

Town Clerk

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

April 22, 2008

The following is a record of the minutes of the Wallingford Town Council at its regular meeting held on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall. Town Council Chairman Mike Brodinsky Called the Meeting to Order at 6:38 P.M. Responding present to the Roll Call given by Assistant Town Clerk Mary Beth Trautman were Councilors Michael Brodinsky, Vincenzo M. DiNatale, Nick Economopoulos, Gerald E. Farrell, Jr., John LeTourneau, Robert F. Parisi, Rosemary Rascati, Michael Spiteri and Vincent F. Testa, Jr. Comptroller James Bowes was also present. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. arrived at 7:00 P. M. having attended a school function and Town Attorney Janis Small arrived at 6:42 P.M.

A Moment of Silence began the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and the Roll Call taken.

3. Consent Agenda

- 3a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#505 -#513) totaling \$14,752.49
Account #001-1000-010-1170 – Tax Collector
- 3b. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$1,500
to Fuel Crisis Contribution Acct # 001-3070-600-6810
from Purchased Professional/Negotiations Acct # 001-1300-901-9002
- Mayor
- 3c. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$1,115 to Seats
on Squad 5 Acct # 2030-999-9043 from Various Accounts – Fire Chief
- 3d. Consider and Approve an Appropriation in the Amount of \$5,700 to
Miscellaneous Revenue Acct #001-1075-070-7040 and to Data
Collection System Acct# 001-2030-999-9046 – Fire Chief
- 3e. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$15,000 to
Wage Differentials Acct # 001-2030-101-1450 from Regular
Salaries and Wages Acct # 001-2030-101-1000 – Fire Chief
- 3f. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$10,000 to Sidewalk
Install/Repairs Acct # 0001-5010-999-0024-00 from Curbing Repairs Acct # 001-
5010-999-0001-00 – Town Engineer

- 3g. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$20,000 to Consultant Services-Addition to the Recreation Department Acct # 001-5015-901-9013 from Regular Salaries and Wages Acct # 001-5015-101-1000
– Director of Public Works
- 3h. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$300 to Meetings and Seminars Acct. # 6030-701-7990 from Overtime Acct # 6030-101-1400
– Town Clerk
- 3i. Consider and Approve a Request for a Bid Waiver for Accounting Firm of Blum Shapiro to conduct the Town's annual audits for the fiscal years ending 2008, 2009, and 2010 – Comptroller
- 3j. Schedule a Public Hearing for May 13, 2008 at 7:00P.M. to be held in connection with an Ordinance entitled:

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$1,982,314 FOR THE PLANNING, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS MUNICIPAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS 2008-2009 AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$1,982,314 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING TO TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE

- 3k. Consider and Approve the Re-Appointment of Holly Lafond to the Board of Assessment Appeals for a three-year term expiring January 11, 2011
– Chairman Mike Brodinsky

Mr. Farrell moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 3a. to 3k., seconded by Mr. Parisi. All Councilors present voted Aye, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Report of the Town Council Chairman

No report.

5. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

None.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

The following people participated in the Public Question and Answer Period:

Geno Zandri, 9 Balsam Ridge Circle, referring to a letter forwarded to him by Mr. Parisi from State Representatives Candelora and Adinolfi concerning accidents at the railroad crossing at Rt. 5 and Toelles Road, the letter reported that an agreement between The State of Connecticut and Amtrak has not been reached and start of the anticipated safety improvements at this intersection. will be delayed until an agreement is reached. Mr. Zandri expressed grave concern about the delay and noted that there was yet another serious accident at the

crossing last week. He said that this has been going on for 10 years. Mr. Zandri suggested that a slight modification to the traffic lights would improve the crossing. The Town Engineer asked Mr. Zandri to present his plan, so that it could be taken to the State.

Mr. Larry Mordarski, 11 Dogwood Lane and Mr. Joel Nick, 291 Cherry Hill Road, Middlefield, both Wallingford teachers, presented a letter to the Council and the Mayor that the town provide the option of Direct Deposit for paychecks distributed by the town. The letter listed benefits of Direct Deposit.

Bob Gross, 114 Long Hill Drive, had questions for the Mayor, who had not arrived at the meeting this time, regarding CRRA.

Bill Cumerford, 5 Parkview, talked about Section 5 of the Town Charter that discusses faithfully executing ordinances in place; he commented on Ordinance 345 that the Town Council adopted in 1986 and asked why no one has been appointed to the Insurance Commission; and he commented that he has asked questions and not had a response.

Ben Martin, Ward Street, referring to Earth Day, asked what the town is doing to reduce its carbon footprint and wanted to know if there was a town committee.

Bob Sheehan, 11 Cooper Avenue, asked about the status of the Vocational Agricultural building. He said that he hopes we don't wait too long and risk the 95 % state reimbursement for the project.

(The letters are attached to the minutes.)

7. Request from WPAA for use of the Parade Grounds on Saturday May 24, 2008 from noon to 4:00 P.M. for the purpose of a fund-raiser.

