

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

February 13, 2013

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was called to order at **6:34 P.M.** Following a Moment of Silence, the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were as follows: Vincent Cervoni, Nick Economopoulos, Thomas Laffin, John Letourneau, Chairman Robert F. Parisi, Rosemary Rascati, John J. Sullivan and Jason Zandri. Councilor Craig Fishbein was not present with an excused absence. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. Corporation Counsel Janis M. Small and Comptroller James Bowes were also in attendance.

2. Correspondence - *None*

3. Consent Agenda

3a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds totaling \$8,046.31 (#488 - #509)
Acct. # 001-1000-010-1170 - Tax Collector

3b. Acceptance of Donation and Appropriation in the Amount of \$250 for
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 Resolution authorizing the Mayor on behalf of the
Wallingford Medical Response Corps (MRC-Health Department) to enter into an
agreement with the National Association of County and City Health Officials
(NACCHO) for \$4,000 to enhance citizen volunteer response capacity
– Health Director

3d. Consider and Approve an Appropriation in the Amount of \$4,000 *Special
Revenue Fund* to Donations-MRC Acct # 2504002-47152 and to NACCHO-MRC
Acct # 25040050-58830-10103- Health Director

3e. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$31,331 to Various Accounts
(Approx 20) from Contingency-Accrued Expenses Acct # 10019000-58821
-Personnel Director

3f. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$7,400 to Administrative and General –
Wages Acct # 920 from Customer Records and Collections Acct # 903

3g. Acceptance of donation from Whelen Engineering of Chester, CT of emergency lighting,
including installation for both the new rescue vehicle and for the Chief's new vehicle.
This donation is estimated at \$20,000 – Fire Chief

3h. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$30,000 *Ambulance
Transport Enterprise Fund* to EMS Transport- Maintenance of Vehicle
Acct # 50020155-54320 from EMS Transport-Fringe Benefits

Acct # 50020155-52050 – Fire Chief

- 3i.** Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$5,000 *Ambulance Transport Enterprise Fund* to EMS Transport- Overtime
Acct # 50020155-51400 from EMS Transport-Fringe Benefits
Acct # 50020155-52050 – Fire Chief
- 3j.** Consider and Approve a RESOLUTION authorizing the Mayor to execute with Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) documents as may be required, to execute any amendments, decisions and revisions thereto and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Wallingford for use of the balance of funds in STEAP GRANT #120PM5200AT in order to undertake roadway improvements to Fairfield Boulevard – Program Planning
- 3k.** Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$70,707 *Capital & Non-Recurring* to Fairfield Blvd. Acct # 30102013-20079 from North Main St. Extension Acct # 30102013-20078– Program Planning
- 3l.** Acceptance of Small Cities Grant #SC1214801 and Appropriation of \$500,000 *Special Revenue Fund* to Revenue – State Grant Acct # 2494002-45100 and to Expenditures-Construction \$430,000 Acct # 24980050-54550
Expenditures-Program \$ 5,000 Acct # 24980050-58830
Expenditures- Administration \$65,000 Acct # 24980050-58590
-Program Planning
- 3m.** Approve minutes of Regular Town Council meeting of January 22, 2013

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA 3a -3m.

MADE BY: CERVONI
SECONDED BY: RASCATI
VOTE: 7-AYE
1-NAY (ECONOMOPOULOS);
1 ABSENT (FISHBEIN)

MOTION PASSED.

- 4.** Items Removed from the Consent Agenda - *None*

5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, asked about 3l. and 3k. on the Consent Agenda.

Geno Zandri, 9 Balsam Ridge Circle, asked about snow plowing during the very large snow storm, clearing snow and outside/private contractors to assist. Mayor Dickinson stated that Public Works and the National Guard worked with Fire Department ambulances during and after the storm to reach emergencies. Telephone systems, rescues, messy roads, clogged roads, overtime and future planning were also discussed. Mr. Zandri clarified the fact that his question were not complaints.

Ray Rys, 96 Pierson Drive, had a problem solved by the Police Department and thinks that the town did an excellent job.

6. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$100,000 to Outside Services
Acct # 923 from Purchased Power Acct # 555 – Electric Division

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE A TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$100,000 TO OUTSIDE SERVICES ACCT # 923 FROM PURCHASED
POWER ACCT # 555**

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

*In Attendance: George Adair, Director, Public Utilities
Robert Beaumont, Chairman, PUC*

Councilors Cervoni wanted to know if the PUC would be returning for a future transfer of funds for the same purpose.

