

**MINUTES OF WEST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 8, 2010 LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER AGENDA No. 13**

Vice President Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

Vice President Brennan: Okay, I'd like to call the Town Council meeting to order and state the obvious, that the Mayor is not here tonight. Please accept us in his stead. He's busy in his day job so we begin with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #2: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice President Brennan: Okay, Mrs. Labrot, can we have a roll call?

ITEM #3: ROLL CALL

Present were Councilors Steven Adler, Tim Brennan, Judy Casperson, Leon Davidoff, Rob Durbin, Denise Hall and Joe Verrengia.

Absent was Shari Cantor, Scott Slifka

Vice President Slifka: Okay, on to item #4, Mr. Verrengia, please.

ITEM #4: APPROVAL OF MINUTES - TOWN COUNCIL 05-25-10, PUBLIC HEARING ON 05-25-10 ON ORDINANCE REPEALING THE DEBT MANAGEMENT RESERVE FUND ORDINANCE IN FAVOR OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEBT SERVICE FUND, PUBLIC HEARING ON 05-25-10 ON ORDINANCE PERMITTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CERTAIN ADDITIONAL USES IN INDUSTRIAL ZONES AND PUBLIC HEARING ON 05-25-10 ON RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION.

Vice President Brennan: Can I entertain a motion to receive on that?

Councilor Verrengia: Motion to receive.

Councilor Adler: Second.

Councilor Durbin: I was going to second that. Steve, did you just second that? No, Steve seconded it.

Vice President Brennan: Okay. So the record will so reflect the battle of seconds have begun. We move on next to Item #5 with is the Public Forum.

ITEM #5: PUBLIC FORUM

Vice President Brennan: First our boilerplate. The Public Forum section of the Town Council meeting provides you, our citizens, with the opportunity to address items on the Town Council Agenda, those items that we will act upon at tonight's meeting. To ensure that everybody has an opportunity to be heard and that the Council can efficiently administer its business certain rules have been traditionally followed by the Council over the years. They are fairly simple. If you are to speak at the Public Forum please first state your name and address for the record. In the event that you are not from West Hartford, if you are not a taxpayer or resident just tell us and we will entertain a motion to suspend the rules to allow you to speak. You have up to 3 minutes to speak and you are allowed to speak to any item that is on the Agenda which is not the subject of a Public Hearing. With that said, if I could have the signup sheet please? And it's been passed over to me already and I note there's nobody on there. Is there anybody in the audience who hasn't signed up but wishes to speak? You are making our jobs pretty easy tonight. That moves us on then to Item #6 which is Reports of the Town Manager. Mr. Van Winkle?

ITEM #6: REPORTS OF TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Van Winkle: Thank you, Mr. Brennan. This is the coming weekend of Celebrate. We're going to have a little more on that later tonight but as you're going to see, Town Hall is getting set up for its annual fair over the weekend. The weather looks great. It's not going to be too hot and it's not rainy so I hope everyone turns out for that.

Next Thursday the Vietnam Wall is coming. We're going to have a little more on that later but I just wanted to remark on that, that this was an effort that the Veterans Memorial Committee actually started, brought to us, and suggested that we bring this here. The veteran's wall is a half-size replica of what is in Washington, D.C. It is quite a moving experience to just see this. It will be on our lawn starting on Thursday. Seventeen men from West Hartford died in the Vietnam War. Many fought there. Seventeen died. Their names are on the memorial and I just wanted to go back to something that we did during the creation of the Veteran's Memorial at Veteran's Park. Joseph Donahue put together a book of every name, about every person that is on that memorial. There is a page that talks about who they were, where they died, where they're buried and what their service was like and so for those men on the Vietnam Memorial there is not only a name inscribed on that memorial but there is also a document that's in all our libraries that tells you a little more about that person that died defending this country so we're very excited about the Vietnam Memorial coming to West Hartford.

Richard Patrissi, long friend of the community, active in the community for many years recently donated 11 flats of flowers - not surprising for Richard as a former landscaper and whatnot. They were donated to our recreational area out at Buena Vista so if you see annual flowers being planted out there they were donated by Richard Patrissi. As you know we cut the purchase of annual flowers out of our budget several years ago in an effort to cut some of our spending but we have a number of people around the community that are contributing whether it's flowers in some of the business districts... We have people who are continuing to plant some of our planters and donating those flowers and here Mr. Patrissi has donated to our park.

We also received a donation from the West Hartford Junior Women's Club. They donated money to our summer...to our year-round recreational program to assist families in need so that they can afford some of those programs that they may not be able to if they did not have that assistance so the West Hartford Junior Women's Club, we appreciate their donations to the town too.

In an effort to emphasize how active we are in trying to reduce our spending I want to just go through something that just happened which was just really a very nice practice that we adopted. We make a lot of copies in Town Hall and for the last several years we've been moving to electronic copies. The Council used to get a big packet to be dropped off at their doorsteps and now we've moved more toward electronic communication and that occurs throughout the town but still we make a lot of copies and spend a lot of money. In fact, the town's budget has an allocation of \$55,000 in it to make copies for various reasons. The school board makes even more for obvious reasons. They produce a lot more copies but we had two different companies supplying copies to her and two different contracts and they ended at different times and so over the past couple of years we have worked on those contracts to coordinate so they would end at the same time and we could re-bid those contracts so that we could bid them as one. The cost to the town went from \$55,000 to \$18,000, a 67 percent drop in the cost of... Now we're using a remanufactured Xerox machine that we can now... If you're as old as me we used to call them Xerox, not copiers, but we use, you know, a remanufactured machine that is fully supported by the company and because we are combining ourselves with a much larger user we are able to reduce our copy costs quite dramatically by doing that. We're always looking for something out there.

Recycling - the new blue barrels are out. We started picking up this week. If you are in the B district, and you've got a little sheet of paper... It tells you what district you're in. If you're in the B district you're being picked up this week. If you go to the website, and the town's website is westhartford.org, click on the Public Work's Department. There's a whole description of our recycling program, what you can recycle, what you can't, when you'll get picked up, what district you're in. You can find all that information so it's starting out really well. We're very excited about it. Now everyone is going to have an 18 gallon blue bin that you're going to have left over and so that blue bin is yours. You can put it in the garage and fill it with basketballs. You can do whatever you want with it. We actually have one woman who is getting a bunch of them. She's building a box garden. She's going to put them in the ground and fill them with dirt and grow a garden in those bins. But the bins, if you want to recycle them we will recycle them. You can't put them in your recycling bin because they're not the type of plastic and they aren't the size that they can run through the recycling machine but if you take them down to Brixton Street they'll take them and they recycle all those. They'll turn those back into new plastic products by passing them onto a company so the old 18 gallon bins, don't throw them away in your garbage, don't throw them away in your recycling bin. If you want to recycle them take them to Brixton Street or turn them into a garden, turn them into a basketball holder, whatever. It's an opportunity to reuse rather than recycle if you can so that's my report tonight. If there's any questions I'd be glad to answer them.

Vice President Brennan: Thank you, Mr. Van Winkle. Any questions for the Town Manager? Mr. Verrengia?

Councilor Verrengia: I remember a couple of years back... That's good news about the print shop and that significant savings and, again, I remember a couple of years we had that discussion of the print shop. It's presently located in the first floor and the response was that the print shop can do it equally if not better than going outside and hiring someone outside and what this says to me is that maybe it's a good time to revisit that issue given the significant savings.

Mr. Van Winkle: Yeah, I think you're a really good example. The print shop is a Board of Education process. It's not the same as just a copy machine although they have a copy machine and make a lot of copies there. They also will print off documents. If you're publishing something they will print it and bind it for you but we have looked at it a number of times over the years and believe that there may be some opportunity to privatize that work and have some savings in that so it is something that we need to revisit perhaps in this coming budget.

Vice President Brennan: Questions, Mr. Adler?

Councilor Adler: Through you, Deputy Mayor to the Manager. Mr. Van Winkle, the last Administration and Technology Meeting on May 27, you folks...Chris... I'm sorry, Chris Johnson and yourself had provided a very good overview as to the integration of the IT departments and before I begin, Councilman Durbin chairs that committee and as standing members myself and Deputy Mayor, and you presented a very good overview as to the integration between the Board of Ed and town in terms of some of the work that is being planned but more importantly, which was very interesting to hear, was really kind of the strategic planning that you were thinking about from a long term perspective which was, I thought, very exciting and I wonder if you care to kind of share some of...not necessarily where we're going but some of the activities in terms of what we're evaluating and I think this kind of lends itself to the direction that we're going in for the future of West Hartford so if you care to make a few comments on that.

Mr. Van Winkle: Sure. Thank you for asking that. The town and the schools have integrated a lot of services. In many towns there's a school system and a town system and they don't share. We share the same building, which is unique I think compared to many towns. We have a single purchasing agent, payroll processing, check writing and reporting and all those things are one department. Financing and all of our accounting, one accounting system. We don't use two. Capital management - one person manages all capital investments in the town. One person manages all facilities whether it's cleaning a school building or a public building. Personnel management - we heard from Rick Ledwith earlier - he is our personnel manager. He hires people for the town and he hires teachers for the school system and works for both sides. Police security... I could go on and on. Risk management - a major area. We have one risk manager that manages risk issues for both sides so we've done a lot of consolidation. One area where we haven't yet done that consolidation to the degree we are looking at is IT. The town maintains the

network, whether it's for the public town buildings or the school buildings. We are the network engineer. The school side has hundreds of PCs and so they really are in kind of a PC environment on the school side that their team of people mostly deal with software and the operation of PCs. We have been looking for the...when we merge the town and the school board into this building we located the town's IT system right next to the school's IT people so that the expectation was that we would one day be able to have one IT head who would manage the school system and the town system. Recently the schools have shifted their management of their system, removed a single manager and given it to a couple of people at a lower level to manage but our strategy will be to look at trying to create that single system within our... A PC on my desk is like a PC on a student's desk. There's really not any difference. I'm probably doing third grade work too but that's another issue but it's the same kind of system so it's not... We still need a network engineer. We still need some of those talents but so does the school department so it's an area where we will see in the next few years merging more of the management piece of that and there really being just a seamless IT system. Not a town system and a board system but one system there and it's perhaps, and there are I am sure other things that we should be doing on the merge of town and school work but it is one of the last obvious ones that we're going to be going after.

Councilor Adler: Thank you, Mr. Manager. I think outside of the budget I think these types of things that we're thinking about in terms of integration and not necessarily head count reduction but how do we become more efficient - I think this is a great example and we're looking forward. I know Chairman Durbin on Administration and Technology, we're looking forward to really kind of seeing how this is going to formulate and I think that strategic view you had mentioned is probably going to kind of come together sometime this summer where you could probably share it with us so...

Vice President Brennan: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Adler. I think... I don't read lips but I think Mrs. Casperson you have a question?

Councilor Casperson: No, I just had a comment. I just wanted to just continually thank you and the technological group for forward thinking. I think that the things that we're doing to save money, the ways that we're all looking to cut costs, I think that, you know, the taxpayer really will appreciate that as we continue to integrate these things into every system running more efficiently as well as, you know, cost-cutting and I do applaud that. I do encourage those as well to recycle those bins. Brixton Street. Thank you.

