

# TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

## *Special Town Council Meeting*

APRIL 25, 2011

### FY 2011 – 2012 BUDGET WORKSHOP

#### 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 and Rosemary Rascati. Councilors John J. Sullivan and Vincent F. Testa, Jr. arrived at 7:25 P.M. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and Comptroller James Bowes were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01P.M. There was a Moment of Silence and the Pledge to the Flag was said.

### **3. BUDGET WORKSHOP**

**Public Utilities Commission** – *In attendance: Robert Beaumont, Chairman; David Gessert, Vice-Chairman and Richard Nunn, Secretary*

Mr. Beaumont stated that the Public Utilities that the budget speaks for itself and is a little lower than the previous year. There were no questions for the Commission.

Mr. Adair began with a general statement that the approach to the Public Utilities budgets has been conservative keeping in mind the reliability and safety of their services. He reported the reserve accounts are very important for the major capital and component replacement to maintain their infrastructure. He said that they have a combined meter reading function in all of the three divisions, and as a result of that initiative, they have been able to reduce by one the number of funded positions.

**Water-Sewer Divisions** – *In attendance: George Adair, Public Utilities Director, Roger Dann, General Manager, William Phelan, Business Office Manager*

Areas of the budget that were discussed included the shift in accounts that are related to the change in the combined meter reading function and that there are three accounts that are being funded for the first time Lines 663, 664, and 676. In the Water-Sewer budgets the costs associated with Electric Division expenses are now shifted into the 923 account (Outside Services). Mr. Dann reported that as they were reviewing the budget for tonight's session, they discovered an error in those meter accounts. He said that the labor dollars were reflected but that they inadvertently did not reflect the associated benefit dollars. He said that this does not result in any net change in the overall budget. Changes for the corrections are:

663 account- \$12,654 higher for a new total of \$40,593;  
664 account- \$2,558 higher for a new total \$8,205;  
676 account- \$10,617 higher for a new total of \$34,060, and correspondingly;  
926 account would be reduced by \$25,829 for a new account total of \$299,310

Also discussed were MacKenzie Reservoir; depreciation; accounting system; components of cash reserve calculation; predictions made; self-insurance; avoiding user cost increase; reserves allow avoidance of bonding; reserves are set aside for specific purposes and won't come from rates all in one year and also avoids higher costs for projects; water increase 3%; sewer increase 8%; debt service; how to correct numbers in budget book; Town Council has the ability at budget time to make motions; collections and delinquent accounts; Account 631-driveway at pump station; Account 673-cleaning and lining; Account 643-protective suits, chairs and office expenses; what is customary in showing losses; operating and capital; structured reserves building for purposes; no debt service requirements; connections to services in certain neighborhoods and new developments; Local 16 in early phase of negotiation, represents 28 people; Local 17 in arbitration, represents town-wide 15 people; an award will cause a line-by-line adjustment, a look at open positions and where in the year they are; look at maintaining staff while living within the budget; filling Maintainer II about 50/50 with Maintainer I applications and those from non-town employees; overtime and staffing for snow removal, main breaks, etc.

**Electric Division** – *In attendance: George Adair, Public Utilities Director, Richard Hendershot, General Manager, Thomas Sullivan, Business Office Manager*

Mr. Adair stated that there is no increase in funded positions and that their budget will maintain service reliability for the town. The following discussions included overtime -on-call linemen to respond to emergencies; substation electricians for emergencies; office staff for collection; office staff for new software training, testing and implementing; coordinated billing; problem with coordinated billing considering owners and renters; farming out collection; working with Purchasing on RFP; collection work with Law Department; IBEW increase of \$101K; bucket truck costs Account 392; Account 391 technology and software; open position for Chief Stock Person and salary level; Account 909-Conservation line- Customer Relations position salary; collection rate from customer; appliance rebates; lighting retrofits; energy audits; and Account 923-outside services for use by Electric Division of town departments such as Law, Personnel and Finance Departments and outside legal counsel

**Program Planning** – *In attendance: Don Roe, Program Planner and Grants Administrator*

The following were discussed: Adopt-A-Road Program , Recycling Committee Work Study Program for high school student; Composting Program; “End Homelessness in Ten Years”; Emergency Shelter; Internet Consultant; web-site housekeeping performed mainly by Program Planning staff; staff person hour reduction from 25 to 19.5 hours.; hours of operation of composting center; and a shift in programs- Masters Manna and Dry Dock.

*Government Television – In attendance: Don Roe, Program Planning and Scott Hanley, Manager of Government Television*

*No questions or comments by the council of Government Television.*

**Youth & Social Services** – *In attendance: Don Roe, Program Planning and  
Craig Turner, Director*

Mr. Turner addressed informational questions with regard to mental health services include individual counseling, teens, groups, social work, substance abuse, family dynamics, suicide, not performing in school. He reported the savings being realized with the new two-year contract the Town's Health Department and Youth and Social Services hold with Mid-State Hospital for this type of service. Also discussion with regard to uninsurable individuals.

At 8:25 P.M. Mr. Farrell made a motion to Adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Rascati seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Weekes  
Town Council Secretary  
Meeting digitally recorded

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Chairman Robert F. Parisi

Date

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Town Clerk Barbara Thompson

Date