

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 12, 1992

7:00 P.M.

AGENDA

1. Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance
2. Consent Agenda
 - a. Note for the Record Mayoral Transfers Approved to Date
 - b. Note for the Record Anniversary Increases Approved to Date
 - c. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$750.00 to Data Processing Acct. #2035-900-9000 from Degree Allowance Acct. #2035-100-1950, \$299.; from Gas & Oil Acct. #2035-300-3000, \$201., and from Equipment Maintenance Acct. #2035-500-5200, \$250. - Fire Marshal
 - d. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#207-230) in the Amount of \$11, 285.86 - Tax Collector
 - e. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#231-234) in the Amount of \$1,883.17 - Tax Collector
 - f. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$3,000 from Sand Acct. #001-5040-400-4580 to Tree Removal Acct. #001-5070-600-6420 - Public Works
 - g. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$565.00 from Outside Contracts - Rentals Acct. #001-5030-600-6500 to Field Supplies and Expenses Acct. #001-5030-400-4650 - Public Works
 - h. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$250.00 from Telephone Acct. #001-1110-200-2000 to Office Supplies Acct. #001-1110-400-4000 - Town Council Office
 - i. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$2,000 from Blue Cross Acct. #001-8041-800-8310 to Retirement Sick Leave Acct. #001-8041-800-8360 - Personnel
 - j. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$429.00 from Radio Pagers Acct. #2036-999-9910 to Astra Suits Acct #2032-999-9950 - Dept. of Fire Services
 - k. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$1,500 from Telephone Acct. #2032-200-2000 to Maintenance of Vehicles Acct. #2031-500-5000 - Dept. of Fire Services
 - l. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$380.00 from Tires and Tubes Acct. #2037-400-4520 to Utilities Acct. #2037-200-2010 - Dept. of Fire Services

(OVER)

- m. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$350.00 from Public Fire Education Supplies Acct. #2038-400-4290 to Maintenance of Vehicles Acct. #2038-500-5000 - Dept. of Fire Services
- n. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$725.00 from Rubbish Removal Acct. #2039-500-5120 to Maintenance of Vehicles Acct. #2039-500-5000 - Dept. of Fire Services
- 3. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda
- 4. Approve and Accept Minutes of the 4/9/92; 4/14/92; 4/21/92; 4/22/92 and 4/30/92 Town Council Meetings
- 5. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$2,000 to Electrical Energy Overhead Signals Acct. #001-2017-200-2100 from No Sick Incentive Acct. #001-2015-100-1620, \$999.00 and \$1,001.00 from Longevity Acct. #001-2015-100-1750 - Dept. of Police Services
- 6. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$3,300 from Worker's Comp. Replacement Acct. #2032-100-1630 to Maintenance of Vehicles Acct. #2036-500-5000 - Dept. of Fire Services
- 7. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD - 7:30 P.M.
- 8. PUBLIC HEARING for the Adoption of a Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 1992-93 - 7:45 P.M.
- 9. Discussion and Possible Action on the Status of the Overtime Account in the Town Council Office Budget
- 10. SET A PUBLIC HEARING on an Ordinance Appropriating \$1,250,000 for the Planning, Acquisition and Construction of Various Municipal Capital Improvements 1992-1993 and Authorizing the Issue of \$1,250,000 Bonds of the Town to Meet Said Appropriation and Pending the Issue Thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowings for Such Purpose

(The purpose of the Ordinance is to appropriate \$1,250,000 for the 1992-93 capital improvement program. The appropriation is for the reconstruction of South Branford Road, Whirlwind Hill to the Town line, \$700,000, and repair/replacement of the Quinnipiac Street - Quinnipiac River Bridge, \$550,000.)
- May 26, 1992, 7:45 P.M.
- 11. Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-18a(e)(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes to Discuss Strategy and Negotiations with Respect to Pending Litigation

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

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7:00 P.M.

SUMMARY

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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 12, 1992

7:00 P.M.

A meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was held on Tuesday, May 12, 1992 in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall and called to Order at 7:05 P.M. by Chairperson Iris F. Papale. All Councilors answered present to the Roll called by Town Clerk Kathryn J. Wall with the exception of Albert Killen who was absent due to the death of his brother. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and Comptroller Thomas A. Myers was also present. Town Attorney Janis M. Small arrived at 7:13 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the Flag.