Mr. Van Winkle: If I could...

Vice President Brennan: Go ahead, sir.

Mr. Van Winkle: ...respond to that... You know that we have just finished adopting a budget. It was a frugal budget. Over the past two years our town's budget has gone up approximately \$1400 in two years so where we could find those dollars, and sometimes it was only a few thousand dollars, sometimes it was \$100,000 but we've been able to save. We've reduced our workforce. We've had a hiring freeze in place for the last two years so

it's really been an effective system of trying to pull back on the reins in this difficult recession. I would say the same thing for the School Board - that they've worked really hard to pull back on those reins. You know, recently there was an article in the West Hartford News that suggested that perhaps the Mayor and I thought the School Board was not spend-thrifty but if you look at... I work closely with the School Board everyday. I work with the Superintendent every day, another significant change I think that we work so closely together in this building, but this past year they have worked to reduce their workforce and had reduced their workforce in this adopted budget by 23 positions. In the budget that we're in, the 2010 budget, they reduced their employment levels by 40 positions. The School Board has made a number of changes. They're on the website. If you're interested you go to the West Hartford Public School website, whps.org, and you will see a listing of what they did to bring their budget into line. I think they've done a really effective job in doing that. We're looking at an increase in spending on the school side but it is approximately...it's probably less than what the inflation rate is. It's a little over 3 percent over two years. Not 3 percent a year but 3 percent over two years so as we have pulled back on the reins they have too. They have a little different problem than we do. You know, I can postpone the paving of a road or make some other adjustments to our system. They can't postpone third grade and so although we have worked closely together I just want to emphasize that despite the comments in the paper that I do believe the schools have made significant efforts to reduce their budgets and to be as frugal as possible in this environment.

Vice President Brennan: I'll just interject on that one point. In the quote, and I found it actually troubling, by an officer I believe of the Taxpayer's Association was that you, together with the Mayor were lamenting the budget of the Board of Education. I did speak with Mayor Slifka this evening and he reacted the same way, that absolutely that was not true and is saying what you're saying tonight - the same thing - that that was not true and, in fact, you work closely with the Board and they worked as hard as possible to reduce and to be as efficient as possible. Great. Thanks. Any questions? Mrs. Hall?

Councilor Hall: Since we're just talking about both IT and Board of Ed, one of the things that I had noticed right away was there are two separate websites - the town and the Board of Ed and the two different email systems, that kind of thing. Is that going to be on the agenda to try to merge our websites?

Mr. Van Winkle: Well, it's a good question. Unfortunately the Town Manager has cut the town's funding for an improvement to our website for the last couple of years. Again, we're trying to find ways to save but our website really does need to get upgraded. It is a little difficult to use and it looks old. It's more than a decade old that we've really invested in that website so we're going to look at how we can upgrade that website. There are all sorts of things. I'm looking over at Steve Adler cause this is sort of his business with this IT stuff but there's all sorts of technology today about if I'm preparing minutes for the Council I can just do a certain thing to that document and it will automatically go onto my website. I don't have to pick it up, move it over, put it in and make sure it's in the right spot. There are all sorts of new technology that makes it more efficient for us to get better information, clearer information. And then there's finally just

that look of the website to make it look really nice and easy to figure out where you're going. The Board has a very large website, we have a very large website so you can connect to the Board's website by clicking on public schools. It would seem seamless. You just jump to their website and vice versa, but our website really needs to get upgraded. That is a goal that we are going to try to find a way to do that this year and the integration of those two - once we do ours we'll be able to better integrate those kinds of things on the board and I can put a line item to say if you want to know something about this school just go to this site, click here, and so we would be doing that.

Vice President Brennan: Mr. Davidoff?

Councilor Davidoff: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Mayor. Perhaps on the website maybe we could have an integration with the town and the Board of Education where we could have an internship program with some of our high school students to make that a project. Just throwing that out as a thought. I have a question more specific to the referendum on the budget that this Council adopted last month and the question I have is are all the resources in place for Tuesday's referendum with respect to staffing of poll workers and getting the equipment in place?

Mr. Van Winkle: I don't work directly with that. The Town Clerk works closely with them and has been involved in that. Do you want to kind of comment on that?

Ms. Labrot: As far as I know the Registrars have been working at the polling sites making sure that all the equipment is there and they have been working on staffing and I have not heard of any issues that have come up.

Councilor Davidoff: Thank you. I just want to remind people that the polls will be open from 8:00 to 6:00 on Tuesday, the 15th, at your usual polling location. I've seen a lot of things online where people were wondering whether or not they voted in Town Hall. No. You vote in your polling location as to where you vote. I just want to make that perfect... I'm sorry - 6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. I'm sorry. And if you're going to be voting here in Town Hall Mr. Van Winkle, the location has been moved to room 400?

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes, to room 400.

Councilor Davidoff: Room 400 so that the Aiken Fifth Grade Celebration can take place in the auditorium. Thank you.

Vice President Brennan: And from an advocacy standpoint I will say that we are all previously on the record for supporting the budget and that would be a yes vote. Any other questions for the manager? Mr. Durbin?

Councilor Durbin: No, I just wanted to echo Leon and Deputy Mayor Brennan's thoughts on the referendum, that we encourage everyone to come out and vote and vote yes, which is a vote for the budget. And most people stole my thunder earlier but I wanted to thank Steve and Tim for their efforts on the Administrative and Technology Committee in

pushing this idea of the school board and the town integrating specifically with respect to technology which really is Steve's expertise and thank the town for appreciating the importance of it in being very proactive in doing that. And to your question, Denise, that is something that Steve had brought up earlier. Actually it was a tie between Steve and Tim on who brought up the issue of... Steve says Steve, Tim says Tim...on integrating the Board and the town websites and that's certainly something we're looking at but the website is, as far as our committee goes, certainly on our radar and it's something we intend to work closely with the town with to figure out a good way to do it, not just so that it's a great gateway for one of the top ten cities in America but also so that it gives us the functionality where possible to reduce costs and improve efficiency and that's something that we continue to look to Steve for his expertise on and so thanks again to everyone involved and in particular the town and Ron Van Winkle.

Vice President Brennan: Okay. I have a comment and question and notice. Tomorrow morning at 7:30 we have a Public Safety Meeting. On the agenda is the sort of evergreen topic of traffic calming - the issue that we have in town with people driving at excessive speeds. I note that Chief Strillacci is here in the audience and one of the things that I will bring up personally that is a major annoyance to me as a resident is the fact that we tend to see speeding school busses. This morning I witnessed, standing on my own street on Garfield Road, a school bus barreling by at 8:00 in the morning, and this is the time that the children gather to walk to school. It slammed on its brakes at the house where it was picking up. I will be more specific about it tomorrow in Public Safety but my main point on this is I understand it's challenging to address the issue of traffic calming in a general sense because it's largely a behavioral issue. With school busses, these are...we have contracted with a business to run the school busses for the town and I know in the past we've asked for this. I'm sure it's been done and I know this is a Public Safety and a school board issue but we need to be very, very firm in directing them to drive the speed limit, even if they're behind. I don't care because I know we've had accidents including very near my home and all over and on 84 where people have died, but in particular actually I think near the Town Clerk's home where somebody was running, I'm sorry, a school bus was running a light and crashed into a motorist on the intersection of Boulevard and Mountain I believe. It's got to stop. I mean, these are paid, you know, a paid service of the town and, you know, I'd like to see frankly the police pull over a school bus for speeding cause it's frankly annoying me and I, you know, I fear for the worst so we'll cover that tomorrow in Public Safety but I just think that's something that has to stop. So, with that, any other questions? That concludes the Reports of the Town Manager and so we go to the Consent Calendar, Mr. Verrengia.

ITEM #7: CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT CALENDAR: ITEMS 18, 19, 20, AND 22 TO RECEIVE.

Councilor Verrengia: I move we put Items 18, 19, 21 and 22 on Consent.

Councilor Durbin: I second that.

Councilor Davidoff: Excuse me Mr....

Vice President Brennan: Sure..

Councilor Davidoff: I'd like to remove 21 from the consent...

Vice President Brennan: Oh, I apologize. I thought you wanted... Was it 20 as well?

Councilor Davidoff: No, 20 can be on Consent, not 21.

Vice President Brennan: Okay.

Councilor Verrengia: Okay, well put 20 on Consent.

Vice President Brennan: And remove #21. Apologies for that. That was my bad communication. All those in favor? Against? The aye's have it. We move to Unfinished Business, #8, Mr. Verrengia.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ITEM #8: ORDINANCE (VAN WINKLE) AMENDING SECTION 30-24F OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD PENSION PLAN (PUBLIC HEARING 06-08-10).

ADOPTED VOTE 7-0

Councilor Verrengia: Motion to adopt.

Councilor Durbin: Second.

Vice President Brennan: Okay. Mr. Van Winkle, please?

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes, I'm just going to ask Mr. Ledwith to come back up. This is an IRS requirement that we're putting into place and he can explain the technical details.

Mr. Ledwith: Again, as I mentioned during the Public Hearing, the amendment that we're asking the Council to adopt brings in more specific language, technical language to the pension plan than exists right now so it's not changing the benefit for any participant today or in the future. It's just adding more specific language to the plan as it exists today.

Vice President Brennan: Any questions for Mr. Ledwith? Okay. Do we need a roll call? We do. That was a good guess on that part.

Councilors Adler, Brennan, Casperson, Davidoff, Durbin, Hall, and Verrengia voted YES.

Ms. Labrot: It passes unanimously.

Vice President Brennan: Thank you, Mrs. Labrot. We move on to #9, Mr. Verrengia, and if you could also read into the record the letter?

ITEM #9: RESOLUTION (VAN WINKLE) AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE A UTILITY EASEMENT WITH AT&T (REFERRED TO TPZ AT 05-25-10 COUNCIL MEETING).

ADOPTED

Councilor Verrengia: Okay. Letter dated June 8, 2010 from Theodore Doolittle, Chairman of TPZ, recommending approval for the resolution authorizing the Town Manager to execute a utility easement with AT&T.

Vice President Brennan: And then the resolution itself.

Councilor Verrengia: Number 9: Resolution authorizing the Town Manager to execute a utility easement with AT&T. Motion to adopt.

Councilor Durbin: I'm going to second that motion.

Vice President Brennan: Okay. Any discussion? Mr. Davidoff?

Councilor Davidoff: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Mayor. I would like to comment for the record that the TPZ made a recommendation that the town staff ensure that the utility boxes are adequately screened with appropriate planting and if one had reviewed the easement document one would see that in paragraph 7 it said the grantee shall plant a buffer of shrubbery to reasonably obscure the equipment from view. The grantee shall maintain the said easement area in good condition at all times so that it was dotted and that it was crossed.

Vice President Brennan: I actually skipped a part. I'd like to hear from Mr. Van Winkle explain this a little bit. Thank you.

