

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Town Council Chambers

October 23, 2012

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

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The Regular Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was called to order at 6:33 P.M. The Opening Prayer was offered by Reverend Dee Ann Dodd, St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Wallingford. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance as follows: Vincent Cervoni, Nick Economopoulos, Craig Fishbein, John Letourneau, Chairman Robert F. Parisi, Rosemary Rascati, John J. Sullivan and Jason Zandri. Councilor Thomas Laffin was not present for the meeting with an excused absence. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell, Sr. and Comptroller James Bowes were also in attendance at the meeting.

2. Correspondence

*None*

Chairman Parisi announced that Councilor Nick Economopoulos is being honored at a Connecticut Publicly-assisted Housing Resident Network, Inc. (PHRN) Celebration and Awards Ceremony on December 1, 2012 as the *Outstanding Elected Official for 2012*. The event will be held in Wallingford at St Paul's Episcopal Church.

Chairman Parisi also announced that Councilor Craig Fishbein has been appointed by Governor Dannel Malloy as a Commissioner on the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners. Led by Chairman Parisi, the Council congratulated both Councilors for their honors.

3. Consent Agenda

- 3a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds totaling \$5,446.31 (#266 - #293)  
Acct. # 001-1000-010-1170 - Tax Collector
- 3b. Consider and Approve a Budget Amendment in the Amount of \$26,800 from  
Appropriation to Cash to Various Accounts (eleven) – Sewer Division
- 3c. Consider and Approve a Budget Amendment in the Amount of \$4,800 to  
Appropriation and to Cash from Various Accounts (twenty) – Water Division
- 3d. Consider and Approve a Transfer – Local 1183 Wages in the Amount of \$120,019  
from Contingency-Accrued Expenses Acct 10019000-58821 to Various Accounts  
(twenty-three) – Personnel
- 3e. Consider and Approve a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to make application  
to the Department of Social Services for a Human Resource Development (HRD)  
program in the Amount of \$53,844, effective January 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014,  
to provide additional information as may be requested, to enter into and amend contractual  
instruments in the name of and on behalf of the Town and to act as the authorized  
representative of the Town of Wallingford – Program Planning
- 3f. Consider and approve an Agreement between the Town of Wallingford and SCOW to fulfill  
all terms and conditions of the Human Resource Development (HRD) Grant  
- Program Planning

- 3g.** Approve minutes of Regular Town Council meeting of October 9, 2012

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 3a. to 3g.**

**MADE BY: CERVONI**  
**SECONDED BY: RASCATI**  
**VOTE: AYE (8); 1 ABSENT (LAFFIN)**  
**MOTION PASSED.**

An announcement was made that Item 13 was withdrawn from the agenda.

- 4.** Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

*None*

**5. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD**

Geno Zandri, 9 Balsam Ridge Circle, spoke about burned out street lamps and the reporting system to replace those lamps.

Through the Chairman to the Town Attorney, Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, asked about types of meetings, such as Administrative meetings and special meetings, and what are their definitions. He asked about the progress of the Incentive Housing program.

- 6.** Consider and Approve a Budget Amendment in the Amount of \$80,000 to Appropriation from Cash to Maintenance of Structures & Improvements Acct # 43100651 – Water Division

*In attendance: Roger Dann, General Manager, Water and Sewer Divisions*

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$80,000 TO APPROPRIATION FROM CASH TO MAINTENANCE OF STRUCTURES & IMPROVEMENTS ACCT # 43100651.**

**MADE BY: CERVONI**  
**SECONDED BY: RASCATI**

Mr. Dann stated that other than what is in his memo, he had nothing to add to the request.

There were no questions or comments from the Town Council or from the public.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

<b>CERVONI: YES</b>	<b>ECONOMOPOULOS: YES</b>	<b>FISHBEIN: YES</b>
<b>LAFFIN: ABSENT</b>	<b>LETOURNEAU: YES</b>	<b>RASCATI: YES</b>
<b>SULLIVAN: YES</b>	<b>ZANDRI: YES</b>	<b>CHAIRMAN PARISI: YES</b>

**8-AYE; 1 ABSENT (LAFFIN)**  
**THE MOTION PASSED.**

- 7.** Consider and Approve a Bid Waiver for online services from SchoolDude – Board of Education

