

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

Special Town Council Meeting

APRIL 14, 2010

PUBLIC HEARING FY 2010 - 2011 BUDGET

The following Minutes are a record of the Regular Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council held in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall on Tuesday, April 13, 2010. The Meeting was Called to Order at 6:30 P.M. Responding present to the Roll Call given by Town Clerk Barbara Thompson were Councilors Vincent Cervoni, Nick Economopoulos, Jerry Farrell, Jr., Craig C. Fishbein, John LeTourneau, Robert F. Parisi, Rosemary Rascati, John J. Sullivan and Vincent F. Testa, Jr. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., and Assistant Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell, Sr. were also present at roll call. Comptroller James Bowes arrived at the meeting at 6:45 P.M.

The meeting began with an Opening Prayer, led by Reverend Dean Warburton of the First Congregational Church. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The Roll Call was taken.

3. Public Hearing for the Budget FY 2010-2011

Mayor Dickinson began with comments about the budget to those gathered in the auditorium. He thanked everyone for attending and said that we are all aware of difficult times. He said that things have changed and used the utilities to illustrate. He stated that in water and electric there are reduced revenues, and there are reduced revenues because people are using less electricity and less water. He said that water has a 15.7% reduction over two (2) years in consumption. He said that in electricity it is 4.5%. He said that the result is less revenue and therefore less money to be able to operate these divisions. He said that the operating budgets of both water and electric will rise by 1.4%. In 1.4% then some things won't get done. In water an example would be replacement of water mains, which has been an ongoing project to replace water mains. This project will be deferred for one year because of the reduced revenues. He said that the reduction is partly because of conservation measures but a large part of that has to be the economy in that the consumption reduction is part of business closings and business slowdowns.

Mayor Dickinson said that the total budget for general government is \$141,510,000 approximately, which calls for an increase of .8% of about \$1,130,000 approximately. The education portion of that budget will increase by \$1,370,000 approximately, and increase of 1.61% and on the general government side, there will actually be a decrease in spending of .43%, 4/10 of a percent, a decrease \$240,565. The result of adoption this budget would be a mill rate increase of .9 mill, just under one mill. He said it represents a 3.88% increase, which would mean for the average residential property owner with an assessment of \$197,000 the increase would be \$178 over the year.

Mayor Dickinson said that this budget is proposed. It would be adopted based upon of an expectation of our future not being rosy. He said that all forecasts for the state indicate more difficult times ahead. He said that we cannot and should not adopt a course that we cannot sustain. He declared that we tried to address that with this budget. He said that if you can use an analogy, there are multiple financial icebergs ahead. We cannot replicate the Titanic. We've got to be able to move around and through them and not sink the ship. It will mean sacrifice. It will mean changes. It will mean adjustment but he said he believes that with all of those good will efforts, we can continue to

provide the services that the community really depends upon and continue to be very proud of what we have here in Wallingford.

Chairman Parisi said that they were going to start with the Public Celebrations Committee on page 44, line 6510, approved budget of \$7,100. He called for questions from the public, and there were none. Chairman Parisi called all departments in alphabetical order, and the departments requested to come forward for comments from the public were as follows.

Board of Education, Capital Appropriations Reserve, Capital and Non-Recurring, Capital and Non-Recurring fund, Contingency Account, Debt Services, Electric Division, Employee Insurance and Other Benefits, Finance Department, Health Department, Mayor, Pension Fund, Police Department, Public Utilities Commission, Public Works Department, Social Services Contributions and Utilities – Water & Sewer.

Board of Education, page 65, Dr. Salvatore Menzo, Superintendent of School; Thomas Hennessey, Chair, Board of Education; Linda Winters, Business Manager

Richard Harkawik, 18 Anderson Road, President, WEA, said that education is too important to sacrifice even while being expensive. He said that Wallingford is known for a quality school system and that many people come here for that reason. He read a prepared statement that there are 622 teachers and the budget problems are due to poor planning and lack of planning, regarding union contracts that were duly negotiated in the fall of 2008 and subsequently approved by the Town Council. He said you cannot run the schools with fewer of our highly motivated and trained teachers.

Laureen Goode, 45 Miller Road, said that she has been active at the Board of Education workshops and asked the Council to appreciate the work that has been done.

Elizabeth Concession, 20 Promontory, said that the 80 personnel cuts that have already been made will affect the whole town.