Mr. Testa moved to approve use of the Parade Grounds by WPAA on Saturday May 24, 2008 from noon to 4:00 P.M. for the purpose of a fund-raiser. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spiteri. All Councilors present voted Aye, and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion focused on the number of people who might attend the event; safety; the possible need for police; the removal of refuse generated by the function; that the Parade Grounds be left as it was found, and if any damage occurred to the Parade Ground that WPAA would be liable for the repair; possible liability to the town; the need for WPAA to carry a policy for liability which, Attorney Small said would be up to the Town Council. It would be stipulated in the contract that will be drawn up by the Town Attorney. Use of the Historic Parade Ground does not fall under the purview of the Parks and Recreation Department but rather with the Town Council to grant use. Ms. Susan Huizenga, 36 Surrey Drive, representing WPAA said that there would be 12 to 18 volunteers staffing the event. She said that they are contacting various groups and organizations in town. She said that the Blue Penguin would be part of their program. She responded to Mr. Parisi that WPAA is addressing safety issues should they get a large number

of people. Mr. Testa suggested a Parade Grounds Use Form similar to the one that the Parks and Recreation Department uses for Town Parks.

Mayor Dickinson arrived at the meeting.

All Councilors (9) present voted Aye to approve use of the Parade Grounds by WPAA on May 24th. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to submit on behalf of the Town of Wallingford a Grant Application to the State of Connecticut for financial assistance to be used for the purpose of providing technical assistance in the planning of an incentive housing zone in accordance with P.A. 07-4 Section 38-48 to provide such additional information and to execute such other documents as may be required by the Commissioner and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Wallingford – Town Planner

Mr. Testa made a motion, seconded by Mr. Parisi, to approve a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to submit on behalf of the Town of Wallingford a Grant Application to the State of Connecticut for financial assistance to be used for the purpose of providing technical assistance in the planning of an incentive housing zone in accordance with P.A. 07-4 Section 38-48 to provide such additional information and to execute such other documents as may be required by the Commissioner and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Wallingford as requested by the Town Planner.

In attendance: Linda Bush, Town Planner

Ms. Bush said that this the proposed housing, retail, transit-oriented development proposal. The State of Connecticut has released funds to hire a planning consultant to help develop the regulations of what is necessary. She said that the consultant that she has in mind is an attorney. She would like to hire him as a planning consultant. In order to hire this consultant, and that she would like the town wants to apply for a \$50,000 grant from the State of Connecticut. She set that these funds have been set aside. She said that Wallingford is further ahead because a specific project in mind. She asked the Council to adopt the Resolution to allow the town to apply for the grant. she said that the next agenda item (9) would be a transfer of funds to work with this particular consultant to put together the grant application and the following item (10) would be to waive the bid to hire the consultant for a proposal for the downtown area surrounding the railroad station.

Mr. Farrell said that he would vote “no” on this item and the subsequent two items, Items 9 and 10. He said that the last time the Town Planner was here that he raised the issue and he commented on the feedback that he has received that we have come through a bruising town debate on density, known as the Caplan Wooding debate and that one of the things that came out of that was lack of desire for increased density in the center of town. He said that this project goes down the path of increased density. He thinks that it is a bad idea.

Mr. Letourneau asked about time frame. Ms. Bush said hopefully by the end of the summer and that the applications are due at the end of June, and she said that

Wallingford is ahead of the game because we have a specific proposal in mind. She said that the State of Connecticut has gotten the funding mechanism in place. She said that the Office of Policy and Management hold the funds. She thinks that it will be a fairly quick turn around. In response to Chairman Brodinsky, she said that the maximum that the town would spend for the development of the zoning regulation, and all that entails and that it is a very complicated regulation because of the railroad and Route 5 the design standards and at the affordability standards that we want to make sure that we have a regulation that gets the Town of Wallingford exactly what we want.

There was discussion with regard to the consultant fee. Ms. Bush said that maximum that we will pay them is \$50,000, the maximum award for the grant, for a completed regulation ready to go to Public Hearing. She said that the \$2,500 is to assist me in developing the grant application to obtain that \$50,000. The Town Attorney said that we will not agree to funding other than the amount of the grant award, and that if the grant awarded is less than the amount applied for, it would need to be re-assessed at that time, and another decision would be made regarding the consultant fee. She said that Mr. Hollister is a prominent land-use and zoning attorney in the state. The Town Attorney informed the Council that a Conflict of Interest would need to be waived as the consultant, Mr. Hollister, is an attorney with the firm of Shipman and Goodwin, who represents Covanta on issues involving the Wallingford plant. She said that it is a professional responsibility between the attorney and the client.

Project discussion included first floor retail or restaurant/retail/commercial space and with multi-level housing above to expand the business district in Wallingford, to encourage walkers and to take advantage of the new commuter rail that would provide service on a one-rail limited service by 2011. She said that she envisions multiple Caplan-type buildings in the blocks around the railroad station. She said that she knows that the town is looking for increased commercial space and that this will take advantage of the new commuter rail to provide some affordable housing and a population of walkers and users of the downtown. Ms. Bush said that she could write a regulation that has the appropriate front, rear and side setbacks and the number of parking spaces. She discussed regulation specifics, such as traffic impact, architectural design and affordability, and to make sure that what we want on the ground is what we want. She spoke about an overlay zone. Ms. Bush said that Attorney Hollister is well known in Connecticut in this area of planning, and through his contacts, he knows how to put together a professional team, who will develop the regulation that we need to get us want. She said that the only that it will work is if we hold off dropping the zone onto a property until a developer comes forward and has options on the property. She thinks of it as an overlay zone, an overlay is a zone on top of that. She said that the overlay zone would be dropped on a particular property when a developer has shown an interest, has an option and that we think that the project will go through. She said and then there will be a Public Hearing, and she that the public will get involved when the zoning regulation is created and they will get involved when the overlay zone is dropped on the particular property. She said that the potential properties she is looking at in the area for the regulation is about ten acres encompassing only the blocks around the railroad station.

