

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

December 16, 2008

6:30 P.M.

The following is a record of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council held Tuesday, December 16, 2008, Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall. The Meeting was Called to Order at 6:37 P.M. Responding present to the Roll Call given by Town Council Secretary Sandra Weekes were Councilors Mike Brodinsky, Jerry Farrell, Jr., John LeTourneau, Robert F. Parisi, Rosemary Rascati, Michael Spiteri and Vincent F. Testa, Jr. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and Town Attorney Janis Small were also present. Councilor Vincenzo M. DiNatale arrived at the meeting at 6:55 P.M. Councilor Nick Economopoulos was absent from the meeting.

The meeting began with a Moment of Silence, the Pledge of Allegiance and the Roll Call.

2. Chairman's Report

For the Town Council, Chairman Brodinsky wished everyone a very happy holiday season and that it be peaceful and rewarding. He reported that there is a vacancy on the Housing Authority and on the Zoning Board of Appeals and that if anyone has interest in serving to let the Town Council know. He turned the announcements over to Mr. Parisi. Mr. Parisi recalled that he wrote a letter to the Editor noting the fine performance by the Wallingford Symphony at a concert two weeks ago held at the Choate Exercise Building that he attended. He said that he received a phone call from Phil Ventre, the symphony's conductor, who asked Mr. Parisi to express thanks to the Mayor, Town Council and to the people of Wallingford for their fine support of the Wallingford Symphony Orchestra.

3. Discussion and Possible action on a request by the Board of Education to waive the bid for a consulting firm to assist the Board of Education in hiring a new superintendent  
-- Board of Education

MOTION

Mr. Testa made a motion to approve a request by the Board of Education to waive the bid for a consulting firm to assist the Board of Education in hiring a new superintendent as requested by the Board of Education. Mr. Farrell seconded.

Chairman Brodinsky said that the Board of Education is looking for a bid waiver to hire Connecticut Association of Boards of Education to search for a superintendent at a cost of \$17,500

In Attendance:

Mike Votto, Chairman, Board of Education  
Thomas P. Hennessey, Vice-Chairman, Board of Education

Mr. Votto, referring to the letter sent to the Town Council, explained the reason for the bid waiver request, saying that they interviewed three firms, and the fee is a ballpark figure. He said that the

superintendent is retiring on June 30<sup>th</sup>, so that they are dealing with a time element. He said that out of the three firms that were interviewed that one, part of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, is far and above the others in many ways and is the most reputable and experienced. He said the firm has performed other searches and has a network available to search all over the country. He said that CABA gave the Board of Education a list of eight (8) firms. They discovered that some of the firms search only one school system during the school year due to the fact that a firm might consist of one person. They had trouble getting people to come to interview. He said that he thinks that it is futile to keep looking for a search consultant. He said that they found a person from CABA who is very good and has presented the Board with examples of recent accomplishments by this person.

Mr. Hennessey said that they want to make sure that they have enough time to do the search.

Robert Sheehan, 11 Cooper Avenue, asked about the cost of the consultant services. Chairman Brodinsky said \$17,500. Mr. Sheehan wanted to know if there is a time to hire a superintendent. Mr. Votto responded that the fee is in the present budget. He explained that the Board would like to have someone in the position by June 1, and if they don't fill the position by then, he is confident that Mr. Wilson will stay until new superintendent is hired. Mr. Hennessey said that a new superintendent would probably give their current school system a 90-day notice and that decreases the time by three months. Mr. Wilson will be retiring and bridge the gap for the Board of Education.

