

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

**HELD REMOTELY
At GoToMeeting.com**

**TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 23, 2021
6:30 P.M.
RECORD OF VOTES AND MINUTES**

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were Craig C. Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, Gina Morgenstein, Joseph A. Marrone, III, Christopher K. Shortell, Christina Tatta, Vincent F. Testa, Jason Zandri and Chairman Vincent Cervoni. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell, Sr. were also present.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Consent Agenda
 - 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$62,254.93 (#650-723)
Acct. #1001001- 41020 - Tax Collector
 - 3b. Acceptance of funds from Redflex Student Guardian and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$408 to Court Motor Vehicle Fines, Acct. #1002001-45124 and to Police Operating Expense, Acct. #10020050-58735 - Police Chief
 - 3c. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$3,600 - Human Resources

\$1,600	From: Continuing Education/Training	Acct. #55700
\$2,000	From: Employee Training/Development	Acct. #58360
\$3,600	To: College Tuition Reimbursement-Mgmt.	Acct. #52962
 - 3d. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$7,500 from Regular Salaries/Wages, Acct. #10020050-51000 to Capital-Front Door Replacement, Acct. #TBD - Police Dept.
 - 3e. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$40,000 from Reg.-Salaries & Wages, Acct. #10030000-51000 to Overtime, Acct. #10030000-51400 - Public Works

- 3f. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$3,000 from Regular Wages & Salaries, Acct. #10010650-51000 to Election Supplies, Acct. #10010650-56105 – Town Clerk
- 3g. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$1,400 - Town Clerk
- | | | |
|---------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| \$1,100 | From: Dues and Fees | Acct. #10010650-58810 |
| \$ 300 | From: Dog Tags & Supplies | Acct. #10010650-56110 |
| \$1,400 | To: Maintenance of Equipment | Acct. #10010650-54325 |
- 3h. Acceptance of funds for Fire Watch services and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$3,111 to Miscellaneous Revenue, Acct. #1009052-47040 and to Replacement Pay, Acct. #10020150-51500 - Fire Dept.
- 3i. Consider and approve Appointment of James Seichter to the vacant position of Constable effective immediately and expiring January 3, 2022 - Chairman Cervoni
- 3j. Consider and approve Appointment of Jennifer Passaretti to full member of the Inland Wetland and Watercourse Commission to fill a current vacancy effective immediately and expiring March 1, 2023 - Chairman Cervoni
- 3k. Approve Town Council Minutes of February 9, 2021
- 3l. (a) Discussion and Action to amend HQ contract price per senior citizen residential bag from \$2.72 to \$2.82 per bag - Public Works
- (b) Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$5,650 from Contingency General, Acct. #10019000-58820 to P.W. - Waste & Compost, Acct. #10030000-56754 - Public Works

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 3a – 3l.

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

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

5. **PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD**

Mr. Comerford stated the cemetery wall has been determined to be maintained by the town since existence and asked the Mayor if the gates are part of the wall. The Mayor

said yes, he assumes so. Mr. Comerford asked if this is part of the construction done in 1911. The Mayor said he does not know if that is true and that this all falls under the historic designation. The Mayor indicated he does not know the history of the gate versus the wall.

6. COVID Update – Stephen Civitelli, Health Director

Mr. Civitelli gave a presentation on COVID-19 (attached). He mentioned that monthly case totals dropped dramatically in town and across the state. Hospitalizations have declined roughly 35% and there have been zero fatalities. The number of tests done in town have been well over 100,000.

Chairman Cervoni asked Mr. Civitelli if all of the vaccines are committed to people already. Mr. Civitelli answered yes and stated people are put on a registration list and as the vaccine becomes available they get scheduled. Chairman then asked if people are calling the Health Department to reserve. Mr. Civitelli answered yes.

Councilor Zandri asked if after both shots, there is flexibility in the mask mandate. Mr. Civitelli said at this point he has not seen any modifications based on masking, travel, etc.

