

**TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT**

***Special Town Council Meeting***

**APRIL 11, 2011**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**FY 2011 - 2012 BUDGET**

**RECORD OF VOTES AND MINUTES**

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ATTENDANCE: Councilors Vincent Cervoni, Nick Economopoulos, Jerry Farrell, Jr., Craig C. Fishbein, John LeTourneau, Chairman Robert F. Parisi, Rosemary Rascati, John J. Sullivan and Vincent F. Testa, Jr. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and Comptroller James Bowes were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 P.M.

**3. Public Hearing for the Budget FY 2011-2012**

Mayor Dickinson began with comments that summarized his budget letter addressed to the citizens of Wallingford. He stated that the total 2011-2012 proposed budget is \$141,448,848. He addressed the education budget stating that there is a .42% increase over that last fiscal year, included in the \$86,793,733 education budget. He said that the General Government portion of the budget, which includes some education costs, totals \$54,655,115, a .58% reduction over the 2011 year. He discussed the proposed distribution of the CRRA funds. He reported that the budget will require a tax rate of 25.22 mills, an increase of 4.7%. He addressed the Utilities budgets and reported changes in rates and usage of Electric, Water and Sewer in the Town of Wallingford. He spoke about being cognizant of the difficult economy as the budget was being developed.  
*(The Mayor's letter is part of the record of this meeting.)*

The following departments were called forward for questions from the public:

**Board of Education.**

*In Attendance:*

*Dr. Salvatore Menzo, Superintendent of School;*  
*Ellen Cohn, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum;*  
*Jan Guarino, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel;*  
*Linda Winters, Business Manager;*  
*Roxanne McKay, Vice-Chairperson, Board of Education*

Dr. Menzo discussed the strategic plan; technology and the speed of its advances; staff reductions; numbers of teachers and those that are in non-classroom situations;

**Cafeteria**

*In Attendance:*

*Sharlene Wong, Food Service Director*

Ms. Wong reported that the lunch program uses no tax dollars, that it is not in the Board of Education budget, that it is not subsidized but that it is run like a business. She said that because of decreasing revenues that prices of lunches and milk will be increasing.

**Capital Appropriations Reserve**

*In Attendance:*

*James Bowes, Comptroller*

Comments about budget publication and the suggestion of putting it online. Lapsing items - question with regard to the \$50,000 earmarked for demolition of the American Legion Building.

**Debt Services**

*In Attendance:*

*James Bowes, Comptroller*

Bond refunding and new debt financing.

**Utilities - Electric Division**

*In Attendance:*

*George Adair, Director, Public Utilities,*

*Richard Hendershot, General Manager*

*Thomas Sullivan, Business Manager*

Question with regard as to whether Wallingford pays taxes to other town for Electric Division property in those towns – only to North Branford.

**Finance Department - Assessor**

*In Attendance:*

*James Bowes, Comptroller*

Open space in new developments with regard as to whether this space is assessed and taxed and who pays it.

**Fire Department**

*In Attendance:*

*Fire Chief Peter Struble*

Paramedic staffing levels.

**Mayor**

*In Attendance:*

*Mayor*

Mayor's salary in comparison to other towns and that last time it was increased.

**Pension Fund-**

*In Attendance:*

*James Bowes, Comptroller*

Cost of the financial advisor, the rate of return, the level of contribution and discussion with regard to other plans.

### **Police Department**

*In Attendance:*

*Douglas Dortenzio, Police Chief*

*Deputy Chief Thomas Curran*

*Beth Dighello, Executive Secretary*

*Lt. William Wright, Administrative Services*

Discussion regarding Wallingford's population with respect to the number of officers, how this ratio compares to other towns, the shrinkage of the Police Department, crime trends in Wallingford, the loss of staff and refunding for lost positions.

### **Program Planning**

*In Attendance:*

*Don Roe, Program Planner and Grants Administrator*

Discussion regarding *SMALL CITIES BLOCK GRANTS* and applications for those funds, and regarding *PILOT PROGRAMS*.

### **Utilities - Water-Sewer Divisions**

*In Attendance:*

*George Adair, Public Utilities Director;*

*Roger Dann, General Manager*

*William Phelan, Business Manager*

Discussion of taxes paid to other town for Water-Sewer Divisions property in other towns, three towns to whom taxes are paid that total \$4,500; waste-water discharge with regard to phosphorus resulting in need for a substantial project to upgrade the treatment facility, estimated to cost multi-millions of dollars. The rumor is approximately \$10 million.

### **Public Works Department**

*In Attendance:*

*Henry McCully, Director*

Discussion of plow trucks in the budget and in CRRRA Reserves account.

### **Recreation, Parks and**

*In Attendance:*

*John Gawlak, Director*

Discussion with regard to Choate skating program with the Town and with regard to other contributions that the Choate-Rosemary Hall School makes to the Town.

### **Six-Year Capital**

*In Attendance:*

*James Bowes, Comptroller*

Talk with regard to the Sidewalk Replacement Program and to the \$500,000 planned for downtown parking involving several businesses and property owners.

**Social Services Contributions** – *Mayor  
Cemetery Association – Jerry Farrell, Jr.*

Status of stone restoration with regard to reduced budget.

*Wallingford Center Inc. (WCI)*

*Elizabeth Landow, Executive Director*

*Steven Lazarus, Board President*

*Joan Parisi, Treasurer*

Discussion of salary, who gets paid and how; fund raising; difference from Public Celebrations committee; Celebrate Wallingford and the façade program.

*Spanish Community of Wallingford (SCOW)*

*In Attendance:*

*Maria Harlow, Executive Director*

*Stephen Knight, Treasurer*

Town provides facility, building costs and financial assistance with regard to grant applications and the flow of those grants from the CT Department of Social Services to the Town of Wallingford, and hence to SCOW

*Emergency Shelter – Nick Economopoulos*

Suggestion for grant applications to assist in funding the Emergency Shelter.

**Youth & Social Services Bureau**

*Don Roe, Program Planning*

*Craig Turner, Director*

In response to a question, the Board for Youth does not affect the budget of the Youth and Social Services Department

**MOTION TO APPROVE ADJOURNMENT**

**MADE BY: Farrell**

**SECONDED BY: Fishbein**

**VOTE:**

**Cervoni -yes Economopoulos -absent**

**Farrell-yes**

**Fishbein-yes LeTourneau-yes**

**Rascati-yes Sullivan-yes**

**Testa-yes**

**Chairman Parisi- yes**

**Eight (8) Aye; Absent (1)**

**MOTION PASSED**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:16 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra R. Weekes  
Town Council Secretary

Meeting digitally recorded

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Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

Date

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Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

Date