*In attendance: Dr. Salvatore Menzo, Superintendent of Public Schools  
Wallingford Town Hall, 45 South Main Street*

*Randall Backus, Director of Information Technology Services*

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE A BID WAIVER FOR ONLINE SERVICES FROM SCHOOLDUDE AS REQUESTED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

**MADE BY: CERVONI**  
**SECONDED BY: RASCATI**

Dr. Menzo gave an overview of the advantages of SchoolDude for the school system. He noted some of the positives with SchoolDude

- 1) It assists in online maintenance requests from teachers and administrators. He said it's efficient and has allowed clerical overtime reduction;
- 2) He talked of 'Maintenance Direct', which is a system that has connection with with the heating and cooling systems allowing shut-offs in buildings that are not being used. The scheduling component allows electronic coordination and invoicing of groups that use the school for their own purpose as soon as the event is over for that group. This has automated that system again allowing for clerical reduction.
- 3) He talked about the IT component that helps teachers report their computer problems electronically thus eliminating the many steps needed in the past to report the problem. Additionally, the work of checking on the problem is assigned immediately to the individual doing that work.

He talked of the funding and that this year it will cost \$9,487 and that the bid limit is \$7,500. For purposes of full disclosure, next year it will be \$10,285. He said that the excess over the bid limit will be \$1,987, and next year it will be \$2,485. To bid this every two or three years would be an inefficient use of time with respect to the amount of historical data the one needs to use in the bidding process.

Councilor Cervoni inquired whether a bid waiver is being requested for just this year. Dr. Menzo responded that it will be in the future and that this year is what they are looking for now, and then it will appear on the annual bid list.

Councilor Zandri asked if the Board of Education is adding a component. Dr. Menzo stated that they were and that the additional cost for this year is the new third component is being pro-rated due to the short year for it. There is no change in cost for the other two components.

There were no public comments.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

<b>CERVONI: YES</b>	<b>ECONOMOPOULOS: YES</b>	<b>FISHBEIN: YES</b>
<b>LAFFIN: ABSENT</b>	<b>LETOURNEAU: YES</b>	<b>RASCATI: YES</b>
<b>SULLIVAN: YES</b>	<b>ZANDRI: YES</b>	<b>CHAIRMAN PARISI: YES</b>

**8-AYE; 1 ABSENT (LAFFIN)**

**THE MOTION PASSED.**

8. Report out on performance of the Ambulance Transport Division for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of FY 2012-13 – Fire Chief

*In attendance: Fire Chief Peter Struble  
Deputy Fire Chief Richard Heidert  
Deputy Chief Stephen Alsup*

For the Town Council for the First Quarter of service for FY 2012-13, Chief Struble noted that the Ambulance Transport Division of the Fire Department began on July 1, 2012 with a new budget. They brought on new employees, who were already cross-trained firefighter/paramedics or firefighter/EMTs, for peak hour, 8:00 A.M to 8:00 P.M., coverage with the new ambulance seven (7) days per week. They performed a training start with the new employees, and then had what he called a 'hard start' running with the twelve (12) hours. From July 26, the Ambulance Transport Division has been on duty with two ambulances for twelve (12) hours per day, 8:00 A.M to 8:00 P.M., and then one (1) ambulance night-duty for twelve (12) hours, 8:00 P.M to 8:00 A.M.

He discussed the performance results, reporting that in the first quarter of 2012, there were 737 transports; with 120 transports passed off. They captured 84% of the 911 calls, including during the startup/transition period during July. This is compared to 2011, when 69% in the same quarter was captured. In the first quarter 2011, there were nine (9) patients transported to a hospital that required a paramedic, and they didn't have one available, and, significantly, in the first quarter of 2012, they did not have a single patient go to the hospital without a paramedic. Because they were so busy, they could not handle all of the calls. They were used to calling on North Branford for assistance on a weekly basis; and now they have only called upon them once in a multi-patient incident. Now Wallingford delivers assistance to Hamden and North Haven. When they transport on a routine basis, since Quinnipiac U is back in session, they are billing for those services.

