

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

**May 4, 2016**

**RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES**

The Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council on Wednesday, May 4, 2016 was called to order at 6:36 P.M. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were: Chairman Vincent Cervoni, Craig Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, John LeTourneau, Joseph A. Marrone, III, Christopher K. Shortell, John J. Sullivan, Vincent F. Testa, Jr., and Jason Zandri. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., and Comptroller, James Bowes, were also present at the meeting.

3. Agenda

Discussion and possible action on amendments to the Town of Wallingford Budget for FY 2016-2017.

Councilor Laffin read into the record a memorandum from Chairman Vincent Cervoni regarding the July Fourth Fireworks Celebration. The memo states that there are sufficient funds pledged to proceed with fireworks. Councilor Laffin then went on to read the following pledges to fund this year's fireworks:

Live Nation Oakdale:	\$12,000
Ulbrich Specialty Metals:	\$ 5,000
Choate Rosemary Hall:	\$ 5,000
KBE Building Corp.	\$ 5,000
Component Engineers:	\$ 1,000
The Latimer Group:	\$ 1,000
Robert F. Parisi:	\$ 1,000

Live Nation Oakdale will be the sponsor.

**MOTION WAS MADE TO AMEND THE BUDGET FOR REDUCTION OF \$1,016,253 PER THE MEMORANDUM FROM MAYOR DICKINSON DATED MAY 2, 2016.**

MADE BY: LAFFIN  
SECONDED BY: SHORTELL

Councilor Laffin wanted to add that in the Comptroller's revaluation reduction of \$100,000 it is noted that the money would need to be replaced in the 2017-2018 fiscal year and also that the dump trucks and chipper from Public Works are noted to use CRRA funding instead of the Excavator.

Councilor Testa asked Mr. Bowes if the CRRA distribution outline reflects changes that have been proposed. Mr. Bowes stated that the difference is 40,000 less than the original appropriation request.

Councilor Testa asked Mayor Dickinson if he contemplated getting the \$516,000 out of reserves which would have reduced the budget and Mayor Dickinson responded that he is reluctant to be using our reserves now when we are going to have a challenge to maintain essential services in the future. He states that it is all based upon projection of income on a state level. Councilor Testa then asked Mayor Dickinson if he ever envisions a time when he would use that money and apply it to capital expenses. Mayor Dickinson responded philosophically that could happen.

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 5-9-16 Wallingford Town Hall, 45 South Main Street  
AT 2:00 AND RECEIVED BY  
Robert Testa TOWN CLERK

Councilor Zandri stated that we had an operating surplus last year. He asked how a mild winter and lower fuel costs affect the current budget and asked if we received any figures from departments. He stated that there were no Public Works transfers for overtime or materials. He also pointed out that the current budget will actually translate into how much of a surplus we have this year and asked Mayor Dickinson if he had any idea what that will look like. Mayor Dickinson responded that we don't know what that will look like and explained that a big part of that is because of uncertainty with regard to other revenues. Councilor Zandri stated that people have paid into these taxes and they are sitting in a savings account. He indicated that he is not supportive of cutting the studio upgrade, Consult Engineer and Board of Education and notes that all items are necessary at some level.

Councilor LeTourneau asked Mayor Dickinson if he could give a little more detail about money for this fiscal year that is not coming and asked if that was bond money and what that money is to be used for. Mayor responded that is money that is in general support of our budget. We had a manufacturing grant from the State.

Councilor Sullivan asked Dr. Menzo what he plans on cutting for \$500,000. Dr. Menzo replied that he is not prepared to share exact cuts right now and that it is more than a \$500,000 cut. He stated that the actual cut is over \$800,000 because of reduction in state revenue for special education. He met with principals and labor unions. He explained that they are trying to keep reductions as far away from students as possible. He also put together surveys with union leaders. He then went on to say that they are looking at any unfilled positions and seeing if they need to be filled again.

Councilor Sullivan asked if the state comes through with money, where will that money be appropriated. Mayor Dickinson responded that it depends upon what it is and how it is functioning in our budget and also stated that he would not look to immediately distribute that money.

Councilor Fishbein inquired about the reserves fund amount. Mr. Bowes then breaks down the approximately \$27,000,000 fund and explains that approximately \$15,000,000 is recommended to keep the credit rating. Councilor Fishbein stated that we have \$3,000,000 in the CRRRA fund that could cover cuts and explains there are so many other ways to do this. Mayor Dickinson responds that the issue is cutting back on spending and notes that we cannot afford everything that is necessary. He explains that we need to spend less along with a process of finding revenue. Councilor Fishbein states that he does not disagree. Councilor Fishbein then asked Mayor Dickinson what the projected surplus is for this year. Mayor Dickinson responded that we don't have one and that his biggest worry is that the budget will be put together at the state level.