Mr. Parisi wanted to know how they determined that \$17,500 would be the fee. Mr. Votto said that they had budgeted \$20,000 in contingency and added that the other two firms were about the same. Mr. Votto said that the firm they want to hire is connected nationally and with CABA who has the resources.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE

Farrell- yes, LeTourneau-yes, Parisi-yes, Rascati-yes,  
Spiteri-yes, Testa-yes Brodinsky-yes  
Councilors Vincenzo DiNatale and Nick Economopoulos were absent.  
Aye-7; Absent-2

The motion passed

#### 4. Consent Agenda

- 4a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#377- #405) totaling \$6,274.84  
Acct. # 001-1000-010-1170 - Tax Collector
- 4b. Acceptance of Rotary Club Donation of \$635 to Wallingford Fuel Bank - Mayor
- 4c. Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$4,000 to Fire  
Safe Filing Cabinet Acct # 001-6010-999-9904 from Election Day  
Expenses Acct # 001-6010-600-6610 -\$1,600 and from Rental of  
Polling Places Acct # 001-6010-601-6130 -\$2,400 – Registrars of Voters
- 4d. Consider and Approve a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into and amend  
Contractual instruments in the Name of and on Behalf of the Wallingford Community  
Day Care Center, Inc. with the Department of Social Services of the State of Connecticut  
for a Child Day Care Program – Mayor

- 4e. Consider and Approve an Agreement between the Town of Wallingford and the Wallingford Community Day Care Center, Inc., Recognizing that the Town had executed a Contract with the State of Connecticut Commissioner of Social Services for Funding Programs to be carries out by said Day Care Center Acting on Behalf of the Town – Mayor
- 4f. Consider and Approve a Resolution permitting the Wallingford Community Day Care Center, Inc. to borrow from the Town of Wallingford amounts necessary to meet the essential operation expenses of said day care center prior to the time its program is approved for funding from the State of Connecticut – Mayor
- 4g. *Schedule a Public Hearing for January 13, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. to be held in connection with an ordinance entitled:*

*AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING  
\$295,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION  
AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF  
TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE*

*(The purpose of the amendment is to increase the appropriation and bond authorization by \$2,875,000 from \$295,000 to \$3,170,000 to provide for the construction of the project and to ratify, confirm and adopt all prior authorizations and ordinances in connection therewith.)*

*Withdrawn*

- 4h. Consider and Approve a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute the 2009 Emergency Management Performance Grant for Director of Emergency Management funding – Mayor
- 4i. Consider and Approve a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a Memorandum of Understanding regarding Geographic Information Data available to the 911 Center from the State of Connecticut Department of Public Safety – Police Chief
- 4j. Approve Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2008
- 4k. Approve Town Council Special Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2008
- 4l. Approve Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2008

**MOTION**

Mr. Testa made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items 4a. - 4f. and 4h. - 4l. Mr. Farrell seconded the motion.

All Councilors present (7) voted Aye, and the motion passed. Councilors Nick Economopoulos and Vincenzo DiNatale were absent at the time of the vote.

- 5. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

*None*

6. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Geno Zandri, 9 Balsam Ridge Circle, commented on the town's great holiday decorations and suggested using photocells on the three trees. He reported that the Town Hall parking lot light that he pointed out at the last meeting is still not fixed and that now there is another one that needs to be fixed. He suggested that the town identify work that needs to be done on Wallingford's bridges, roads and school buildings, especially in light of the Federal Government's "fast starting" the economy announcement. He said that the town could be ready to apply for grants if the study is done now.

Robert Sheehan, 11 Cooper Avenue, made a complaint about the town's street drains that are filled with leaves and that a recent heavy rainfall caused street water pooling problems. He asked about street sweeping. Mayor Dickinson said that the economic downturn and because the town doesn't use sand anymore that street sweeping has been cutback.

Bob Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, said that the Town's pension lost 30% or about \$40 million in the economic downturn. He said that according to the town budget over the last four years the town has put in over \$7 million of our tax dollars into the pension. He asked about supervision of the fund and does the town have a plan. He asked if we are going to mitigate our losses. Mayor Dickinson said that the economy goes through cycles, and in the previous low period in 2001 and 2002, there were losses much of which has been recovered in the time period since and that now there are losses again. He said that the philosophy, the standards, by which the Pension Commission dictates to our portfolio managers the types of investments that are meant to see us through the up-and-down nature of the economy and to look to long-term investments and over along period of time have a steady course that we can depend upon, and the actuaries can depend upon in analyzing what we should contribute. He acknowledged that there have been losses and our portfolios are managed in a manner that looks to long-term and doesn't react to swings in the economy as that can be detrimental to a long-term plan.