Mr. Van Winkle: No problem, Mr. Deputy Mayor. This is part of the U-verse system, the new technology bringing cable to our house in a different format, a new competitor into the market. U-verse requires these boxes to be located around town within certain distances of homes so they can supply that service. We have tried to locate them working with AT&T. You may not even notice them but there's been a number of boxes located around the community already. We're trying to find spots where we can screen them where they aren't on somebody's front lawn and what not and that's why this kind of site works pretty well for us. There's already a utility box there for another...for the TCI cable service so we'll see a few more of these as we go forward. Where we can locate them in the existing right-of-way we do that. Sometimes we'll pull them back a little onto a piece of property that we might own so that we can screen them a little better but it's a

process that's been moving forward for about 18 months now and it seems to be working well.

Vice President Brennan: Okay. Thank you. Any further discussion? Okay. Having said that, all in favor? All against? We move on to #10, Mr. Verrengia please.

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM #10: RESOLUTION (VAN WINKLE) TO ACCEPT AN EDWARD J. BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,854 AND APPROPRIATE SAID FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A LIVE-SCAN (FINGERPRINT AND PALM PRINT) BOOKING IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM.

ADOPTED

WHEREAS, the West Hartford Police Department was awarded an Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Formula Grant (JAG) in the amount of \$19,854, and

WHEREAS, the West Hartford Police Department currently uses a Cogent Live-Scan (Fingerprint & Palm print) CS500p-Booking identification system in the booking area to aid in the processing of arrested persons, and

WHEREAS, the West Hartford Police Department is responsible for the arrest and processing of adult and juvenile arrestees, but State statute dictates that a juvenile cannot be processed in a booking area when an adult arrestee is present, and

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut has raised the age of juvenile jurisdiction to include 16-year-olds in 2010 and 17-year-olds in 2011, resulting in an increased number of juvenile arrestees and officer delays in booking them, and

WHEREAS, the West Hartford Police Department proposes to use these JAG funds to purchase an additional Cogent Live-Scan CS500p-Booking identification system to be installed in the Department's Detective Division to accommodate juvenile arrestees and also be available for adult arrestees, and

WHEREAS, the JAG funds will assist with the purchase of one Cogent Live-Scan booking identification station at a cost of \$25,000, and will leave a local match of \$5,146 to be funded with asset forfeiture fund monies,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of West Hartford does hereby accept the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant for the purchase of a Cogent Live-Scan booking identification system, authorizes use of asset forfeiture monies to fund the balance of said purchase, and amends the fiscal year 2010-2011 General Fund and Drug Enforcement Fund budgets as follows:

General Fund

Estimated Revenue

01-220220-20401-9070	Justice Assistance Grant	\$19,854
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Appropriations

01-220220-20401-3202	Capital Equipment	\$19,854
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Drug Enforcement Fund

Estimated Revenue

20-220305-20406-9399	Use of Fund Balance	\$5,146
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Appropriations

20-220305-20406-3202	Capital Equipment	\$5,146
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Councilor Verrengia: I move to adopt.

Councilor Durbin: Second.

Vice President Brennan: Great. Mr. Van Winkle, please?

Mr. Van Winkle: Jim Strillacci is here, our Police Chief. He is going to talk on items #10 and 11. We have been getting these Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants for the past couple of years and this is a new one so, Jim?

Chief Strillacci: Good evening. Every year the Justice Department comes up with grants on a formula which is based upon population, crime statistics, arrests and things of that nature and they change it every year and the amount is always different every year based on availability and the changing stats so we have to react to the announcement that A) that we've got a grant and B) what the amount is and come up with an appropriate program on which to spend it and apply within the deadline so this is an annual sort of springtime hustle to comply with this. What... We put out the announcement to our staffs since we found out that we were in line for \$19,854. We got back some suggestions. The one that looks most viable is to buy a piece of equipment. Rather than have a program which has a tail to it with maintenance or staffing requirements or other expenditures this is cut and dry. You buy a piece of machinery and install it. What we're looking to buy is a live scan fingerprint and palm print machine similar to the one we have in our current booking room. This would serve as a backup to the one we have in case of mechanical or other difficulties which all our gadgets are prone to at one time or another. It will also serve to accommodate juvenile arrests. Due to a change in the statutes 16-year-olds became considered juveniles in October. Seventeen-year-olds would be considered juveniles in 2011 and it's not that we're going to have any more people arrested but more of them will be considered juveniles and we have to treat them a little differently. Under Federal and State law we're not supposed to hold juvenile arrestees in the same place where an adult arrestee might be held so this machine, it's stationed in a place outside our booking and detention area and will also serve for us to process juvenile arrested persons. Third, it will serve to use for capturing fingerprints of

civilians. Such purposes as elimination prints if you're the victim of a crime, of burglary. If a burglar comes into your house and leaves fingerprints we're going to have to take your fingerprints too to make sure we can tell yours from the bad guy's so those are called elimination prints. We also have a number of people that come in for permits, some of which will require fingerprinting. Adoptions, special licenses...we may be able to use this machine for that as well so it will have a useful life for us. The grant will cover most of the cost. The machine goes for about \$25,000. That will leave us with a little more we'll take from our handy Drug Asset Forfeiture Fund which is again those monies we've taken from arrested drug dealers and put into a special fund for uses like this where we need to come up with some money and not dip into the general fund. I'd be happy to answer any questions on this if you have any.

Vice President Brennan: Thank you, Chief Strillacci. I just want to say I'm pleased how aggressively the department continues to go after grant money. I think that's the key part of this and to provide additional including backup tools to the Police Department. Any questions for the Chief?

Councilor Hall: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Mayor. Thanks, Chief. I just had a quick question. I know in pretty much all of the jobs I've ever had I've had to be fingerprinted and often it's going to a police station. Is there any revenue opportunities for us? Now that we've got another machine could we charge people from organizations that have to get fingerprinted?

Chief Strillacci: We do charge for a variety of permits. Many of those are statutorily limited in how much we can charge. There are some things which we can set our own fees. We try to keep them comparable. We don't want to be the highest. We don't want to be the lowest either. Not that... You don't want shopping for fingerprinting customers. Usually people go to their home town police department. We want to always cover our personnel costs on these. It's not a big revenue item though.

Vice President Brennan: Further questions for the Chief? Okay.

Councilor Durbin: Actually, I had a question.

Vice President Brennan: Oh, I'm sorry. I thought that was a shake of the head no. Mr. Durbin, please.

Councilor Durbin: No, just curious about... It says fingerprint and palm print. I've always been very careful that my fingerprints don't go on things. I have to worry about my palm prints as well?

Chief Strillacci: You do if you're a burglar.

Councilor Durbin: What's that?

Chief Strillacci: You do if you're a burglar. We will routinely take palm prints of arrested persons as well as fingerprints. Sometimes when a burglar or another criminal handles an object at the scene of a crime he won't leave ridge impressions from his fingers but will leave a palm print when you boost yourself in a window or something of that sort so when we have the opportunity to capture palm prints we'll do so and we can take care of those as well.

Councilor Durbin: Is that a... Purely out of curiosity, is that a new technology? I've never heard of that before.

Chief Strillacci: Is which? The palm print?

Councilor Durbin: The palm print. Yeah.

Chief Strillacci: No, we've been able to take palm prints with ink impressions for many, many years. This is an electronic capture which makes a photographic image on a glass plate rather than an ink impression on paper but anybody who cared to has always been able to take palm prints.

Councilor Durbin: But do they track palm prints like they do fingerprints?

Chief Strillacci: Yes. Yes, they do. There's a repository. It's not as well-developed as fingerprints. There aren't as many in them and since it's a larger area there are differences in the comparison criterion but it will point you in the right direction so you can make a more positive comparison when you get the actual subject to compare to a questionable print.

Councilor Durbin: Thank you.

Vice President Brennan: I'm thinking of a possible new nickname for you as knuckles. Further questions for the Chief? Okay, thank you, Chief. Mr. Verrengia, if we could then move on to #11?

Councilor Davidoff: Point of order.

Vice President Brennan: Oh, forgive me.

Mr. O'Brien: No roll call.

Vice President Brennan: No roll call? All in favor? Okay. Number 11, Mr. Verrengia.

ITEM #11: RESOLUTION (VAN WINKLE) AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, DIVISION OF STATE POLICE, FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE CONNECTICUT LAW ENFORCEMENT DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM (CLEDES).

ADOPTED

WHEREAS, the West Hartford Police Department utilizes a computer-aided dispatch and records-management system (CAD/RMS,) and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut State Police and a growing number of municipal police departments use the same CAD/RMS software, and

WHEREAS, that CAD/RMS software includes a component which allows user agencies to share selected records, and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Law Enforcement Data Exchange System (CLEDES) is an initiative which allows participating agencies to read each others' selected reports, and

WHEREAS, a Memorandum of Understanding with the Connecticut Department Of Public Safety, Division of State Police, will allow the West Hartford Police Department to participate in CLEDES, and

WHEREAS, because crime respects no boundaries and criminals may operate in multiple communities, the solution to a crime sometimes may be found in another department's record, and

WHEREAS, sharing of information will help solve more crimes and make all area communities safer,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of West Hartford does hereby authorize the Town Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Connecticut Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police for Participation in the Connecticut Law Enforcement Data Exchange System.

Councilor Verrengia: Move to adopt.

Councilor Durbin: Second.

Vice President Brennan: Okay. Just go back to the Chief, please.

Chief Strillacci: I'm glad I stuck around. If you watch TV and get all your information about police work from television you probably get the impression that police officers have at their fingertips access to data bases from all over the country, reports, pictures, fingerprints, etc... That would be erroneous. Most police departments develop their records, management systems and computer-aided dispatch systems independently. There wasn't really any top-down leadership either at the federal level or the state level. Each town or community would buy their own machines, their own software and there are many different varieties out there. Most of them do not talk to one another. Generally speaking, if we want information from another police department what we have to do is pick up the phone and call and they'll fax us a copy or hand-carry a copy. The amount of

information that is available on a computer is a miniscule fraction of what is collected by law enforcement. This CLEDES exchange is a step in the right direction. It will allow agencies which use the same CAD/RMS software that we do to exchange a limited amount of information as agreed to by the agencies involved. We have been using a particular brand of software which serves 24 of the municipal agencies, the State Police and some college departments as well. Those will be able to talk to each other electronically by means of this system. The State Police have stepped up and said they'll host a server. This system will create a mirror image of the selected records on their server and officers will be able to access and read that information from their own departments. It will be useful in identifying for investigative purposes only suspects in crimes with similar methods of operation, similar descriptions and things of that nature. We won't be able to reach everybody in the state because not everybody is on the same data system but it will expand our capabilities considerably. There isn't any additional cost. We already have the software. This program is a facet of it. It's just a matter of signing the agreement and turning it on. There will be some training involved. We'll need passwords and things. The state is very, very careful about data protection. They've got a 7-page MOU and a 14-page set of policies and procedures to make sure that we all do it by the numbers - they are belt and suspenders kind of people, but we'd like to agree to this. We think it's a step in the right direction as far as making information available to investigators. Criminals don't respect town boundaries. They operate in a variety of towns. They use the same techniques in a variety of places and the more information we can share among agencies the better it will be for public safety.