Councilor Shortell asked Dr. Menzo how many retirements he finds out about this time of year and if that was something that can be looked into. Dr. Menzo responded that Cindy Lavallette sent out an email last week suggesting that if anyone is considering retirement that they announce it and it would be kept confidential. Dr. Menzo stated that one person came forward and that is one they will be calculating off that number. Councilor Shortell asked if there are any layoffs. Dr. Menzo responded that it depends on certification but typically it is first out, last in. He stated that reductions made to the Board of Education will be staff, not purchased items because there are no purchased items left in their budget to reduce. Councilor Shortell inquired about coaching and if that could be cut. Dr. Menzo responded that they do have four coaches but will not be expanding. Councilor Shortell asked what the current Board of Education surplus is and Dr. Menzo replied that he will have updated numbers on the 16<sup>th</sup> and that it is close to \$1,000,000.

Councilor Zandri follows up with Mr. Bowes regarding the credit rating agency and keeping 10% of total budget to keep a strong rating and asked if that is open to interpretation. Mr. Bowes responded that they look into many other factors that are non-financial. Councilor Zandri stated that we have multiple places where we have this money. Mayor Dickinson stated that if we use reserves you have to replace them on a regular basis.

Councilor Letourneau stated that this is the Mayor's budget, not the Council's budget and after seeing the list of expenditures to be reduced, he wonders what else is in the budget that could possibly come out. Mayor

Dickinson stated that we are facing extreme conditions that we did not face in the beginning of the budget and explains that the budget is weak.

Councilor Shortell made the comment that as councilors, it would be nice to have a macro view of all expenses.

#### 4. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Gina Morgenstein, South Main Street, stated that for the past 30 years they've been doing the budget the same way and raising taxes.

Bob Gross, Long Hill Road, asked what is happening with the firehouse and Mr. Bowes responded that we are probably bonding that and possibly using CRRA monies to pay bonds. He then asked how much the firehouse was and Mr. Bowes responded approximately \$4.6 million. He confirmed with Mr. Bowes that CRRA money is not marked and Mr. Bowes responded that was correct. Mr. Gross stated that he hopes that the council will look at the solar initiative that could possibly be happening.

Don Kennedy, Bull Avenue, suggests renting or leasing equipment instead of buying. He congratulates Board of Education for being proactive.

Steve Madancy, 65 Farm Hill Road, made a comment that its great to be conservative but we have to think about how conservative we're being. He then asks how, as a taxpayer in this town, do you stay on top of what's happening. He also made a comment that he hopes this is not a premature reaction to what the government's proposed budget would be.

Paul Ciardullo, 2 Bayberry Drive, reinforced comments on health care opt-out as a means of savings. He then spoke about pension issues and the transition to a 401K Plan. He suggested having a public conversation as to the pros and cons of it. He believes this year we will end up with a very large surplus. He also stated that the town has plenty of funds to absorb any tax increase.

Mayor Dickinson stated that paying the insurance waiver is a new expenditure that is not a health expenditure, it is a waiver expenditure.

Councilor Testa noted that these comments are totally irrelevant to the Motion and that we need to stay within proper procedure.

Bob Gross, Long Hill Road, asks Mayor Dickinson what his position is on the insurance waiver. Mayor Dickinson responded that there is an effort to reduce that expenditure.

Councilor Fishbein spoke about still not having 401K. He then commented that with regard to the budget book he would rather have more information than less. He then went on to state that the Charter requires the Mayor to submit the budget before April 1st.

Mayor Dickinson stated that he is bringing changes to our attention. He explained that he is here to recommend and to guide the community. He states that a budget will ultimately result in success or failure.

Councilor Marrone stated that it is hard to make judgment on the appropriate use of money or not. He noted that there is not enough information provided and that we need more macro data.

Councilor Laffin spoke about \$50,000 for EDC. He states that is not a recurring expense. He confirmed that he supports keeping tasers for security purposes.

Serge Mihaly, Southwind Road, stated that he agrees with the Mayor and supports being conservative.

Larry Morgenstein, South Main Street, supports providing relief for this year. He also states that our town is well positioned.

