

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Town Council Chambers

March 12, 2013

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was called to order at 7:03 P.M. Following the Opening Prayer by Deacon Eugene Riotte, Holy Trinity Church of Wallingford, the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were as follows: Vincent Cervoni, Nick Economopoulos, Craig Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, John Letourneau, Chairman Robert F. Parisi, Rosemary Rascati, John J. Sullivan and Jason Zandri. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., G.E.Farrell, Sr., Town Attorney and Deputy Comptroller T. Sena were also in attendance.

2. Correspondence - *None*
3. Consent Agenda
  - 3a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds totaling \$17,916.80 (#537 - #542)  
Acct. # 001-1000-010-1170 - Tax Collector
  - 3b. Acceptance of Donation from Liberty Bank Foundation and Appropriation in the Amount of \$5,000 for *Youth and Social Services Special Fund WeCare* to Donations Acct # 2134002-47152 and to Expenditures Acct # 21340100-58830 – Youth and Social Services
  - 3c. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$12,600 to Meter Reading Expense Acct # 902 from Customer Records and Collections Acct # 903 - Electric Division
  - 3d. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$2,250 to Capital Acct- Computers Acct # -to be Determined from Professional Services-Lawyers Acct # 10010300-56714 – Law Department
  - 3e. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount in the Amount of \$3,500 to Professional Services- Labor/Grievances Acct # 1002000-56812 - Personnel
  - 3f. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$650 to Personal Computers Acct # 100112000-57000-00108 from Printers Acct # 10012000-57000-00109 - Personnel
  - 3g. Consider and Approve a Town of Wallingford *Fair Housing Resolution* for 2013 - Mayor
  - 3h. Consider and Approve Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Master Municipal Agreement for Construction Projects between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Wallingford for a ten-year term- Engineering
  - 3i. Consider and Approve the Appointment of Jeffrey Kohan to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a five-year term beginning immediately and ending January 8, 2018 – Chairman Robert F. Parisi
  - 3j. Consider and Approve the Re-Appointment of Jeffrey Knickerbocker to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a five-year term beginning immediately and ending January 8, 2018 – Chairman Robert F. Parisi

- 3k. Approve minutes of Regular Town Council meeting of February 26, 2013
- 3l. Approve minutes of Special Town Council Meeting February 20, 2013
- 3m. Consider and Approve the Re-Appointment of Debra Phillips as an Alternate to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission for a three-year term beginning immediately and ending March 1, 2016 – Chairman Robert F. Parisi

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA 3a -3m.**

**MADE BY: CERVONI**  
**SECONDED BY: RASCATI**  
**VOTE: 9-AYE**

**MOTION PASSED.**

The Town Clerk swore in of Jeffrey Kohan to the Planning and Zoning Commission as a regular member.

- 4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda – *None*
- 5. Report of the Board of Education’s *Wallingford 100 21<sup>st</sup> Century Innovation Project* with *Patty Pursell, Jan Murphy and Kate O’Donnell, 21<sup>st</sup> C. Innovation Team*  
- Chairman Robert F. Parisi

*In attendance: Patty Pursell, Physical Education Teacher*  
*Jan Murphy, Principal, Cook Hill School*  
*Kate O’Donnell, Information Technology Resource Teacher*

Ms. Pursell reported that part of their task this year was to go into the community and find out what they need to do better. They interviewed parents, students, teachers, administrators, business people and college admission reps. They came back with some ideas which is what the presentation addresses.

Ms. Pursell introduced the Board of Education’s *Wallingford 100 21<sup>st</sup> Century Innovation Project* with a PowerPoint presentation that considered the project from its inception to where it is going. The team said that they now desire it to become part of Dr. Menzo’s Strategic Plan for the school district. *(The PowerPoint slides are part of the record of the meeting.)*

The presentation covered areas that included the following: project sponsors; the state of education, then and now; stakeholders and what they think; surveys and ‘Big Ideas’ such as soft skills, more technology, exploring careers, real life learning, personalized learning and life skills; innovative pathways, practices and processes; external influences that shape school transformation; Wallingford 100 percent graduation; growth mindset approach; performance index; graduation trends; school achievement data; impact of dropping out and reasons for it; community activities initiated by the *21<sup>st</sup> C. Innovation Team* as they relate to the book MINDSET and to the mindset of 100% graduation rate in Wallingford.

The Town Clerk swore in of Jeffrey Knickerbocker to the Zoning Board of Appeals as a regular member.

6. Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Presentation - Mayor

*In attendance: Kevin Mahoney, CCM Operations Director  
Gina Calabro, CCM, Director Member Services and Marketing*

Mr. Mahoney and Ms. Calabro reported on the benefits to the Town of Wallingford if they become a member of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM). They discussed property tax relief; grants; communication of state legislative action to membership; a robust website; training that could possibly supplant town training in certain circumstances; solar energy services and other benefits. Ms. Calabro expanded on a new prescription drug program for town residents that would cover every household and prescription drug. She listed the participating pharmacies, which can also be seen on their website. She said that she has posters announcing the program that people should watch for and inquire about at their pharmacy.