Vice President Brennan: Thank you. Questions for the Chief? Mr. Adler?

Councilor Adler: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Mayor. To the Chief, first of all, Chief, this sounds like a very critical investigative tool in terms of accessing data and records management beyond West Hartford. In terms of us being able to scan... We're not only receiving documents but can we scan documents into this system? That was my first question. Where we can share, you know, evidentiary, you know, information whether it's reports or what have you with other municipalities as well?

Chief Strillacci: The software that we use does allow us to enter things from outside. If we take a document and scan in it as an attachment to a case file. We can attach photographs and things of that nature as well, nonverbal types of evidence.

Councilor Adler: And... Thank you. And the followup question, that is in terms of interfacing with the Fed it sounds like this is strictly a state jurisdictional type of stuff or program that we're using but will it ever...will we have the capability at some point to interface with, you know, DEA or marshals or if there is kind of an interface with the NCIC system for getting reports and other things like that?

Chief Strillacci: We can access NCIC through our in-house systems. As far as the reporting system used by say the FBI or DEA, they're not on the same system. They're developed independently and, again, if somebody at the federal level wants to step up and take ownership of trying to integrate the multitude of state and thousands of local

agencies, that's a big job. Nobody's done that yet. We're trying to do the best we can with the pieces we have at a reasonable cost and this is something that's essentially paid for already so it's a small baby step.

Vice President Brennan: Okay. Further questions for the Chief? Mr. Durbin?

Councilor Durbin: Yeah, I just had a quick question about...and maybe this is better directed to Ron Van Winkle. To become part of this program, especially in light of the fact that it doesn't cost anything, why do we need a resolution to do that?

Chief Strillacci: The state is asking for that because they want to make sure that this is okay with the decision makers on the town level. Anybody who participates in this is going to...going through the same exercise right now. It's going to be heard by the legislative body. They've asked to have the Town Clerk certify a copy of the resolution once it's been approved and we'll send that down to the Commissioner of Public Safety and the Attorney General for his countersignature and then it will be official. That's what the state requires for their own legal satisfaction.

Vice President Brennan: Okay. Any further questions? All in favor? Okay. Against? We're all set. Thank you, Chief. Number 12, Mr. Verrengia please.

ITEM #12: RESOLUTION (VAN WINKLE) APPROPRIATING \$3,450 FROM THE ELMWOOD SENIOR CENTER DONATION ACCOUNT FOR THE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF THE ELMWOOD SENIOR CENTER GAZEBO.

ADOPTED

WHEREAS, in September 2001 a gazebo was installed on the grounds of the Elmwood Community Center, and

WHEREAS, this Gazebo serves as a welcoming focal point for the Elmwood Community, the members of the Elmwood Senior Center, and all residents of West Hartford, and

WHEREAS, through the efforts of the Elmwood Senior Center's Fund Raising Committee, money has been raised to maintain the gazebo, and

WHEREAS, there is a desire to use these monies for the cleaning, power washing, painting and general repair of the gazebo,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD that the use of \$3,450 from the Elmwood Senior Center donation account is authorized for the maintenance and repair of the gazebo and that the Elmwood Senior Center's fiscal year 2009-2010 General Fund budget is hereby amended as follows:

Increase Estimated Revenue

22-402300-40301-9340	Contributions	\$3,450
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Increase Appropriations

22-402300-40301-2256	Maintenance & Repairs	\$3,450
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Councilor Verrengia: Move to adopt.

Councilor Durbin: I second.

Vice President Brennan: Okay. Mr. Van Winkle, please?

Mr. Van Winkle: This is to appropriate a grant. It comes from the Elmwood Senior Center Fundraising Committee, \$3,450. The gazebo at the Elmwood Community Center was put in in 2001. It need to be painted and some minor repair and this is the estimated cost and we really appreciate that the Senior Center's Funding Committee was able to fund this outside of our regular budget so we're very grateful of this grant.

Vice President Brennan: Thank you. Any discussion? Mr. Davidoff?

Councilor Davidoff: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Mayor. I'd like to commend the Senior Committee there at the Elmwood Community Center for stepping up and doing what's necessary to maintain the capital object that's there - the gazebo - without taxpayer dollars so that something that is enjoyed by many can continue to be enjoyed by many and sincere thanks for them for stepping up, especially in these tough economic times.

Vice President Brennan: Right. The gazebo will be enjoyed in particular in the summer and, okay, we do have a question. You do not? A comment? Go ahead.

Councilor Casperson: Just a comment. No, I just wanted to state that both the Senior Citizen's Committees have been very active and this week, besides having this gazebo work done, which is a great thing as well as we continue to improve our Senior Center, just to acknowledge as well activities that Mr. Adler and myself will be attending this week and have attended to commemorate all the volunteers who are very active in and around our community but especially in that senior citizen community. The wealth of talent that I saw there was tremendous in Monday's event and we look forward to Thursday's event.

Vice President Brennan: Thank you, Mrs. Casperson. Anything further in discussion? Okay, all in favor? Motion carries and we move on to #13, Mr. Verrengia, the substitute resolution.

ITEM #13: RESOLUTION (VAN WINKLE) TO APPROPRIATE \$250,000 IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010 BUDGET OF THE CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND FOR A REGIONAL ENERGY MANAGER.

ADOPTED SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Town applied for and was awarded a Supplemental Regional Bonus Pool Program grant, a sub-grant of the Federal American Reinvestment and Recovery Act Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, from the State of Connecticut, Office of Policy & Management, in the amount of \$250,000, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Bonus Pool Program is to encourage municipalities to partner together to undertake energy projects that have a regional (multi-town) impact, and

WHEREAS, the funding under the Supplemental Regional Bonus Pool Program is to be used to reduce fossil fuel emissions in a manner that is environmentally sustainable and, to the maximum extent practicable, maximize benefits for local and regional communities; reduce the total energy use of the eligible entities; and improve energy efficiency in the building sector, the transportation sector and other appropriate sectors, and

WHEREAS, the Town's grant application proposed utilizing these funds to employ a regional energy manager who will undertake various energy projects for the towns of West Hartford, Avon, Simsbury, Farmington, and Bloomfield based upon the needs of each town, and

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut, Office of Policy & Management, determined that the proposed project met the grant criteria and awarded the grant accordingly,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD that the \$250,000 Supplemental Regional Bonus Pool Program grant awarded by the Connecticut Office of Policy & Management will be utilized in accordance with the terms of the grant and the fiscal year 2009-2010 Capital Projects Fund is hereby amended as follows:

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD** that Town Manager Ronald Van Winkle is hereby authorized to sign the Supplemental Regional Bonus Pool Program grant on behalf of the lead municipality West Hartford, and the partnering towns of Avon, Simsbury, Farmington, and Bloomfield.

<u>Increase Revenue</u>		
41-811030-80001-9070	Regional Bonus Pool Grant	\$250,000
<u>Increase Appropriation</u>		
41-811030-80001-3025	Professional Services	\$250,000

Councilor Verrengia: And I want to read in a substitute, Item #13: a resolution to appropriate \$250,000 in the fiscal year 2009-2010 budget for the Capital Projects Fund for a Regional Energy Manager. Move to adopt.

Councilor Casperson: Second.

Vice President Brennan: Thank you. Mr. Van Winkle, please.

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes, again we're really pleased to get this. This is... You may remember awhile ago we received notice of a grant opportunity for energy conservation grants coming from the Federal American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. We received a substantial amount of dollars and have invested those dollars in replacing energy systems in the town, saving us tens of thousands of dollars every year. There was a supplemental regional bonus pool program that was money that was unexpended by towns that had programs or unexpended by the state and we were one of 17 towns that submitted applications. In our case we submitted an application to hire a Regional Energy Manager. This is five towns - West Hartford, Avon, Simsbury, Farmington and Bloomfield. We joined together and submitted an application to be able to hire what is likely a firm or an individual to help us look at our energy usage and identify ways where we can do conservation within that system. There are a lot of grants available through Northeast Utilities and other sources that are out there waiting for us to make application for and this will help us make those applications. We are the appropriating agency because we agreed to administer the grant in this process. The Town of West Hartford receives the grant and pays the bill out of the grant. Each town gets the energy czar here for one day a week and this money will, \$250,000 will obviously go for awhile. It's not a one year kind of a project so we're very excited to receive this. We are already in draft of an RFP to be sent out. We hope to have that perhaps by the end of the week. We need to share that with other towns, get their confirmation that that does all the things that we're looking for and then we'll be advertising this for bid so again, it was just great to get an additional funding source to help us. We hope to actually use it to help us get additional grants for energy conservation. There is a lot of opportunity for conservation. Even though we've done a lot there's still a lot that we can be doing in this community to reduce our energy use and so this is an opportunity to sort of leverage some funds to do some more investment.

Vice President Brennan: When you say a lot we've shown in the past charts that show that the opportunity is really, frankly, off the charts. There is a tremendous amount of money to be saved and many millions of dollars annually and, in particular, when we're using as a source of assets to pay for the changes grants and/or reduced, you know, sort of efficiency fund measures such as on bill financing. I am very please to see this come to fruition. I was skeptical that it would happen. I think you had lowered our expectations as we put in the bid but I'm pleased for the outcome but I'm also pleased because this is one step in implementing the energy plan that the Council last term adopted because in that plan we identified very specifically as a gap in West Hartford the expertise and time, probably more importantly, the time of staff to dedicate to what is a growing...a growing sort of, you know, body of knowledge that has to be tended to. Kind

of like IT in a way, right? Before computers we didn't have IT so we need to do this. So this specific item, the fact that we could do this possibly on a regional basis, was specifically identified in the plans. I'm pleased to see it's come to fruition and I'm pleasantly surprised.

Mr. Van Winkle: Thank you, Mr. Brennan. It was a long process and that's why we sort of were thinking it wasn't going to happen. We, in fact, had planned to allocate money to bring an energy manager on outside of this. We still believe that we need one more than one day a week so we have funds set aside for energy conservation within the budget that we've been holding onto so as we will get one day a week from this opportunity it is likely that we will be hiring that expertise for more than one day a week to help us with some of those opportunities that exist out there.

Vice President Brennan: Great. And my only thought is let's move quickly in getting that RFP out and obviously getting the best possible consultant in the door. And now, Mr. Adler, you have a question or comment?

Councilor Adler: Yeah, I'm chomping at the bit here with a question, a couple of questions and some comments. This... Just to give this background this is really one of the outcomes from Administration and Technology that we've been working on and as the Deputy Mayor said that this really is going to help facilitate the energy plan so, you know, I haven't been this excited in a long time, so to speak. *(Laughter)* So for a couple of reasons... One, it's going to drive the energy plan so for those of you who are thinking, "My god, we're going to create another layer, another position with benefits and salary," and I can hear the people at home throwing stuff at the TV, this is an outside consultant so people need to understand that so what's great about this is it's going to help drive the energy plan, it's an externally funded position which I have a question on, and the other thing is, which I'm very excited about, it's a shared service so, you know, Minority Leader Denise Hall and myself a few months ago had gone to a shared service program sponsored by OPM and it was a packed house because...and the common theme is the municipalities are all uptight about the lack of funding from the state over the next couple years being that they have a slight deficit issue, around a billion dollars, so we're getting smart about this and I'm absolutely very, very, you know, thumbs up to this - very excited. So it is a consultant so just to confirm that?

