

**TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT**

*Special Town Council Meeting*

**April 30, 2013**

*Town Council Chambers*

**FY 2013 – 2014 BUDGET WORKSHOP**

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**RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES**

The Special Budget Workshop Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was called to order at 6:34 P.M. Councilors in attendance were as follows: Vincent Cervoni, Nick Economopoulos, Craig Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, John Letourneau, Chairman Robert Parisi and Jason Zandri. Councilors Rosemary Rascati and John Sullivan were not present with excused absences. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and Comptroller James M. Bowes attended the meeting.

**3. BUDGET WORKSHOP**

**Finance**

**Accounting Office**

**Property Assessment**

**Purchasing**

**Tax Collection**

*In attendance: James M. Bowes, Comptroller*

Mr. Bowes explained that the four divisions –the Accounting Office, Property Assessment, Purchasing, Tax Collection and Mail Room and the Copy Center are all within the Finance Department Budget. He said that the next revaluation is set for the grant list of October 1, 2015 and is referred to as an 'interim revaluation' or a 'statistical revaluation'. The interim revaluation is approximately \$200,000 less in cost than the full-inspection revaluation. He has budgeted \$110,000 for this line, which is the largest part of his budget other than salaries.

With the Council, Mr. Bowes addressed questions with regard to the drop box; the mail and copy center related to the postage meter and the mail courier service; and office supplies and expenses for the four divisions. He also responded to questions about the Revenue Budget-Property Taxes-Motor Vehicle and PILOT PROGRAM - Ashlar Village. A breakdown of the payment schedule for Wallingford Day Care was requested.

The Town's credit rating was discussed and the measurements necessary for the rating. The following lines were examined: Line 45122- Misc; Line 45120-Tribal Gaming; Line 45060 –Public School transportation. They spent some time discussing the inability to tax manufacturing equipment.

With regard to funds flowing to the town from the state, both Mayor Dickinson and Mr. Bowes said that the cut of \$1,800,000 by the state to the town is driving everything right now. They hope to have more information within the week. The cut may result in a higher mill rate. Mayor Dickinson stated that Electric Division funds would not be used for operating expenses. He said that \$1.8 million is a major hit. He said he is worried.

### **Debt Services**

*In attendance: James M. Bowes, Comptroller*

Mr. Bowes discussed with the Council Interest In Debt-Reduction (Line 8510) and New Debt Financing-School Roof Debt (Line 8582). Councilor Fishbein and Mr. Bowes discussed the School Roof Project. Councilor Economopoulos asked about refinancing of the town's bonds. Mr. Bowes said that the last refinancing saved the town about \$700,000

### **Contingency**

*In attendance: James M. Bowes, Comptroller*

Councilor Fishbein requested more information with regard to Line 58821 Accrued Expenses. The discussion again returned to the budget as a whole with regard to the cuts the state may make.

Mr. Bowes defined Surplus, Deficit and Reserve.

### **Pension Funds**

*In attendance: James M. Bowes, Comptroller*

Consolidated Pension Plan (Line 52305) was discussed.

### **Mayor**

*In attendance: William W. Dickinson, Jr., Mayor*

With regard to Line 58810 Dues & Fees, Councilor Fishbein stated his objection to the cost of membership in CCM. He presented an Rx card from another insurance company.

The Mayor was asked about the cost of the Resident Disposal Center. He responded to questions with regard to Line 56712-Purchased Services-Negotiation. It was suggested that this line might be more appropriate 'elsewhere' in the budget.

### **MOTION**

**MOTION WAS MADE IN INCREASE BUDGET LINE 51000 BY THE AMOUNT OF \$12,000 TO INCREASE THE MAYOR'S SALARY.**

**MADE BY: CERVONI**

**SECONDED BY: PARISI**

Mayor Dickinson commented that it might be good to wait on this until we know the larger picture. Councilor Cervoni thinks that this salary should be much higher but that the Council should use judicious increments to minimize the impact on the taxpayer. Further discussion resulted in an amended motion. Councilor Cervoni withdrew his first motion. Chairman Parisi withdrew his second.

Mr. Bowes stated for the record that just because it is in the budget doesn't mean it is going to happen.

**AMENDED MOTION**

**MOTION WAS MADE IN INCREASE 51000 THE MAYOR'S SALARY BY \$6,000.**

**MADE BY: CERVONI**

**SECONDED BY: PARISI**

Further discussion led to another amendment. Councilor Fishbein stated an amended motion, which Councilor Cervoni accepted as a friendly amendment. He withdrew his amendment, and Chairman Parisi withdrew his second.

**FRIENDLY AMENDMENT**

**MOTION TO INCREASE THE MAYOR'S SALARY BY \$12,000; HOWEVER, FOR THIS NEXT FISCAL YEAR STARTING JANUARY 1, 2014 FOR IT TO REFLECT \$6,000.**

**MADE BY: FISHBEIN**

**SECONDED BY: PARISI**

Councilor Letourneau thought the Council should wait until they know where the budget will be.

**VOTE:**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

**7-AYE; 21 ABSENT (RASCATI & SULLIVAN)**

**THE MOTION PASSED.**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**MADE BY: CERVONI**

**SECONDED BY: RASCATI**

**VOTE: ALL PRESENT (7) AYE; 2-ABSENT**

**MOTION PASSED**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:29 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra R. Weekes  
Town Council Secretary  
Meeting digitally recorded

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Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

Date

Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

Date