

Cons **TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT**  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**TUESDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 9, 2021**  
**6:30 P.M.**  
**RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES**

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 was called to order at 6:31 p.m. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were Thomas Laffin, Gina Morgenstein, Joseph A. Marrone, III, Christopher K. Shortell, Christina Tatta, Vincent F. Testa, Jason Zandri and Chairman Vincent Cervoni. Councilor Craig C. Fishbein was absent. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell, Sr. and Comptroller James Bowes were also present.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Consent Agenda
  - 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$45,498.14 (#486-649)  
Acct. #1001001- 41020 - Tax Collector
  - 3b. Consider and approve Appropriation of funds – Police Dept.
    - a) 13,495 To: Revenue - Insurance Recoveries Acct. #1009052 46240  
13,495 To: Police-Vehicles Acct. #10020050-57000-TBD
    - b) 24,403 To: Use of Fund Balance Fund #212  
24,403 To: Police Vehicle TBD in Fund #212
  - 3c. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$15,000 from Regular Salaries/Wages, Acct. #10020050-51000 to Purchased Services-Medical Exams, Acct. #10020050-56734 – Police Dept.
  - 3d. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$1,500 from Regular Salaries & Wages, Acct. #10020150-51000 to Volunteer Tax Abatement, Acct. #10020150-52961 – Fire Dept.
  - 3e. Consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$7,500 to State Grant, Acct. #2281002-45114 and to Program Expenses, Acct. #22810650-58830 – Town Clerk
  - 3f. Acceptance of donation from Wallingford Rotary Foundation for food assistance and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$1,476 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS

- 3g. Acceptance of donations for Holiday for Giving Program and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$9,986 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100 - 58830 - Y&SS
- 3h. Acceptance of donations to assist needy children to participate in youth recreation sports programs and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$1,045 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS
- 3i. Acceptance of STEM Academy registration fee and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$50 to Revenue, Acct. #2264002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #22640150-58830 – Y&SS
- 3j. Acceptance of donations for client assistance and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$900 to Revenue, Acct. #2134002-47152 and to Expenditures, Acct. #21340100-58830 – Y&SS
- 3k. Acceptance of funds from Workforce Alliance for Summer Youth Employment Program and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$12,485 to Revenue, Acct. #2274002-47010 and to Expenditures, Acct. #22702020-51000 – Y&SS
- 3l. Consider and approve the Reappointment of the following individuals to the Public Celebrations Committee effective immediately and expiring February 1, 2022 – Chairman Cervoni:


Colin Benard	Nancy Miller
Michelle Bjorkman	Ruth Palmer
Patricia Combs	Joan Ives-Parisi- Treasurer
Lorraine Devaney	Kim Pisani
Rosalind Gallagher-Chairman	Raymond Ross
Barbara Kapi	Lawrence Russo
Carolyn Massoni	Linda Woods
- 3m. Consider and approve Appointment of Patricia Coppola to fill a vacancy on the Public Celebrations Committee effective immediately and expiring February 1, 2022 – Chairman Cervoni
- 3n. Consider and approve Appointment of Stacy Crowell to fill a vacancy on the Public Celebrations Committee effective immediately and expiring February 1, 2022 – Chairman Cervoni
- 3o. Approve Town Council Minutes and Record of Motions of January 26, 2021.

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 3a.-3o.**

**MADE BY: LAFFIN  
SECONDED BY: SHORTELL  
VOTE: ALL AYE  
MOTION: PASSED**

4. **Items Removed from the Consent Agenda: *None***

5. **PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD**

Bob Gross, Long Hill Road, asked if the town will be replacing Scott Hanley who retired in the Government Media Department. The Mayor stated it's under review and he will be making a decision in the future. Mr. Gross then inquired about the timeline. The Mayor responded it's open ended. Mr. Gross then remarked that position is a vital part of the community.

Mr. Gross brought up the parking lot and asked if the lease is the same from 1961. The Mayor said depending on the property, it's the same.

Mr. Gross commented he is surprised that spending money to pave private lots during these times is justified.

Chairman Cervoni asked Mr. Gross to wind it up please.

Ms. Gross, Long Hill Road, said she had a question for each Councilor who voted for paving. Chairman Cervoni stated to Ms. Gross that she cannot poll the Council. He went on to say this is not on the agenda. Ms. Gross stated she does not understand how in good conscious you can do this.

The Mayor stated this has been a public lot since 1961.

