

SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 8, 1991

7.00 P.M.

A Special meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was held on Wednesday, May 8, 1991 in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall and called to Order by Chairman Albert E. Killen at 7:07 P.M. Answering present to the Roll called by Town Clerk Kathryn J. [redacted] were Council Members Bradley, Duryea, Gouveia, Papale, Zandri and Killen. Councilors Holmes, Parisi & Solinsky were absent. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. arrived at 7:09 P.M., and Attorney Farrell was also present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the Flag.

Motion was made by Ms. Papale to Move the Addendum Item Up to the Next Order of Business, seconded by Mr. Gouveia.

VOTE: Holmes, Parisi & Solinsky were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Addendum Consider and Approve the Appointment of Wilford Schultz to the Lyman Hall Vo-Ag Expansion Committee.

Motion was made by Mr. Bradley to approve the nomination, seconded by Ms. Papale.

VOTE: Holmes, Parisi & Solinsky were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #2 Consider and Approve the Quarterly Budget Amendments of the Water and Sewer Divisions

Motion was made by Mr. Bradley to approve the Water Division Budget Amendment in the Amount of \$1,000,000 to account #461-000, Meter Sales seconded by Mrs. Duryea.

Mr. Bradley asked where a windfall of \$1,000,000 came from?

Mr. Roger Dann, General Manager of the Water & Sewer Division attributed the profit to both the moratorium on the sewer connections, along with the meter change out program.

VOTE: Holmes, Parisi & Solinsky were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Bradley to Approve a \$50,000 Budget Amendment to increase the Interest on Investments-WSP-Proj. #11. Acct. #419-011 seconded by Mr. Zandri.

Attorney Farrell left at 7:40 P.M.

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VOTE: Holmes, Parisi & Solinsky were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Bradley to Approve a Budget Amendment in the amount of \$1,050,000 to Increase Self-Financed Debt WSP#11, seconded by Mrs. Duryea.

Ray Dennison, Roger Dan and Tom Myers met to discuss this issue, specifically, the line that is established is consistent with Mr. Myers's recommendations.

Mr. Killen asked how this will effect any money put aside this year or in the next budget year?

Mr. Dann stated that it would not create an overage in a subsequent year. It would allow seed money up front to carry the project for some period of time until bonds could be sold. It would ultimately reduce the level of bonding required to complete the project. This is one piece for the overall funding of the project.

Mr. Zandri felt that there was a difference in philosophies. He felt that bonding is the route to go, that way the people who will use the facility will pay for it. He would like to see this money used to keep the rates down. He pointed out that private utilities have to fund their capital projects and they are not allowed to recoup any of that money until after the project is in service. He felt it was unfair for current customers to pay for something that future customers will use.

Mr. Gouveia asked when the rates were increased last?

Mr. Dann responded, June 1, 1990 and will be increased again on June 1, 1991.

Mr. Gouveia asked what the anticipated revenue from the increase will be?

Mr. Dann stated that the rate was generated predicated on the need to finance the water supply project primarily. The bulk of the rate increase is as a result of the need to construct the water supply projects.

Mr. Gouveia asked if there will be a 26% increase?

Mr. Dann believed that to be correct.

Mr. Gouveia felt that the no other group of customers have been asked to pay as much an increase as in the past two years or so in the Water/Sewer Division. They are being hit with a very large increase, some customers will never benefit from that increase. He felt that the division is asking way too much proportionately from the customers. He felt that it would be nice to utilize part of the \$1.3 million to lower the rate of increase this year.

Mr. Dann saw this as an opportunity to held stabilize rates for both present and future customers.

Mr. Gouveia reiterated his personal feelings with regards to decreasing the rate of increase.

Mr. Robert Beaumont, Past P.U.C. Commissioner, confirmed the philosophy of the P.U.C. as stated by Mr. Dann, to stabilize rates for present and future customers.

VOTE: Holmes, Parisi & Solinsky were absent; Zandri and Killen, no; all others, e; Motion failed.

