

**WEST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8, 2015
LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER**

ITEM #1 - MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:32 p.m.

President Slifka: Okay. We will call the Council meeting to order and begin with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #2 - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Slifka: Okay. Begin with a roll call, please, Ms. Labrot?

ITEM #3 - ROLL CALL: ALL COUNCILORS PRESENT

President Slifka: Thank you. We'll go number 4, Mrs. Cantor.

ITEM #4 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RECEIVED

Councilor Cantor: Approval of Minutes. I move that we approve Minutes from Town Council meeting, 8/18/15, and Public Hearing on 15 North Main Street, 8/18/15.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Motion's made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries. We're up to Public Forum. Mr. O'Brien, would you mind bringing the signup?

ITEM #5 - PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. O'Brien: No one has signed up.

President Slifka: Okay. No one has signed up. Is there anybody who wished to speak to an item on the agenda that was not otherwise the subject of a Public Hearing? Okay. We will go to Report from the Town Manager. Mr. Van Winkle, you're up quick.

ITEM #6 - REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Van Winkle: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. The summer goes on. It's been a hot day here in September, so it's good to be inside in the air conditioning. Our Public Works Department

announced that we've hired a new operator for our yard waste and recycling center. The company is Supreme Forest Products. They have 33 years' experience managing green waste. It offers municipalities a complete solution to the collection management and disposal of yard waste. Our yard waste and recycling centers are open Monday - Friday from 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 - noon but from mid-October - December, our center is open to residential drop off from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. And for those of you that're looking forward to the season, leaf bag collection will begin on October 26th. If you, you have your last chance to sign up for the Park Road Parade October 3rd at 10:30 a.m. The Park Road Parade kicks off and you can register your organization, club, team, church, business for the 18th Annual Park Road Parade, which started when we celebrated the reconstruction of Park Road, which was quite a feat and it's been going on now for 18 years. The Center for Digital Government announced that the Town of West Hartford's website was a finalist in the City Portal category for the Best Web Design of Digital Government Awards. We're measured against cities like Los Angeles and St. Louis for this award, so it's quite a feat. Our new IT Manager, Jared Morin, did a great job in updating our website and making it useful. That's really all I have but if there are questions, I'd be happy to answer.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Van Winkle. Questions for the Manager? Mrs. Hall?

Councilor Hall: Just...since you brought up the website. I know we had a question from one of our residents a couple weeks ago about putting the recycling information up on the website and so I was just double-checking to see whether we've made any progress with that? And then also just a suggestion with the website as well. I still run into people who are young and tech-friendly but have no idea that we have an app for parking in the Center, so maybe we could have then as a banner or something to make sure people are getting that information.

Mr. Van Winkle: Thank you. I would need to check the website. I hadn't looked to see if we got the recycling information up. We've done some brochures. We've had some very smart journalists help us do some advertising of it so people will know there's papers and flyers out there and I think our website has been updated but I would need to check, so I will check on that in the morning. If you park in West Hartford Center and you go to your kiosk and there's somebody standing in front of you, don't worry. You can go directly to the restaurant, to the store you have, and then take your iPhone and go on to the passport.com site and do all of your transactions for the parking. In fact, if you're sitting at home tonight watching this show, take it out, load the app on your phone and then you can just tap on it and it'll bring up and you can say I need an hour, hour-and-a-half, two hours, whatever time you need and you don't need to go to the kiosk or put any money in or anything else. It'll go straight to your credit card. The growth in that application has been growing very rapidly as people learn about it and find it very easy to use in West Hartford Center, so we are constantly and we had a meeting tonight with the Chamber and some Center merchants. We're constantly having discussions about how to get information out. We do lots of communication. Unfortunately in your life, there is lots of communication that comes at you and even though we do hand out cards, we do all this stuff, still people say, oh, really? Can you do that? And tonight in the meeting, someone said what d'you mean you can put a quarter in the machine? Yeah, you can put a quarter in the machine so it operates just like the old ones. You put, but you have to put your license in. You can drop a quarter in and then hit the check button and you're good for the short amount of time not the

long amount of time, longer amount of time which you'd more normally put on your credit card. We're gonna do a program of larger outreach this fall, again, to just kinda make sure people understand how the smartphone app works and how that kiosk works so they're a little more at ease with it, so there's a lot more to come in that area.

Councilor Hall: Thank you. I love the fact that it flashes at me when my time's almost up...

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes.

Councilor Hall: ...and so you know quickly and I think, as a result, the parking violations are way down as well so...

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes and one of the good stories is, yeah, that this app will let you know that you're running out of time and before when you put your money in, you may have put in six quarters and not realized at all that you've been there for more than six quarters' of time and then you come back and there's this little thing under your windshield wiper but we have reduced the number of tickets we write in West Hartford by about 10,000. We expected that to happen with the kiosks and so we planned for that change to occur and so we're writing substantially fewer tickets, which is, from a shopper's experience, a much better thing after you've spent some money to come back and find out you got additionally a parking ticket. And I have seen a substantial, I have seen a complete reduction in the number of complaints we have gotten over the parking ticket issue but...there's no reason I should've gotten the ticket. I spent lots of money in the Center, those sorts of things. The kiosks are much more flexible in that fashion, from the app on the phone to the amount of time you can buy on the kiosk makes it much easier for shoppers so one of the positive pieces of those new kiosks are that you can use a credit card and before you reach in your pocket and you'd pull out three quarters and that's all you had and so you put your three quarters in and you'd try to shop in that distance didn't always work for everybody, so I appreciate you noticing it.

President Slifka: Mr. Van Winkle, to Mrs. Hall's point, I think even fewer people know about the app that we provide, which is the YouGov app. Perhaps you could talk about that for a second?

Mr. Van Winkle: What, why don't you talk about it?

President Slifka: All right. Well...I'll do my best. I can't demonstrate it but if...if you go to the app store, it is called YouGov so this is a, it's a platform just like the parking app that is, I think, kind of a national platform and then you, from there you get to the West Hartford portion of it. I don't have, it's actually YourGOV, I'm sorry, as I'm already getting that part wrong but if you, I think you come close enough and if you pull that up, this is what it looks like. I don't think Jen Evans in the studio can get this close but what it allows you to do is pinpoint to pretty close to absolute accuracy where there are different, I guess, issues of complaint perhaps in Town regarding potholes or other debris someplace or any other kind of problem that you wanna report to our, essentially to our Public Works Department. It's, you can obviously access it but these are mostly dealing with Public Works-type issues. Sidewalk issues would be included in that as well but a lot of it has to do with things that happened in the road and so you go right in here,

you can download it exactly. You don't have to call anybody or anything. It'll, it goes right in and if you know exactly where it is and you can pinpoint it on the map, it will give the GPS coords, essentially as well, so kind of a modern tool that...I don't know why I'm talking to you as I describe this. I'm supposed to be talking to people at home. The guy who installed it and I'm explaining it to him but this is a really good way if you wanna not have to send an email to somebody and wait for a response or to make a phone call. Things're still available. You can go right here and Public Works is monitoring it all the time so we hope, we can't, if you're ever surprised by how few people might know about the parking app, though it seems like that's growing and growing and growing, I think even fewer know about this one and this one will probably less impact your wallet and so maybe there's more incentive to go to the parking app first but this one is just as valuable, if not more so, to the overall operation of the Town and our safety and security and it'd be great if people can start taking advantage of it.

Mr. Van Winkle: If I could just note, while you were talking about potholes, potholes are a constant winter problem. We use a material called cold patch in the winter. It's been redesigned and redeveloped over the years but it still comes out of the pothole pretty quickly and doesn't stay. We will this year begin using a system, where we can manufacture our own hot material. We're gonna take the stuff that we pull up off the streets, that asphalt that we carve off, and this system will allow us in the winter to reheat it and turn it back into hot asphalt, put it into the pothole, and it should stay. That should reduce the number of complaints that we get on YourGovernment or somewhere else and that's something we've been looking at for a few years and the technology and the cost of doing that has come down substantially, so it's probably gonna end up saving us money because we're not out fixing that, a pothole every few weeks until spring comes.

President Slifka: Okay. Anything else? All right. Thank you, Mr. Van Winkle. We're up to number 7, Mrs. Cantor.

ITEM #7 - CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT CALENDAR: ITEMS 10, 12-14, 18, 19, 25-31 TO RECEIVE

Councilor Cantor: Number 7. I move that place items 10, 12-14, 18, 19, and 25-31 on the consent calendar.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Motion's made and seconded. All those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries. Okay. We're up to Unfinished Business, so number 8, Mrs. Cantor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ITEM #8 - ORDINANCE PERMITTING MANUFACTURERS OF ALCOHOL INCLUDING RETAIL SALES WHERE PERMITTED BY LAW

ADOPTED AS AMENDED, VOTE 9-0

WHEREAS, Connecticut law establishes several different classes of liquor permits; and

WHEREAS, West Hartford has not permitted the location of facilities which fall under the category of “manufacturer” permits; and

WHEREAS, over the years changes have been made which allow manufacturers of alcoholic beverages to provide samples to patrons who take tours of their facilities, to serve alcohol to patrons for consumption on the premises and to sell alcohol to patrons at retail for consumption off the premises; and

WHEREAS, the craft brewing industry has undergone dramatic changes in recent years which has prompted the Town to consider whether local ordinances should be revised to permit and regulate such manufacturers’ operations within West Hartford; and

WHEREAS, the residents of West Hartford should not be deprived of access to fresh, tasty locally-brewed beers

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WEST HARTFORD THAT:

Section One: Section 177-6 of the West Hartford Code of Ordinances is hereby repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

- A. No structure shall be used, erected or expanded, and no land use shall be established or expanded, except in accordance with this chapter. The schedules contained in this article list permitted uses of land and buildings and the maximum height of buildings, the required yards, open space, area of lots and other requirements for the various districts in this chapter.
- B. Schedule of Permitted Main Uses.
- C. Schedule of Permitted Accessory Uses.
- D. Standards for the One-Family Residence Districts.
- E. Standards for Multifamily Residence Districts.
- F. Standards for Business Districts.
- G. Standards for Industrial Districts.

Section Two: Section 177-36 of the West Hartford Code of Ordinances is hereby repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

- A. The portion of any structure in which the sale of alcoholic liquor is proposed under a package store permit or a package store beer permit shall be at least 1,500 feet distant from the portion of any other structure in which alcoholic liquor is sold under either of said permits. Said distance requirement shall be measured as follows: beginning at the center of the main entrance of the portion of the structure in which said sale is proposed, thence to the center of the address street by the shortest distance without intersecting a structure, thence along the center line of said street or streets to a point in the address street of the nearest portion of any other structure in which alcoholic liquor is sold under either of said permits, thence by the shortest distance without intersecting a structure to the center of the main entrance of the portion of the structure in which alcoholic liquor is sold under either of said permits. In no case shall the portion of any two structures in which alcoholic liquor is sold or proposed to be sold under a package store permit or a package store beer permit be located within a radius of 700 feet as measured from the centers of the main entrances of said portions of said structures.
- B. The sale of alcoholic liquor under any class of permit listed in Chapter 545 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as the same may be amended or recodified from time to time, with the exception of the university permit, shall not be permitted within 200 feet of a public or private school, a public park, place of worship, charitable institution, a hospital or library. Said distance requirement shall be measured as follows: beginning at the center of the main entrance to the portion of the building where said alcoholic liquor is proposed to be sold, thence to the center of the address street by the shortest distance without intersecting a structure, thence along the center line of said street or streets to the address street of any of the above cited uses, and thence to a point opposite the nearest portion of a lot used for any of the above-cited uses on the address street thereof, thence to the nearest portion of the lot.
- C. The sale of alcoholic liquor under a wholesaler permit or a wholesaler permit for beer only is permitted as a main use in those districts specified under § 177-6B, Item 35 of the Schedule, and is subject to the restrictions set forth under Subsection B above.
- D. The sale of alcoholic liquor under a manufacturer permit, including each of the subclasses of manufacturing permittees listed in C.G.S. §30-16 is permitted as a main use in those districts specified under § 177-6B, Item 58 of the Schedule, and is subject to the following:
- (1) All such uses shall be subject to the restrictions set forth under Subsection B above.
 - (2) Where any portion of the unit of occupancy is used for the retail sale or consumption of alcoholic liquor for consumption on or off of the premises, including outdoor patron areas, parking spaces shall be provided for said retail area at the rate required in this chapter for retail and personal service

establishments.