Mr. Mahoney explained membership costs stating that the town will not pay any dues at all up to June 30, 2013; then, for the next fiscal year to June 30, 2014, the membership fee would be \$20,000; and in the following fiscal year, the town would pay the normal, regular dues of \$28,500. He also noted that the membership dues have not increased for the last three fiscal years.

Both Mr. Mahoney and Ms. Calabro answered questions from the Council. Councilor Fishbein was concerned with several issues but all Councilors found the prescription drug program impressive. They discussed CIRMA, one of the CCM programs.

153 towns in Connecticut belong to CCM, and it is a regular budget line in those towns.

There were no public comments.

Ms. Calabro handed out information with regard to the prescription drug program before the meeting began. *(This information is part of the record of the meeting.)*

There were no questions or comments from the public.

7. Discussion and Possible Action regarding joining CCM - Mayor

**MOTION WAS MADE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO JOIN THE  
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES ON BEHALF  
OF THE TOWN OF WALLINGFORD.**

**MADE BY: CERVONI  
SECONDED BY: LAFFIN**

There were no comments or questions from the Council or from the Public.

Mrs. Rascati said that a family member works for CCM, so she would recuse herself from the vote.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

<b>CERVONI:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>RASCATI:</b>	<b>RECUSE</b>
<b>ECONOMOPOULOS:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>SULLIVAN:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>FISHBEIN:</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ZANDRI:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>LAFFIN:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>CHAIRMAN PARISI:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>LETOURNEAU:</b>	<b>YES</b>		

**7-AYE; 1-NAY; 1-RECUSE**

**THE MOTION PASSED.**

**MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE UP ITEM 10.**

**MADE BY: CERVONI**  
**SECONDED BY: SULLIVAN**  
**VOTE: ALL AYE (9)**  
**MOTION PASSED.**

- 10.** Consider and Approve Revision to job description for *Administrative Application Technologist* –BOE

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE REVISION TO THE JOB DESCRIPTION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPLICATION TECHNOLOGIST FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

**MADE BY: CERVONI**  
**SECONDED BY: RASCATI**

*In attendance: Jan Guarino, Assistant Superintendent Personnel  
Randall Backus, IT Director for the School District*

Mr. Backus in addressing the changes in the description said that this is basically lateral in nature. Ms. Guarino stated that they have been unable to find a FTE for this position, and they have worked with the Assistant Personnel Director, Jim Hutt, in developing the changes. They hope the position description change will alter the field of candidates with a better result. She said the process of filling this job is through the town process.

**VOTES INDIVIDUALLY CALLED OUT: 9-AYE**  
**MOTION PASSED.**

8. Report from *Coalition for a Better Wallingford* with respect to a “Prescription Drug Drop Box.” – Chairman Robert F. Parisi

*In attendance: Ken Welch*

After reviewing for the Council all of the activities in which the Coalition has been engaged, Mr. Welch said they have a mountain of data, some of which was compiled in his several handouts (*part of the record of the meeting*) for the Council that address the organization and its activities. The discussion turned to installing a prescription drug drop box in the lobby of the Police Station. The process was explained. Mr. Welch said that the box would be purchased by a grant and that Covanta would burn with no charge. It was reported by the Mayor that the Police Chief is not at this time in favor of the drop box. Mr. Welch would like the Town Council to endorse the prescription drug drop box in Wallingford. There was much discussion on this item and information to read.

**MOTION WAS MADE TO TABLE THE ITEM TO ALLOW THE COUNCIL TIME TO REVIEW THE MATERIAL.**

**MADE BY: CERVONI**

**SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN**

Robert Gross made comments with regard to Greenwich drop offs.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

<b>CERVONI:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>RASCATI:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>ECONOMOPOULOS:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>SULLIVAN:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>FISHBEIN:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>ZANDRI:</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>LAFFIN:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>CHAIRMAN PARISI:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>LETOURNEAU:</b>		<b>YES</b>	

**8-AYE; 1-NAY**

**THE MOTION PASSED.**

9. **PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD**

Robert Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, made comments on the operation of the Reverse 911 calls that were made during the blizzard.

11. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount in the Amount of \$30,000 to Miscellaneous Distribution-Environmental Acct # 598 from Employee Pension & Benefits Acct # 926 – Electric Division

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE A TRANSFER in the Amount of \$30,000 to Miscellaneous Distribution-Environmental Acct # 598 from Employee Pension & Benefits Acct # 926**

**MADE BY: CERVONI**

*Wallingford Town Hall, 45 South Main Street*

**SECONDED BY: RASCATI**

*In attendance: George Adair, Director, Public Utilities  
Richard Hendershot, General Manager, Electric Division  
Thomas Sullivan, Electric Division Business Manager*

No discussion took place.