Councilor Zandri then asked if you can still get sick if you are fully vaccinated. Mr. Civitelli explained 14 days after the second shot you are fully immunized. He went on to say there is limited data as to transmission after vaccination and not a lot of studies are being done. He hopes in the coming months we will have more evidence to show how effective it is. He feels as more information comes out, it will modify the executive order.

Councilor Morgenstein said her understanding is the way the vaccine is built, it does not prevent transmission. She feels the big message here is that masks are to protect other people. She stated the goal of protecting our entire community should be priority. She reported 70% of the population has to be vaccinated to have herd immunity. She then stated people are disappointed that the state is going by age, not medical condition. Mr. Civitelli indicated the Governor made the decision to base it on age.

Councilor Tatta asked if the educators are being required to get the vaccine. Mr. Civitelli responded it is voluntary.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Comerford commends Mr. Civitelli and stated his department is the best department in town. He then asked if we are prepared for a catastrophic event besides the pandemic we are in right now. Mr. Civitelli explained we have preparedness plans for assisted sheltering, we work through the office of emergency management and he mentioned two primary locations for emergency shelter with the primary being Sheehan, the secondary being Lyman Hall and a smaller scale down shelter at the former Yalesville firehouse.

Mr. Comerford asked if the information about the Oakdale vaccine site is on the website. Mr. Civitelli responded yes.

Rajan Doering, 48 Sharon Drive, asked Mr. Civitelli if he has numbers as to who received their second dose. Mr. Civitelli answered no.

Chairman Cervoni thanked Mr. Civitelli for all his hard work.

7. (a) Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$80,000 from Regular Salaries and Wages, Acct. #10020150-51000 to Replacement Pay, Acct. #10020150-51500 - Fire Dept.

- (b) Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$70,000 - Finance

\$40,000 From: Contingency-General Acct. #10019000-58820

\$30,000 From: Contingency-Accrued Acct. #10019000-58821

\$70,000 To: Fire-Replacement Pay Acct. #10020150-51500

MOTION WAS MADE to move to approve a transfer in the amount of \$80,000 from Regular Salaries and Wages Account to Replacement Pay Account for the Fire Department and a Transfer of \$40,000 from the General Contingency Account for the Town, \$30,000 from the Accrued Contingency Account for the Town for a total of \$70,000 to the Fire Replacement Pay Account.

*In Attendance: Richard Heidgerd, Fire Chief
Joseph Czentnar, Deputy Fire Chief*

**MADE BY: LAFFIN
SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN**

Chief Heidgerd explained this is the second transfer to cover the replacement pay shortfall. He went on to say there are 17 pay weeks remaining in this fiscal year and funding will get us 11 weeks further into the year. He indicated if this is approved, they are looking at a shortfall remaining of \$100,000 - \$150,000 after tonight. He is anticipating a reduction in the shortfall.

Councilor Laffin feels this seems to keep snowballing. He asked if snafus are hammered out before we get to next budget. Chief explained he underfunded this line by \$200,000 and said yes they have addressed this with the new budget. The Shortfall now is directly related to the open positions. Councilor Laffin wanted to confirm that the Council did not refuse the fire Budget in some of the cuts last year when they were trying to get to zero. Chief answered no.

Councilor Tatta asked the Chief to explain the new staffing model and if he thought this was a good decision for his department. Chief said yes it is working in every matrix we

can see. He stated they have two staffed ambulances and it's been a very busy year for fires. He went on to say in the old model, firefighter-Paramedic, we had difficulty finding people.

Councilor Tatta asked the Chief if the volunteer situation is getting better. Chief stated the staffing model we have is necessary regardless of the volunteer side and noted in his proposed budget to the Mayor is funding request for volunteer training, improvement and necessary PPE.

Councilor Tatta said her family had to use the ambulance and she wants to say publically the three gentlemen that came were fantastic. Councilor Tata said to Chief she definitely appreciates the work he does.

Councilor Marrone stated with the COVID situation a lot of people shifted from working from the office to working from home and asked if the call volume was consistent. Chief said last year there was a 300 call reduction on the EMS side and the fire/accident rate has gone up.

