

The seventh budget workshop was held on Tuesday, May 5, 1987 called to order by Chairman David A. Gessert at 7:10 p.m. Council Members Adams, Bergamini, Gouveia, Holmes, Killen, Papale, Polanski, Rys and Gessert were present. Also present were Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and Comptroller Thomas A. Myers.

BOARD OF EDUCATION, pages 132-133

A motion was made by Mr. Rys to move pages 132-133, seconded by Mr. Polanski.

Mr. Kari explained that on April 9th I went up to the State Department to speak with Mr. Guzman, the coordinator for the school facilities and takes care of all grants and I explained to him that these grants have been over 10 years old in some cases, and we would like to get these wiped off of the books. Mr. Guzman sent a letter back to me and we went over each one of these grants and in some cases, he explained to me, that it was just a matter of filling out 1 or 2 forms to send them in. These are final project costs. The biggest problem that I saw was the Lyman Hall Choral Room, and I could not get a straight answer from them. The project Catch-Up started back in 1975 and the Choral Room was somehow added to the project Catch-Up in 1982. The original project Catch-Up was bonded and the Choral Room was paid for in cash. It could not and should not have been tacked on together. The Choral Room should have a 5 year reimbursement period and the other with the bonding. I received a letter last week from Mr. Christenger, who was originally handling this Choral Room. In his letter, he stated to me that all we needed was an EDO-44, which is a final cost specifications for the Lyman Hall project Catch-Up with the Choral Room attached. At this time, I am working on it.

Mr. Polanski commented that he noticed the increase for the electricity and the phone system, the Electric Company has said that there is not going to be any raise in the electric rates, yet there is almost \$100,000 extra for electricities in all of the schools. Mrs. Marianella explained that the Council voted to forward through to us, \$100,000 when we got new monies in from the state, when we did this process last year. Instead of taking that \$100,000 out of our budget in 29 different places, it was taken out of the Utilities Account (electric), so the figure that you see in here for fiscal year 1987 under Utilities, is \$100,000 short. Mr. Polanski asked how much has been spent in utilities so far this year and Mr. Kari explained that as of April 15th, they have \$265,000 expended.

Referring to the item for Clocks and Alarms (in the Board of Education book), Mr. Polanski commented that \$38,000 was a lot of money to spend. Mrs. Marianella explained that this is the alarms, the security alarm monitor control in all of the schools.

Mr. Holmes asked to have line item 3220, Contracted Services explained and Mrs. Marianella explained that this is a variety of things. The Sheehan maintenance contract is included in that line item and this will be the beginning of the new contract. We have also contracted out for more outside services. This also includes maintenance contracts on equipment for the schools.

Mr. Rys asked what the percentage of increase was for Insurance and Mr. Kari explained that the figure from the Insurance Company was 25%. Mrs. Marianella added that there is one figure in there that they don't get accurately until November, and that is the Major Medical figure.

So we have to put in an estimate for Major Medical.

Mr. Gouveia pointed out that it looks like they will be ending up with a \$70,000 surplus in the Utilities Account. Mr. Kari explained that they are down \$69,000 as of 4/15. Mrs. Marianella added that these are the bills paid as of 4/15.

Regarding Insurance, Mrs. Marianella explained that they are now paying Social Security and Medicare which was being paid out from the town and now, due to the change in laws, we have to pay it directly. That is added in also which accounts for some of the difference between last year's figure and this year's figure. For this year, half the year was \$26,000 that was transferred from your budget into our budget to cover this from January 1st on.

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Referring to line 5000, Major Capital Impr, Mrs. Bergamini asked to have this increase explained and Mrs. Marianella explained that historically, they often wait until the end of the year to spend that money to make sure we have not had any crises and a lot of that work does get done in the Summertime. Mr. Soldan added that it does not make sense to apply a percentage to a Capital Account. A Capital Account is generated on needs, and needs vary from year to year.

