

**MINUTES OF WEST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 9, 2009 LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER AGENDA No. 34**

President Scott Slifka called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

President Slifka: Good evening. We're going to call the Council Meeting to order and begin with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ITEM #2: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Slifka: Can we have a roll call, please, Ms. Labrot?

**ITEM #3: ROLL CALL**

Present were Councilors Steven Adler, Tim Brennan, Shari Cantor, Chuck Coursey, Leon Davidoff, Scott Slifka, Carolyn Thornberry, Joe Verrengia and Joe Visconti.

President Slifka: Pardon me. I'd like to entertain a motion to suspend the rules for the purpose of presenting an award and proclamation.

Vice President Brennan: So moved.

Councilor Coursey: Second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Being none all those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. If I could have our Poet Laureate join me at the podium. Maria? And if I could have Councilor Cantor join me as well. This is a very unique night for us here at the Council. A few years ago through Mrs. Cantor's work and work with our Poet Laureate, Maria Sassi, the town established for the first time the position of Poet Laureate. Now for those of you who might be concerned in these budget times, this is of course and unpaid, honorary position but it did have some important cultural significance for us here at the Council and Maria has served that role ably and is retiring from that role tonight. Now she did that by design. When we established it we largely established the role around Maria who we discovered was one of our wonderful, nationally acclaimed poets but was living right here in West Hartford. We were thrilled to be able to create the position around her but she suggested right away it should not be something that would be a permanent position for her so tonight we are sad to see you go and we wanted to leave you with two things. One will go home with you and one will stay here. The first is simply a small token of our appreciation. It's a certificate in recognition and admiration of Maria Sassi, first Poet Laureate of the Town of West Hartford, for her dedicated commitment in promoting and sharing her love of poetry in our community. Thank you for all your service.

Ms. Sassi: Thank you so much. It was such a privilege. (*Clapping.*)

President Slifka: And the one that will stay here but is also, we hope, a gift to you is we have established this plaque which will now hang I believe here in the legislative chamber. We're going to try to find a place for it in here which will forever list all of the Poet Laureates who have served the Town of West Hartford and, of course, you are first and your term will be on here for everybody who comes to see in the future. Thank you again, Maria.

Ms. Sassi: Thank you all. Thank you. May I address? (*Clapping.*)

President Slifka: Please. We... You're the poet so you're the one who should be speaking as opposed to me.

Ms. Sassi: I guess I ...

President Slifka: But let's get you in front of the mike.

Ms. Sassi: I just want to say that I feel privileged and honored to be part of the whole poet laureateship that's going on and on. This is a wonderful town. It's nourished the arts in so many ways, our town, and of course it's even nourished one of the greatest poets, Wallace Stevens, and he's ours. He lived here and did so much of his creative work here. So I think this is wonderful and the laureateship is going on and this town deserves it. Poetry is here. Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you again, Maria.

Ms. Sassi: Thank you. Thank you.

President Slifka: And then later on this evening we are going to be actually voting on legislation that names our new Poet Laureate but to announce who the new is I would like to have Councilor Cantor read this proclamation and perhaps the duties with them.

Councilor Cantor: Okay. I'm going to just announce the duties. The Poet Laureate is expected to present a minimum of one event each year at either the Noah Webster Library or a space in our Town Hall fostering poetry in our West Hartford community of poet hosting involving West Hartford poets. So the proclamation is:

**WHEREAS**, the health and vitality of a community is reflected in the participation of its citizens in those activities that further the strength of the town; and

**WHEREAS**, Dennis Barone, a longtime resident of West Hartford and a respected professor, writer, and leader in the poetry community, is designated today, June 9, 2009, Poet Laureate of the Town of West Hartford for the term June 2009 to June 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, Dennis Barone will bring credit both to the Town of West Hartford and to the field of poetry by promoting poetry readings and workshops and by encouraging new poets;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that on behalf of the Town Council and the residents of West Hartford, I, Mayor R. Scott Slifka, do hereby congratulate and extend our best wishes and sincere appreciation to Dennis Barone on being named Poet Laureate of the Town of West Hartford.

Congratulations. (*Clapping.*)

President Slifka: Dennis, would you like to say anything? Your inaugural address?

Mr. Barone: I'll just say thank you to the Mayor and the Town Council and the Selection Committee and I'll thank Maria Sassi for her years of inspiring service in this role and look forward to trying to fill her shoes. Maria mentioned the poet Wallace Stevens and he loved all things French. The poet Paul Eluard once said never a mistake. Words do not lie. The earth is blue as an orange. Thank you. (*Laughter.*)

President Slifka: Thank you, both of you. And back to the less artistic portion of the evening, Number 4, Mr. Brennan.

Vice-President Brennan: Mr. Mayor, my words seem so futile after that.

**ITEM #4: APPROVAL OF MINUTES:  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 5-26-09  
PUBLIC HEARING ON 5-26-09 ON RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING  
SUBMISSION OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE GRANT  
APPLICATION**

**RECEIVED**

Vice President Brennan: I move that we receive.

Councilor Coursey: Second.

President Slifka: The motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. The Public Forum. Mr. O'Brien, if you could grab that sign-up sheet please?

**ITEM #5: PUBLIC FORUM**

President Slifka: The Public Forum section of the Town Council meeting provides 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, first please 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 a resident please let us know and we may entertain a motion to suspend the rules to allow you to

speak. You have up to three 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. And our first speaker is Robert Sisk.

Mr. Sisk: Hit the button. Okay. I don't need to repeat that, do I? My name is Robert Sisk. I live at 995 Prospect Avenue in West Hartford. I'd like to talk about I think it's Item #12, the suspension of the revaluation. I provided some of my typical slides for you and I'll try and shoot through these very quickly. I'd like to skip the first one and move immediately to slide #3 to talk about the 2006 revaluation indicated that significant shifts had taken place in the relative value of properties in the Town of West Hartford since the 1999 revaluation. The value of personal property and motor vehicles had grown relatively little. The value of commercial properties had not grown as much as residential, and within the residential segment some properties had grown in value significantly more than others. The magnitude of these shifts was due in large part to the seven year hiatus since the previous revaluation in 1999 due to a similar deferral allowed under the legislature's control in 2003. In 2007 the Council made two decisions. One, to uniformly increase the assessed value of all real estate by 25 percent rather than phasing in the inequities that had shown up in the revaluation and then the second part of the decision was to phase in the remaining part of the revaluation over four additional years. Now West Hartford property values have dropped marginally since the high in 2006. It's true. But the decrease has been evident in both the residential and the commercial areas, meaning that the 2006 Grand List is still the most accurate reflection of property values available to us.

The next page talks about the time line that leads us to where we are. The last physical inspection revaluation was done in 1999. It established property values that were held through 2006. In 2007, as I mentioned, we increased real estate values 25 percent across the board and only last year did we begin to close the gap. If we freeze the property values where they are today we basically will be going 12 years based on the 1999 values in that after the second year of the phase-in the values have a much closer relationship to the 1999 values than they do to the 2006 values.

So who's affected? Well, if we go to slide number 5, I'll have to explain this one and I'll do it very quickly. The horizontal axis indicates the percentage increase in the assessed value of properties within the town. I cut it off at 200 percent. There are cases where it has gone much higher than that and there are some who had property values actually go down. The vertical axis shows the percentage of property taxes that you pay under the various scenarios that we've looked at. The yellow line represents what your taxes would be if we had rolled in the assessment without a phase-in. The red line is the current situation. It's the five year phase-in and as you can see, anything above 67 percent assessed value increase is paying less than their fair share of the municipal tax burden and anything under 67 percent is paying more. And it's not a linear relationship. It's skewed.

If we go to the next page we'll identify who the winners and losers are in that scenario. The winners are residential owners who saw their property values increase by more than

67 percent since 1999. Not only are they enjoying the significant appreciation in value on their property when they sell their homes but they're paying property taxes based on artificially low assessments over a 12 year period. Under the current five year phase-in these residential property owners are underpaying their share of the taxes by 22 million dollars. Since property taxes are a zero sum gain, this must be made up by other taxpayers. Owners of residential properties whose assessed values did not go up by 67 percent are overpaying by 6 million dollars. Commercial property owners are overpaying by 7 million dollars and personal property owners, who again are predominantly commercial and all of us who pay for motor vehicles, are overpaying by 9 million dollars. Under tonight's proposed suspension those values will increase from 22 million to 39 million. So in conclusion, under the current five year phase in some residential taxpayers are underpaying. Others are overpaying. Under this proposal the 22 million dollar underpayment will grow to 39 million dollars. The proposed suspension will distort the relationship between fair market value and property taxes and lock it in over a 12 year period. In addition to being grossly unfair, this redistribution places an added burden on West Hartford's business community at a time when it's already under significant stress and particularly hard-hit are taxpayers in West Hartford who are tenants as their rents are being increased to cover the cost of commercial property taxes and their motor vehicles are costing them approximately 40 percent more than they otherwise would. For these reasons I respectfully suggest that the proposal to suspend the phase-in not be adopted. Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Sisk. Our next speaker is George Kennedy.

Mr. Kennedy: Good evening. My name is George Kennedy. I'm President of the West Hartford Taxpayers Association and I live at 19 Waterside Lane. I've lived here since 1951. For one of the few times Mr. Sisk and I don't necessarily agree so I'd like to pass these out to you. First and foremost, the WHTA supports adopting the revaluation phase-in legislation. For one thing, it will give our hard-pressed taxpayers a financial breather in a very difficult time and allow you folks to come to grips with revaluation the next time around. Your approval of the revaluation phase-in will provide West Hartford with a window of opportunity to plan to correct some major tax imbalances and issues. The present revaluation is seriously flawed as follows based on our research. It was performed in 2006 at the height of the real estate market and it does not reflect any current values. We know that that cannot be helped as the economy goes up and down. It was, however, a statistical computer-driven revaluation as Mr. Sisk observed, not the more physical accurate human revaluation which would have been performed but wasn't because of what I feel is a questionable legal decision they could do another statistical having done one prior. Particularly in a statistical review a few non-typical market sales or tear-down/rebuilds in a neighborhood disproportionately skew the assessments of the other homes. I talked to the assessor at length about this and she literally told me that she knew in my particular neighborhood there were some serious problems and they were going to adjust them. This is when she physically came out and inspected and was amazed to discover that houses that supposedly didn't have waterfront did have waterfront. We never heard a thing about it and were just blown off afterwards. It also was not evenly performed. It appears and is apparently common knowledge that large segments of town

were undervalued. Properties west of Mountain Road specifically in many cases are undervalued. Areas with minimum sales activity tend to be undervalued whereas higher than market sales or market renovations often play too big a role. Adopting revaluation phase-in and then performing a physical revaluation when the time comes will hopefully correct these flaws.

We hear the comment that property taxes are up because of the revaluation. That's a red herring and we all know it. Property taxes continue to rise simply because we were too generous, spent too much and didn't live within our means. Salaries and benefits are driving what we have. Fix the revaluation, yes. But we have to continue to reduce spending. This Council finally appears to be committed to doing this and we thank and applaud you for your efforts in the last budget.

We also strongly recommend as a further move toward transparent government that you consider revising the current property tax bill format as follows: Each tax bill should show at least two component expenses. One should show the amount of taxes required to support town operational expenses and the other should show the Board of Education operational expenses. People often don't know what they're really paying for and we talk about transparent government. If they are not, tax bills should be sent to all taxpayer's homes regardless of whether or not the mortgage holder directly pays the taxes. Many people, and I've talked to them, they actually don't know what they pay. The bank pays it for them. This is not transparent government. Finally, some tax policy food for thought – most tax experts agree that the property tax system is broken. It heavily penalizes empty nesters and minimal users of town services. Ultimately, as a town and state we have to significantly revise the current property tax collection methodology. A probable solution is to explore in my opinion a combination of property, usage fees and income taxes. The question is should all citizens pay for education or should the education portion of the property tax phase out after age 70 or 75 since these folks, and I'm not 70, since these folks have already paid for their kids and at least one if not two other generations? Finally, if education were to pay for it through a usage and income tax combination I guarantee you that the Board of Education and educators will suddenly become more accountable, cost conscious and results driven. Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Kennedy. The next speaker is Sandra Brook.