Motion was made by Mr. Bradley for an Appropriation of Funds in the Water Division in the amount of \$181,250 decrease account titled, "Interest on Long Term Debt - WTP#11W" Acct. #427-011, seconded by Mrs. Duryea

Mr. Bradley made an adjoining motion for an appropriation of funds in the amount of \$181,250 increase account titled, "Self Financed Debt - WTP#11W" Acct. #107-807, seconded by Mrs. Duryea.

VOTE: Holmes, Parisi & Solinsky were absent; Zandri & Killen, no; all others, aye; motion failed.

Mr. Bradley inquired as to what effect it will have when the transfers are not voted upon favorably and the funds do not fall into the proper accounts?

Mr. Dann explained that the action taken to this point would result in an increase to the estimated unappropriated balance in the amount of \$1,050,000. The negative vote on the last motion leaves the budget as it originally stood. At the end of the year it will build a retained earnings.

Mr. Killen stated that the funds will be available for any intended purpose.

Mr. Bradley stated for the record that the previous appropriation of funds were correctly stated as so and should read, "budget amendments".

Mr. Bradley made a motion for a Budget Amendment in the amount of \$247,020 for the Water Division to decrease account titled, "Revenue from Connection Charges" Acct. No. 415-001 and to decrease account titled, "Connection Charge for Major Capital" Acct. No. 216-013, seconded by Mrs. Duryea.

Mr. Gouveia asked if this was a result from not levying a connection charge to new customers?

Mr. Dann responded that the charge had not been implemented in the current year as anticipated.

VOTE: Holmes, Parisi & Solinsky were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Bradley for a Budget Amendment for the Water Division in the amount of \$50,000 to increase Private Fire Protection Acct. #462-000; \$50,000 to increase Interest on Investments Acct. #419-000; \$42,000 to increase Interest on Accounts Receivable Acct. #419-001; \$33,000 increase to Other Water Income Acct. #474-000 with a corresponding increase in the amount of \$175,000 to Estimated Unappropriated Balance Acct. #474-000, seconded by Ms. Papale.

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Mr. Killen asked with the market being the way that it is, how did the division come in with higher income on the Interest on Investments?

Mr. Dann explained that the division had \$1,237,000 in revenues higher than what was originally projected.

VOTE: Holmes, Parisi & Solinsky were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Mr. Bradley made a motion for a transfer of funds in the amount of \$1,300 from Customer Installation Inspection Acct. #664-000; \$10,000 from Maintenance Trans. & Distribution Lines Acct. #673-000; \$4,500 from Maintenance of Services Acct. #675-000; \$10,000 from Employees Pension & Benefits Acct. #926-000 for a total of \$25,800 to; \$4,000 to Operation Labor & Expenses Acct. #601-000; \$3,000 to Maintenance Lakes and Rivers Intakes Acct. #613-000; \$1,000 to Maintenance of Wells and Springs Acct. #614-000; \$1,500 to Pumping Labor & Expenses Acct. #624-000; \$1,500 to Maintenance Structures & Improvements Acct. #651-000; \$4,000 to Maintenance Water Treatment Equipment Acct. #652-000; \$7,800 to Maintenance of Hydrants Acct. #677-000; and \$3,000 to Outside Services Acct. #923-000, seconded by Mr. Gouveia (for the Water Division).

Mr. Gouveia asked if this is just the labor portion of each account that is being adjusted?

Mr. Dann responded that it is not true of every account.

Mr. Killen asked if there was a difference in the way that the Electric & Water Divisions did their bookkeeping since the Water Division is transferring out of Employees Pension & Benefits and the Electric Division is seeking an \$80,000 transfer into that account at the end of the year?

Mr. Dann attributed it for the most part to contract agreements with the Electric Division.

VOTE: Holmes, Parisi & Solinsky were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Bradley for a Transfer of Funds for the Water Division in the amount of \$3,500 from Transportation Equipment Acct. #392-091 and \$11,500 from Power Operated Equipment Acct. #396-091 for a total of \$15,000 to Structures & Improvements Acct. #311-091, seconded by Mrs. Duryea.

VOTE: Holmes, Parisi & Solinsky were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Mayor Dickinson asked Mr. Dann what the difficulties were that were encountered?