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes. It's certainly not going to be an employee. That's not what we're talking about. It is a consultant. Whether it is a firm of many engineers that might help us or even a single individual that might have the expertise it will not be an employee of the Town of West Hartford. It will be a contract that will run concurrent with this grant amount.

Councilor Adler: Okay, and just a quick question. When we were in Administration and Technology around the budget time we were talking about this position potentially being funded out of the Utility Fund and it sounds like we've changed up our game a little bit - that in fact we found some available monies out of OPM and that there are no tax dollars right now associated with this from a municipal standpoint? Just to clarify.

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes, there are no tax dollars associated with this act you're doing tonight but as we talked in committee, we are looking to be more aggressive with implementing our energy plan and we can't do it on a one day a week kind of basis so we will be turning to funds, the Utility Funds, to implement some additional services from whomever we end up hiring here to help us implement our energy plan and get the returns that... There are still some, you know, three, four, five year returns where if you make that investments you get that investment paid back in three, four or five years and then after that you're making pure profit so we really need to grab every one of those we can. Although we've got a lot of them there are still some out there. This is that opportunity.

Councilor Adler: So... Thank you, Mr. Manager. So just for the public who's listening, this consultant is very key because we have a number of energy audits that we've been trying to get to and there's a huge opportunity for cost savings as well as understanding where some of the, you know, facilities, the 31 facilities that we have in town that potentially are just from an environmental standpoint very inefficient so this position's going to really project manage those assessments. The one question that I had or the other question that I had and then I'll call it a day is this is a couple year position so from a sustainability standpoint beyond the \$250,000 is it going to be one of these deals where okay, so the money has kind of dried up or we've used that money and then do we... I mean, I'd really hate to see this turn into an employee-based position because we do a great job at that. We launch these programs with these funds, you know, with state and municipal funds and then once it dries up it turns into kind of a permanent role and maybe it's a little too early to talk about that but hopefully it doesn't turn into that at some point.

Mr. Van Winkle: No, I think our intent would not be to add an employee that would be our energy manager but to provide...and it may well be it's an engineer that's electrically oriented. It may be an engineer that is energy oriented in some way. It may be someone who could give us some guidance on fuel cells so it's not going to be an internal person. I wouldn't see that. It also gives us an opportunity, and you raised that, to delve deeper into this question of can we do this regionally, you know? We all have the same issue. We all have the same boilers, the lights, so we're dealing with the same issues so maybe there is a way in which towns can find a way to create some synergy here by all of us using this and keeping this going for a few years. It's a good example of what we keep talking about in trying to do thing regionally. We do a number of things regionally but for some reason some of them don't get started. Well here's an opportunity. We are going to work together and we may find that we'll say at the end of this thing we need to continue to work together as a region.

Councilor Adler: I would agree with you. I think again, you know, we talk about the IT integration and not to ramble on here but we need to get to a level, and I know that personnel kind of plays a role in that, where people get uptight when you start kind of figuring out how contracts are going to be written around municipal shared services and who is going to be the host town, which municipalities would you want to enter in a relationship with... I can think of a few municipalities that I would not want to enter into

a relationship with. So I am a big proponent. I think we all are with shared services. I think we're moving in the right direction and, you know, this is nothing but good news here. It really is. The other thing too, and I know people at home have just had enough of me, Nancy... *(Laughter)* Nancy Glassman, not to...and I'm sure my other friends are saying, "What are you doing?" Nancy Glassman...Mary Glassman in Simsbury, she is a very, very big supporter of shared services down in the valley so we can learn some lessons down there and this is just good stuff. Finally.

Vice President Brennan: We appreciate the exuberance, Mr. Adler.

Councilor Adler: I don't get excited too often.

Vice President Brennan: I am sorry about that. I do want to comment though lest we go down the path of, you know, anti-employee and, you know, cost centers and things like that, this is a consultant. It is a very unique position in that its sole purpose is not to provide a service to town residents. It's to save boatloads of money. If it were an employee it would way more than pay for itself. The consultant position happens to be grant money so those of you with calculators could figure out the return on that investment. It will be huge if we implement it correctly and we avail ourselves of all their best ideas to save money for the town so... Ms. Hall, please.

Councilor Hall: Thank you, Mr. Van Winkle. I'm just curious from a process standpoint did any of the other towns want to be the administrator and what do you see as the benefit or drawbacks of our being the administrator?

Mr. Van Winkle: It was actually the Town of West Hartford that brought it to the other towns to suggest the idea. When we read the grant application they were looking for regional approaches. We sat down and talked about how we might do things regionally. There is a regional energy buying consortium that is run by CRCOG. There's a number of things that are done now regionally. We came up... Bob Palmer from our Facilities group sort of came up with this idea that we could do this with other towns and we talked to other towns and, of course, they said yes, without any question. You know, we're going to write the RFP so we have some control over that. It's certainly going to be in the best interest of everybody involved. I'm sure Avon will do well with having someone come in and help them with their issues and we will do well so I don't know if there's any dramatic plus from being the administrator but we sort of led the charge and wrote the proposal to get the grant and, you know, we're very pleased. The cost of administering the grant is really de minimis for us. It's just a matter of processing a check. The state will send us the funding for this application and we will expend it and there will be an audit at the end that will come out of the actual money so the cost to us for this is de minimis.

Vice President Brennan: Mr. Durbin?

Councilor Durbin: I just wanted to applaud everyone's efforts. In particular in our committee Steve has always been a big proponent of regionalization and Ron has been,

again, very proactive and very receptive to the ideas that we've had in this committee and myself in my first term, this energy plan came before my time and like all great ideas it didn't come from one person. It, I think, was a combination of people - Paul Popinchalk who's on the Energy Task Force, and Roger Smith - those two in particular I am personally aware of as having a great impact on this entire enterprise and on the town and on what the town's fiscal landscape is going to look like down the road so those two people in particular in the town I think deserve recognition and Tim Brennan has really spearheaded the energy plan on the Town Council. So everyone combined, I think, is due a lot of credit and I was very happy to be along for the ride and it's very exciting to see something that I witnessed...these very discussions that we had in committee now coming to fruition, especially as everyone has pointed out, at no cost to the taxpayer. There's only an upside and the only question is how much upside and we look forward to hearing more about it and thanks again to Ron and the rest of the guys on the town side.

Vice President Brennan: Thank you, Mr. Durbin. Mrs. Casperson?

Councilor Casperson: Yes, and in Mr. Adler's excitement one thing that I was surprised about was Mr. Brennan's restraint because on every occasion... (*Laughter*) On every occasion he does really strive to bring awareness to our energy conservation and to really strive to, you know, bring that to the forefront the positions that we've stated in the past in order to get them fulfilled so I really appreciate us being able to arrive at this juncture.

Vice President Brennan: Well, I'm just going to say that this was a unanimous vote of the last Council and everyone had a part in it and I think that's the best way to be from a public policy standpoint so... And I'm starting to get a little red-faced, a little embarrassed but Mr. Davidoff, please.

Councilor Davidoff: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Mayor. Every campaign we talk a lot of rhetoric about being green and doing green. Tonight we're walking the walk. We're taking another step along the path of our comprehensive energy plan and we're looking to save some green for the residents of all these communities and I would ask that at the end of the process when this entire fund has been depleted, some \$250,000 amongst all the towns, that there would be some type of report that would show us the findings that were found, whether it be here in West Hartford or Avon, Simsbury or Bloomfield or Farmington so that we can share the information because the value of information is priceless and that the energy savings found in one community may be so instrumental in saving us money here in West Hartford so I think that's important to point out and whenever we endeavor into regional cost-sharing, shared service programs we can learn a lot from our partners and this is going to be a first step along that path and I'm very optimistic that we'll be quite successful and look forward to other initiatives that will allow us to implement the plan that we adopted in the last Council term so I will be supporting this resolution this evening.

Vice President Brennan: And that actually... I'm glad you said that. That's an excellent point because it's easy to forget but one key part of the plan is to measure results as you go because if you don't measure, you don't know. I think some things can be challenging

to measure such as behavioral aspects and if you decide to shut off that light switch rather than leave it on it's tougher to measure. Probably that caused the reduction in usage but no matter. You do the best you can and we have started to do that but, in particular, I think Mr. Davidoff, you're correct. We need to measure this. Any further discussion? All those in favor? Against? The resolution passes. Okay. Moving onto Announcements, Mr. Van Winkle, please.

ITEM #14: ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Vice President Brennan: Oh, I thought... See, we changed this. This used to be a time where you had some announcements but that now is part of your report so I have some announcements. First is the Playhouse on Park celebrates its first anniversary on June 10 at 6:00 P.M. The playhouse called "Your New Destination for the Performing Arts" turning 1. The parent organization, Playhouse Theater Group, will celebrate on Thursday, June 10 from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. at The Heritage in Blue Back Square. The event is titled Act I Celebrate with the Playhouse on Park. It will serve as a fundraiser for the Young Arts Association and it costs \$75 per person. Now of note, Mayor Scott Slifka and Mrs. Noelle Slifka will serve as co-hosts for the evening and there is a committee that includes an august group of Shari and Michael Cantor, Mary and Chuck Coursey, our former Deputy Mayor, Edward Cumming, Tracy Flater, Bonnie and Daniel Gauthier, Tricia and Sean Harris, Carol and Patrick McCabe, Marcia McCurdy, Julianne Roth, Barbara and Rob Rowlson, Ron Roy, Michelle and Joseph Sullivan, David and Lisa Wurzer and Darlene and Tibor Zoller will also be on hand to greet guests. I could not leave anyone out. That's why I read the entire list.

Already mentioned but let's emphasize Celebrate West Hartford is this weekend. You already see some of the various activities and things on display to help celebrate that in the parking lot. That is this weekend It features a 5-K road race including one for the little ones, an arts and crafts show and it will be right here in the center of town in the Blue Back Square area near Town Hall.

Already mentioned and I'll abbreviate this one but I do want to emphasize it by the Town Manager we are also going to have the Vietnam Moving Wall. One point to mention is unlike other ceremonies for veterans or perhaps even the Memorial Day Parade, this is a very solemn event. It's meant to be quiet is my understanding. It's meant for folks to come and reflect, whether they had family members in the war or knew of friends or other loved ones. It's meant to be a place for folks to come and to think and reflect so on that point there will be a Candlelight Vigil on Saturday, June 19 at 8:45 P.M. during which the names of all 612 Connecticut residents killed in Vietnam will be read.

And finally, the Hartford Stage is holding its summer series right here in West Hartford at Kingswood-Oxford. As its theater in Hartford is under construction the Hartford Stage will have its summer series at Kingswood-Oxford School. An exciting Broadway Legends production comprising three Broadway stars are featured for limited engagements to perform their one man/one woman shows. These legends include Elaine Stritch followed by Chita Rivera and closes with Ben Vereen so we look forward to that

and hopefully folks from West Hartford can enjoy a little bit closer proximity to the Hartford Stage. Any other announcements? Mrs. Hall?