In the first quarter, paramedics on the first responder units had to ride in with a patient, who was on a transport back-up ambulance service eighteen (18) times, and fifteen (15) of those eighteen (18) times were during the daytime, when the rescue unit was in service. The system is very busy. He said that they are happy that there were only three times when a paramedic was not available on the overnight shift. He added that this is a good trade-off for the level of service they are able to offer. Performance wise, it appears that placing the extra resource on those peak hours has been a very good match for the demand.

He reported that the over-night activity between 2011 and 202 is virtually unchanged. Not having to wait for a second ambulance to arrive means that their on-scene times are shorter, which makes turn-around times faster and puts the crews ready and in town. This allows them to capture most of the day-time calls. This is an unpredicted benefit. He said that for the quarter it was 84%, but now in being fully operational, in the last two months, they are trending towards, 86% to 92%, with one month being 92%.

He said that expenses were on budget and that it has been a challenge separating out components within the municipal budget while working with Finance. He was proud to see the level of service that is being provided and that it is markedly different in the reduction of daytime stress. They have one paramedic in fire school, and they have offered a job to an EMT.

He said that they will return again to report to the Town Council how the second quarter unfolded. He added that this experience will serve them in developing their budget for next year.

Councilor Cervoni congratulated Chief Struble for pioneering this service and thanked him for this terrific report. He asked about collections, which have been troublesome in the past.

Deputy Chief Alsup stated that as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, they had a new billing company and at this time they have no collections, that no one has gone past due. Ninety (90) days to one hundred and twenty (120) days past due puts them and into a collection role. That has not yet occurred. They are currently writing a bid, which will go out soon, for a collection agency. They have not been in service long enough for there to be any collection status, so either everything has been paid on time, or it is in receivable status.

Councilor Sullivan asked Deputy Chief Alsup what time-frame puts folks into collection, at what point? The Fire Department gets notice from the billing company, and then they decide what happens- 30-day letter, 60-day letter, 90-day letter. After that the billing company asks the Fire Department what is to be done next. Collection status is done on an individual case-by-case basis. Chief Struble stated that in the case of an auto accident that they might get paid in a year, so a case like this would not go to collection. Also they deal with rejected insurance claims, followed by communication with the insurance company looking for a settlement... Chief Struble stated that they sign off on each one of them. The bookkeeping is performed by a 15-year, part-time clerk, who used to do all of their billing. The billing company now does this task while the Fire Department clerk prepares the field, medical information for billing purposes. Following that she works with the billing company. She reconciles their portion of billing for appropriateness. She is the filter system between the department and the billing agency.

Chief Struble answered Councilor Sullivan with regard to staffing –Two paramedics and two EMTs who work four (4) twelve-hour days and then they have four days off. He said that all of them are cross-trained as firefighters. Newly hired EMTs will be trained with the expectation that eventually they will go to paramedic school. Councilor Sullivan said he is very happy and that this has been a positive move. He was curious as to why not so much service is needed during the night. The Chief answered saying that everyone is asleep, things are quiet even on the highways, everything is less busy. He said it starts up again around 6:00 A.M.

Councilor Zandri asked if there is any merit to expanding in the future and adding another unit. Chief Struble explained *unit utilization* hours. He commented that in capturing most of the calls and in the delivery of service being provided, that they are happy. They are looking at efficiency range, and if they see *unit utilization* go up, then they would expect to also see is the ability to capture calls go down. He said that now the model is there; and the staffing structure is in the labor contract. To answer Councilor Zandri, he said that if they need to do that, they could. It is a matter of watching those metrics as they move forward.

Councilor Fishbein was interested in collections and asked if they deal with ‘letters of protection’? The Chief stated that they do deal with attorney letters from time to time.

Geno Zandri asked about Collections and Revenues.

To summarize, Chief Struble stated that there is difficulty in change, which is what they did on July 1 with a new scheduling change. He said that everyone stepped up and did and are doing a phenomenal job.

