

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

FEBRUARY 24, 2015

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was called to order at 6:33 P.M. The Opening Prayer was offered by Father Thomas Walsh Most Holy Trinity Church of Wallingford, and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were: Chairman Vincent Cervoni, Councilors Craig Fishbein, Tom Laffin, John Letourneau, Christine Mansfield, Robert F. Parisi, Larry Russo and Vincent F. Testa, Jr. Councilor John Sullivan was excused from the meeting due to work obligations. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Corporation Council Janis Small and Comptroller James Bowes were also at the meeting.

Chairman Cervoni reminded the public to shovel out fire hydrants near their homes to assist the Fire Department in fire emergencies.

3. Consent Agenda

- 3a.** Consider and Approve Tax Refunds totaling \$229,544.79 (#579-689)
Acct. #1001001-41020 – Tax Collector
- 3b.** Acceptance of Highway Safety Grant and Appropriation of \$4,819 to Revenue Highway Safety Acct # 1002001-45208 and to Police Overtime Acct # 10020050-51400
– Police Department
- 3c.** Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$2,000 to Card Key Access System
Acct # TBD from Regular Wages Acct # 10020050-51000– Police Department
- 3d.** Acceptance of STEM Academy Registration Fee and Appropriation of \$25 to Fees-Donations Acct # 2264002-47152 and to Expenditures Acct # 26640150-58830
– Youth and Social Services
- 3e.** Acceptance of STEM Academy Registration Fee and Appropriation of \$35 to Fees-Donations Acct # 2264002-47152 and to Expenditures Acct # 26640150-58830
– Youth and Social Services
- 3f.** Consider and Approve the Appointment of Dennis Murphy as a Regular Member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission for a five-year term that expires March 1, 2020 - Chairman Vincent Cervoni
- 3g.** Consider and Approve the Appointment of Michael Caruso as an Alternate Member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission for a three-year term that expires March 1, 2018 - Chairman Vincent Cervoni
- 3h.** Consider and Approve the Appointment of Frank Apuzzo as an Alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals to fulfill an unexpired term ending January 8, 2017, not 2018, as on January 29, 2015 Consent Agenda - Chairman Vincent Cervoni
- 3i.** Approve Minutes of Special Town Council Meeting of January 29, 2015 as corrected.
- 3j.** Approve Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting of February 10, 2015
- 3k.** Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$1,500 to Gas & Diesel
Acct # 2-10020100-53100 from Contingency Acct # 10019000-58820 - Animal Control

MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 3a. to 3k.

MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECOND: FISHBEIN
VOTE: 8-AYE; 1-ABSENT (Sullivan)
MOTION PASSED.

The Town Clerk swore in Michael Caruso as an Alternate Member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

WAIVE RULE V.

MOTION TO WAIVE RULE V. TO TAKE UP A TRANSFER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECOND: PARISI
VOTE: 8-AYE; 1-ABSENT (Sullivan)
MOTION PASSED.

MOTION TO APPROVE A TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$175,000 TO OVERTIME ACCT # 10030000-51400 FROM GENERAL PURPOSE-CONTINGENCY ACCT # 10019000-58820.

MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECOND: LETOURNEAU

In attendance: Henry McCully, Director, Public Works

Mr. McCully reported that there have been sixteen (16) storms this winter season. Mayor Dickinson offered that this transfer is for all overtime is not just for the season. Mr. McCully was complimented by several Councilors for the excellent snow cleanup his crews are doing. He was asked about pot-holes and frost heaves.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

FISHBEIN:	YES	RUSSO:	YES
LAFFIN:	YES	SULLIVAN:	ABSENT
LETOURNEAU:	YES	TESTA:	YES
MANSFIELD:	YES	CHAIRMAN CERVONI:	YES
PARISI:	YES		

8-AYE; 1-ABSENT (SULLIVAN)
MOTION PASSED.

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

5. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, asked about Covanta, their taxes and assessment for the current year and in the future. He also wanted to know the tax structure for LS Power and equity stakes.

Larry Morgenstein, Main Street, asked about the Affordable Care Act and its impact on Wallingford. He was also interested in phosphorus mandates by the State of Connecticut.

James Hine, 342 South Elm Street inquired of the Mayor about permits with respect to Pat Wall Field.

**6. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Choate Rosemary Hall's proposed acquisition of
Beaumont Avenue – Mayor**

**MOTION TO Authorize the Administration to commence negotiation with Choate
Rosemary Hall regarding its proposed acquisition of Beaumont Ave.**

MADE BY: LAFFIN

SECOND: PARISI

Due to a business relationship with Choate Rosemary Hall, Councilor Mansfield recused herself from the discussion and any subsequent votes. She stated that Choate are an active business client and that she has asked the Ethics Commission with regard to any future participation.