Councilor Hall: Thank you. I had recently attended the board meeting of the West Hartford Community TV that's broadcasting this show tonight I guess, meeting tonight, and they recently tested a live simulcast of a Board of Ed meeting on the town's low-power AM radio station, 1630. The low-power radio station provides routine and emergency information to listeners just within the town. The FCC license prohibits music or programs of commercial value but residents will now be able to either watch the meetings on their computer, on their cable television or listen to them on the radio on station 1630. Thank you.

Vice President Brennan: Mr. Davidoff?

Councilor Davidoff: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Mayor. I have three that I think are quite significant. First, to reiterate the referendum is Tuesday, June 15. Polls are open from 6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. Voting is at the regular polling location where you usually vote. The second, June is graduation month and we'd be remiss to not announce that on Thursday, June 17 the classes from Conard and Hall will graduate. A special shout out to Mr. Adler's son, Josh and to my niece, Rachel, who will be graduating in class of 2010 from Hall High School. And lastly, the weekend of June 17 and 18 or I think...I'm sorry, the 18th and 19th is the Relay for Life sponsored by the American Cancer Society to be held over at Northwest Catholic so there's a lot going on in West Hartford in the next three weeks and I hope people can enjoy it and do it safely. Thank you.

Vice President Brennan: Thank you, Mr. Davidoff. Mr. Adler?

Councilor Adler: Through you, Mr. Deputy Mayor to the Town Manager. I just want to hopefully on behalf of the Council I want to thank you for the Memorial Day Parade that we had again this year. I mean it's just with all the things that are going on in this town and just in the world in general it really felt like just a great time so I want to thank you for that.

Mr. Van Winkle: If I could just comment. I have nothing to do with the Memorial Day Parade but thank you very much. Peggy Gray is the head of the Memorial Day Parade. Peggy has been active in the community affairs for many years. She does a fabulous job. I get to march in it like you but I actually don't play a role except for our staff that goes out and makes sure that the streets are controlled. Our police department is out there but I do not directly have...but Peggy does wonderful work and we really appreciate how much effort she puts into that.

Councilor Adler: Thank you, Mr. Manager, and just for the record I probably am not going to say anything nice to you for the rest of my term so... *(Laughter)* So June, this Thursday, June 10... You know I'm joking... There is a West Hartford Volunteers Luncheon I think. Councilman Casperson and myself, she had mentioned this Thursday as well as there was one other thing. I think that was it. Thank you.

Vice President Brennan: That's a snazzy iPhone. Are you getting the next version?

Councilor Adler: I can't afford it..

Vice President Brennan: Okay. Very good point. Actually on the point of the Memorial Day Parade, I agree. It's my absolute favorite parade. It's so well-done and this is before my time. I always loved going to it and I'm not a real parade guy to be honest with you but I love that parade and the town, whoever is here, comes out for it. It's efficient. It's short. Not too long and a very nice ceremony at the end and you're right, Peggy Gray, who is Secretary of the Veteran's Commission in West Hartford in the last two years has taken up the lead on this and it's no easy task to be honest with you. I appreciate all the work that she does but the torch did need to be passed and one initiative that the Commission came up with but I'm privy to because I attend their meetings and I'm proud for them is that they asked that those marching in the parade might do something small to honor veterans and those who've passed as they march and, in particular, as we've all noticed, most of the marchers are children. So they asked the children through the various leaders of their organizations to perhaps, you know, hold something - a handmade banner, a flag, and this was the first year at communicating that effort and in addition to all the other communications of no throwing candy and such it got through a little bit. I think they'll try again next year. In particular though I know I was very impressed by...West Hartford Little League had gone to a printer and printed their own new banner that they held at the head of the Little League marchers that said West Hartford Little League thanks West Hartford Veterans and wow! I'm impressed! So kudos to the Commission for that. I think that's exactly the right thing to do and I think we'll see even more of that next year. Any other announcements? Mr. Durbin?

Councilor Durbin: Just to echo Leon's comment earlier about the referendum. A lot of exciting things - the Memorial Day Parade, the Moving Wall, the palm print machine. I'm serious. The energy manager. All this is very exciting and very important but after I guess Celebrate West Hartford the most immediate thing we have is the referendum. It's an extremely important vote. I got an email from a resident today asking me to specifically address this and emphasize it and that it is Tuesday, 6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. at your regular polling location and a vote yes is a vote in support of the budget. Again it's exceptionally important and I think we all agree that everyone should go out and vote and hopefully vote in favor of the budget. Thank you.

Vice President Brennan: Thank you, Mr. Durbin. Anyone else? Okay. We move on to Reports of the Corporation Counsel. Mr. O'Brien?

ITEM #15: REPORTS OF CORPORATION COUNSEL:

Mr. O'Brien: Yes, thank you very much. At our last Council meeting Councilor Durbin asked a question about what the options were for the Town Council should the voters reject the budget at referendum and as I indicated then one of my predecessors, Marjorie Wilder, had issued a written report, a written opinion on that which we dug out from the year 1990 and what your options would be - number one, you could not increase the

overall budget but you must make some form of change to the budget. You do not have to decrease the budget either, but you at least have to reallocate a line item. You cannot simply pass the same budget because that's been rejected by the voters so what your options would be is to reduce the total town budget and revise line items in the town budget accordingly. You can also reduce the Board of Education allocation but you cannot revise their line items. That would be up to them. The second option is you could reallocate your own line items but yet not change the total amount of the budget. You could do that as well but you could not pass the same budget and you cannot increase the budget so I'm hoping that answers your question. If you have any further questions on that please let me know.

The second item is we did send out our written opinion as to the implications of a change in party affiliation by a sitting member of the Town Council which in this case resulted in the Council going from a 6-3 to a 7-2 party affiliation split and as, you know, our written opinion states it's been signed off by both myself and Deputy Corporation Counsel Alair, there is no violation of either the state statute governing minority representation or our charter provision governing minority representation so the Council can and will remain a 7-2 split until the next election when neither party can nominate more than 6 and no more than 6 can stay in for election as part of either party so any questions you have on that let me know.

Vice President Brennan: Any questions for Corporation Counsel? Mr. Davidoff?

Councilor Davidoff: Point of order. I'd like to read into the record the conclusion of that legal opinion since this involved me and it was front page news in last week's West Hartford News and the question was to research the legal implications of my recent decision to change my party affiliation from Republican to Democrat so without reading the well-reasoned, well-written legal opinion of our Corporation Counsel and it would probably be available here in the Town Clerk's office, let me read the conclusion so that there won't be any uncertainty for the remainder of my term as to the conclusion which was reached by Corporation Counsel. It says 5) Conclusion: In summary, several factors led us to the conclusion that Councilor Davidoff must continue to be viewed as a member of the Republican Party for the remainder of the current Town Council term. Under our charter he was nominated by the Republican Party. Under general statute Section 9-167a(g) he was both the nominee of the Republican Party and a member of that party as of the date of his nomination. Both our charter and general statutes Section 9-167a use nomination as the time when party affiliation is to be established. No provision of our charter or of Section 9-167a suggests that the affiliation of a sitting member of the Town Council is to be reevaluated at any point after it is originally established. The "three month rule" contained in Section 9-167a(g) cannot reasonably be construed to imply that a person's new political affiliation is somehow intended to spring into effect after the three month period has expired so it disqualifies them from serving out their term. Finally, we are compelled to note that Councilor Davidoff did simply change his party affiliation to "unaffiliated" and rendered the present question altogether moot. It seems somewhat peculiar and illogical to spread so many implications to an act which could be undone so simply and effectively. And I'd also like to state for the record that I will not

be caucusing with the Republican members of the Town Council for the remainder of the term, nor will I be caucusing with the Democratic members of the Town Council as it was elected in November. I will be a caucus of one so that I can best serve the interests of the residents of West Hartford without any undo political influence. Thank you.

Vice President Brennan: I'm hoping nonetheless we can continue to work together as a body as we have. Mrs. Hall?

Councilor Hall: I just wanted to thank you both for your work in putting together your opinion. I appreciate it. As you know my main concern is how we end up...are able to best, you know, represent this to the constituents that elected us so one of my questions if this is your opinion then is how would it work when... I understand Mr. Davidoff saying that he would not be caucusing with the Democrats but if he were to decide to caucus with the Democrats does that then become a meeting that would have to be noticed and subject to FOIA?

Mr. O'Brien: Right. Well, that's correct and that's why he cannot caucus with the Democrats at this point in time or during the remainder of his term because it would implicate FOIA.

Councilor Hall: And so then just for another point for the subcommittees, for instance, Finance and Budget is currently made up of the Mayor, Mayor Slifka, Mrs. Cantor and Mr. Davidoff so when looking at that and it's three Democrats if they had a vote and even though the rest of us are able to attend the meetings we wouldn't be a voting member of that subcommittee so in your opinion are you saying that would still meet the requirement of the law?

Mr. O'Brien: You mean if the subcommittee was comprised of three Democrats?

Councilor Hall: Um hmm.

Mr. O'Brien: Yes. That would still meet the requirements of the Minority Representation Law. Is that what you're...?

Councilor Hall: Um hmm.

Mr. O'Brien: Yes. Yes, it would. Yes, because for purposes of the law Mr. Davidoff...Councilor Davidoff is considered a Republican because that's what he was when he was nominated.

Councilor Hall: So what do you think... I guess I'm just confused. What do you think the intent of the law was to begin with?

Mr. O'Brien: The intent of the law was to preserve minority representation and not allow one political party to have total dominance indefinitely even though you do have situations such as the one here where for the remainder of this term there will be 7

Democratic members of a 9 member body but what the law does is says at the end of this term then the Democrats cannot nominate 7 of their members to run for Council so it has to go back at least to a 6-3 after the election so each election cycle brings back into play the full effect of the Minority Representation Law.

Councilor Hall: But I guess technically somebody could get elected and the next day switch parties.

Mr. O'Brien: That could happen. It could go either way, of course, too. And if it, you know, if it's a 5-4 Council it would certainly not, you know, cause any imbalance, so to speak. So...but that could happen. So it could come up again. It's come up before and it could come up again.

Councilor Hall: And just for clarity, this is your opinion and the way this could work legally is somebody else could have a different opinion, right?

Mr. O'Brien: Well, it's my opinion. It's Pat Alair's opinion. It's not a ruling by the court so obviously if an action was brought and a court disagreed with us then the court ruling is what would stand.

Councilor Hall: Okay. Thank you very much.

Mr. O'Brien: You're very welcome.

Vice President Brennan: In fact, to your point, Mr. O'Brien, about the ability to switch either way. If memory serves and if someone has a history here in this but I believe it was a member of the Board of Ed elected as a Democrat who switched to Republican. Is that a correct history of West Hartford?

Mr. O'Brien: I think that did occur in the late 90s as I recall. Yes. Tom Fiorentino made the switch. Yes.

Vice President Brennan: Mr. Adler?