Councilor Marrone asked how we measure efficiency in operations of the Fire Department and what are the metrics? Chief explained one of the most important is time to arrival on a scene and said that is one of the reasons we staffed at the North Farms station. He stated the metrics they watch is rollout time, time of dispatch and arriving on scene to give care and noted that is primarily what our goal is. The Chief mentioned they also have a quality assurance program.

Mr. Comerford inquired how much we have suffered since depletion of volunteers and how may calls would they have responded to on the west side. Chief stated career arrives faster than volunteer and we have not seen an increase in response time. He went to state volunteers are supplemental.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	SHORTELL: YES
FISHBEIN: YES	TATTA: YES
LAFFIN: YES	TESTA: YES
MARRONE: YES	ZANDRI: YES
MORGANSTEIN: YES	CERVONI: YES
9 – AYE	
MOTION: PASSED	

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 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Moss
Recording Secretary
Meeting digitally recorded



Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

10 MARCH 2021

Date



Deborah McKiernan, Town Clerk

3/10/2021

Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 2-26-21
AT 4:30 AND RECEIVED BY
Deborah McKiernan TOWN CLERK

In accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act- Individuals in need of auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services of the Town of Wallingford are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Compliance Coordinator at 203-294-2070 five days prior to meeting date.



COVID-19 UPDATE WALLINGFORD HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Date of Report: February 23, 2021

