

# MINUTES

## WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

WATERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER  
MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2009, 7:30 P.M.

**PRESENT:** Elaine Adams, Chairman  
Gary Bernier  
Mr. Demirs  
Richard DiFederico  
Richard Fusco  
Carl Mancini  
Raymond Primini, Vice Chairman  
Paul Rinaldi

**ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Chuck Frigon, Town Manager  
Gary Miller, Interim Director of Operations, Board of Education  
Frank Nardelli, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director

**OTHERS ABSENT:** Audio Technician

### 1. **Call Meeting To Order**

Ms. Adams, Chairman, Called the Regular Meeting to Order at 7:30 p.m.

Ms. Adams, Chairman, Called a Recess at 7:30 p.m.

Ms. Adams, Chairman, Reconvened the Regular Meeting at 8:40 p.m.  
(Meeting was delayed due to Special Town Meeting ending at 8:23 p.m.)

### 2. **Roll Call**

Ms. LaForme, Board Clerk, executed the Roll Call.

### 3. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Ms. Adams, Chairman, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Public Participation**

**Doreen DeSorbo, 73 Franklin Avenue, Oakville, CT 06779**

**Ms. DeSorbo:** I just wanted to make a quick comment and some information about our street lights which obviously if you were just over there you know this is still bugging me. The reason for that is our street light, which is right across the street from us, just evaporated one day. It isn't that they get turned off, the entire fixture disappears and goes away. I guess we're lucky they didn't take the pole down too, but the type of light that we had is I guess a type of vapor light, I think that's what most of these lights are, they are a low light, they diffuse and they tend to eliminate a little bit of your yard. And this is what we had a few years ago, we had a higher strength and then they kicked it down at a certain point, whatever, fairly weak light but a safety type of thing. I was just talking with some people out there, apparently we were supposed to have gotten some sort of notice that the light was one of those and someone said it must have gone to one of the neighbors. No, because it's my brother-in-law who is across the street and the pole is on his land, he did not get notice. We did not get notice, we know that none of the people who were in the group got notice, the 4 that were actually getting this light. I've called CL&P and I've gone through the whole process and here's the sad thing, we can only get a different type of light, because they don't do those lights anymore. Had we known ahead of time we probably could have just had that switched and hooked up to one of our electrical services which we would have been happy to do. We didn't so the thing is gone. For them to put one back in now, it's only a spot type of light because they don't do the diffused lights anymore, so we can't even get what we used to have. Now I don't know how the letter didn't come through or what's going on, but it would be a wonderful thing, seriously, if one of you, whoever, the whole Council could simply look into this and ensure perhaps by putting a legal notice in the Town Times once a week that the lights are about to go out on such and such a street or an area to let people know that way, maybe get the Town Times to write a short article about that, but I truly wished we had known ahead of time, that would have saved us something that we really enjoyed that we cannot replace now. I don't mind and I don't know if you all know, just for information, it's a 14 year contract for a homeowner to set up the light to their electrical service. There is no installation fee, but if you stop paying, if you leave or something before the 14 years is up, they figure they get the money back that way in charging you whatever fees at that point. Now that's all fair, that really is not a problem and it shouldn't be, but prior notice is good because that way the neighbors can get together and say let's all share this even though it's going on mine, you know, if my neighbors say yea, we'll pay for it, the cost is not that bad. It's between \$15 to \$20 a month for a 70 watt, it's between \$20 to \$25 per month for 100 watt, it's a reasonable thing, but again if people enjoy the type of light that they have now, the only way to even dream of keeping that is to not let that fixture go beforehand. So I would ask you, we sort of got stuck in this and we'd give anything to have our old light back, but it's far too late cause they won't do it. So redouble your efforts to be sure that everyone is getting the information that the lights are going and which lights are going. Thank you.

**Sue Frohock, 95 Barnes Road, Watertown, CT 06795**

**Ms. Frohock:** I'm an involved Judson School parent and I'm also the fonder of the VOICE Group. Our Group has now over 70 members and we're working hard to get new parents involved in the school budget process and out to vote when the time comes. I'd like to represent myself tonight and also the (inaudible) this evening but I've been calling you and emailing you over the past couple of weeks because we value our children's education and upset to the school's budget that were being made before we even had a chance to give our opinion.

**Ms. Adams:** Excuse me, I think it's necessary because I think people are very confused about where we are in the process with this. At the last Finance Subcommittee, Joint Meeting with the Board's Finance Subcommittee, my understanding is what they have done is asked the Board of Education and the Superintendent to come back with what would be the impacts if you were only to go down to a 1.5% increase. In this point of time, Gary correct me if I'm wrong, that the Finance Subcommittee has not made a final determination yet as to what they're going to recommend to the Council. The important thing is and it's not on tonight's Agenda, but it will be on May 4<sup>th</sup>, is when the Council will vote. The Finance Subcommittee is going to meet, Gary, what is the schedule.

**Mr. Bernier:** I certainly do. If you want I can give my report now.

**Ms. Adams:** Yes, cause I think it's important for everyone to understand that nothing has been put in concrete yet. It will not be until, the Finance Subcommittee will make a recommendation to the Town Council on a recommended budget to go to Public Hearing and it is just that. It is recommended, it is not in stone, and doesn't become in stone until after the Public Hearing which is going to be the middle of May, at that point the entire Council will vote on what will go to referendum, what the dollar amount will be, so just so there is no confusion, that at this point in time, that was they, what would be the impact if you only got an increase of 1.5.

**Ms. Frohock:** I appreciate that and I wanted to, as a taxpayer and a parent, go see a workshop, a dialogue between the Board of Education and the Town Council to come up with some sort of a range. I can understand that many of you are not interested in supporting the full 5.9% increase but some sort of a dialogue between representatives of the Town and representatives of the school to start to work the process to come to an agreement, and that is not what I saw, that is not what all the parents that wire there saw. What we saw was essentially the Town Council mandating to the Board that you know 1.5% and please come back and tell us what you need to cut to meet that number. The Board came prepared with a line by line item of what made up that increase so they could start the discussion but they weren't even given the opportunity to do that.

**Ms. Adams:** That was the second meeting, not the first meeting, that was held because I was at that first meeting and (inaudible).

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**Ms. Frohock:** Yea, the meeting that you and Ray (inaudible) were not able to attend, that's the one.

**Ms. Adams:** It was the second meeting, okay.

**Ms. Frohock:** I know that you weren't there, as a taxpayer and a parent that's what I saw. I'll just finish my . . . . .

**Ms. Adams:** I just wanted to (inaudible) any confusion that was out there so people understood that's where the Council (inaudible).

