

**TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT**

*Special Town Council Meeting*

**APRIL 21, 2015**

*Town Council Chambers*

**FY 2015 – 2016 BUDGET WORKSHOP**

**MINUTES**

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The Special Budget Workshop Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was called to order at 6:36 P.M. It began with a Moment of Silence. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were: Chairman Vincent Cervoni and Councilors Craig Fishbein, Tom Laffin, John Letourneau, Christine Mansfield, Larry Russ and John Sullivan. Councilor Robert F. Parisi arrived at 6:47 P.M. Councilor Vincent F. Testa, Jr. was absent from the meeting. Mayor Dickinson and Comptroller Bowes were at the meeting.

**3. BUDGET WORKSHOP**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

*In Attendance: Salvatore Menzo, Superintendent of Schools*

*Linda Winters, Business Manager*

*Roxane McKay, Chairwoman, Board of Education*

Mr. Menzo presented a one-hour PowerPoint report.

Councilor Letourneau inquired about Line 330-Program Tech Services and Line 430 Repair and Maintenance and asked if this was a workable budget? Dr. Menzo responded yes, that it was.

Councilor Fishbein discussed All Day Kindergarten, inquiring about its length and requirements.

Councilor Sullivan asked about pre-school expansion at the cost of \$86,000, needed to make it happen and how they will make it happen. They will reduce supplies, etc. Councilor Sullivan commented that it seemed to be well planned.

Councilor Mansfield noted that 19% of our school children can't pay for lunch and said that she would like the Board of Education sharpen [their pencils] and indicated that some line items have too much money in them. She noted that the average family's income is \$39,000.

Councilor Fishbein responded to personal comments made about him. He reported all of the school events in which he has been involved. Part of those activities this year included reading to students in the elementary schools to being with the Sheehan band and chorus at Disney. He said that what he has to say should not be discounted just because he doesn't have kids in the school system.

Councilor Parisi asked about Line 430 Repair maintenance and Line 560 Tuition for out-of-system children and Line 580 about mileage.

### **CAFETERIA**

*In Attendance: Salvatore Menzo, Superintendent of Schools  
Sharlene Wong, Food Services Director  
Roxane McKay, Chairwoman, Board of Education*

Ms. Wong stated that Food Services has exhausted their fund balance and that this is the first year that they are requesting a subsidy from the town. She said rates are higher for her fully staffed service. She reported some of the statistics of her department: over 1,000 students eat with assistance; students are not buying 'healthy' snacks; and lunch cost will rise by five cents per paying student.

Councilor Letourneau asked if she could opt out of healthy food. Ms. Wong said that taking this kind of action is directly related to the 'free student' funding they currently receive.

Councilor Parisi mentioned salt.

Councilor Fishbein acknowledged that he was impressed by Ms. Wong's presentation as he has in the past.

### **SOCIAL SERVICES -MAYOR Spanish Community of Wallingford (SCOW)**

*In Attendance: Maria, Executive Director  
Jeff Necio*

Ms. Harlow recounted statistics that included that fourteen percent (14%) of the Town's population is Hispanic and that the State of Connecticut has a growing Hispanic population. She said that it is imperative that the Latino community be productive, educated and part of the community. The State is facing challenges and funding could be cut.

### **Wallingford Center Inc. (WCI)**

*In Attendance: Elizabeth Landow, Executive Director  
Steve Lazarus, President  
Joan Parisi, Treasurer*

It was reported that they are asking for \$650 less than last year. They said that they are requesting \$4,000 in legal fees associated with the FOIA lawsuit. If they don't receive those funds, they will use their reserves. Benches were discussed. They cost \$750 but one could be sponsored for \$300 to help offset the cost to Wallingford Center.

### **SENIOR CENTER**

*In Attendance: William Viola, Executive Director*

Councilor Fishbein talked about any carryover.

### **MASTERS MANNA**

*In Attendance: Cheryl Trzcinski, Executive Director  
Bill Pappas  
Gail Powell*

They are making a vegetable towers and would like to give a few to the Board of Education.

**CENTER STREET CEMETERY ASSOCIATION**

*In Attendance: Peter Gouveia, President*

Some statistics and budget lines were discussed.

**WALLINGFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST**

*In Attendance: Jerry Farrell, Jr., President*

Councilor Fishbein talked about a budget for next year, projections and what the \$20,000 was for.

Councilor Sullivan was also interested in the budget.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN.**

**MADE BY: FISHBEIN**

**SECOND BY: LETOURNEAU**

**8 AYE; 1-ABSENT (TESTA).**

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Weekes  
Secretary to the Town Council  
From notes submitted by the Town Clerk  
Meeting digitally recorded

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Chairman Vincent Cervoni

Date

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Town Clerk, Barbara Thompson

Date