(3) Outdoor Patron Areas:

- a. Outdoor patron areas shall be identified by a barrier, such as fencing or planters, in order to define their boundaries. Barriers that preserve an open appearance should be used whenever possible. The use of permanent structural walls or any vertical screening device of more than four feet in height is discouraged but may be approved where necessary to attenuate noise reaching residential neighborhoods or in other unique circumstances. Notwithstanding the foregoing, when an outdoor patron area is located on property adjoining a residential district, it shall be subject to a minimum setback of 200 feet from that district and, at a minimum, to Type C screening and/or a screening fence which separates it from that district.
- b. Where outdoor patron areas directly abut the public street, no permanent structure shall be erected between the building that houses the manufacturer and the abutting street except a retractable awning located at least seven feet above the ground. In all other locations, permanent structures may be used to provide shade or shelter from inclement weather. In such cases, structures that preserve an open appearance shall be used but temporary screening walls may be lowered during times of ongoing precipitation.
- c. Fire hydrants and fire hose couplings and/or connections on buildings shall not be obstructed. Underground utility facilities such as cabinets or vaults shall be identified on all plans, and arrangements shall be made to ensure continued access to utility providers for maintenance of any such facilities.
- d. The outdoor patron area must also meet the requirements (if any) of any state agency having jurisdiction over the service of alcoholic beverages.
- e. When an outdoor patron area is located adjacent to a public pedestrian walkway, access to the patron area shall be maintained flush with said walkway. In all cases, the outdoor patron area shall be capable of accommodating disabled patrons.
- f. Any applicant seeking approval of an outdoor patron area shall provide the Town Planner with written assurance from the Bloomfield-West Hartford Health District that:
 - i. The kitchen facilities (if any) are adequate to service the entire unit of occupancy, including the outdoor patron area.
 - ii. Any outdoor service areas, including storage areas for both clean

and dirty plates and utensils, condiments, drinking water and similar supplies, are appropriately protected.

- iii. Refuse receptacles appropriate to the use shall be provided for patrons and/or staff.

- g. If an applicant proposes to provide any source of heat for the benefit of patrons using an outdoor patron area, it shall provide the Town Planner with a plan, approved by the Fire Marshal, for the placement and operation of said heaters as well as for the storage of fuel used by said heaters.

- h. Public address systems or other systems intended to convey verbal messages through the use of amplified sound shall be prohibited. If an applicant seeks to provide any form of music for the benefit of patrons, it shall so state in its application and shall provide the Town Planner with specific details regarding the manner in which music is to be provided.

- i. Management shall ensure that the patrons do not disturb persons beyond the premises through loud, boisterous or unreasonable noise, offensive words or disruptive behavior.

- j. Lighting shall be limited to that level which is necessary to illuminate the outdoor patron area for patrons and staff. Flashing/blinking lights shall be prohibited.

- k. During the season when the outdoor patron area is in operation, it shall be kept clear of litter, food scraps or soiled dishes and utensils at all times. The entire floor/sidewalk surface in and around the outdoor patron area shall be swept as necessary, but not less frequently than daily, and cleaned to remove greases, oils and stains by steam cleaning or a similar process on a monthly basis. Spilled materials shall be cleaned promptly. Sweeping debris or spilled materials into the gutters of public streets shall be prohibited. This requirement shall also apply to any areas beyond the outdoor patron area which are traversed by restaurant staff and/or patrons.

- l. Trash receptacles shall be emptied whenever full and shall be emptied at the end of each business day.

- m. Umbrellas may be used to shade tables, provided that the drip edge thereof is located at least seven feet above the ground and further provided that if they advertise the manufacturer or any product or service, the full surface area of each such umbrella shall be treated as signage.

- n. Tables, chairs and umbrellas shall be of durable commercial-grade materials, sufficiently weighted to avoid displacement by wind.

- o. Where the outdoor patron area abuts the public street, all furniture, fencing, shrubbery and other fixtures shall be removed and stored indoors during months when the outdoor patron area is not in use. No permanent structures shall be permitted to remain between the building that houses the manufacturer and the abutting street except retractable awnings located at least seven feet above the ground. In all other locations, a storage plan for all furniture, fencing, shrubbery and other fixtures associated with the outdoor dining area shall be submitted for review and approval by the Town Planner.

[D.]E. The sale of alcoholic liquor under a grocery store beer permit, a druggist permit or a druggist permit for beer only is permitted as part of a permitted main use under § 177-6B, Item 22 of the Schedule, and is subject to the restrictions set forth under Subsection B above.

[E.]F. The sale of alcoholic liquor is permitted under a hotel permit, a hotel permit for beer, a restaurant permit, a restaurant permit for beer only or a restaurant permit for wine and beer only as part of a main use under § 177-6B, Items 8, 24 or 25 of the Schedule as applicable, or as part of an accessory use under § 177-6C, and subject to the following:

- (1) The location of such use is subject to the restrictions set forth under Subsection B above; and
- (2) The sale or serving of alcoholic liquor is permitted only in a restaurant as defined in C.G.S. § 30-22, as that section may be amended or recodified from time to time.

[F.]G. A university shall be allowed to engage in the retail sale of beer at one facility per campus under a university permit, as defined in C.G.S. § 30-20(a), as amended or recodified from time to time. The sale of beer under a university permit shall not be subject to the restriction set forth under Subsection B above. For the purposes of this section, the term "university" shall mean an institution offering a program of higher learning, as defined by C.G.S. § 10a-34 as that section may be amended or recodified from time to time, which has been accredited by the Board of Higher Education and which has a campus in West Hartford which is not less than 50 acres and which provides residential housing for its matriculated students.

[G.]H. For purposes of this section, the terms "package store permit," "package store beer permit," "wholesaler permit," "wholesaler permit for beer only," "hotel permit", "hotel permit for beer", "grocery store permit," "druggist permit," "druggist permit for beer only," "restaurant permit," "restaurant permit for beer only," "restaurant permit for wine and beer only," "university permit", "manufacturer permit" and "alcoholic liquor" shall be deemed to have the same meanings as those terms have under Chapter 545 of the Connecticut General Statutes as that chapter may be amended or recodified from time to time.

Councilor Cantor: Ordinance Permitting Manufacturers of Alcohol Including Retail Sales, I move that we adopt.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Okay. The motion is made and seconded. We did have a Public Hearing on this earlier this evening. Mr. Van Winkle, I suspect you're gonna ask *me* now to give the update but I was wondering if you first could take a stab at summarizing what we did.

Mr. Van Winkle: Why don't you do that one, Mr. Mayor? No. The...this is a relatively minor change. There is a State regulation of the manufacturers of alcohol in the State of Connecticut and our Ordinances don't allow that form of manufacturer in West Hartford. We've had interests from two parties about manufacturing craft-brewed beer and ale and that's a very common thing we're seeing around the nation. Local craft brewers are popping up and so our Ordinances don't, did not allow that. We had interest in West Hartford. This Ordinance would make a change to our Zoning Ordinance to allow a craft brewer to establish themselves in industrial districts in the Town of West Hartford. In addition, this Ordinance would allow them to have an outdoor dining area where someone could consume. It's not a restaurant. It is a craft brewer. We see many of them in our neighboring towns, where you can sample the product that you might buy from them. It's a retail store. They'll sell that product to you through a bottle called a growler we all learned tonight that they'll fill up for you and you could take home or some bottles that you can buy, as well as sample, at the place. So, it's restricted to the industrial zone. It's restricted to not within 200 feet of a residential zone for that outdoor dining area and it's been something that's growing in popularity around the nation and we thought it would be a good opportunity for us for an economic development investment.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Van Winkle. I would just add my support for this. I had a conversation with a resident a few weeks back, who was probably second to Mr. Alair in terms of being the biggest fan of craft brew in town, and he'd picked up in one of the news reports, I think coming out of the election in Hartford saying, I think there was a couple days where they were talking about, well, we should be bringing more of a craft brew industry zone or something to Hartford and this resident said, well, how come we're not doing something like that in West Hartford and I was pleased to point out that we already had the public hearing scheduled to discuss it and that we were, we were out in front of it, so I don't know if that's because of Mr. Alair's enthusiasm or just overall the timing is right but I'm glad that we're getting here today and I think we're getting out in front of something that, hopefully, will be a...larger addition to the town, not just in the industrial zone but, perhaps as Mr. Davidoff was talking about during the public hearing, that if it can be right-sized and properly handled, might expand to other zones as well in the future. Mrs. Cantor?

Councilor Cantor: All right, I have a 26-year-old son, a 24-year-old son, and a 22-year-old son and I know the world of craft breweries and we've frequented several and there's, really, a wonderful vibe and a real pride, I think, of producing a local product and an artisan kind of a product and each have their own culture and their own taste and it's terrific. I also think that and we had talked about the food truck element of it is something that we also don't have in town. There's not a presence and it's a really fun experience to eat at a food truck and taste beer and

see how it's made and it could be a wonderful, healthy outing for people, especially when you Uber too, so that's all good. It's also gonna be in an area that is not used during the hours that this...the industrial zone is an area, as Mr. McGovern mentioned, underutilized at certain times of the day. I think Mr. Alair actually mentioned, underutilized at certain times of the day and if we can use that space and bring life into areas that may not have that foot traffic and bring in some new business and put some presence on the street, it's all good for our community, so I, I'm very excited about this and I know the couple of residents that also have shown interest in it maybe this whole even for more residents that really value that, this art, this relatively new popular art so, anyway, terrific. I'll support it.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mrs. Cantor. Mrs. Kindall.

Councilor Kindall: I'd like to propose to the Council that we eliminate the prohibition against dogs or animals on the outdoor dining for this. I think that if somebody has a brewery and they don't want to have animals, they can certainly prohibit them themselves but this takes the choice out of their hands and a lot of people have dogs and a lot of communities around the country allow dogs in the outdoor areas for dining never mind just for a brew pub and so...I understand why Mr. Alair left it in but I think that we may wanna consider eliminating that requirement and it would be put back in if food was being served as a restaurant thing but I'm wondering if there's any interest in eliminating that requirement.

President Slifka: Go ahead, Mrs. Hall.

Councilor Hall: I would support that. I think it's definitely a different type of establishment that we're talking about now and, I don't know, we just got back from Vermont and went to a bunch of, and I think Vermont is the state with the most craft beers in the world...and there were definitely places where you had people coming in after hiking with their dogs and I think that makes a lot of sense and especially if we, if the manufacturer had the ability to say no dogs here if they didn't want them but I would definitely support a change in that.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mrs. Hall. I would too. I just wonder, Mr. Alair, if you could, you're giving us the thumbs up. I want to just clarify the question that came up during the public hearing regarding whether we might accidentally push them into a different class of permit and I, I'm sensing that the answer is no so we could go ahead and do this but...

Mr. Alair: Yes. I mean, if somebody who, we talked about the scenario where somebody might get pushed into a different class of permit and if they ended up with a restaurant permit then they'd be subject to the Special Use Permit for outdoor dining, which has a no dogs provision in it so that would apply to them at that point but in terms of is it a substantive amendment to the Ordinance or anything like that, I don't think it's a problem.

President Slifka: Okay. So I think we'd need a formal motion and we'd have to cite the specific section.

Councilor Kindall: I move that we amend the Ordinance to eliminate Subsection J, which would prohibit animals and just eliminate that...

President Slifka: 3(J), right?

Councilor Kindall: 3(J). It's...yes, 3...

Mr. Alair: D-3(J).

Councilor Kindall: D-3(J).

Councilor Cantor: Second.

President Slifka: Okay, motion's been seconded. We had a little discussion but all those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Okay. Amendment carries. We're back to discussing the Ordinance as a whole. Any further discussion? Mr. Davidoff?

Councilor Davidoff: I intend on supporting this Ordinance this evening. I think this Ordinance is gonna serve as a catalyst for what we know is an industry that's...has a lot of interest around the country and in our region in particular and has been successful and a byproduct of what we see in neighboring towns is that a lot of these microbreweries host charitable events there and raise considerable amount of funds for things that are so necessary in our community. It's a way for people to socialize, to get together and support a good cause and it's a good rallying, so I think that this will set the initial framework. I'm optimistic that as this grows and becomes more popular, there may be opportunities as I mentioned during the public hearing to see this in a variety of retail areas as well, where that would be something that somebody would be attracted to, to going to, and we're looking at a substantial investment with respect to buying the equipment necessary to have a brewing facility, so it's exciting. It shows that we're relevant, we're with the times, and...we do a lot of alcohol Resolutions and Ordinances in my short tenure on the Council but this one I enthusiastically support because it has on the back end of it economic development as the root of this establishment.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Davidoff. Mrs. Casperson.