Councilor Adler: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Mayor. Through to Corporate Counsel. So just to reaffirm this is your opinion based on Councilman Davidoff in terms of switching parties and I appreciate Councilman Davidoff saying that he would not be caucusing with the Democrats or the Republican Party for the remainder of this term which is... I take it a couple of different ways. In a way it's kind of sad because he brings a lot of institutional knowledge and to be able to not be able to share that I think is only really a disservice to the Town Council so I'm a little bit saddened by that. The other thing that I have is if he is not going to caucus with us one of the concerns that I have is that we're not really having a true representation of the 6-3 because, you know, in order for, you know, for example if Minority Leader Hall and myself had an idea that we wanted to drive into the subcommittees our span of now how we touch those committees is a little bit more challenging for us because we have one less person because unfortunately Mr.

Davidoff, Councilman Davidoff would not be caucusing with us so I appreciate him saying that but it still puts us at a very great disadvantage with respect to that. The other thing too is within your opinion I didn't... I don't believe there was any case law or administrative law of prior history of examples where this was considered appropriate or not appropriate and I just want to clarify that with you that, in fact, the conclusion based on your opinion was strictly your opinion based on the statute of how it was written.

Mr. O'Brien: Yes, that's correct because there was decided lack of case law in this area but the statute, when you read the statute at least to my mind it seems, you know, quite clear in terms of how you measure party affiliation for purposes of applying the statute and that the measure is at the time of nomination.

Vice President Brennan: Any further comments?

Councilor Durbin: Just a quick question.

Vice President Brennan: Mr. Durbin?

Councilor Durbin: Was there any case law... I know there wasn't any case law specifically on this point of a person switching but was there any general case law from the Supreme Court on what the general intent of the statute is?

Mr. O'Brien: No. No, not that we could find.

Councilor Durbin: Thanks.

Vice President Brennan: Anyone else? I'll make a final remark to just reemphasize the point that it's I think everyone's hope here that we can just continue to work well together. When we're a body of nine I think we accomplish our goals the best for the residents. To be honest I think when we sit here party affiliation is the last thing on most of our minds. It is on mine. To your point, Mr. Adler, about reaching subcommittees, I think we've had a very good working relationship. I think, you know, as well with Mr. Durbin we have been on the same committees. I can speak the same about Mrs. Hall, I think Mr. Davidoff as well. When you have... I've always said ideas, you know, bring on the good ideas and the way agenda items go onto any subcommittee is by the chair. The chairs are all of the majority party and we have had a very, very open process with that and it's my intention to keep that going. I really genuinely hope that we can just put this to bed and turn the page and get back to, you know, serving the people of West Hartford because I think it's just going to be a bump in the road. A year-and-a-half from now or so we'll go back to the voters and let them work it out.

Councilor Casperson: I was just going to state and apologize for the late comment but really in seeing the Council, especially from a first term perspective, I have been encouraged by the collaboration of the Council for I think the well-being of the town. In getting to know Mr. Davidoff I could not see how that would change. I do respect the stance that he has taken in not caucusing with either group. I think that it is a challenge

because he does bring a great deal to every meeting that we have from a standpoint of knowledge and the things that have happened on the Council before, the perspective that he brings. So I would say that, you know, and when I look at, you know, our budget, the largest thing that we've accomplished here on the town, it was a completely bipartisan effort so I cannot see how that would change, how everyone is indeed able to vote as an individual representing our constituency so that has not changed so, you know, just in seeing that I would see nothing but success for this Council in being able to drive and encourage each other to new heights for ideas and collaboration for everything that we can do for the town so I would not expect anything less from any of us and just would encourage and support the stance that Mr. Davidoff has taken as a respected member of this Council and be able to continue to work together in collaboration and for the best of our constituents in West Hartford. Thank you.

Vice President Brennan: Thank you, Mrs. Casperson. Mr. Adler?

Councilor Adler: Just real quick. Thank you, Deputy Mayor, and I agree with you Councilwoman Casperson and Deputy Mayor. I think one of the things that really is a benefit even though we're at a 7-2 right now is that we do have a very good working relationship and it's certainly extremely healthy for me personally to be able to work with you guys even though we're going through this 7-2 thing so I do appreciate that including yourself and for everyone that I'm on the committee or we're on the committees with. The thing that I just want to conclude with is that I think the general public expects some sort of a balance of government and, you know, I'm not going to get into the whole, you know, political science graduate course here but I think we're missing something here. I think the public wants, you know, that healthy debate and that healthy balance between opposing sides even though we're not really opposing most of the time so that's kind of where the rub is with me and it's no reflection to Councilman Davidoff. It could have been any one of us but the point is I think we're short-selling a little bit of the general public that they expect a balance and they expect some sort of a...kind of a stop-gap to be able to have a dialogue about opposing sides so that's the only thing that I wanted to end up with. All-in-all I think we have a very healthy relationship here and as you said, Councilwoman Casperson, I would expect that to go forward as well through the rest of the term.

Vice President Brennan: Thank you, Mr. Adler. Mr. Davidoff?

Councilor Davidoff: I'd just like to state for the record I appreciate the kind remarks of Councilwoman Casperson and those of the Deputy Mayor and I'd also like to state that when there is debate at this Council table I think that the opposing views would be heard based on whether or not they're common sense and the good ideas will rise to the top and those without merit will sink to the bottom without regard to political affiliation and whether it be my service on the Newington Town Council, the West Hartford Town Planning and Zoning Commission or this body I have never witnessed where something is based totally on political affiliations of those sitting around the table to make the decision. Good, common sense decisions rise to the top. Those will be the way that I will conduct myself for the remainder of this term and I'm certain that the respect and

admiration I have for my colleagues here, you also will be guided by that same principle. Thank you.

Vice President Brennan: Ms. Hall?

Councilor Hall: Certainly. Since I sort of brought this up at the last meeting I just want to kind of circle back and say I agree, we've all had a great working relationship. This is not from my perspective a personality thing or a, you know, can we work together in the future. I tend to be one of those people that if there's a policy, there's a procedure, if there's a law I want it to make sense. I want to be able to understand it. I want to see what the purpose was and I want to adhere to it. So to me it seemed like we had a law that seemed to look for something, some kind of makeup and this didn't seem to fit that and even reading it it seems ambiguous so I like that black and white when it comes to these types of things and if the law isn't doing what we wanted it to do we should change the law or make it unambiguous but yes, I appreciate all the good work that everybody does. Thank you.

Vice President Brennan: Mr. O'Brien, any comments on shades of gray in the law? *(Laughter)*

Mr. O'Brien: No, but I do want to say we don't need an Executive Session tonight.

Vice President Brennan: That is welcome to us. Thank you.

Mr. O'Brien: I knew it would be.

Vice President Brennan: Okay. So if nothing further... Anyone? Can we then move on to #21, Mr. Verrengia?

Councilor Verrengia: I've been so quiet just listening to all this. It's a very interesting debate.

REPORTS OF STANDING OR SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

ITEM #21: MINUTES FROM FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE 05-19-10 AND 05-26-10.

RECEIVED

Councilor Verrengia: I move to receive.

Councilor Durbin: Second.

Vice President Brennan: I believe, Mr. Davidoff, you have a comment on this?

Councilor Davidoff: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Mayor. I ask that this item not be put on Consent because at the last Council Meeting Councilor Adler asked that we should explore opportunities where committee meetings would be recorded or where we would have some type of record as to what is being discussed at this meeting and if one looks here, and this was a key meeting which was attended by Councilwoman Cantor, Minority Leader Hall, myself and Councilman Adler with the appropriate staff present and under Item 1 it said the Committee discussed the options for budget reduction should the referendum turn down the adopted budget and what it doesn't reflect, and I think is quite important and it ought to be put on the record this evening in light of the fact that there's going to be a referendum on Tuesday the 15th, I said that I would not support any further reductions more than \$1 in the budget that we adopted and I think that's important that the voters know that this evening - that I will not support any further reduction and I think it was also mentioned that there were no items offered in particular with dollar amounts stated as to what would be reduced from a budget should the budget fail and there was when I left that meeting the opinion that everybody was unanimous in that belief as I had just stated so I just want to state that for the record. I'm not asking that the minutes be amended. There's not enough people here who would have attended the meeting but I think it's just important to get that on the record in light of what Mr. Adler brought up at our last Council meeting and the passion I feel for this budget that I felt that we did a lot of due diligence. We worked really diligently to give us a tax increase of only 2.24 percent so it's another avenue for me to advocate for the position residents of West Hartford go on June 15, parents of schoolchildren go on June 15, seniors and everyone else go on June 15 and vote yes. We've done a great job. Let us move on to other issues that are of utmost significance to this community so that we're not addressing a budget in September of this year. Let's put this thing to bed June 15. May the yeses have more votes than the noes and that's it. Thank you for your indulgence this evening Mr. Deputy Mayor.

Vice President Brennan: Further comments? Mr. Adler?

Councilor Adler: Yes, Deputy Mayor. Through you in response to Councilman Davidoff and I'm not going to get into how people should vote but I think again getting to how we record the minutes to the subcommittee meetings, you know, we have a 216 million dollar plus budget. I think we can kind of figure out how to record and capture those minutes appropriately rather than having a one page so I'd like to refer it to Administration and Technology where we can at least make it an agenda item just real quick to talk about how do we capture these minutes because there's going to be people out there that are going to go what is going on? I can't get to a committee meeting at X hour of the day so we're not talking about high quality audio here. I think if we can do that I'd appreciate it. Thanks. *(Clapping)*

Vice President Brennan: You have some fans in the audience and, again, I think the new iPhone has an app for that but in all seriousness great idea. I think, you know, as a member of that committee I think it's a great idea.

Councilor Durbin: I agree. I think we should... We'll put it on the agenda for this coming meeting.

I call that access to a subcommittee right there.

Vice President Brennan: I call that access to a subcommittee right there. Alright. Good. Any other comments on this item? Okay. That moves us past the Reports of Standing Committees and we have our favorite agenda item, the Consent Calendar, Mr. Verrengia.

ITEM #23: CONSENT CALENDAR

ITEM #18: FROM CAPITOL REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS RE: ORDINANCE PERMITTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CERTAIN ADDITIONAL USES IN INDUSTRIAL ZONES – FINDING NO APPARENT CONFLICT WITH REGIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES OR THE CONCERNS OF NEIGHBORING TOWNS.

ITEM #19: MINUTES FROM ADMINISTRATION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE 05-27-10.

ITEM #20: MINUTES FROM COMMUNITY PLANNING AND PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE 05-19-10.

ITEM #22: MINUTES FROM HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE 05-26-10.

Councilor Verrengia: Move to adopt.

Councilor Durbin: Second.

Vice President Brennan: All in favor? Communications. Number 24, Mr. Verrengia.

COMMUNICATIONS:

ITEM #24: FROM LINDA DINAPOLI (05-18-10) REQUESTING PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE TOWN COUNCIL REGARDING ROADS, REVENUE, AND RESPONSE.

RECEIVED

Councilor Verrengia: I move that we receive.

Councilor Durbin: Second.

Vice President Brennan: Those in favor? All against? Okay. Motion carries. Ms. DiNapoli, you have five minutes please.

