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**TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Town Council Chambers
FY 2018-2019 BUDGET WORKSHOP**

**THURSDAY
APRIL 26, 2018
6:30 P.M**

RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES

The Town Council Meeting on Thursday, April 26, 2018 was called to order at 6:35 P.M. There was a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Councilors in attendance were: Chairman Vincent Cervoni, Craig Fishbein, Thomas Laffin (arrived at 6:42 p.m.), John LeTourneau, Joseph A. Marrone, III, Gina Morgenstein, Christopher K. Shortell and Jason Zandri. Councilor Vincent F. Testa, Jr. was absent. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and Comptroller James Bowes were also present at the meeting.

1. Moment of Silence
2. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call
3. BUDGET WORKSHOP

POLICE

*In Attendance: William Wright, Police Chief
Mark Mikulski, Deputy Police Chief
Beth DeChello, Executive Secretary*

Chief Wright stated there is a 2.1 increase in salaries and extra duty line increase. He then mentioned all three bargaining units are in negotiations. He went on to state Nexgen is due to go live in mid-May.

Councilor LeTourneau stated there is no wage increase this year because of negotiations but asked if it could go retro. Chief Wright responded he's not sure how that works and indicated Personnel would help with that. Mayor Dickinson stated it would come from contingency.

Councilor Fishbein inquired about Line Item 56738 – Crossing Guards. He commented there is only \$98,000 and asked if that has been utilized. Chief Wright stated they work with the bid from the schools.

Councilor Fishbein asked Chief Wright if he believes our population for schools has increased or decreased. Chief Wright stated he can't answer that but noted this year they added one crossing guard due to more children in one area.

Councilor Morgenstein thanked Chief Wright for all the hard work and asked if we are saving money on the new software company Nexgen. Chief Wright responded yes and indicated they are really not spending anymore and they are saving officer time on the jobs.

Councilor Morgenstein inquired about Board of Education resource officers. Chief Wright stated he neglected to bring up the fact that he requested funding for two new officers which are needed on the street. He mentioned that he met with Dr. Menzo today and noted the Police Department can offer the Board of Education more time with officers in the schools and as of today, they now have access cards to the schools and can access all cameras in the schools and can view what's going on. He then stated they are adopting that patrol officers stop every day in the schools to visit with the principal or use the facilities to just be there and see what is going on in general.

Councilor Morgenstein commented to Chief Wright that she feels he went out of his way to make himself available and amenable to the community.

Councilor Zandri asked Chief Wright if it was true that he needed two more officers. Councilor Zandri then stated you outsourced the IT and asked does that work? Chief Wright responded right now but he indicated he could be back here to ask for more help at some point.

Councilor Zandri asked what it would take to fund four resource officers. Chief Wright responded, regarding to salary, \$300,000, not counting fringe benefits.

Chairman Cervoni stated to Chief Wright that he appreciates all of his efforts, his work, time and attention tonight.

FIRE DEPT.

*In Attendance: Richard Heidgerd, Fire Chief
Stephen Alsup, Deputy Fire Chief
Joe Czentnar, Deputy Fire Chief*

Chief Heidgerd stated this is a consistent budget with some contractual increases.

Councilor Fishbein stated the other pay line looks like it could be about to go over budget. Chief Heidgerd responded it is used for various contractual things and indicated it will not go over.

Councilor Fishbein referred to continuing education and indicated it appears to be over budget. Chief Heidgerd stated that they do reimbursements for classes which they do at the end of the year.

Councilor Fishbein asked Chief Heidgerd if he really wanted the exercise equipment that he asked for that the Mayor said no to. Chief Heidgerd answered yes and indicated they are encouraging physical fitness and if they don't, they will have more workers compensation claims.

Councilor Fishbein asked if they have considered partnering with the Y and Chief Heidgerd stated it was under-utilized when past administrations tried it.

Councilor Morgenstein asked what the life expectancy of the truck is. Chief Heidgerd responded 15-25 years.

Councilor Zandri asked Mr. Bowes how much is in the CRRA fund. Mr. Bowes stated a little over \$3 million. Councilor Zandri then stated that he would encourage Chief Heidgerd to come forward next year to discuss the purchase of this truck.

Chairman Cervoni asked how the Fire Marshal's office is doing and Chief Heidgerd replied very well.