Mrs. Papale asked what they are going to be doing with this money in the next few months, that has not been spent as of yet. Mr. Kari explained that \$ 7,000 is going for transformers for Lyman Hall, of that \$60,000. We will be doing approx. \$25,000 for repairs to bleachers, (3 schools), \$20,000 to update the HBAC rooftop units at Sheehan and \$8,000 to replace intercom console speakers at Cook Hill, hopefully before July 1st. Mr. Kari explained that the intercom console is in the works right now. The bids have gone out and we have gotten them back. The transformer money has been encumbered and we are going forward with that. Mr. Soldan added (regarding the transformers) that they had projected at that time, \$7,000 for the transformer replacement, which is a safety hazard. The low bid came in for \$25,000.

Mr. Andrew Bravo commented that the scope of work has changed considerably because of the requirements that we had to put in there.

Referring to the Capital Budget, Mrs. Palsco stated that their Capital Budget for this year was low compared to other years because, we put whatever money we could in repaving and that was not in the Capital, that was in Grounds Upkeep Sites account and because the cost of asphalt is very inexpensive right now, we felt that it was cost efficient to do as much as we could while the price was low. We did a great deal of paving last summer and we intend to do more paving this year. Some of the monies that might have gone for Capital Budget items was placed instead, in the paving.

Mr. Adams commented that he would like some insight as to where the \$558,000 was cut from. Mr. Gessert added that we have no line item control over this particular budget, the only choice we have is to change the bottom line.

Mr. Gouveia commented that he believes that the students need the extra Guidance Counselors. I am willing to put a motion on the floor to restore \$200,000 providing that I see something done to the middle school, because the need is there for the middle school.

Referring to line item 3310, Pupil Transportation, Mr. Holmes asked if this was a contracted figure and Mrs. Marianella explained that they do have a contracted figure and next year is the third year in our contract and the percentage increase goes up next year.(6%) We have an increasing number of costs for Special Ed transportation, and there will be 3 more busses for Parker Farms next year. So far this year, we have spent \$315,000 in Special Ed transportation.

Mr. Kari commented that the Tuition account is running \$100,000 in the hole. There is a collation between these Tuition accounts at these other institutions throughout the state and the Transportation account.

Mr. Gessert asked how many students are transported every year and Ms. Eckard explained that they transport 134 Special Ed Students all over the state. The state put one of our children from Wallingford into a foster home in Bridgeport, the parents live in Wallingford and DCYS placed that child in a foster home in Bridgeport and takes him to a special school in Trumbull. We pay some transporter to take that child, on a one on one basis. DCYS can place them anywhere in the state and we provide transportation for them. Mr. Gessert asked what it costs to transport that child and Ms. Eckard replied that one that they transport from Wallingford to Newington, which moved over to East Hartford, that child costs us \$150.00 a day.

Mrs. Marianella commented that if nothing changes, we will be spending \$700,000 for the rest of this year under Tuition.

Mr. Gessert asked if anyone has ever challenged DCYS with regard to sending a child from Wallingford to East Hartford, which costs them \$27,000. Mrs. Eckard stated that they do check into situations such as this one and presently, they have a van which is shared by North Branford and Wallingford.

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Regarding Parker Farms School, Mr. Holmes asked if there was anything else budgeted besides programs and teachers and Mrs. Marianella explained that they have Plant Operations, Maintenance, Support Services, and Audio-Visual Library, nothing for furniture.

Referring to line item 3400, Communications, Mr. Gessert asked why they have a 20% increase in 2 years and why did they only spend 1/3 of their appropriation in the first 7 months, of this year.

Mrs. Marianella explained that, that could be bills paid to date. That doesn't mean that we paid for all of the services through to that date. Mr. Kari added that in July and August, there is no school and you have a lot of people making phone calls from the schools. As of 4/15, we have spent \$50,000, which could be the bill through March 4th.

Mr. Killen pointed out that they have \$48,000 left until July 1st, and they are asking for more.

Mr. Nicoletti explained that Postage is added into that account and you are talking about 1,800 mailings times 4, times another 4 for deficiencies, so there is a lot more than telephone in there. Everybody gets report cards and a good sum get deficiencies.