**Ms. Frohock:** I just want to say, I expected and I hoped, especially in today's economy that this is really the year that we need to have both parties, the party representing the Town and the party representing the school to really work together to come up with the best interests for the Town. Cutting it 75% right off the bat which is what I saw, without a word of discussion I didn't feel was representing the town effectively. Secondly I know some of you may think that the parents are asking for the moon this year, especially with the economy and we always want the best for our children, but when you're an informed parent as I've become over the past couple of years, you understand the issues that the schools are facing, with the high school accreditation, the CMT scores that are coming back, the textbooks issues, the lack of programming that we have, it becomes very obvious that the best, we're not even talking about the best, we're so far from the best it's pretty pathetic, frankly, so we are just talking about maintaining the teachers and the programs that we currently have in this budget and avoiding going backwards, to a point where we are so far backwards it will take years to come back. I also heard comparisons of the increase to other towns and I don't really think it's fair to do that because they've been funding their schools over the bad times and I feel like we haven't, maybe they have areas to cut and we don't have areas to cut so they can afford to possibly take a lesser increase so I don't feel that's a fair comparison. As I wrote in my letter to you, I think we need to understand that the world is not the same as it was when I was going to school and when you were going to school. There are just more people in the world, it's more competitive. It's more competitive for jobs, to get into colleges, it's going to be tremendously tougher for the students graduating. Our students aren't competing on just a local level or a national level, but they are competing globally for their futures. Colleges that were once considered safety net schools are now difficult to get into. So I just want to encourage you to listen to the parents that have been calling you, emailing you and trying to reach out to you these past few weeks, hear their side, and I implore you to represent them also. I also want to make a final note that one of the goals of our group is to try and improve the voter turnout. I know that's definitely an area we need to work on. And I understand that the new budget schedule has been released and the current budget vote date is set for like June 16<sup>th</sup> which is only about a week before the last day of school.

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**Ms. Adams:** The tentative date, we do have certain legal notice times that must be adhered to. I know, I think I have it in the packet, the tentative schedule, it's a vote again of the Town Council it will be on our next, 2 weeks from tonight, the Council itself will listen to the recommendations of the Finance Committee, doesn't mean we'll take them, who knows what will happen because it is a vote again of the 9 members, it will be a 5 to recommend what's going to go to public hearing. Tentative public hearing is May 19<sup>th</sup> and then we have to do a Town Meeting which is a formality by Charter, June 16<sup>th</sup>, yes.

**Ms. Frohock:** I just want to make a point. It was so much work to try and get people out to vote in August last year, that if for some reason we have to do this again, it would be more beneficial to allow time for possibly two votes before the school year ends to try and get the parents involved (inaudible).

**Ms. Adams:** Normally under normal circumstances that is exactly what we do. We have I think, this is just my opinion, we have a lot of different factors playing in this year. We have reval, we have the economy and what has happened in the past years since we've been through this before. Secondly we also have the stimulus package, potentially we are waiting for information, is there anything there that could be potentially used where dollars that you need, the needs of the Board now could be offset. That's information waiting to come in. The closer we get to our fiscal year which is June 30<sup>th</sup> you get better numbers on medical, any liability insurance, workers comp, those could be some big, either increases or savings you know to the Town's side and the Board's side and then maybe you have firm commitment from the State on the Education Cost Sharing dollars. In the past when we go earlier, we end up doing the best guess that we have and I think, in my opinion anyway, and I think most of the Council's, by putting this off like this, it gives us firmer numbers, it gives us true numbers and then going to people with that, so it's kind of like, it's not the norm, you're right, it's actually not been what we've done in the past, but this year there are extenuating circumstances that we kind of decided to go that way.

**Ms. Frohock:** I mean if you feel that it's a large percentage of the number that you don't have, that you need to (inaudible) I understand, but if you feel like you can get, if you have a significant amount of the information, you need to push it up a little bit that would be a huge help in trying to get people out to vote.

**Ms. Adams:** I believe we need, I think it's what, 24 days, Frank, to be able to post to do a referendum?

**Mr. Nardelli:** Yea, well of course it's not just the referendum, you have to have the Budget Meeting.

**Ms. Adams:** We have to do the Town Meeting the first time, so there's time and notification that needs to be done there.

**Mr. Nardelli:** We might be able to push it up a little bit, but then we'd have to push the public hearing up sooner too. I mean we can discuss it.

**Ms. Frohock:** Whatever you can do to try and shorten your schedule.

**Mr. Bernier:** As far as this calendar, we had originally planned on having the workshop you're talking about, on the request of the Board of Education we were asked not to schedule any meeting until after the Stimulus Package came out, which made it a meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>, the following week I got a letter through the Town Manager's Office from the Superintendent saying we need to have a meeting earlier, the decision to ask the Board of Ed to come in at 1.5% was not done in a vacuum and it was not done with our heads in the sand.

It is what everybody around is looking at. I understand and you might not have been around, I sat and I was the Finance Chair for the Board of Ed, I certainly understand and everybody on this Council understands the need for education in this Town and I agree with you we have not been good stewards to the school throughout the years, but the other thing I do want to mention, last year in August the budget went through, with the bonding only, with zero increase to anybody else and that how we solved it then.

**Ms. Frohock:** Well a lot of the parents in this Town didn't realize the situation we were in last year.

**Ms. Adams:** There was a lot of confusion.

**Mr. Bernier:** The only way it got through was to pay just that, they weren't even willing to pay that at first.

**Ms. Adams:** I know there was a lot of confusion, people didn't realize with zero tax increase for that year we had the . . . when the referendum went out for the 3 school projects, at the time we had Tamarack on the table, we had Heritage on the table . . . .

**Ms. Frohock:** I don't want to go into all that . . . .

**Ms. Adams:** (Inaudible) people I think were definitely confused that . . . .

**Ms. Frohock:** I don't think we need to go into all that.

**Mr. Bernier:** Let me go back to the question of the calendar, that's where I was and then I apologize, I got off, the next meeting with the Board of Education is scheduled for next Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. I received a call from Mr. Lambert last weekend, we talked about it, originally we were hoping to have a meeting this week, we were not able to make that happen. At this point it's strictly logistics. It's getting back together with the Board of Ed, having the Superintendent come back to us with what those impacts are I think, I believe they'll be extremely significant, to digest that, as a Subcommittee come back and have further discussion, we are still looking for the recommendation on May 4<sup>th</sup>, but because this has been prolonged a little bit . . . . it's just logistics.

**Ms. Frohock:** But I was hoping I would see at your next meeting more cooperation and more working collaboratively than just mandates such as what I saw at the last meeting. That's all. Thank you.

**Kate Lyman, 3 Bower Street, Watertown, CT 06795**

**Ms. Lyman:** I do have a prepared statement, but I'm just going to deviate while the thought is in my mind, (inaudible) this is more of a conversation which is good. Mr. Bernier, you talk about the fact that people weren't willing to pay until that third vote, one of the things that our organization is trying to do is to get more people out to vote, because as a parent I get really frustrated . . . .

**Ms. Adams:** (Inaudible.)

**Ms. Lyman:** Well thank you. I get so frustrated as a parent when the vote goes down two to one and it's 22% of the voters. That is something we are really working on. When a vote goes down two to one and my children's education is at stake based on 13% or 14% of the voters in Watertown, I mean I just want to kick and scream. That is so frustrating. I sort of have to take very lightly that people weren't willing to vote, because we're working on that, we're working to get people better educated. You say hey don't forget to vote and they say on what? And you get so mad. That aspect of it we are working really, really hard on. I respect every person who goes out to vote, no matter what their decision is. The biggest issue is getting more people out.