Mr. Gross said that in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 coming up, when we did have "up-markets" and the pension was doing well, the town was still putting in a minimum of \$1.3 million per year, so even in up-markets the town taxpayers were paying money into the pension even after recovering in 2001. He asked if the pension has ever been fully funded. Mayor Dickinson said that at one point that the pension was fully funded, and losses in the markets resulted in our having to make contributions. The Mayor said that in his opinion, labeling a pension fund as fully funded is somewhat illusory because every year the actuaries analyze, and the actuarial analysis depends upon and eight (8) % return on investments, and there are also factors for calculating increases in personnel, how many would be retiring in a certain time period, increases in pension benefits. He said that the multipliers get factored into future liabilities.

Mr. Gross asked if the Pension Commission would be at a Council meeting. Chairman Brodinsky said that is scheduled for the second meeting in January in order to have the year-end results. Mr. Gross said that there are ways to protect the town's money against losses. He noted that other municipalities have done so.

Councilor DiNatale arrived at the meeting.

7. Discussion and Possible Action regarding waiving the public bid for the Solid Waste Disposal Contract and Host Community Fee Agreement with Covanta and Approval of the Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Contract and Host Community Fee Agreement with Covanta to commence July 10, 2010 – Mayor

MOTION

Mr. Testa made a motion to approve the following Town Council Resolution. Mr. Testa read the Resolution (Appendix I). Chairman Brodinsky seconded and commented on the nice job in the drafting of the resolution.

Chairman Brodinsky asked if there was anything new since the last meeting or since the last materials were distributed. Mayor Dickinson said that there is nothing new as far as our situation with the contract proposed before us. He said that there are continuing discussions between Covanta and CRRA over issues concerning ownership of the plant and perhaps other factors. He said that the other four towns in our region have all approved the contract and are in a position to sign the agreement. He said that the town is not currently discussing any changes with Covanta and that this is the final document, and any minor changes would come from the result of approvals in the other towns.

Attorney Small said to be clear, since the last draft, there is minor tweaking of language, like word changes in different provisions, but nothing of any substance.

Chairman Brodinsky said that it is ready to be discussed, and if some change ends up to be material changes, then we would revisit any material that does popup. He said that the representation is that there are no material changes. Chairman Brodinsky gave background on the proposals, which the Council has reviewed several times in the past. He said that they have had analysis from the town and the Law Department, so they have been facing the issue over the course of many months and not for just one meeting.

Mr. Testa asked the Mayor about the status of the reserve fund, if in fact we go forward with this, and CRRA does not execute their options to pursue purchasing. Mayor Dickinson said that the reserve would be, in our opinion, payable to the five towns in amounts equivalent to their percentage of waste disposed at the facility. He said that would not become a provision in his view and that it's implemented when the contract comes to an end June 30, 2010. He said that it is their view that monies, that are not necessary for closing out the contract, would be returnable to the towns.

Mr. Testa made a statement to clarify something that continues to come up in meetings and in newspaper articles. He said that he thinks it is important for the town to understand that the alternative option that they were considering from CRRA was not a public purchase option. He said that one could make the argument that they are a quasi-public agency and that the ownership would remain in public hands but that is different from remaining in the hands of the five communities. He said that a lot of people have been under the impression that the offer to us from CRRA was one of the towns participating in the purchase of the facility and that it has been erroneously reinforced. He said that it just not true. Plain and simple. He said that we had no option to purchase it, and we've never had the option to purchase it as five communities, as far as he knows.

Mr. Testa said that the contract that was offered to the town was not one where the towns would purchase it. He said that the towns would be funding the purchase and continued operation of it

through our tip fees but at no time would we have an ownership stake in it and, more importantly, would we be given the option of having an ownership stake. He said that was important to him, and he thinks to the Council as a whole. He said they asked for it. He said it was an important part in his consideration of all of this. He said that it became apparent that the fees we would be paying would be cost based and that would mean if over 10 or 15 or 20 years, the facility needed an upgrade, new equipment, ongoing repairs, maintenance, etc. that they would be funded from the operating budget of the facility, which would in turn be paid through the various towns' tip fees. He said that it was very realistic over the timeframe of this contract on the facility that it could be retrofitted, refitted, renewed over a period of time, and we would be faced with a situation in 15 years or 20 years that would amount to a fairly new facility that we paid for but in which we have no ownership. He said that this was one of his major concerns.