Mr. Farrell said that he hopes that people are listening to what is being said in regard to a Public Hearing. He also said that people need to look at revenue is in the coming years and that it was just announced that the state's surplus is now down to \$15 million and that we are looking at very hard economic times and he doesn't know that he would put this egg in the basket. Ms. Bush explained the history of the development of this project.

There were no comments from the Public.

Eight (8) Councilors present Aye. Mr. Farrell voted no.
8-Aye, 1-No

The motion passed.

9. Approve a new line item for Home CT, Consultant Services in Planning and Zoning and to Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$2,500 to Home/CT Consultant Services Acct # 001-7010-901-9001 from Meetings, Dues & Seminars Acct # 001-7010-701-7990 for \$1,400 and Secretarial Services Acct # 001-7010-901-9000 for \$1,100 – Town Planner

Mr. Testa made a motion, seconded by Mr. Parisi, to Approve a New Line Item for Home CT, Consultant Services in Planning and Zoning and to Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$2,500 to Home/CT Consultant Services Acct # 001-7010-901-9001 from Meetings, Dues & Seminars Acct # 001-7010-701-7990 for \$1,400 and Secretarial Services Acct # 001-7010-901-9000 for \$1,100 as requested by the Town Planner.

There was no further discussion.

Eight (8) Councilors present Aye. Mr. Farrell voted no.
8-Aye, 1-No

The motion passed.

10. Consider and Approve a Bid Waiver to hire a law firm of Shipman and Goodwin to assist the Planning and Zoning Commission to develop regulations for proposed downtown Transit Zone – Town Attorney

Mr. Testa made a motion, seconded by Mr. LeTourneau, to Approve a Bid Waiver to hire a law firm of Shipman and Goodwin to assist the Planning and Zoning Commission to develop regulations for proposed downtown Transit Zone as requested by the Town Attorney.

There was no further discussion.

Eight (8) Councilors present Aye. Mr. Farrell voted no.
8-Aye, 1-No

The motion passed.

A short recess that was called reconvened at 7:47 P.M.

11. **Budget Workshop:** Discussion and Possible Action on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009, including but not limited to the departments and issues listed on the attached schedule. (T2)

NOTE: The following specific items will be addressed in the course of the budget workshop when the particular departments requesting the actions listed below appear before the Council.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT - Richard Boyne

Chairman Brodinsky asked if the department is fully staffed at six. Mr. Boyne said that they have four inspectors, a full-time secretary and a part-time secretary. Chairman Brodinsky spoke about Planning and Zoning controversy regarding a regulation having to do with building additions. He asked if Building has anything to do with the placement of those additions. Mr. Boyne said no, but that when there is new construction as some point during construction an as-built drawing is submitted to them. He said that Building is changing the timing of that submittal, earlier in the process. He said that this would catch any problems in the early stages. Chairman Brodinsky asked if Building ever had the function to pass judgment on where the location of improvements would be, where within the boundaries. Mr. Boyne explained the application process concerning both new construction and the building of additions. Chairman Brodinsky asked about the request for \$20,000 and wanted to know about Line 9030, Purchased Professional Services-Demolition Contractor REC. Mr. Boyne said that is not an expense line but that is money they use when there is an unsafe condition like a fire and the building needs to be secured, an auto that damages a building, and they bring in contractors to make the repairs. He said that the Law Department collects the money. He said that they have never spent \$20,000 and that it is generally \$300 to \$1,500. He said that the Fire Department, or other departments, notifies the Building Department that there is a situation. He doesn't have a list of buildings but they take them on an individual case when they receive a complaint.

Mr. Testa asked about the estimate for revenues for the coming year in building permit fees and if Building was involved in putting the estimate together. He explained that 2007 was a big year and that the current year the approved budget was for \$700,00 for building permit fees but as of six months into the year, we were already at \$541,000. He asked where are we and what kind of reasoning was used to estimate \$600,000 for anticipated revenues? Mr. Boyne said he does not do an estimate of what they project they will do for the year. He said that there are big ticket items like Mid-State Hospital, several dorms at Choate and these things can't be depended on and that the start date is not known on individual projects. He gave an example of a 60-home project that may not all be permitted in one year and that the project could run several years and that makes

estimating difficult on what the future will bring. Mr. Bowes said he discusses some of the large ticket items that Mr. Boyne discussed to see what is a one or two time occurrence and the year that we are looking at had large revenue due to large permits all in the same year, such as, MLN, Loews, BJs. HE said that where we are right now is \$620,000. He explained how they get to the estimate – big ticket, seasonalities, discussions. He said that their funding is down from where it was this current fiscal year.

Mr. Bowes pointed out that on page 11, regarding the question about the \$20,000, there is a corresponding revenue for \$20,000 as well, recovery for demolition so it's a wash.

BOARD OF SELECTMAN – Allen Bulmer

Mr. Bulmer said that the season is coming up because people don't put up fences in the winter, and there was no action from July 1 to date.

Mr. Parisi asked if a property owner has a borderline fence and the fence is not properly installed so that it is moveable and wanted to know if Mr. Bulmer gets involved in borderline issues. Mr. Bulmer said that all that can be done is to talk to the property owner and that his department has no authority to make someone do something.