As members of the Town council you are to represent the people of this town and lead this town. The decision made two weeks ago to cut the education budget by approximately \$1,500,000 is leading us down the wrong path. We need leadership that considers Watertown's best interests in the long run and that decision was reckless. It is only taking into consideration a very short term goal. This Town undeniably has a serious need that all grade levels. You have heard these needs from the Board of Education already and yet you are asking the Board of Education to make seriously deep cuts that will impact this system for years and years to come as if the budget has already been defeated at least once. In light of the difficult economic times and the current condition of the Watertown education system, my opinion is that the logical response should have been to go back to the Board of Education and ask what it would take to run the school system as it stands now, with the same level of services and programs. Clearly you feel that this is not the year to make improvements to our services and the programs offered, so how can you justify making cuts to programs and services to an already hurting school system before we even have the chance to vote on the status quo or even something better? At this point you've put me in the position of just wanting to hang on for dear life to what we already have. Let me make it clear that that alone is a huge compromise on my part and the part of many other parents. Educating our children is of the highest priority. Many others and I are willing to make sacrifices in our every day life to make this happen. As a parent who supports an increase in my taxes to improve my children's education this budget request offers me nothing. The current proposal and I use that term lightly because I do understand, what you're asking them to give to you right now is a lose/lose situation. I vote yes and I get increased class sizes for my children and a loss of programs and services. I feel like a proposal like that would put parents between a rock and a hard place. Doing the right thing takes courage and we need leadership in this Town with courage. I'm asking you to work with the Board of Ed to present a budget that at least continues to serve our students at the current level. Thank you.

**Kevin Killeen, 430 Northfield Road, Watertown, CT 06795**

**Mr. Killeen:** Thank you for speaking on behalf of our children for education. I'm here on a slightly different note tonight. I noticed an item on tonight's Agenda, consider setting a special town meeting, date, time, and so forth to appropriate \$50,000 for legal fees. I don't want to get into the minutia of that, especially after having seen what we've been through already. It seems like something has misfired in our process. I understand that our Charter mandates for the allocation of funds, past \$25,000, however looking at it and saying we've incurred a legal debt, we're required to meet and service that debt, so how we come through looking for an appropriation at a public meeting for a legal debt is an issue that I think we need to look as a Town Council, perhaps have the Town Attorney look at it again, because I would hate to see, let's say this \$50,000, maybe \$35,000 of it is actually for our Town Attorney, that's not unreasonable to expect. Do we have a Town Meeting and say hey, do we want to pay this \$50,000 by the way, \$35,000 of it is for our Town Attorney and if we say no, where are we then? The Town Attorney says well if you don't want to pay me, I'm not working. Now we don't have representation. So there's something wrong in the process when we are going to Town meetings for approval of these funds that we've incurred legal debts for.

**Ms. Adams:** The line item has no dollars in it.

**Mr. Killeen:** But I also note that we can transfer funds between line items and that's where I think what we've got to consider is doing something along that line instead of saying hey we're going to decide what we want to do in terms of paying. I mean when I go home I'll take a vote and I'll ask my wife, I'll even include the kids cause I'm a nice guy, and I'm going to say we're going to decide whether or not we pay the Town of Watertown taxes on our property. Okay? Now I have a legal obligation to the Town for those taxes and taking a vote does not diminish that, so if I want to have my family sued or incur interest fees on that, then we're going to go through with this vote. You know what I'm saying? So we've got to look at the transfer of funds or addressing this issue other than coming to a public hearing to pay a lawful debt. This isn't hey we're thinking about buying this little parcel here or that something there, it's about lawful debts that have been acquired and need to be serviced. I'm sure you guys are in agreement. Hopefully you know prior to setting this date you will consider that there may be other options than doing what we're doing. Thanks.

**Kelly McGuire, 301 Oak Drive, Watertown, CT 06795**

**Ms. McGuire:** I just want to briefly address the education budget issue again. As a member of VOICE and a taxpayer in town, I would like you all to consider as you enter the budget process on May 4<sup>th</sup> or any other meeting, to not decide for me what I can afford or what I am willing to pay, but to do what is right for the children and the community when it comes to the education system in this town. Thank you.

**Guy Buzzannco, 399 Artillery Road, Watertown, CT 06795**

**Mr. Buzzannco:** Like many in this Town I'm looking for a job right now. My wife and I manage our budget though, closely, while providing for our family, our kids and we are doing our job as parents and as community members. I'm here tonight to ask you to do your job and approve the 2010 budget for our schools that provides a quality educational experience, protects our home values and offers a manageable and reasonable increase in our taxes. The Finance Subcommittee's request of 1.5% does none of that. It's only going to achieve certain millage reduction. It represents the shallowness of thinking and the least amount of effort on your part, and is the latest example of the kind of poor stewardship you just confessed to. You didn't even look at what it takes to really operate our schools. You just wanted to put a certain budget number in front of our voters, arrogantly thinking that we don't really care what we get for our money as long as the price is right. Finance Subcommittee members, we didn't elect you to play a numbers game. We elected you to do the hard work of balancing the many priorities that it takes to preserve the quality of life in this Town and then make the wise decisions needed to maintain it. There seems to be a perception among at least some of you that our school system can tolerate radical cuts but nothing could be farther from the truth. A 1.5% increase only makes a weak school system even weaker. It makes unacceptably large class sizes even larger. It makes desperately needed basic classes and needed extracurricular classes even scarcer. You can already fill a (Tape #1, Side A ended – may have missed some) with the CMT's. That's one in 4 out of this school's 3<sup>rd</sup> graders that are not able to read and perform at the 4<sup>th</sup> grade level this Fall. Your cuts will only make those numbers worse. I sincerely doubt you were aware of that when you made that request. A 1.5% increase will put our property values and our children's futures at risk as you force our Town to lay off possibly dozens of school employees. Don't do it. Hold yourselves, hold the Board, our staff, hold our unions to a standard of excellence that our Town and our children deserve. There is an increase that meets our children's needs, preserves our property values and makes a reasonable demand on our taxpayers and it can be met with reasonable negotiations with our unions, and responsible budget cuts from our Board of Education if you allow it to happen. Do it. Do the work we elected you to do. Thank you.

**Heather Messina, 264 Pond View Drive, Watertown, CT 06795**

**Ms. Messina:** I'm also here to support the Board of Education. I have nothing prepared, but I ask you to please let us decide what we can afford to pay. I'm afraid for my children right now. I have 2 young children, one not even at John Trumbull and one leaving John Trumbull soon and I'm afraid when they get to high school they're going to graduate from an unaccredited high school. Our schools are decimated and we need to do something to correct what's been done over the last, I've only been here 11 years, correct all the under funding that has been going on for too long. There's nothing left to cut. I'm afraid if you do make severe cuts like you're proposing possibly or you might be asking the Board of Education to do, the classes sizes will be enormous. Resources that are not available, will be non-existent. Support staff which are very much needed, CMT scores, we need to get those up. This is ridiculous. This is the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We have to educate our children to survive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and we're not doing that job. Thank you.

