

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

July 19, 2010

The following is a record of the Minutes of the Special Town Council Meeting held in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall on Monday, July 19, 2010. The Meeting was Called to Order at 6:31 P.M. Responding present to the Roll Call given by Town Clerk Barbara Thompson were Councilors Vincent Cervoni, Jerry Farrell, Jr., Craig C. Fishbein, Robert F. Parisi, Rosemary Rascati, John J. Sullivan and Vincent F. Testa, Jr. Councilors Nick Economopoulos and John LeTourneau were absent from the meeting. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. was also present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said and the Roll Call taken.

2. Consider and Approve a Bid Waiver Request in the Amount of up to \$7,500 for consultant/compliance services for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Grant from the Department of Energy efficient lighting retrofit projects – Grants Administrator, Don Roe

Mr. Farrell made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rascati, to Approve a Bid Waiver Request in the Amount of up to \$7,500 for consultant/compliance services for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Grant from the Department of Energy efficient lighting retrofit projects as requested by the Grants Administrator, Don Roe.

In attendance: Don Roe, Grants Administrator

Mr. Roe thanked the Council for convening the meeting and explained that as a planner he would like to present items to the Council at a regularly scheduled meeting. He referred to his letter to the Mayor, which explained that well over one year ago, the town applied to the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) for an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant in the amount of \$197,500. The funds are used for Board of Education lighting upgrades at schools. He commented that when the town submitted the application, it included Board of Education 2009 projects that were ready to go. He said that even though we were ready, the DOE was not ready, and that, in fact, it took them months to determine what could be done, or not done, and under what circumstances. The Board of Education moved ahead with its 2009 projects without this funding, and then this past year went out to bid for additional projects.

Mr. Roe stated that the subject tonight is moving ahead with the projects this summer. He noted that this might not be his last appearance before the town Council with regard to the administration of this DOE grant. He said that the reason is that the projects that are the subject of the 2009 bid will end up leaving a balance of approximately \$36,000 of the \$197,500. He said that there has not been opportunity yet to pursue with the Board of Education, or others, how those funds might be applied and utilized. He said that it is also unknown exactly when the funds expire, or when we will no longer have use of them. He said that from the get-go there was a prescribed period and that period has been somewhat adjusted but whether it will be adjusted to allow for additional work in the summer in the

schools is yet to be determined. The project will address re-lamping in five schools. He said that the consultant's responsibilities are to meet with a variety of additional compliance requirements that come with ARRA. He said that this expense will be covered under the grant.

Councilor Sullivan asked about the grant ending date and confirmed with Mr. Roe that we do not know when this grant ends. Mr. Roe said that the original grant term end date would have been December 31, 2010.

If the Council grants the waiver, Councilor Sullivan asked that how long will it take L Wagner and Associates to package the information. Mr. Roe said that L. Wagner is already prepared to move forward and he does not expect any delay in the schedule by them. Councilor Sullivan asked about grant expiration in relation to work performed. Mr. Roe said that the actual expectation is that the projects will be completed within sixty days; however, knowing how projects occur, that they are looking at a ninety day period. He added that the town has worked with L. Wagner and Associates in the past. He said that the town bid consultant services specifically for small cities work. He worked with the Purchasing Agent on this case, and they agreed that they needed to come before the Council for the bid waiver to have L. Wagner and Associates do this work. Mayor Dickinson said that they are doing the work on the small cities program for the Housing Authority.

Councilor Sullivan asked about the \$7,500 and if it is part of the \$197,500. Mr. Roe said that they have direction from DOE that it is part of those funds. Councilor Sullivan asked with that money taken out of the \$197,500 grant if that is included in the balance of \$36,000. Mr. Roe said that considering this \$7,500 that the balance will be \$28,500.

Councilor Sullivan asked specifically about the project and what facilities are involved. Mr. Roe responded with that the schools and facilities that are involved with the re-lamping – Moran Middle School, Moses Y Beach, Parker Farms, Pond Hill, Stevens and two garage facilities.

Chairman Parisi asked for this type of information be provided to the Council to be part of the Council's agenda packet in the future.

Mr. Cervoni asked Mr. Roe to talk about the Davis Bacon wage requirements and what they are for those who don't know. Mr. Roe said that there is a federal Davis Bacon and that the state also has a mini-Davis Bacon. It is the prevailing wage standards for particular categories of jobs. Mayor Dickinson added that what L. Wagner would have to do is to contact the contractors and the sub-contractors and do a monitoring of Davis Bacon and some other items of that kind in order to reflect then that the rules are being met. Mr. Roe concurred. Mayor Dickinson said that there is some real work involved because they must investigate. Mr. Roe said that they interview employees and that it is complicated since employees may not have traditional work hours.

Mr. Fishbein asked if L. Wagner is doing consulting services. Mr. Roe said that that is correct. Mr. Fishbein asked if what is needed at the various locations isn't known at this point. Mr. Roe said no. He added that they will be responsible for reviewing the weekly wage certifications that need to be submitted by prime contractors and sub-contractors. Mr. Fishbein said that he looked at the Davis Bacon law, both federal and state, and that it seems pretty clear to him what electricians get paid and that kind of stuff. He inquired as to why we need L. Wagner to monitor this, and why this isn't something that we can do in-house.

Mr. Roe responded that we do not have the time. He said originally they thought that it could be handled by the Board of Education and town staff. He said this is no longer the case. He said that to do wage verification in the field with employees is important because the classification of jobs performed on one site may not be the same classification at another job. Job classification for an employee can vary within the work week. He said that it is analyzing with the employee whether they got paid properly.

All Councilors present (7) Voted Aye. Councilors Economopoulos and LeTourneau were absent from the meeting. The motion passed

Mr. Farrell made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rascati, to adjourn the meeting. Seven (7) Councilors present voted Aye. Councilors Economopoulos and LeTourneau were absent from the meeting. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra R. Weekes
Town Council Secretary
Meeting digitally recorded

Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

Date

Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

Date