Lori Barron, 54 Seiter Hill Road, asked to find alternatives to losing talented teachers to preserve the quality of education in Wallingford.

Carolyn Hall, 7 Wooding Road, parent and educator, thanked both the Mayor for being available to meet and talk with parents, and Dr. Menzo and his staff for the diligent work they have done on the education budget. She urged continued work on the budget. She said that the pink slipped teachers also impacts the teachers left in the schools; it impacts the children and it impacts the community.

Bob Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, asked about the schools' increase in utilities – electricity and heat; about tuition for students going out of district. Business Manager, Linda Winters, responded said that the utilities increase of \$279,000, includes electricity, the new Lyman Hall Vo-Ag facility, and water and sewer. Regarding heat (#690), the overall increase is \$428,000. She said that the school system always goes out to bid with the town for heat at a time when market conditions are most favorable and that they budget for 375,000 gallons of #2 oil. She said the estimate is \$2.60 per gallon and that when they go out to bid, any savings will be considered by the Board of Education. They budget also for natural gas for five buildings that are dual-fuel. They also budgeted additional fuel of 50,000 gallons for the new Lyman Hall Vocational Agricultural facility. With regard to tuitions, #560, the budget for this item, which includes special education tuitions and tuitions for magnet schools, shows a total increase for that line for \$1,367,223. Some of the major factors in this category that

contribute to the increase are 60 students Wintergreen Magnet School; special education outplacements, private and public. She said that the district receives revenues from the State of Connecticut –Excess Cost Grant, that partially reimburses them for any high cost student outplacements and those revenues are included as an estimate in the budget. She said that the school system received stimulus money for the current school year from the Federal Government and that it will be fully used in the current school year. She said that this is a major factor for an increase.

John Balle, 101 Fair Street, 2nd grade parent at Moses Y Beach and 7th grade Dag Hammarskjold parent, he said that deep cuts have already been made by Dr. Menzo and that he has experienced those cuts with his children this week. Last Saturday, his 7th grade daughter had her last art class at Moran Middle School. He said that programs for students who show particular talent and promise in certain areas have already been cut from the budget that has been presented. He spoke about the modeling project and asked, “How much more do you want to take away from our children?”

Anne Cosentino, 17 South Whittlesey Avenue, parent of a 3rd grade special education student at Moses Y. She said that he will lose his speech therapist and possibly his 3rd grade teacher. This will rock his world. They need the continuity and stability of the same therapist. She said that due to the support of the school and his speech therapist, he can walk, talk and speak and hold a pencil which he did this year for the first time.

Amy Stewart, 17 Wall Street, teacher in the district and parent of a special education son at E.C. Stevens School, implored the Town Council for there to be no more cuts to this education budget. She said that teachers and parents are doing what they can to maintain the high level of education in this town.

Jen Humowitz, 139 Fair Street, asked the Town Council to not make any further cuts to the budget. She thanked Dr. Menzo and the Board of Education for their hard work. During this budget process, she said that she has learned a lot and went on to acknowledge the responses that she received to phone calls and emails from Dr. Menzo personally. She said that Mr. Hennessey spent hours talking to her and to other parents. She asked the Council to please fund the education budget.

Maria Marcarelli, 230 Woodhouse Avenue, Moses Y Beach teacher, urged to Council to support the Mayor’s proposed budget. She acknowledged all of the hard work of the superintendent and the board and said that children are not numbers

Beth Raccio, 12 Franks Court, thanked Jim Bowes for the information he has supplied to help her understand the budget every year. She said that she is the Chairperson for the system-wide PTAC. She asked the Town Council to remember that at a time when there are increased graduation requirements; that it is more competitive to get into college and more expensive to get into college; and that it’s more difficult to find a job after high school or after college that high school teachers and classes have been cut. She said at the elementary level, we have a more diverse body of learners and more complex curriculum and we have more demands from NCLB yet we are cutting elementary teachers and paraprofessionals. She said that it appears that we have more special needs students of a greater variety than ever before. We have RTI, SRBI and we are cutting our special education support. We have fewer days that our children will go to school next year. So at a time when our children need more, we are giving them less because of funding restrictions. That is very concerning. She