Councilor Cervoni asked if he understands correctly from his review of the backup for this item that PUC is likely to return to the Council at the end of this year once Attorney O'Neill's requirements will be to handle the balance of the contract work.

Mr. Adair stated that that once they have chosen one of the two suppliers, and they begin to negotiate the contract, and they begin to work with that supplier the costs for this year would be amortized and expensed in the next fiscal year starting 1/01/14 so in that sense no. They do not anticipate anything in the fiscal year that we are in and will affect and be included in the budget for the coming fiscal year.

There were no other comments or questions.

**VOTE -Individually called out: LeTourneau Yes; Laffin Yes; Fishbein ABSENT;
Cervoni Yes; Rascati Yes; Sullivan Yes; Zandri Yes; Economopoulos Yes; Chairman
Parisi Yes
8-AYE; 1-ABSENT (FISHBEIN)
MOTION PASSED.**

7. Report out on the performance of the Ambulance Transport Division for the 2nd Quarter of
Fiscal Year 2012-2013 – Deputy Fire Chief Stephen Alsup

*In Attendance- Deputy Fire Chief Stephen Alsup
Fire Chief Peter Struble*

Chief Struble began stating that they are pleased with what they are seeing on the performance side. A very high percentage of transports on their units are paying off in terms of the service delivery. With regard to their concerns about the ability for their system to keep up them where they were calling for a lot of mutual aid, he said that the system has been severely impacted, especially in the last two to three months. He said that they are no longer competing for ambulances as they were a year ago. That is the biggest difference they have noted. On a very high level, they have more capacity in the system which is working at a very efficient level. There is a positive impact. During this past weekend, they only needed to get assistance twice from outside the town. He commented that this is very comforting.

Deputy Chief Alsup stated some statistics- from Jan 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012, the Fire Department had a total of 3,073 runs, and of those 73% were EMS runs, and out of those runs 1,843 were billable transports. Wallingford Fire was able to handle 84% of those billable transports, and they only had to reach out to their partners 288 times. Only two individually received service without a paramedic.

Financially, Deputy Chief Alsup said that their budget revenue number should be \$1,047,107, and their actual revenue, including the accounts receivable line, \$1,112, 675 or 6% over budget. On the Expense side, he reported their budgeted expense mark is \$1,041,282, and their actual expenses \$697,832. Retained earnings are \$414,843. He gave some details regarding insurance, billables. Bad debt is only \$3,000, and nothing has been written off. All accounts are still active. Realistically, he said they stand with an adjusted Retain Earnings at about \$89,000. He said they are delivering a premier service at a responsible cost.

Councilors inquired about shift staffing, billing sent to collections (zero), forecasting of bad debt numbers (about 30%), and a comparison of collectibles and bad debt against standards in the industry. There was a request for a copy of the report.

Conversation turned to residents clearing out the fire hydrants in their neighborhoods. Fire hydrants are maintained by the water department.

The Fire Department was commended for their service during and following the storm. Chief Struble informed the Council that from Friday night and Monday there were over 100 calls – two structure fires, three building collapses, two cardiac arrests, delivery of a baby transported in a pick up truck.

There were no further comments.

8. Consider and Approve a Bid Waiver for Integrated System Services (ISS) regarding upgrades to existing intercom systems in 11 Wallingford Public Schools in the Amount of \$226,676.56 – Board of Education

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE A BID WAIVER FOR INTEGRATED SYSTEM SERVICES (ISS) REGARDING UPGRADES TO EXISTING INTERCOM SYSTEMS IN ELEVEN (11) WALLINGFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$226,676.56.

MADE BY: CERVONI
SECONDED BY: RASCATI

In Attendance:

Dr. Salvatore Menzo, Superintendent of Schools
Randall Backus, Director of Information Technology for the School District

Dr. Menzo noted that there are two bid waivers (Items 8 and 9) and that they are in response to the tragedy in Newtown, Ct. in the attempt to upgrade their systems. Presently they have contracts with these two companies and that it would make little sense to go out to bid. They need to have continuation of services and equipment. Going out to bid would cause them to increase the cost; it would cost more to go out to bid.

It was agreed that Councilors could discuss Item 9 as well as Item 8 in this discussion.

Mr. Backus stated that this is an upgrade of systems they already have.