In attendance: Alex Curtis, Ph.D., Headmaster, Choate Rosemary Hall
Joan C. Molloy, Attorney, Loughlin Fitzgerald, 150 South Main Street,
representing Choate Rosemary Hall

Dr. Curtis and Attorney Molloy were welcomed to the meeting by Mayor Dickinson. Attorney Molloy handed out drawings of locations of the buildings under consideration with this project. She reviewed the project history recounting changes in the plans after meeting with neighbors in the area of the project. She reviewed this with the assistance of large boards of the same drawings the Council received (*also part of the record of the meeting*). Attorney Molloy noted that Choate determined that its student activity center did not meet the needs of they wanted to provide to the students. In addition, she said that the school does not have an auditorium that is large enough to allow the faculty, staff and students to meet as one body. There have been preliminary meetings with both the neighbors and with the Mayor that have resulted in the second design that seems to be satisfy all parties. She said that they have established that they will need approximately one hundred feet of Beaumont Avenue, not the whole road.

The Council discussed some of the options they would like to see entertained in any negotiation that occurs with the Mayor and the school. One option included the Boat House on Lake Street. It was determined that discussions with the Council cannot be considered in an Executive Session; however, Corporation Counsel, Janis Small said that she would review the statute again.

Rob Blanchard, Curtis Avenue, complimented Choate Rosemary Hall for the plan revisions but shared some concern about future development following this project.

Geno Zandri, 9 Balsam Ridge Circle, said he thinks the town doesn't need to road and is in favor of Choate Rosemary Hall having the road. Councilor Laffin read Attorney Martha Triplett's letter into the record. Attorney Triplett is a Beaumont Avenue neighbor.

There was some discussion of utilities and of a utility easement to Choate but specifics were not discussed since the utilities location, etc., are an unknown at the point in time. One Councilor mentioned leasing. Mayor Dickinson stated that Assessor Jackson's office would value the property.

Chairman Cervoni noted that Attorney Triplett was okay with the discussion as long as no decision was made tonight. Attorney Triplett's attorney who was in attendance, confirmed that to be correct.

ITEM 6. CON'T

ROLL CALL VOTE:

FISHBEIN:	YES	RUSSO:	YES
LAFFIN:	YES	SULLIVAN:	ABSENT
LETOURNEAU:	YES	TESTA:	YES
MANSFIELD:	RECUSE	CHAIRMAN CERVONI:	YES
PARISI:	YES		

**7-AYE; 1-RECUSE (MANSFIELD); 1-ABSENT (SULLIVAN)
MOTION PASSED.**

**7. Consider and Support Poet Laureate Program as presented by Board of Managers
– Wallingford Public Library**

**MOTION TO SUPPORT THE POET LAUREATE PROGRAM AS PRESENTED
BY THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE WALLINGFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY.**

**MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECOND: FISHBEIN**

*In attendance: Jane Fisher, Director, Wallingford Public Library
Al Mueller, Library's Poetry Group Leader*

Ms. Fisher noted that there is an active poetry group at the library. She explained the program.

Council members thanked the library for this opportunity to support the program.

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

**8. 7:00 P.M. Public Hearing to discuss Small Cities 2015 Community Development Block Grant
Program – Grants Administrator**

*In attendance: Don Roe, Program Planning
Michael Southam, representing the Wallingford Housing Authority*

Chairman Cervoni opened the Public Hearing at 8:06 P.M.

Mr. Roe addressed the Council and public stating some of the grant's criteria. He said that this is a competitive grant that the last time we applied for the Small Cities Grant was in 2012. He discussed the project and said that they were only able to apply for a certain amount of funding in 2012 and that now the project needs to be completed with new funding.

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, asked about the town's application to this particular grant and how many in the past. Mr. Roe recalled the Railroad Station. Mr. Gross would like to see an application made every year.

Chairman Cervoni closed the Public Hearing at 8:17 P.M.

9. Consider and Approve a Resolution that the Mayor is authorized to made application for a 2015 *Small Cities Community Development Grant* in an of amount up to \$800,000 – Grants Administrator

MOTION TO Approve a Resolution that the Mayor is authorized to made application for a 2015 *Small Cities Community Development Grant* in an of amount up to \$800,000

MADE BY: LAFFIN

SECOND: FISHBEIN

In attendance: Don Roe, Program Planning

Michael Southam, representing the Wallingford Housing Authority

Mr. Southam explained the project and said that it was estimated to cost approximately \$600,000.

Councilor Testa expressed a concern that the application would not meet criteria due to the town's lack of a *Plan of Conservation and Development* because our plan expires about the time the application is due.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

FISHBEIN: YES

LAFFIN: YES

LETOURNEAU: YES

MANSFIELD: YES

PARISI: YES

RUSSO: YES

SULLIVAN: ABSENT

TESTA: YES

CHAIRMAN CERVONI: YES

8-AYE; 1-ABSENT (SULLIVAN)

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

WITHDRAWN

**MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR FISHBEIN AND
SECONDED BY COUNCILOR PARISI.**

VOTE: 8-AYE; 1 ABSENT (SULLIVAN)

MOTION PASSED.

The Council adjourned the meeting at 8:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Weekes
Secretary to the Town Council
Meeting digitally recorded.

Chairman Vincent Cervoni

Date

Town Clerk, Barbara Thompson

Date