He said that, in turn, Covanta offered us the option to purchase. Whether we execute it or not, remains to be seen. He thought that it was important to have this available in a contract. He said that between the two offers, this was a major part of his consideration, as well as a stable, reliable fee schedule. He said that without question a much more favorable host community benefit is through the fees that we will be receiving. It was inconceivable, he said, that at any time down the road would the payments we would receive, via the tax schedule that CRRA was offering, ever come close to the amount of money that we will receive on an annual basis in the fees through the Covanta proposal. He said that the most important point was to clarify the misperception that there was an option of public ownership on the part of the five communities.

Don Roe, Director Program Planning and Doreen Zaback, Resource Recovery Project Coordinator, came forward to address questions.

Mr. Spiteri asked about the appraisal issue between Covanta and CRRA, and that CRRA, as he understands it, was trying to force the appraisal so that they could go forward with purchase process for the facility. He asked, if that happens, where does that leave us.

Janis Small, Town Attorney, said that at this time, there is the arbitration process, which is still proceeding between Covanta and CRRA. She said that the main dispute is whether or not CRRA has to actually exercise its option to purchase the plant prior to the appraisal process. She said that is ongoing. She added that there are public statements by CRRA that it is their intent to move forward and exercise the option by the end of the year, and at the same time, there are ongoing negotiations between CRRA and Covanta. She said that if CRRA were to exercise its option, then this agreement that we have is subject to termination by either party. She said that is all still to be played out, and we have to see how it progresses.

Mr. Spiteri asked if that happens do we roll over to CRRA's last MSA, or are we starting over again. Attorney Small said that she thinks that we have to see where we are, what position we are in, who would actually own the plant, what the relationship would be. Mayor Dickinson said that all of our options are open. Mr. Spiteri said that he was concerned that if we make a decision tonight and things don't go the way we've planned, where do we stand. Attorney Small said that she does not see that this action is in any way harmful. She said if the Council thinks that this is the best deal, then the Council needs to proceed and do that. She said you don't get hurt at all, if it plays out differently.

Attorney Small said that she could not have done the amount of work that she did without the help and expertise that Doreen Zaback and Don Roe have given through this entire negotiation.

There were no more comments from the Council. Chairman Brodinsky called upon the public for their comments and questions.

Ken Daly, 594 North Elm Street, asked about the value of the plant and that no one could put a value on the plant. He thinks that the value that CRRA put on the facility was pulled out of the air. He said that he has no problems with what we are doing but if we are going to proceed, could someone keep an eye on that well enough so that when it is time for us to purchase it, if that is what we want to do, we would have a better idea of what it is worth. Chairman Brodinsky said that in the Covanta agreement, there is an appraisal process that is completely different from the process that was in the CRRA contract. Attorney Small said that before we make any decision of whether to buy it, we have a right to an appraisal, and a right to have it evaluated so we can send in professionals. We would be doing that before we make the decision. She said that it is substantially different than the current contract.

Mr. Daly said that he has been involved in waste site closures when he was with DOT and asked if we have something in the agreement, or does CRRA and/or Covanta, some protection in place that won't produce a surprise, if the condition of that parcel of land, on which it sits, is not sufficiently pristine for Covanta to feel comfortable being responsible for what CRRA leaves there. He said that at these plants there is lots of inflow, and every now and then there is something that they know isn't suitable for solid waste, and it's put aside. He said that if there is any junk left behind as unidentifiable, we should know and Covanta should know before there is a change in uprooting control.

Attorney Small asked Mr. Daly if he was he talking about now. Mr. Daly said now, 2010. Attorney Small said the Covanta, who has been running the plant, gets to buy the plant for \$1.00 (one dollar), if CRRA does not exercise its option, so she is assuming that whatever analysis that they need to do to feel comfortable to paying that dollar for that plant, they will do or have already done to own the plant. She said that once they own the plant they are entirely responsible for it. She said that if we continued with CRRA under the present CRRA contract, there is a decommissioning that has been planned for. She said that if it stayed a CRRA project that would continue.