Chairman Brodinsky commented that last year the actual was \$333 and wanted to know if that was Mr. Bulmer's share of that appropriation. He noted that Mr. Bulmer has been the only Selectman for the last couple of years and asked if he receives one third of the \$750. Mayor Dickinson said that is correct Chairman Brodinsky asked why the entire \$750 was budgeted. Mayor Dickinson said that some people may come forward to serve. He said that he has asked but hasn't received any names. Mr. Bulmer said that they do have another individual that has been confirmed so there will be two.

FIRE MARSHAL – Joseph Micalizzi

Mr. Micalizzi said that he represents the Fire Prevention Bureau. Ms. Rascati about Line 9901, SUV mini Passenger Van year 1 of 2 for \$30,600, which was approved. Mr. Micalizzi said that he requested the full amount of \$30,600 as is in the budget. He will purchase it in the next fiscal year.

Chairman Brodinsky asked why they need an SUN mini-van. Mr. Micalizzi said for inspectors who need vehicles who go out to do investigations and inspections and that they have equipment that needs to be carried out, evidence collection and so on. Chairman Brodinsky asked how they have managed without an SUV mini-van in the past. Mr. Micalizzi said that they have three allotted, three certified members and that they are short one person who is serving in the military and the vehicle that they have for that person is now deadlined and is not being used and not running. He said that maintenance has not helped the vehicle. He said that this would be his vehicle when he returns from active duty. Chairman Brodinsky

reviewed with Mr. Micalizzi about the number of inspectors and the age of the vehicles that they now have. Chairman Brodinsky asked how often would three inspectors be out of the office using their vehicles and explained that his question is about vehicle sharing. Mr. Micalizzi said that is usually the case where everyone is out of the office at the same time for scheduled inspections. Mr. Micalizzi said that vehicles are parked at the Fire Department at night.

Mr. Parisi asked how inspections were going in light of the fact that they are down one person. Mr. Micalizzi said that have had to suspend the target inspection program and he continued to name the inspections that they are doing – assembly occupancy, liquor licenses, state permits and license renewals. He said that any town could be at risk but that the town has a good record and that they are paying attention to any extra hazard that they encounter. He said that the personnel on military leave is being paid by the town's policy for the difference between his town salary and that of his military pay so that the account is not expended and there will be a surplus in that line item. and that due to advertising and training hiring a part-timer was not a good option for his department. He said that the gas used by their town vehicles is from the Public Works Department following an allotment system, which is billed to the Fire Marshal. Chairman Brodinsky said that for 2007 they spent about \$1,700 on gas and budgeted \$3,035 based on last year's consumption, which was 995 gallons for three vehicles with the Mayor's recommended price and that the only time they are out of town is for training.

Mr. Farrell made a comment that is compliment to the job that our Fire Marshal's Office does. He said in is job that the gets lots of complaints about Fire Marshal's. He said that for liquor licensing the Fire Marshal has to sign off on the initial application and on the renewals but he said there has never, ever been a complaint about Wallingford, that they are doing a good job and getting to the people and making sure that they are serviced. People who have questions about regulations related to a grill on a porch should contact the Fire Marshal.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – *Chief Peter Struble*
Deputy Chief Guy Casanova
Assistant Chief Richard Heidgert

Ms. Rascati asked about Line 9035 (p.35) Purchased Services-Ambulance. Chief Struble said that they run a licenses ambulance and that eash time that ambulance transports a person to the hospital there is a bill that is generated to a private insurance company, Medicare, Medicaid or sometimes the patient. He said bout 7 years ago that they used to do the billing in-house but it got complicated and the bid it out. He said that they take a percentage of what money comes back in and that now it is at 6%, which when comparing to the standard is good. He said it works very well in that the represent them and that they approve all of the policies for the billing. Ms. Rascati said when their ambulance is busy and Hunter's, how is the billing handled. Chief Struble said that whoever does the transporting is responsible for the billing that transport. He said that the town gets involved is that there are times that they run a rescue unit that has a paramedic and sometimes Hunter takes the Fire Department paramedic and when

that happens the Fire Department bills Hunter's and then Hunter's bills that appropriate insurance party for that transport. Ms. Rascati asked about Line 9072 (p.36) Ambulance Replacement and if we replace ambulances every three years. Chief Struble said yes that they do through a three year Capital Replacement schedule for apparatus that they have setup and that currently they have three ambulances and that will run one ambulance 24/7 and there are times more often than not when there are two ambulances on the road because of shift overlap. Ambulances run between 70,000 and 80,000 miles a year running to area hospitals so they try to keep them on a regular replacement schedule so they can rotate an older ambulances back a notch and put the newer ambulance up front. Ambulances are not something that you want to have in repair. Ms. Rascati asked how often Hunters is called. Chief Struble said that in 2007 there were requests for 4,075 requests for emergency medical service, and they called Hunters for 1,485 of the total calls that came as 911 emergency calls. there was discussion about the cost of a new ambulance, which is \$165,000. The Mayor reminded everyone that Masonic donated an ambulance to the town, which alters the replacement schedule. Chief Struble said that it takes a minimum of eight people to run an ambulance 24 hours per day.