Ms. Brook: Good evening. My name is Sandra Brook. I live at 32 Winchester Drive. I've been a resident of West Hartford since 1969. I am Treasurer of the West Hartford Taxpayers Association. I support adopting the revaluation phase-in freeze. It will give financial help to most of the West Hartford taxpayers who need it the most who are really struggling to pay their taxes. I also support a zero budget increase for next year. Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Ms. Brook. The next speaker is Robert Milne.

Mr. Milne: Robert Milne. 3 Osage Road. I was particularly moved by the comments of Mr. Sisk. The presentation appeared to be cohesive, complete and illustrates clearly why

this whole issue on this item being proposed, with suspending the phase-in revaluation needs to be looked at further. I would suggest that a Public Forum be conducted to get this information out to the public and get feedback from the public. It should be studied. My concern is with regard to the effect it would have on Blue Back Square. In past forums the mayor has proclaimed 3 million dollars of taxes coming into Blue Back Square. The budget information suggests something around a million, a little over a million, with the exception of special assessments, resulting in expenditures in the Blue Back Fund exceeding income by \$486,000. That's a lot of money so if this proposal that Mr. Van Winkle is coming up with, is going to have a negative effect on that I think the people should know. Budget Forums - you've done them before. Why not do it again? Get this out to the public. Let the people have some input on it and I support Mr. Sisk's conclusions. Thank you very much.

President Slifka: The next speaker is Linda DiNapoli.

Ms. DiNapoli: Linda DiNapoli. 214 Mohegan Drive. Good evening. I would like Mr. Sisk's detailed information made available to every taxpayer who is interested in actually looking at it and reviewing it. I'm sure the clerk will have it at some point. Suspending the phase-in accomplishes a short-term goal, that is it gives relief to people on a short-term basis by reducing their taxes. However, eventually we're all going to have to pay the piper. I say pay the piper now. I am against suspending the phase-in because, quite frankly, the Council will have to find the money from someplace to make up the difference over the period of time we're speaking about. We've already seen the beginning with the suspension of free parking on Sundays for surface lots. It will move on from there with monies coming out of perhaps, these are suggestions, not suggestions I want adopted, the General Fund and from other areas where we really need them so I want... I do not want you to suspend the phase-in. I want you to go forward with it and we'll consider the reassessments when the appropriate time comes up. Thank you.

President Slifka: That concludes our sign-up sheet. Is there anybody who did not sign up who wished to speak to an item on the agenda this evening? Okay. Seeing none we go to Report from the Town Manger. Mr. Van Winkle?

## **ITEM #6: REPORTS OF THE TOWN MANAGER**

Mr. Van Winkle: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Good evening. First I want to mention Celebrate comes this weekend. The Town Hall is already seeing tents going up and rides coming in. It's a fabulous fair that we have in West Hartford. It's been going on for more than 20 years, all done with volunteers. It costs the town nothing but it's a great time... a great time to come out and see your neighbors so Celebrate this weekend, the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. It runs from 10:00 to 6:00 on the 13<sup>th</sup> and noon to 6:00 on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

We have talked in the past about volunteers in the Town of West Hartford and how many we have. I just wanted to note that the Department of Leisure Services and Human Services will be celebrating volunteers. The West Hartford Senior Center will honor 75 volunteers on June 8, the Elmwood Community Center will honor 105 volunteers on June

11 and Volunteer Services will honor 50 volunteers at Hamilton Heights on June 18. All of them just giving thanks for those who volunteer their time for those groups. In the past the town has supported these celebrations with some of our tax dollars. I am very pleased to note that the department has gone out and found sponsors for each of these events and they are at no cost to the Town of West Hartford.

If you've been in West Hartford a long time you might know the name Agora Ballroom. The Agora Ballroom is an old rock and roll place in the southeast corner of town. It has been empty for more than 20 years perhaps. It is being torn down. That's the good news. It has been in arrears in its taxes. Those are being brought up. The property is going to be divided up. We have a manufacturer who is going to be expanding on that site so seeing the old Agora Ballroom which had been deteriorating for many years and probably attracted a lot of problems for the police department... We're very pleased to see that come down.

In the next two months we're going to be doing work at the intersection of Sedgwick, Park and Main. This intersection is one of our high accident intersections because of the way the roads come into each other and the peak of the hill. We have 35 accidents a year at that intersection. A third of those involve injury. We're going to be adding turn lanes, left turn lanes on each leg of that so that when you pull up to that light you will get a green arrow to make that left turn and you won't have to venture across the oncoming traffic which is really the result of those accidents. I raise this only because it would be a good spot to avoid over the next two months as we do this work. I'm sure particularly at drive time at 5:00 in the evening in particular we're going to see a backup at that site that's going to be difficult but once we get done it will be safer and it also, the traffic will flow better in that area.

Finally, I just want to mention again the Morley Backpack Brigade is coming to Town Hall on June 24. If you haven't seen the Morley kids who march over with wagons from Morley School during our foods drives with wagons filled with food for our food bank, we put out a request for residents for backpacks and school supplies for needy families and the Morley students are bringing in school supplies and 300+ backpacks on June 24 at 10:00 a.m. It is a wonderful thing to see if nothing else to make everyone feel good that all the people who do good things.

I also met today with Russians. A Russian delegation came in of about 10 individuals from different cities across Russia from Siberia to Moscow and I met with a group of extremely intelligent, articulate people who have great interest in how we operate. We had a wonderful discussion and lo and behold we do a lot of things very similarly like the way we handle our capital projects the way they do. It was sponsored by the University of Connecticut and was an excellent program and it's just wonderful to see what a small world this is when we all have this relationship. That's about all I have this evening. If there are any questions I'd be glad to answer those.

President Slifka: Are there any questions for Mr. Van Winkle? Mr. Visconti?

Councilor Visconti: Yeah, Mr. Van Winkle, I notice there's two police officers in the back of the room tonight. I have noticed they've been here at most meetings. I'd like to get a report on what the cost of that is and I request to... I'd like to know why we need two and not one police officer if we need them at all. That's one thing. The second thing is the MDC. I noticed yesterday they were out in front of my mom's house doing a great job with that new baking system for the asphalt. For everyone who doesn't know what happens they come by again and they have a machine with propane and they bake the sink holes that actually sink. I noticed also that one of the...engaging some of the MDC employees that they had, gee, a list probably this thick of all the streets in West Hartford so I'd like to let the public know that they're going to be doing a lot of work or maybe we can let the public know just how many streets. I mean, they're just is a load of work to be done with this baking process on the patches so that the complaints that we get, they're on the job with it. But from what I gather just looking at what they were doing out in front of my mom's house not everywhere. Not all trenching is going to be done but I guess major...certain major patches, different areas, but there's a load of work to be done and I do get emails and I think people on the Council also get them on sink holes on all these side streets where the streets were cut up and people think they're not going to be, you know, addressed but it looked like a lot of work. Maybe you want to address that.

Mr. Van Winkle: Through you, Mr. Mayor. The MDC on an annual basis when they make a cut in the street, and we have about 4000 cuts in our streets on a single year, those contractors at times will put temporary pavement back in and then they hire a separate contractor who comes back in, takes the temporary out and puts back new clean, smooth, hopefully flat pavement. MDC is in the process of doing that in West Hartford for all the cuts that they made in our streets over the winter and last year so all of those bumps will be improved. The gas company is out there making cuts in our streets, the electric company, any number of contractors who work in our streets and we keep record of all that and they are required to come back and fill. It's good to have MDC back here in the spring, which means that our roads will be smooth this summer.

Councilor Visconti: We complained about that last year. I think Joe and I were talking about it, how he was requesting but there is just a load of work out there so people that have had side streets that it looks like it is never going to end with almost like, you know, sunken speed bumps they're...they've got a great... I never saw the process done but it was amazing.

President Slifka: Anyone else? Mr. Adler?

Councilor Adler: Through you, Mr. Mayor. First of all I wanted to thank Jim Strillacci, the Chief, as well as Mr. Van Winkle. I had an opportunity last week to ride along with West Hartford's finest with... I probably will not pronounce his name right but Sergeant Brancoforte. I knew I was going to ruin that name. And so I had an opportunity being on Public Safety. It gave me a good idea as to, you know, what it is to be a police officer in West Hartford and actually a good ground level experience. I've never ridden along with a police officer. That includes in the back seat of the vehicle. I've never had that opportunity. I'll have to maybe talk with Joe about that at some point but, Joe... I had to

clarify which Joe. (*Laughter.*) But you know which Joe I was talking about, right? So I just wanted to say it was a great experience. It really was. I think it's an eye-opening experience. I really welcome any members of the Council to do that and I certainly think, you know, the types of incidences, the rapid response. I was involved. I came home. It was exhilarating. You know? I had an opportunity to be with the Sergeant as he was doing a traffic stop and it's...it's quite an experience. So I think there's a huge public appreciation for our police officers. Certainly there are parts of this town that don't look like all the other parts of town. There are some pretty rough areas but when you go there there's a huge public appreciation for the police being there and it's clearly visible about that as well so the last thing I just wanted to mention is there's a huge professional risk with this job and it's like, you know, of course there's professional risk here. You're dealing with people that carry guns so when there's traffic stops and things like that you've got to slow down with these police officers. You would be amazed the couple of stops that the Sergeant did while I was with him, just the amount of speed people have going past those types of stops so I just want to thank you, thank you Chief, Captain Casey and of course the Sergeant so thanks again.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Adler. Anyone else? Mr. Visconti:

Councilor Visconti: Through you, Mr. Mayor. Yeah, just to remind... Steve just reminded me. Taking my mother to the doctor the other day I noticed people flying through the center. I mean cutting...two guys going through. We have cameras up and I know we can't...there's no law that allows us to ticket but do we monitor or is there a way to presently like identify those people who were flying through? It's a loaded question.

Mr. Van Winkle: Um, I don't know where your mom was going. (*Laughter.*)

Councilor Visconti: The doctor. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. Van Winkle: Oh, she wasn't flying through. Okay. As you know, the cameras that we have up at our intersections don't record. They are for the purpose of identifying when traffic is in the intersection and when the lights need to be changed as cars pass through so there are cameras located in the town. A lot of businesses have cameras and our parking lots generally have cameras in them but at this time we don't have video surveillance where we're watching for license plates or speeders. I would ask most often what we find is that you and me are out there speeding. It's not somebody who's just going crazy and we've all got really busy lives and we've got a lot on our minds but as we pass through West Hartford I would ask for all of us to drive responsibly and slow down.

President Slifka: Mr. Davidoff?

Councilor Davidoff: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I just want to address... I would assume, Mr. Van Winkle, that the cause for the police officers to be present during our meeting would be whenever their...their salaries would be whether or not they were doing other

work in the town, that there isn't an overtime assignment. It's just a regular course of employment type opportunity and to address the issue as to why they are necessary there have been several meetings during this Council term where several members of the Council have felt that their public safety may be in danger and it was the decision of this Council that police officers be present in the room to address any situations that may arise and I don't have any problems stating that for the record cause I'm one of the people that asked for that protection. Thank you.

Mr. Van Winkle: Just to respond, through you Mr. Mayor. Yes, there is no overtime or additional cost associated with this.

President Slifka: Thank you. Mr. Visconti?

Councilor Visconti: Yeah, I guess my original question on that issue of the police officers is on a... I didn't vote for that but do we need two? The question was do we need two officers? Is the threat that severe or is that a policy of the police department?

President Slifka: Mr. Van Winkle? Any other questions? Okay. Number 7, Mr. Brennan.

**ITEM #7: CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT CALENDAR: ITEMS 20-22 TO RECEIVE**

Vice President Brennan: Mr. Mayor, for the Consent Calendar I move that we place Items 14, 20-22 on the Consent Calendar.