9. Acceptance and Appropriation of FEMA Grant to *Ambulance Transport Enterprise Fund* in the Amount of \$151,494 to Grant Revenue Acct (New Line to be established) and to Cardiac Monitors Acct (New Line to be established)- Fire Department

**MOTION WAS MADE FOR ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF FEMA GRANT TO AMBULANCE TRANSPORT ENTERPRISE FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$151,494 TO GRANT REVENUE ACCT (NEW LINE TO BE ESTABLISHED) AND TO CARDIAC MONITORS ACCT (NEW LINE TO BE ESTABLISHED)**

*In attendance: Fire Chief Peter Struble  
Deputy Fire Chief Richard Heidert  
Deputy Chief Stephen Alsup*

**MADE BY: CERVONI  
SECONDED BY: RASCATI**

Chief Struble said that this grant is a huge win in helping to replace 12-year old cardiac monitors and that in addition to this grant, there is another grant in the next item, followed by a departmental transfer, which makes up that last portion of the actual expense. The grants allow for 5 new cardiac monitors. The Chief was asked about the gray lines between the service and the First Responder Unit. He said that they need to address and sort out what belongs where.

No public comments.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

<b>CERVONI:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>ECONOMOPOULOS:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>FISHBEIN:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>LAFFIN:</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>LETOURNEAU:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>RASCATI:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>SULLIVAN:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>ZANDRI:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>CHAIRMAN PARISI:</b>	<b>YES</b>

**8-AYE; 1 ABSENT (LAFFIN)**

**THE MOTION PASSED.**

10. Acceptance and Appropriation of Wallingford Energy, LLC Grant to *Ambulance Transport Enterprise Fund* in the Amount of \$3,500 to Grant Revenue Acct (New Line to be established) and to Cardiac Monitors (New Line to be established)- Fire Department

**MOTION WAS MADE FOR ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF WALLINGFORD ENERGY, LLC GRANT TO AMBULANCE TRANSPORT ENTERPRISE FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,500 TO GRANT REVENUE ACCT (NEW LINE TO BE ESTABLISHED) AND TO CARDIAC MONITORS ACCT (NEW LINE TO BE ESTABLISHED)**

*In attendance: Fire Chief Peter Struble  
Deputy Fire Chief Richard Heidert  
Deputy Chief Stephen Alsup*

**MADE BY: CERVONI  
SECONDED BY: RASCATI**

Chief Struble said that this used to be PPL, and a long standing award. This year they made application for the funds. No public comments.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**CERVONI: YES ECONOMOPOULOS: YES FISHBEIN: YES**  
**LAFFIN: ABSENT LETOURNEAU: YES RASCATI: YES**  
**SULLIVAN: YES ZANDRI: YES CHAIRMAN PARISI: YES**

**8-AYE; 1 ABSENT (LAFFIN)**

**THE MOTION PASSED.**

11. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$11,650 for *Ambulance Transport Enterprise Fund* to Cardiac Monitors Acct (New Line to be established) from Regular Salaries and Wages Acct # 50020155-51000 – Fire Department

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE A TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,650 FOR AMBULANCE TRANSPORT ENTERPRISE FUND TO CARDIAC MONITORS ACCT (NEW LINE TO BE ESTABLISHED) FROM REGULAR SALARIES AND WAGES ACCT # 50020155-51000**

**MADE BY: CERVONI**  
**SECONDED BY: RASCATI**

No public comments from either the Town Council or from the public.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**CERVONI: YES ECONOMOPOULOS: YES FISHBEIN: YES**  
**LAFFIN: ABSENT LETOURNEAU: YES RASCATI: YES**  
**SULLIVAN: YES ZANDRI: YES CHAIRMAN PARISI: YES**

**8-AYE; 1 ABSENT (LAFFIN)**

**THE MOTION PASSED.**

12. Discussion and Possible Action with regard to the latest bid submission for 41 South Main Street property and the former American Legion Building – Chairman Robert Parisi

**MOTION WAS MADE TO TABLE THE ITEM TO ALLOW MR. GOUVEIA TO BE INVITED TO BE PRESENT FOR DISCUSSION ON THE 41 SOUTH MAIN STREET PROPERTY AND THE FORMER AMERICAN LEGION BUILDING.**

**MADE BY: CERVONI**  
**SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN**

No public comments from either the Town Council or from the public.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**CERVONI: YES ECONOMOPOULOS: NO FISHBEIN: YES**  
**LAFFIN: ABSENT LETOURNEAU: YES RASCATI: YES**  
**SULLIVAN: YES ZANDRI: YES CHAIRMAN PARISI: YES**

**7-AYE; 1-NAY (ECONOMOPOULOS); 1 ABSENT (LAFFIN)  
THE MOTION PASSED.**

- 13.** Discussion and Possible Action for Appointing a Town Parking Authority  
– Councilor Nick Economopoulos

