

The Tenth Budget Workshop of the Wallingford Town Council was held on Thursday, April 30, 1992 in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall and called to Order by Chairperson Iris F. Papale at 7:52 P.M. All Council Members answered present to the Roll called by Town Clerk Kathryn J. Wall. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and Comptroller Thomas A. Myers were also present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given at the opening of the Special Meeting held previous to this meeting.

RE MARSHAL, Page 62-63

Department Requested - \$191,821
Mayor Approved - \$185,361

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Approve the Mayor's Approved Budget in the Amount of \$185,361., seconded by Mr. Solinsky.

VOTE: Killen passed; Parisi was absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

AMBULANCE, Page 56

Department Requested - \$62,307
Mayor Approved - \$60,438

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Approve the Mayor's Approved Budget in the Amount of \$60,438., seconded by Mr. Parisi.

VOTE: Killen passed; all others, aye; motion duly carried.-

FIRE - EAST WALLINGFORD VOLUNTEER, Page 64-65

Department Requested - \$55,299
Mayor Approved - \$34,499

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Approve the Mayor's Approved Budget in the Amount of \$34,499., seconded by Mr. Parisi.

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Amend Increase Line #2010, Utilities, from \$6,500 to \$6,583., seconded by Mr. Parisi.

VOTE: Killen passed; Zandri, no; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Approve the East Wallingford Volunteer Fire Department Budget as Amended, seconded by Mr. Parisi.

VOTE: Killen passed; Zandri, no; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

FIRE - NORTH FARMS VOLUNTEER, Page 66

Department Requested - \$50,519
Mayor Approved - \$30,519

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Approve the Mayor's Approved Budget in the Amount of \$30,519., seconded by Mr. Parisi.

Motion was amended by Mr. Doherty to Increase Line #2010, Utilities, from \$2,800 to \$2,940., seconded by Mr. Parisi.

VOTE: Killen passed; Holmes was absent; Zandri, no; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Reduce Line #9918, SCBA Bottles by \$1,500 from \$2,100 to \$600., seconded by Mr. Parisi.

VOTE: Killen passed; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Create Account #9923, Shed Account in the North Farms Volunteer Budget and Place \$1,500 into that account, seconded by Mr. Parisi.

VOTE: Killen passed; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mrs. Duryea to Decrease Line #4520, Tires and Tubes by \$500 from \$1,100 to \$600., seconded by Mr. McDermott.

VOTE: Killen passed; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Accept the North Farms Volunteer Department Budget as Amended, seconded by Mr. Parisi.

VOTE: Killen passed, Zandri, no; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

FIRE - COOK HILL - VOLUNTEER. Page 68

Department Requested - \$51,205
Mayor Approved - \$31,205

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Approve the Mayor's Approved Budget in the Amount of \$31,205., seconded by Mr. Parisi.

Motion was amended by Mr. Doherty to Increase Line #2010, Utilities, from \$4,513 to \$4,589., seconded by Mr. Parisi.

VOTE: Killen passed; Zandri, no; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Approve the Cook Hill Volunteer Budget as Amended, seconded by Mr. Parisi.

VOTE: Killen passed, Zandri, no; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

FIRE - YALESVILLE VOLUNTEER. Page 70-71

Department Requested - \$51,667
Mayor Approved - \$31,667

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Approve the Mayor's Approved Budget in the Amount of \$31,667., seconded by Mr. Parisi.

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Increase Line #2010, Utilities, from \$5,500 to \$5,654., seconded by Mr. Parisi.

VOTE: Killen passed; Zandri, no; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Holmes to Approve the Yalesville Volunteer Fire Department Budget as Amended, seconded by Mr. Doherty.

VOTE: Killen passed; Parisi was absent; Zandri, no; all others, aye motion duly carried.

FE - REGULAR. Page #57-59

Department Requested - \$3,232,837
Mayor Approved - \$2,949,001

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Approve the Mayor's Approved Budget in the Amount of \$2,949,001., seconded by Mr. Parisi.

Motion was amended by Mr. Doherty to Increase Line #2010, Utilities, from \$23,722 to \$24,202., seconded by Mr. Parisi.

VOTE: Killen passed; Zandri, no; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Approve the Fire - Regular Account as Amended, seconded by Mr. Parisi.

VOTE: Killen passed; Zandri, no; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

FIRE SURGEON. Page 60

Department Requested - \$32,095
Mayor Approved - \$32,095

tion was made by Mr. Doherty to Approve the Mayor's Approved Budget the Amount of \$32,095., seconded by Mr. Solinsky.

VOTE: Killen and Holmes were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

FIRE EMERGENCY CENTER. Page 61

Department Requested - \$68,833
Mayor Approved - \$68,833

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Approve the Mayor's Approved Budget in the Amount of \$68,833., seconded by Mr. Parisi.

VOTE: Killen passed; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

INSURANCE. Line #8350. Self-Insurance Workers' Comp., Page 125

Motion was made by Mr. Parisi for Discussion Purposes only to Consider Reinstating \$100,000 back into this line that the Council decreased at a previous Budget Workshop from \$660,000 to \$560,000., seconded by Mr. Holmes.