Chief Struble explained that in the State of Connecticut that the patient is responsible for the cost of the transport only and no cost if there is no transport. He said that the Town of Wallingford ambulance rates for transport is less than commercial services. He said that Wallingford is the best in the state because of the high level of trained personnel and that Wallingford is one of four in the state to offer ambulance service. He said that even if there is a commercial ambulance on the scene of an emergency medical service call that Wallingford always sends a unit from the Fire Department. He said that it is absolutely beneficial for Wallingford to do the transporting because it raises the quality of the service and because they do it better than anyone else that it results in other services to become sharper in their services. He said that it is expensive were they to undertake all of the calls considering staffing costs, etc. so they use the benefit of system is in place. He said that what is in the budget would allow from the department to have Wallingford paramedics on all scene even if they are not involved in the transport. He said that there are three models involved: transport, first responder rescue and a paramedic on a fire truck. He said that all three are being deployed and made the suggestion that with increased emergency calls that expansion be considered. He said that this is not an easy business to develop and manage especially for a fire department to begin.

Chairman Brodinsky posed the question of when an ambulance is a revenue source. There was discussion regarding staffing, hours, peak times and multiple 911 calls. Chief Struble explained staffing, which can run from eight to eighteen depends on the time of day, and when they run an additional unit in regard to ambulance coverage and also in relation to fire trucks. He explained that they have studied peak times and days involving Hunters Ambulance, and the town has put on an extra unit from 6:30 A.M. to 7:00 P.M., Monday through Friday, which are the peak times that they have identified.

Mr. LeTourneau highly complimented the emergency service that the Fire Department provides, saying that he would not be alive without it because of the highly trained personnel and the good condition of the equipment.

The cost of engine replacements, and the increase in cost in the bidding price due to the increase in the cost of materials was discussed.

Mr. Bowes reminded the Council that the State of Connecticut is giving less to municipalities this year. To offset some of the shortfall in the current budget the State of Connecticut Assembly adopted a budget, which included less money for many municipalities for the Education Cost Sharing Grant, the largest grant that the town receives for about \$400,000. The Fire Department offered \$30,000 of a vehicle so it was frozen in the current fiscal year to make up for the funds that the State of Connecticut did not award. Chief Struble said that the \$30,000 for the current year that was frozen has been added back into the 2008-09 fiscal year to Line 9022. Mr. Testa inquired about truck rotation and replacement schedule of very expensive vehicles and staff to run them. Chief Struble said that their replacement plan is to go out 20 years and most of the engines go from first line to reserve status and not being retired from the Fire Department until the vehicle is 20+ years old. Twenty years is a national, established standard in the industry from the National Fire Protection Association that say after 20 years the truck needs technological upgrades. He added that the trucks are well maintained and that Public Works does all of the routine maintenance. He said that ambulance turnover is for a shorter period. He said that in the volunteer stations the trucks have variable low mileage and low engine hours. Chief Struble talked about "replacement pay" stating that is the overtime cost to fill positions of firefighters who are off for a variety of reasons – vacation, sick leave, injury leave, funeral leave- and they are basically replaced. He said that by contract there are a minimum number of people that they need to have on duty to be effective and that this is the cost to replace these people. He also said that "other pay" (p.30) is by union contract paramedics and EMTs get an extra stipend above their base pay for that certification, and there is longevity pay in the contract and a stipend for those that have a college degrees, which is an incentive in the labor contract, and finally there is a no-sick leave incentive. He talked about Continuing Education line item for training officers, sending new recruits to the fire academy, etc. He said that the difference between overtime and replacement pay is generally covering full shifts and overtime is working longer than your shift. Sometimes it involves callback for circumstances that require it. He said that both are overtime rates. Regarding Appropriations in Force, the Chief said that before the end of this fiscal year the go through that to see what can be closed, taken down.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Chief Douglas Dortenzio

Chairman Brodinsky spoke about the Narcotics Forfeiture Fund, which is in the audit and not in the budget that stands at \$124,000 and asked about the amount in the fund. Chief Dortenzio said that it is what has been collected over the last 20 or 25 years. Mr. Bowes said that it is \$145,000 and that it is a Special Revenue Fund as it is targeted for a specific purpose. The Chief said that it is a Restricted

account and that there are State of Connecticut and Federal regulations on how or what it can be spent.

Mr. Testa talked about Outside Contractor pay, p. 30, and wanted to know what it's for and that as of January, 6 months into this fiscal year, was \$56,000 out of \$155,000 appropriation, and this year it is \$135,000. Chief Dortenzio said that it is related to outside contractors who hire police officers for duty around man-holes or road construction and that what Mr. Testa is looking at is the Expense side and there is an offsetting revenue account and that it washes. Mr. Bowes said that the revenue side can be found on p.11, Line 6020, called Charges for Current Services. He said that it is a wash. Chief Dortenzio said that the department is on a regular, yearly vehicle replacement plan and that \$154,000 covers 7 vehicles and that they last on the line about two years and then they do a structured pass-down through the agency where they go in the back line, and eventually they are disbursed throughout the town by Public Works. They talked about staffing and that the Chief will hire two or more this year.