A moment of silence was observed for Arthur Killen, brother of Councilor Albert E. Killen.

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Place the Following Items on the Consent Agenda to be Voted Upon by One Unanimous Vote of the Council, seconded by Mr. Parisi:

ITEM #2a Note for the Record Mayoral Transfers Approved to Date

ITEM #2b Note for the Record Anniversary Increases Approved to Date

ITEM #2c Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$750.00 to Data Processing Acct. #2035-900-9000 from Degree Allowance Acct. #2035-100-1950, \$299., from Gas & Oil Acct. #2035-300-3000, \$201., and from Equipment Maintenance Acct. #2035-500-5200, \$250 - Fire Marshal

ITEM #2d Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#207-230) in the Amount of \$11,285.86 - Tax Collector

ITEM #2e Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#231-234) in the Amount of \$1,883.17 - Tax Collector

ITEM #2f Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$3,000 from Sand Acct. #001-5040-400-4580 to Tree Removal Acct. #001-5070-600-6420 - Public Works

ITEM #2g Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$565.00 from Outside Contracts - Rentals Acct. #001-5030-600-6500 to Field Supplies and Expenses Acct. #001-5030-400-4650 - Public Works

ITEM #2h Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$250.00 from Telephone Acct. #001-1110-200-2000 to Office Supplies Acct. #001-1110-400-4000 - Town Council Office

ITEM #2i Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$2,000 from Blue Cross Acct. #001-8041-800-8310 to Retirement Sick Leave Acct. #001-8041-800-8360 - Personnel

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ITEM #2j Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$429.00 from Radio Pagers Acct. #2036-999-9910 to Astra Suits Acct. #2032-999-9950 - Dept. of Fire Services

ITEM #2k Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$1,500 from Telephone Acct. #2032-200-2000 to Maintenance of Vehicles Acct. #2031-500-5000 - Dept. of Fire Services

ITEM #2l Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$380.00 from Tires and Tubes Acct. #2037-400-4520 to Utilities Acct. #2037-200-2010 - Dept. of Fire Services

ITEM #2m Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$350.00 from Public Fire Education Supplies Acct. #0238-400-4290 to Maintenance of Vehicles Acct. #2038-500-5000 - Dept. of Fire Services

ITEM #2n Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$725.00 from Rubbish Removal Acct. #0239-500-5120 to Maintenance of Vehicles Acct. #2039-500-5000 - Dept. of Fire Services

VOTE: Killen was absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #4 Approve and Accept Minutes of the 4/9/92; 4/14/92; 4/21/92; 4/22/92 and 4/30/92 Town Council Meetings.

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty, seconded by Mr. Holmes.

VOTE: Killen was absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #5 Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$2,000 to Electrical Energy Overhead Signals Acct. #001-2017-200-2100 from No Sick Incentive Acct. #001-2015-100-1620, \$999.00 and \$1,001.00 from Longevity Acct. #001-2015-100-1750 - Dept. of Police Services

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty, seconded by Mr. Parisi.

VOTE: Killen was absent; Zandri, no; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #6 Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$3,300 from Worker's Comp. Replacement Acct. #2032-100-1630 to Maintenance of Vehicles Acct. #2036-500-5000 - Dept. of Fire Services

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty, seconded by Mr. Parisi.

VOTE: Killen was absent; Zandri, no; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #10 SET A PUBLIC HEARING on an Ordinance Appropriating \$1,250,000 for the Planning, Acquisition and Construction of Various Municipal Capital Improvements 1992-93 and Authorizing the Issue of \$1,250,000 Bonds of the Town to Meet Said Appropriation and Pending the Issue Thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowings for Such Purpose

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Schedule the Public Hearing for

May 26, 1992 at 7:45 P.M., seconded by Mr. Parisi.

VOTE: Killen was absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

WAIVER OF RULE V

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Waive Rule V of the Town Council Meeting Procedures to Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds for the Town Clerk, seconded by Mr. Parisi.

VOTE: Killen was absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$750 from Primary Election Workers Wages Acct. #001-6011-100-1350 to Advertising Acct. #001-6030-400-4100 - Town Clerk

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty, seconded by Mr. Parisi.