**MOTION WAS MADE TO WAIVE RULE V.**

**MADE BY: LAFFIN  
SECONDED BY: SHORTELL  
VOTE: ALL AYE  
MOTION: PASSED**

**MOTION WAS MADE TO AUTHORIZE A TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$47,000 TO INCREASE OVERTIME ACCOUNT IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.**

**MADE BY: LAFFIN  
SECONDED BY: SHORTELL**

Mr. Baltramaitis stated we need to keep the roads safe for the public. He went on to say with the winter weather we are going to see him many times throughout the winter. He said he has to pick

and choose which accounts to move money from. He explained that employees get paid double-time on Sundays and the overtime comes to \$35,000.00.

Councilor Shortell gave a presentation about the budget. He stated to Mr. Baltramaitis that he is sorry he is here and indicated this is a no win situation. Councilor Shortell thanked Mr. Baltramaitis and his department.

Mr. Baltramaitis explained it's very difficult to make purchases such as vehicle bids six months later. He explained it just cannot happen in that short timeframe. He went on to say maybe painting could happen.

Councilor Shortell brought up the history of the police transfer. He asked if we can use CRRA funds to purchase. The Mayor stated that is accomplished through other means.

Chairman Cervoni asked if we could refocus this.

Councilor Shortell said he is explaining to the public there are other ways to fund this, pointing out examples to try to help Mr. Baltramaitis.

Mr. Baltramaitis said to Councilor Shortell that he likes the way he is thinking, trying to fund out of what he has this year.

Councilor Morgenstein stated she appreciates Councilor Shortell giving the presentation and the numbers. She feels we should take these ideas and a new way of thinking into the new budget. She then remarked "of course we're going to give Rob money".

Councilor Tatta feels this seems to be a double standard in that other departments get money more easily. She asked why we aren't doing this for Public Works. She stated there is money for these items.

Councilor Tatta wanted to clarify if the Senior Center painting was completed by the Senior Center. Mr. Baltramaitis said he was able to accomplish the painting with his own budget.

Councilor Marrone asked how is it that we removed the plow and left the lights and painting. He said he is glad we are having this discussion. He asked why we are doing this the way we are. Mr. Baltramaitis explained we are half way through the fiscal year with labor, operation and capital, the only thing to go after is capital. Councilor Marrone said there will be a bigger discussion this year during budget planning.

Councilor Zandri stated that contingency is part of the overall budget. He then inquired about the date in which we can touch contingency. Mr. Bowes indicated you can transfer from one department to another starting April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Councilor Zandri said Councilors are particular about the budget and we know when the budget is put together. There is a contingency account and we know there is money to be moved around. He explained the goal last year was to do everything we could to get to a zero tax increase. He went on to say let us know when you have projects to do and we will go looking for money.

Council Laffin stated we will keep going forward and fix this as we go.

Mr. Baltramaitis indicated he will be back at the next meeting and he noted you cannot take money out of labor, it would have to be taken out of capital.

Mr. Bowes explained there is no one way or one pattern that is going to address every department. He also mentioned to keep in mind that the Fire Department is coming back looking at contingency and there is only \$90,000 left.

Councilor Shortell stated he understands that every situation is different.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	<b>SHORTELL: YES</b>
<b>FISHBEIN: ABSENT</b>	<b>TATTA: YES</b>
<b>LAFFIN: YES</b>	<b>TESTA: YES</b>
<b>MARRONE: YES</b>	<b>ZANDRI: YES</b>
<b>MORGANSTEIN: YES</b>	<b>CERVONI: YES</b>
<b>8 – AYE</b>	
<b>1-ABSENT</b>	
<b>MOTION: PASSED</b>	

6. COVID Update – Stephen Civitelli, Health Director

Mr. Civitelli gave a presentation on COVID-19 (attached).

Councilor Morgenstein asked if there is record keeping. Mr. Civitelli replied he has access to those vaccines he has done.

Councilor Morgenstein mentioned that the Government Media Department and the Recreation Department have no remote meeting capabilities. Mr. Civitelli stated he spoke with Ken Michaels, Director of Parks & Recreation, regarding Executive Order 9H. They discussed guidelines to reduce risk, social distancing, masks, cleaning before and after meetings, hand sanitizer and noted a member of Parks & Recreation will be there to make sure precautions are met.

Councilor Shortell asked why we are having in person meetings. He then stated with the stroke of a pen there could be no public meetings in the building.

The Mayor stated if it's safe to be in school, it's safe to have a meeting. He went on to say to close down, doesn't do anything for public confidence.