Councilor Coursey: Second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Number 8 is being withdrawn so we go to New Business, Mr. Brennan, #9.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ITEM #9: APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF CORE VENTURES, LLC AND POLO/WEST HARTFORD, LLC FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE EXISTING SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT 7 AT 316-340 AND 342-348 NORTH MAIN STREET AND 2495 ALBANY AVENUE TO CONVERT 5,000 SQUARE FEET OF THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE WHOLE FOODS BUILDING AT 340 NORTH MAIN STREET TO USE AS A FITNESS CENTER. NO USE IS PROPOSED FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE LOWER LEVEL  
(Application is filed in the Town Council Office, Room 312)**

**SET FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON JULY 14, 2009 AT 6:30 PM IN THE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER AND REFERRED TO TPZ AND DRAC**

Vice President Brennan: I move that we set for Public Hearing on July 14, 2009 at 6:30 P.M. in the legislative chamber and refer to TPZ and DRAC.

Councilor Coursey: Second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. Mr. Brennan, go ahead.

Vice President Brennan: No, no. I just want to make sure I read it in the record. We're good?

President Slifka: Yeah. All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. What we did neglect to do was for Item 8. Just to read in for the record the letter dated June 4, 2009 from Robert Roach, Acting TPZ Chairman recommending denial for the ordinance revising mailing requirements for certain zoning applications. So we go to #10, Mr. Brennan.

**ITEM #10: ORDINANCE (VAN WINKLE) IMPLEMENTING FEES FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS**

WHEREAS the Fire Marshal is required by state law to conduct annual inspections of a variety of businesses and further required to review plans and structures associated with most construction activities within the Town; and

WHEREAS the cost of reviewing plans and inspecting businesses is significant and is not reimbursed by the state

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WEST HARTFORD THAT Chapter 87 of the West Hartford Code of Ordinances is amended by the addition of the following sections thereto:

**(New) §87-5. Permits.**

- A. No building or structure subject to the Connecticut State Fire Safety Code and/or State Fire Prevention Code shall be constructed, used, occupied, enlarged, altered or repaired unless a permit has been granted for said activity by the Fire Marshal.
- B. No person shall undertake any of the operations or activities described in section 87-6C of this chapter until such person shall have obtained a permit from the Fire Marshal. Said permit shall be valid for twelve (12) months from the date of issue. No continuation, expansion, diminution or modification of said operations shall be undertaken without obtaining a permit from the Fire Marshal.
- C. No person shall install, enlarge, alter, remove, repair or replace any fire protection system in any building or structure subject to the Connecticut State Fire Safety Code and/or State Fire Prevention Code, until such person shall have obtained a permit from the Fire Marshal.

D. The permit(s) required pursuant to this section shall be required in addition to any other permits or licenses required by federal, state or local law.

**(New) §87-6. Schedule of fees.**

A. The fee for Plan Reviews for new construction, renovations, additions or modernization of buildings or structures shall be at the following rates. For purposes of this subsection, Fast Track is an expedited plan review which will be conducted in one week or less, subject to staff availability.

- (1) Fire Plan Review (Not Including R-3 Occupancies): 65% of the Building Permit Fee or 100% for Fast Track Review.
- (2) Mechanical Plan Review (Fire Protection Systems): 100% of Building Permit Fee or 135% for Fast Track Review.
- (3) Electrical Plan Review: 35% of Building Permit Fee or 70% for Fast Track Review.

B. The fee for field inspections, approval and acceptance of new construction, renovations, additions or modernization of multi-family residential (Not Including R-3 Occupancies) and commercial buildings or structures associated with the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy shall be at the following rates:

<b>Estimated Construction Cost (From Building Permit Application):</b>	<b>Fee Formula:</b>
\$1 to \$500	\$10.41
\$501 to \$2,000	\$10.41 for the first \$500 plus \$0.26 for each additional \$100 or fraction thereof up to and including \$2,000
\$2,001 to \$25,000	\$14.31 for the first \$2,000 plus \$1.04 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof up to and including \$25,000
\$25,001 to \$50,000	\$38.25 for the first \$25,000 plus \$0.78 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof up to and including \$50,000
\$50,001 to \$100,000	\$57.77 for the first \$50,000 plus \$0.52 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof up to and including \$100,000
\$100,001 to \$500,000	\$83.80 for the first \$100,000 plus \$0.46 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof up to and including \$500,000
\$500,001 to \$1,000,000	\$271.18 for the first \$500,000 plus \$0.42 for each additional \$1,000
\$1,000,001 & up	\$479.38 for the first \$1,000,000 plus \$0.26 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof

Manufactured Structures Set-Up Fee	\$10.41 per section, with a minimum fee of \$20.82 per permit
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- C. Any person engaged in any of the following operations and/or occupancies shall obtain periodic inspection thereof according to the schedule set forth in CGS §29-305 as that section may be amended or recodified from time to time. Single Use inspections shall be valid only for a one-time event at a single venue. Multi-Use inspections shall be valid for twelve (12) months from the date of issue and shall apply to multiple venues if the inspected configuration or process does not change. All inspections include both fire permit and fire inspection. The fee(s) for the annual permit required pursuant to §87-5B, including such inspection(s), shall be as follows:

<b>Operation Permit Fee Table</b>		
<b>Operations and Materials</b>	<b>Permit Required</b>	<b>Permit Fee</b>
Aircraft Hangars	For servicing or repairing aircraft	\$ 100.00 per year
Airport Terminal Buildings	For operation	\$ 100.00 per year
Ambulatory Health Care occupancy	To operate a ambulatory health care occupancy	See Occupancy Permit Fee Table
Ammonium Nitrate	For storage	\$ 250.00 per year
Apartment Buildings and Dormitories	To operate an apartment building or dormitory	See Occupancy Permit Fee Table
Automobile Wrecking Yards	To operate automobile wrecking yards	\$ 100.00 per year
Battery System	To operate stationary lead-acid battery systems having an electrolyte capacity of more than 100 gal. (379 L) in sprinklered buildings or 50 gal. (189 L) in nonsprinklered buildings	\$ 75.00 per year
Business occupancies	To operate a business occupancy	See Occupancy Permit Fee Table
Candles, Open Flames, and Portable Cooking	To use in connection with assembly areas, dining areas of restaurants, or drinking establishments	\$ 30.00 – Single Use \$ 60.00 – Multi-Use
Cellulose Nitrate Film	For storage, handling, or use	\$ 100.00 per year
Cleanrooms	For operation	\$ 150.00 per year
Combustible Material Storage	To store more than 2500 ft <sup>3</sup> (70.8 m <sup>3</sup> ) gross volume	\$ 250.00 per year
Commercial Rubbish-Handling Operation	To operate	\$ 150.00 per year

**Operation Permit Fee Table**

<b>Operations and Materials</b>	<b>Permit Required</b>	<b>Permit Fee</b>
Consumer Fireworks (1.4G)	For the sale, on-site handling, manufacture, and storage of consumer fireworks (1.4G)	\$ 150.00 per year
Covered Mall Buildings	Annual requirement for facilities that utilize mall area for exhibits or displays with 4 conditions	\$ 250.00 per year
Cutting and Welding Operation	For operations within a jurisdiction	\$ 30.00 – Single Use \$ 60.00 – Multi-Use
Day-care occupancies	To operate a day-care occupancy	See Occupancy Permit Fee Table
Drycleaning Plants	To engage in business of drycleaning or to change to a more hazardous cleaning solvent	\$ 180.00 per year
Dust-Producing Operations	To operate a grain elevator, flour mill, starch mill, feed mill, or plant pulverizing aluminum, coal, cocoa, magnesium, spices, or sugar, etc.	\$ 250.00 per year
Educational occupancy	To operate an educational occupancy	See Occupancy Permit Fee Table
Exhibit and Trade Shows	For operation of all exhibits and trade shows held within a jurisdiction	\$ 250.00 per event
Fairs – No rides	To conduct the events	\$ 50.00 per event
Fire Hydrants and Water-Control Valves	To use a fire hydrant or operate a water-control valve intended for fire suppression purposes on private property	\$ 30.00 – Single Use \$ 60.00 – Multi-Use
Flame Effects	Use of flame effects before an audience	\$ 180.00 per event
Health Care facility	To operate a health care occupancy	See Occupancy Permit Fee Table
High-Piled Combustible Storage	To use any building or portion thereof as a high-piled storage area exceeding 500 ft <sup>2</sup> (46.45 m <sup>2</sup> )	\$ 250.00 per year
Hot Work Operations	For hot work. For additional permit requirements for hot work operations, see 41.1.5	\$ 30.00 – Single Use \$ 60.00 – Multi-Use

**Operation Permit Fee Table**

<b>Operations and Materials</b>	<b>Permit Required</b>	<b>Permit Fee</b>
Hotels and Bed and Breakfast Establishment	To operate a hotel, motel or bed and breakfast establishment	See Occupancy Permit Fee Table
Industrial occupancies	To operate an industrial occupancy	See Occupancy Permit Fee Table
Industrial Ovens and Furnaces	For operation of industrial ovens and furnaces covered by Chapter 51	\$ 100.00 per year
Liquid- or Gas-Fueled Vehicles	To display, compete, or demonstrate liquid- or gas-fueled vehicles or equipment in assembly buildings	\$ 30.00 – Single Use \$ 60.00 – Multi-Use
Lumberyards and Woodworking Plants	For storage of lumber exceeding 100,000 board ft	\$ 250.00 per year
Membrane Structures, Tents, and Canopies — Permanent	For construction, location, erection, or placement	\$ 100.00 per Structure
Membrane Structures, Tents, and Canopies — Temporary	To operate an air-supported temporary membrane structure or tent having an area in excess of 200 ft <sup>2</sup> (18.6 m <sup>2</sup> ) or a canopy in excess of 400 ft <sup>2</sup> (37.2 m <sup>2</sup> ).  <i>Exception: Temporary membrane structures, tents, or canopy structures used exclusively for camping</i>	\$ 50.00 – Single Use \$ 100.00 – Multi-Use
Mercantile occupancies	To operate a mercantile occupancy	See Occupancy Permit Fee Table
Organic Coatings	For operation and maintenance of a facility that manufactures organic coatings	\$ 150.00 per year
Parade Floats	To use a parade float for public performance, presentation, spectacle, entertainment, or parade	\$ 10.00 per Float
Places of Assembly, including Special Amusement Buildings	To operate a place of assembly	See Occupancy Permit Fee Table
Pyrotechnics Before a Proximate Audience	For the display and use of pyrotechnic materials before a proximate audience	\$ 150.00 per Event
Refrigeration Equipment	To operate a mechanical refrigeration unit or system	\$ 50.00 per year
Repair Garages and Service Stations	For operation of service stations and repair garages	\$ 50.00 per year

**Operation Permit Fee Table**

<b>Operations and Materials</b>	<b>Permit Required</b>	<b>Permit Fee</b>
Residential Board and Care occupancies	To operate a residential board and care occupancy	See Occupancy Permit Fee Table
Rocketry Manufacturing	For the manufacturing of model rocket motors	\$ 250.00 per year
Rooftop Heliports	For operation of a rooftop heliport	\$ 250.00 per year
Special Outdoor Events, Carnivals, and Fairs	For the location and operation of special outdoor events, carnivals, and fairs	\$ 60.00 per Event
Special Structures and High-Rise Buildings	To operate special structures and high-rise buildings	See Occupancy Permit Fee Table
Storage occupancies	To operate a storage occupancy	See Occupancy Permit Fee Table
Tar Kettles	For placement of a tar kettle, placement shall be obtained prior to the placement of a tar kettle	\$ 30.00 – Single Use \$ 60.00 – Multi-Use
Tire-Rebuilding Plants	For operation and maintenance of a tire-rebuilding plant	\$ 150.00 per year
Tire Storage	To use an open area or portion thereof to store tires in excess of 1000 ft <sup>3</sup> (28.3 m <sup>3</sup> )	\$ 150.00 per year
Torch-Applied Roofing Operation	For the use of a torch for application of roofing materials	\$ 30.00 – Single Use \$ 60.00 – Multi-Use
Wildland Fire-Prone Areas	For use of hazardous areas within fire-prone areas.	\$ x.00 per year
Wood Products	To store chips, hogged material, lumber, or plywood in excess of 200 ft <sup>3</sup> (5.7 m <sup>3</sup> )	\$ 150.00 per year