said that she has a great deal of faith in Dr. Menzo. Addressing Mayor Dickinson, she said she appreciates the money that has been allocated to the school system. She especially appreciates the capital funding and that it is generous and creative. She appreciates the time spent talking to parents but she is very concerned that when we have already cut \$4 million, and there is no fluff. She said that she has eight years of experience of participation in working with the education budget and that items that would have been adjusted after this point in the process have already come out of the budget. They have cut money associated with raises. She said that the gap between the Board of Education request and the Mayor's recommendation is about \$900,000. She said she is more concerned there will be cuts to step and that means our Talented and Gifted Program. She is concerned about cuts to music and language and technology. She is concerned about more cuts to teaching staff that will mean a greater class size and a smaller class variety. She said that she does not know how they will do this with \$900,000 less and there will be less money to spend next year than this year. As a taxpayer, she is asking her Town Council to add \$900,000 back to the budget.

Sharon McIntyre, 57 Grieb Trail, said that this school system's teachers have had a wonderful impact on her children. Because her son loved his psychology teacher and the courses at Sheehan, he is graduating from college in psychology and that her daughter will go to college to become a teacher.

Annie MacDonald, 175 North Branford Road, said she believes in education and was born to a family of educators and has been in this profession for nearly 40 years and that every single day those of us who come to work in these schools are charged with having our children be able to compete in a global world. She said that it isn't the way it used to be when you compare the age of children and what they are now learning at that age that we did not learn until we got to college. She said how can we keep our standards. She said that she is frightened because she thinks that we in this country do not take education seriously. She said that she doesn't know how we will continue to compete and keep up our standards. She stated that our teachers work around the clock. She added that it was the gifted and talented programs that gave her daughter entrance into a fine art college in San Francisco.

Melanie Whitman, 46 Olde Lane Road, parent and teacher, acknowledged the principal, staff and teachers at Cook Hill School where she son is a special student. She talked about cuts in the budget and the effect it is having on the parents who talk with her as a teacher.

Marian Zambori, 69 Brentwood Drive, said that she is a town employee, spoke about budgets and people and their relationships.

Christopher Stone, 259 Ivy Street, parent and teacher, thanked Dr. Menzo, the Board of Education, the Mayor and the Town Council, especially for their attendance at Board of Education budget workshops. He asked the Town Council to fund the education budget to the fullest extent possible. He asked to have some portion of the \$900,000 reinstated into the education budget. He commented on the impact on his son of his teacher's pink slip. Mr. Stone read a prepared statement.

Tina Crispans, 7 Grantview Road, compared the average increase of taxes at \$179 to be most people's monthly cable bill. She said that it is worth it for her kids if you increase her taxes. She said think about the future of our community.

Stephanie Robinson, 43 Chimney Sweep Road, has attended Board of Education workshops and said she has not always seen eye-to-eye with Dr. Menzo or with the board. She is an

advocate for the Board of Education budget and believes that they have submitted a responsible budget and done their due diligence. There is nothing to cut. She said that cutting their budget will negatively impact all of the children in town. Parents feel that their children have the potential to do great things one day. Fund this budget and give them the gift of a quality education and we will all benefit down the road.

Jennifer Parmalee, 36 Bristol Street, said that this is something that impacts the rest of the Town of Wallingford. She said that the reason she wanted her children educated in Wallingford is because of the teachers that she had in grade school in Wallingford. She said some of them are still teaching from 1981 and 1982. They are life-long dedicated people. She said that she no longer feels safe. She acknowledged the new administration at Parker Farms in getting her child tested for special education. She spoke about NCLB and that the budget needs to be there to support it and the teachers.

Christine Gall, 43 Ridgetree Road, a substitute teacher with a notice of non-renewal believes in consistency for children.

Colleen Fisher, 4 Coventry Court, parent of three children in the school system, has been a paraprofessional, has a child who has participated in Gifted and Talented Program, has worked with children who have special needs and is currently a clerk at Lyman Hall High School. She put herself through grad school to become a teacher and believes she has seen education from several angles. She stated that it is Wallingford's loss that she can't get a teaching job in Wallingford, even after teaching for a year at substitute pay. She asked the Council to support the budget and to add back in the \$900,000. She feels strongly that nothing is fluff, not the students, not the teachers, not the clerical staff.