**Al Mickel, 95 Woodvine Avenue, Watertown, CT 06795**

**Mr. Mickel:** Rumor has it that we're going to pay lawyers some more. I didn't get to hear the vote, but here's another question for the lawyers, I guess. The notice of the meeting, the Town Clerk certified it a month before it happened. Is that right? It says March 20<sup>th</sup>. Next to last line.

**Ms. Adams:** Dated the 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, it should have been April.

**Mr. Mickel:** You might want to ask the lawyers if we had a legal meeting tonight. Thank you.

Ms. Adams, Chairman, closed Public Participation at 9:15 p.m.

**5. Minutes**

A. Regular Meeting Minutes – April 6, 2009

MOTION: (Mr. Fusco, sec. Mr. Mancini) to Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes dated April 6, 2009 as presented.

Discussion: None

In Favor: Mr. Bernier, Mr. Demirs, Mr. DiFederico, Mr. Fusco, Mr. Mancini, Mr. Primini, Mr. Rinaldi

Opposed: None

Abstained: Ms. Adams

MOTION CARRIED (7-0-1)

**6. Chairman's Report**

A. Correspondence

1. Letter from Project Pride-Watertown High School requesting a donation, dated April 1, 2009.

**Ms. Adams:**

“Dear Chair Elaine Adams:

Now that the major portion of Project Pride has been completed, we still need your help. We are looking for donations for the purchase of our State Championship plaques. The school will be closing the gym in March to make the improvements to the floor and bleachers; we would to finish this project with our last agenda item, State Championship Plaques. Please send donations to the address below. Thank you for all your help.

Improvements Made

Complete painting of gym	New wall pads with WHS ID
NVL Tournament Plaques	Player chairs with WHS colors & logo/cart
School Banners	New Plaque or 1,000 point club

Please send all donations to:  
Project-PIDE-Watertown High School  
P.O. Box 878  
Watertown, CT 06795-0878

Tank you for your support.

Karen Blake”

**Ms. Adams:** I believe last year we did send them a contribution. I would think at this point, I don’t know, maybe Chuck, if we want to continue (inaudible) just if you want to make this an agenda item or just for Council members to get back to Chuck and see how we want to proceed with this.

2. Letter from Beth Holley, Re: Budget Cuts, dated April 8, 2009.

**Ms. Adams:**

“As a tax paying citizen of the Town of Watertown, I have to say that I am extremely disappointed with the Town Council. I can’t understand how each and every one of you feel that you have represented EVERY person in Watertown. You haven’t actually represented EVERYONE in Watertown. You really have only represented a select group of people in town. You haven’t represented me nor my feelings. Personally, I don’t need anyone to speak for me. When it comes to the education of my two girls’, I can speak for myself. I can tell you that I would not want my girls education to suffer ANYMORE!! Education in Watertown has suffered long enough!! My oldest daughter is a Senior at the High School. For the last four years she and her teachers have had to contend with over crowded classrooms, a lack of books in the classrooms and to top that all off, she has had to share desks with other students!! Before going to the High School she had to endure the deplorable conditions at Swift Middle School.

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I understand where this country is economically. My husband has been unemployed for several months. I have had to alter my household budget. I have had to cut back on certain items, but I would never compromise the education of my children.

With such an important topic at hand you really should allow the citizens of this Town to speak for themselves. This topic should be put to a vote by the citizens of Watertown. I believe that I should have the right to make a decision regarding the education of my two children. NOT the Town Council!! Other parents in town should also be given the opportunity to voice their opinions as well. You might be surprised at the outcome!

Thank you for your time.

Beth Holley  
Bower Street  
Watertown"

3. Letter from Sue Frohoch, Re: Budget, dated April 8, 2009.

**Ms. Adams:**

“As an active parent in this school system, I was very upset at the Town Council last night for making the decision to cut the school’s 2009/2010 budget from 5.9 to 1.5% without allowing any public participation, or any discussion from the BOE. I know these are difficult economic times, however there are many parents who would prefer to pay a little more in taxes for our children’s education than the alternative of moving, or sending them to private school which costs \$10,000/year per child minimum. The world has gotten much tougher since we grew up, and our children are competing against students not just from the US, but all over the world to get into colleges now. Schools that were once “safety nets” are now very difficult to get into. Our children need a good education to provide them with adequate opportunities in life.

I think Karen Baldwin did an excellent job of presenting to the public (17 times) that her budget is responsible and all of the line items are necessary due to the years of under funding in our schools. My child comes home with school books that are ripped and torn, and completely outdated. Much of the material they use in class and that she comes home with is Xeroxed by the teacher (imagine how much time that takes her) because they just don’t have the property books to cover the subject matter they are learning.

I have spent many days in my child's classroom over the years (kindergarten through third grade) to watch her teachers struggle to teach the class while they deal with children who have constant behavior issues. Imagine trying to teach 24 kids while several students are constantly acting out and you have no help.

I implore you to please **reconsider this cut, and allow the BOE's budget to come before a vote AS IS at 5.9%.**

I know we can rally the parents in this Town again to stand behind their schools.

Sue Frohock  
Judson Parent"

4. Letter from Cheryl Lindstrom, Re: Budget Cuts, dated April 8, 2009.

**Ms. Adams:**

"Dear Town Council Members,

I was quite dismayed to learn of your decision to cut the BOE's proposed budget. As a taxpayer with a child in the Watertown school system this is of great concern to me. I have sat and heard Karen Baldwin present her proposed budget, and I fully support the 5.9% increase which she proposed. Our schools have been neglected for years by budget cuts, and are now at a crucial point where they need our attention. If this means our tax dollars then so be it. Our Town cannot move forward in this or any economy without a strong and reputable school system. It is our responsibility to stand up and support our educators as they work hard to provide our children with the best education that they can. We are so far behind comparable towns in what we provide our students. It is shameful. Karen Baldwin has come into this Town with an eagerness and a know how to move our school system forward; but how can she and the BOE do so when they are met with negativity and what seems like an outright disregard for the standing of our schools? It is time that you really listen to the taxpayers of this Town when we tell you enough is enough. It is time for the Town Council to fully support and stand behind our school system. A 5.9% increase is affordable. A collapse of our school system is not. We the taxpayers will decide where our money goes when it is put to a referendum. You must decide to give us that chance.

I do hope you hear us,

Sincerely,  
Cheryl Lindstrom  
Oakville"

5. Letter from Brian Ziff, Re: Budget, dated April 8, 2009.

**Ms. Adams:**

“I say Hooray! To your cutting back the BOE 2009 budget. It is unconscionable that for all the additional money that the BOE is requesting, only a very small percentage actually goes to the schools and students, and the overwhelming bulk goes to teacher raises and increased benefits.