Referring to line 3220, Contracted Services (maintenance of grounds) Mr. Polanski asked to have the \$40,000 explained and Mrs. Palsco explained that some of it we paved and some we didn't, some of it will be paved this year. Mrs. Marianella added that one thing that they have to spread out is the snowplowing contract. This year, it was \$30,000, split up among the schools. Mr. Namnoun added that part of the contract, is to build fences to block the vehicles from entering school grounds and also to maintain the fields.

Mr. Polanski commented that under the Enhancement Act, for last year, they received a bonus of \$86,000 and asked what they will be getting for 1987/88. Mrs. Marianella replied that they would get the same amount.

Mrs. Papale commented that she has no problem supporting the Mayor's cut on this budget. As I was looking through it, I came across a Special Program Request. There are some programs here that I feel are necessary and I would like hear you say that you can do them with the Mayor's cut. I really feel that the money, could be found but if not, I understand that these programs will be cut.

Mrs. Papale stated that she would like to make a motion to support an additional \$120,000, if we were guaranteed that these particular programs would be included in the 1987/88 budget and I would make the motion that this money is put in a contingency fund that would only be used for these programs to come on board.

Mr. Killen explained that this cannot be done unless the state promises you money later on and you haven't got it yet, you can give it to them as it comes in. At this time, if you want to give it to them, you have to give it to them across the board.

Mrs. Papale commented that she really feels that some of these programs are over-looked sometimes and feels that books and supplies are a necessity to the school. I feel that these programs are very important.

Mrs. Palsco added that when the budget was being prepared, the list for special requests was even longer and we went through them and prioritized them. You look through the budget and say that you have found a few dollars that haven't been spent this year, but keep in mind that we never come back to you at the end of the year and ask for more money, because we are overrun in Tuition, but that is a huge variable, it goes up tremendously. This year we are already almost \$100,000 over last year.

Referring to the item, Guidance (in the Board of Education book), Mr. Polanski asked what the extra \$26,000 is for and Mrs. Marianella explained that they want to have 2 full time Guidance Counselors in each middle school.

Mr. Holmes asked what type of education the children are getting for \$25 million dollars and Mrs. Marianella replied that the Wallingford students in the 4th, 6th and 8th grades, scored very well on the Mastery Test.

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Mrs. Bergamini asked why they thought they needed nurses at the elementary schools and Mrs. Marianella explained that they have more kids, with more special problems and more physical problems in the schools now than we ever have had in the past. The feel that it is time to have a nurse in the building at all times. Mrs. Palsco added that she felt that there is a real problem with liability and more often, we have a Principal or school secretary taking care of children who are ill or injured and they are not trained to do this, and Nurses are trained to get assistance when there is a serious occurrence. Mr. Soldan added, that with modern medicine and the latest controlled medications, there are far greater amounts of students in the public schools that were never there before, they are under controlled medication, and we don't want to leave them with a Principal or a teacher who can only do their best.

Mr. Gouveia stated that he believes that some cuts can be made in this budget and added that he thinks they will end up with a \$50,000 surplus from this year, in addition to the \$85,000 which is a total of \$420,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Gouveia to restore \$138,000, seconded by Mrs. Papale.

Mr. Rys asked what they did with the \$86,000 bonus money and Mrs. Palsco explained that they have not received it yet, but it will be spent on Administrators' salaries.

Mr. Gessert commented that when the departments were making out their budgets, they made a list of things that they would like to have and there are not too many cases where they got what they were asking for. All of us here are aware of the change in the state, the increase in teachers salaries, which was adopted back in November, to increase those salaries through the Enhancement Act, knowing full well that somewhere down the road, we weren't going to get any reimbursement for those. I came up with a budget of \$25.9 million, as compared to a budget of \$21.8 million, which leaves a \$4.1 million dollar increase, which far out wipes any increase that we got from the increase in the Grand List and that is a total of 18% over last year. We are looking at a \$26 million dollar budget that was cut 2½%. I don't think this budget cut is going to hurt the system and I think a \$4 million dollar increase in funding certainly provides income for increasing teachers salaries, and it provides increasing for a lot of other items listed in here. That increase is equivalent to over 3 mills. Education is not being ignored.