<b>Occupancy Permit Fee Table</b>				
	<b>Occupancy Group 1 Annual Renewal A, E, H-1, I-1 &amp; R (Not Including R-3 Occupancies)</b>	<b>Occupancy Group 2 Biannual Renewal H-2, I-3, I-4, B- Medical &amp; B- College</b>	<b>Occupancy Group 3 Triennial Renewal B, H-3, M, S-1</b>	<b>Occupancy Group 4 Quadrennial Renewal F-1, F-2, H-4, H-5, S-2 &amp; U</b>
0 - 3,000 sf.	\$60	\$60	\$60	\$60
3,001 - 5,000 sf.	\$95	\$95	\$95	\$95
5,001 - 7,500 sf.	\$125	\$125	\$125	\$125
7,501 - 10,000 sf.	\$135	\$135	\$135	\$135
10,001 - 12,500 sf.	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150
12,501 - 15,000 sf.	\$170	\$170	\$170	\$170
15,001 - 17,500 sf.	\$180	\$180	\$180	\$180
17,501 - 20,000 sf.	\$190	\$190	\$190	\$190
20,001 - 30,000 sf.	\$205	\$205	\$205	\$205
30,001 - 40,000 sf.	\$230	\$230	\$230	\$230
40,001 - 50,000 sf.	\$245	\$245	\$245	\$245
50,001 - 60,000 sf.	\$260	\$260	\$260	\$260
60,001 - 70,000 sf.	\$275	\$275	\$275	\$275
70,001 - 100,000 sf.	\$285	\$285	\$285	\$285
100,001 - 150,000 sf.	\$305	\$305	\$305	\$305
150,001 - 200,000 sf.	\$340	\$340	\$340	\$340

D. All permit fees established pursuant to this section are due when an application is submitted to the Fire Marshal.

**(New) §87-7. Penalties for offenses.**

- A. Any person who commences any work which is subject to the permit requirements of §87-5A or C without first obtaining a permit shall be required to pay a penalty of \$500 in addition to the permit fee otherwise applicable. No such penalty shall be imposed upon a person who commences emergency repair work without a permit provided that a permit is sought promptly thereafter.
- B. Any person who conducts any operation which is subject to the permit requirements of §87-5B without first obtaining a permit shall be required to pay a penalty equal to the amount of the permit fee otherwise applicable. Said penalty shall be payable in addition to the required permit fee. No such penalty shall be imposed upon a person who commences emergency repair work without a permit provided that a permit is sought promptly thereafter.

**(New) §87-8. Agencies exempt from fees; exception.**

Agencies of the Town of West Hartford and the West Hartford Board of Education shall be required to obtain all permits and/or inspections required pursuant to this Chapter but all fees associated therewith shall be waived.

**SET FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON JUNE 23, 2009 AT 7:15 P.M. IN THE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER**

Vice President Brennan: I move that we set for Public Hearing on June 23, 2009 at 7:15 P.M. in the legislative chamber.

Councilor Coursey: I second.

President Slifka: A motion is made and seconded. Any discussion? All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Number 11, Mr. Brennan?

**ITEM #11: RESOLUTION (CANTOR, SLIFKA, BRENNAN, ADLER, COURSEY, DAVIDOFF, THORNBERRY, VERRENGIA, VISCONTI) TO NAME A POET LAUREATE OF WEST HARTFORD**

**ADOPTED**

**WHEREAS**, West Hartford is a town rich in culture and the arts with a multitude of programs that highlight achievements by people accomplished in their fields;

**WHEREAS**, the administration of West Hartford places importance on experienced and gifted people sharing their skills and talents with students and the greater community;

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council designated Maria Sassi, a longtime resident of West Hartford and a distinguished poet, teacher, and promoter of poetry in West Hartford, West Hartford's first Poet Laureate in April 2005;

**WHEREAS**, Dennis Barone is a respected professor, writer, and leader in the poetry community;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the West Hartford Town Council that Dennis Barone be designated Poet Laureate of the Town of West Hartford for the term June 2009 to June 2011 and such designation to be awarded as of today's date;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the West Hartford Town Council will review nominations for future Poet Laureates 30-60 days after April 30 (the last day of National Poetry Month) every other year, consulting experts in the field as determined by the Council and, as appropriate, name a Poet Laureate of West Hartford in June of the corresponding year.

Vice President Brennan: I move that we adopt.

Councilor Coursey: Second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. We did cover some of this but Mrs. Cantor, this has been your handiwork for many years.

Councilor Cantor: Thank you. It is with a lot of gratitude that I say goodbye to Maria Sassi as our Poet Laureate from the Town of West Hartford and welcome very excitedly Dennis Barone who will bring, I am sure, a lot of wonderful talent and energy to the position. I do want to just take a moment and thank Maria because she... We made fast friends and she is a woman of grace and she is smart and she truly appreciates the art of poetry. She is an enthusiast and shares it with contemporaries but one of her loves and a real appreciation that I have is her sharing it with students and encouraging the use of poetry and the sharing of poetry. She has made our town richer and she truly loves this town and it is very clear with my many discussions with her over the last four years. She is a woman of grace and I do really appreciate all you've done and again, making us a place rich in culture and another dimension of what we have to offer all of our residents and people that come to visit our town. And just... Dennis was selected by a committee and this has been a little bit of a work in progress for us because this is the first for West Hartford. We had several people in the field. We reached out and got feedback from many different community members in the school system and the library and then people in the field and Dennis's name came up along with many other, well, I'd say seven other candidates, many of whom were extremely impressive and we probably will be seeing their names in future years. So we appreciate the people's feedback on that. We appreciate our selection committee's feedback in supporting Dennis. Dennis is a Professor of English and a Director of American Studies at St. Joseph's College. He's the author of as far as this is written three books of short fiction, one of which received an America Award for the most outstanding book of fiction by a living American author in

1997. He has published, oh, where was it? The number of poems were quite a few poems. Left Hand Books published his selected poems, Separate Objects in 1998. He is the author of two novellas. As an editor he has prepared the first book of, um, for a collection of poems by Emanuel Carnevali and he has been sharing his poetry with students and his knowledge for many years and again, I think the town has been enriched by you and will continue to be enriched by you. There was a quote that I...a couple of quotes that I...on poetry that I...that have moved me and one is "Poetry is what gets lost in translation," and that was by Robert Frost and I think that's a nice way to look at poetry. The other one that I found by Aristotle - "The distinction between historian and poet is not in the one writing prose and the other verse. The one describes the thing that has been. The other, a kind of thing that might be. Hence, poetry is something more philosophic and of graver import than history since its statements are of the nature rather of universals whereas those of history are singular." I thought that was interesting. So thank you for your commitment, Maria. And Dennis, welcome and I look forward to hearing from you and working with you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mrs. Cantor. I want to extend my thanks to Mrs. Cantor for working on this since I think it was 2005. It's one of the first things that happened when you got on the Council and Dr. Thornberry as well back then. I completely concur with you. It has been a real pleasure and an honor to get to know Maria Sassi over the past few years. I know some would, you know, perhaps poke fun at us for spending, you know, a few minutes tonight on, you know, the issue of poetry in the town and I think given that it doesn't cost our taxpayers any money it's an appropriate thing because it highlights the talent that we have in this town. We stumbled upon this a few years ago because we found out we had somebody who was so qualified and we thought wouldn't it be a nice thing, you know? What is the object of this? It's not to create the title. It was to maybe add when appropriate at special public events the perspective of a poet, somebody who could speak to the event more beautifully than any of us could and the other participants and that has happened and it's been wonderful and I think what really makes us feel great about it is in addition to having gotten to know Maria and to learn about her talent when we otherwise may not have is that Mrs. Cantor described the committee meeting to replace Maria came up with seven candidates and I am sure there are others out there - that we have that kind of wealth of talent. And it is appropriate I think for the town, especially a town with such a great school system that celebrates the arts, to also celebrate those who continue to excel in those arts as they get into adulthood and they become professionals at it. It really is wonderful so thank you again, Maria, for your service and Dennis, we're very excited to see what you have to add to the job. Thanks. Mr. Davidoff?

Councilor Davidoff: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I would be remiss if I did not thank Mrs. Sassi for serving as our town's first Poet Laureate. You did it with distinction and you enriched the lives of many West Hartford citizens and it's great to live in a community that appreciates the arts, whether it be the written or the spoken word. They are so powerful and so profound and I wish Mr. Barone much success in his endeavor as he takes on the task of being our next poet laureate and to enrich and to make our

community stronger and more enlightened as we move forward in the next two years.  
Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Davidoff. Mr. Adler?

Councilor Adler: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Actually I just wanted to make a quick comment and thank Ms. Sassi. I think to some degree poetry brings people together. I think it's the only resolution that the entire Council supported together over our terms so, you know, there's a first for everything so thank you for bringing the love around the table here. I appreciate that.

President Slifka: Mr. Adler, I think there have been others. I know it's a surprise but we'll come up... We'll ask the next Poet Laureate to come up with a list and put it into poem form. Okay. Anybody else? Alright. Mr. Visconti?

Councilor Visconti: A quick one here for Mr. Barone. We would love to see some of your work on the West Hartford blogs and all the things that are going on in politics. I have a hand in some poetry over the years on the blog and the political world so it would be great to see maybe your name there with something with more eloquence than what I can do and others.

President Slifka: Mr. Visconti. Anyone else? Okay. All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Thank you again. Number 12, Mr. Brennan.

**ITEM # 12: RESOLUTION (VAN WINKLE) SUSPENDING THE FIVE YEAR PHASE-IN OF OCTOBER 1, 2006 PROPERTY REVALUATION**

**ADOPTED VOTE 8-0**

WHEREAS Connecticut law requires that real property be revalued at least every five years; and

WHEREAS the Town of West Hartford's most recent revaluation was completed for the October 1, 2006 assessment year; and

WHEREAS in April of 2007 the Town of West Hartford implemented a five year phase-in of its revaluation as permitted by Connecticut General Statutes Section §12-62c; and

WHEREAS Public Act No. 09-60 permits any municipality currently phasing in its revaluation to suspend such phase-in upon approval by the legislative body of such municipality; and

WHEREAS the West Hartford Town Council has determined that suspending the phase-in of the Town's revaluation will help to provide relief to the great majority of real property owners and their tenants throughout the Town during these difficult financial times;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL THAT, effective July 1, 2009, the phase-in of the October 1, 2006 revaluation of real estate within West Hartford shall be suspended pursuant to Connecticut Public Act No. 09-60.

Vice President Brennan: I move that we adopt.

Councilor Coursey: Second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. Mr. Van Winkle? This is somewhat unusual in that we were made aware of the legislative change recently and the Finance and Budget Committee, which is led by Mr. Cantor joined by myself and Mr. Davidoff, we asked you to evaluate this for us. We had not pushed for this during the legislative session and we were perhaps skeptical of it upon hearing of its passage and we asked you to look into the details and you provided us with the recommendation we have this evening so if you could address that to the extent possible. I know you've met with some of these residents, particularly Mr. Sisk, before today but if you could try to address some of the comments and the questions they raised in the Public Forum?

Mr. Van Winkle: Certainly. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. When we did revaluation in 2006 we did it at the virtual peak of the housing market. Housing prices in the years just prior to that were rising in West Hartford at double digit rates. That's never a good time to revalue all your assets or all your Grand List and because of that the revaluation skewed evaluations in the town and shifted taxes substantially from commercial and personal property to residential and we saw that and the Council at that time decided to phase in that impact over five years. That decision was done to ease what was a fairly dramatic impact on some residential single family homes and condominiums in West Hartford. We have passed through two years of that phase-in and are about to enter the third year with this coming budget and the budget that you adopted reflected that third year of phase-in of the Grand List. We were following the bill in the legislature to watch it and see what they were going to do with it and when they passed the bill we began to sit down and look at what it meant. The bill that passed means that the last three years of the phase-in, if we were to adopt that tonight, will not get phased in. We won't vote on this every year. We'll just stop the phase-in this year. For the next three years the Grand List will remain stable. In 2011 we are required by state law to do our next revaluation. We have to do it every five years by state law so in 2011 we will do a complete revaluation of the town and that will be implemented in the budget year 2012-13.