Mr. Spiteri asked about internet service. Chief Dortenzio said that the \$9,000 that is in the budget is for systematic computer replacement program that are connected to the internal network of the Police Department. He said that information is not secure on the internet and that they collect very sensitive information from their clients and that he is not about to jeopardize the information that they retain of their clients and create problems for them. He said that they are looking at a second network in the building that would allow them to bifurcate all of their IT initiatives, so that they could perform research on the internet and still protect the data. He said that there are significant logistical problems and significant cost. He said that they are looking at a way to achieve this as well as a way to shave the cost. Mr. Spiteri asked if it was just a matter of a separate network. Chief Dortenzio said that the computers that the detectives work on are part of an internal network. Mr. Spiteri asked if there was anything in the budget to correct the problem of police detectives having to use the library. Chief Dortenzio said not specifically but indirectly and he pointed to the capital budget are the replacement of two servers that are part of the backbone to the network. They have been researching what it would take, including what software, to setup kiosks in the building so that they could provide the reference material that is available online to employees without jeopardizing the security of the databases that they operate on. He spoke about protecting the 911 system. Chief Dortenzio said that he does not have statistics on the use of library computers by police officers. He said that part of what they are looking at is information sharing with other police departments, pertaining to active investigations and still find a way to secure the data. Mr. Spiteri asked if the Police Department could install two stand alone computers that are connected to the internet so that police no longer need to go to the library. Chief Dortenzio said it is being looked at. Mr. Testa established that there is cable in the Police Station lunch-room that could be accessed for computer connection.

Mr. Parisi asked about the DARE Program. Chief Dortenzio said that the contact point in Connecticut is the State Police and that our program was curtailed last fall

when there were no personnel to conduct the program. He said that they run the training program in the fall, Wallingford went past that opportunity last fall. He said that he is sending someone to be trained out-of-state.

Mr. Economopoulos talked about police cars in other towns that have computers connected to the internet. Chief Dortenzio said that Wallingford police do have computers in their cars that can access state and federal databases from the car. He explained how reports are transmitted from car to station to second network and that the system is on the cutting edge of what police departments have done in Connecticut and that Wallingford is one of the first and most advanced to do that in the state ten years ago. He has hosted groups from other countries and other states, who come to see the system, who have been directed to the Wallingford Police Department by the software company who hold up the department as a model. Mr. Economopoulos asked about staffing and Chief Dortenzio explained the system of hiring someone.

Chairman Brodinsky asked about the budget that reflects full staff for maximum allowable whether or not all of the positions are filled. Chief Dortenzio said yes, and that it is assumed that at one time or another all positions may not be filled.

- 11e. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$67,000 to Police Headquarters Study Acct. # 001-1300-901-9003 from Contingency Acct # 001-7060-800-3190 – Mayor (T3)

Mayor Dickinson said that this is the firm that was interviewed and that they would contact the firm, when there is money, and that we will need a contract from them. This is for the review of the Caplan Wooding site for the potential expansion of the Police Department

MOTION Mr. Testa made a motion seconded by Mr. Farrell, to approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$67,000 to Police Headquarters Study Acct. # 001-1300-901-9003 from Contingency Acct # 001-7060-800-3190 as requested by the Mayor.

Mr. Testa wanted to know if the study included a study of the suitability of the current building. Mayor Dickinson said not really but that it is taking what the Chief said in his report that are the needs of the Police Department in the future and taking what we have and what would have to occur. He said that he does not think there is any doubt that what we now have as a structure is inadequate for what the Chief is identifying as the reality in 5, 7 or 10 years.

Bob Gross, 114 Long Hill Drive, made comments about the existing Police Station.

All (9) Councilors present voted Aye.

The motion passed unanimously.

A recess was called, and the meeting re-convened at 9:45 P.M. (T4)

PUBLIC UTILITIES – *George Adair, Director Public Utilities*
David Gessert Chairman Public Utilities Commission
Robert Beaumont Commissioner

- MOTION 11a.** Consider and Approve an increase in Wallingford's Approval to CMEEC's Capital Budget authorization for the Pierce Re-powering Project in the Amount of \$295,982 - Director Public Utilities

Mr. Testa made a motion, seconded by Mr. Farrell, to Approve an increase in Wallingford's Approval to CMEEC's Capital Budget authorization for the Pierce Re-powering Project in the Amount of \$295,982 as requested by the Director Public Utilities.

Mr. Adair reviewed the history regarding the project, going online and the revenue it is generating. He said the final project construction cost went from \$49 million to \$49,908,194 and based on the Town Council stipulation when the project was approved with a cap of \$47 million which the Council has since raised to \$49 million in July of 2007, it would be necessary to the Council to approve our share, our participation in, of the increase, which is \$295,982. Failure of approve this request it would mean that we would be reducing our percent of participation in the project and our share of the benefits. He said that this a very sound investment and returning a net benefit above all costs of about \$1.03 of every dollar invested. Commissioner David Gessert reported that his PUC vote of no was to send the message that the purpose of the plant is to reduce our electric costs and to send a message of the cost overrun. Mr. Adair and Mr. Gessert and spoke with Ben Martin and Bob Gross about ISO, 10-year bonding, debt service and plant start up and the benefit to the community regarding the plant being online.

All (9) Councilors present voted Aye.

The motion passed unanimously.

ELECTRIC DIVISION – *George Adair, Director Public Utilities*
Richard Hendershot, General Manager Electric Division
Thomas Sullivan, Business Manager Electric Division

- MOTION 11b.** Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$5,000 to Distribution Signals Acct # 373 – Electric Division

Mr. Testa made a motion, seconded by Mr. Farrell, to Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$5,000 to Distribution Plant Leased Property on Cust. Premised Acct. # 372 from Distribution Plant Street -Light and Signals Acct # 373 as requested by the Electric Division.