Motion was made by Mr. Holmes to Increase the Account by \$100,000., seconded by Mr. Parisi.

VOTE: Killen passed; Holmes, Parisi and Papale, aye; all others, no; motion failed.

AUDIT CONTRACT, Page 32

Department Requested - \$58,000
Mayor Approved - \$58,000

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Approve the Mayor's Approved Budget in the Amount of \$58,000., seconded by Mr. Parisi.

VOTE: Killen passed; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

DEBT SERVICE, Page 123

Department Requested - \$3,462,799
Mayor Approved - \$3,462,799

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Approve the Mayor's Approved Budget in the Amount of \$3,462,799., seconded by Mr. Parisi.

VOTE: Killen passed; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING, Page 153

Department Requested - \$3,657,230
Mayor Approved - \$3,657,230

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Approve the Mayor's Approved Budget in the Amount of \$3,657,230., seconded by Mr. Holmes.

Motion was amended by Mr. Doherty to Increase the Electric Division's Contribution by \$148,500 to \$1,500,000., seconded by Mr. Holmes.

VOTE: Killen passed; Duryea and Parisi, no; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Approve the Capital and Non-Recurring Fund as Amended, seconded by Mr. McDermott.

VOTE: Killen passed; Duryea and Parisi, no; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

COUNCIL CONTINGENCY, Page 127

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Increase Line #3230, Contingency Reserve - General Government from \$100,000 to \$273,000., seconded by Mr. Holmes.

VOTE: Killen passed; Holmes, no; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Approve Line #3190, Reserve for

April 30, 1992

Tenth Budget Workshop

Emergency in the Amount of \$350,000., seconded by Mr. Parisi.

VOTE: Killen passed; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. McDermott to Adjourn the Meeting, seconded by Mr. Parisi.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned t 11:05 P.M.

Meeting recorded and transcribed by:

Kathryn F. Milano, Town Council Secretary

Approved by:

Iris F. Papale, Chairperson

Date

Kathryn J. Wall, Town Clerk

Date

RECEIVED ON FILE

MAY 1 1992

AT 4:25 P.M.

ATTEST

Kathy Wall
TOWN CLERK

SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 30, 1992

6:30 P.M.

AGENDA

1. Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance
2. Remove From the Table for Discussion and Possible Action on a Three Year Phase-In of Revaluation - Vice Chairman David Doherty

SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 30, 1992

6:30 P.M.

A Special Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was held on Thursday, April 30, 1992 in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Council and called to Order by Chairperson Iris F. Papale at 6:33 P.M. All Councilors answered present to the Roll called by Town Clerk Kathryn J. Wall. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Town Attorney Janis M. Small and Comptroller Thomas A. Myers were also present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the Flag.

Shirley Fritz, 7 Surrey Drive extended an invitation to the Town Council to attend the Regional Special Olympics on Saturday, May 2, 1992 at 9:00 a.m. held at Rosemary Choate Track.

ITEM #2 Remove From the Table for Discussion and Possible Action on a Three Year Phase-In of Revaluation - Vice Chairman David J. Doherty

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Remove the Item From the Table, seconded by Mr. Holmes.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

Mr. Doherty suggested an alternative to the Mayor's proposal of using just the cash reserves to offset the revaluation. His suggestion is that, in addition to using those cash reserves, the Town institute a three year phase-in of revaluation. The reason for this is to offer an additional savings to the residential property owners of the Town of Wallingford. Under the three year phase in it would offer the residential taxpayers a chance to gradually shift the burden of revaluation over three years. It is difficult to pinpoint the amount of savings to each and every homeowner since it effects everyone differently. He felt those homeowners whose property has doubled or more than doubled would benefit the most.

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Discuss and Possibly Take Action on a Three Year Phase-In of Revaluation, seconded by Mr. Parisi.

Mr. McDermott has reviewed the issue over the past few days and believes that the only fair way to accomplish the task of revaluation is to face it head on. There should not be a phase-in process.

Mr. Holmes commended Mr. Doherty for bringing this issue forward on behalf of the public. Mr. Holmes favored implementing the revaluation in total, 100% at this particular time. If we phase-in over a three year period we are that much closer to the next revaluation. There are benefits to be derived by implementing it now, gains to be made by trying to attract economic development to the community which will be a benefit to everyone concerned, etc. Other communities have wrestled with phasing in their revaluation and the longer they drag their feet, the less competitive position they are in. The Town of Wallingford would be better served by implementing it now.

