

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

*SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING*

Town Council Chambers

**February 20, 2013**

**RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES**

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The Special Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was called to order at 6:32 P.M. 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 and John J. Sullivan. Councilor Jason Zandri was not present with an excused absence. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. was also in attendance.

1. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$200,000 to Public Works Overtime Acct # 10030000-54100 from General Purpose Contingency Acct # 10019000-58820 - Public Works

**MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE A TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000 TO PUBIC WORKS OVERTIME ACCT # 10030000-54100 FROM GENERAL PURPOSE-CONTINGENCY ACCT # 10019000-58820.**

**MADE BY: CERVONI**

**SECONDED BY: RASCATI**

*In Attendance: Henry McCully, Director, Public Works  
Stephen Palermo, Foreman*

Mr. McCully stated that this recent blizzard has cost a lot of money. They reported to work on Friday and didn't go home until Monday. Sunday and part of Monday were double-time hours. He said that Saturday was time and one-half and that Friday was eight and one-half hours at time and one-half. The total cost for the overtime hours are approximately \$128,000. He reported the overtime account had a balance of \$79,000 before the storm. The purpose of the transfer is because of the weather forecast for a coming storm this weekend and that this money needs to be in the payroll account by tomorrow (*Thursday*), with the Council's approval.

Councilor Cervoni inquired about the account's balance before the Storm Sandy. Mr. McCully said that the amount of \$260,000 represents a five-year average.

Councilor Fishbein asked if costs are still being incurred in this moment against this account and about the account balance after this next storm.

Mr. McCully stated that he believes they are still working overtime doing clean-up. He added that there would be a balance until the end of the year of \$150,000.

Councilor LeTourneau asked the Mayor about getting any of this money back for this storm from FEMA.

Mayor Dickinson reported that they have not heard any final determination. He added that there is an effort on the part of the state to make application and have it be eligible but he hasn't heard that it's been verified at the Federal level that there will be a reimbursement. Mr. McCully said there is some correspondence and that they are being encouraged to keep track of certain items, so they are keeping track of hours and manpower for this. Councilor Letourneau said the town received funds from FEMA for Hurricane Sandy and that the President did declare the State of Connecticut to be a state of emergency. Mr. McCully said that they will come to his office and then send an email.

Chairman Parisi asked if Mr. McCully had been away. Mr. McCully acknowledged that he was away. Chairman Parisi said that he wanted Mr. McCully to know that Mr. Palermo did an outstanding job and the department too. He said that the greater majority of people that he spoke with were very satisfied and felt that the town acted properly.

Mr. McCully said that they do appreciate it. He said at times it is difficult but that the general public has adjusted to the conditions. He warned people to use caution on the streets until a lot of the snow melts. Mayor Dickinson said that it requires a lot of patience on everyone's part. He said sidewalks have not been cleared and asked people to put some work into the sidewalks, or it will become an issue with an impending storm and schools reopening.

Councilor Sullivan said that under the circumstances, he thinks Public Works did a great job. He said that even though it was difficult to get to work, they did, and they got the work done. He asked Mr. McCully if the \$150,000 would carry them for a normal rest of the year.

Mr. McCully reported that he has done some calculations and that the department runs about \$2,500 an hour on double time and that it adds up very quickly. He reported that there is also the cost of fuel and salt for the roads. He remarked that he and his department appreciate the acknowledgement. He said they are asked to work a lot of long hours. Councilor Sullivan also acknowledged the sacrifice of the families.

Councilor Economopoulos asked if the town received FEMA money for Hurricane Sandy. Mr. McCully said that the applications are in but no money yet. Mr. McCully clarified the overtime hours for Councilor Economopoulos – Friday after 3:30 P.M. is time and one-half; 24 hours on Saturday; 24 hours for Sunday, and until 9:00 P.M. on Monday for 21 hours, which was also a Holiday and double time. Mr. McCully said that the entire department was at work except for the two secretaries.

Mr. Palermo added that there were thirty-five (35) workers, plus (3) three managers.

Councilor Economopoulos asked for understanding regarding rules for hours of work and when they are allowed to work and do they get paid when they are sleeping. Mr. McCully said that union contracts state that after sixteen (16) straight hours of working, they get four (4) hours off as a rest period. If they remain at Public Works, they get paid. Double time depends on the day. Double time occurs for holidays and Sundays. Saturday, or during the week, time and one half after eight hours is applied.

Mr. Palermo said that they try to keep the main roads open first and those roads to the hospitals and convalescent homes, and then the secondary roads are plowed.

Councilor Economopoulos asked about a phone where people could reach someone, like a command center. Two people called him who thought they were forgotten – Wallace Row and Eaton Drive. Mr. McCully pointed out that Monday the town was closed and Tuesday was a holiday.

Councilor Economopoulos wanted to know about plowing at the Emergency Shelter. Mr. McCully said that was kept open during the entire storm by the plow driver in that neighborhood, and they were in touch with Ernie (*Frattini*). Mr. Palermo said that it is just one, double-door, front entrance. He said he does not know if Mr. Frattini opened the Shelter for the storm. Mr. McCully said that the charge to Public Works is to make the shelter accessible in case Mr. Frattini activated opening the shelter.

Mayor Dickinson said he doesn't believe they plow the parking lot. Councilor Economopoulos said people slept in the Police Station Friday night into Saturday night. Mayor Dickinson said that some people were rescued, and they went to a hotel. Mr. Palermo reported that two residents stayed in the Public Works drivers' room.

Mr. Palermo addressed plowing of some streets where forth-eight (48) inch drifts were encountered, which made it were impossible for the trucks to get through. He said they were instances where residents and private contractors were putting snow back into the streets; one of the piles was over eight feet. He said even with tire chains, their trucks were getting stuck. He said that everything they had was on the road except the two trucks that broke down. They used spares vehicles to cover that territory. The trucks are being repaired.

**VOTE: INDIVIDUALLY CALLED OUT  
8-AYE; 1-ABSENT (ZANDRI)**

**THE MOTION PASSED.**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN.**

**MADE BY: CERVONI**

**SECONDED BY: RASCATI**

**VOTE: 8-AYE; 1-ABSENT (ZANDRI)**

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 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