Councilor Shortell feels there should not be public meetings in any town building until the pandemic is over.

Councilor Tatta asked when a person 65 or older could start making an appointment. Mr. Civitelli explained they can call the Health Department and they will be put on a list. He stated some folks could get an appointment sooner elsewhere so we encourage them to do so.

Councilor Laffin thanked Mr. Civitelli and mentioned that he has relatives who received the vaccine through the town and they were impressed.

Councilor Testa asked how an underlying medical condition is factored in. Mr. Civitelli discussed the vaccine rollout schedule and stated right now we are scheduling 65 and older regardless of medical conditions.

7. Report and Discussion regarding the current status of Community Pool and plans for future improvements – Councilor Testa

Councilor Testa and Councilor Shortell would like an update on where things might be and where to go from here.

Councilor Testa feels strongly we can't let this die. He is in favor of opening the pool this summer.

The Mayor feels we need to have a better feel for the economy and society before being open.

Councilor Morgenstein is completely against spending money on a pool as it is. She feels the investment should be on redoing it. She is in favor of the project but she will not vote to spend money on repairs.

Councilor Laffin agrees with Councilor Morgenstein. He feels going out to bid during a pandemic will be competitive and this is a good time to put it out there again.

Councilor Zandri stated it's not smart to do anything with the opening of the pool this year. He feels there is a huge demand to get out and get social next year with a brand new facility.

Councilor Shortell still supports the project and he does not want to scale back. He feels it would be wrong to add \$72,000 debt service to next year's budget. He asked if we have to do this in the budget or if we could do it in the fall. The Mayor stated hypothetically, we would need someone to prepare the bid.

Councilor Tatta disagrees with most of the Councilors. She stated we are in an economic crisis and this is not a necessity. She does not have a problem with it being open this year. She said if Parks and Recreation decides they want to open, then she supports that.

Councilor Marrone stated the pool is nice to have and he feels we should move forward with the new project.

Councilor Testa stated he is not in favor of a scaled down project and he would like to see this project go forward. He then asked what the feeling is of where we are going. Chairman Cervoni responded Councilors have spoken.

Councilor Morgenstein stated to Chairman Cervoni that we have not heard from him. Chairman Cervoni indicated he is in favor of a total renovation and he does not favor a band aid. He feels the proposed project is a good project.

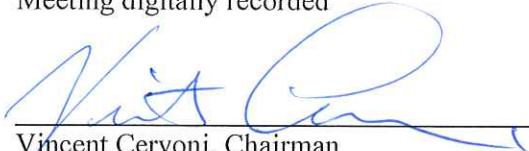
Ms. Bjorkman, Superintendent of Recreation, stated it's critical that you are aware we have a shortage of lifeguards. She explained the problem and wanted to make it public.

8. Executive Session pursuant to Section 1-200(6)(D) of the Connecticut General Statutes with respect to the purchase, sale and/or leasing of property – Mayor - *Withdrawn*

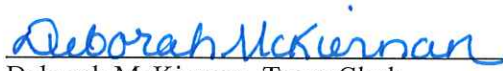
The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Moss  
Council Staff  
Meeting digitally recorded

  
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Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

11 MARCH 2021  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah McKiernan, Town Clerk

3/8/2021  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 2-11-21  
AT 4:30 AND RECEIVED BY  
Deborah McKiernan TOWN CLERK



# COVID-19 UPDATE WALLINGFORD HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Date of Report: February 9, 2021

Stephen A. Civitelli, RS, MPH

Director of Health





## CONTACT TRACING

- Contact Tracing conducted monitoring 68 individuals for a 10-day window as of February 9, 2021.
- Utilizing Contact CT Microsoft System.

# CLINICS COMPLETED

January 16 – 1<sup>st</sup> dose 75+ (226 vaccinations)

January 28 – 1<sup>st</sup> dose 75+ (220 vaccinations)

January 29 - 2<sup>nd</sup> dose clinic medical 1<sup>st</sup> responders (20 vaccinations)

February 1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> dose clinic medical first responders (60 vaccinations)