What happens when we freeze the phase-in? Now the first impact is that 75 percent of the residential taxpayers will see a reduction in their taxes. That is the biggest impact of this change. Obviously we need to raise the same amount of taxes as we did prior to phase-in because we have an approved budget which, as you remember, our budget was a reduction in spending this year, not an increase, but we had lost revenue from the state and from some of our other fees in the community and because of that 6 million loss in revenue we had to make that up to stay even, to keep spending even or spending actually fell. In order to do that we had to increase our taxes and our levy had to go up 1.5 percent. Now that would mean that we would have raised 1.5 percent more in taxes in

West Hartford. Unfortunately it didn't mean that your house or my house or my neighbor's house all fell at 1.5. It varied widely across the community. Some homes would actually see a decline in taxes. Some homes double digit 20 percent kinds of increases in taxes because of the phase-in of the revaluation. So although you worked hard to reduce spending and were successful in that and we increased the levy only by 1.5 percent it still was hitting everybody in a different fashion across town. Now a property tax is an ad valorem tax. It's by the value of the home so you pay based on the value of your home. If we remove the phase-in everybody in the community will see a 1.5 percent tax increase. No more. No less. On your car, on the business across the street here, on my home it will all be 1.5 percent. No one will see that 20 percent but no one will also see a reduction in taxes that they may have anticipated but you will not pay more than 1.5 percent higher taxes than you paid last year and so the big change here when we stop the phase-in is that some homes, a small number or 25 percent of our homes, will not see a decline in taxes and businesses will not see a decline in taxes. On your automobiles you probably will not see much change at all in your taxes because each year we phase in depreciation on your automobile so if you haven't bought a new car your car gets depreciated and the mill rate goes up a little with this change and so your taxes would go up a little but along with depreciation probably it does not have much impact on automobile taxes so it's... Every time we do something like this it is shifting taxes. There's no question about that. Every time we do a revaluation it's shifting taxes. The previous year taxes were paid in a certain way. We revalue. We determine new values. We shift taxes. Every year we phase in we shift taxes from one payer to the next. This will end that shifting of taxes and, again, every homeowner in the Town of West Hartford will only see a 1.5 percent increase in their taxes and 75 percent of the homeowners in the Town of West Hartford will see a reduction over what they would have paid if we had not cancelled the phase-in. Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Van Winkle. Are there any questions for Mr. Van Winkle or further discussion? Mr. Davidoff?

Councilor Davidoff: I just want to clarify something, Mr. Mayor, just to make certain that we're on the same page. It's true that the Grand List can fluctuate during the next few years but the assessments are frozen and I think when you just stated you said that the Grand List was frozen. So it is correct. The Grand List can fluctuate, can either increase or decrease in the next two years, but the assessments for our property owners will hold stable through 2011. Correct?

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes. Just to clarify through you, Mr. Mayor. Your home assessment would stay level if you don't do an expansion on your home. If we add a new home to the Grand List our Grand List will grow so it will grow through the addition, new investments that residents will make. This past year we had 1800 residential structures add to their house in some way so we'll see growth in the Grand List but it won't...and it will add new tax dollars to us but your individual home should remain the same unless you do an expansion.

Councilor Davidoff: Thank you for that clarification.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Davidoff. Anyone else? Mr. Visconti?

Councilor Visconti: Thank you. Through you, Mr. Mayor. Well, I've got about seven questions here. First of all, Mr. Van Winkle, did you or your staff prepare anything similar to what Mr. Sisk has prepared?

Mr. Van Winkle: No, we have not.

Councilor Visconti: Okay. This is very elaborate. Question #1 is have you seen this and are the facts correct on this particular page here?

Mr. Van Winkle: Mr. Sisk came in to see Chris Johnson, our CFO, and myself on Friday. We went through this document with him. He's done an excellent job.

Councilor Visconti: In green it says on page 6, slide 6, overpaying residential... I just want to be clear because this is something I haven't seen either until tonight and you made a statement that no one will see more of a tax increase but we see a shift, a tax shift of 17 million dollars from the current phase-in to suspended. Is this over the five year period you're speaking about? Because we're in year three. It's a complex question I know to be asking but...

Mr. Van Winkle: I understand.

Councilor Visconti: So bear with us all if you can.

Mr. Van Winkle: And it is a complex question because every year we do the... Every year of the phase-in taxes shift and when you start a phase-in your first year some property owners are paying less than their value by the Grand List and some property owners are paying more so some are perhaps overpaying, some are underpaying so what he's trying to reflect is what's going on during that five year phase-in, what that shift is.

Councilor Visconti: So he would be saying 10 million dollars for overpaying residential over the five year period?

Mr. Van Winkle: Yeah.

Councilor Visconti: Not over our suspension from tonight forward?

Mr. Van Winkle: That is correct. Is Mr. Sisk still here?

Councilor Visconti: No, he's not here.

Mr. Van Winkle: Yeah. Okay.

Councilor Visconti: Right, I should have grabbed the questions for him because, you know, it looks like the data is correct but it looks like it may be over five years or not so

if this falls into the hands of people that aren't going to ask deeper questions... Uh, a couple of concerns I have are commercial. We see a shift from his numbers of 7 million over the five year period to 12 million and I know that a lot of commercial property is rented with triple net taxation in it. I did send an email out to the Council and to you this week about wondering what that would mean for commercial property owners and businesses in town and I know you did say no one would see an increase of more than 1.5 percent. Would that be true for commercial?

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes. Through you, Mr. Mayor. If you were paying a thousand dollars in taxes through your lease last year your taxes will only go up by 1.5 percent. They won't go up by more than that for commercial or residential.

Councilor Visconti: Okay. So again this is a five year plan that he's looking at with his graphs?

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes.

Councilor Visconti: Okay. A couple other things that I'm wondering if it takes into account. He shows something here that, Mr. Sisk that is, underpaying residential and I know we did a map a few years ago of all dots on every home in West Hartford and how a phase-in hits everybody totally different. My question would be would underpaying residential be considered the poor only or poor areas or could it be any value of homes? I want to clarify the fact that just because you may be underpaying doesn't mean you may not be rich or poor or middle class. However. However. How does that fall?

Mr. Van Winkle: Yep. As you remember correctly several years ago we brought you a map that showed every...all of the properties in the Town of West Hartford with a different color for what was going on with them. What our assessment showed us in 2006 was that more affordable homes went up in price substantially more than expensive homes. If you lived in a million dollar home it went up less than average. If you lived in a \$150,000 or \$200,000 home it went up more than average. The one we used as the example was the Kane Street Condominiums which are very modest condominiums that went up substantially in value because of the demand for those condominiums. So what we saw in that which was somewhat skewed when we revalued was that the more affordable homes tended to have risen more rapidly in price than the more expensive homes.

Councilor Visconti: In this phase-in graph that he explains over the...the underpaying residential may not be those people, more affordable or it may be. I know that we haven't done the data to look at this...

Mr. Van Winkle: Well.

Councilor Visconti: ...to update that graph. We did it a few years ago.

Mr. Van Winkle: Underpaying residential in the phase-in would be that Kane Street Condominium. We didn't raise their value to a full value and so they were paying less than the full value of taxes on their homes during this phase-in period until the fifth year when they get back to full..

Councilor Visconti: Right. How would that affect them? That's my question.

Mr. Van Winkle: The removal of the phase-in?

Councilor Visconti: Yes. The removal.

Mr. Van Winkle: The removal of the phase-in will freeze their taxes at what they are right now and their taxes in this coming year will increase by only 1.5 percent and taxes in future years will be dictated by your decisions on expenses and revenues in the community.

Councilor Visconti: Okay. So then we're talking about freezing their taxes, not freezing the value so it goes back to the 2006 assessment.

Mr. Van Winkle: The value of these homes will go back to the 2007...

Councilor Visconti: Oh, so 2007.

Mr. Van Winkle: The second year of the phase-in.

Councilor Visconti: Okay. The second year.

Mr. Van Winkle: The assessment, which was in the 2008 year...

Councilor Visconti: Alright. That's important.

Mr. Van Winkle: Yep. I know. It goes back to the value that was on your home last year, not the value that we placed on it in October or November of 2008 but the value we placed on it in October or November of 2007. It goes back to that value and that value will be held for the next three years. Tomorrow I will get our computer wizards to put onto our website a calculator where you can put in your address and based on the...if you adopt this tonight based on this it will calculate what your taxes will be for next year so individual homeowners can actually go in and make that calculation.

Councilor Visconti: Right.

Mr. Van Winkle: ...and try to figure out what they were.

Councilor Visconti: I know there's a lot of unfairness over this whole process in the beginning and it's nonpartisan but it's been like this for 10 years but I'd like to address the fact that we probably don't have enough data such as children in the school, which

homes would be affected. We've never done a study to see how that map with all the dots on which houses got affected, if there's people that pay taxes that have kids in school. The whole unfairness may just continue to be unfair, in other words. We really can't tell by the data that we have in the town right now.

Mr. Van Winkle: Though you, Mr. Mayor. We've never really looked at the increases in assessment relative to the number of children in the home if that's what you're asking. We've never looked at that.

Councilor Visconti: Okay. So we haven't studied that data either. I guess I've got one or two more questions here. Property that was built after 2007 such as Blue Back or even the Aldi's that is coming online, and all the different things that we're approving or that are phasing in, could you address how that works with this?

Mr. Van Winkle: It's actually tricky and it takes a hands-on kind of effort but...so if you have built a house, for example, after 2007, it was partially constructed in 2007 and we valued it as a partially constructed home. It comes 2008 it's fully built and it's a home just like the neighbor's home, what we would do when you remove the phase-in is we'll take that fully built value and take it back one year in value so we would take whatever housing appreciation we would see or reduction and take that fully built home back one year so that the taxes it would pay would be identical to someone who built their home in 2004 that was a similar house.

Councilor Visconti: Would that mean... Let's just take Blue Back Square, for instance, and that was a long process. How would that affect... I know there's a special service district also but how would that affect what they pay in taxes?

Mr. Van Winkle: It doesn't really affect. We would take a condominium or an office building in Blue Back Square. It is completely built today and done. It has a value of X dollars. We will just adjust that back one year in value growth and in this case for a house it might be actually a reduction of value or it might be an increase in value. It depends on where it is but all we do is take that value back one year. It doesn't affect really anything we're talking about here. We still apply a mill rate. We still apply it to that structure. They still pay their full share of taxes. If we had two Blue Back Squares where one was built in 2004 and one was built in 2007 it wouldn't matter. They would both be paying the same taxes.

Councilor Visconti: But they would be paying their taxes back a year. That would be similar to every other taxpayer?

Mr. Van Winkle: The same methodology would be use for Blue Back Square or anyone else...every other taxpayer. The same methodology. They pay the same value. They pay their share based on the value of the fully built structure.

Councilor Visconti: Alright. Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Visconti. Dr. Thornberry?

Councilor Thornberry: I just wanted to comment a little bit about some of the discussion that I'm starting to hear creep in to some of the discussion that we've had over property taxes and that has to do with the issue of education. You know, we have a system in the State of Connecticut that has the school districts within communities and they are not fiscally independent. They are dependent on us. And, you know, there's also a constitutional, state constitutional issue about providing, you know, free education. And what I really hate to see is a discussion about tagging homes that have children in them. This is a community and we all pay a property tax for everything that we do collectively as a community. That includes the educational system, it includes public safety so to have a discussion that starts down the road of tagging homes that have children then, you know, this is an exceedingly slippery slope when you start to want to tag homes that perhaps have elderly that would use emergency services or any other designation that somebody would come up with so if we have to take a vote at some time we'll do that but I never want to see the manager constructing a map that has individual homes designated with children. Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Dr. Thornberry. Mr. Visconti?

