

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

Special Town Council Meeting

MAY 5, 2010

BUDGET WORKSHOP

The following Minutes are the record of a Special Budget Workshop Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council, which was held in the Robert Earley Auditorium of Town Hall. Chairman Robert F. Parisi Called to Order at 6:03 P.M. on Wednesday, May 5, 2010. 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 Comptroller James Bowes were also present.

The meeting began with A Moment of Silence. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The Roll Call was taken.

3. BUDGET WORKSHOP

WATER & SEWER DIVISIONS

*In attendance: Roger Dann, General Manager
William Phelan, Business Manager
David Gessert, Vice-Chairman Public Utilities Commission
Richard Nunn, Secretary Public Utilities Commission*

The Town Council raised questions with regard to the following line items of the Water-Sewer budget:

903 – Customer Records and Expense (Water & Sewer) – billing costs, labor & associated benefits, dollars, postage, bill forms, envelopes, phone expenses

921 – Office Supplies & Other Expenses; 904 - Uncollectible Accounts Exp; 472 - Rents from Water Property; 676 – Maintenance of Meters; 925 – Injuries & Damages; 403 – Depreciation Expense; 419 – Interest & Dividen Income; 427 – Interest on Long Term Debt; 392 – Transportation Equipment

Four (4) Accounts ‘*Use of Funds*’ – Major capita; building a fund for projects over the last 2-years; is setup reserve for an aging facility-

- 1) Reserves
- 2) Treatments Plant
- 3) Reserve for Cleaning and Lining
- 4) Reserve for Emergency Repair

665 – Misc. Expenses; 391 – Office furniture & Equipment; 923 – Outside Services Employed

MOTION Mr. Fishbein made a motion to adopt the Water-Sewer budget as proposed.

SECOND Mrs. Rascati seconded.

VOTE All Councilors present (8) voted Aye. Mr. Farrell was absent.
8-Aye; I Absent

The motion passed.

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

*In attendance: Terence P. Sullivan, Director Personnel
James Hutt, Assistant Director Personnel
Kurt Treiber, Risk Manager*

The Town Council inquired about the following areas of the Personnel budget.

- 3201 - Transportation Reimbursement
- 9031 – Purchased Professional Services – Consultant
- 9032 – Consulting Services
- 9033 – Microfilming; digitized records not approved by State of Connecticut Personnel pages with regard to PPHB Minutes
- 9011 – Claims administration payment

PENSION & RISK MANAGEMENT

Pension fund
8080 – Consolidated Pension Plan
Opinions were given in a lively discussion with regard to Pension Plans; town has eight (8) plans; discussed role of actuary, role of Pension Commission; guidelines with respect to actuary recommendations; annual rate of return and the variable rate of return; discussed pension contribution rate; pensions are contractual obligations; the standards, departure from them and consequences for the future; questions with regard to contributing \$1 million, and not \$2 million; revision of Pension Commission strategy; history of pension fund

EMPLOYEE INSURANCE & OTHER BENEFITS

- 1700-Longevity
- 8380 – College Tuition Reimbursement

MOTION

Mr. LeTourneau made a motion to remove \$2,500 from Line 8380 of the Employee Insurance and Other Benefits budget

SECOND

Mr. Fishbein seconded.

VOTE

(called out individually))

Cervoni –No	Economopoulos – Yes	Farrell – Yes
Fishbein – No	LeTourneau - Yes	Rascati – No
Sullivan –No	Testa – No	Parisi – Yes

5 – Nay; 4 - Aye

The motion failed

INSURANCE - Property & Casualty

9034 – Insurance Consultant
Property & Casualty
Rate is up 2.7%; rate is based on experience; network access fee; TPA fee; Consultant fee; individual stop loss; Mr. Sullivan stated that the TPA fee for 2010-2011 is \$434,800 and for 2009-2010 it is \$434,700; they discussed how employee premiums are calculate.

MOTION Mr. Cervoni moved to accept the budgets of Personnel, Employee Insurance and Other Benefits and Insurance as presented by the Mayor.

SECOND VOTE Mr. Fishbein seconded

All Councilors present (9) voted Aye.

The motion passed.

LIBRARY

*In attendance: Leslie Scherer, Librarian
Gerald Reid, President Library Board of Managers
Bob Carmody, Treasurer*

The Library budget discussion addressed inquiries from the Town Council with regard to a 47% increase in usage of the library despite no increase in staff; the request for Sunday hours; custodial services; materials line; Yalesville Library – this facility will be looked at during long-range planning and that the library owns the property to be used for library purposes; Yalesville Library open 3 days per week; high water marks for the library that it is a jewel with a great staff.

MOTION Mr. Fishbein made a motion to cut \$5,000 from this budget.
There was no second to Mr. Fishbein's motion

MOTION Mr. Farrell made a motion to adopt the Library budget as presented.

SECOND Mrs. Rascati seconded

VOTE Eight (8) Councilors voted Aye. Mr. Fishbein voted Nay.
8 – Aye; 1 – Nay

The motion passed.

RECESS The meeting recessed at 9:15 P.M. and reconvened at 9:26 P.M.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

*In attendance: George Adair, Director Public Utilities
Robert Beaumont, Chairman Public Utilities Commission*

Mr. Adair reported that there are no changes in head count or in salaries or any other factor other than the shift in the pay periods with the 53rd week.

There were no comments from the Council.

ELECTRIC DIVISION

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

The discussion began with Line 909-Conservation expenditures to fund the energy conservation programs of funds collected by state statute; an explanation of the funds and how they are collected as directed by the State of Connecticut; a review of the energy conservation measures in Wallingford; energy conservation measures reported to CMEEC; new collections by the state that total \$80 million; 923 – Outside Services Electric Division reimbursement to town for use of town departments such as personnel, law, finance, purchasing; 391- Office Furniture & Equipment –software and IT department share, new computers, network administration, new licenses, meter reading devices, meter readers; 593 – Outside Services –Overhead Lines; tree trimming program; 904 – Uncollectible Accounts- methods of collecting; growing list as rates increase; 908 – Customer Assistance; 930 – Misc. General Expense – PUC expenses, dues, training, fees from Connecticut Siting Council; 926 - Employee Pension & Benefits; 393 – Stores Equipment – from \$2,000 to \$40,000 proposal for shelves, bins, tables like a store and to replace gas powered forklift for their warehouse

MOTION Mr. Farrell made a motion to adopt the PUC and Electric Division budgets as presented.

SECOND Mr.Cervoni seconded

VOTE Eight (8) Councilors voted Aye. Mr. LeTourneau said that he abstained with regard to the Personnel Section.
8 – Aye; 1 – Abstension

The motion passed.

Mr. Farrell moved to adjourn. Mr. Fishbein seconded. All Councilors present (9) voted Aye. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra R. Weekes
Town Council Secretary
Meeting digitally recorded

Robert F. Parisi, Town Council Chairman

Date

Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

Date