I will vote “NO” to any and all budgets that include those teacher raises. I am not against a teacher earning a living wage, nor am I anti-teacher, anti-school, or any other name some may give me. I am stridently against automatic salary increases when so many people in Town are in dire financial straits, and when we are facing tax increases anyway, (read: property revaluation). Our personal household income is down at least 15% or more this year, and on top of that we have all kinds of price increases from utilities, food, and any other commodity you can think of. This is the wrong time for them to be asking, - no – demanding this. What a positive message to the community they could make, however, if they voluntarily took those wage and benefit increases off the table, but I have no illusions about that . . . . .

The arrogance is astounding! And I have no doubt they will come back with all kinds of cuts, eliminated positions, reduced and eliminated services, Timmy fell in the well, the wolf is in the henhouse, dire end-of-world scenarios, etc., etc., yet their budget will still contain those raises!

For the record, if the entire dollar amount they are demanding went to the schools and students, I would vote for it in a heartbeat, but again, never, if over 88% and more goes to their individual salary and benefit increases!!

I’m ranting, I know. Congratulations, great job, and stand firm! The entire community is against that school budget.

Brian Ziff  
17 Cutler Knoll  
Watertown, CT  
860-274-3874”

6. Letter from Daniel D. Moffa, Re: Budget, dated April 9, 2009.

**Ms. Adams:**

“Dear Watertown Town Management and Council Member Richard Fusco: What are you doing? Cutting the education budget so drastically, not only do you hurt our children from having a high quality education (which I’m sure you benefited from when you were youngsters), but you negatively impact all our home values by not supporting our school system’s needs. What awful short-term thinking. I am a resident of Watertown since 1992 and have a 10 year old son in 4<sup>th</sup> grade in Town, with a 3 year old in two. I would be pleased to pay my fair share of the tax increase necessary to put the education budget to it’s original position of a 5.9% increase. My “No Vote” on the Town Budget will reflect that the education budget is “TOO LOW”. I will, however, be willing to support an amendment cutting the Town management’s salary and benefits 10%, if the education budget is not significantly improved.

Very truly yours,  
Daniel D. Moffa  
82 Buckwheat Hill Road  
Watertown, CT”

7. Letter from Gary and Jennifer McClendon, Re: Budget, dated April 9, 2009.

**Ms. Adams:**

“Dear Watertown Town Management and Council Member **Ray Primini**: Just exactly what are YOU, our so-called “elected” leaders of this community doing? Too often has this Town catered to the “retired” or “childless” community in their decisions to push forward costs savings measure with regard to the education budget. Those that have lived here in this Town, had children attend our schools . . . and are not retired . . . who’s children having moved on to college and/or futures beyond us, are slowly choking the future of this town and our future families. Why?! Why STAY? Move? You BET I’m considering it. What incentives are there, really, for us to stay on? For an inferior educational future for our children . . . in support of what?! Less teachers, and greater student-to-teacher ratios? Pay-(sports)-for-play? Removed or reduced “Arts and Music” programs?! Is there no future, no care for our current, or future town residents?! I’ve been a resident in this town for many years (since 1999) and intended to make this my last . . . ever . . . home. Now, I’m sure there are other towns in Connecticut or in some other state, that would welcome our TAX dollars and future, productive, caring and loving leaders (children) of the future . . . don’t you want them to come from here? I guess not!!!! Just WHO are you thinking of . . . caring for . . . or taking care of . . . in the PUBLIC interest? Just what are the demographics here? I’d LOVE to see what the family-ratio really is. And, let’s NOT look at the voting registrar. Let’s take a poll of the students (and their families) enrolled in this Town’s school systems. I think you’re all in for a surprise . . . and an (eventual) rude awakening!

To quote a fellow town-tax-payer (whose sentiments I echo, precisely):

“[Understand] . . . cutting this education budget so drastically, not only do you hurt our children from having a high quality education (which I’m sure you benefited from when you were youngsters), but you negatively impact all our home values by not supporting our school systems’ needs. What awful short-term thinking. [Awful!] I am a resident of Watertown since 1992 and have a 10 year old son in 4<sup>th</sup> grade in town, with a 3 year old in tow. I would be pleased to pay my fair share of the tax increase necessary to put the education budget to [sic] it’s original position of a 5.9% increase. My “No Vote” on the town budget will reflect that the education budget is “TOO LOW”. I will, however, be willing to support an amendment cutting the Town management’s salary and benefits 10% if the education budget is not [sic] significantly improved.

Respectfully,

A Watertown Taxpayer and Concerned Parent of TODAY’S youth!

Gary & Jennifer McClendon  
112 Neill Drive  
Watertown, CT 06795”

8. Letter from Pam Kosloski, Re: Budget, dated April 19, 2009.

**Ms. Adams:**

“Dear Town Council Member:

As a Watertown taxpayer and a concerned parent of children attending the public schools here, I am very upset and dismayed about the outcome of the Town Council meeting held this past Monday evening.

Making a decision to cut 4.4% of the budget is incredibly brazen; let alone making this decision on your own and without all members present. That is just too deep a cut to have the town vote on . . . you’re not even giving it a chance. Losing any more teachers not wise; our kids are already in classes that are borderline for getting the opportunity to learn to the best of their ability. The students are often using outdated books, and they sometimes don’t even GET books for themselves – they are sharing them with other students which means they aren’t able to use the book to study with at home.

The decision to make this cut severely impacts our town negatively. No one will want to move here due to the ailing school system. No one will be here to shop locally, which means the business fails. I feel that if the schools and town aren't being utilized to give our children the education and after-school activities that they so need, crime will go up due to their frustration and boredom. Is this what you want?

You have made a very poor decision. This is just not a viable option for this town. We are already in dire straits.

Respectfully,

Pam Kosloski”

9. Letter from Stacy LaCapra, Re: Budget, dated April 16, 2009.

**Ms. Adams:**

“I am a taxpayer in Watertown and I want to voice my concerns with the cuts made to the Board of Education’s budget. I have two children that will be in this school system in 2009/2010. I am currently building a new home in Watertown and will be paying a great deal in taxes. I now really question my decision to stay in Watertown due to the quality of education my children will receive if cuts continue to be made to the education budget. I have been present at the meetings and there has never been any public participation allowed. When this cut was made the BOE were never allowed to speak. It has been said that these decisions are being made by listening to the voice of taxpayers. Without public participation we as taxpayers are not being allowed to even share our voice. This decision to cut \$1.6 million will dramatically hurt the education of our children in a system that is already compromised in comparison to other towns. We need to put our children first. The Board of Education’s 2009/2010 is wonderful and still only begins to meet the needs of the Watertown education system. We need to let this budget go to vote untouched and let the taxpayer decide. Thank you.