Chris DiGenova, Birch Drive, indicated that he does not support any changes.

Councilor Zandri explains that taxes are going to rise when this budget goes through and asks councilors to make a decision on how much they want to deliver this year to taxpayers and explains that next year is a different story.

Councilor Marrone states that he is not in support of this Motion.

**MOTION WAS MADE TO AMEND THE PREVIOUS MOTION TO VOTE ON EACH LINE ITEM IN MAYOR DICKINSON'S MEMORANDUM.**

**MADE BY: LAFFIN  
SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:  
FISHBEIN: YES  
LAFFIN: YES  
LETOURNEAU: YES  
MARRONE: NO**

**SHORTELL: YES  
SULLIVAN: NO  
TESTA: YES  
ZANDRI: YES  
CERVONI: NO**

**MOTION: PASSED**

<u>Department</u>	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Reduction Amount</u>
Gov't Access TV	Studio Upgrade (Yr. 2 of 2)	\$15,000.00

**ROLL CALL VOTE:  
FISHBEIN: YES  
LAFFIN: YES  
LETOURNEAU: NO  
MARRONE: NO**

**SHORTELL: NO  
SULLIVAN: NO  
TESTA: NO  
ZANDRI: NO  
CERVONI: YES**

**MOTION: FAILED**

<u>Department</u>	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Reduction Amount</u>
Comptroller	Revaluation	\$100,000

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**FISHBEIN: NO  
LAFFIN: YES  
LETOURNEAU: NO  
MARRONE: NO**

**SHORTELL: YES  
SULLIVAN: NO  
TESTA: NO  
ZANDRI: NO  
CERVONI: YES**

**MOTION: FAILED**

<u>Department</u>	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Reduction Amount</u>
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Police	Specialty Weapons	\$27,500
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**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**FISHBEIN: NO  
LAFFIN: NO  
LETOURNEAU: NO  
MARRONE: NO**

**SHORTELL: YES  
SULLIVAN: NO  
TESTA: NO  
ZANDRI: NO  
CERVONI: YES**

**MOTION: FAILED**

<u>Department</u>	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Reduction Amount</u>
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Police	Office Furniture	\$4,291
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**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**FISHBEIN: NO  
LAFFIN: YES  
LETOURNEAU: NO  
MARRONE: YES**

**SHORTELL: YES  
SULLIVAN: NO  
TESTA: NO  
ZANDRI: NO  
CERVONI: YES**

**MOTION: FAILED**

<u>Department</u>	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Reduction Amount</u>
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Fire	Exercise Equip.	\$25,000
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**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**FISHBEIN: NO  
LAFFIN: YES  
LETOURNEAU: NO  
MARRONE: YES**

**SHORTELL: YES  
SULLIVAN: NO  
TESTA: NO  
ZANDRI: NO  
CERVONI: YES**

**MOTION: FAILED**

<u>Department</u>	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Reduction Amount</u>
Recreation	Community Pool Shade Struct's	\$4,870

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**FISHBEIN: NO**

**LAFFIN: YES**

**LETOURNEAU: NO**

**MARRONE: YES**

**SHORTELL: YES**

**SULLIVAN: NO**

**TESTA: NO**

**ZANDRI: NO**

**CERVONI: YES**

**MOTION: FAILED**

<u>Department</u>	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Reduction Amount</u>
Recreation	Lifeguard Chair	\$4,965

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**FISHBEIN: NO**

**LAFFIN: YES**

**LETOURNEAU: NO**

**MARRONE: YES**

**SHORTELL: YES**

**SULLIVAN: NO**

**TESTA: NO**

**ZANDRI: NO**

**CERVONI: YES**

**MOTION: FAILED**

<u>Department</u>	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Reduction Amount</u>
Recreation	Flooring (Rooms 9 & 10)	\$9,775

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**FISHBEIN: YES**

**LAFFIN: YES**

**LETOURNEAU: NO**

**MARRONE: NO**

**SHORTELL: YES**

**SULLIVAN: NO**

**TESTA: NO**

**ZANDRI: NO**

**CERVONI: YES**

**MOTION: FAILED**

<u>Department</u>	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Reduction Amount</u>
Recreation	Folding Tables	\$6,852

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**FISHBEIN: NO**

**LAFFIN: YES**

**LETOURNEAU: NO**

**MARRONE: YES**

**SHORTELL: YES**

**SULLIVAN: NO**

**TESTA: NO**

**ZANDRI: NO**

**CERVONI: YES**

**MOTION: FAILED**

<u>Department</u>	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Reduction Amount</u>
Public Works	Dump Trucks	\$180,000