Ms. DiNapoli: I'm going to divert a little bit. I think it's interesting that my first subject for tonight is roads. I'm going to go into that but to Mr. Brennan's point, this is not a bump in the road, what Mr. Adler has done. This is a crater. Okay? He betrayed the trust of those who voted for him.

Councilor Adler: You know, not to be rude but can you... I just want to clarify. Mr. Adler? You meant...

Ms. DiNapoli: I'm sorry. I meant Mr. Davidoff. Absolutely, yes.

Vice President Brennan: Mrs. DiNapoli?

Ms. DiNapoli: Yes.

Vice President Brennan: I think you have to stay to the items that you have on your list here which would be roads.

Ms. DiNapoli: Roads. I'm talking about roads.

Ms. DiNapoli: You mentioned roads and it's part of roads. Okay?

Vice President Brennan: That's...

Ms. DiNapoli: So I'll go on to my roads.

Vice President Brennan: Let's just stick to the agenda...

Ms. DiNapoli: Alright. I'm here to request from the Town Manager specific information regarding the plan for improving the condition of the roads throughout the Town of West Hartford. With the budget constraints as they are today I'm seeking a list of streets that are going to be repaved and requesting specifically the streets in the Bishops Corner area, my neighborhood and Mr. Davidoff's, be forwarded to me. I have requested on numerous occasions work be done on a specific road in our neighborhood - Skonet. There were craters. I had a lot of trouble with this. My feeling is is this the next area just ripe for budget reduction? You seem to specialize in selecting areas that most severe impact the residents who pay taxes here which, by the way, fund the employees, salaries, pensions and activities. Regarding revenue, folks, that's where the money is. It's heavily weighted to the taxes on your property and that's an area that needs to be straightened out. However, I seem to be zoning in on my favorite department - zoning. If they would function appropriately and the people who ride around in the cars using our gas and they're in those cars from 8:00 in the morning until 1:00. If you've ever tried to call them you're told you can't reach them until after 1:00 in the afternoon. Their position is they won't act on a zoning violation unless one of us calls in. I find that appalling quite frankly. If they see something they are zoning officers. They are supposed to act upon it. This is just lost money that could easily provide another teacher. You know? It could add to very, very many things in the town and I'm very upset that we allow employees to

behave in this manner. I'm also requesting an update on the fine collections. I believe Mr. Adler, you picked up on this when I testified about it before so hopefully you will just request from the Tax Collector again an update on the outstanding fine collections and how she is doing in that regard.

When it gets to Grassmere Avenue, now we're missing a big one here. There's a gold mine of zoning violations there from businesses operating beyond their allowed hours, operating outside of their permitted uses, vendors being spray painted in full view, too many cars parked in lots, garbage all over the place and rats the size of small dogs, ATVs and cars racing up and down the streets until midnight. Why do I know that? I've been there. I've seen it. The Arbuglios are friends of mine. What is it going to take for you people to do something about this? Okay? Again, another NIMBY issue here - not in my backyard. I don't care. Well, I care. I care about my town. I care about my neighbors. I care about preserving property so that we can turn it into tax revenue property locations in the future which would therefore possibly reduce our taxes. I'm requesting that for the purposes of public safety the Fire Chief go and inspect all of these buildings on Grassmere and Talcott Road this week and I'd like a copy of this report. I feel that you're putting our firemen at risk and the people in those neighborhoods. If I see no action is taken on this I am going to be forced to contact Attorney General Richard Blumenthal. I know he has an interest in this area and I will be happy to assist him with whatever information he needs, as well as Mr. Arbuglio. Air and ground waste pollution appear in our town code. The annotated municipality statutes and regulation and agency statute law of municipalities also talks about all this. This isn't pie in the sky. These are laws. Are we going to follow them? We make laws for people to follow them. Let's get with it. I told you before as a landlord I was held personally accountable. I lived in Manhattan. I came here immediately and took care of the problem with my tenant. Why are these landlords on Grassmere Avenue held to a different standard? Is it because one of them is an alternate Council Member? He should be asked to resign.

Vice President Brennan: Ms. DiNapoli, thank you for your comments.

Ms. DiNapoli: It's not five minutes.

Vice President Brennan: It is.

Ms. DiNapoli: No, it isn't.

Councilor Davidoff: Point of order, Mr. Deputy Mayor.

Vice President Brennan: Mrs. DiNapoli, we need to play by the rules.

Ms. DiNapoli: Miss DiNapoli and it's not five minutes.

Councilor Davidoff: Point of order.

Vice President Brennan: Okay.

Ms. DiNapoli: I have my own timers.

Vice President Brennan: Would you kindly take a seat?

Ms. DiNapoli: No.

Vice President Brennan: Out of order.

Councilor Davidoff: Point of order, Mr. Deputy Mayor. The time of the lady has expired.

Vice President Brennan: Right.

Councilor Davidoff: I'd ask that she relinquish the podium.

Vice President Brennan: That's right. Okay. You are out of order.

Ms. DiNapoli: Well, how about a wrap up?

Vice President Brennan: Onto...

Ms. DiNapoli: How about a wrap up?

Vice President Brennan: No. We're going onto #25. Would you kindly have a seat?

Ms. DiNapoli: Well, you can go on to whatever you want. I'm going to go on. Okay?

Councilor Davidoff: Point of order, Mr. Deputy Mayor. I ask that she be removed from the podium.

Ms. DiNapoli: Well, all I can say, in closing is...

Vice President Brennan: Ms. DiNapoli...

Ms. DiNapoli: ...make sure you check your tax phase-in records.

(Podium microphone turned off)

Vice President Brennan: Okay. Number 25, Mr. Verrengia, please.

Councilor Davidoff: Excuse me, Mr. Deputy Mayor. I would like to...

Vice President Brennan: Oh, sorry. Mr. Davidoff, I apologize.

Councilor Davidoff: Thank you. I'd like to put on the record that I find our Zoning Enforcement Officials to be quite competent, able to perform their jobs to the best of their

ability and with the downsized staff that we have and the territory that we have to deal with I think that they do a great job in administering the zoning regulations of the Town of West Hartford. I've had personal experience with them since I served on the Town Planning and Zoning Commission and to let the attack go on upon these employees who are not here this evening to defend themselves would be inappropriate and I won't tolerate it so I think it's very important that the public know and have confidence that the people that work for the Town of West Hartford do so with competency, with fairness and with the ability to uphold the standards that they're employed to uphold and to suggest otherwise is just completely wrong-minded. Thank you.

Vice President Brennan: Thank you, Mr. Davidoff and for those who are watching, the Town Clerk keeps the time and at this portion of the meeting we have a five minute limit. Next is #25, Mr. Verrengia please.

ITEM #25: FROM ROBERT J. MILNE (05-20-10) REQUESTING PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE TOWN COUNCIL REGARDING ITEM 292.

RECEIVED

Councilor Verrengia: Motion to receive.

Councilor Durbin: Second.

Vice President Brennan: All in favor? All against? Okay, Mr. Milne, you have five minutes please.

Mr. Milne: I did witness tonight the drag race down 3 Osage Road so...and the police did nothing about it. Item 292 - I'm up to 292 by the way and there's been no communication between the Council or anyone in this body, in this town that have responded to any of these issues so just to remind you that doing nothing is a disservice to this town. Item 292 again is another analysis of properties that are coming on the market and I presented this... You all have the handout? You people aren't even getting them. No. The item, the 292? Did you get this one?

Vice President Brennan: We all have #292.

Mr. Milne: And again, it establishes that again there is no relationship between market value and current value. Everything that I'm saying shows that the assessment system, complicated with reevaluation phase-in and suspension thereof has been convoluted in the entire system at this point in time with this sample. It's conclusive in my opinion that there is no relationship between current value and market value. Some of these properties... I found eight properties with no assessment and no record of paying any tax on these properties. That's eight more. Since I issued this memorandum I found three more and it really is interesting in my mind as to why a property wouldn't even be taxed on land for which new construction is actually built on. There's no record. You check

the public record. You check realtor.com and there's no tax on these properties. There's eight here and I think you need to explain to the public why.

In support of this, the information I sent out to you in particular a magazine which Mr. Van Winkle did not present to the Council, the Hartford Magazine which is published here in town, was not generous as it related to the Town of West Hartford and I'll give you some highlights from that. And what's the relationship between this? Clearly there's information I provide you that it seems that the Council is ignoring. It's clear that most of the stuff that you speak about is self-promoting and, in many cases, certainly lacks any sense of modesty when the Council gets in the mindset of complimenting itself. This magazine again collaborates the information I have been giving you. To show you how out of context this town process is along with the Council and the Assessor's office the article in listing these best places to live 1) states that the economic status is not impressive in the Town of West Hartford. 2) It's a high cost of living. 3) High poverty value in relationship to other comparable towns. 4) Household income \$77,918. Remember Robert Sisk and you see in those handouts that the average employee in this town makes \$82,000. That eclipses the entire household income, the median household income in the Town of West Hartford. They also mention that taxes were high. They also mentioned that the median price of a house, the difference between the high and the low, the halfway point is \$305,000 and I've shown you property after property after property with tax benefit after tax benefit after tax benefit. Where are the benefits for these people who aren't paying? When do we stand up as people in our community and show a little compassion about those who are less fortunate. I'm sure many of you here have done well in your lives but my god, where's the compassion and the sharing and building a community. When you start looking at people who don't have any access to government, who are totally ignored by this government system... There are no systems of checks and balances and the list can go on and on and on. The last issue talks about the significance of debt being very high on a per capita basis. These are all issues that I have basically presented this Council. This magazine has it mentioned. I suggest you read it and explain to the people why this analysis is what it is. And this is a magazine that's published from a firm that exists, a West Hartford-based firm on South Main Street.

Now, consistent with that information, information made public by the West Hartford Taxpayer's Association and Mr. Sisk, I gave you a copy of the information he submitted to you about the average employee and the compensation thereof. I also gave you a copy of his conclusions where he specifically in writing for the Council and for the town speaks about political decisions being made with regard to the referendum. He speaks of grossly being unfair. He speaks about favoring. These are all illegal. If the outcome of any process in taxation creates this unfairness, politically motivated or compensatory in nature or favors anybody, the end result is illegal. Case closed. And all this manipulation with the tax rules have done nothing more than degrade and destroy the confidence that anyone should have in our assessment system. There is no relationship between current value and market value. You should be concerned. You should be very concerned about this whether you agree with me or disagree with me. I have found no evidence of any system of stableness.

Vice President Brennan: Thank you, Mr. Milne. Your time is up, please. Thank you very much for your comments.

Mr. Milne: It's about time you did something about this, please.

Vice President Brennan: Okay.

Mr. Milne: Rather than patting yourselves on the back.


Vice President Brennan: Mr. Verrengia, we move to the last item.

Councilor Verrengia: I make a motion to adjourn.

Councilor Davidoff: Second.

Vice President Brennan: I think we've had a motion to adjourn? Is... We all in favor? Okay. Anyone against? It carries. The Council Meeting is adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.



Essie S. Labrot
Town Clerk/Council Clerk

/sab

APPROVED AT JUNE 22, 2010 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING