

**TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY
MARCH 28, 2023
6:30 P.M.
RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES**

The Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 was called to order at 6:45 p.m. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were Autumn Allinson, Samuel Carmody, Craig Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, Christina Tatta, Vincent Testa, Jason Zandri, and Chairman Vincent Cervoni. Councilor Joseph A. Marrone, III was absent. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Tim Sena, Comptroller and Town Attorney, Gerald Farrell, Sr. was also present.

3. Consent Agenda

- 3a. Consider and approve Tax Refunds totaling \$4,936.26 (#654-669)
Acct. #1001001- 41020 - Tax Collector
- 3b. Acceptance of Workforce Alliance funds for summer Youth Employment Program and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$7,811 to Revenue, Acct. #2274002-47010 and to Expenditures. Acct. #22702023-51000 – Y&SS
- 3c. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$24,000 from Admin & Gen'l - Meter Reading Expense, Acct. #902 to Admin & Gen'l-Customer Records & Collection Exp., Acct. #903 - Electric
- 3d. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$12,000 from Distribution-Operation Underground Line Exp., Acct. #584 to Distribution-Operation Overhead Line Exp., Acct. #583 - Electric
- 3e. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount \$20,000 from Distribution-Maint. of Underground Lines, Acct. #594 to Distribution-Maintenance Station Equipment, Acct. #592 - Electric
- 3f. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$5,000 from Distribution Plant-Station Equipment Dist., Acct. #362 to General Plant-Tools, Shop, & Garage Equipment, Acct. #394 - Electric
- 3g. Consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$45,000 from Retained Earning, Acct. # N/A to Trans-Maintenance of Station Equipment, Acct. #570 – Electric
- 3h. Consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$35,000 from Retained Earning, Acct. # N/A to Admin-Outside Services, Acct. #923 - Electric
- 3i. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$1,712.50 from Operation Labor and Expenses, Acct. #43100642 to Employee Pensions and Benefits, Acct. #43100926 – Water Div.

- 3j. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$1,204.50 from Attendant and Laboratory Expenses, Acct. #46100642 to Employee Pensions and Benefits, Acct. #46100926 – Sewer Div.
- 3k. Consider and approve Bid Waiver request for WD-3 Valve Truck Engine replacement by Morin Diesel, LLC at a cost estimate of \$25,428 - Water Div.
- 3l. Acceptance of Donation and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$20.00 to Revenue Donations-Police, Acct. #2502002-47152 and to Expense Donations-Police, Acct. #25020050-58830-10135 – Police Dept.
- 3m. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$9,000 from Capital-Modems, Acct. #10020050-57000-01110 to Capital-PC & Accessories, Acct. #10020050-57000-01109 – Police Dept.
- 3n. Acceptance of Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist Reimbursement and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$600 from Misc. Revenue, Acct. #1009052-47040 to Continuing Education & Training, Acct. #10020150-55700 – Fire Dept.
- 3o. Acceptance of Fire Watch Funds and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$294 from Misc. Revenue, Acct. #1009052-47040 to Overtime, Acct. #10020150-51400 – Fire Dept.
- 3p. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$13,000 – Public Works Dept.
- | | | |
|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| \$13,000 | From: Overtime | Acct. #10030000-51400 |
| \$6,500 | To: 4x4 Pick-up Truck | Acct. #10030000-57000-01158 |
| \$6,500 | To: 4x4 Pick-up Truck | Acct. #10030000-57000-01159 |
- 3q. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$30,000 – Public Works Dept.
- | | | |
|----------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| \$20,000 | From: Overtime | Acct. #10030000-51400 |
| \$10,000 | From: Other Pay | Acct. #10030000-51900 |
| \$30,000 | To: Maint. of Bldg. and Grounds | Acct. #10030000-54315 |
- 3r. Consider and approve a Transfer in the amount of \$1,050 from Regular Salary & Wages, Acct. #10010401-51000 to PS – Software Support, Acct. #10010401-56718 – Comptroller
- 3s. Acceptance of National Opioid Settlement funds and consider and approve Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$147,851 to Revenue, Acct. #2504002-45200 and to Expenditures, Acct. #250-TBD – Health Dept.

- 3t. Consider and approve Reappointment of Cheryl Christie Collett as a regular member to the Wallingford Historic Properties Commission for a five year term effective immediately and expiring March 27, 2028 – Chairman Cervoni
- 3u. Consider and approve Fair Housing Resolution for 2023 – Mayor
- 3v. Approve Town Council Minutes of March 14, 2023 and Special Town Council Minutes of March 14, 2023.

MOTION WAS MADE to approve Consent Agenda Items 3a.- 3v.

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

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

5. **PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD**

Paul Ciardullo, talked about pandemic, inflation concerns and recession worries. He feels Administration should be saving money and scaling back government spending.

- 6. Discussion with Police Chief regarding traffic concerns on Johnson Road – Councilor Testa - Removed
- 7. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding one consolidated High School - BOE

*In Attendance: Danielle Bellizzi, Superintendent, BOE
Tammy Raccio, BOE Chair
Michael Votto, BOE Member*

Ms. Bellizzi presented BOE Consolidated High School Proposal.

Ms. Bellizzi, Mr. Votto and Ms. Raccio answered questions from Councilors.

Public Comment

Several residents and students spoke regarding consolidated school topic.

Town Council Comments

Councilor Fishbein inquired about the 45 minute bus ride. Ms. Bellizzi confirmed Specialty Transportation provided the estimate.

Joseph Corso, Principal, Lyman Hall High School, described new building layout.

Councilor Fishbein referenced Page 14 of proposal (survey). Ms. Raccio stated the survey went out in 2018 with electric bills and was advertised in BOE weekly updates.

Councilor Fishbein noted the response seems to be overwhelmingly favored to renovation of both. He believes steps need to be taken back and families need to talk with decision makers.

Councilor Zandri thanked the audience and stated he appreciates all emails, involvement and comments. He talked about the late 80's/early 90's and the decision to close two schools.

Councilor Zandri inquired about mill rate affect.

Councilor Carmody inquired about class size, reduction in staff and sports/arts which an estimated 120 students would miss out on. He then spoke about IEP and mental health concerns.

Councilor Tatta confirmed original presentation was \$28 million less to renovate. Ms. Bellizzi stated space standards were changed for maximum reimbursable rate. Councilor Tatta is fearful of over-utilizing space and negative effects in the future.

Councilor Tatta asked how much budget request is this year and Mr. Sena replied approximately \$6.8 million increase.

Ms. Raccio stated motion by BOE was to move forward with architectural study. She went on to say middle schools are in worse shape than high schools.

MOTION WAS MADE TO RECOMMEND BOE NOT PURSUE CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL.

MADE BY: TATTA

SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN

Councilor Laffin stated he does not want to negate the work done by BOE and he can strongly relate to concerns regarding smaller versus larger schools.

Chairman Cervoni agrees design is with BOE, and stated its Town Council's decision to fund or not and It's not Council's prerogative to tell BOE what to do.

Councilor Testa feels we need to listen to the public and does not want to rush into a decision. He sees legitimate issues; where the school would be located and alternative sites not yet discussed.

Councilor Zandri agrees BOE handles academic decisions and stated Town Council's challenge is how to decide on spending. He does not want people to feel they are not heard and stated they have the option for a referendum.

Councilor Fishbein stated tonight's meeting is unfair and apologized to attendees. He feels process should be BOE goes to Mayor for budget approval then to Town Council for approval.

Councilor Allinson is concerned about study that was presented and stated BOE did a great job with presentation.

Councilor Laffin stated polls shown reflect not going with one school and feels we need to analyze that.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

ALLINSON: NO	TATTA: YES
CARMODY: NO	TESTA: NO
FISHBEIN: YES	ZANDRI: NO
LAFFIN: NO	CERVONI: NO
MARRONE: ABSENT	

2-AYE

6-NAY

1-ABSENT

MOTION: FAILED

MOTION TO ADJOURN

MADE BY: FISHBEIN

SECONDED BY: ALLINSON

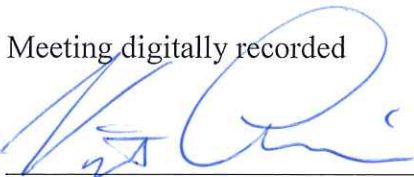
VOTE: ALL AYE

MOTION: PASSED

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

Lisa Moss
Council Staff


Meeting digitally recorded



Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

12 APRIL 2023

Date


Deborah McKiernan, Town Clerk

4/26/23

Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 3-31-23
AT 3:00 p.m. AND RECEIVED BY
Deborah McKiernan TOWN CLERK