Mr. Daly asked if there was a process in place so that they can be assured that there are no surprises for them even though they've been running it. Is there a close out process to make sure that site is compliant? Attorney Small said that whatever process they have gone through, it is their decision to make, and they have made it that they want to own the plant, and they will take it from CRRA in its present condition, and it becomes their responsibility and their liability and their ownership.

Bob Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, said that he is in agreement with the Covanta proposal and asked, if the communities been talking to CRRA and made this known to them, because at the end of November when the Ad Hoc members voted on it, they had not told that you wanted to purchase the plant so they voted that CRRA should buy the plant.

Chairman Brodinsky said that the Ad Hoc committee did not make any inquiry as to what we were doing or to the information that could have been made available. They didn't let Program Planning, the Mayor's Office or the Law Office know that they were going to make a vote.

Mayor Dickinson said there was nothing on the agenda for that meeting that indicated there was going to be a vote on the plant, so there is no way for us to know that something was coming up. He said that with the information that they had, they voted the way they did but certainly there is additional opportunity to change the vote at the CRRA level, and we will see what happens.

Mr. Gross said that their next meeting is Thursday. He said that CRRA has made overtures in the press that they do intend to buy the plant. He next said that earlier in the year CRRA had given options to the communities to purchase the plant if they wanted to. He said that Thomas Kirk said so and that he has it in writing. He said that at the board in 2008 September, it was decided that the Town Council had asked to be put in the provision that the town would have the option to buy the plant after 20 years. CRRA Board of Directors decided to voted to not allow the towns to buy it.

Mr. Gross asked about the reserve, are we using that to offset tipping fees in the next two years.

Doreen Zaback said yes that some of the money in the tip fee stabilization fund will be used to offset the electric rates the last year of the contract. The electric rates do go down from what they have been and some of that money will be used to make up that difference. Mr. Gross asked how much. Ms. Zaback said that she would have to see the upcoming budget, which will be looked at in the next month for the next fiscal year.

Mr. Gross commented that in a Council meeting last week in Meriden, regarding CRRA's proposal, they voted for the proposal. He said that there was concern expressed by a Meriden Councilor, reported in the Record-Journal, who said that he is concerned about the option to buy the plant because the timeframe is tight, especially if arbitration is involved, and had anyone looked at this? He commented that no one from the outside has even looked at this contract.

Attorney Small said that it is a tight timeframe although it starts in the 17<sup>th</sup> year of the contract, which is something that was negotiated so that we could start it sooner if we choose to. She said we could actually do preliminary work ourselves before actually starting the trigger-of-the-time process. Attorney Small said the timing process needs to be tight for everyone, so that the transition happens in a timely manner of the ownership from Covanta to the towns. She said that it is workable and that if arbitration is part of the picture that it can be dealt with.

Mr. Gross asked if there was anything in the contract that would require Covanta to keep the plant up to minimal standards in the last three years of the contract. Attorney Small said that part of their obligation is to maintain the facility. Mr. Gross said again that he hopes that it is conveyed to CRRA that you want the plant.

Geno Zandri, 9 Balsam Ridge Circle, said that he assumes that once Wallingford approves this that all of the towns will be on board and asked if it was going to take signatures of all five towns in order for this to be finalized, or can it be any mix of them in case someone decides to back out at the last minute. Attorney Small said that they would make the agreement with any one town and/or up to five towns. Mr. Zandri asked when they would be executing this contract. Attorney Small said tomorrow morning.

Wes Lube, Montowese Trail, in reference to statements made by Mr. Testa, said that Mr. Testa had stated that in the event that Covanta wins out and continues to operate, and we are still their customers, that the reserve fund in Hartford will be dispersed on an interest basis. Mt. Lube asked if his summary was correct. Mr. Testa said that he asked the question and that is the way the Mayor answered it. Mr. Testa said that he asked about the reserve fund, and, he believes, that the Mayor answered that the expectation is that at the end of the contract in 2010, that reserve fund would be distributed to the towns' for their participation. Mr. Testa said that he asked the question; he did not state it. Mr. Lube asked what happens to the reserve fund if CRRA successfully exercises their intention to purchase.