VOTE: Killen was absent; Zandri, no; all others, aye. Motion duly carried.

PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Wayne McDermott, 22 Cooper Avenue was very upset with the issue surrounding the Auxiliary Police (the officers no longer want to work with aux. police staff). He hoped that the Town had budgeted extra funds for extra staffing on the Fourth of July holiday.

Mayor Dickinson assured Mr. McDermott that the concern is over the issue of the Auxiliary Police carrying weapons if they are not properly trained. There remains an interest and commitment to the Auxiliary staff on the part of the Police Department.

Ms. Papale stated that the Town has a commitment to the safety of the people of Wallingford. We pay for the training of the volunteer firemen so we should pay for the training of the auxiliary police. Some auxiliary police do not wish to attend training sessions. If they refuse training then they have no right to be on the force in uniform.

Edward Musso, 56 Dibble Edge Road agreed with Mr. McDermott.

Frank Wasilewski, 47 N. Orchard Street voiced some complaints with the Police Department. Recently there was a death in the family of which occurred on Rte. #68. The deceased's car was towed to a garage on the East side of town. The family was never contacted by the Police Department to give them a chance to retrieve the car prior to towing. Therefore it was kept over a weekend before the family could have access to picking it up. The bill was over \$85.00 for the towing and storage of the vehicle. The cost incurred by the family could have been avoided if the Police had tried to make contact and arrangements for someone to pick up the vehicle. He commended the paramedics for a job well done. Also, less than 15 days had passed before the Risk Manager forwarded a bill to the deceased's family for the ambulance service. He felt this was cold and heartless for

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the town to do so soon after the death.

ITEM #8 PUBLIC HEARING for the Adoption of a Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 1992-93 - 7:45 P.M.

Motion was made by Mr. Doherty to Open the Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Parisi.

Philip Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street was of the opinion that all salary increases should be frozen.

Frank Wasilewski, 47 N. Orchard Street felt that all town departments are over-budgeted and they should be cut. No transferring of funds should be allowed during the year. The Council should have rejected the teacher's contract. Funds should be taken from the reserves to pay the tax bill of the town. He was upset with the Mayor wanting to place the \$585,382 received from the State back into reserves instead of giving the taxpayers a break on their taxes. When his tax bill comes due, Mr. Wasilewski stated that he must take funds from his "reserve" account to pay those taxes. He does not have the resources to replace it. Mr. Myers was asked to translate the refund into dollars per household (average) at last night's budget workshop. Mr. Myers stated that it computes to approximately \$30 per year. One Councilor's attitude was, "what is \$30.00?" Multiply that by 10,000 taxpayers; it adds up. He felt that the taxpayers deserve the \$30 break. He urged the Council to change their minds and give it to the people.

Edward Bradley, 2 Hampton Trail supported the funding of WPL-TV and asked the Mayor why he didn't approve funds in the new budget year for it?

Mayor Dickinson was not supportive of constructing a third studio in Town.

Mr. Bradley pointed out that this issue has been ongoing for approximately 4-6 years. He urged the Council to remove the \$148,000 funds set aside by the Council for the television station from the budget and place the burden of onus on the Mayor. It belongs on the administration. He realizes that the Council is frustrated and things are not moving; take the money out. Put the emphasis and the responsibility where it belongs. He asked the Mayor, how much undesignated money is currently on hand in the current fiscal year to maintain a Aa credit rating for the Town of Wallingford?

Mayor Dickinson: I believe that it is \$3.4 million.

Ed Bradley: How much is needed to maintain a Aa credit rating for the Town for the 1992-93 budget year?

Mayor Dickinson replied that if a municipality, in his opinion, shows a willingness to spend its reserves and not fund operational costs out of taxes, there is a finite limit to your savings. Once you run out of savings, the credit agency will have a legitimate question to ask, "What are you going to do with the overhead that you have created in

the interim? What is the plan? That is the way the credit agencies look at it. They don't want to see a municipality absorbing savings for operational costs purposes.

Mr. Bradley: Don't you think with the depressed market the agencies will be looking at things differently this year? How much of a planned surplus is in this year's budget?