Stacy LaCapra”

## **7. Subcommittee Reports**

- A. Public Buildings Subcommittee – David Demirs

**Mr. Demirs:** We did a walk through last Wednesday night of Judson School and we’re being informed that Judson School will be open for the school year in September. The final payment for the Swift Project was made. Polk is going out to bid and the bid review will be May 14<sup>th</sup> in the Polk School Library if anyone wants to look at the bids. The Watertown High School is on-going, as we know.

B. Finance Subcommittee – Gary Bernier

**Mr. Bernier:** We basically went through all of this before, but just to report for the record, we will be meeting to review the Town's side budget on Monday, April 27, 2009 at the Town Hall Annex and the Board of Education on April 29, 2009 (inaudible) the same place.

**Mr. Fusco:** I can't make it the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Mr. DiFederico:** I can't make it the 29<sup>th</sup> either. (Inaudible.)

**Mr. Bernier:** We're going to need to poll (inaudible) certainly the 27<sup>th</sup> we will meet on the Town's side. The Board of Education needs to (inaudible) as we had said earlier. Right now the budget calendar that has been proposed was for the subcommittee to make recommendation to the Town Council on May 4<sup>th</sup>. At this point I don't believe that's going to be able to occur.

**Ms. Adams:** (Inaudible.)

**Mr. Bernier:** (Inaudible) we're already in mid April. We're talking the 29<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday. If we can't do this on that Thursday, we certainly are coming up on May 4<sup>th</sup> real, real quick, but if we were able to do that, we would do a public hearing on May 19<sup>th</sup>, we would have the Special Town Council Meeting second to the Town Budget Meeting June 4<sup>th</sup> and a referendum on June 16<sup>th</sup>. If we have to postpone a week all of those dates, (inaudible) out another week.

**Ms. Adams:** We are looking at a Special Town Council Meeting to set a budget public hearing.

**Mr. DiFederico:** Richie is going to be in the hospital on the 29<sup>th</sup> and you know on Wednesdays, it's hard (inaudible). Could we do it on the 28<sup>th</sup>?

**Mr. Bernier:** (Inaudible) Chuck.

**Mr. Frigon:** It wasn't offered as a possible date but I'll see if that can be arranged.

**Ms. Adams:** You guys can talk after . . .

**Mr. Mancini:** Well I can make the 20<sup>th</sup>, I can't make the 30<sup>th</sup>, I'm having a procedure being done in the hospital (inaudible).

**Mr. Bernier:** This is what happens (inaudible).

**Mr. Mancini:** There are 4 of us and I didn't know anything about this until tonight, about these meeting dates.

**Mr. DiFederico:** Right, I didn't either.

**Ms. Adams:** All right, you guys, after this meeting, we have a few action items (inaudible) get your calendars out and . . . .

Many people talking at once (inaudible).

**Mr. Bernier:** (Inaudible) there are 4 or 5 people here and we need to (inaudible) something that Chuck and (inaudible) work through again.

**Mr. Frigon:** We'll do that for you. I'll work with Frank to see how far out we can go (inaudible).

**Mr. Bernier:** We will be in contact, Chuck's office will be in contact with Karen's office and I'm sure we'll be in contact with the Board of Education.

**Mr. Frigon:** Gary, you said the Annex, but I'm going to try and schedule our Finance Sub on Monday at the (inaudible) Senior Center.

**Mr. Bernier:** If there is an issue, that's fine.

**Mr. Frigon:** I'll confirm the meeting location in the morning and I'll let everyone know.

**Mr. Bernier:** Chuck and I have talked at 3:00, we've been going back and forth with Karen's office trying to set these meetings, (inaudible) were offered).

**Mr. Frigon:** I just came back this morning, Carl, and I was trying to set dates up.

**Mr. Mancini:** I'm good for the 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Mr. Frigon:** Okay.

**Mr. Bernier:** We'll poll what we have available, and Chuck and (inaudible) to do this.

C. Ordinance Subcommittee – Richard DiFederico

**Mr. DiFederico:** We will have a meeting at the Town Hall Annex on April 23, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

**8. Town Manager's Report**

**Mr. Frigon:** No Report.

**9. New Business**

A. Consider Boards and Commission Appointments

MOTION: (Mr. Primini, sec. Mr. Bernier) I move to appoint MaryAnn Rosa, 206 Northfield Road, Watertown to be appointed to the Gazebo Committee to fill the Unexpired Term of Cynthia Whitaker, Term to Expire January 31, 2012.

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Consider a Bid Waiver for Hewlett Packard Backup Solution to be purchased through the Western Purchasing Alliance for Swift Middle School in the amount of \$16,556.00

MOTION: (Mr. Primini, sec. Mr. Bernier) I move to approve a Bid Waiver for the purchase of a Hewlett Packard Backup Solution to be purchased through the Western Purchasing Alliance for Swift Middle School in the amount of \$16,556.00.

Discussion: **Mr. Miller:** Almost all of the Hewlett Packard things that we do is through the Western States Contracting Alliance which is made up of 44 states plus Connecticut so it's nationally bid. Particularly when you're doing one item, it's the best price you can get, if you're doing multiple items obviously I think in many cases you can do better than these bids, but for one item it is the best you can do.

This particular item is to replace a number of backup systems that we have that are old, inefficient and with particularly the new Follett Destiny Server which you approved the purchase of the last time I was before you and we also now have our new student information database that runs system wide, the server for that is also co-located at Swift and that's becoming the hub, cause it's a beautiful network room that they built, we're focusing a lot of things at that until the High School is done so this will become the core of our backup throughout the district, primarily for the servers that are located at Swift, but we also cross pollinate backups so that we don't have everything sitting in one place. This is really needed, it's really one of the last purchases cut on this Swift project.

**Ms. Adams:** You had said at the last, maybe a month ago that you were here to talk about the Library System, you had one more to come forward before us and then the project would be closed out. So this is it?

**Mr. Miller:** This is the last one I'll be coming for a bid waiver for. We have one other purchase that's already accounted for in the final numbers but we're going to go out to bid for that.

**Ms. Adams:** So it's not, you said it would be about a month, the last meeting we had, (inaudible).

**Mr. Miller:** The final numbers that the Building Committee accepted at their last meeting is the final number. This was already money that was encumbered in the process so we know what's left and actually if the bid comes out better than what's encumbered, we'll actually have more.

**Mr. Mancini:** Is this money coming out of the FF&E account?

**Mr. Miller:** Yes, it's within the budget. There is one other item which is a scissor lift which was on the original list of items to purchase for the project and it was held off to the end.

**Mr. Mancini:** Like the last project where we approved \$36,000 a month ago or whatever, how often do these items have to be replaced? And where is that money going to come from?

**Mr. Miller:** An item like this should last 4 or 5 years and typically if it gets to the point where it needs to be, almost all of the technology at Swift, as we move things down we'll take it out of primary service and put it into a lesser requirement. We do that with all our servers. We take the newer ones and put them on the critical things and things get older we move them down. Eventually they'll go out the door, but we get quite a lot of service and we actually have some equipment that's been displaced by new equipment coming in through the school construction project, we've actually passed on to the Town to use.