Councilor Casperson: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. So, as you could hear earlier in my conversation, I don't drink a lot of beer and I'm very excited about the opportunity for the food truck. So this weekend we went to Boston and I have gone to many other places for food truck destinations. I think that the pairing could be very attractive to many people in our community. Adding the pets, thank you, would, is, also makes it a great activity for even more to gather and so I think that this is a, could be a great addition to our town and creating, as always, a destination, another destination in our town for growth and economic development and I love that entrepreneurialism of the microbreweries and I would try one...or two. Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mrs. Casperson. Anyone else? Oh, Mrs. Kindall. Go ahead.

Councilor Kindall: And, you know, think of the trouble we're gonna be in when somebody shows up with a horse but never mind. Um...I just, I'm enthusiastically support this. My brother actually brews beer and on a quasi-professional basis and it's, I think there's a lot of opportunity here. I would encourage us to seriously inquire about expanding the zones. I have been to a lot of brew pubs where they've, have full restaurants and a full brewing thing right on site and they're right in the middle of the towns and so, clearly, they've managed to handle the smell. I mean, Yarmouth, in Nova Scotia, Portland, Burlington, I mean there's lots of places with lots of brew pubs right there and they're right in the middle of towns, so I think that this is a great start but I don't see why you would limit it just to the industrial zones and not expand it with, with safeguards for residential, to the other business zones so I enthusiastically support it. Thank you.

President Slifka: Okay. Anyone else? Okay. This is an Ordinance change, so we need a roll call vote, please, Ms. Labrot.

Councilors Barnes, Cantor, Captain, Casperson, Davidoff, Doar, Hall, Kindall and Slifka voted YES.

Ms. Labrot: It's unanimous and I'm hoping for a We-Ha shandy.

President Slifka: A little too much enthusiasm for this. Okay. Number 9, Mrs. Cantor.

ITEM #9 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO QUITCLAIM THE TOWN'S INTEREST IN AN UNIMPROVED PORTION OF CRAIG PLACE

ADOPTED

Councilor Cantor: They need to have a lager. Anyway, number 9, Resolution Authorizing the Town Manager to Quitclaim the Town's Interest in an Unimproved Portion of Craig Place. I move that we adopt.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Motion's made and seconded. Again, this was the subject of a Public Hearing this evening. Mr. Van Winkle, please, a summary.

Mr. Van Winkle: Yup. Craig Place is in Elmwood. It is a dead-end street with a cul-de-sac at the end. It, on paper, was intended many years ago to go all the way through to Federal Street. As a general rule, we own what is called a right of way on a street, so we own the right to pass on streets and we abandoned our right of way here in the past. We've already done this except we found out that this street was transferred to us in ownership rather than right of way and so what we are doing tonight is to reaffirm something we thought we had already done many years ago, which was to abandon this paper section of Craig Place and, tonight, to permit the Town Manager to abandon, quitclaim, what rights we may have to the actual property underlying.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Van Winkle. I'd note we do have a visual. I don't know that anybody can see it on the camera but this is very helpful, Mr. McGovern, in the hearing and this is the spot we're talking about. Is there any further discussion on the item? Okay. I'll just indicate my support. There seems to be very good support coming out of the Community Planning Committee and I appreciate the members who worked on that and came to a consensus before it came here. Nothing further? All those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries. We're up to 11, Mrs. Cantor.

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM #11 - RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$20,500 IN THE WESTMOOR PARK FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

ADOPTED

WHEREAS, the Westmoor Park Fund accounts for all operating expenses, maintenance costs and capital improvement costs necessary to operate and maintain Westmoor Park, and

WHEREAS, the Fund receives income from the Hunter Trust Fund, program revenues and interest income on fund balance, and

WHEREAS, actual expenditures in the Westmoor Park Fund for fiscal year 2014-2015 exceeded appropriations by approximately \$20,500 primarily due to the use of part-time personnel at the facility, and

WHEREAS, in order to allow for the orderly closing of accounts it is necessary to increase appropriations in the Westmoor Park Fund,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD that the fiscal year 2014-2015 Westmoor Park Fund budget is hereby amended as follows:

Increase Estimated Revenues

21-401400-40141-9382

Trust Income \$20,500

Increase Appropriations

21-401400-40141-1007

Temporary Payroll \$20,500

Councilor Cantor: Resolution Appropriating \$20,500 in the Westmoor Park Fund for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. I move that we adopt.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Motion is made and seconded. Mr. Van Winkle, back to you, sir.

Mr. Van Winkle: The Westmoor Park Fund is a fund created by the Hunter Family Trust, that the Hunter Family once owned that farm, which we know as Westmoor Park, and they provided us with a trust fund that throws money off to support the operations of Westmoor Park. Each year you adopt a budget that appropriates a portion of the revenues in that trust fund for the operation of the Westmoor Park and, this past year because of a retirement and a need to hire an additional person to fill a place there, the fund exceeded its budget by \$20,500, so we are asking for the orderly closing of accounts that we appropriate from the Westmoor Park Fund, not from the taxpayers but from the fund, an amount of \$20,500 to cover that overage.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Van Winkle. Any questions for the Manager? Any discussion? Mr. Doar.

Councilor Doar: Mr. Van Winkle, thank you. Just to make sure I get this right, so that amount is coming from the principal that's in the, what the family...

Mr. Van Winkle: No.

Councilor Doar: It's their income from the principal, is that correct?

Mr. Van Winkle: The principal was set up as a trust. That trust throws off revenue to us and that's what this money is coming from, the revenue that we receive in the town and hold for expenditure at Westmoor Park.

Councilor Doar: Thank you.

President Slifka: Mr. Doar. Anyone else? Okay. All those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries and Mr. Doar asked number 12 be taken off consent, so please go to number 12 next.

ITEM #12 - RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$7,700 IN THE PRIVATE SCHOOL SERVICES FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

ADOPTED

WHEREAS, the Private School Services Fund accounts for health and transportation services provided by the Town to private and parochial schools in West Hartford, and

WHEREAS, the Town receives State grants that cover a portion of these expenditures and the balance is funded by a transfer from the General Fund, and

WHEREAS, actual expenditures in the Private School Services Fund for fiscal year 2014-2015 exceeded appropriations by approximately \$7,700 due to medical services costs, and

WHEREAS, in order to allow for the orderly closing of accounts it is necessary to increase appropriations in the Private School Services Fund,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD that the fiscal year 2014-2015 Private School Services Fund budget is hereby amended as follows:

Increase Estimated Revenues

25-910901-50102-9386	Transfer from General Fund	\$7,700
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Increase Appropriations

25-910901-50102-1007	Temporary Payroll	\$7,700
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Councilor Cantor: Number 12, Resolution Appropriating \$7,700 in the Private School Services Fund for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. I move that we adopt.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Motion's made and seconded. Mr. Van Winkle?

Mr. Van Winkle: I have Mr. Privitera sitting out here in the audience and he is our Chief Financial Officer so I'm gonna, he's gonna cover a number of the next few items, so I'm gonna ask him to come up and explain this one to us.

President Slifka: Welcome, Mr. Privitera.

Mr. Privitera: Thank you. Good evening. If you recall towards the tail end of the fiscal year, there was a discussion about providing nursing services at the Montessori school and those services were provided at the end of the fiscal year. This additional appropriation will cover those expenses and we have that. The part-time nursing service is fully funded in the current fiscal year, so this is basically covering an over-expenditure in that account.

President Slifka: Thank you.

Mr. Van Winkle: And I should just note that state law requires us to provide both school transportation and...for West Hartford students that go to private schools...and nursing services to private schools by state law so this isn't a choice thing. It's a requirement of state law that we provide.

President Slifka: Mr. Doar?

Councilor Doar: Thank you.

President Slifka: That's it. All right. Anyone else. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Privitera. All those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries, so we're up to 15 now. This is the Substitute Resolution.

ITEM #15 - SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 GENERAL FUND BUDGET TO FUND YEAR-END TRANSFERS TO THE LEISURE SERVICES, DEBT SERVICE, AND CAPITAL NON-RECURRING EXPENDITURE FUNDS

ADOPTED

WHEREAS, actual Fiscal Year 2014-15 General Fund revenues exceeded total General Fund expenditures thereby creating a surplus of approximately \$3,300,000, and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that \$2,375,000 of that surplus be utilized as follows:

\$125,000: Offset an unanticipated operating deficit in the Leisure Services Fund,

\$350,000: Transfer to the Debt Service Fund to be utilized for future debt payments, and

\$1,900,000: Transfer to the Capital Non-recurring Expenditure (CNRE) Fund to be utilized for the purchase of vehicles, equipment, and the funding of capital projects to be determined at a later date, and

WHEREAS, the remaining Fiscal Year 2014-15 surplus balance of approximately \$925,000 will go to fund balance, thereby increasing overall fund balance to approximately \$20,583,000,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD that \$2,375,000 of the fiscal year 2014-2015 surplus is hereby appropriated for transfers to the Leisure Services Fund, Debt Service Fund and the CNRE Fund, and the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 General Fund budget is hereby amended as follows:

Increase Estimated Revenues

01-911000-90000-9399	Fund Balance – FY 2015 Surplus	\$2,375,000
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Increase Appropriations

01-400100-40010-4058	Transfer to Leisure Services Fund	\$125,000
01-900100-10503-4059	Transfer to Debt Service Fund	\$350,000
01-900100-10503-4058	Transfer to CNRE Fund	\$1,900,000

Councilor Cantor: I move that we adopt Substitute Resolution to amend the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 General Fund Budget to Fund Year-End Transfers to the Leisure Services, Debt Service and Capital Non-Recurring Expenditure Funds.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Okay, motion's made and seconded and we are lucky to have Mr. Privitera still here.

Mr. Privitera: Thank you. The change, the Substitute Resolution, we're constantly looking the numbers over and today we were notified by the revenue collector that there was an additional \$200,000 of tax revenue that she could account for that we're putting towards the surplus. So, basically, we have a 3.3 million dollar surplus as of the end of last fiscal year. We're asking for \$125,000 be appropriated to offset an operating deficit in the Leisure Services Fund. Again, this is for the Operating Budget for last fiscal year. It does not impact or does not affect the 2 million dollar deficit in the fund. This is, only covers the loss of the year, which was primarily caused by lower than anticipated revenues at Rockledge and increased expenses at Cornerstone but we still have the 2 million dollar operating deficit in that fund. The \$350,000 transfer to the Debt Service Fund, if you recall as part of one of the mitigation plans in reducing the current year taxes is that we decided to utilize \$700,000 from the Debt Service Fund that was put in there based on bond premium that we had received in the sale of bonds. We had planned on using \$350,000 a year of that over a five-year period but in order to reduce taxes, the Council made a determination that \$700,000 was an appropriate number. Well as we go into next fiscal year, there was some concern about some variations and fluctuations in the budget that I requested the Town Manager that we set aside an additional \$350,000 of the surplus, so we would use this plus the planned \$350,000 of bond premium to offset the cost of the increase in debt service for next fiscal year, so kinda keep it even until we get a good handle on what's gonna happen budget-wise next fiscal year. And the third piece of it is a 1.9 million dollar transfer to CNRE. Again, discussions with the Town Manager, we decided to put that in CNRE as sort of a holding place. In my two years here, I've seen as part of reducing taxes, we've tried to finance CNRE through year-end surplus. This could be used for that as well. There are a couple of additional appropriations that you're gonna see further down that will reduce this to around 1.5 million but this amount could be used for that. It could be used for any other incidents that comes up during the year that would require Council approval of a transfer to another account. So, we put this in here right now as a placeholder. And the remaining \$925,000 will go to fund balance. That will allow us to maintain our 8.1% fund balance ratio, increase our fund balance to approximately 20.6 million dollars. Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Privitera. Any discussion? Mrs. Cantor?

Councilor Cantor: Sorry. I just wanted to explain a little bit and, actually, maybe you can explain it, Mr. Privitera, that a lot of this came, most of this revenue came out of some changes in the way the state funded us and some of the...the sort of a rebate or money, surplus that the schools gave back to the town.

Mr. Privitera: Right. Um...the 3.3 million dollar surplus basically, about 1.2 million dollars came from the Board of Education. They had savings related to teacher salaries and paraprofessional salaries due to smaller classroom size; \$735,000 came from additional tax revenue, current taxes collected and prior taxes. We picked up \$326,000 from the State in additional ECS and pilot money. We did very well on fire permits, \$412,000; very well on building permits, \$422,000; and the Operating Departments did very well, giving back roughly \$558,000, including police and fire that were under their budget. So that constitutes the 3.3 million dollar surplus.

Councilor Cantor: Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you. Mrs. Hall?

Councilor Hall: Thank you. So this morning in the Pension Board meeting, we had some pretty disappointing news. It appears we may have been underestimating death benefits in the public safety unions and this could end up having a material change on what would be required for our annual required contribution...so if we put these funds towards a CNRE, once we get the final numbers and the final evaluation from the actuaries, will we be able to move funds out of the CNRE and have those applicable to the pension?