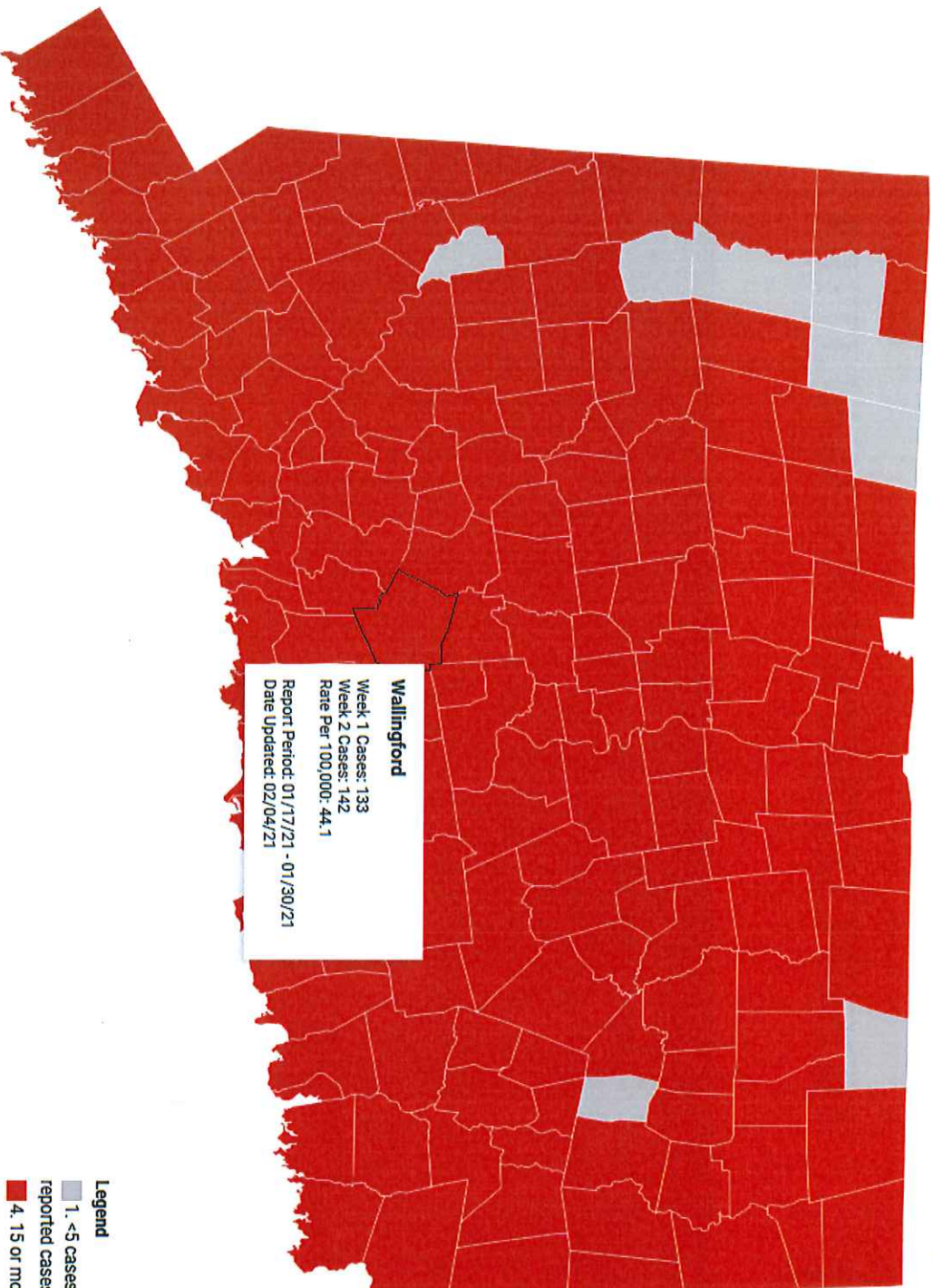
February 4 - 1<sup>st</sup> dose clinic for 75+ (210 vaccinations)



## HOSPITALIZATIONS/FATALITIES

- Hospitalizations Statewide – 827 as of (2/8)
- 23% reduction from 1/26 report
- Declining Hospitalizations
- 152 total fatalities as of (2/8/21)
- Total # of tests conducted – 96,708

# Average Daily Rate of COVID-19 Cases Among Persons Living in Community Settings per 100,000 Population By Town



- Legend**
- 1. <5 cases per 100,000 or <5 reported cases
  - 4. 15 or more cases per 100,000

This map shows the average daily rate of new cases of COVID-19 by town during the most recent week. Only those towns whose names appear within the community settings are included in this map; the map does not include those towns

CLINIC LOCATION  
WALLINGFORD SENIOR CENTER  
VAMS THIRD PARTY SYSTEM



# CLINIC LOCATION WALLINGFORD SENIOR CENTER