Mrs. Marianella added that the Town of Wallingford will be getting an additional \$1 million dollars in GTB money from this year to next year. That is a tremendous increase and that is based on Wallingford's willingness vs. ability to pay for education the first year that Mayor Dickinson was Mayor. This is based on 3 years ago. Also, because we are participating in the Enhancement Act, the town gets \$223,000 this year to spend and \$446,300 next year to spend.

Mr. Polanski pointed out that, regarding the \$446,300, the town also contributes the Town General Budget, over \$1 million dollars to the Education Department, so the \$446,300 does not offset it.

Mr. Killen commented that you have the teachers and Administrators salaries that make up the largest part. To offset that, you have industry coming into Wallingford that increases the Grand List plus the extra dollars from the state. The only thing that we can be sure of are the teachers' salaries, and we are going to have to pay that. It is going to cost us X amount of dollars this year, next year, and there is no guaranty that the state will continue to give us the Enhancement dollars. If the state withdraws, we have to pick up the difference, because this has already been built in here.

Mrs. Marianella commented that when the Council voted to participate in the Enhancement Act, you had 3 stipulations in there. That it would be not more than what was announced by the state, that the teachers would not get the money until it came through from the state and I forget what the third one is but, when we opened up the teachers contract, they are not getting those Enhancement dollars until they have been received in Wallingford.

Mr. Adams commented that he agreed with Mr. Gessert's comments and added that when he looked at the figures coming in from the state, there is \$11 million dollars coming in to the educational system

from the outside. When you subtract from the \$26 million dollar figure, it comes out to \$14.5 million dollars that we are actually supporting in education.

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VOTE: (to restore \$138,000) Bergamini, Holmes, Killen, Polanski, Rys and Gessert voted no.
Adams, Gouveia and Papale voted yes.
motion did not carry.

VOTE: (original motion) Unanimous ayes with the exception of Adams, Gouveia and Papale who voted no; motion duly carried.

WALLINGFORD FOOD SERVICE - CAFETERIA FUND, pages 150-150A

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes to move pages 150-150A, seconded by Mrs. Bergamini.

Mr. Polanski commented that over the years, there has been a decrease in donations to the school system and asked how this affects the Cafeteria Fund and Mr. Golanski explained that as far as Wallingford is concerned, he will not be able to project until the school year is closed. We have not received what the amounts will be as far as reimbursements at this time. Mr. Kari added that ever since 1982, there has been a decline as far as monies coming in, whether it is commodities or straight reimbursement for lunches. Mr. Polanski then asked if there was a possibility of an increase in school lunches. Mr. Soldan explained that they have had a commitment to hold the price and with great reluctance, we will increase. The last increase was last year and we hadn't had one since about 4 years prior to that.

Mr. Soldan commented to Mr. Killen that he reviews the budget along with the Board of Education.

Referring to Capital Equipment, Mrs. Bergamini asked if they plans in progress and Mr. Soldan explained that they will be converting all of the old dishwasher rooms, because we use throw aways now, into small conference rooms.

VOTE: Unanimous ayes; motion duly carried.

Mr. Gessert commented that he had 2 letters from the Fire Department, 1- regarding page 169, A/C 2032, explaining that there is an additional amount of \$1428.00 in this account, Continuous Duty Pay, which can be reduced to \$27,566.

A motion was made by Mrs. Bergamini to reduce Continuous Duty Pay, page 169, Fire Department Overhead, from \$28,994 to \$27,566, A/C 2032, seconded by Mr. Holmes.

VOTE: Unanimous ayes; motion duly carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Bergamini to move page 169, A/C 2032 as amended, seconded by Mr. Killen.

Mr. Gessert commented that the other letter was for a change on page 137, Capital Requests, A/C 2034, Cellular Telephones, changing the amount from 1 to 2.

A motion was made by Mr. Polanski to change Fire Emergency Center A/C 2034, page 137, Cellular Telephones from 1 to 2 at the same price, seconded by Mr. Killen.

VOTE: Unanimous ayes; motion duly carried.

A motion to adjourn was duly made, seconded and carried and the Seventh Budget Workshop adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Meeting recorded by:
Delores B. Fetta

Meeting transcribed by:
Susan M. Baron, Council Secretary