Mr. Privitera: Yes, it would require...

President Slifka: Mr. Privitera, the mic's not...

Mr. Privitera: I'm sorry. It would require Council Resolution and approval by Council but just to be, just to clarify the point, we hired new actuaries this year and the actuaries during their course of examining the information that was provided them by the previous actuaries discovered that there was a calculation that wasn't made. They say it might be material. We don't know what that impact is gonna be but, right now, we could be fine or we could have a significant increase but we don't know at this point in time but if a determination is made that part of this is to be used to offset that, if the Council chooses to approve that transfer then, yes, we can do that.

Councilor Hall: Thank you.

President Slifka: Okay. Anything further? Sorry, Mr. Barnes?

Councilor Barnes: Thank you. Just following up on that last point. You said the, this missed calculation might be material. Did they give us any parameters around what it could be or couldn't be?

Mr. Privitera: Well, a question was asked is this material or not and the answer was it could be material. There was a preliminary estimate that was provided to us but it had a very, very wide range from maybe a \$75,000 increase to a 1.5 million dollar increase based on a 5% fluctuation which, to me, is very, very, very significant. I contacted the actuary after the meeting and I told him, I said take another look at those numbers because a 5% fluctuation, I haven't seen that in a

long time and I would be concerned if that were to happen, so I'm confident that we're gonna have an increase but I'm hoping it's not to the magnitude that they're projecting and we'll have better numbers within a month. They're gonna come back to the Pension Board at the next meeting and provide us with an update on those numbers and, hopefully, they can explain from their perspective what a material impact on this error is.

Councilor Barnes: And I also assume that we'll cover that in Finance and Budget once we have that information?

Mr. Privitera: Yes.

Councilor Barnes: Okay, thank you. And then just a couple, one point and a couple questions. You mentioned that we have a, approximately a 3.3 million dollar surplus from last year's budget, correct?

Mr. Privitera: Mm-hmm.

Councilor Barnes: So, we went through a couple of the larger numbers that folks that may be watching may not fully understand and I was just wondering if you could just briefly describe the two largest numbers in here; one, the approximate \$900,000 or \$925,000 dollars that's gonna be put into a fund balance, kind of what that is and why that money's being put there and then, two, the, I guess the 1.72, I guess 1.9 million...

Mr. Privitera: Nine.

Councilor Barnes: ...into the CNRE fund.

Mr. Privitera: All right. The, the fund balance ratio is, when we sell bonds, the rating agencies like to see a healthy reserve in case of a catastrophic incident where we would have funds to fall back on, so we like to maintain the current level that we have and the current level is 8.1% and they're happy with that, they're satisfied with that. As long as I've been here, which has been only two years but they haven't said anything to me about that fund balance being too low, so what we try to do is we try to maintain that and, because the budget is growing and the revenues are increasing, we hafta put more money in and to maintain that it's \$925,000. If we did not do that and we plan on selling bonds in January, the rating agencies will look at the ratio and say, well, you're, you've gone down. Is there a problem? Why haven't you maintained that current level of 8.1%, so that's something that we like to do, just to stay on the right side of the rating agencies when we're doing our bond presentations. The 1.9 million dollars, Capital Non-Recurring Account is an account where we fund items such as vehicles and trucks and certain types of professional services related to capital projects. What we've done in the past is if we had determined that there was going to be a surplus, if we were very confident there was going to be a surplus, what we do is we would eliminate the expenses out of the budget and we would pay for them at the end of the year out of the surplus, okay? So, since we have a sizable surplus, a decision was made to put the entire 1.9 million in there. If you look at next year's budget, I think the CNRE Budget for next year is about 1.1/1.2 million dollars. I mean, if a decision was made at some point during the year that we were going to use this to offset that, we could do that as

well but right now this is a holding, it's like a holding account for instances, such as Ms. Hall mentioned. If a decision was made that we had a big ARC payment and we wanted to use part of that and the Council approved it, fine. Otherwise, when we're doing out budget deliberations if a decision was made we wanna use this to offset the cost of a CNRE for next fiscal year, fine, we can use that as well. But, again, any use of these funds other than CNRE would require approval by Council.

Councilor Barnes: And then just to clarify, the funds that the CNRE funds are funds if we didn't have them then we would hafta pull out of the general revenue, which would be funded through taxes, is that correct?

Mr. Privitera: Well, CNRE is a General Fund Expense so it's part of the tax base anyways, so when we calculate our taxes, we include any CNRE expenses, so when we take CNRE out, we're basically lowering out taxes for the following fiscal year and we're using any surplus to finance it. And, again, that's one of the mechanisms we use when available to reduce taxes in the ensuing fiscal year.

Councilor Barnes: Thank you.

President Slifka: Okay, thank you. Mr. Doar, you still have your question? Okay. Anyone, Mrs. Hall then?

Councilor Hall: I was only concerned that we hadn't been quite clear and we kind of got into saying we would have to increase the ARC but we didn't really sort of explain...and I was afraid that we might have left people wondering what we were talking about so...

Mr. Privitera: Sure. Um...actually, the ARC now, the Annual Required Contribution, is the actuarially determined contribution but people still call it an ARC 'cause they don't wanna an AD, whatever...but every year we're required to fund the Pension Fund at a certain level and there are a number of calculations that go into this; one is the discount rate, the interest rate, the rate we're all going to assume that we're gonna receive on our investments. Another, our plan changes, a variety of calculations...but part of that calculation requires the town to make a contribution and that's the Annual Required Contribution or ARC that we talked about. In the past when the markets when bad, we had significant contributions because what happens is the actuaries will smooth in those losses. They're not gonna look to us and say, okay, you have to make the 35 million dollar additional contribution next year, so they smooth in those losses. This year was the first year that we started smoothing in asset gains, so I believe we only saw a \$200,000 increase from year to year on the ARC contribution so, to Mrs. Hall's point, when the actuaries came in and they said there's gonna be a range from a \$50,000 increase to a 1.5 million dollar increase, well, obviously, everyone stood up and was paying attention. But right now, our contribution for the current year is 17.9 million dollars and I'm hoping that next year's contribution is going to be, I'm expecting an increase but I'm hoping it's gonna be well, well under the 1.5 million dollar exposure that is a possibility.

Councilor Hall: But we're still at the point where we're paying more out each year than we're contributing to the fund?

Mr. Privitera: We're paying more out. We're paying roughly 23 million dollars in benefits and contributing 17.9 million. Again, the difference being what we're technically making on the investment earnings on that but there's fluctuation and volatility. At the Pension Board meeting today, we were talking about what our assets would be at the end of, as of June 30th. Well, we all know that given the volatility of the last few months, there's gonna be an impact the following year but we are in a phase right now where we're smoothing in gains, so I'm hoping that some of those gains will offset some of the losses that we're gonna see.

President Slifka: Okay. Anybody further? Mr. Davidoff?

Councilor Davidoff: So I just wanna make certain I understand in layman's terms what we're doing here. So, prior to this evening, we thought the surplus at the end of the year was 3.1 million dollars. It has grown to 3.3 million dollars.

Mr. Privitera: Correct.

Councilor Davidoff: We're allocating 2.375 million, one hundred twenty-five thousand to offset a deficit that was unanticipated in the Leisure Services fund, \$350,000 transferred to Debt Service, and 1.9 million to the CNRE. In the budget that we adopted in April, we had anticipated that we would be spending about 1.1 million dollars in CNRE expenses to purchase vehicles and other types of equipment, so there's basically an \$800,000 cushion that we're not anticipating on spending and we're gonna see how things may play out and one of the things that may play out here was this...death miscalculation possibly. Okay, that might be one thing or there may be some other things along the way, which would require us to incur additional funds that we would just pay out of pocket instead of go for bonding, is that correct?

Mr. Privitera: Gotta get this thing fixed here. Before this night is over, I hope you reduce that 1.9 million by \$188,000 for some items that were on the list and \$266,000 for equipment for the paramedic services, which would reduce that number down to a little under 1.5 million. But, yes, if we used the majority of it to offset future CNRE purchases, yes, the balance would go down, certainly.

Councilor Davidoff: Okay. So future action that we may be doing this evening may be changing the number?

Mr. Privitera: Correct.

Councilor Davidoff: Okay. There, you had said that our fund balance is 8.1% of our total budget.

Mr. Privitera: Total revenues.

Councilor Davidoff: I mean, total revenues, which equates to how many millions of dollars?

Mr. Privitera: Roughly 262 million. Let me see if I have that number.

Councilor Davidoff: No, our fund balance isn't that...

Mr. Privitera: Oh, our fund balance is \$20,580,000.

Councilor Davidoff: I'm sorry?

Mr. Privitera: \$20,583,000.

Councilor Davidoff: Okay. Oh, yeah, I'm sorry Okay, so this \$20,583,000 is what the rating agencies look at when we go out for bonding and...I've been involved long enough to know that when we do this, the bonding agencies usually say, well, that just doesn't seem to be enough compared to other communities of your size and your wealth, okay, and then they compare us to, like, Greenwich and other gold coast communities and we just come back and we say, well, we're very well-run and it's a sizeable amount of money to basically call \$20,583,000 as our rainy day fund, okay, so the history has proven in West Hartford that that is adequate to maintain our AAA bond rating, correct?

Mr. Privitera: Correct.

Councilor Davidoff: Okay. So the only time that we had to tap into this was when we had storm Alfred. We had, no, I thought we had initially and then we got reimbursed for that. The Manager's shaking his head no.

Mr. Van Winkle: I'm just gonna...chime in here. When storm Alfred hit us, we spent, I believe, somewhere around 13 million dollars. We were able to receive assistance from the federal government, through FEMA. We were able to use some bond premiums and whatnot and we ended up not having to touch the fund balance. We were able to maintain it.

Councilor Davidoff: I thought the thing was we had to lay it out and then we got reimbursed and I guess I'm...

Mr. Van Winkle: Well, we may have had to lay it out but we got reimbursed...

Councilor Davidoff: Okay.

Mr. Van Winkle: ...we did not in the end have to touch the fund balance.

Councilor Davidoff: Okay. Right, no, that was, that's where I was going with this so when all's said and done, we were in the same position had we not done anything with it, so my point is...I'm sorta hard-pressed to find other scenarios, okay, that we would be required to spend 20.58 million dollars for fund balance. And, as the budgets get larger, that balance is going to get larger as well in terms of our revenue so at some point, I don't know where the tipping point is but at some point we just say it just needs to level off at some point because you're not gonna have your fund balance be 10% or 12%...or 15%.

Mr. Van Winkle: Well...

Councilor Davidoff: At some point, what, how much money do you need? We're at 20 million. Are we gonna need 50 million at some point to say that we're in that position? I don't know that answer.

Mr. Privitera: Well, I can tell you that the rating agencies would like you to have more. Again, this is protecting the investors is what it's doing so in case there was an issue where we couldn't pay our debt service, we'd have this money available but I know that there are some towns that have 10% and some more affluent communities have more and some have less. From my perspective, this is a good number for a town this size and there was no discussion or no concern on the last two bond issues that it wasn't enough. If it were, if there was a discussion and Moody's or S&P said you know what, we feel it's too low. To me, that would be a road to a negative watch, which we don't wanna do, and I would've addressed it immediately. So, I think we're okay with this right now. It is gonna go up every year. Every year that the budget's gonna go up, it's gonna go up. By the time it hits 50 million dollars, I think my grandson'll probably be here addressing you but it's gonna be a long time off.

Councilor Davidoff: No, I don't anticipate I'll be sitting here asking the questions when it gets to that amount either but what I'm tryin' to say is we're in a good financial stead here...

Mr. Privitera: Yes.

Councilor Davidoff: ...and this action that we're taking this evening protects our fund balance, provides the funds necessary to cover a known deficit, to put money towards debt, and to buy equipment and cars that were needed without jeopardizing our fund balance so that's where I'm getting, a round circle, and that's what I wanted to...

Mr. Privitera: Right, correct. And if we didn't do anything, the entire amount would go to fund balance.

Councilor Davidoff: Correct.

Mr. Privitera: So that's the reason why we're appropriating it.

Councilor Davidoff: And then the other point that I do wanna make 'cause I think that's important is when we do have that percentage of fund balance that the rating agencies look at, it allows us to borrow money for other projects that we do at a lower rate, which benefits the taxpayer as well so...

Mr. Privitera: That's correct.

Councilor Davidoff: ...it's a win/win in terms of that.