Attorney Small said that would depend on whether or not we entered into an agreement with CRRA and stay a customer. Mr. Lubee asked what would be in our best interest. Attorney Small said that is not her decision to make but that if CRRA exercises its option and buys the plant, we would have to see what they would be offering the towns, and the towns would have to negotiate whether or not there is an agreement. She said if the towns did enter into an agreement with CRRA, she expected that the towns would look to have those same reserve accounts funded, the same way the current proposal does.

Mr. Lubee asked the amount of the reserve fund. Doreen Zaback said approximately \$45 million. She said that our interest is anywhere from 25% to 28%. Mr. Lubee asked if that meant approximately \$15 million. Ms. Zaback said perhaps a little less. Mr. Lubee said that if understands you correctly, this \$15 million may be at risk, and we can't say for sure that it would be coming back to us if CRRA purchases. He asked if they have the legal right to use that \$45 million reserve in the process of purchasing the plant.

Mayor Dickinson said that we can't speak for CRRA. Mr. Lubee said that our agreement with them would allow them to use our money for that purpose. Mayor Dickinson said that our opinion is that when the contract comes to an end, the money is due back to the towns. He said that the purchase of the plant would not be pursuant to the current contract; therefore, our view would be that the money should not be used for that purpose without the consent of the towns. Mr. Lubee said whether CRRA buys it or Covanta wins out, either way that money is going to be coming back. Mayor Dickinson said that we have a significant claim to the funds but until the money is paid to us, there is always an issue to be resolved.

Chairman Brodinsky said that the Mayor is giving our legal position that it is our money and that in and of itself doesn't have the force of a court of law if it should get to that. He said that the statement itself doesn't get the check written and delivered. He said that is what we would be expecting. Mr. Lubee said if there is a possibility that we may be losing that money, that means that our agreement to go with Covanta may be jeopardizing \$14 million. Chairman Brodinsky said that he does not see it that way.

Mayor Dickinson said that there is risk on anything and that in our view until we would receive the \$12 million or \$14 million, or whatever the number, it is always a potential argument- money seems to draw a crowd, like football. So you get a lot of people looking to participate in sharing its benefits. He said that we believe that, regardless of which way we would go, we have a potential argument – if we stay with one party, then that party can have a claim, that is CRRA. If we don't stay with them, they can have a claim. Either way there is an issue amongst the existing parties to the contract over what happens to the left-over funds at contract end. He said that either way the contract ends. He said if CRRA were to be our new partner, they would be a new partner with a new contract. He said that he does not see a new risk; it's just a risk that goes along with being able to have the good problem of receiving money.

Mr. Lubee said that he thinks that the Mayor is saying is that it is not clear as to whether or not we would be entitled to the \$14 million, and that it may have to be adjudicated, and that he understands that. He said that it's a shame that the way the original contract was drafted did not make this point extremely clear.

*(Mr. Lubee apologized for speaking in thousands of dollars and when he meant millions of dollars.)*

Mayor Dickinson said that he does not agree with Mr. Lube characterizing it as unclear as to whether we are entitled to the funds. He said that we believe that it is very clear that we're entitled to the funds. He said that doesn't mean it isn't susceptible to someone arguing otherwise. He said that he believes that the language is clear and that we are entitled to the funds.

Mr. Lube said that he understands the Mayor's position, and that he appreciates it, but it's subject to adjudication when two people disagree.

Bob Gross, 114 Long Hill Road, said that it is clear in the contract that the most the money belongs to the communities as a whole and they need to vote on it, not any individual community. He said that it is up to the Policy Board on how most of this money is spent. He said that he disagrees with the amount of the money because as of June 30, 2008, there was \$57 million in Hartford and that \$7 million is restricted for the post-closure of the Wallingford Land Fill and that the rest of it is not. He said some of the remaining (funds) are restricted by the Policy Board's directives, not be CRRA. He asked the Mayor if that was true, knowing that some of it will be spent for tip stabilization. Mayor Dickinson said that to his knowledge, there are several accounts that are restricted, and that there may be disagreement over what they total. He said that it isn't just one restricted account.