Councilor Visconti: Yes. I'd just like to address that if that was addressed to me Carolyn. My question has to do politically many people with the referendums are always yelling about people that have kids versus houses that don't have kids and all that so my question was only if we don't have the data and we don't study the data, the data does not exist. The unfairness of any taxation and the unfairness of the whole process of municipal taxes over the last 10 years remains the same if we vote yes or no on this and it would not include those that are poor, the houses that may be being overpaid or underpaid any my whole question was framed in the unfairness of the whole municipal tax system. Hopefully that's what you weren't addressing.

President Slifka: Mr. Adler?

Councilor Adler: Through you, Mr. Mayor. Before we turn this into kind of a political I was going to say matzo ball for a second, uh football. I don't know where that came from. You've got to inject humor where we need to here.

Councilor Visconti: Meatball.

Councilor Adler: I'd like to...I'd like to request or recommend that we table this. I think we were going to vote on it tonight and we heard a couple of speakers tonight and some comments and certainly comments from the Council, comments from the audience. But, you know, Mr. Sisk's report as well as the report from Mr. Kennedy... I received this probably within an hour and for me to make an intelligent decision and be able to have a conscience that my decision was the right decision, I don't know if I'm coming armed with the right information so I'm not saying we necessarily have to slow this train down but I think we need to have some further dialogue about this because I think if we were to

quiz everybody on the long-term ramifications of carrying over revaluations to the next budget and what that means, you know, the short-term pain, you know, versus...or the short-term gain over carrying it over to the next budget, I'll be frank with you. Not just me but I think a few people here can't speak very intelligently about this so I think there needs to be some further dialogue here.

President Slifka: Is that a motion, Mr. Adler?

Councilor Adler: Uh, yes.

President Slifka: Is there a second?

Councilor Visconti: Second.

President Slifka: Okay. Motions to table are not debatable. All those in favor? Those opposed. Okay. Motion fails. Back to discussion. Mr. Van Winkle, I saw your hand go up. Was that an involuntary reflex?

Mr. Van Winkle: You know the legislature didn't pass this bill until the very end of the session and so had we known we had a bill we probably would have had this debate much earlier in the month than right now. We have set ourselves up at this point. We are in good shape right now. This is not costing the town anything right now in particular to implement this change. A delay would mean that we would not send out the tax bills which tomorrow morning I'm going to start that process and the tax bills will be out in the hands of our taxpayers before the end of the month so that may sound like a good thing to delay the tax bills to the taxpayers but for us it means that we have a significant reduction in income and interest on that income as those tax bills get paid and we'd end up having an impact so unfortunately, because of the timing of this decision by the legislature, we're really under a gun now to act upon it.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Van Winkle. We haven't really had any, I think, discussion on the merits of it yet beyond Mr. Van Winkle's original comments so I guess I'll just state why I'm in favor and believe we ought to move forward tonight. Revaluation is a very complex subject. I've dealt with it throughout my tenure on the Council and found that it's probably about the most complex thing we've had and it seems the more you try to explain it the more difficult maybe it gets and I think the reason for that is because everything with revaluation is relative. It is all relative to your individual property value and so that creates perspectives and you may understand the policy but its impact on you will certainly change your perspective and perhaps whether you're in favor or against this tonight. I do believe that independent of the state legislature's action and our need to make a decision today or not, notwithstanding that kind of that pinch as Mr. Van Winkle described it I think we have more than enough information to make our decision this evening. I do appreciate, as always, Mr. Sisk's very thorough reports and discussions. I myself had a long conversation with him about this about a week ago and we appreciate Mr. Kennedy and others from the Taxpayer's Association being here and this is very thorough. That said, we have a very thorough

recommendation and analysis that came from our administration discussed by myself and Mrs. Cantor and Mr. Davidoff of Finance and Budget and I think we've got enough to make the call.

So then why should we do this? As I said, I started out as a skeptic. My understanding from where the bill had been progressing through the legislature was that it was a delay bill. We've seen those in the past and in certain years when we would have been in year 1 of a revaluation we had been proponents of perhaps a delay if it were appropriate. That does come with severe strings. To delay means you're just pushing it off and as I think one of the speakers said you're putting off the inevitable. If that had been the bill that had passed the legislature I would not be in favor of this today, nor do I think most of my colleagues would. I am in favor of this for two specific reasons so try to take...for all the complexity, maybe try to boil this down to the basic things. Tonight we have the opportunity to give relief to 75 percent of our residential taxpayers or we can pass on that. I choose to give them that relief. The second reason is that we are not... I think the title of this somewhat of a misnomer. I know we are adopting the legislative language and some legalese but the suspension is not perhaps the most accurate description. It's more of a cessation. The phase-in ends. It is not pushed... If it had just been a suspension that would suggest to me you're pushing it off till next year or the year after that which would be the short-term gain for long-term pain. We're not doing that because it ends. It puts it away forever. There's no more phase-in. We freeze those values for the next several years and then we begin again with a new revaluation in a new market and hopefully more equity in however that market shakes out then. Nobody can predict how that market's going to be. When we did the revaluation in 2006 the goal was not to do it at the peak of the market. We have legislative mandates on when we have to do that and of course you don't know the peak of the market until the next year when it no longer is the peak so hopefully things will shake out better in 2011 but the best part of this from a public policy perspective beyond I think the benefit to 75 percent of the residential taxpayers, is the simplicity that it now brings back to this. There's a problem with public policy at the municipal level if a resident cannot connect the value of the services they believe they receive with their tax bill and for all the benefits of the phase-in it does create a problem there because neighbors can have different values. They can have different tax payments and we don't like that inconsistency. This brings us back to the consistency and we begin again with the new revaluation several years from now. I like the fact that we can explain this in one sentence. Seventy-five percent of our residential taxpayers will have a reduction in their taxes and nobody will get an increase that is above 1.5 percent over what they paid last year. Bottom line. That's the case. And then we will now be able to say for the next several years until there is another revaluation that the budget that this Town Council passes, whoever may be sitting here at that time, will directly impact your tax payment. You will no longer have to go through the what ifs or wait till I do this calculation on the special town calculator. Say okay, I heard what the Council said about the increase but how does that relate to my property value and how does that relate to where I fall in the phase-in? We will be able to say consistently for the next several years that whatever the Council passes for a tax increase, if it were to do that, is the increase. That's what it will be and I think that has a public policy benefit beyond simply the value to our taxpayers that they will see this year. So

for those reasons I support this. I think we have enough information and I, for one, don't want to sit here today and have the chance to reduce taxes for 75 percent of our residents and take a pass. Anybody else? Mrs. Cantor?

Councilor Cantor: Thank you. I agree with many of the Mayor's comments. This has been on the agenda for a week. We had the information and I do think Dr. Sisk took an interesting look at it. I appreciate the work that went into it but the bottom line is that 75 percent of our taxpayers will be paying less than they would if we continue the phase-in. The other piece it doesn't take into it is the change in the market that we actually... When we did this the drop, I mean, the economy just fell. West Hartford has been holding its own. It has decreased a little but we've been holding our own. The question is, there are a lot of unknowns. This gives us a chance to take a breath and not continue kind of on that same commitment that happened when we were at the peak of the market and that revaluation happened. Revaluation of property taxes are big issues for our state and our residents and this is not ideal and there are pros and cons to it but I think we're in a better position if we proceed with this and if we hold up we are in the position of having late tax payments come in and that will put us in a deficit position already for this upcoming year if we don't start getting money in. So thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mrs. Cantor. Mr. Davidoff?

Councilor Davidoff: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I will be supporting this resolution this evening. I had quite a few questions during Finance and Budget and I had a few discussions with Mr. Van Winkle over the past week as to how this works and I called him even this evening to find out what the mill rate was so I could do some calculations because I frequent that tax calculator and plug in a variety of addresses around town to see what the impact is and I brought it here and had a good idea as to what was going on with a variety of properties of people that sit on this Council and around town but on all these, and I think I plugged in a random 10 of them, they're all going to be less than what they would have been under our originally adopted budget so I concur with the Mayor that 75 percent of our residential property owners will see less owed to the Town of West Hartford than they would have if we don't adopt this resolution this evening and a big problem with revaluation is that people always say when we did the phase-in portion was that our property values aren't increasing. They're starting to steady or some of them are dropping and how can my assessment keep going up? Well, when you phase-in your assessment is just going to go up because that was part of the game plan so what we're offering this evening to the residents of West Hartford is we're terminating that rising curve of the phase-in so it's going to hold steady to that 2007 value. You'll have certainty as to what your assessment is provided you don't make any type of improvements to your home. The next Council for the next Council term... It will be very interesting sitting around this table who sits here and the decisions they make but revaluation is not an issue to it's basically the budget's going to be based on what programs and services the residents wish to pay for and knowing what your assessment is and that part of the equation is totally gone. And I do concur with Mr. Sisk one point that he made and that is that probably revaluations probably should occur more often and if they weren't so costly they would because a revaluation that occurs more often gives you

a more accurate reflection as to what the market value is of your piece of property, whether it be residential or commercial. And I know that this evening the shift will now go more towards the commercial side of our Grand List than to the residential side and people say well, commercial property owners, they don't vote and this is an easy lay up for politicians and I am making the decision not based on politics but what I think is basically fair because I've watched over the past few years as people's assessments have risen during this phase-in and I'm watching as the property values are either steady or decreasing and I think this provides the right relief at the right time and I think that's key and it also should be noted a thing that I discussed earlier with Mr. Van Winkle that maybe our legislators should look into now that they've come to the conclusion that we can suspend this phase-in. They ought to look at the interest rate we charge people who are delinquent in their taxes. And I know that this is not germane to this issue but we charge 18 percent if you're delinquent on your taxes and the legislature... This is a shout out to them. You ought to look at that percentage because people are hurting and that seems like an awfully high amount to assess to people for being delinquent on their taxes. If they're having a tough time, and 18 percent interest rate which is statutorily required that we have no leeway to impose so maybe we can get together with our delegation and we can work forward in the next few years to work on that. I understand that consequences that would have in terms of revenues we garner when people pay once they're delinquent cause we get that extra money but to me 18 percent on an overdue tax bill is kind of excessive in light of things of that nature. I have all the information I need, Mr. Mayor, to cast my ballot this evening. I think I've substantiated the sound and reasoned principles to moving forward and based on that it makes common sense this evening to vote in the affirmative. Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Davidoff. Mr. Adler?

Councilor Adler: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Well, first of all I appreciate everyone's comments. I certainly respect your views and certainly those of you that have been reading up on this and looking into it, it's understandable but I do respect your comments. Unlike a few of you I don't have the detail and that's kind of where the rub is with me. It's not necessarily about being against the phase-in. It's about just being able to make a clear decision based on the facts provided. I did not have any level of detail prior to this meeting and I think we've done a great job. The word transparency's been floated around. We've done a great job this year over the last term in terms of being as transparent as possible to the general public. I don't think this is any additional exception to this at all. I think one of the things around the budget, you know, the focus again should be back on operating costs and managing the costs appropriately through the budget cycle. Clearly we have unemployment at 9.3 percent. No question we're going to continue to experience some pain between 12 and 18 months and then we're going to have a financial right-sizing where we may have some collection issues so I definitely get what you're saying but we're also with the shift of the burden to the commercial side, and again I don't want to take a position on this because I don't have enough information to talk intelligently about it, but from based on what I see a shift to the commercial side there is a potential risk of commercial property defaults as well so I hear you all and certainly, you know, when we part we're going to part to agree to disagree but we need to

have some public dialogue on this and we need to be able to even put some use case scenarios through there. You know, the what if's. So I don't think we have to overcomplicate this. It's just we're here tonight to make a decision about something that's going to be long lasting over the next few years and I want to make sure that we're coming to the table with the right information or clear information at least from my perspective, so thank you.

President Slifka: Mr. Adler. Anyone else? Mr. Brennan?