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**FISHBEIN: NO**

**LAFFIN: YES**

**LETOURNEAU: NO**

**MARRONE: YES**

**SHORTELL: YES**

**SULLIVAN: NO**

**TESTA: NO**

**ZANDRI: NO**

**CERVONI: YES**

**MOTION: FAILED**

<u>Department</u>	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Reduction Amount</u>
Public Works	Chipper	\$60,000

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**FISHBEIN: NO**

**LAFFIN: YES**

**LETOURNEAU: NO**

**MARRONE: YES**

**SHORTELL: YES**

**SULLIVAN: NO**

**TESTA: NO**

**ZANDRI: NO**

**CERVONI: YES**

**MOTION: FAILED**

<u>Department</u>	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Reduction Amount</u>
P&Z	Shared Hard Drive	\$8,000

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**FISHBEIN: NO**

**LAFFIN: YES**

**LETOURNEAU: NO**

**MARRONE: YES**

**SHORTELL: YES**

**SULLIVAN: NO**

**TESTA: NO**

**ZANDRI: NO**

**CERVONI: YES**

**MOTION: FAILED**

<u>Department</u>	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Reduction Amount</u>
Econ. Devel. Comm.	Pur.Services Consult-Engineer	\$50,000

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**FISHBEIN: YES**

**LAFFIN: YES**

**LETOURNEAU: NO**

**MARRONE: NO**

**SHORTELL: YES**

**SULLIVAN: NO**

**TESTA: NO**

**ZANDRI: NO**

**CERVONI: YES**

**MOTION: FAILED**

<u>Department</u>	<u>Reduction Amount</u>
Transfer to Ambulance/ EMS Enterprise Fund	\$20,000

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**FISHBEIN: YES**

**LAFFIN: YES**

**LETOURNEAU: NO**

**MARRONE: YES**

**SHORTELL: YES**

**SULLIVAN: NO**

**TESTA: NO**

**ZANDRI: NO**

**CERVONI: YES**

**MOTION: PASSED**



<u>Department</u>	<u>Reduction Amount</u>
Board of Education	\$500,000

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**FISHBEIN: NO**

**LAFFIN: YES**

**LETOURNEAU: NO**

**SHORTELL: YES**

**SULLIVAN: NO**

**TESTA: NO**

**MARRONE: YES**

**ZANDRI: NO**

**CERVONI: YES**

**MOTION: FAILED**

**MOTION WAS MADE TO REDUCE GRANT REVENUE BY \$973,130, REDUCE CURRENT TAX REVENUE BY \$1,033,870 AND INCREASE AUDITED FUND BY \$2,007,000.**

**MADE BY: ZANDRI**

**SECONDED: SULLIVAN**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**FISHBEIN: YES**

**LAFFIN: NO**

**LETOURNEAU: YES**

**MARRONE: NO**

**SHORTELL: NO**

**SULLIVAN: YES**

**TESTA: YES**

**ZANDRI: YES**

**CERVONI: NO**

**MOTION: PASSED**

**MOTION WAS MADE TO PUT \$211,082 IN CAP NON RECURRING BUDGET EARMARKED FOR PATROL CARS AND TASERS THAT ARE BEING REMOVED FROM POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET.**

**MADE BY: FISHBEIN**

**SECONDED BY: SULLIVAN**

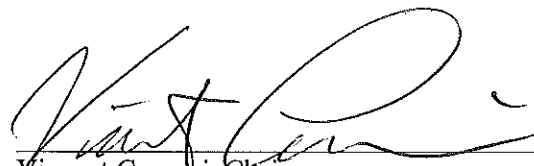
*MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN*

**MOTION TO ADJOURN  
MADE BY: LAFFIN  
SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN  
VOTE: ALL-AYE  
MOTION PASSED**

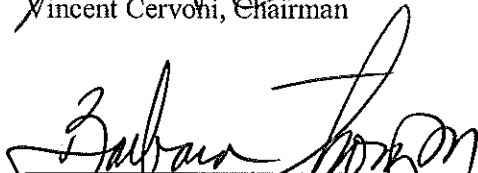
**The Council adjourned the meeting at 10:00 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Moss  
Council Staff  
Meeting digitally recorded

  
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Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

24 May 2016  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

5-24-16  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date