**Mr. Mancini:** I just wanted to make sure that \$16,000 was coming out of the FF&E budget.

**Mr. Miller:** Yes, it is, it's all accounted for, and as I reported to the Buildings Committee at the last meeting, right now there's \$420,000 surplus in what the original budget for the project was versus what was required to complete the building.

**Ms. Adams:** You mean everything that's encumbered?

**Mr. Miller:** From the original budget that was approved by the Town and what the actual final expenses are for the project, this is a pre-audit, but they're very firm, we have \$420,000 left within the budget allowance. What that means in dollars, Frank can tell you that, but it's a budget surplus. It doesn't necessary . . . .

**Ms. Adams:** The budget for the FF&E that the Board came up with is what you're talking about.

**Mr. Miller:** For the total project.

**Ms. Adams:** But I think cash available, I have a feeling that it's a lot less.

**Mr. Miller:** Oh, I think so, there's probably money that was never bonded for because it was never required.

**Mr. Nardelli:** The printout I provided is not a cash account, it's the what's the balance left on the authorization. There's approximately \$220,000 left, that takes into account encumbrances that are still outstanding, but there's \$220,000 left. If all the encumbrances are paid, there's \$220,000 left on the authorization.

**Ms. Adams:** What they vote, when you mean authorization, that is what the taxpayers said they'd . . . .

**Mr. Nardelli:** Taxpayers approved and what's been spent and encumbered, there's \$220,000 left.

**Mr. Bernier:** Does that include this \$16,000?

**Mr. Nardelli:** No, it doesn't.

**Mr. Bernier:** This is not encumbered.

**Mr. Nardelli:** No.

**Mr. Miller:** The number I gave you does include this and it includes the one additional item as well. It won't come before you because it's going out to bid.

**Ms. Adams:** I think that even though you may have had a budget that was “x” amount of dollars, we have to be very mindful that the voters only approved so many dollars for this project and that we are getting very, very close to zero here and I think it’s important that we’re well aware of that. That there is not a whole lot of money left there, and if anything pops up, because I don’t know, does the school have it’s Certificate of Occupancy?

**Mr. Miller:** Well yea,.

**Ms. Adams:** It did get that finally.

**Mr. Miller:** I honestly don’t know if we have the permanent certificate or not. I believe so.

**Ms. Adams:** I think my concern is we’re getting really down to zero here and tough economic times and everything else . . . .

**Mr. Miller:** No, we’re done. We have one last item that has always been on the list, it was just held off until now, but the money is already encumbered.

**Ms. Adams:** Oh, the money is already encumbered.

**Mr. Miller:** It’s already encumbered. It’s in the bottom line that I presented to the Buildings Committee on . . . .

**Mr. Nardelli:** Just so I understand, there’s no more purchase orders to be coming forward then?

**Mr. Miller:** There will be one more after this.

**Mr. Nardelli:** Which one will that be?

**Mr. Miller:** For the scissor lift.

**Mr. Nardelli:** For a scissor lift?

**Mr. Miller:** It’s on the original list of equipment to purchase for the project.

**Mr. Nardelli:** Yea, how much will that be?

**Mr. Miller:** I think the budget price is \$11,000 but we’re going to go out to bid.

**Mr. Nardelli:** So we have one more item for \$11,000?

**Mr. Miller:** We have one supplier that we based that price on but we're going to go out to bid.

**Ms. Adams:** That's the last purchase then (inaudible).

Many people talking at once (inaudible).

(Tape #1, Side B ended – may have missed some.)

**Mr. Mancini:** When we put this whole project out, this scissor lift or whatever, was that included that you were going to need a scissor lift?

**Mr. Miller:** That was on the original list that was (inaudible).

**Mr. Mancini:** Okay, the same thing with this \$16,000 (inaudible).

**Mr. Miller:** We were hoping we'd be able to do without it but we're not able to.

**Mr. Fusco:** Is there any official way to close this out?

**Mr. Miller:** Absolutely. The Buildings Committee accepted it as closed as their last meeting and then their recommendation goes to the Board of Education, the Board of Education then accepts it as official (inaudible) then file all the final paperwork with the State and that will cause it to be audited by the State Office of Internal Audit and then it will be officially closed.

**Ms. Adams:** Cause we're waiting, we cannot get the last reimbursement.

**Mr. Miller:** Right, there is still the retainage held on the State's share that won't come to you until the project is audited and you accept the State's audit.

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

C. Consider Setting a Special Town Meeting Date, Time, and Place to consider an Appropriation of \$50,000.00 for Legal Fees

**MOTION:** (Mr. Primini, sec. Mr. Demirs) I move to set a Special Town Meeting to be held on Monday, May 4, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. to consider an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of \$50,000.00 for legal fees.

**Discussion:** **Mr. Rinaldi:** Can I have a 30 second explanation for this?

**Mr. Nardelli:** The bulk of that will be for labor issues that we're currently preparing to go to court on. Some of that will also be to pay the Town Attorney fees. How far this \$50,000 takes us I'll know more after the court case continues (inaudible).

**Mr. Rinaldi:** So if the \$50,000 gets approved, together with what was approved tonight, altogether is \$86,000?

**Mr. Nardelli:** That's correct.

**Ms. Adams:** This is up until . . . .

**Mr. Nardelli:** It depends on what happens this month with this court case, this won't take us until the end of June, I don't believe.

**Mr. Mancini:** I'm going to be going into the next one, Item D, which is Transfer of Funds, is that in addition to the \$24,000?

**Mr. Nardelli:** That's correct.

**Mr. Mancini:** So we're talking that we need \$50,000, we'll be transferring almost \$25,000 out of contingency, plus the \$36,000 that we approved tonight?

**Mr. Nardelli:** That's correct.

**Ms. Adams:** And it might not be enough.

**Mr. Mancini:** A month ago we were asking for \$70,000 which included the \$36,000.

**Mr. Nardelli:** That's right, and we've incurred quite a bit of expenses with this labor lawsuit that we cannot foresee and it's (inaudible) as we're going on.

**Mr. Mancini:** Okay, I understand. I was wondering how much money it was. I didn't know if the \$24,000 was being taken away from the \$50,000 or was part of the \$50,000.

**Mr. Nardelli:** It's in addition to.

**Mr. Primini:** Can we get a breakdown of what those fees were for the share altogether?

**Mr. Nardelli:** Yea, actually I have something with me I put together for the other meeting. I have a rough breakdown and I also have a detailed breakdown. Up through today, this does not include the \$36,000, of course you have \$150,000 budgeted, we've spent \$148,000 of which \$48,00 was for P & Z, \$40,000 was for general legal items and . . . .

**Ms. Adams:** Is that like contracts?

**Mr. Nardelli:** No, that's for like tax foreclosures, building department issues, assessor.

**Ms. Adams:** Oh like the (inaudible with the different departments, except for P & Z?

**Mr. Nardelli:** That's right. P & Z was \$48,000, the general legal issues at \$40,000 and we have \$60,000 for labor issues.