There were no comments.

All (9) Councilors present voted Aye.

The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION 11c. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$50,000 to Distribution Plant Overhead Conductors Acct. # 365 from Distribution Plant Underground Conduit Acct # 366 for \$30,000 and from Distribution Plant Underground Conductors Acct # 367 for \$20,000 – Electric Division.

Mr. Testa made a motion, seconded by Mr. Farrell, to Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$50,000 to Distribution Plant Overhead Conductors Acct. # 365 from Distribution Plant Underground Conduit Acct # 366 for \$30,000 and from Distribution Plant Underground Conductors Acct # 367 for \$20,000 as requested by the Electric Division.

There were no comments.

All (9) Councilors present voted Aye.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hendershot said that the budget reflects monies that will be collected and spent. He talked about Electric Division programs that can assist customers in reducing usage and cost of electricity regarding equipment replacement, light bulb retrofitting, appliance rebates and that the division has been working with CMEEC to develop programs. Uncollectibles were discussed and that there are legal aspects that prevent power shut-off. Mr. Hendershot reviewed the rate increases January 2008-3.9%; November 2008-1.9% and November 2009-1.9%

Chairman Brodinsky had questions regarding building revenues. Mr. Adair responded that the target is \$13 million. He said that the drawdown of reserves from 2006 has been severe. Community Welfare contribution of in-kind services with Public Works was discussed and that there is Energy Assistance in coordination with Social Services of \$26,000 annually. The number of Line Crews were discussed as well as Employee Pension and Benefits and Outside Services, fuel costs which are purchased through the bulk purchasing does.

WATER-SEWER DIVISION – *George Adair, Director Public Utilities*
Roger Dann, General Manager Water-Sewer Division
William Phelan, Business Manager Water-Sewer Division

Mr. Dann addressed fire hydrant inquiries in reference to private property. He said that a component of the water bill is for hydrant maintenance and that there are many components in fire protection, and the number is divided by each service. He offered to break down hydrant subject in response to the cost to maintain a hydrant. Pumping labor, budget components, Meriden water and interest income. Mr. Dann said that interest that will be generated for the Water Division-\$3.8 million and Sewer Division-\$3.3 million.

Mr. Farrell left the meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS – Henry McCully Director Public Works

Mr. McCully said that the State of Connecticut bid for stone and bituminous materials has not yet been made public and that he needs materials during this period until the bid is made public to continue with projects already in progress. He said that perhaps in the future we will seek our own bid for this item in view of his experience last year and this year.

**Waive Rule V
MOTION**

Mr. Parisi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Testa, to Waive Rule V for the purpose of a bid waiver for the purchase of materials until State of Connecticut bids are made public to allow Public Works to proceed with scheduled reconstruction.

There were no comments from the Council or the Public.

Seven Councilors present voted Aye. Mr. DiNatale and Mr. Farrell had left the meeting.

The motion carried to Waive Rule V.

MOTION

Mr. Parisi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Testa, to approve a bid waiver for stone products and bituminous materials the purpose of the purchase of materials until official State of Connecticut bids are awarded and made public to allow Public Works to proceed with scheduled reconstruction.

Seven Councilors present voted Aye. Mr. DiNatale and Mr. Farrell had left the meeting.

Mr. McCully responded to questions mostly regarding the Public Works Capital budget regarding spending for maintenance of ball fields when the business district needs maintenance; Line 9160- Sand Pro with attachments, which is a ball field groomer; Line 9024-Catch basins Mr. McCully said that there is no budget for catch basin cleaning but that less cleaning is needed since the town began using sand, which causes less silt. there was discussion regarding the missing bench in front of Bolio's store, the basin cleaner, bug truck equipment, 25 snow-plowing trucks and on p.

53, Line 9128-Class & Snow Plow Truck with Equipment. Mr. McCully said that they have five 1989 trucks. He said that they purchased one last year and at high priority will purchase two trucks this year. He said that the program is scheduled to go back to one truck per year. He pointed out that the 1989 trucks all got old at the same time.

SIX YEAR CAPITAL, p.84

Mr. Testa noted that projects for next year total nearly \$2 million and that \$1 million of that is for North Branford Road and there are five or six other projects. He said that in the following year projects add up to \$4.6 million. Mr. McCully said that what is submitted by him and the Town Engineer is adjusted accordingly each year because they realize that they cannot get \$4 million. He said that each year the one that is submitted to the Council is worked on by them with the Mayor. He said that the \$4 He said that the \$4 million column slated for next year will be pushed into the future. Mayor Dickinson said that the funding is the money of the Electric Division and were we to increase this it would require an appropriation of the General Fund. Mr. Testa reviewed the projects- additional funding for Williams Road, Little League fields drainage problems, reconstruction of roads, the Railroad station to replace rotted dormers and the ornamental bracket trim and that it will remain historic and that they could not get money from the state for that project.

A recess was called and reconvened at 11:25 P.M.