Mr. Privitera: That's correct and that's the one thing that we don't wanna do is we don't want to put the town in a position where the rating agencies come back and say, well, something material has changed so we're gonna put you on watch until we figure out what it is...so right now, we're

a AAA with both agencies and there's been no indication from either one of them that there's any concern on the fund balance ratio.

Councilor Davidoff: All right. Well, thank you for putting it down in layman's terms and thank you.

Mr. Privitera: You're welcome.

President Slifka: Okay. Anything further? Okay. If not, thank you, Mr. Privitera. I think we have other items as you referenced so don't, you'll be speaking on, but all those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries. We're up to number 16, Mrs. Cantor.

ITEM #16 - RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$183,000 IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 BUDGET OF THE CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING EXPENDITURE FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND THE FUNDING OF A CAPITAL PROJECT

ADOPTED

WHEREAS, a departmental review of vehicles and capital equipment of the Town of West Hartford indicates the need for replacement of certain items to ensure public safety and community maintenance, and

WHEREAS, the Police Department is in need of replacement firearms with an estimated cost of \$13,000, and

WHEREAS, the Fire Department is in need of vehicle extraction equipment with an estimated cost of \$40,000, and

WHEREAS, the Facilities Services Department is in need of a replacement light duty truck with an estimated cost of \$30,000, and

WHEREAS, there is a need for additional funding of \$100,000 for the Economic Development capital project in order to conduct reviews, studies and reports relating to economic development opportunities, and

WHEREAS, the Capital Non-Recurring Expenditure Fund has unreserved fund balance available for appropriation for the purchase of said vehicle and equipment, as well as funding of the economic development capital project,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD that the fiscal year 2015-2016 Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditure Fund budget is hereby amended as follows:

Increase Estimated Revenues

33-910800-30506-9399	CNRE Fund Balance	\$183,000
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Increase Appropriations

33-910800-30506-3229	Police Weapons	\$13,000
33-910800-30506-3187	Firefighting Equipment	\$40,000
33-910800-30506-3240	Facilities Vehicle	\$30,000
33-910800-30506-4058	Transfer to Capital Projects Fund	\$100,000

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the fiscal year 2015-2016 Capital Project Fund budget is hereby amended as follows:

Increase Estimated Revenues

41-891550-80001-9389	Transfer from CNRE	\$100,000
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Increase Appropriations

41-891550-80001-3025	Professional Services	\$100,000
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Councilor Cantor: A Resolution Appropriating \$183,000 in the Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget of the Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditure Fund for the Purchase of Capital Equipment and the Funding of a Capital Project. I move that we adopt.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: The motion's made and seconded and we're back to you, Mr. Privitera, and we see the numbers that you'd referenced earlier that would start to change, the ones in the prior Resolution.

Mr. Privitera: Yes, Mr. Mayor. Um...there are three items on this list that we had talked about during the course of the budget deliberation process; the police weapons, that had come up during committee meetings and it was determined that we would finance those out of year-end surplus; firefighting equipment, jaws of life, extricating tools; and a facilities' vehicle for about \$30,000. The only additional item that's on this list that we didn't talk about initially was the \$100,000 transferred to the Capital Projects Fund. We would use that for a phase III environmental assessment of UConn property. I mean, right now we've engaged a company, Milone and MacBroom, to do a Phase I and Phase II environmental assessment. This money will be held in reserve should they find some concerns that would require an additional study or propose for mediation work, this money will be available, so we're asking that you approve these appropriations.

President Slifka: For those who may not know, could you talk about what a Phase III environmental study is?

Mr. Privitera: Sure, sure. Um...

President Slifka: And by those who don't know, I didn't mean the people at this table. This is more for educational purposes.

Mr. Privitera: Certainly. In environmental review, a Phase I study is when you're looking at existing documentation. Rather than going in and creating it, you're looking at all the reports that had been prepared in the past in order to make a determination whether there's any environmental contamination. Phase II is you're actually doing an inspection and doing some testing, some test boring. If you have a concern of what you've found in Phase I, you'll go to Phase II and you'll do some boring and make a determination. Phase III is, as a result of those borings, you find some contamination and you basically are requested to do a remediation report; how much would it cost to remediate, what do we hafta do, what if we found contaminants here, what if there's asbestos over there, what if there's...and right now there was \$75,000 appropriated for Phase I and Phase II and, again, if they find anything substantial, we would have the money to go into Phase III. Phase III, basically, gives you the full picture if something wrong is found...in my opinion.

President Slifka: But if nothing wrong is found, then kinda the prior discussion, this money is available for other purposes...

Mr. Privitera: Correct.

President Slifka: ...as needed.

Mr. Privitera: Correct.

President Slifka: All right. Anyone else?

Councilor Hall: I do.

President Slifka: Mrs. Hall?

Councilor Hall: I just wanted to point out since we're talking about this that no decision has been made about the UConn property yet and this is just to give us a better idea of what we're looking at, so I didn't want anyone to think that we were doing this as part of a project that was underway, just part of a study.

Mr. Privitera: Correct. Yes.

President Slifka: It's fair to say it's part of our due diligence. Right, okay. Anyone else?

Councilor Doar: I have a question.

President Slifka: Go ahead, Mr. Doar.

Councilor Doar: Mr. Privitera, do you happen to know what it means, the replacement of firearms? Are we talking about the police officers' handguns?

Mr. Privitera: Handguns...yes.

Councilor Doar: Thank you.

President Slifka: Anyone else? Okay. All those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries. Number 17, Mrs. Cantor?

ITEM #17 - RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$100,000 IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 BUDGET OF THE WESTMOOR PARK FUND FOR RESTORATION OF THE WESTMOOR PARK BARN

ADOPTED

WHEREAS, Westmoor Park is an environmental, agricultural and horticultural education center dedicated to generating awareness and appreciation for the natural world, and

WHEREAS, the Westmoor Park Fund was established to account for the income and expenditures necessary to operate and maintain Westmoor Park, and

WHEREAS, there are several buildings located in the Park which require on-going maintenance and periodic improvements, and

WHEREAS, the Westmoor Park barn is in need of certain improvements and the FY 2016-2027 Adopted Program for Capital Improvements includes a capital project for inspection, design and structural repair to portions of the interior and exterior of the existing two-story timber framed barn structure with an estimated cost of \$100,000 and

WHEREAS, there is sufficient fund balance in the Westmoor Park Fund to finance said improvements,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD that fund balance in the amount of \$100,000 be appropriated in the Westmoor Park Fund for the purpose of funding the adopted capital project for restoration of the Westmoor Park barn and the fiscal year 2015-2016 budget of the Westmoor Park Fund is hereby amended as follows:

Estimated Revenues

21-401400-40141-9399	Westmoor Park Fund Balance	\$100,000
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Appropriations

21-401400-40141-4058	Transfer to Capital Projects Fund	\$100,000
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Councilor Cantor: Resolution Appropriating \$100,000 in the Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget of the Westmoor Park Fund for Restoration of the Westmoor Park Barn. I move that we adopt.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Okay, motion's made and seconded and, Mr. Privitera, Mr. Van Winkle's gonna ask you to handle this one too, right? You're all over the map. We got guns...barns...

Mr. Privitera: Right, remediation.

President Slifka: I don't mean you, structure barns, not Chris Barnes.

Mr. Privitera: Yeah, guns and butter.

President Slifka: And bond funding.

Mr. Privitera: Basically, we have \$60,000 in fiscal year '16 in Capital Budget and \$40,000 in fiscal year '17 in the Capital plan so all this is doing is appropriating the full amount now so the project can be completed now.

President Slifka: And I think you've had some discussion with some, since we seem to be educating people as much as possible tonight about how that, we adopt a two-year capital budget and how this is an example of why?

Mr. Privitera: Correct, correct. And, again, we do adopt a two-year budget, which allows us in some cases where funding is split over years, if it's decided that it's more expedient and cost-saving to do it in the first year rather than split it over two years, we'll come back and ask for the appropriation the second year and we'll be able to do it sooner and probably cheaper.

President Slifka: Thank you. Okay, Mrs. Hall?

Councilor Hall: Since we're talking about the Westmoor Park, I thought it also might be wise to point out that the department's also working hard to raise money on their own and I think we have a wonderful facility here that's a jewel in our town and we're having a fundraiser on September 25th for Westmoor Park Fund, so even though the town is putting money into it, I just wanna commend Helen Rubino-Turco, head of our Human and Leisure Services, for also taking the initiative to look for ways to raise money for these facilities without necessarily going to the taxpayer. Thanks.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mrs. Hall. Anybody else? Okay. If there's nothing further then all those in favor of the Resolution?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries. And we are up to number 20, Mrs. Cantor.

ITEM #20 - RESOLUTION CONCERNING PARAMEDIC SERVICES

ADOPTED

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health requires the Town to designate an Advanced Life Support (ALS) provider, and

WHEREAS, the Town currently contracts with American Medical Response (AMR) to provide Paramedic Services to respond to all ALS calls for service for an annual amount of approximately \$315,000, and

WHEREAS, the West Hartford Fire Department has recently hired firefighters who are also certified paramedics, and

WHEREAS, the Town firefighter/paramedics currently respond to all of the same ALS calls as AMR, and

WHEREAS, as a result of the addition of the new firefighter/paramedics, the Town desires to be designated as the ALS responder for the Town by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, and

WHEREAS, an analysis of the provision of paramedic services by Town firefighter/paramedics has been prepared and it has been determined the Town could provide an enhanced level of paramedic service at a lower cost, and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to provide Paramedic ALS Services on or about January 1, 2016, and

WHEREAS, in order to perform these services the Town is in need of certain capital equipment including dispatch software, medical devices and personal protective equipment with an estimated cost of \$466,600, and

WHEREAS, the Town applied for and was awarded a grant in the amount of \$200,340 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters grant program for the purchase of paramedic equipment, and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the Capital Non-Recurring Expenditure (CNRE) Fund to provide for the Town match of \$22,260 required by the grant as well as the balance of \$244,000 necessary for the equipment purchase, and

WHEREAS, an operating budget for the provision of paramedic services has been developed and needs to be appropriated in order for this service to commence,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD that the Town will begin to provide paramedic services in-house on or about January 1, 2016, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant is hereby accepted, and the fiscal year

2015-2016 budget of the CNRE Fund and the Fire Department’s General Fund budget are hereby amended as follows:

CNRE Budget

Increase Estimated Revenues

33-910800-30506-9399	Use of Fund Balance	\$266,260
33-910800-30506-9070	Federal Grant Revenue	\$200,340

Increase Appropriations

33-910800-30506-3235	Paramedic Equipment	\$466,600
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General Fund Budget

Increase Estimated Revenues

01-200203-20203-9255	Paramedic Services Revenue	\$188,000
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Increase Appropriations

01-200203-20203-1001	Regular Payroll	\$50,000
01-200203-20203-1010	Overtime	94,000
01-200203-20203-1003	Paramedic Stipend	12,000
01-200203-20203-2019	Subscriptions	6,000
01-200203-20203-2070	Professional Services	15,000
01-200203-20203-2362	Medical Supplies	80,000
01-200203-20203-4019	Social Security	4,000
91-911000-90000-4046	Benefits	47,000

Reduce Appropriations

01-910500-20203-2067	Medical Services	\$120,000
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Councilor Cantor: Resolution Concerning Paramedic Services. I move that we adopt.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Okay. Motion is made and seconded. Mr. Van Winkle, are we going to you or directly to Mr. Privitera?

Mr. Van Winkle: Let me just introduce it and both our Chief Financial Officer, Peter Privitera, and our Fire Chief, Gary Allyn, are here to give further discussion of this. Um...we have for a number of years looked at the question of whether the West Hartford Fire Department should provide paramedic services to its residents. At this time, we do it through a private contractor, who provides those services and does a good job for us, but we were able to, through negotiations with the union, provide some changes to union contract that would allow the service to be provided to the residents of the Town of West Hartford at a reduced cost, actually creating a revenue opportunity as well as having a much larger service than we presently do. We have about 1.5 personnel from our paramedic, private paramedic service; one overnight, two during the day. Under this proposal, there would be four paramedics in the Town of West Hartford at four fire stations, eventually five, that would provide that service to our residents versus the two

during the day/one at night. And so this change would improve the service to our residents and I'm gonna have Peter walk through some of this so we can talk about the financial aspects and then Chief Allyn is here to talk about the operational.