**Ms. Adams:** Now that labor, was that for contracts, etc?

**Mr. Nardelli:** Yea, and also for lawsuits too, which is the bulk of it.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Consider a Resolution authorizing the Transfer of Funds between Line Items

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, expenses in the 2008-2009 fiscal year require the transfer of funds.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by vote of the Watertown Town Council, that the following actions are taken relative to the transfer of funds:

**GENERAL FUND – PUBLIC WORKS - HIGHWAY**

AMOUNT: \$3,898 NO: 1  
FROM: 010-50317-031-0694 – Traffic Painting  
TO: 010-50411-031-0689 – Signs and Rails  
REASON: Street Sign bid received more than budgeted

**GENERAL FUND – LEGAL**

AMOUNT: \$24,965 NO: 2  
FROM: 010-50690-046-0000 – Contingency  
TO: 010-50334-041-0000 – Legal Services  
REASON: Legal Fees – Tax Assessment \$900; Inland Wetlands \$210; P & Z \$3,555  
Labor Issues - \$1,365, Stewart v Town \$18,935

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 20th day of April, 2009.

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Elaine H. Adams, Chairman  
Watertown Town Council

**MOTION:** (Mr. Primini, sec. Mr. Bernier) I move to approve the Revised Resolution authorizing the Transfer of Funds between Line Items.

**Discussion:** **Mr. Mancini:** I really believe that if you're going to go to the Town taxpayers for \$50,000 I think this money in contingency should be part of that \$50,000, we should add \$24,965 to the \$50,000 and let the people, here we are we are spending \$24,965. \$35.00 lower than what we have to, be required to go back to the taxpayers. If you're going to go back to the taxpayers for \$50,000, you might a well go back to the taxpayers for \$74,965.

**Ms. Adams:** Well I don't think in this case it's not a question of what we can and cannot do. This is actual two bills.

**Mr. Mancini:** Elaine (inaudible) I'm not saying we don't have a liability to pay these things. I think we have a liability to pay them, no doubt about it, but it looks like we're taking \$24,965, if we took out \$25,000 we'd have to go to the taxpayers to get the okay.

**Ms. Adams:** No, this is a transfer, Carl. This is different.

**Mr. Frigon:** It's not an appropriation.

**Ms. Adams:** It's not an appropriation from the General Fund, it's a transfer from one line item to another.

**Mr. Mancini:** (Inaudible.)

**Ms. Adams:** I mean you heard people (inaudible) go from within your own budget. In order to get out of the General Fund we need to go to the taxpayers but in this we're transferring from one (inaudible) to another.

In Favor: Ms. Adams, Mr. Bernier, Mr. Demirs, Mr. DiFederico, Mr. Fusco, Mr. Primini, Mr. Rinaldi

Opposed: Mr. Mancini

Abstained: None

MOTION CARRIED (7-1-0)

- E. Consider a Resolution authorizing an Appropriation in the amount of \$2,385.68 from the General Fund for Tax Refunds

#### R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Taxpayers have applied for Tax Refunds pursuant to Section 12-129, Refund of Excess Payment; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector recommended that the refunds be made in accordance with the provisions of Section 12-129; and

WHEREAS, in order to refund taxpayers who have been approved for their refunds, monies must be appropriated into the budget line item to expend the funds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council appropriates \$3,550 to line item 010-50341-043-0102 from the General Fund.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009.

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Elaine Adams, Chairman  
Watertown Town Council

MOTION: (Mr. Primini, sec. Mr. Bernier) I move to approve a resolution authorizing an appropriation in the amount of \$2,385.68 from the General Fund for Tax Refunds.

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

F. Consider a Resolution authorizing Tax Refunds

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Taxpayers have made application for the property tax refunds in accordance with Section 12-129 Refund of Excess Payment; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector recommends that the refunds be made in accordance with the provisions of Section 12-129;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the following tax refunds:

2743	Anderson, Gayle L. 238 Anderson Avenue U2C Waterbury, CT 06708-0000	Amount of Refund: \$525.84 Type M
	<b>Reason for Refund:</b> Per Assessor, Account Prorated	
2797	Bertolette, Margery W. 53 Beers Street Watertown, CT 06795-5250	Amount of Refund: \$37.34 Type R
	<b>Reason for Refund:</b> Duplicate Payment	
2798	McLean, Ronald J. & Dorothy A. 61 Collins Street Watertown, CT 06795-5270	Amount of Refund: \$250.00 Type R
	<b>Reason for Refund:</b> Per Assessor, Elderly Credit Applied	
2799	Corvo, Joseph or Nancy M. 117 Concord Drive Watertown, CT 06795-3229	Amount of Refund: \$109.58 Type M
	<b>Reason for Refund:</b> Per Assessor, Veteran Exemption Applied	
2800	Toyota Motor Credit Corp. P.O. Box 105386 Atlanta, GA 30348-5386	Amount of Refund: \$681.19 Type M
	<b>Reason for Refund:</b> Per Assessor, Account Deleted	
2801	VW Credit Leasing Ltd. Ref Dept 1401 Franklin Boulevard Libertyville, IL 60048-4460	Amount of Refund: \$47.39 Type M
	<b>Reason for Refund:</b> Per Assessor, Account Prorated	

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2802	Anderson, Gayle L. 238 Anderson Avenue U2C Waterbury, CT 06708-0000 <b>Reason for Refund:</b> Per Assessor, Account Deleted	Amount of Refund: Type M	\$307.74
2803	Anderson, Gayle L. 238 Anderson Avenue U2C Waterbury, CT 06708-0000 <b>Reason for Refund:</b> Per Assessor, Account Deleted	Amount of Refund: Type M	\$257.26
2804	Granitto, David M.. 975 Meriden Road, Apt. #29 Waterbury, CT 06705-3157 <b>Reason for Refund:</b> Per Assessor, Account Deleted	Amount of Refund: Type M	\$82.25
2808	Granitto, David M. 319 Thomaston Road, #45 Watertown, CT 06795-0000 <b>Reason for Refund:</b> Per Assessor, Account Deleted	Amount of Refund: Type M	\$87.09
<b>Total for All Refunds</b>			<b>\$2,365.68</b>

Dated at Watertown, CT this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009.

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Elaine H. Adams, Chairman  
Watertown Town Council

**MOTION:** (Mr. Primini, sec. Mr. Bernier) I move to approve a resolution authorizing tax refunds.

**Discussion:** **Mr. Fusco:** All we're doing is (inaudible) just taking the money from (inaudible) and give them back?

**Ms. Adams:** Yea, they overpaid and it was determined by the assess that we overpaid them.

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**10. Public Participation**

None

Ms. Adams, Chairman, Closed Public Participation at 9:52 p.m.

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**11. Adjournment**

MOTION: (Mr. Bernier, sec. Mr. Demirs) to Adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:53 p.m.

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Regular Meeting Adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine H. Adams, Chairman  
Watertown Town Council

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lynn M. LaForme, Clerk