Councilors inquired about how the intercom system will work and how the upgrade will enhance it. Basically, it will allow classrooms to dial outside to the 911 system directly from the classroom during an emergency. It was explained that Sheehan High School already has this capability. They discussed the details of the telephone system changes. It was clarified for Councilor Sullivan, who is employed for AT & T, that that company is not involved. Councilor Zandri asked if the equipment was digital and the details of the connection, including backup power. The equipment is over ten years old and to have replaced it becomes much more complicated.

Dr Menzo said that he would pursue any reimbursement available as a result of legislation with regard to Newtown. Dr. Menzo added that the funds for the upgrade of the securities and for the intercom system would be Unencumbered Fund Balance but at this point it is coming from Contingency.

Mayor Dickinson added that bid waivers are undertaken after review by the Purchasing department, and this is a proprietary issue. Purchasing is comfortable with the bid waivers.

Geno Zandri, 9 Balsam Ridge Circle, asked about meetings on this subject for the public. Dr. Menzo said that all of their meetings are public and discuss sensitive issues in Executive Sessions. Dr. Menzo has met with parents, who are experts in various areas, and he said he is communicating with parents of the school system in various ways while being mindful that certain things cannot be divulged because of their sensitivity. He added that they have done a security review of every building and an evaluation and an analysis of the schools in conjunction with the Police and Fire Departments that addresses locks, doors and windows.

No further comments.

**VOTE -Individually called out: Economopoulos Yes; Zandri Yes; Sullivan Yes; Rascati Yes; Cervoni Yes; Fishbein ABSENT; Laffin Yes; LeTourneau Yes; Chairman Parisi Yes
8-AYE; 1-ABSENT (FISHBEIN)
MOTION PASSED.**

- 9.** Consider and Approve a Bid Waiver for Advanced Security Technologies, Inc. (ATS) for repair and maintenance of existing security systems at Wallingford Public Schools in the amount of \$175,575.62 – Board of Education

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE A BID WAIVER FOR ADVANCED SECURITY TECHNOLOGIES, INC (ATS) FOR REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING SECURITY SYSTEMS AT WALLINGFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$175,575.62
MADE BY: CERVONI
SECONDED BY: RASCATI**

*In Attendance: Dr. Salvatore Menzo, Superintendent of Schools
Randall Backus, Director of Information Technology for the School
District*

No Comments.

**VOTE: ALL AYE (8); 1-ABSENT (FISHBEIN)
MOTION PASSED.**

- 10.** Report regarding lack of sewer service in the American Legion Building raised by prospective purchaser and discussion concerning restoration of same – Corporation Counsel

*In Attendance: Joseph Gouveia, prospective buyer
Attorney Jerry Farrell, Jr. Counsel for Mr. Gouveia*

Corporation Counsel, Janis Small addressed the Council with regard to lack of sewer service at the American Legion building which has been brought up by the prospective purchaser and the restoration of this system. She said referred to the memo and information she provided the Council from Vincent Mascia regarding the sewer line to the American Legion Building. She said that she is before the Council as she is looking for some direction as to how the Council wishes to deal with this issue. It appears that the sewer line runs to Center Street through other properties and it appears that there is no recorded easement providing for that and that at some point if time it appears to have been severed. She said that during his due diligence for the purchase of the property, this situation was discovered by Mr. Gouveia.. She said that Mr. Mascia has laid out various costs and she would like to know from the Council how she is to proceed.

Attorney Farrell said that they are looking for input from the Council and then they could try to respond to it

Councilors asked if anyone has reached out to the church. Attorney Small said that Mr. Mascia performed a dye test but until she knows what the Council is thinking, she has not spoken to the church. No resolution has been discussed with them to her knowledge. Was this line damaged during the installation of the ramp? Attorney Small said that is the question.

Attorney Farrell said that when Mr. Gouveia went to Planning & Zoning, he reduced the number of units from three to two. With regard to parking, which was a concern for the Council, a creative solution was devised by Mr. Gouveia that only one space would be needed from the town as the basement of the building could become a garage. This would meet the requirements. He referred to light use of the property and also to being a good neighbor to Town Hall. Councilors asked about sewer line inspections.

Chairman Parisi asked if Corporation Council could have an open discussion with all of the parties to find some amiable solution that satisfies everyone. Attorney Small said she would need some definition as to what the Council is looking for. Councilor Letourneau believes that this could be a long drawn out process. He offered that the town could speak with the church and find out what happened. Mr. Gouveia has spoken with the church. He offered Option 1-go into negotiations with the church and try to find out what can be done.