Mayor Dickinson: There is not a planned surplus.

Mr. Bradley: Then where are the surpluses coming from?

Mayor Dickinson: From revenues that exceed estimates. In part they come from expenditures that do not occur or are below expectations, as well as the unappropriated balance from a prior year. Remember, a budget is an estimate.

Mr. Bradley asked, how much money is being brought forward from the 1991-92 budget to the 1992-93 budget, excluding revaluation?

Mayor Dickinson responded, approximately \$1.2 million.

Mr. Bradley asked, how much money was brought forward from the 1990-91 budget to the 1991-92 budget?

Mayor Dickinson answered, anywhere from \$1.2 to \$1.3 million.

Mr. Bradley asked, wouldn't you call that a planned surplus? I would.

Mayor Dickinson: Everyone has an opinion on it, I do produce a budget.. we do not plan in the course of a budget to arrive at any dollar figure for surplus. The credit agency's issue is, how do we protect our clients, the investors? It becomes an issue for us because we want to encourage the investors to give us good interest rates and desire to invest in the Town of Wallingford.

Mr. Bradley wanted to bring to the public's attention exactly how the surplus process works. He was not saying that we should not have a good plan, we should. But there are monies that go from year to year as a surplus. How much will go towards the Aa credit rating in this budget?

Mayor Dickinson responded, at this point there is not an appropriation of money to the reserve. At this point there is a reduction of about \$600,000 from the reserve.

Mr. Bradley asked, what you are telling us is that you are not going to take your 5% of your total General Fund Expenditures, or budget, and put that amount in the budget to maintain the Aa credit rating?

Mayor Dickinson: There is no appropriation in this budget to the Aa credit reserve. One of the issues tonight is whether or not there should be a return of dollars because of the estimate of additional money from the State of Connecticut, whether we should reimburse the reserve the \$600,000 that is being used to finance this budget. The

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reason for that is that next year's budget will be every bit as bad and probably worse than this one. Will we need reserves, absolutely. Where will additional money come from to reimburse reserves? At this point, I don't know. There is not a source at this time to identify for replenishing savings. Every time we use savings it may be with the expectancy that, for a period of time, we are not able to replenish it. That is not a good way of going about it. I cannot say right now that there is a plan unless we are able to put some of the additional money from the State towards that savings.

Mr. Bradley: So we have established that there is not 5% going towards the Aa credit rating in this coming budget?

Mayor Dickinson: No there is not a 5% going to the Aa credit. We are taking money from the Aa credit.

Mr. Bradley: In looking at other Aa rated municipalities in the State, three in particular that are comparable to Wallingford; Manchester, Norwich (also has a municipally-owned utility) and Trumbull, they all have less than 3% of their General Fund set aside to ensure a Aa credit rating. Wallingford sets aside 5%. Why?

Mayor Dickinson: In terms of per capita income, Wallingford is below the State average. That, to a credit agency, will emphasize more our handling of our resources, the savings we have, because we cannot depend upon vast emergency appropriations, sudden enormous changes in taxation being absorbed by the public. Out of 169 towns in the State there are 22 that have Aa credit ratings. The average amount set aside by those towns to preserve their rating is 4.8%. We are not that far off, especially with what may happen to this budget.

Mr. Bradley concluded with the thought that \$30.00 may seem like a small amount but when combined with the 5-7% return from the Electric Division (\$50.00/yr.), rebate on the water rates, etc., it all adds up. It helps many, especially those on fixed incomes. If we are so concerned with reserves, 1% of the education budget could have covered the loss from the reserve account that occurred when it was originally thought that the State would not forward the ECS funds. He urged Mr. Doherty to resurrect his motion on the \$585,000 to reduce the mill rate.

Mrs. Duryea would like to see the \$148,000 kept in the budget for the television station. She voted in opposition of televising the Town Council meetings some time ago but since changed her mind on the subject since more and more people are approaching her to express their opinion on town government. For the first time they are witnessing how their government works. It is a real benefit to the Town to keep this money in for WPL-TV.

Mr. Zandri stated that last evening the \$148,000 was shifted from the regular budget to the Capital & Non-Recurring Account and therefore do not affect the taxes this year. He wanted everyone to understand that fact.