Mr. Privitera: Certainly. Um...you've, I believe you've all received the financial report I submitted to the Town Manager outlining the program. And, again, not to repeat but just to put it all in perspective, I just wanted to go over what the existing program is and what we hope it will evolve to if this is approved. Um...the Connecticut Department of Health requires three different tiers of emergency medical service; a first responder, which in the Town of West Hartford is the police department supported by the fire department; basic ambulance service, which is provided by AMR, American Medical Response. They've been assigned this by the Department of Health so West Hartford is in an area that they control. And the third is for paramedic services or advanced life support. Now, we currently contract with AMR to provide advanced life support services or paramedic services. As the Town Manager said, AMR has one paramedic on duty 24 hours a day, a second paramedic is on duty Monday - Friday from 8:00-6:00. We pay them roughly \$315,000 this year. If we continued, there probably would be a 3% escalator to about \$326,000. So, when a call goes into the dispatch center, the public safety dispatchers make a determination is it a basic medical call, is it an ALS call, advanced life support call? And, if it's an ALS call, the police department will respond, the fire department will respond, an ambulance will respond, and an AMR paramedic will respond. So if it's a heart attack, let's say, the AMR paramedic will provide life support services, will get on the ambulance with that individual, and transport to the hospital providing life support services and, when need be, the West Hartford Fire Department will assist as well. So when all is said and done, AMR will submit a bill for transport services. The town does not pay for ambulance services. AMR will submit a bill to private insurance or to Medicare depending on what the situation is and on these advanced life support calls, they will send also a bill for paramedic services and, again, we also pay them to have paramedics in town. So what're we looking at going it or how this is gonna be changed? Recently, the fire department hired, I believe, 17 firefighter/paramedics. The requirement was if you wanna be a firefighter, you also hafta be a paramedic and I believe they're gonna hire three more to get that number up to 20. These firefighter/paramedics are gonna be responding to fire calls, they're gonna be responding to medical calls. Just, they're gonna be firefighters who are paramedics as well and they're gonna be responding to all the same calls as AMR is responding to right now. The difference being is instead of having 1-1½ paramedics on duty, we're gonna have 4-5 paramedics on duty and instead of having one paramedic centrally located at the police station so when a call comes in, he's gotta go to any point in town, we're gonna have paramedics stationed at the firehouses, so if call comes in, the nearest unit's gonna respond with paramedics. And, if we do this, we will not need to pay AMR \$315,000 this year plus if our paramedic gets on the ambulance and transports as the AMR one does right now, we will be able to bill private insurance and Medicaid for that. So the issue is instead of 1½, we would have 4-5. Instead of having one point to respond to, we're gonna five different points to respond to and the closest one. Instead of paying \$315,000 to AMR, we're not gonna hafta pay that and we'll have the opportunity to reduce the overall expenses by billing on these types of calls as well. So, what you have before you is a budget, assuming this would, the program would start in January of this year, and I can go through that with you and answer any questions and Chief Allyn is here and he can answer any questions with me as well. So if we look at the budget, there's an initial capital outlay of \$466,600. Now, the

fire department received a grant from FEMA for \$200,340, so that will be used to purchase this equipment. The balance of \$266,260, we're asking that we be able to appropriate from CNRE from fund balance and that would take care of all the equipment. And the most significant pieces of equipment here and, Chief, tell me if I'm wrong, the heart, the monitor, defibrillator...Right. I mean, it's like \$35,000 a unit or so...\$39,000 a unit. That's the most and that's a one-time purchase and we're gonna have those for a while. There is other minor equipment involved in this as well. Regular payroll. We have \$50,000 along with \$47,000 in benefits. We put that in there as a placeholder because we don't know if we're gonna need an additional staff person to supervise the paramedic services or even to get involved with the 911 center. The Town Manager asked that we put that in there as a placeholder and, frankly, if we don't need this person right now and if we can go without this person for the next, from January- June, we'd save roughly \$97,000. Overtime, that's continuing education and credentialing for the paramedics. Now, even though we have paramedics on staff, they have to be credentialed. They hafta go through what the Chief refers to as a precepting program. What that means is they hafta go out on ALS calls with other paramedics, who are already certified to do that...and once they log in a certain amount of calls or hours, then they will be allowed to go on these paramedic calls for the town. And once we have a certain number of paramedics that're certified in town, those paramedics can be used to train future paramedics so we won't hafta send them outta town, so we might hafta send some paramedics to New Britain or to some other, East Hartford, and pay overtime while they're being credentialed so that cost is included in here. Paramedic stipend, a memorandum of agreement was signed and part of it was identifying a 1% stipend for paramedic services. We have that in here and that gradually increases to 5%, 5.4% over 11 years so it's not a significant jump up year over year. We have subscription services for patient call monitoring. We have professional services for billing. Now, on the billing portion, for all of the private insurances, we would hire a company to actually bill and collect for us. For the Medicare services, we would hafta negotiate with AMR to send in one bill. It's referred to as bundled billing. Medicare will only receive one bill, so since they're billing for the ambulance services, we're gonna negotiate with them to pay them a flat rate to include our medic, paramedic costs with that to send one bill in and then we would get paid and they would get paid. Medical supplies, now medical supplies, probably most of this is associated with...when we're sending out paramedics, they're gonna administering medications and drugs so, which is something that we don't do right now, so we're gonna expending a lot more supplies and the estimate was that we're gonna hafta basically fill our cabinets up early with these supplies but then as, on a year over year basis, on a full year, we'll only \$100,000. The social security is only the Medicaid portion of FICA, so we're looking at for a 6-month operation, from January - June, we're looking at \$308,000. Now, that doesn't include the regular salaries of all these individuals 'cause they're currently being paid as firefighters, so these are the only increases. The budget is \$308,000. We estimate we're gonna get \$188,000 on the billing portion for the next, from January - June, and the \$120,000 is to reduce the appropriations we already have in place for AMR. Since we've already budgeted the \$315,000 for AMR, we're assuming that for 6 months we're not gonna be paying them, we're gonna be using it ourselves so we're gonna use a portion of that and shift it over to our operations so we can finance the program. And with that, we should still have about \$37,500 left over in the current fiscal year. Next year, on a full-year basis, that would jump up to roughly \$269,000 and, again, if a determination is made that we don't need a full-time person, that 269 could increase to 469. We won't need any salary, we won't need any benefits. So, all in all, the bottom line is instead of 1½ paramedics you're getting

4-5 paramedics. Instead of a response from one point, you're getting a response from five different points. We're not paying AMR \$315 and we'll be able to bill for all of the ALS calls in which a town paramedic is on the ambulance. And that's pretty much it in a nutshell and I don't know, Chief, if you wanna add anything to that? Come on up.

Chief Allyn: Is it on?

Mr. Privitera: Yeah, it's on.

Chief Allyn: Good evening. Peter learns very well. He spent the last sleepless nights learning this whole process and, as he said, we're, we've been working on this project for a lotta years to get to where we are, the union, and our union president's here tonight. We've come to a collaborative agreement to be able to provide this service, something that's been dodging us for a lotta years and it's not about the, that AMR has done anything wrong. I mean, their operations manager is here. They've, they're great partners with us. We work very well together. It's just an opportunity for us to use our staff to provide that service out of those five fire stations, so we're taking on additional services and we're gonna keep our folks a little busier but we certainly have the capacity to be able to do that with the equipment and the folks that we do have and we really believe that we can improve the emergency medical services to the town.

President Slifka: Chief, I'm just wondering if you could, I know Peter did an excellent job of summarizing this. I really give you a lotta credit for boiling all that complexity down to a couple of sentences in the end, but I know you echoed his remarks but, Chief, we wanna make clear to the public that, if we approve this, that although there are lots of positive financial aspects to this, that this is done first and foremost to improve our public safety and I'm hoping you could address that personally and maybe add to it as you see fit.

Chief Allyn: Well, as Peter said and as you all know, and I mean the map pretty much shows it and I'll just put it up behind me. What you see there is five fire stations that're the red dots and the blue dots are...the blue dots are where the paramedics are located according to the contract we have with them now and, basically, that's what you have at night, the evening hours. You still have the five dots and you have the paramedic in the middle. So they respond to all the calls that they can but once they get deeper into the process, they're bringin' a paramedic with an ambulance and that ambulance is coming from anywhere within the region. They try to keep the ambulances posted around because we share our ambulances with Hartford...so there's a redundancy built into this. They will continue to be our first level of mutual aid for any calls that we run out of when we get outside of five paramedics, they'll be our first line of mutual aid and we also have mutual aid agreements now with UConn Health Center, which is right over the line in Farmington, and our third mutual aid partner is gonna be New Britain EMS and their paramedics will come here if we get that deep with emergency medical services calls. This gives us an opportunity, if we have a firefighter go down at a fire or at an accident or whatever, we've got paramedics immediately on the scene, where the paramedic from AMR may not have been assigned to that particular call. The same thing with a police incident. In an active shooter situation, that gives us more paramedics to be out there on the street responding to those calls. We're working collaboratively now with the Police Department in another area that we've never gotten involved with. We've never gotten involved with active shooter incidents before what,

the tragedy that occurred at Sandy Hook. So now what our role is for the active shooter incidents, is to do the triage and then set up the casualty collection area and our folks can actually begin paramedic services and that's gonna be essentially a "you all come" so there'll be a lot of paramedics coming from a lot of areas; AMR with their paramedics and paramedics from the area if we do have a tragedy of that magnitude. But we've, we will have the first line of paramedics would be right here in town and, as I said, located in the five fire stations. So, operationally, it makes sense. We go to the medical calls now. One of the things that a lotta folks don't understand is that any time and I'm sure that one time in your life you've been to the emergency room at the hospital and when a doctor comes in there's a lotta people that work with the doctor to do the job. Paramedics work for the doctor but out there in the field, we don't have that large group of people, all those specialists. It's the paramedic with some EMTs that actually put you back together, stabilize you and get you to that definitive care at the hospital, so having the paramedic on a piece of fire apparatus, there's a built-in crew right there to be able to work together and they work as they would a fire. They're gonna work together as, at a medical call, so with police, the AMR ambulance, the paramedic from the fire department, we're able to provide a team that can choreograph a response and, for positive outcomes in the future for our, for the taxpayers and the visitors of West Hartford.

President Slifka: Thank you. Is there any discussion? Mr. Captain?

Councilor Captain: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Thank you, Chief, and Mr. Privitera for coming out tonight and explaining the entire paramedic program that we've been talking about. One of the biggest things that's been going on in business and government over the last decade has been outsourcing and outsourcing is the process of taking what aren't your core functions and removing them from your business and hiring out for somebody else to provide those services. It's been huge, it's been huge for the last decade. One of the more quieter things that you haven't heard about is actually insourcing and insourcing is happening in companies and government when people realize that the service that they outsourced could possibly be delivered more efficiently at home. I believe that this is an absolute business case for insourcing and there's a couple reasons why I believe this. We've looked at it for a long time. Back in 2008, Representative Joe Verrengia, when he actually sat here as a Town Councilor, introduced a motion or sent something to Finance and Budget in regards to paramedic services being provided by the fire department. We've had an outside services company come in, a consultant firm, come in and look at and advise as to how we could best deliver a program. When I say insourcing and delivering a better service, I'm talking about the initial plan of four paramedics stationed at four different fire departments and eventually five when we have our full cadre of 20 paramedics on board, to be able to deliver those services 24/7/365 versus what we're paying for today, which is one paramedic for 24/7 and a second paramedic only on duty Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., so we have more coverage across the map as the Chief has showed and, at the same time, we're avoiding the costs of that \$315,000 annually to AMR. So, I am fully behind this program from the first benefit as the Mayor said of delivering better service, a better response time, be able to get to someone who is injured faster and get them stabilized and get them off to the hospital where they need to be. Um...I did have two questions, though. I did have a constituent call today with two questions. Both of them happen to be regarding response time so I wanna pose them to you and hope you can address them. One was a question about the response time of four stations, particularly on a third shift in the evening, where you have

firefighters in bunks. Their ability to respond from four stations possibly being slower than one fly car positioned in the center of town. And also in regards to response time, there was a question about how is a response time measured? Is it measured, when does the clock start and when does the clock stop? Is it measured from the point of the 911 call and does the clock stop when the paramedic arrives at the scene? And is this response time metric the same measured for AMR versus the fire department. If you could address those, Chief, I'd appreciate it.

