

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2009

The following minutes are a record of a Special Budget Workshop Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council held in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall on Thursday, April 16, 2009. The Meeting was Called to Order at 6:35 P.M. Responding present to the Roll Call given by Town Council Secretary Sandra Weekes were Councilors Mike Brodinsky, Nick Economopoulos, Jerry Farrell, Jr., John LeTourneau, Robert F. Parisi, Rosemary Rascati, Michael Spiteri and Vincent F. Testa, Jr. Councilors Vincenzo M. DiNatale and Vincent F. Testa, Jr. arrived at the meeting at 6:53 P.M. and 6:44 P.M. respectively. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., who arrived at the meeting at 6:55 P.M., and Comptroller James Bowes were also present.

The meeting began with a Moment of Silence, the Pledge of Allegiance and the Roll Call.

2. Chairman's Report

None

3. **BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Costs, Consequences & Issues

No comments

Public Utilities – Electric Division

George Adair, Director, Public Utilities
Richard Hendershot, General Manager, Electric Division
Thomas Sullivan, Business Manager

Items under discussion included: Purchase Power is 80% of the budget, conservation, depreciation, impact of wage freeze (none), the cost of tree trimming fulfilled by an outside contractor and the areas that will be addressed in the coming year, Line 450 late payments and the revenue from penalties, amounts owed to the Electric Division and length of time of the debt, Line 904 Uncollectible accounts, auditor review with some under legal action, the cost of legal fees, interest earned and low rate of return, Line 923 Outside Services, contracting practice for large, heavy service, legal, engineering, tree trimming, all bid services, capital items, the increase in the budgets of Lines 580 & 590 Supervision & Engineering, Line 584 Underground lines- maintenance, conservation- light bulbs, programs, rates and increases (planned 2.5% 11/09), power cost adjustment – ahead 6 months and looking back 6 months, expectation of reduction in may 2009 due to depressed cost of gas, no new CMEEC projects, wage increases, benefits and consequences. Wage freeze relationship to electric bill is about \$1.43 per year per customer.

Town Council

No comments or questions

Parks and Recreation

John Gawlak, Director

Michelle Bjorkman, Superintendent of Programs

Mr. Gawlak began with the statement that since the Mayor's budget was released in another review of his budget, he would be able to reduce two line items (Line 9017 \$2,085 and Line 9977 by \$3,000) for a total of \$5,085 and suggested to the council that they apply all of that reduction, \$5,085, to Line 6750, the Wallingford Symphony, which had been cut from \$12,000 in fiscal year 2008-09 to \$3,000 for the upcoming fiscal year of 2009-10. This would increase Line 6750, the Wallingford Symphony, to \$8,085.

Mr. Carl Rodenhizer, Wallingford Symphony Orchestra Board President, discussed the impact of the overall budget reduction in their program for the Town of Wallingford for the 4th of July Celebration. He said that reduced orchestra members and songs could be managed for the concert on \$8,000, and he added that they would make an effort to find private funding as well.

MOTION

Mr. Testa made a motion, seconded by Mr. Farrell, to reduce two lines from the Parks and Recreation budget approved by the Mayor, Line 9977 by \$3,000 and Line 9017 by \$2,085, and to increase the Mayoral approved budget of Line 6750, the Wallingford Symphony Orchestra by \$5,085.

There were no comments from the Council, and they voted Aye unanimously and the motion passed.

Law

Janis Small, Town Attorney

In response to Mr. Testa's question, Town Attorney, Janis Small, distinguished the functions and duties of the Town Attorney, the Corporation Counsel and the Assistant Town Attorney. She and Mr. Bowes made comments on legal work provided to the PUC and the methodology of its value

Police Department

Chief Douglas Dortenzio

Deputy Chief, Thomas Curran

Mary Dukanis, Executive Secretary

Chief Dortenzio and the Council discussed the future police cruiser purchase plan, the recycling of vehicles that are replaced by new purchases, the number of cruisers purchased each year and their life of service to the department prior to reassignment elsewhere in the town, the number of town vehicles, possible use of smaller cars for better gas mileage, wage freeze impact and consequences, salaries and wages in regard to officer retention and as it relates to training, keeping up with new state mandates, officer coverage in lower business area of Wallingford on the week-ends with respect of the impact somewhere else in town when an officer is assigned to a location.

Special Funds

Off-budget accounts, audit reports all inclusive

Mayor

No comments or questions

***Capital & Non-Recurring, Six-Year Capital, Capital Appropriations Reserve
Capital Projects***

There was a general review of projects, some of which were:

- Reskin Drive
- North Branford Road
- Whirlwind Hill road
- Grieb Road
- Cook Hill road
- Wallace Avenue in relation to the Wooding Caplan property

Mr. DiNatale was interested in water-shed areas on town-owned land, Class-1 or Class-2 water-shed designations and required with respect to required permitting in regard to land improvements

MOTION

Mr. Farrell made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Testa seconded. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 9:05 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra R. Weekes
Town Council Secretary
Meeting recorded by Sandra Weekes

Chairman, Mike Brodinsky

Date

Town Clerk, Barbara Kapi

Date