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Edward Musso, 56 Dibble Edge Road felt that the Board of Education should be given a 1 2/3% increase over last year's budget and no more. The principals should make the cuts, they know where the fat is. If they can't find it then they should be replaced. He felt that the Middle School Advisor and one Librarian position should be eliminated from the budget as well as the Gifted and Talented Tutoring Program, School within a School, Pre-school programs (6 positions), High School and Middle School Athletics and extra-curricular activities, Kindergarten Teacher Assistants (15), Outreach Teachers (3), Guidance Counselors (4) for a total of \$2,812,131 cut to the budget.

Phyliss Corneal, felt that there was a lot of fat in the budget, so much so in fact that we should keep it away from any heat source! She felt that this budget clearly contained a planned surplus. She felt that the town was planning a major cash surplus which it probably does not need. She urged the Council to cut the mill rate and cut out the surplus from the budget.

Mr. Holmes stated that it is easy to take surplus funds available and apply them to the mill rate. That is an incorrect thing to do. The State is a good example. To avoid increasing taxes the State kept dipping into their reserves until they were gone. When they were gone what did they do? They borrowed money to cover operating expenses. They were left with billion dollar deficits and massive tax increases. Yes, we have money in the bank in Wallingford and it takes fiscal discipline to maintain these reserves. If we didn't have reserves for this year we wouldn't have had money to take and apply against the loss of revenue from the State of Connecticut and the tax increases would have been higher. We have two choices; one, we could run a deficit or two, we can have a surplus. If we were running a deficit this audience would be packed. We are all up here doing the best job that we can. There is a difference of philosophy but we are all trying to accomplish the same thing. Is every vote that we have ever taken the correct one? I don't think so, there is always room for improvement. If I make an error with the finances of the town, I will err on the side of being in a surplus position, thank you.

Mr. Zandri read the following statement into the record: "For the past three years this Council has worked hard on the budget. We have attempted to get all departments to look at each line item and justify the dollar amount that they have requested. We have reviewed the Board of Education budget line by line even though we do not have line by line control over their budget. We did it to better understand their needs and so that the Board of Education would have a better understanding of what we are looking for in a budget presentation. I feel together we have come a long way with their budget format and presentation. The biggest snag in the budget process over the last few years has been in the area of the utilities, specifically the Electric Division. This Council has reviewed the Electric Division's budget line by line and have been able to come up with excesses in the magnitude of \$1.5 million. We have attempted to use these funds to help our educational system in Wallingford and to keep taxes down. However as most of you know, our efforts have failed because of the Mayor's veto over the last three years. I do not agree at all with his philosophy on the budget and because of it this year I voted no on the entire Electric Division, as presented, during the

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budget workshops and tonight I reserve the right to vote no on the entire budget as presented by the Mayor. Thank you."

Mrs. Duryea applauded Mr. Doherty for his efforts in bringing a proposal before the Council last night that could reduce taxes. She proceeded to read the following statement into the record: "This is my third budget workshop. The first year I was on the Council we reduced the budget by \$1 million, a reduction of almost 1 mill. The budget was vetoed and the Mayor's budget remained in effect. Last year we (the Council) reduced the budget by \$1.2 million, a reduction of over 1 mill. It was a \$125 savings per household. The budget was vetoed and the Mayor's budget remained intact.

Fact: To accomplish this we did increase the Electric Division's contribution to the Town which, by the way, was a recommendation made by the consultants of the Electric Division study.

We spend approximately 60 hours of carefully scrutinizing the budget and, in the end, the Council was able to restore dollars back to the taxpayers to offset taxes and restore valuable services and equipment needed by the Town. All this was lost with a veto. This year we have some funds to give a little relief to the taxpayers once again. If all the efforts of the Council to reduce taxes are ignored over and over I would like to ask the taxpayers of the Town of Wallingford to take a close look at where we are going. Since 1989 taxes have increased 23%. Can you afford this? I can't. Thank you."