Chief Allyn: Better? Okay. First of all, as I said, five dots. Our average response time is 4 minutes and 28 seconds throughout the town...and where that number comes from is and I'm gonna get into a little bit of a tangent here but to bring you back to how this number is derived...we are, the Town of West Hartford, is an ISO, insurance service office class II community, all right? There are 240 fire departments in the State of Connecticut and five of 'em are Class II communities, so the lower the number, the better the fire protection rating that you get from various insurers, which is an international company that provides us our insurance office or ISO rating. So they measure three things of how we do our business; one is time, one is our water supply, and the other is the fire department and its operations and communications are built into that as well. So there're two standards that're used by ISO; one is NFPA 1710 (NFPA stands for National Fire Protection Association) and the other standard is, well, NFPA 1710 is essentially response for career fire departments...and what they do is they measure metrics, they use the metrics and I have them so and I can, and I'll read 'em to you. But the metrics that they use pretty much indicate what, the time of call and I'll answer your questions as we go along. The time of call begins when a 911 call begins so the dispatcher has a certain amount of time to process the call, all right, and to decide what resources get sent to that type of incident, all right? That, so the call starts at the 911, so the clock begins ticking and the actual response time ends when the first unit arrives at the patient's or victim's side or the house that's on fire or whatever, the arrival of the first unit, okay, so we use two standards...

Councilor Captain: Would that most likely be police since they're our first responders?

Chief Allyn: Um, could be very well be. Again, it depends on what's going on in town. It depends on time of day. The time, time is a moving target depending upon the agency that's going and the clock that you're using. I'd like to say that all of our clocks are the same but they're not, okay? Essentially, we use the clock through the dispatch center, so our times are different and, I mean, AMR's times, they have a clock and it's not, I don't think it's with our clock but we use our clock and the performance measures that we use in the contract with AMR and our response times come from the ERC clock, okay? So the way that, the way the process works is, for instance, and I'll use the NFPA 1710 criteria for a medical call. It's 480 seconds or less travel time for the arrival of an advanced life support unit at an emergency medical incident, where this service is provided by the fire department, provided a first responder with AED or basic life support unit arrived within 240 seconds. So with the police department arriving when they arrive, they fall into that 240 category and the 480 category is what AMR would respond with, as well as what the fire department works with. Now, we have performance requirements in the contract with AMR and, essentially, the performance requirements for AMR, I believe is, right now, it's 5 minutes for the first unit and 7 minutes when there's, I'm sorry, 5 minutes when there's two paramedics working, 7 minutes when there's one paramedic working, correct? Okay. So we're inside that window or that goal post, all right? So our time is measured, our 4 minutes

and 28 seconds was measured from, essentially it's a total time. So, in other words, it's emergency and nonemergency calls for a year's worth of calls. So there are some calls, depending upon where they are in town, 7 minutes, 7½ minutes, and there, there's a lotta calls in town that are less than 3 minutes. It just depends on where you are in location to one of the fire stations or, if the units are on the road, which our units are on the road in the course of a day quite often because one of the other pieces in our ISO rating is our training so our apparatus is on the road a lot because we have hydrant inspections that we hafta do, we have training that goes on throughout the day into the evening hours so, to answer your question, the smallest amount of calls, emergency medical services calls in the town, occur between 10:00 at night and 6:00 in the morning, okay? So, hence, there's one paramedic from AMR during that period of time and any additional paramedics that would be required come in on an ambulance for any surge for that period of time. In our case, we're gonna have them here in town all the time and, again, to meet our benchmarks, we hafta be on the road in 90 seconds. So in other words, we hafta be at the firetruck acknowledging the call within 90 seconds time of alarm. So we have someone in the fire station that's in the watch room at night all night, all right? And that firefighter pulls the watch for the night shift and that, their job is to answer the radio and get the folks moving during the night hours, all right, so that's, I hope that answers your question as far as how we get our stuff on, on the road.

Councilor Captain: So 90 seconds...

Chief Allyn: 90 seconds is our benchmark...

Councilor Captain: Okay.

Chief Allyn: ...to get the folks moving to the apparatus and to get 'em out the door.

Councilor Captain: And in the evening, 10:00 - 6:00, it's the smallest amount of calls...

Chief Allyn: Yes.

Councilor Captain: ...and our firefighters can be, from five locations, or four locations when we start...

Chief Allyn: Mm-hmm. The four locations are gonna be here, the location that we're not gonna staff immediately with a paramedic will be station 3. It's our industrial area and we're already, we have two medics already for that station until we hire the remainder to get to 20, so there'll be a couple of shifts where, there'll be two shifts that there'll be paramedics here and there'll be two shifts that there won't *yet*, all right?

Councilor Captain: And the likely...

Chief Allyn: We're filling these jobs through attrition. As people retire, we're bringing in firefighter/paramedics and we're doing recruitment right now.

Councilor Captain: And the likelihood of response from four stations at night...as good as one person in the center of town?

Chief Allyn: Well, the times will be close.

Councilor Captain: Okay.

Chief Allyn: And the important thing to remember is the number of people that're showing up to be able to do the work because what's important in a paramedic situation is basic life support has to be done before advanced life support, all right? And if the paramedic shows up by themselves, there's BLS that needs to be done before they can transition to their ALS so they can figure out what they got. When there's enough responders that arrive, the BLS can be done by the basic life support responders so the paramedic can get ready for that transition and determination to use the advanced life support skills and tools that they bring along with them. So it's no different than the doctor in a hospital. Somebody's gotta do the check in, the workup, the vital signs and then the doctor comes in when it's appropriate. I mean, a paramedic is no different. I mean, paramedics, we're all BLS until we get enough help where we can transition to advanced life support.

Councilor Captain: And the call for transportation, if needed, would be the same as it is today?

Chief Allyn: It's automatic.

Councilor Captain: Done by the folks...

Chief Allyn: Yup, it's automatic.

Councilor Captain: ...in the call center.

Chief Allyn: It's automatic, yup.

Councilor Captain: Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you. Anybody else? Who was first? Mr. Doar.

Councilor Doar: Thank you, Mr. Barnes. I appreciate the deference and, Mr. Allyn, I wanna also commend you for your hard work on this and also told the Town Staff, Mr. Privitera and I know that Ron and a lot of people have looked into this over a period of time, weighing the benefits against the...my first question, though, is there anything about what we're proposing tonight that gives you pause for concern? What would, what could, in your mind or in Mr. Privitera's, is there anything that would turn out not to work as we're kind of forecasting that it should?

Chief Allyn: Well, transport's still gonna be done by AMR and if the link that we have that's the weakest in the chain now and it's through no fault of anyone's, it's just the way the region is laid out is the waiting for an ambulance to arrive. And it's, like I said, it's call volume. It's what's

going on. It's how many crews are working at any particular time of day and through the numbers and statistics that we have because the police analyst, Larry Niland, is the, keeps the statistics for, the performance measures for the contract. The paramedics are about 86% of the time, the AMR medics. I mean, they're on time and they, the benchmark is 80% so, I mean, they do a good job. They do a good job. They work well with the other responders and it's the ambulances. Again, depending upon the types of calls that're out there, I mean, AMR is a for-profit company so they don't just do, I mean, their money is not in the 911 calls. It's gotta be balanced with transfers and so forth, I mean, 'cause that's what pays the bills and keeps the ambulances on the road and so forth, so that is probably the thing that we, that is the weakest link in the system and I don't wanna make it sound, it's not an emergency situation. I mean, we may wait a few extra minutes for an ambulance. The ambulance will get there, all right, and they have, they're redundant enough to bring in, they have offices over the hill in Southington and in New Haven and so forth but that is, that right now is our biggest question mark and it's, like I said, it's not an emergency but it's something that we're cognizant of because there're times that we've had ambulances, we've had to wait for ambulances to come from Southington and so forth, so those times are longer so on-scene patient care was extended but, for the most part, the paramedic piece, we're using people that're already here so it's really, you're getting more bang for your buck 'cause they're here 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In storms, there aren't issues with getting 'em into town because they're already here. And they're, they live here. They're part of the community. That's why the stations are located where they are and we, someone had the foresight back when these places were built, this one was built 100 years ago, which some of you came to our celebration...but 100 years ago, somebody decided that there needed to be a fire station there and it's probably not a bad idea because that's our most densely populated area of the town, so our biggest call volume kinda runs right up through here and right up in this area here...so they're located for that purpose and we put a fire truck there for that purpose so putting a paramedic there is no different than putting a piece of fire apparatus there for fire protection.

Councilor Doar: Thank you.

Mr. Van Winkle: And just to expand a little, too. We spent a lotta time vetting this issue. We've been talking about it for a lot of years but it's only recently that we've really spent the time to make sure that if we're going forward how do we do this and it started through negotiations and the last contract, which we accepted, and it, the firefighters themselves set up a committee and spent a lotta time looking at the program and how does it operate, how do we do this, how does this work, so we have the firefighter and firefighter/paramedics that're sitting in a room with a lot of discussion, long hours, a lot of thinking about how does this work. Pick up the hammer, hit the nail, what happens next? We have a CFO, who we had a program we sent to you in July. We reworked all the numbers. We sat down and worked through the numbers. I feel really confident about the numbers and I have a Chief, who is a paramedic, sir?

Chief Allyn: I am.

Mr. Van Winkle: And what's your license number?

Chief Allyn: 10.

Mr. Van Winkle: Number 10 in the State of Connecticut. Got an experienced guy leading us here and we've really worked hard to make sure that what we're bringing to you is well thought-out and so I'm proud of where we are today and I'm proud of the union for working so closely with us and for my Chief, my CFO for doing such a great job on this.

Councilor Doar: I appreciate that. I have a couple more questions and I, I'm just, and I appreciate your indulgence. I just wanna understand something about the, there's 17 firefighters that have been hired and they're also hired to do paramedic service and we're considering in adding three more to our team here in West Hartford and they also would have the combined...

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes.

Councilor Doar: ...job of being firefighters and paramedics?

Chief Allyn: We have a recruitment going on as we speak.

Councilor Doar: Okay. And the, at the moment, the three tiers that Mr. Privitera described eloquently; first response and then we have the AMR, which we still will have, and then we have the third, which is the paramedic services where your team would kick in...

Chief Allyn: Right.

Councilor Doar: ...to Mr., my colleague Mr. Captain's point about this analysis, which is what we do about whether or not something's more appropriate to outsource and to insource, if it, if after an exhaustive look at what's the benefit for the community, clearly safety is paramount in our minds but, of course, costs also have to be, we hafta balance and try hard to balance but safety is a priority, why wouldn't we also then be considering insourcing the second piece? So we have the first response but we still are gonna use our distinguished colleagues from AMR, who are in the audience, for that other piece, which is are also paramedics but then we're gonna have your paramedics, so I'm just wondering if that's a possibility if the future of this program were to be as successful for our residents as we anticipate it will be, could we also look at insourcing that other piece to your team?

Chief Allyn: About the ambulance, the basic life support? It went off.

Councilor Doar: Yes.

Chief Allyn: About the ambulance, the basic life support? As Peter had mentioned, there is a PSA requirement here in the State of Connecticut and the PSA is issued by the Department of Public Health and with the change in legislation last year, it allows the community to come up with an alternative services plan that, to take on transport. So, in other words, what we would need to do is file an application to do so and we would have to go to public hearing and AMR would present a case to keep the PSA the way it is today and we would present a case to show that the town could do it and for the reasons why it would benefit the town versus using a commercial provider...so that is a possibility but it's much easier to crawl before you walk and what we're trying to do here is get the paramedic services in place and, as the horizon of

healthcare changes, that will dictate what we do and where we go in the future because it's no secret that our healthcare system is broken and it, there, it will change over the next few years. There's a lot of talk. There are steady programs out west called mobile integrated healthcare that're putting paramedics in the street to do a lot more in the street instead of...our model today is built around advanced life support providers, basic life support providers going to a patient's side, picking you up, and taking you to a hospital. Well, that model is changing and it's changing into a way where, essentially, you're gonna make house calls. There's a lotta calls of folks that will remain in the home, they'll be treated in the home, and referred to their own physician not overloading our emergency rooms, which...it's a stress on the insurance system, it's a stress on medicare and so forth, so over the next three or four years the face of healthcare is gonna change and we wanna be able to provide an excellent service and, without getting involved with...I mean, transport is another big piece, I don't mind telling' ya'. It's a big investment, it's a big piece. This is a piece that we can provide pretty inexpensively in relation. We've got the staff to be able to do that so, like I said, we wanna crawl before we walk. It's like the system we have now, where we have first responders, supplemental first responders, the basic life support provider and the paramedic provider. It's much easier to build and to build on a good foundation than to jump into a lot of things and have too many irons in the fire and not be able to provide an, a top quality service that the people here deserve.

Councilor Doar: Thank you, Mr. Allyn. The, you mentioned if we ever went to that step that we would ask AMR to provide a recommendation as to whether or not we should, in fact, take that piece or whether or not they would take the position that that would not be, that would ill-advised for our community. Did I understand that?

