Personnel Director

There was no discussion.

**AYE (8); ABSENT (1) Economopoulos
THE MOTION PASSED.**

- 9.** Consider and Approve IBEW Local 457 Clerical Unit Tentative Agreement from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2015 - Personnel (AS AMENDED)

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE IBEW LOCAL 457 CLERICAL UNIT
TENTATIVE AGREEMENT FROM JULY 1, 2012 TO JUNE 30, 2015**

MADE BY: CERVONI

SECONDED BY: RASCATI

Mr. LeTourneau recused himself as he has a family member is in this unit

In attendance: Terence Sullivan, Personnel Director

Mr. Sullivan explained some of the highlights for this 10 person unit.

AYE (6); NAY (1) Fishbein; RECUSE (1) Letourneau; ABSENT (1) Economopoulos

THE MOTION PASSED.

- 10.** Consider and Approve a Budget amendment in the Amount of \$175,000
- Sewer Division

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE AMOUNT
OF \$175,000 (Sewer Division).**

MADE BY: CERVONI

SECONDED BY: RASCATI

In attendance: Roger Dann, General Manager, Water-Sewer

Mr. Dann related to the Council that to be in compliance with new regulations, system upgrades need to be made in this budget amendment for a chemical feed system.

**AYE (8); ABSENT (1) Economopoulos
THE MOTION PASSED.**

- 11.** Consider and Approve a Budget amendment in the Amount of \$90,000
- Sewer Division

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$90,000 (Sewer Division).

**MADE BY: CERVONI
SECONDED BY: RASCATI**

In attendance: Roger Dann, General Manager, Water-Sewer

Mr. Dann related to the Council that to be in compliance with new regulations that system upgrades need to be made in this budget amendment for chemicals.

**AYE (8); ABSENT (1) Economopoulos
THE MOTION PASSED.**

WAIVE RULE V.

WAIVE RULE V. TO CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE LAW DEPARTMENT TO BID IN THE FORECLOSURE SALE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 33 SUNRISE CIRCLE.

**MADE BY: CERVONI
SECONDED BY: RASCATI
VOTE: AYE (8); ABSENT (1) ECONOMOPOULOS
MOTION PASSED TO WAIVE RULE V.**

A MOTION WAS MADE TO AUTHORIZE THE LAW DEPARTMENT TO BID AT THE FORECLOSURE SALE OF AT 33 SUNRISE CIRCLE IN AN AMOUNT SUFFICIENT TO COVER ALL DEBT, COSTS, FEES AND COMMITTEE FEES.

**MADE BY: CERVONI
SECONDED BY: RASCATI**

In response to Mr. Zandri, Town Attorney Farrell explained the process involved when people are in arrears for their property taxes and the impact of the 18% rate that the town collects on taxes that have not been kept up to date. Mr. Farrell stated that the town takes a soft approach and does not foreclose within months as some towns do.

**VOTE: AYE (8); ABSENT (1) ECONOMOPOULOS
MOTION PASSED**

- 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

MOTION WAS MADE 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: RASCATI
VOTE: AYE (8); ABSENT (1) Economopoulos
MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION WAS MADE TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION.

**MADE BY: CERVONI
SECONDED BY: RASCATI
VOTE: AYE (8); ABSENT (1) Economopoulos**

MOTION PASSED.

ATTENDANCE AT EXECUTIVE SESSION:

**NINE (9) TOWN COUNCILORS; MAYOR DICKINSON; TOWN ATTORNEY
GERALD E. FARRELL, SR**

TIME OF EXECUTIVE SESSION: 8:07 P.M. to 8:14 P.M.

MOTION TO ADJOURN with holiday wishes for all.

MADE BY: CERVONI

SECONDED BY: RASCATI

VOTE: AYE (8); ABSENT (1) Economopoulos

MOTION PASSED.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 P.M. with no further business to conduct.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Weekes
Town Council Secretary

Town Council Chairman Robert F. Parisi

Date

Town Clerk Barbara Thompson

Date