Stephen A. Civitelli, RS, MPH

Director of Health



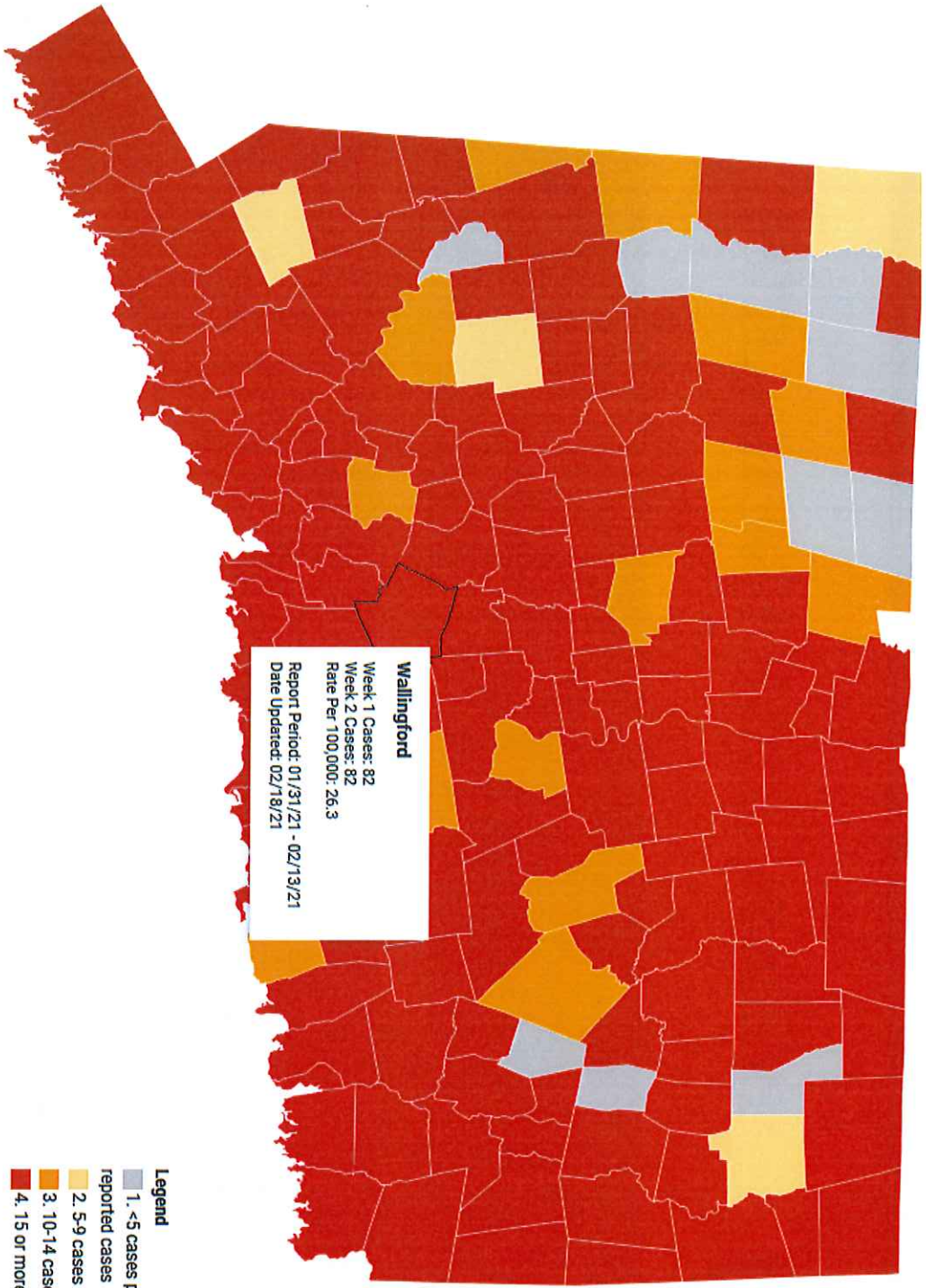
MONTHLY CONFIRMED CASE TOTALS

- Total Cases 3,457
- September – 80 Confirmed Cases
- October – 233 Confirmed Cases
- November – 513 Confirmed Cases
- December – 467 Confirmed Cases
- January – 333 Confirmed Cases
- February - 96



HOSPITALIZATIONS/FATALITIES

- Hospitalizations Statewide – 535 as of (2/22)
- 35% Decline in Hospitalizations from 2/9/21 report
- 160 total fatalities as of (2/18/21)
- Total # of tests conducted – 102,781



- Legend**
- 1. <5 cases per 100,000 or <5 reported cases
 - 2. 5-9 cases per 100,000
 - 3. 10-14 cases per 100,000
 - 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 past two weeks. Only cases among persons living in community settings are included in this map; the map does not include cases among people who reside in nursing home, assisted living, or correctional facilities.
 Map: Ver 12.1.2020 - Source: CT Department of Public Health - Get the data - Created with Datavrapper



CONTACT TRACING

- Contact Tracing conducted monitoring 32 individuals for a 10-day window as of February 22, 2021.
- Utilizing Contact CT Microsoft System.

CLINICS COMPLETED

- January 16 – 1st dose 75+ (226 vaccinations)
- January 28 – 1st dose 75+ (220 vaccinations)
- January 29 - 2nd dose clinic medical 1st responders (20 vaccinations)
- February 1 – 2nd dose clinic medical first responders (60 vaccinations)
- February 4 - 1st dose clinic for 75+ (210 vaccinations)
- February 11 – 1st dose 75+ (276)
- February 13 - 2nd dose clinics for medical first responders and 75+ (70)
- February 18 - 2nd dose clinic 75+ (251)
- February 20 – 1st dose clinic 65+ (204)