Vice-President Brennan: I will definitely be in support of this. It is, as the Mayor said, well, I'll paraphrase. It's a no-brainer. We're going to be helping people, giving them relief. Seventy-five percent of the people will get some tax relief by this and as far as the comments about how much this has been in the public meeting, to be really clear, this comes as no surprise tonight. We've had this reported on in the newspaper. We've had a publicly held meeting at Finance and Budget and discussion there. It's available to the entire public. It's available to every Councilor. The information has been provided to us. Plenty of opportunity to ask questions before this evening. It is up to each Councilor to do their homework prior to coming here tonight and I don't find it valid to come and say that, you know, frankly I didn't have enough information. We all have. We've had plenty of opportunity to ask. We've had people from...who've spoken tonight who have sought that information. Who've done their homework. Who've met with Ron Van Winkle and others and taken the time. We've all that that opportunity to do that so I just think that it's important to note that and I'll be in favor of the motion. Thanks.

President Slifka: Thank you. Mr. Adler?

Councilor Adler: Okay. So I just need to respond to Deputy Brennan's comments around that. I'm not going to go into the cross here and turn this into a courtroom but, you know, if I were to ask each of you how many meetings, Budget Finance Meetings you've been to regarding this topic and how many of you have an intimate knowledge based on what was discussed during those Budget and Finance meetings. The other thing is how many reports we receive from a language perspective or any reports at all regarding this. I think we'd all have the same answer to that so I'm not here to again turn this into a political thing but we all in general terms have not received the level of information we have on this topic so I understand your position and why you're supporting it, but in terms of reporting and in terms of our level of engagement with this has been next to nil, at least from my perspective.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Adler. Anyone else? Okay. Mr. Visconti?

Councilor Visconti: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. This is a real tricky one. I've got to tell you. I got an email from the Mayor of Manchester this week. They're deciding tonight what they're going to do with revaluation and beyond the politics I was asked a series of questions about what's West Hartford doing as far as the cost. Have you figured what the cost will be for delaying this and I posed the question to Mr. Van Winkle. I think he shared some of those emails with the Council and the bottom line is this is coming down

fast and hard. It is inequitable, of course, as this whole process has been for 10 years but delaying this could cause us problems with the bills going out later, as Mr. Van Winkle spoke about, and I've been torn about it, not politically, just the fact that again, by the questions I asked - Who were the 75 percent and who were the 25 percent and would we ever know? And it's just one of those things where you're not going to know with this system. This system is definitely broken but I do know that if we delay it we'll have a problem. Either we do it or we don't do it and I just feel torn between all those who may be suffering from the fact that it's suspended but I can't know who they are and none of us at the table really will know all that information so I'm going to end up supporting this tonight and it's the luck of the lot.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Visconti. Anyone else? Okay. Could we take a roll call please, Ms. Labrot?

Ms. Labrot: Mr. Adler?

Councilor Adler: I am going to abstain.

Ms. Labrot: Mr. Brennan?

Vice President Brennan: Yes.

Ms. Labrot: Mrs. Cantor?

Councilor Cantor: Yes.

Ms. Labrot: Mr. Coursey?

Councilor Coursey: Yes.

Ms. Labrot: Mr. Davidoff?

Councilor Davidoff: Yes.

Ms. Labrot: Mr. Slifka?

President Slifka: Yes.

Ms. Labrot: Dr. Thornberry?

Councilor Thornberry: Yes.

Ms. Labrot: Mr. Verrengia?

Councilor Verrengia: Yes.

Ms. Labrot: Mr. Visconti?

Councilor Visconti: Yes.

Ms. Labrot: It passes.

President Slifka: Thank you, Ms. Labrot. That gets us up to #13, Mr. Brennan.

**ITEM #13: RESOLUTION (VAN WINKLE) TO ASSIGN THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD'S MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE WEST HARTFORD EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION, INC. TO THE WEST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**ADOPTED**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of West Hartford (the "Town") entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (the "Agreement") with the West Hartford Employees Association, Inc. (School Crossing Guards) on August 31, 2007, covering the period July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2012, and

**WHEREAS**, said Agreement stipulates that the Town and the West Hartford Police Employees Association, Inc. (the "Association") will meet and confer on matters of mutual concern affecting the members of the Association, such matters including but not limited to wages, benefits, and hours of work, and

**WHEREAS**, the School Crossing Guards provide a significant public safety service and it is beneficial to the Town and the West Hartford Board of Education for the West Hartford Police Department to retain coordination and supervision of the School Crossing Guards' daily operations, and

**WHEREAS**, despite supervision by the Police Department, the work schedule of the School Crossing Guards is dictated by the West Hartford Board of Education's school calendar and the work performed relates directly to West Hartford students, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town wishes to formalize the direct connection between the School Crossing Guards and the West Hartford Board of Education,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD** that the Memorandum of Agreement with the West Hartford Employees Association, Inc. is hereby assigned to the West Hartford Board of Education, the Town relinquishes any employer responsibilities for members of the Association, and the Town designates the West Hartford Board of Education as the successor employer for purposes of administering the current Agreement and negotiating future agreements. In addition, the fiscal year 2009-2010 General Fund budget is hereby amended to reflect the transfer of the appropriation from the Police Department to the Board of Education, as detailed below. This assignment and appropriation transfer will

become effective July 1, 2009 subject to final approval of the West Hartford Board of Education.

Decrease Appropriations

01-220402-20108-1007	Temporary Payroll	\$354,500
01-220402-20108-2121	Uniforms	5,000
01-220402-20108-4019	Social Security	17,000

Increase Appropriations

Board of Education	\$376,500
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Vice President Brennan: I move that we adopt.

Councilor Coursey: I second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. Mr. Van Winkle, this is sort of a technical matter and it may be most appropriate for consent but given the entities named in the title I figured the more sunshine in this the better. If you could give us a summary please?

Mr. Van Winkle: Well, it's pretty simple actually. We're transferring... The crossing guards that are out there helping school children cross the streets are in the police budget and although we're going to continue to have the police manage those crossing guards to make sure they're trained in the proper safety manners out there we are transferring the cost of those guards to the school budget where it would be better reflected in the cost of the schools so it's something... We've had a discussion with the schools. They understand why we're doing that and are in agreement with it. We're taking this cost from the town budget to the school budget for crossing guards.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Van Winkle. Anybody have any questions or discussion? Okay. Seeing none, all those in favor? Those opposed? The motion carries. Number 14 was on consent but a few questions have arisen from my colleagues so we'll proceed with that one.

**ITEM #14: RESOLUTION (VAN WINKLE) ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING AN EDWARD J. BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$113,418**

**ADOPTED**

**WHEREAS**, the West Hartford Police Department has applied for an Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Formula Grant in the amount of \$113,418, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town's adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 included no funds for police vehicles, and

**WHEREAS**, the West Hartford Police Department proposed to use JAG funds to purchase five cruisers, and

**WHEREAS**, these cruisers would be assigned to the Department's fleet of Patrol Division units and replace vehicles with mileages ranging from 65,000 to 83,000 miles, and

**WHEREAS**, the JAG funds will allow purchase of five cruisers at an estimated \$23,615 per unit, and will leave a local match of only \$4,657, said matching funds available in the Capital Non-Recurring Expenditure (CNRE) Fund, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Energy Plan calls for the department to consider the highest fuel efficient vehicle in the class, and

**WHEREAS**, after a review of optional vehicles the department believes that at this time continuing to use the Crown Victoria manufactured by Ford Motor Company as our standard police patrol vehicle is the best option for the Town, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town administration will evaluate the Town's non-patrol fleet for units more suitable for replacement by hybrid or alternative source fuel vehicles in an effort to use the most fuel efficient vehicles,

**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, authorize the purchase of five (5) police cruisers and amend the fiscal year 2008-2009 General Fund budget as follows:

Increase Estimated Revenues

01-220220-20401-9070	Justice Assistance Grant	\$113,418
01-220220-20401-9386	Transfer In from CNRE	4,657

Increase Appropriations

01-220220-20401-3232	Police Cruisers	\$118,075
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**AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Council of the Town of West Hartford does hereby authorize the transfer of \$4,657 from the Capital Non-Recurring Expenditure Fund to the General Fund to fund the purchase of these vehicles and amends the fiscal year 2008-2009 Capital Non-Recurring Expenditure Fund budget as follows:

Increase Estimated Revenues

33-910800-30506-9399	Use of Fund Balance	\$4,657
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Increase Appropriations

33-910800-30506-4058	Transfer to General Fund	\$4,657
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Vice President Brennan: I move that we adopt.

Councilor Coursey: Second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Mr. Brennan?

Councilor Davidoff: Excuse me, Mr. Mayor. Point of order. Do we need to remove that off the Consent Calendar? Is there a motion procedurally to do that?

President Slifka: That's how... Well, we can by any one member asking Joe, right? So...

Mr. O'Brien: That is correct. Any one member can request an item to be taken off Consent.

Councilor Davidoff: Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you, that suffices. Mr. Brennan?

Vice President Brennan: Yes. This relates to a previous resolution. We had asked by amendment that the administration look into this and I just would like to hear from Mr. Van Winkle a bit about the process leading up to the resolution that we're moving to adopt.

Mr. Van Winkle: Through you, Mr. Mayor. This resolution appropriates a grant that we are receiving as part of the stimulus money of \$113,000 that comes to the Town of West Hartford to our police department. The decision on this grant was to purchase new cruisers. We have not bought cruisers in the last two years for the Police Department and we're running with severely higher mileage vehicles. Going another year would have resulted in substantial investment in maintenance on those vehicles so we took these dollars and are purchasing five Crown Victoria vehicles which is what the Police Department standard car is. At the meeting where this was first raised the question was asked whether we should be considering doing a more fuel-efficient vehicle or alternative vehicle. You had adopted, and we are one of the few towns in the State of Connecticut to have adopted, Mr. Brennan led your group, our own energy plan that describes how we should make decisions on issues where we can make energy conservation decisions and it does call for the town to look at alternative fuel vehicles or high-mileage vehicles where we can. In meeting with the Police Department and looking at the demands that we put on a police vehicle, the amount of equipment... If you had a chance to open the trunk of your Crown Vic., the amount of equipment we carry, at this time we felt it was best to continue with our standardization for the patrol car that is out there. We still believe that we can make these decisions with other vehicles – detective vehicles and non-patrol vehicles - so we'd like to continue our standardization with that vehicle that Councilman Adler rode in the other day, that our officers ride in everyday and put substantial mileage on and hold this decision for a perhaps alternative fuel and higher fuel efficiency vehicle for other vehicles we may be purchasing in the future.

President Slifka: Okay. Anyone else? Okay. Thank you. All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Number 15, Mr. Brennan.

**ITEM #15: RESOLUTION (VAN WINKLE) AMENDING TAX LEVY ON THE LIST OF OCTOBER 1, 2008**

**ADOPTED**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD:

THAT, on the Town Assessment List of October 1, 2008, there be and is hereby granted to be levied upon the ratable estate of the Town of West Hartford, of the inhabitants of said Town and of all others liable to pay taxes therein, including all estate situated or taxable within territory added to the limits of the Town by any acts or resolutions of the General Assembly heretofore passed, a tax of thirty-seven and fifty-four hundredths (37.54) mills on the dollar. Said taxes shall become due on July first, two thousand nine (July 1, 2009) and payable on said date in whole or in equal semi-annual installments from that date, namely: July first, two thousand nine (July 1, 2009), and January first, two thousand ten (January 1, 2010) except that any tax of less than fifty (\$50) dollars and, any tax on motor vehicles shall be due and payable in full on the first business day of July, two thousand nine (July 1, 2009). If any installment of such tax shall not be paid on or before the first day of the month next succeeding that in which it shall be due and payable, the whole or such part of such installment as is unpaid shall thereupon be delinquent and shall be subject to the addition of interest at the rate and in the manner provided for in the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut. Any person may pay the total amount of any such tax for which he is liable at the time when the first installment thereof shall be payable.

Vice President Brennan: I move that we adopt.