**VOTES INDIVIDUALLY CALLED OUT: 9-AYE  
MOTION PASSED.**

12. Consider and Approve a Bid Waiver to purchase a computer server with installation from TAB Computer Systems – Fire Chief

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE a Bid Waiver to purchase a computer server with installation from TAB Computer Systems.**

**MADE BY: CERVONI  
SECONDED BY: RASCATI**

*In attendance: Fire Chief Peter Struble  
Deputy Fire Chief Stephen Alsup*

**VOTES INDIVIDUALLY CALLED OUT: 9-AYE  
MOTION PASSED.**

13. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$14,070 to Computer Server – New Acct from the following:  
Volunteer Tax Abatement Acct # 10020150-52961 \$6,640  
Furniture Acct # 10020150-57000-00121 \$750  
Vehicle-Chief Acct # 10020150-57000-00124 \$899  
Contingency Acct # 10019000-58820 \$5,781  
- Fire Chief

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE a Transfer in the Amount of \$14,070 to Computer Server – New Acct from the following:**

**Volunteer Tax Abatement Acct # 10020150-52961 \$6,640  
Furniture Acct # 10020150-57000-00121 \$750  
Vehicle-Chief Acct # 10020150-57000-00124 \$899  
Contingency Acct # 10019000-58820 \$5,781**

**MADE BY: CERVONI  
SECONDED BY: RASCATI**

There were no comments or questions..

**VOTES INDIVIDUALLY CALLED OUT: 9-AYE  
MOTION PASSED.**

14. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$100,000 to Replacement Pay Acct # 10020150-51500 from Regular Salaries & Wages Acct # 10020150-51000 - Fire Chief

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE a Transfer in the Amount of \$100,000 to Replacement Pay Acct # 10020150-51500 from Regular Salaries & Wages Acct # 10020150-51000**

**MADE BY: CERVONI  
SECONDED BY: RASCATI**

*In attendance: Fire Chief Peter Struble  
Deputy Fire Chief Stephen Alsup*

No discussion took place.

**VOTES INDIVIDUALLY CALLED OUT: 8-AYE; 1-NAY (Economopoulos)  
MOTION PASSED.**

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

*Withdrawn*

16. Executive Session pursuant to §1-225(f) and §1-200(6)(B) of the Connecticut General Statutes regarding to discuss the following tax appeals:  
(a) *K Brothers, LLC v. Town of Wallingford*; and  
(b) *Wallingford Warehouse, LLC v. Town of Wallingford*  
- Corporation Counsel

**MOTION WAS MADE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

16. **pursuant to §1-225(f) and §1-200(6)(B) of the Connecticut General Statutes regarding to discuss the following tax appeals:**

**(a) *K Brothers, LLC v. Town of Wallingford*; and**

**(b) *Wallingford Warehouse, LLC v. Town of Wallingford***

**MADE BY: CERVONI  
SECONDED BY: RASCATI  
VOTE: ALL AYE (9)  
MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION WAS MADE TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**MADE BY: CERVONI  
SECONDED BY: RASCATI**

**VOTE: ALL AYE (9)  
MOTION PASSED.**

**TIME OF EXECUTIVE SESSION: 9:55 p.m. – 10:02 p.m.**

**ATTENDANCE AT EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR ITEM 16(a):  
NINE (9) COUNCILORS; MAYOR DICKINSON AND TOWN ATTORNEY  
G.E.FARRELL, SR.**

**ATTENDANCE AT EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR ITEM 16(b):  
NINE (9) COUNCILORS; MAYOR DICKINSON AND TOWN ATTORNEY  
G.E.FARRELL, SR.**

17. Motion to consider and Approve the settlement of the *K Brothers, LLC v. Town of Wallingford* tax appeal matter as discussed in Executive Session- Corporation Counsel

**MOTION MADE TO ALLOW THE CORPORATION COUNSEL TO SETTLE  
THE TAX APPEAL MATTER OF THE K BROTHERS, LLC V. TOWN OF  
WALLINGFORD AS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.  
MADE BY: CERVONI  
SECONDED BY: RASCATI  
VOTE: ALL AYE (9)**

18. Motion to consider and Approve the settlement of the *Wallingford Warehouse, LLC v. Town of Wallingford* tax appeal matter as discussed in Executive Session  
- Corporation Counsel

**MOTION MADE TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN ATTORNEY TO SETTLE THE  
WALLINGFORD WAREHOUSE, LLC V. TOWN OF WALLINGFORD TAX  
APPEAL MATTER AS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.  
MADE BY: CERVONI  
SECONDED BY: RASCATI  
VOTE: ALL AYE (9)**

**COUNCILOR CERVONI MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.  
MS. RASCATI SECONDED.  
VOTE: ALL AYE (9)  
MOTION PASSED.**

**The meeting adjourned at 10:04 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**



**Sandra Weekes  
Town Council Secretary**

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**Chairman Robert Parisi**

**Date**

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**Town Clerk Barbara Thompson**

**Date**