ENGINEERING and PUBLIC WORKS
APPROPRIATIONS IN FORCE

John Thompson Town Engineer
Henry McCully Director Public Works

CAPITAL PROJECTS & CAPITAL & NON-RECURRING

ENGINEERING *John Thompson Town Engineer (T5)pg. 49 & 50*

Mr. Thompson reviewed the stages of development of the Quinnipiac River Linear Trail project to where it now is. He said that it is 70% complete with the design process and that it now moves to the west side of the Wilbur Cross Parkway at the tunnel across the river to Fireworks Island across the raceway and then out to Route 150 in Yalesville. He said that it is just over one mile with one large and one small bridge. He said that they have completed the DOT review and that the next step is a DEP review, which has about an 18 month review process. He said that it is three years since the last major construction activity and that six-year capital process is a give and take and lots of discussion as to what is available. There was a discussion regarding Public Works doing some of the minor work and create a soft trail. He said that the \$165,000 is the material cost that Public Works will use for culverts and small walk-ways to get us from the end of the paved area to the location where the bridge

would cross the Quinnipiac River onto Fireworks Island. He said the subsequent years of funding where the budget lists \$700,000 in one year and \$1.3 million the year after that that would allow the bridge. The cost of the bridge has not exceeded the bonding, and there is \$900,000 is federal funding which will offset some of that cost. He said that it is likely that this will not be ready to go until 2010.

Discussion continued addressing Line 5210 Utilities-Traffic Signals and retro-fitting, traffic safety improvements, the Northfield bridge and how it could be like the Christian Street bridge.

Regarding Appropriations in Force, the item from 1996 regarding ADA compliance applies to parks and buildings, handicap ramping, Police Station handicap accessibility and Braille signage in Town Hall. Mayor Dickinson said that this is ongoing in that another issue has to be dealt with so the funding is very necessary. Meeting House Brook addresses money that has to be returned to the DEP. Mr. Thompson discussed the sidewalk program and said that having six contracts to do the work has accomplished many sidewalk projects. He said that \$85,000 remains and of that \$50,000 is committed. He discussed refuse transfer station project, rebuilding the dump drop-off area, and the town is negotiating with the neighbors regarding the South Turnpike Road bridge; West Side lighting. Mr. Testa asked if any money is rolled back or if there was a legality involved in doing that because the Electric Division is the source. Mr. Bowes said that it goes into the General Fund.

Mayor Dickinson said that Capital and Non-Recurring should stay in Capital and Non-Recurring.

PERSONNEL

Terence Sullivan, Director Personnel Department
James Hutt, Assistant Personnel Director
Kurt Treiber Risk Manager

MOTION 11d. Consider and Approve Job Description Revisions for Chief Appraiser and Garage Foreman – Personnel Director

Mr. Sullivan said that the revisions have been discussed with the Mayor and the union and that it is not a controversial issue.

Mr. Testa made a motion to approve the job description revisions for Chief Appraiser and for Garage Foreman. Mr. Parisi seconded.

Seven Councilors present voted Aye. Mr. DiNatale and Mr. Farrell had left the meeting.

The motion carried.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS & HEALTH INSURANCE

Mr. Sullivan addressed Line 9034 p.28-Purchased Services Insurance for new health insurance consultant; pension and a report in the audit on page 48; health insurance and that the town is moving toward self-insurance and funding in hiring a consultant for July 1. He said the reserve is being set up at 20% based on the claim base for 7/01/08. He said that the renewal has components including claims. He said that Segal is recommended. the Mayor added that the consultant is very necessary and that the town needs that service. Chairman Brodinsky asked for a bid waiver before any money is spent. Mr. Testa recalled that it was he who brought up the meeting last December regarding the subject of self-insurance. He was most displeased at not being told that the town was going with self-insurance in light of the fact that he brought up the subject.

Mr. Testa left the meeting.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Ms Rascati asked about microfilming. Mr. Sullivan said that it is a record retention requirement.

Chairman Brodinsky said, regarding health insurance, that the Town Council be informed and be given any documents on setting up self-insurance.

PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE

There are 3 or 4 major companies and that bid specifications are reviewed by Law and Purchasing.

GASB 45 UNFUNDED LIABILITIES

Mr. Sullivan review GASB (Government Accounting Standards Board) which are rules and regulations for creating uniformity for municipalities and external reporting. He noted that GASB is Statement 45 in regard to OPEB-Other Post-Employee Benefits.

NON-MAJOR FUNDS – James Bowes Comptroller

Mr. Bowes explained that this area of the budget refers to preservation fees collected; Sheehan Track and Field, and Special funds on p.73

MAYOR – William W. Dickinson, Jr. Mayor

No comments

12. 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

Withdrawn

Mr. Economopoulos made the motion, seconded by Mr. Parisi, to adjourn the meeting.

Seven Councilors present voted Aye. Mr. DiNatale and Mr. Farrell had left the meeting.

(Other departments not listed were not requested to participate in the budget workshop with the Council)

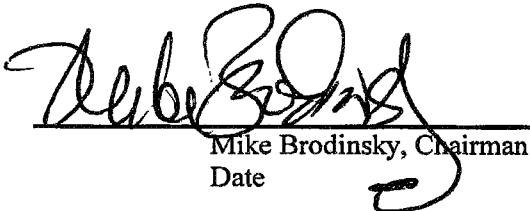
The meeting adjourned at 1:10 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Weekes
Town Council Secretary

Meeting recorded by Sandra Weekes



Mike Brodinsky, Chairman
Date

8/25/08



Barbara Kapi, Town Clerk

Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 5/12/08
AT 4 H 45 M M AND RECORDED BY
Barbara a Kapi TOWN CLERK