Mariefi Omally, 10 Field Drive, said that she is a parent of four children, a taxpayer, a volunteer for youth sports, and that one of her sons has a hearing disability. She acknowledged all the help and dedication that her son is receiving from teachers, administration and speech specialists. She said as a result of this help that he is on track for fourth grade. She asked the Town Council to support the Board of Education and to fund it accordingly.

Julie Rogers, 152 North Elm Street, PTAC at Moses Y Beach, said that she has spoken to a number of parents about the budget. She described that state in which many people today find themselves and even considering all of the scenarios, she said that they are willing to pay to tax increases.

Anne Verone Lederle, 85 Montowese Trail, Cook Hill parent and Moran teacher, thanked the Town Council for the response they gave in addressing her concerns last month. She stated that she appreciated what Dr. Menzo and his team has done. She said that she has been at *every single meeting* since last January 6th. As a parent of a gifted student, she asked Dr. Menzo what has been cut from these programs. Dr. Menzo said that at this time they have not reduced any services in the classroom, any services during the school day so there is still a push-in and pull-out model at the elementary level; at the middle school is the pull-out level. They have reduced the Saturday Talcott Mountain program. And they have reduced the funding for Center for Creative Youth at Wesleyan, and the Talented and Gifted summer school teacher and clerical salaries. He stated they are working with Parks and Recreation Department to take on those services, and they will be a cost to parents to have their children participate. He said they felt as well as with the other after school

activities at the middle school that they did have to reduce that they felt it was necessary to make certain that those services would be provided at some level for students. He stated that at the present time they do not have any other reductions planned. He stated that they need to continue to investigate the \$900,000 and see where they can continue to find savings rather than reductions.

Johann Demilla, 319 North Main Street, thanked everyone for squeezing the sponge. He said that when you lose teachers that you lose the quality and that is an issue. He feels that the teachers need to work with the town because the town has no control over the teacher union. He asked how many people took a pay freeze over the last year and now the teachers should do the same.

Lori Hoelscher, 173 Parker Farms Road, Parker Farms parent who commented on the fact that Wallingford has some amazing teachers. She said, "...and we are losing them." She asked the Town Council to put the money back into the budget and that she is willing to pay more taxes.

Adelheid Koepfer, 35 Whiffletree Road, thanked everyone for all of their hard work. She said we should be able to have classes a little bigger. She spoke about some schools not meeting NCLB measures and asked if we cut paras and teacher, how can you make sure that not only those kids are able to meet the adequate daily progress but we can also keep the others who have done well on that same track of doing well. She asked the Town Council to consider this and to fund the proposal as fully as possible. She said to raise her taxes.

Karen McGuire, 291 Long Hill Road, parent of an autistic child, said more taxes do not bother her. She stated that one out of every eighty boys has autism (1/80) and commented on doing the math because there is a lot of them in the school system. She commented that Cook Hill School was amazing and that her son would not be where he is today without teachers like he has had, including the paraprofessionals that are in the classroom. She stated that in the elementary years you can still mold and shape their brains a little bit so they need that support. She commented that the paraprofessionals are really critical to that so that the teacher can run the rest of the class. She said that education is the most critical place to invest.

Theresa Oneto, 14 Harnish Lane, educator in another town, commended teachers and the Board of Education and the Town Council. This is a very difficult decision. She wants to make the Town Council aware of an NCLB process of FRBI which is a way for the state to mandate what is happening in the towns and cities. Services have drastically been increased and that any child who is not making goal has to be serviced through interventions, some of them are daily interventions. She said that we are doing away with consistency in their environment through reconfiguration. She is having difficulty with doing away the services to our children that we can now meet. She said that she has two children with special needs and compliments the staff at Cook Hill School. Her child's teacher has worked with her dyslexic child and now that child now wants to be a writer. That is a teacher who goes above and beyond. She said to please look in all areas.

Caryn Holupka, 567 North Main Street, thanked Dr. Menzo and the Board of Education for their work and asked the Town Council to pass the Board of Education budget. What does \$900,000 mean with respect to class sizes and teachers. Mr. Hennessey said that it is not

wise at this point to come up with anything specific and that maybe they won't need to do that. He said that they are doing their due diligence.

Laura Clark, Hamden resident and Wallingford teacher, said she has 75 children in Wallingford. She had this last year off due to serious surgery and has received her non-renewal notice. She stated that this last year has been the hardest because she has been away from the students. She does not like the thought that her students might move on to a class size of 28 students. She thinks that it will be a travesty if we do not fund these students. She asked the Town Council to add back to the budget for education.