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Robin Chait, Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce addressed the Council. The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce, representing the business community made the following statement:

"We ask that you note personal property tax on the business, primarily the commercial and industrial sector is taxed at fair market value each and every year as opposed to the ten year revaluation schedule on real property. Therefore, business pays on an inequitable basis, paying more and more over the ten year period. Each year they are providing a subsidy to the residential community in addition to a disproportionate contribution to the revaluation reserve. According to Mr. Doherty's proposal abatement of revaluation will cause businesses personal property taxes to increase \$1.9 million over what would be owed under full revaluation. Again, you are asking one set of property owners, the business people, to subsidize another set of property owners, those in real estate. We would strongly question the message that this is sending to our business community who, like the residential community and the rest of us, have been battered by the economy and are struggling to stay alive. In addition to the imposed state and federal taxes that we are all suffering from, business has been hit with runaway costs for medical insurance, workers compensation and unemployment insurance which have forced many of them to exit the state. And now the business community is being asked to do more above and beyond what they have already been hit with. This philosophy should be given serious consideration since we have already witnessed the negative impact of the exodus of business from the community; that of a lost tax base and increase costs, in the end, to the residential owner. The reality is that one lost business impacts the homeowner many times over the impact of one lost homeowner. This statement would only exacerbate the situation. In conclusion, the apparent conclusion to phase-in does not seem sufficient to offset the very troublesome questions and consequences. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the entire membership of the Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce we urge you to forego the phase-in of revaluation.

Mr. Tim Cronin, 47 S. Ridgeland Road spoke against the phase-in.

Mr. Bradley spoke in favor of a full, immediate implementation of revaluation.

Don Harwood, 5 Chestnut Lane; Edward Musso, 56 Dibble Edge Road; Sally Piazza, address unknown; Andrew Cappy, Jr. and Phyllis Corneal all spoke in opposition of the phase-in option.

Rosario DeNoia, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission read the following into the record:

The Economic Development Commission shares the Council's concern about the economic well-being of our community. We are, of course, particularly concerned about the industrial sector. Over the last several years there has been a well-documented erosion of our manufacturing commercial base in the state and, unfortunately, in the Town of Wallingford. This base provides both jobs and taxes. The proposed phase-in may be pro-homeowner but, in reality, it is an anti-business position that will only add to the storm clouds hanging over local companies. It shifts the tax burden from real estate to

business, personal property and motor vehicles. In essence, a phase-in asks one group of property owners to subsidize another. From a business perspective an argument could be made that business already do their share, in and out, because of the tax structure of personal property and differential in demand for municipal services. The EDC is concerned that the Council give due consideration to both the message and impact the phase-in has on the business community.

Mr. Doherty explained that the reason that he proposed this particular option was the economic hard times that currently exist and the people in the community that are facing these particular times. As far as trying to make this equitable, it is very difficult. There are so many factors involved in this, he wished it were more simple and that we could just look at it as a mill increase, but there are too many factors involved. One option is to cut the budget but the Council has been at this for three weeks straight now and without much success. I hoped by proposing this phase-in this evening it would spark some discussion, which it certainly did. This proposition did not prove beneficial to all, but to some. That is why I put it out there. Maybe people do not want to go through all the aggravation and distorted figures that a phase-in implied. I can understand that. I think that business is being given a mixed message by the Town of Wallingford. The Town has attempted this year to help businesses out. The Electric Division has cut their rates 5-7%; Board of Tax Review has cut their assessments down. Under each of these mill rates, 24 or 36, the businesses will derive a savings from last year's 43 mills. The message isn't that bad going out to the businesses, I think it is pretty good. My message was to the residential taxpayers and I don't see them here in great numbers. This will be an influence on all the votes here tonight as it rightly should. It was an option to consider and that is why I proposed it.

Phyliss Corneal, 339 East Main Street stated that there would be a substantial savings for the homeowner for whom she pays taxes. Regardless of whether you vote for this or not, in looking at this budget and proposed taxes, I see dollar bill signs right in the middle of everyone's foreheads up there. The time has come for this Council to assert its fiscal responsibility. I do not feel this budget is tight at the least. I cannot understand why you cannot make substantial cuts to this budget. I do understand that you have a problem with "gridlock" in this Town. That comes about because there is a charter. It also comes about because we have minority representation on this Council. I know you are hard working people. If we have all these surpluses in the Town, you mean to tell me that this is a tight budget? Every time any department in this Town ends up with a surplus it means that the taxpayers in this Town are overtaxed. You need to address those issues and one another to find a way around the "gridlock" that has crept into this Town.

Ms. Papale thanked everyone for their input this evening on such an important issue.

April 30, 1992

rs. Duryea explained that she, along with Brian suggested that this issue be moved to a special meeting this evening so that she could take the time to develop a better understanding of it. She thanked Mr. Myers and all the members of the public for helping her to make a more informed decision on this matter.

OTE: Doherty, aye; all others, no; motion failed.

Motion was made by Mr. McDermott to Adjourn the Meeting, seconded by Mr. Solinsky.

OTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:38 P.M.

Meeting recorded and transcribed by:

Kathryn F. Milano

Kathryn F. Milano, Town Council Secretary

Approved by:

Iris F. Papale

Iris. F. Papale, Chairperson

May 12, 1992

Date

Kathryn J. Wall

Kathryn J. Wall, Town Clerk

May 12, 1992

Date