

**TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT**

*Special Town Council Meeting*

**APRIL 16, 2012**

*Town Council Chambers*

**FY 2012 – 2013 BUDGET WORKSHOP**

**RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES**

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The meeting was called to order at 6:03 P.M. in the Town Council Chambers of the Wallingford Town Hall. A Moment of Silence was observed, and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were as follows: Vincent Cervoni, Nick Economopoulos, Craig C. Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, John LeTourneau, Chairman Robert F. Parisi, Rosemary Rascati, John J. Sullivan and Jason Zandri. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and Comptroller James Bowes were also in attendance at the meeting.

**3. BUDGET WORKSHOP**

**Building**

*In attendance: Richard Boyne, Building Official*

Inquiries from the Council included: Number of unions and which staff in those unions; zoning enforcement according to Charter and how it works in reality with Planning and Zoning; building applications involve planning and zoning, fire marshal, health department, utilities; zoning enforcement officer; Line 56770 Purchased Services- Demolition, where there is recovery it is a wash, reimbursement is found on the revenue side of the budget.

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT BUDGET AS PROPOSED.**

**MADE BY: RASCATI**

**SECONDED BY: SULLIVAN**

**VOTE: 8 AYE; 2 NAY (FISHBEIN, LAFFIN)**

**MOTION PASSED**

**Planning & Zoning**

*In attendance: Kacie Costello, Assistant Town Planner*

Inquiries from the Council included: Town's Plan of Development; Office staffing, with discussion with regard to the Town Planner and Assistant Town Planner positions, salary ranges and the pros and cons of one professional position or two; Line 55700 -Continuing Education; new computer; need for professional staff to be in the office to respond to the needs of the public; professional staff involved with Planning and Zoning Commission as well as Zoning Board of Appeals; blight issues; position analysis; days Town Planner is not in office and professional coverage; addition of internet in the Planning and Zoning Office area would be very helpful. Assistant Town Planner, Ms. Costello, stated that while the office is absent significant applications, work in the office is non-stop so that when there is one planner in the field addressing problems then zoning enforcement goes to the back seat.

**MOTION TO APPROVE ADDING \$1,000 FOR INTERNET ACCESS TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT PC AND ACCESSORIES BUDGET LINE.**

**MADE BY: LETOURNEAU**  
**SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN**

Comments included that it should be identified from which account the funds come from and, secondly, even though the Town Council has made a budgetary allocation, the administration does not need to act upon it; that if this comes to fruition that all areas in Planning and Zoning and the Building Department Area have access to the internet.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**  
**CERVONI-NO; ECONOMOPOULOS-YES; FISHBEIN-YES; LAFFIN-NO;**  
**LETOURNEAU-YES; RASCATI-NO; SULLICAN-YES; ZANDRI-YES;**  
**PARISI-NO**  
**5 AYE; 4 NAY**

**MOTION PASSED**

**Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission**

*In attendance: Erin O'Hara*

Inquiries from the Council included Purchased Services-Environment which is used for wetland violations usually reimbursed; one peer review in about seven years.

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE INLAND WETLAND AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION BUDGET AS PROPOSED.**

**MADE BY: PARISI**  
**SECONDED BY: Sullivan:**  
**VOTE: 8 AYE; 1 NAY (LAFFIN)**

**MOTION PASSED**

**Conservation Commission**

*In attendance: Mary Heffernon, Commission Vice-President*

*Erin O'Hare, Environmental Planner*

Inquiries from the Council included Budget Line 56704 Natural Resources for restoration of Fresh Meadows/Galko property as contrasted with the improvements on the east side of town with grants for the Tyler Mill Preserve.

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION BUDGET AS PROPOSED.**

**MADE BY: SULLIVAN**  
**SECONDED BY: RASCATI**  
**VOTE: 8 AYE; 1 NAY (LAFFIN)**

**MOTION PASSED**

## Law Dept

*In attendance: Gerald E. Farrell, Sr., Town Attorney  
Janis M. Small, Corporation Counsel*

Comments from the Law Department included a suggestion to the Mayor that the cost of when the town goes to arbitration over labor contracts with AAA (American Arbitration Association) that that cost be put into the personnel department budget. It was not supposed to suggest a reduction of \$7,500 in the Law Department budget but that they would receive \$7,500 more than the Mayor appropriated while still moving the other costs. The Law Department is now down \$7,500 under Professional Services- Specialists that the department would like to see returned to their budget. specialists account is used for foreclosures, appraisers and substantial committee fees if a party files for bankruptcy. This account The Council has approved replenishments to this account during the year and reimbursements, which go into the a revenue line call recovery of legal expenditures, can take up to five years through payment plans and also can cross fiscal years. Question as to spreading legal fees for arbitration over departments.

### **MOTION TO APPROVE THE ADDING \$7,500 TO LINE 56714 OF THE LAW DEPARTMENT BUDGET.**

**MADE BY: PARISI**  
**SECONDED BY: ZANDRI**  
**VOTE: 8 AYE; 1 NAY (LAFFIN)**  
**MOTION PASSED**

## Animal Control

*In attendance: Lisa Seyler, Animal Control Officer  
Dean Rizzo, Assistant Animal Control Officer*

Inquiries by the Council included: Trust account's balance; Use of the Trust account; Expenditure approval of the use of the Trust account; Project for which the Trust account was used; hours of operation; hours of staff; veterinary line item; types of use of Trust account for veterinary expenses

### **MOTION TO APPROVE THE ANIMAL CONTROL AS PROPOSED.**

**MADE BY:**  
**SECONDED BY:**  
**VOTE: 8 AYE; 1 NAY (LAFFIN)**  
**MOTION PASSED**

## Town Council

*In attendance: Robert F. Parisi, Chairman*

Comments were that the Capital Line item for a printer should not be in the Council's budget but in Capital and Non-Recurring Account.

### **MOTION TO APPROVE THE TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET AS PROPOSED.**

**MADE BY: SULLIVAN**

*Wallingford Town Hall, 45 South Main Street*

**SECONDED BY: RASCATI**  
**VOTE: 8 AYE; 2 NAY (LAFFIN, FISHBEIN)**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**  
**MADE BY: RASCATI**  
**SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS; 9-AYE**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:26 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Weekes  
Town Council Secretary  
Meeting digitally recorded

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Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

Date

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Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

Date