Mr. Solinsky responded to Mrs. Duryea's comment that taxes have increased 23% since 1989. He stated that the Board of Education's budget has increased approximately \$11 million since 1989. In his mind this is the area that takes up the most money and increases each year. It is phenomenal how much money goes into the education system along with the other funds the Town spends on education facilities such as roofs and things like that that are not listed under their budget. For the Board of Education to request a \$3.7 million increase in the middle of a recession, I have a problem with that. I think things have to change and people have to be aware of where we are headed.

Mr. Doherty made a motion to take Account #5025, School Equalization Account and increase it by \$455,382 and, in addition, take Account #5500, Welfare Account, and increase it by \$130,000 to equal a total of \$585,382. With this additional revenue I recommend that we set a mill rate of 23.9 mills, seconded by Mrs. Duryea.

Mr. Doherty explained that, after listening to the public this evening he is of the opinion that they would rather have the \$30.00 decrease in their taxes.

Mayor Dickinson stated for the record that he would like to express his concerns with this action because we cannot absolutely depend upon every dollar that has been indicated from the State, partly because additional legislation has to be enacted, in part because if the State runs into problems during the year they can threaten to withhold payments and thus

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we would receive less and thirdly, we are making no effort to replenish the reserve when the State had reasoned for taking money from the reserve was because of the loss in the ECS grant. I do believe that we should make some effort to put some money back toward that reserve and not use all of this projected increase against the mill rate. I do feel that it could cause problems.

Ms. Papale said that at last night's meeting this motion was made with the exception that the funds were to bring the mill rate down to 24 mills. Now tonight you have brought up the motion to bring it down to 23.9 mills. Before you made your motion, David, I stated that I would like to see some of the funds going to reduce the mill rate but also some going back to the credit reserve. The motion is made to lower the mill rate to 23.9 and if I vote no it is not because I don't want it to go into the mill rate, I would like to see the mill rate reduced to 24 mills and the rest of the money, approximately \$200,000, put into the credit reserves. I feel this way we will, more or less, be compromising and maybe all of us could then vote yes on the budget so that it will pass. It is a matter of 1/10 of a mill and I know how important that is, I am a taxpayer and so is all of my family, but we have to think of the future.

Mrs. Duryea reiterated her previous statements and added that some people have contacted her at home to ask, "why are some Council people giving up and quitting the task of working on the budget?". It is very frustrating because you either compromise or give the Mayor his way or you lose. I am tired of losing, I am tired of not being able to take some credit for having a brain in my head. I am tired of not being able to implement something that the Council initiates and have it bear some weight in the Town of Wallingford. No disrespect to Mr. Dickinson, but what makes him a god that we have to listen to and now compromise for \$200,000? \$200,000? I am just as frustrated tonight as I was last night, Iris. Just as frustrated because now we have to compromise or we lose.....

Ms. Papale: We don't have to do anything Susan....

Ms. Duryea: Oh, I know we don't! I have said what I have to say.

Ms. Papale: I heard the people on my left (Republicans) say that they were going to vote with what went on.....

Ms. Duryea: Haven't you heard the public? Who are we listening to? We had a public hearing, have you heard anyone come out negative? We have listened to the public and their concerns and what are we doing? We are going to do what the Mayor feels that we should. That is what is happening Iris!

Ms. Papale: I listened to four people tonight that I have great respect for, Mr. Wright, Mr. Wasilewski.....I respect their opinion....I am going with it. Last night I voted in favor of reducing the mill rate to 24.0 mills. All of a sudden tonight, as we are voting, the decrease is going up to another \$200,000. I, for one and I don't feel that there are people on this Council that really don't look at the Mayor as a god, when I vote, I am not voting to please the Mayor, I am not voting to

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please Tom Myers, I am looking out for the future of the Town of Wallingford and I feel that the way I vote is looking out for the future, not because anyone ever calls me or talks to me about it. I don't look at anyone as a god but the one god that I believe in. I mentioned the word compromise because I said that I was going to vote last night on 24.0 mills and I still feel that way (applause). I feel that it has been brought forward a little bit differently and if we compromise everyone will gain.

