

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

Special Town Council Meeting

APRIL 16, 2013

FY 2013 – 2014 BUDGET WORKSHOP

The Special Budget Workshop Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was called to order at 6:31 P.M. There was a Moment of Silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilors in attendance were as follows: Vincent Cervoni, Nick Economopoulos, Craig Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, John Letourneau, Chairman Robert F. Parisi, Rosemary Rascati, and Jason Zandri. Councilor John Sullivan was not present with an excused absence. Also attending were Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and Comptroller James M. Bowes.

3. BUDGET WORKSHOP

Fire Department

In Attendance: Fire Chief Peter Struble

Deputy Fire Chief Steven Alsup

Deputy Fire Chief Richard Heidert

Chief Struble remarked on the quality of the delivery of services with the addition of an ambulance. They are capturing 86% of the calls as opposed to 52% last year. The Council asked about the ‘Other Pay’ line and ‘EAP’; Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds and what it covers (all 5 stations) and about the coverage costs of the 4th of July Fireworks display.

Ambulance/EMT Transport Fund

In Attendance: Fire Chief Peter Struble

Deputy Fire Chief Steven Alsup

Deputy Fire Chief Richard Heidert

Discussion with the Chief and Deputy Chief Alsup focused on the operation as it relates to Retained Earnings; staying within the guidelines of the Ordinance for the fund. As this unit completes this fiscal year and grows into next year, they will be seeing the approaching need to institute collections. Chief Struble said that the numbers are still somewhat fluid and that next year they will be more solid; they are not over-predicting revenue. The Chief thinks that in perhaps FY 15 or FY 16 they may need to develop a Cash Reserve Policy but that now it is too early for that.

Councilor Fishbein inquired about pension, insurance and life insurance costs.

Fire Marshal

In Attendance: Fire Marshal Carmen Rao

Capital expenditures were discussed along with the cost of the Fire Marshal’s department for the 4th of July Fireworks display.

Program Planning

In Attendance: Don Roe, Program Planner

Mr. Roe reported no change in staffing or in operations.

Government Access Television

*In Attendance: Scott Hanley, Government Television, Manager
Don Roe, Program Planner*

Mr. Roe stated that there were no significant changes in this budget. He said that on the capital side of the budget there are some replacements. Mr. Hanley said that a second wireless microphone will allow for interviews in program remote locations.

Youth & Social Services

*In Attendance: Craig Turner, Director, Youth and Social Services
Don Roe, Program Planner*

Mr. Turner stated that his budget reflects a restoration of funds once removed from his budget to be used for a 19-hour staff person. He reported the many agencies that Youth and Social Services work with. This requires him to be away from his office and this new staff person would cover his absence from the office. The discussion focused on the Community Grants Line 58201. In conjunction with the Board of Youth and Social Services review applications from a number of groups in town all vying for a small grant award. Grant awards can range from \$1,000 to \$2,000. The Mayor said that this grant line is setup so that the purpose for use of the funds can be identified. The group called Dry Dock was discussed in light of all they are doing in the community. They discussed application process and accountability.

Mr. Turner discussed other programs that are funded by private donations.

MOTION

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE AN ADDITION OF A \$10,000
EXPENDITURE TO THE COMMUNITY GRANT LINE 58201 OF THE
YOUTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BUDGET**

MADE BY: ECONOMOPOULOS

SECONDED: LETOURNEAU

ROLL CALL VOTE:

CERVONI – YES

ECONOMOPOULOS – YES

FISHBEIN – NO

LAFFIN – YES

LETOURNEAU – YES

AYE-7; NAY-1; ABSENT-1

MOTION PASSED.

RASCATI - YES

SULLIVAN - ABSENT

ZANDRI – YES

CHAIRMAN PARISI - YES

Economic Development Commission

*In Attendance: Joe Mirra, Chairman, Economic Development Commission
Don Roe, Coordinator, Staff*

*Economic Development Commissioners also attending and
sitting in the audience were: Jim Wolfe, Mark Gingras,
Tom Collette and Gary Fappiano*

Joe Mirra reported that the EDC is in the first year of a three-year plan created by their Marketing sub-committee. The EDC has joined REX a regional group that allow the EDC to set up a Wallingford space at trade shows to promote business opportunities in Wallingford. The Business Recruiter, Doreen DeSarro has recently attended a Bio-medical show in Boston. The cost of REX at approximately \$14,000 per annum is reflected in their budget for FY 2013-14. Mr. Mirra referred to the town's website for 'lots of marketing material.' Councilor Laffin hopes the government will sell the post office processing location to open up a business opportunity. Councilor Letourneau thanked the EDC Commissioners for all of their work and that he is impressed with their dedication and their commitment in the time they give. He said they are doing an amazing job.

MOTION TO APPROVE ADJOURNMENT

MADE BY: Cervoni
SECONDED BY: Rascati
VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION PASSED

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra R. Weekes
Town Council Secretary
Meeting digitally recorded

Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

Date

Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

Date