Mr. Dann stated that a couple of areas were found that were not previously identified that caused the division to reconfigure the project, i.e., parking requirements, landscaping, handicapped access requirements, etc.

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Sewer - Waste Water Division

Motion was made by Mr. Bradley for a Budget Amendment in the Sewer Division in the amounts of \$15,000 to increase Interest Earned Acct. #419-000; \$60,000 to increase Interest on Accounts Receivable Acct. #419-001; \$9,000 to increase Miscellaneous Service Revenue Acct. #472-000 and \$32,000 to decrease Interest (Revenue) on STP III Bonds Acct. #419-039 for a total of \$52,000 to increase the Estimated Unappropriated Balance Acct. #301-000, seconded by Ms. Papale.

r. Gouveia asked why the division is not generating as much interest in the money in the STP III Bonds account, is it due to the fact that they are paying it off quicker than anticipated?

Mr. Dann answered that the close-out on the project has gone fairly slowly, when the division anticipated that need to sell additional bonds in the current year, they have not yet faced that requirement. As a result, they have not had the funds available for a bond sale to generate interest on investment.

Mr. Killen asked what the Miscellaneous Service Revenue Account encompassed?

Mr. Dann explained that it is fees that are received for accepting septage at the waste treatment plant.

VOTE: Holmes, Parisi & Solinsky were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Bradley for a Transfer of Funds in the Sewer Division, Operating Budget, in the amounts of \$10,000 from Sludge Disposal - Tipping Fees Acct. #645-000; \$7,500 from Employee Pension and Benefits Acct. #926-000 to Acct. #623-000, Power Purchased for Pumping in the amount of \$8,500; Acct. #624-000, Pumping Labor & Expenses in the amount of \$3,000; Acct. #902-001, Labor for Meter Reading, in the amount of \$4,500 and to Acct. #903-001, Labor for Records and Collections in the amount of \$1,500 for a total of \$17,500, seconded by Ms. Papale.

VOTE: Holmes, Parisi & Solinsky were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Mr. Bradley made a motion to consider a request for a Budget Amendment, Sewer Division, in the amounts of \$181,250 decrease acct. titled, Interest on Long Term Bond Debt STP III Acct. #427-039; \$250,000 decrease acct. titled, Bond Payments, Acct. #221-000 resulting in an increase in account titled, Self-Finance Debt STP III in the amount of \$431,250, Acct. #118-204, seconded by Ms. Papale.

Mr. Zandri stated that he would like to see these dollars turned back to the Town and, in turn, the Town use that money to help offset the revaluation that is upcoming.

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Mr. Dann stated that the division's plan is consistent with that as was discussed at the workshop. The \$500,000 is in next year's proposed budget with the intent of being able to eliminate that in the following year coincidental to the revaluation.

Mr. Zandri asked if there is any plan on a pay back down the road?

Mr. Dann was not aware of any.

VOTE: Holmes, Parisi & Solinsky were absent; Zandri, no; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Bradley for a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$11,700 in the Sewer Division, Operating Budget as follows: \$5,700 from Transportation Equipment, Acct. #121-091 and \$6,000 from Office Equipment, Acct. #125-091 to Structures and Improvements Acct. #120-091 in the amount of \$11,700, seconded by Ms. Papale.

VOTE: Holmes, Parisi & Solinsky were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #3 Consider and Approve the Quarterly Budget Amendments of the Electric Division

Motion was made by Mr. Bradley, seconded by Mr. Gouveia.

Motion was made by Mr. Bradley to consider a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$20,000 for the Electric Division Operating Budget from Acct. #920-4, Automotive Maintenance to Acct. #903-1, Data Processing Expense, seconded by Ms. Papale.

Mr. Zandri asked if this expense was due to the new computer?

Mr. Walter Lee, Office Manager of the Electric Division responded that it was entirely due to the new computer.

Mr. Zandri asked if these additional dollars were needed due to a problem with the software?

Mr. Lee: That is correct.

Mr. Zandri asked Mr. Lee to explain the original contract with the supplier and the Town of Wallingford.