*WITHDRAWN*

- 14.** Executive Session pursuant to §1-200 (6)(D) of the Connecticut General Statutes with respect to the purchase, sale and/or leasing of property – Mayor
- 15.** Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §1-225(f) and §1-200(6)(B) to discuss the following tax appeals:

- (a) Respironics, Inc. v. Town of Wallingford
- (b) PMC Realty, LLC v. Town of Wallingford
- (c) Plaza 15-5, LLC v. Town of Wallingford  
-Law Department

**MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO**

- 14. §1-200 (6)(D) OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES WITH RESPECT TO THE PURCHASE SALE AND/OR LEASING OF PROPERTY.**

**and**

- 15. §1-225(f) and §1-200(6)(B) to discuss the following tax appeals:**
- (a) Respironics, Inc. v. Town of Wallingford
- (b) PMC Realty, LLC v. Town of Wallingford
- (c) Plaza 15-5, LLC v. Town of Wallingford

**MADE BY: CERVONI  
SECONDED BY: RASCATI  
8-AYE; 1 ABSENT (LAFFIN)  
THE MOTION PASSED.**

**MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**MADE BY: CERVONI  
SECONDED BY: RASCATI  
8-AYE; 1 ABSENT (LAFFIN)  
THE MOTION PASSED.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ATTENDANCE:**

- 14. EIGHT (8) COUNCILORS; LAFFIN ABSENT;  
MAYOR DICKINSON**

**TOWN ATTORNEY GERALD E. FARRELL, SR.**

- 15. (a), (b) and (c)  
EIGHT (8) COUNCILORS; LAFFIN ABSENT;  
MAYOR DICKINSON  
TOWN ATTORNEY GERALD E. FARRELL, SR.**

**TIME OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- 14. 7:30 P.M. TO 8:13 P. M.**
- 15.(a) 8:14 P. M.– 8:17 P. M.. Respironics, Inc. v. Town of Wallingford**
- 15.(b) 8:18 P. M.– 8:19 P. M. PMC Realty, LLC v. Town of Wallingford**
- 15.(c) 8:19 P. M.– 8:23 P. M. Plaza 15-5, LLC v. Town of Wallingford**
- 16.** Motion to consider and approve the settlement of the *Respironics, Inc. v. Town of Wallingford* tax appeal matter as discussed in Executive Session – Law Department

**MOTION WAS MADE TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN ATTORNEY TO RESOLVE THE MATTER THE MATTER OF *Respironics, Inc. v. Town of Wallingford* AS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.  
MADE BY: CERVONI  
SECONDED BY: RASCATI  
VOTE: 8-AYE; 1 ABSENT (LAFFIN)  
THE MOTION PASSED.**

- 17.** Motion to consider and approve the settlement of the *PMC Realty, LLC v. Town of Wallingford* tax appeal matter as discussed in Executive Session – Law Department

**MOTION WAS MADE TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN ATTORNEY TO RESOLVE THE MATTER THE MATTER OF *PMC Realty, LLC C v. Town of Wallingford* AS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.  
MADE BY: CERVONI  
SECONDED BY: RASCATI  
VOTE: 8-AYE; 1 ABSENT (LAFFIN)  
THE MOTION PASSED.**

- 18.** Discussion and possible action regarding the matter of the *Plaza 15-5, LLC v. Town of Wallingford* tax appeal matter as discussed in Executive Session – Law Department

**MOTION WAS MADE TO GRANT THE TOWN ATTORNEY AUTHORITY TO RESOLVE THE APPEAL MATTER OF *Plaza 15-5, LLC v. Town of Wallingford* AS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.  
MADE BY: CERVONI  
SECONDED BY: RASCATI**

**VOTE: 7-AYE; 1-NAY (FISHBEIN); 1 ABSENT (LAFFIN)**  
**THE MOTION PASSED.**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN.**  
**MADE BY: CERVONI**  
**SECONDED BY: RASCATI**  
**VOTE: AYE (9)**  
**MOTION PASSED**

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M. with no further business to conduct.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Weekes  
Town Council Secretary

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Town Council Chairman Robert F. Parisi Date

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Town Clerk Barbara Thompson Date