Option 2-would be to bring the sewer line out through the parade grounds like 33-35 South Main Street and to connect to the South Main Street (*sewer lines*). He thinks 41 South Main Street (*former American Legion Building*) could be done the same way at the cost of approximately \$20,000 plus or minus. His suggestion is to reduce the price of the building and let Mr. Gouveia tie into the sewer line. He said it is plain and simple.

Attorney Farrell said that they have no firm figure from anyone. He said that Mr. Gouveia is biting off the problem. Councilor Letourneau asked if they would be satisfied with \$20,000. They don't want it pushed off to another meeting.

Mr. Gouveia said that it could cost much more than \$20,000, and there is also a problem with the water lines that would cost another \$6,000 to \$7,000. And he added that the cost of a meter would be about \$2,000. It could easily go over \$35,000 to \$40,000. He said at some point it might not be feasible, and he would need an option to allow him to be released if it were to cost him about \$75,000. He discussed the options that have been presented to him in even locating the line.

After much discussion including all of the variables involved no matter what the direction and the need for easements in any direction and on an adjustment to the purchase price, a motion was made.

MOTION WAS MADE TO CONSIDER A REDUCTION OFFER OF THE BUILDING BY THE AMOUNT OF 50% OFF THE SEWER LINE COSTS WITH THE MAXIMUM REDUCTION OF \$20,000.

MADE BY: ZANDRI

No Second

After discussion, Mr. LeTourneau asked if the motion could be changed to insert the word 'amend' for the word 'consider'.

No second. No action taken.

Motion was made to take \$20,000 off of the sale of the house and allow for \$60,000 back out for the buyer if sewer costs are in excess of that.

MADE BY: ZANDRI

No second.

More discussion but no action was taken.

Councilor Zandri redirected the Council to the first motion that he made as follows:

MOTION WAS MADE TO CONSIDER A REDUCTION OFFER OF THE BUILDING BY THE AMOUNT OF 50% OFF THE SEWER LINE COSTS WITH THE MAXIMUM REDUCTION OF \$20,000.

MADE BY: ZANDRI

SECONDED BY: LETOURNEAU

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

4-AYE; 4-NAY; 1 ABSENT (FISHBEIN)

THE MOTION FAILED

- 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

Withdrawn

- 12.** Executive Session pursuant to §1-225(f) and §1-200(6)(B) of the Connecticut General Statutes regarding strategy and negotiations with respect to the pending tax appeal matter of Saldamarco v. Town of Wallingford - Corporation Counsel

MOTION WAS MADE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO:

- 12. §1-225(f) and §1-200(6)(B) of the Connecticut General Statutes regarding strategy and negotiations with respect to the pending tax appeal matter of Saldamarco v. Town of Wallingford**

MADE BY: CERVONI
SECONDED BY: RASCATI
VOTE: ALL AYE (8); 1-ABSENT (FISHBEIN)
MOTION PASSED

MOTION WAS MADE TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION.

MADE BY: CERVONI
SECONDED BY: RASCATI

VOTE: ALL AYE (8); 1-ABSENT (FISHBEIN)
MOTION PASSED.

TIME OF EXECUTIVE SESSION: 8:40 p.m. – 8:50 p.m.

ATTENDANCE AT EXECUTIVE SESSION: 8 COUNCILORS.
COUNCILOR FISHBEIN ABSENT.

Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. AND Corporation Counsel Janis M. Small

- 13.** Discussion and Possible Action regarding the matter of Saldamarco v. Town of Wallingford tax appeal as discussed in Executive Session - Corporation Counsel

MOTION WAS MADE FOR THE TOWN ATTORNEY TO RESOLVE THE MATTER OF Saldamarco v. Town of Wallingford as discussed in Executive Session.
MADE BY: CERVONI
SECONDED BY: RASCATI

VOTE: ALL AYE (8); 1-ABSENT (FISHBEIN)
MOTION PASSED.

**COUNCILOR CERVONI MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.
MS. RASCATI SECONDED.**

VOTE: ALL AYE (8); 1-ABSENT (FISHBEIN)
MOTION PASSED.

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Weekes
Town Council Secretary
Prepared from notes by Mary Beth Trautman

Chairman Robert Parisi

Date

Assistant Town Clerk, Mary Beth Trautman

Date