Mr. Lee stated that, originally, there was no contract for the software. The contract with Unisys was for hardware only. It was decided by management that the upgrade of the software be started at that time. It was to be done partially in house, under the supervision of an outside consultant. It was not under a contractual basis, but a per hour fee for the consultant. Before the software project was really under way, the capability in house was eliminated to the demise of one of our staff people. This left us with no one in house with the capability of converting the old technology to the new. We are really 100% at this stage of the game on outside

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consultants. It was the intent to develop the software package needed in house. The conversion process is a massive one. There are a number of extreme problems that are being encountered.

Mr. Zandri asked if it would have been possible to purchase a pre-packaged program for the system?

Mr. Lee stated that he has seen them, and that it would have been the way to go but he did not have a say in the decision making process.

Mr. Bradley pointed out that at a January 1991 meeting, Bill Barry, General Manager of the Electric Division stated that the consultant could begin to be phased out within one month with an ongoing need for the next two to three months.

Mr. Lee stated that Mr. Barry was informed that the project was a long way from being finished and more time was needed.

Mr. Bradley wanted to make sure that a plan to complete the transition period of the software is in place as well as one which identifies all the problems to be dealt with and that they have assigned timelines to them that the consultant can follow. He wants the most out of the consultant for the money being paid to him.

Mr. Lee stated that a game plan has been set and priorities identified. Consequently, the game plan and the "fires" are being handled by the consultant.

Mr. Bradley feels that perhaps Cole Layer Trumbull is relying on a staff upstairs that has no knowledge of the system, these people are faced with conversion problems within your own division. His questions were; has that problem been rectified, is it being handled by Cole Layer Trumbull and did Cole Layer Trumbull underestimate the sizing of their own software?

Mr. Lee stated that disk space has, in fact, been increased and in use. The software developed by CLT (Cole Layer Trumbull) is of the IBM philosophy and they are trying to modify this philosophy to the Unisys one causing a great deal of memory grabbing. The Unisys people have addressed this. Things have been running rather smoothly over the past week.

Mr. Bradley wanted to make sure that one party (CLT) is not impacting the other (Data Processing Staff) with regards to the two different problems, conversion and revaluation software problems.

Mr. Lee will be meeting with CLT to get an objective overview of what is happening and how they are responding.

VOTE: Holmes, Parisi & Solinsky were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

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Motion was made by Mr. Bradley to Consider a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$4,000 within the Electric Operating Budget, from the Materials Maintenance Acct. #920-3 to the Office Supplies Expense Acct. #921, seconded by Mrs. Duryea.

VOTE: Holmes, Parisi & Solinsky were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Bradley to Consider a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$80,000 within the Electric Division Operating Budget as follows: \$40,000 from Substation Maintenance Acct. #592, and \$40,000 from Overhead Lines Maintenance Acct. #593 for a total of \$80,000 to Pensions and Benefits Acct. #926, seconded by Mrs. Duryea.

VOTE: Holmes, Parisi & Solinsky were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Bradley to Accept the Modification to the Personnel Pages of the Electric Division to reference the High Voltage Work Item under the Chief Lineman; Lineman Classifications; Apprentice Lineman and Distribution Technician, seconded by Ms. Papale.

Ms. Papale left at 9:35 P.M.

Much discussion ensued surrounding the procedures of converting to 15 KV primary lines and the present method of accomplishing this, termed the "hot stick" method. They are working from buckets with 8' poles with tools on the end of the poles. If a wire is going to be spliced it requires two crews and can take between 6-8 hours to accomplish this task. If the lineman glove and handle the live wire in hand the task can be performed in about 30-40 minutes. The division feels it can increase productivity with this method which will result in a direct correlation to reducing overtime. This increase is being proposed due to the level of danger the employees are exposing themselves to on behalf of their jobs.

Mr. Bradley was concerned because it becomes just another item to be bargained for during contract talks.

VOTE: Holmes, Papale, Parisi & Solinsky were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Bradley to Adjourn the Meeting, seconded by Mr. Zandri.

VOTE: Holmes, Papale, Parisi & Solinsky were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.



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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:48 P.M.

Meeting recorded & transcribed by:

*Kathryn F. Milano*

Kathryn F. Milano  
Town Council Secretary

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Albert E. Killen, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathryn J. Wall, Town Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date