Mrs. Duryea: I questioned the Mayor last night, we had a lengthy discussion and went home last night feeling very sad. Sad that we (the Council) have sat here all this time to accomplish nothing. I may not get any applause tonight, but I'm not looking for any. What I am looking for is a tax break for the Town of Wallingford, no matter how small it may be. And maybe if you (those in the audience that previously applauded) needed that break you wouldn't be applauding so loudly (applause). I did ask the Mayor last night, as far as the monies, it was taken and it was given....if he didn't feel comfortable doing that he would not have done it. He was comfortable with taking that amount of money and putting it where he did knowing he was not going to get reimbursed. Now we have gotten reimbursed by the State, what a nice little break for the taxpayers of Wallingford. But once more the taxpayers of the Town of Wallingford have lost. And once more I sit up here for three years in a row and wonder why I sit here.

Mr. Zandri: Before we take a vote on this \$200,000 difference I want to remind everyone here...we are talking about replenishing a reserve. I want to remind everyone that this town is sitting on \$18 million reserve in the Electric Division. We are talking about a \$3 million reserve for Aa rating and we are talking about a couple of hundred thousand dollars to replenish that reserve and no one has mentioned tonight the amount of reserve that we are sitting on down there. I think that a couple of hundred thousand dollars put back at this particular point is nothing. This town is in a real good financial situation and I think we should give the taxpayers a break this year.

Mr. Parisi made the observation that, historically, this town has sat on so-called surpluses for twenty years. Those twenty years have stretched over two democratic mayors and one republican mayor. For those of you who are newly arrived it is not new for the Town of Wallingford to have a so-called surplus fund. As it was explained to me about eighteen years ago by a comptroller. He termed it as the equity in the fund and it was used as a balance, a protection for the taxpayers. I would love to be able to sit here tonight and join in and hoot and holler for the taxpayer but I believe in my own philosophy. I am still working for the taxpayer as Susan feels she is....we all have a right to do that. I guess that what makes this town the stable town that it is. We can come here, argue and voice our opinions and there is a so-called winner and a so-called loser up here but so far in the twenty years of having the privilege of sitting here, the Town of Wallingford has won after every budget. I think that is what we want to focus on tonight. Has the town won because of our actions? If we remain prudent and a plan comes forward to put that will put the surplus to work we won't have to worry about it anymore. If the town maintains a healthy position and a financial strength then I think, in fact, that we are all winners and the townspeople will have won also.

Mr. Phil Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street agreed that it seems as though the budget was handed down by God. Thou shall not do this....thou shall not do that. I don't know what it is that has made the Mayor and administration of this town so perfect that they, every year, can come up with a budget that is not perfect....to the point that the Council has to sit here and talk about \$300,000 on a \$73 million budget. It is absurd. If the Council is so impotent that they have to pinch pennies over \$200,000 to satisfy the administration of this town, it is a sad situation. You should not be forced to labor here for a months time night after night to come up as near empty-handed as you will be when you get down. I urge you to support Mr. Doherty's motion or reject the entire budget (applause).

Mr. Edward Bradley, 2 Hampton Trail reiterated Mrs. Duryea's comments that the money was not there to begin with because it was not anticipated coming back to the town. Now if the Mayor wants to talk about percentages, let's look at \$200,000 on a \$73 million budget. Do you really think that is going to effect our credit rating? Some would like you to believe that we are depleting our so-called reserves.....we are not doing that!!

Mr. Edward Musso, 56 Dibble Edge Road liked Mr. Doherty's proposal but, being conservative, will agree with Ms. Papale's view.

Mr. Myers stated that, in working out the mill rate according to Mr. Doherty's motion there is a difference in the calculation of approximately \$9,000 and asked Mr. Doherty to amend his motion to include the property taxes account budgeted at \$45,940,383.00? That would allow the budget to balance while accounting for that \$9,209.00 difference that he worked up tonight while the discussion is going on. It is a minor amendment that will not affect anything.

Motion was amended by Mr. Doherty to Increase Acct. #5025, School Equalization Account by \$455,382 and to Increase Acct. #5500, Welfare, by \$130,000 for a total of \$585,382 and Set a Rate of Tax at 23.9 Mills to Include Property Taxes in the Amount of \$45,940,383, \$9,000 less than the Mill Rate Calculation, seconded by Mrs. Duryea.

VOTE: Killen was absent; Holmes, Parisi and Solinsky no; all others, aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Doherty proceeded with a series of motions to adopt the budget (see attached sheets that follow).