Councilor Coursey: I second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. Lest anyone watching or in the audience have a heart attack seeing something about a tax levy tonight, Mr. Van Winkle, I will ask you to attest to my remarks that this is simply a function of the adoption of the phase-in... I'm sorry, the termination of the phase-in, the adoption of a new mill rate which then requires that we have a different multiplier to produce the same exact budget so this is a revenue-neutral thing. It's a technicality and does not result in an increase for anybody beyond what they may already have expected.

Mr. Van Winkle: That is correct, Mr. Mayor.

President Slifka: Thank you. Does anybody have any discussion on it? Okay. All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Okay. We're up to Announcements.

## **ITEM #16: ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Slifka: Mr. Van Winkle had covered Celebrate West Hartford in his remarks and just a reminder that it is this Saturday from 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. and Sunday from 12:00 to 6:00 P.M. It will be held rain or shine. Admission is free and it's all run by great volunteers here in West Hartford.

There are free concerts on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in June. Every Tuesday in June at 7:00 P.M. the Elmwood Senior Center hosts their Gazebo Concert Series. Bring the whole family. Free door-to-door transportation is available for our seniors. Every Wednesday at 7:00 P.M. from June to August Ronus Properties is hosting It's a Little Music on Wednesday series at Blue Back Square right in the center by Barnes and Noble. Every Thursday at 7:00 P.M. in June People's United Bank at 1013 Farmington Avenue is hosting its free summer concert series featuring the talented students from the Hart School Community Division and on Thursdays at 7:00 in July the First Church of Christ will hold its Carillon Concert Series. The schedule includes performers from all over the world. Listeners may enjoy the tower bells from the lawn of the church or from elsewhere in town. Tours of the carillon will be available after each concert.

The Traveler's Championship Tea Party, Thursday, June 18 at 6:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. West Hartford Center will serve once again as the host site for the kickoff event to the Traveler's Championship, formerly known as the GHO. Come out and shop, dine and take a swing on the mini-links golf course. There are musical performances, face painting and much more. Rain date is the next day, Friday, June 19.

There will be an open forum on June 24 at 6:30 P.M. entitled Race Matters, Post-racial America? That is with a question mark. Join with others in the community, discuss our changing racial attitudes including how we look at ourselves, each other, our communities and our social institutions. This will be held at the Faxon Library Wednesday, June 24 at 6:30 P.M. It's the final segment of Faxon Library's Race Matters series. Registration is suggested by calling the branch.

And last, but certainly not least. The Noah Webster House and West Hartford Historical Society is currently seeking stories of local hauntings, legends and urban myths. I've got a few from around this table I could share. (*Laughter.*) One about the parking meters, right? ..for an upcoming exhibit... Stories must take place in West Hartford. If you know of any strange goings on, curious noises or bizarre sights please contact the... Wow! Please contact... They wrote this, not me. Please contact the museum at 521-5362. And does anyone else have other announcements?

Councilor Davidoff: I've got one.

President Slifka: Mr. Davidoff?

Councilor Davidoff: Mr. Mayor, since we've talked a lot about parking I just want to point out for Celebrate that there is free event parking at the Town Center Garage which is located across the street here. Also in the Isham Street Garage there's free parking and there will be for bikers free valet parking right in front of the area there. They'll be doing the... But just to let people know that you can park in the Isham Garage for free and the Town Center Garage for free cause people always ask, you know, where can they park for free during Celebrate and it's important to point that out.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Davidoff. Any others? Mr. Adler?

Councilor Adler: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I think June 18 Playhouse on the Park is having an open house at 244 Park Road. I think that's what? The old...where the previous Park Road Playhouse was. Park Road Playhouse has changed and it's going to be hopefully just as better if not even more exciting.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Adler. I've been asked to clarify Mr. Davidoff's comments about the bikes that it involves pedal bikes, not motorcycles in case anybody was...

Councilor Adler: Scooters??

President Slifka: Bicycles. Nothing with a motor on it. Your hog, you can't bring it over there Mr. Adler.

Councilor Adler: Thank you.

President Slifka: Okay. If no other... Oh, Mrs. Cantor. I'm sorry.

Councilor Cantor: Road Race is at 9:30. You had said that the Celebrate started at noon, which is correct, but the Road Race registration is 8:00 to 9:00 for those who haven't preregistered and it starts at 9:30.

President Slifka: It starts at noon for those...the rest of us less athletic folks who live in town so... *(Laughter.)*

President Slifka: Right. Okay. We're up to Reports from the Corporation Counsel. Mr. O'Brien?

#### **ITEM #17: REPORTS OF CORPORATION COUNSEL**

Mr. O'Brien: Well, we have no need of Executive session and I'll be happy to answer any questions you might have.

President Slifka: Thank you. And are there questions for Mr. O'Brien? Okay. Seeing none, all done. Thank you.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you.

**ITEM #18: APPOINTMENTS**

President Slifka: We have no appointments tonight and as Mr. O'Brien said no need for Executive Session so we move to the Consent Calendar, Mr. Brennan, noting that #14 came off.

**ITEM #23: CONSENT CALENDAR**

**ADOPTED**

**ITEM #20: FROM TOWN PLAN AND ZONING COMMISSION RE: ORDINANCE REVISING MAILING REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN ZONING APPLICATIONS – RECOMMENDING DENIAL.**

**ITEM #21: FROM TOWN PLAN AND ZONING COMMISSION RECENT PLANNING ACTION: 20 DOVER ROAD – BETH DAVID SYNAGOGUE, 1128 NEW BRITAIN AVENUE – ELEMENTS BISTRO, 46 SOUTH MAIN STREET – BESITO RESTAURANT, AND 176 AND 178 NEWINGTON ROAD AND 10 JACOBS ROAD – TEMPORARY WAIVER OF PARKING REQUEST.**

**ITEM #22: FROM INLAND WETLAND AND WATERCOURSES AGENCY RECENT PLANNING ACTION: 176 AND 178 NEWINGTON ROAD, 10 JACOBS ROAD, AND 60 BROOK STREET.**

Vice President Brennan: Okay. I move that we adopt.

Councilor Coursey: Second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. We're up to Communications, #24.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**ITEM #24: FROM STEPHANIE NIELSEN (5-22-09) REQUESTING PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE TOWN COUNCIL REGARDING WEST HARTFORD ANIMAL CONTROL**

**RECEIVED**

Vice President Brennan: I move that we receive.

Councilor Coursey: Second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. Ms. Nielsen had a discussion with our Town Manger earlier today and informed us that due to a childcare issue she could not be here but I understand she has authorized Mr. Van Winkle to share some sentiments.

Mr. Van Winkle: Ms. Nielsen lost a pet in West Hartford to an accident, a car accident, in fact has lost two cats in West Hartford and anybody who has a pet knows the affection and connection we have. I know my dog is the only one who wags his tail when I come home so (*laughter*) we all understand her angst over her cat lying at the edge of the road and no one picking it up or getting there to pick it up. She was concerned about the way the town responded to a call that there was a cat lying at the side of the road. The police were informed it was a dead cat and they didn't immediately run out and pick it up. Obviously we recommend to anyone who has an animal if they can mark it in some way so that if we do find an injured animal we can identify who owns it and we can give you a call and say we found your pet and it might be at a veterinary hospital or it might be at our pound but in this case neither cat had identification. If you've got a cat you probably know how hard it is to put anything on a cat and have him keep it on. I just want to say that we sympathize with her loss this year and the connection that she has to her pets and that we're looking at how we handle these notices. Again, I just would ask everyone that does have a pet and lets them roam to make sure that there is some means that we can identify them. Dogs have to be licensed. Cats do not but if you can, get something, even a chip, there's a computer chip you can put into your animal's skin and that will identify for us who owns that animal. That can make a big difference in what we're able to do with an animal that's injured so I sympathize with her loss and I just want to say that we're going to be looking at how we deal with animals that we find and see whether there's anything we can do to improve our response. Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Van Winkle. That gets us to #25 Mr. Brennan.

**ITEM #25: FROM ROBERT J. MILNE (5-21-09) REQUESTING PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE TOWN COUNCIL REGARDING ITEMS 236, 237, 238 and 239**

**RECEIVED**

Vice President Brennan: I move that we receive.

Councilor Coursey: Second.

President Slifka: A motion is made and seconded. All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Mr. Milne.

Mr. Milne: Robert Milne. 3 Osage Road. This file here is part and parcel of many submissions, a total of 241 to date. There has been no response, nothing affirmative, no meeting of the minds. Attempts have been made to even meet with corporate counsel and I still haven't heard anything. I thank Mr. Visconti for your attempts to try to resolve this

thing. The only thing that has come back is part of an ongoing program to accuse me of slander and again, this being an election year I can understand why you're doing it. You have no interest in resolving anything and whatever I have to say obviously the slander routine seems to be working for you.

Specifically tonight, 232, in response to 213, December 15th there was a meeting where Mr. Hardy of West Hartford FIRST was provided with some cooperation for information and I posed to Mr. Van Winkle at that time the issue of whether or not Mr. Hardy would have to file an FOI request and I offered to Mr. Van Winkle an opportunity for him to substantiate a claim as to the cost of FOIs. It's been five months and Mr. Van Winkle has not stepped forward. I can appreciate the cost of running a business but I think if you volunteer and you try to resolve these things in an amicable manner rather than the accusations and the accusatory way that things are done throughout this Council with one exception, it won't resolve anything like the two policemen and two attorneys. It costs the town money to do these things.

Uh, 233, 234, 235 have to do my ongoing concerns to try to cause the Council to look at the conduct of the Police Department and my concerns about Mr. Verrengia having a conflict of interest. If any concern about being troubled about any danger, according to Mr. Davidoff, that one may have with anyone here and I don't know anyone here that would pose any kind of danger to you. The other day on 237 I'm driving down the road and I'm being tailgated by a vehicle, 242WH, a police car, driving unsafely, following too close. I had to put my hazards on. He drives around me and tailgates the car in front of me so your chances of endangerment are more appropriate to a policeman following you to close or being tasered by a policeman. In addition to that another police incident on 231, I'm driving home from an event which my son and his best friend are involved in every Friday night as part of a gaming club that they belong to. After dropping the young man off over near Hall High my son and I noticed that a police car pulled out of a side road with its lights off and followed us for about a half a mile with his lights off and I sat there and I just asked my son to just take some copious notes and here we are being followed and again, tailgating and driving with the lights off in the evening...and this was about 9:00, 9:30. Again, Mr. Davidoff you got more concerns just driving on the road with the policemen.

I also would like to speak to 229. Continuously, particularly with the mayor, I think the mayor oftentimes confuses issues with regard to concerns that I have with problems that he has with speaking publically. Earlier today I spoke about the comment of Blue Back Square receiving or earning or budgeted 3 million dollars of tax revenue. Well, that's not really true when you look at the budget. I called the mayor on it and again I get a certain response. I think if anyone has done anything slanderous I obviously think it's been the mayor and a few of the Town Council members. If you don't like what I have to say there's a forum. There's a process. Corporate Counsel, you can resolve these things. Mr. Visconti has tried to do it. Sit down and try to resolve things. Trying to serve me up as being, you know, the town gadfly or someone who slanders... No one's slandered...no one's ever bothered you. I've never been in the company of any of you with one exception. I've never been anywhere around you so all this concern about police and all

this other stuff. You know, why don't you stop playing politics? Why don't you do the people's business and get on with things? You just have to accept the fact that some people just aren't going to agree with you. And if you want to say anything about slanderous I invite you to have gone to the last Taxpayer's Association Meeting. If you want to talk about slander it would have been a perfect example for you to see two officers in the organization just having a field day with one particular member of the organization. I'm glad to see that Ms. Cantor has an item 227 and has admitted she's not a public accountant and, you know...

President Slifka: Your time is up.

Mr. Milne: Thank you.

President Slifka: Okay. I'd like to entertain a motion to adjourn.

Vice President Brennan: So moved.

Councilor Coursey: Second.

President Slifka: All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. We're adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 9:19 P.M.

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Essie S. Labrot  
Town Clerk/Council Clerk

/sab