Chairman Parisi thanked by public for being so kind, polite and so focused on what you had to say, and you were certainly very fair with us. He said please understand that we share your concerns. He said that the Council's task is not easy and that the Council does not ignore anyone. We try to consider everyone. We are not having fun and games. It is very traumatic to read your letters and your emails and to hear your phone calls and the listen to comments and your stories here tonight. He said we have feelings too and we care and we will do the best that we can for our town, the Town of Wallingford. He said he is very proud of Wallingford.

Chairman Parisi said that tomorrow night the Town Council meets with the Board of Education and that they are welcome to come and observe but that there will be no public comment. He said that the Town Councilors will be asking the Board questions and some of those questions have come from the public.

The Chairman called a recess at 7:30 P.M. and reconvened the meeting at 7:52 P.M.

Board of Assessment Appeals- No comments or questions

Board of Ethics- page 25, no representative from the board

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, said that since we are in the budget process that he hopes that any Councilor with a conflict of interest will go before the board as one Councilor did this year.

Board of Selectmen- No comments or questions

Building Department- No comments or questions

Cafeteria- No comments or questions

Capital Appropriations Reserve- page 89, James Bowes, Comptroller

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, asked if the Town Council and the budget were going to follow the Charter now on the capital appropriations if anything lapses. Will it be rolled back into the budget or will it just sit there. Mr. Bowes said that we have always followed \ the Town Charter and we have always followed past practice of 35 years until someone re-interpreted it. He said this is the authorization to move to insure beyond a shadow of a doubt to each of the 45,000 residents of this town, with the exception of two who had a problem with the way it was done for 40 years, that we are in 100% compliance with every syllable of the Charter. Mr. Gross said it was brought up last year that they should follow the Charter on that. Mayor Dickinson said that there will be a request to the Council to re-appropriate those items that must continue. Mr. Gross said so that will be going along with the Town Charter because that was not always done in the past. Mayor Dickinson said that as the Comptroller

stated, there is an interpretation, or two interpretations, and whether one violates the Charter is open to argument but we are following a procedure to have a re-appropriation if items.

**Capital and Non-Recurring- pages 23, 83, James Bowes, Comptroller
Capital and Non-Recurring Fund**

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, said going back on the Cap & non-recurring, it was asked of Attorney Small last year if we were following the Town Charter and she said, "No."

Civil Preparedness- No comments or questions

Conservation Commission- No comments or questions

Contingency Account- page 64, James Bowes, Comptroller

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, asked if the Mayor's budget is \$55,000 for the year. Mr. Bowes said it was on page 64 and that it is \$350,000.

Debt Services- page 22, James Bowes, Comptroller

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, said that the Mayor's cuts were a step in the right direction. He asked about bonds, bonding and the cost of the town's bonding attorney. He said that there is over \$5 million in debt payments this year and has an cost-analysis of re-doing the bonds. Mr. Bowes said that the town does that and the last time was in March 2009 to take advantage of rates; and we also refunded in 2007 and in 2005.

Economic Development Commission- No comments or questions

Electric Division-page 67, George Adair, Director, Public Utilities, Richard Hendershot, General Manager and Thomas Sullivan, Business Manager

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, asked about the Pension fund in the various divisions of the utilities and how much we are paying into it this year, 2010-2011. Mr. Bowes said the approximately \$4.8 or less which is the town tax-payer share and additional funds from the enterprise fund.

Dog Pound-

Jen Humowitz, Fair Street, said that we have a wonderful dog shelter and asked the Town Council to approve their budget. She said that Lisa and Dean and the rest of her staff do a wonderful job down there. She said that she wanted to give Lisa some recognition.

Employee Insurance and Other Benefits-page 28, James Bowes, Comptroller

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, asked about who is funded and about bidding the TPA service.

Engineering Department- No comments or questions

Finance Department- page 20, James Bowes, Comptroller

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, asked again about Utility pension payments.

Fire Department- No comments or questions

Fire Marshal- No comments or questions
Government Access TV- No comments or questions

Health Department-page 41, Eloise Hazelwood, Health Director

John Marriott, 33 Grieb Road, read a prepared statement with respect to Line 9004, Purchased Professional Services- Community Health Services and issues regarding the bid. He also made comments on the loss of the health insurance for employees of the VNA. He provided a handout to the Town Council, which is part of the record of the meeting.

Inland Wetlands- No comments or questions
Insurance-Property & Casualty- No comments or questions
Law Department- No comments or questions
Library- No comments or questions

Mayor-page 15

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, made comments regarding the Mayor's salary and that the town should be looking into 401k plans.

Pension Fund

Personnel, Pensions, & Risk Management-pages 26 & 27, Terence Sullivan

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, made comments that pensions are bankrupting states and towns and that the town should be looking into Social Security 401k plans.

Planning & Zoning- No comments or questions

Police Department- page 30, Chief Douglas Dortenzio and Deputy Chief Thomas Curran

Geno Zandri, 9 Balsam Ridge Circle, asked about staffing, open slots and increase in staffing. The chief explained the staffing history. Mayor Dickinson said he does not consider filling open slots to be a staffing increase. Mr. Zandri spoke about people on fixed incomes and asked for a target of the smallest increase possible.

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, made comments that the Police Department is about public safety and should not be cut.

Probate Court- No comments or questions
Program Planner- No comments or questions

Public Works Department, page 51, Henry McCully, Director, Public Works, Raylene Hendricks, Executive Secretary

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, began by stating that these budget books were only available until Monday for the public to look at and that this is Wednesday and you are having the Public Hearing. He asked for the budget book to be listed online. He said, "You received them (the books) weeks ago." Mr. Farrell stated that the Mayor had his meeting on April 1. Mr. Gross noted that that was two weeks ago and the public only got this two days ago. Chairman Parisi recognized Mr. Bowes. Mr. Bowes said that is very incorrect. Under Freedom of Information when the Mayor released his budget on April 1, 2010, it is available to everybody. He said it was not in that nice booklet form that you see. That is 100% correct because we send that out to be bound nicely for the citizens to participate and to take home with them. He said that there were public copies in his office and the Mayor's Office, and if

anybody wanted to see them-and we told the press corps- that they could use the copy in my office. We made copies of certain department pages. He said that he made 10-12 copies of the whole thing. He said they tried to accommodate people. He said that they were available if anyone wanted to see it. Mr. Gross said if he had known Mr. Bowes would make a copy for him, he would have asked. He said he was at the Mayor's meeting. Mr. Bowes said to ask next year.

Mr. Gross listed the number of plows from last year and those of next year and called for keeping and using old trucks. Mr. McCully maintained that the value the truck replacement program allows his department's need to replace six (6) trucks from 1989. Mr. Gross commented on the increased use of salt in the "Materials" account.

Recreation- No comments or questions
Registrars of Voters- No comments or questions
Six-Year Capital- No comments or questions

Social Services Contributions

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, said that these are services to people in town that need these services and don't have the ability to receive these services outside of the town providing them. He asked that the town keep providing these services.

Town Council- No comments or questions
Town Clerk - No comments or questions
Utilities –Water & Sewer
Veterans Service Center- No comments or questions
Youth & Social Services Bureau- No comments or questions
Zoning Board of Appeals- No comments or questions

General Comments

Jim Seichter, 163 Grieb Road, thanked the town and the Board of Education for their service to the town. He made comments on the tough year and the one for next year as well; that there is a lot of financial stress, and it will get worse; that government needs to gain control at the local level; to reach out to our unions and to look for concessions; about job loss; to weigh long-term benefits because we don't want today's solutions to become tomorrow's problems. He finds one thing very troubling. He said that we have one union that represents a significant number of employees in this town, and they are probably some of our most highly paid individuals. He said that it seems that that union's attitude is one of entitlement and self-interest, and it seems that all that they want to do is simply waive their contract and say that they have a contract while turning their back on the community, saying have a nice day that it is not our problem. He said that he does not understand. He said he clearly does not understand how some individuals can be totally insensitive to the economic plight that a lot of people in our community are facing. He said he will never understand that attitude, and he will be eternally grateful that he won't ever understand that attitude.

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, made CRRRA comments.

At 9:07 P.M. Mr. Farrell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mrs. Rascati. All nine (9) Councilors present by voice voted Aye. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra R. Weekes
Town Council Secretary

Meeting digitally recorded

Chairman Robert F. Parisi

Date

Town Clerk Barbara Thompson

Date