Mr. LeTourneau acknowledged and thanked Don Roe, Doreen Zaback, Mayor Dickinson, Town Attorney Small for the amount of work that went into this difficult decision process in assisting the Council with continuous reviews, meetings and Executive Sessions.

Chairman Brodinsky said that he is voting for Covanta for the reasons as follows: The tip fee is more favorable with the Covanta option; the payment is lieu of taxes is more favorable with the Covanta option; the town has the opportunity, if we so choose later, to buy the plant, if it appears favorable with the Covanta option. He said that CRRA has always had an anchor around its neck and that anchor was that they would probably be required to commit to buying the plant without knowing what the price was, and it is very hard to justify, or rationalize, why one goes with CRRA to buy a plant when you don't know what the price is. He said that this is also a consideration. He said that he would vote in favor of the Covanta proposal.

Mr. Parisi acknowledged Attorney Small, Mayor Dickinson, Don Roe and Doreen Zaback all of the hard work that was not easy. He said that on the Council side it was difficult. He said that everyone deserves thanks.

Chairman Brodinsky explained that an Aye vote is in favor of Covanta and a no vote is against the Covanta proposal.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE

DiNatale- yes; Economopoulos- yes; Farrell- yes; LeTourneau- yes;  
Parisi- yes ; Rascati- yes; Spiteri- yes; Testa- yes; Brodinsky- yes  
9 Aye; 0 no

The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Brodinsky addressed Don Roe and Doreen Zaback saying that they have every reason to be satisfied for the good work product that they have consistently put out on behalf of the town. He said that it benefited the Town Council immensely and therefore the residents. He acknowledged the time that was spent at meetings was only the tip of the iceberg. He said that

they did a ton of work and that they consistently put out information for the Council on a timely basis when the Council wanted it. They answered the Council's questions, were available by telephone and were patient. He said that Attorney Small has given a lot of time with the contract, hard work and been forthcoming and that the Council appreciates all of this. He commended the Mayor for his leadership during this process. He thanked the Council, and on behalf of the Council, he thanked everyone involved.

8. Discussion and Possible Action of the distribution of materials to the Town Council  
– Councilor Vincent F. Testa, Jr.

Mr. Testa said that he receives a large amount of material on a weekly or a monthly basis that frustrates him. He said that he feels guilty to turn around and drop so much of what he receives in the wastebasket. He said that he wanted to bring it to the Council and talk about it a little bit. He said that he is speaking about paper at this point. He talked about the cost of mailing agendas. He said that there is an advantage to posting the agendas on the website. He spoke about agendas that he receives from other committees, commissions and departments that he does not necessarily want or need. He wants paper to stop coming to him and he suspects that others feel the same way. He said that there are reams of paper that we waste. He said from an economical and environmental point of view it is really something that we should do something about. He suggested talking about this issue in an Ordinance Committee meeting to put together Town Council policies. He said that there is money to be saved and that there are trees that we could be saving.

Chairman Brodinsky said that some departments have the ability to send things electronically and that all this needs to be investigated. Mr. Parisi said that perhaps we can discuss it at an Ordinance Committee meeting. Chairman Brodinsky said that he would put this item on the agenda for the Ordinance Committee.

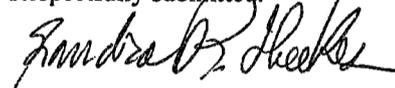
9. Executive Session pursuant to §1-200 (6)(D) of the Connecticut General Statutes with respect to the purchase, sale and/or leasing of property – Mayor

*Withdrawn*

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Testa made a motion, seconded by Mr. Farrell, to adjourn the meeting. All Councilors present (9) voted Aye. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M. with no further business to conduct.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra R. Weekes  
Town Council Secretary

Meeting recorded by Sandra Weekes

Town of Wallingford, CT  
Town Council Meeting

12

December 16, 2008  
Minutes

Mike Brodinsky  
Chairman, Mike Brodinsky

12/31/09

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk, Barbara Kapi

Date