CLINICS SCHEDULED

February 11 – 1st dose 75+ (270) scheduled

February 13 - 2nd dose clinics for medical first responders and 75+

February 18 - 2nd dose clinic 75+

February 25 – 1st dose and 2nd dose clinic

March 4 – 1st dose and 2nd dose clinic

March 11 – 1st dose and 2nd dose clinic

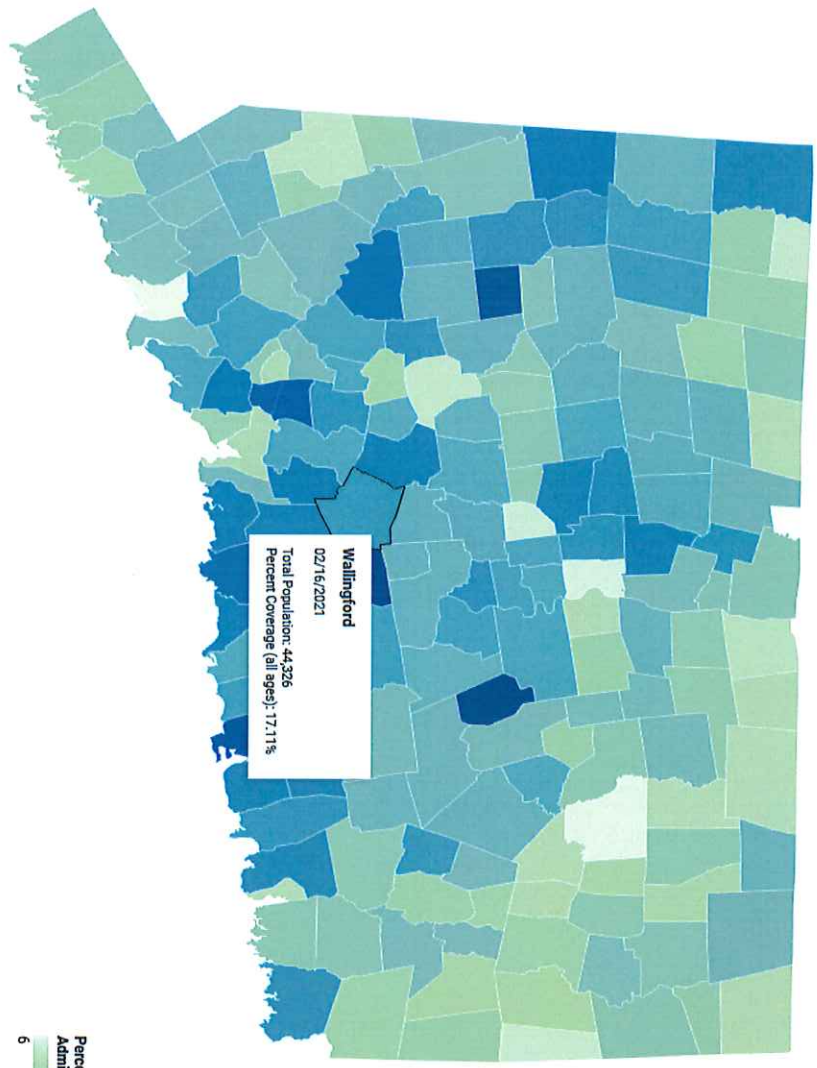
Masonicare/Gaylord Hospital/Choate/Allnex/Wallingford Fire Department
partnering in vaccination of residents and critical workforce

The following map is based on vaccine administration records received by [CT WIZ](#). All data in this report are preliminary and are subject to change as additional records are received and as duplicate records or other errors are corrected.

Total town-level population is based on the July 1, 2019 annual estimates, available [here](#).

Percent of Population Who Initiated COVID-19 Vaccination

As reported to the CT Immunization Registry (CT WIZ)



WALLINGFORD VACCINATION RATES

- Wallingford Residents with 1st dose
 - 5,835 (13%)
 - Wallingford Residents 75+ with 1st dose
 - 2,333 (58%)
1. Stamford 3,933 (47.4%)
 2. West Hartford 2,983 (46.9%)
 3. Greenwich 2,808 (55%)
 4. Hamden 2,380 (45.7%)
 5. Fairfield 2,355 (47.9)
 6. Wallingford 2,333 (58%)

CLINICS SCHEDULED

February 25 – 1st dose and 2nd dose clinic (420)

March 4 – 1st dose and 2nd dose clinic

March 11 – 1st dose and 2nd dose clinic

March 18 - 1st dose and 2nd dose clinic

March 25 – 1st dose and 2nd dose clinic

Masonicare/Gaylord Hospital/Choate/Allnex/Wallingford Fire
Department/BOE Nurses partnering in vaccination of residents and critical
workforce