FIRE MARSHAL

In Attendance: Michal Gudelski, Fire Marshal

Councilor Fishbein asked Mr. Gudelski if he bought iPads for the Fire Marshal's office. Mr. Heidgerd replied that they have the tools and they want to incorporate it with the Nexgen System once it is up and running.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

*In Attendance: Dr. Salvatore Menzo
Roxane McKay, Chairman, Board of Education
Dominic Barrone, Business Manager, Board of Education*

Dr. Menzo stated that the Mayor allocated a 1.6% increase so they worked hard to make reductions. The deductions included utilities, text books, tuition - excess costs and non-certified staff.

Dr. Menzo noted that enrollment has increased by 58 students and special education public tuition is up. He went on to state they reduced their substitutes and tutors and that they worked hard to reduce their hourly teachers so they worked hard to come up with a reduction on top of the Mayor's reductions. He mentioned they have a .44% reduction on top of the Mayor's reductions and stated they wanted to be open and transparent.

Chairman Cervoni stated there is definitely pressure on the Council to reduce pressure on the taxpayer so we appreciate you working towards that goal.

Councilor Morgenstein asked do you see a benefit to putting the building issues in the Board of Education budget or in the general fund. Dr. Menzo responded he would love to have a fully funded Board of Education budget but we have worked collaboratively with the Mayor on the big items.

Councilor Morgenstein thinks it needs to be pointed out that we have a large portion of elderly people who pay no property taxes and we could use that money. She stated in most towns, it is spread over the whole community.

Councilor Zandri likes putting education things back into the general budget. He thinks it gets spread throughout the community fairly when it is in the general budget.

Councilor Zandri asked what the cost is per pupil. Dr. Menzo replied \$12,000 per student for a high school student and it goes down for lower grades.

Councilor Zandri stated I appreciate you meeting the Mayor's adjusted number.

Councilor Shortell thanks Dr. Menzo for meeting the Mayor's number.

Councilor Shortell asked if elementary principles have the support they need. Dr. Menzo explained they are discussing putting mental health professionals in elementary schools to assist the administration in the schools.

Councilor LeTourneau thanked Dr. Menzo for doing this and stated it is refreshing to see you have met this challenge.

Councilor LeTourneau asked Dr. Menzo how he was able to reduce the textbooks. Dr. Menzo stated they are able to purchase with unencumbered funds – present year funds.

Councilor LeTourneau asked what the other expenses are. Dr. Menzo replied it is for graduation, renting chairs, diplomas, etc. and donation for project graduation.

Councilor LeTourneau asked why there is such a large increase this year for conferences. He stated last year the cost was \$17,400 and this year the cost is \$65,000. Dr. Menzo replied it is for Science. He stated they have some great programs including a math program and also some new administrators.

Councilor Laffin thanks Dr. Menzo for buckling down on this budget and inquired about the allocation that teachers get. He then asked what the surplus will be and asked what about special education? Dr. Menzo replied surplus is about \$1.6 – \$1.7 million.

Councilor Fishbein thanked Dr. Menzo for the savings he sees here tonight. He then referred to Account 560 and asked why the reduction.

Mr. Barrone stated some students are aging out of the system so we can reduce that amount.

Dr. Menzo stated every special needs student gets an annual review.

Councilor LeTourneau commented that special education, physical handicaps and mental handicaps seem to have grown over the years. He asked if there are any programs to hold the parents responsible for some financial responsibility for services.

Dr. Menzo stated the IDA law would not allow it.

Councilor LeTourneau asked how we get the parents emotionally involved. Dr. Menzo stated we just got selected to try a program that will hold the parents responsible with work sent home for families to work on at home together.

Councilor Zandri wants to follow up with the cost for special education. Dr. Menzo stated he will get that to him.

CAFETERIA

Councilor LeTourneau commented that we projected a \$43,000 loss and should break even next year. Dr. Menzo explained they have been working on marketing and the food has changed to a higher level.

Councilor Fishbein asked what capital expenditures are in the budget. Dr. Menzo replied just the verizon software for the pay system.

MOTION TO ADJOURN
MADE BY: LETOURNEAU
SECONDED BY: FISHBEIN
ALL AYE
MOTION: PASSED

The Council adjourned the meeting at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Moss
Council Staff
Meeting digitally recorded


RECEIVED FOR RECORD 4-30-18
AT 2:00 AND RECEIVED BY
Barbara Thompson TOWN CLERK



Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

22 May 2018

Date



Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

5-22-18

Date