Chief Allyn: Well, both sides and I hate to use the word sides but both entities would present a case as to why it was better that each other held that. I mean, the Town of Milford just went through that process and the ruling came out last week, where the Town of Milford did get the PSA away from AMR, but I'm sure there'll be appeals and so forth going forward but it's new legislation, it's new language, so it's a lot of uncharted territory right now and it's something that we really don't wanna be involved with at least at this point in time but, going forward, we wanna be able to provide the best service we can at this level.

Councilor Doar: Okay, thank you. So, but, in, with regard to what's in front of us today, which is the third tier, I just wanna make sure the record is clear. Did AMR present a position with respect to the recommendation we're taking tonight?

Chief Allyn: No, because they, we contract them. Our PSA, our primary service area for advanced life support is unassigned by the State of Connecticut. We've been living off the contract that's been in place since 1992 so, essentially, there's a clause in the contract that we give them notice that we would be doing this ourselves in this particular case and moving on with that.

Councilor Doar: And we didn't ask them for a position one way or the other in this case?

Chief Allyn: Nope. They've been aware of what we're doing and they've worked pretty collaboratively with us. I mean, they, they've supported us so we've, we work well together so, I

mean, there's no bad blood. I mean, this is a working team and it's a team that works very well together.

Councilor Doar: Mr. Privitera, a couple quick questions for you on the numbers and I do also commend you on your taking such a strong interest in this and preparing the budget for us. On the \$90,000, \$94,000 in estimated overtime, if I'm following that correctly, that's in one year?

Mr. Privitera: No.

Councilor Doar: Okay.

Mr. Privitera: No, that's for six months. Sorry.

Councilor Doar: Okay. So that's \$94,000 in additional overtime for at the moment 17 individuals?

Mr. Privitera: No. It's based on 20 but part of that is the credentialing program, so once they're credentialed, they don't hafta do it again. So that's why it's probably, it looks a little front-end loaded up front but once they're credentialed then they're done. They don't hafta, they don't hafta go through the process again but they, that has to happen before the program is really underway.

Councilor Doar: Okay, so and the reason I bring it up just so we're thinking together, I was just trying to, so if we're talking that's about, if it was each of the 17 firefighters/paramedics 'cause they're all firefighters, you say that's their new, they're taking on a new assignment to be paramedics, each one of them would have to go through this credentialing?

Mr. Privitera: Yes. If, in the package that I submitted, I had two exhibits at the end of it. Exhibit 1 was for a six-month program. Exhibit 2 is for, sorry, was for the full-year program. If you look at Exhibit 2, Overtime for Credentialing, in year 2, it's 0. It's a front-end thing that they hafta go through. Once they're credentialed, they're done with it, so we don't hafta pay overtime again for that, for those firefighters. And this was based on 20 firefighters so the assumption is that the fire department's gonna be hiring three more firefighters soon.

Councilor Doar: But is my, is my math correct that it's roughly \$5,000, a little less, per firefighter in overtime expense?

Chief Allyn: That number's gonna depend on a couple of variables. Um...lemme explain how the credentialing process works here in the State of Connecticut. There's five EMS regions. We're in Region 3. Our medical control will be through Hartford Hospital and our folks need to be credentialed under the, under Dr. Lori Bolton's license, who is the Interim Chief of Ground EMS Services out of Hartford Hospital. So what needs to occur and the region has a set of guidelines to precept and a lot of folks don't understand precept, so lemme phrase in a way of...field training. They hafta go out and do a set number of calls with a paramedic field training officer essentially and those calls are evaluated and then they receive medical control to work under that doctor's license. We have some of our paramedics that already have regional control

here, so they won't hafta go through that period and we're working on those issues right now. Hartford Hospital has been working quite well with us for some of the folks that have medical control with some of the area services...so those folks, if they hafta do any time, that number may be reduced. As of right now, we only have 2 of the 17 that need to go through a complete precept module. They came from out of state but most of our medics all came from in Connecticut, so they've gotta do somewhere in the neighborhood of 10 calls from what we're getting from Hartford Hospital now so that number was a number that we put in there for worst case scenario that if all 17 had to do, I think it was 50 or 60 hours that we had put in there...

Mr. Privitera: 60 hours.

Chief Allyn: ...60 hours. That was worst case scenario and we're seeing that that's not gonna be the case going forward based on our meetings at Hartford Hospital to this point, so that number is really a placeholder.

Councilor Doar: I appreciate the detailed ...

Mr. Privitera: And on the overtime, again, that's a one-time expense, on the overtime. It comes out to a little less than \$2,000 per paramedic per year for additional training, so it's a little under \$40,000 annually for training for 20 paramedics.

Councilor Doar: I appreciate the thoroughness and I...thank you. Lemme ask you a question about the \$466,000 on the paramedic equipment. So if I understand it again, we've all learned a lot about this so we are, the AMR, the ambulance for the AMR still has, will be, is the second response. First we have our first response...

Chief Allyn: There's only one ambulance coming and that's AMR.

Councilor Doar: One, AMR. And those, that, the people that're in that ambulance are paramedics?

Chief Allyn: Um...they need to be staffed by a minimum of two EMTs and a lotta times there is a paramedic on board.

Councilor Doar: Okay. And in that ambulance there's equipment?

Chief Allyn: Yes. If there's a paramedic on board, there'll be advanced life support equipment, yes.

Councilor Doar: And they're always gonna go to the call?

Chief Allyn: Yes.

Councilor Doar: So then we, but we in the town, we're gonna hafta spend and I understand, I just wanna make sure I get it right, another \$466,000, almost half a million dollars in additional equipment even though our partner is gonna always be there before we get there. In many cases,

they'll have their own equipment. I'm wondering about redundancy of equipment. Do we, why that, just make me understand the logic.

Mr. Privitera: It's, of the \$466,000 first and foremost, \$200,000 of that is being paid for by FEMA but if you look at the equipment list, there's radios that the fire, that the paramedics will have. There's 120, roughly \$123,000 of priority dispatch software. Now that's software that we're planning on purchasing anyways and what that does is it basically gives all of the 911 dispatchers a uniformed process to evaluate the call and determine what the proper dispatch is. So, right off the bat, there's \$123,000 that has nothing to do with AMR. The compression devices, the protective equipment, the cardiac monitoring, again, those're the types of things that we would need to purchase but...I'd say if we didn't purchase the Priority Dispatch software and some of these other items, we could, we might only end up spending \$350,000 instead of \$466,000, something like that, so there are, there is some equipment here that we're gonna be using...but, again, when we sat down and when I first sat down with the Chief and he said to me, well, we respond to those calls anyways. We're there anyways and we're certified paramedics so does it make sense for us, and again, nothing against AMR and their level of service, but does it make sense for us to pay someone else to do the same thing that we can do if we're there already so that kinda was the catalyst for all the calculations and computations that went into this thing.

Councilor Doar: No, I appreciate that and I'm well aware of that. Um...then I, and I may have followup question but I think I'll turn it over to my colleagues if they have any but I do have one last question. One was that, clearly, you both feel strongly that this will serve the community better.

Mr. Privitera: Yes.

Councilor Doar: Better service to the community.

Chief Allyn: Absolutely.

Councilor Doar: And are there any other municipalities that have been, you've mentioned New Milford is thinking about that next piece...

Chief Allyn: Milford.

Councilor Doar: Milford.

Chief Allyn: Milford already provides paramedics.

Councilor Doar: Milford does.

Chief Allyn: They already have...

Councilor Doar: The program that you're...

Chief Allyn: ...and they're taking on transport now.

Councilor Doar: Okay, so that's one town in Connecticut that has, that has, is ahead of us but it has been successful there?

Chief Allyn: Well, actually there's a few towns in Connecticut that're, have been ahead of us for a lotta years. The Town of East Hartford's been providing paramedics since 1972 and Manchester Fire Department has been doing it since '76 so, I mean, it's not new by any stretch of the imagination. The discussions here began in 1980 and I was hired in 1988. I was the first paramedic hired here and within a couple of months I was on a committee, I was volunteered to be on this committee, and this is the fifth time in my career that this topic has come up and research has been done and, well, this is the first time we've made it to this point, so it's...

Councilor Doar: We're glad you're here and...I appreciate it. Thank you very much, Chief Allyn.

President Slifka: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Doar. Anyone else? Mr. Barnes?

Councilor Barnes: Sure. Thank you. You know, I've listened to the presentation and it sounds great and I sat through the presentation during Finance and Budget and I sat through the presentation during Public Safety and I had the opportunity to sit down with the Chief and Mr. Privitera and the Town Manager as I know Mr. Captain has as well to understand this program, so we can understand how it works, what all the moving pieces are, and why it sounds really too good to be true, almost like why haven't we been doing it since 1972 like East Hartford or Manchester? Um...but it's a big dollar proposition. There're a lotta things that we deal with here that are kind of small impacts to our budget but this is one of those things where it's a big deal. This is a, we're talking about a lotta money in a very important part of the services we provide here in town and I have the utmost respect for police and for the fire department and the services and the work that you provide here in town and I agree with Mr. Doar's, I think everybody would, that the most important thing that we do for our town residents is to provide public safety for them and we do a great job of that. Along those same lines, I have tremendous faith in the Town Staff that if they're bringing this to us and making a recommendation, that it is, it is a good idea, it has been fully vetted, although I'm somewhat interested why we've been down this road five times and this is the first time we've made it to the podium so to speak. That may be a discussion for another day but we're here and it's now before us and it's being endorsed by the Town Manager and his staff. At the same time, we grapple with larger budgets and higher property taxes and the reality is that the town labor contracts that we have are the biggest drivers of our short-term and long-term expenditures here in town and I know that the fire department has about 90 or 92 full-time staff...and, as you've mentioned, the fire department's been in the process of hiring 20 additional firefighters to fulfill this paramedic need...and along with that under the contract comes, obviously, salary and healthcare and pension and retiree benefits that go along with it and I'd point out that as part of this analysis, those positions and those benefits are not taken into consideration. And I understand that it's part of the contract between the town and the fire department as to how many full-time firefighters we have but it's not part of this analysis and I think if we did the math, it would be many tens of millions of dollars if we wanted to quantify what that is...and so we've discussed

the five different firehouses and the response time and that's a good thing...and the 4 minutes and 28 seconds is impressive and AMR's at 5 minutes and I understand that everybody's on a different clock. It's not entirely clear to me that AMR wasn't providing very good service and I think if they weren't, we probably would've gone with somebody else and it's also not clear to me that having paramedics at five firehouses is necessary because AMR has provided this service and had backups or what-have-you and provided that service, I believe, very well up and to this point. Um...so as good as it sounds, I'm not, I kinda struggle with it. I'm talking out loud a little bit because I came in here thinking that this maybe wasn't the best thing and I was also thinking if the numbers are so favorable then I would assume we'd be able to negotiate a more favorable deal with AMR with the prospect that they could potentially lose this business. And along with this process is the possibility of hiring a new EMS Director, third party billing agent, acquiring all this equipment that goes along with it...and I guess as good as it sounds, I'm just not so sure that it's in the short-term and long-term best interest of the town, even knowing as I've said, the faith that I have in the folks that have brought this to us and said this is a really good idea, I find myself on the fence. And I just wanted to put that out for everyone's consideration that it sounds great but is there something we're missing as part of this and, with that, I'll continue to reflect and leave it to you to ponder. Thank you.

Mr. Van Winkle: Can I just?

President Slifka: Mr. Van Winkle, go ahead.

Mr. Van Winkle: And I know you understand this that the revenues generated by providing this service will pay for the costs we're talking about so all the costs we've been walking through here, those will not fall on the taxpayer or the Town of West Hartford. They're gonna be paid by the people who receive the services through the paramedic system. It actually helps us offset some of the costs that are paid by the taxpayers of the Town of West Hartford. In our last contract with the firefighters, we were able to reduce the pension liability for new hires by 35%. All of these paramedics are new hires. They all come under this. We also increased the contribution, the pension contribution of firefighters, for all employees, by 33%, so we've made some significant efforts on the contract side, working with the union, and I appreciate all that they did for us to get here, which reduced some of those costs, those overhead costs you were talking about, as well as this program will not affect the taxpayer. The Town of West Hartford will provide the service without raising taxes and have a surplus to it that will offset some of the other costs in the fire department.

Councilor Barnes: Thank you. I understand during the contracting process or those negotiations, there's a quid pro quo, you give and you get, and I understand that there were concessions made. I also understand that the 20 authorized paramedic positions at the time of the last contract didn't exist, so those 20 positions were created as part of that contract to, I believe, implement this but...lemme...it's okay. You guys can, I'll finish. So with respect to the benefits that we received under the last contract, I remember because I actually was on the Council and reviewed that contract and, you're right, it was, there were some favorable parts of that contract but even with those concessions or those trade-offs, if we were gonna quantify the costs of, let's say, the 20 positions over the life of employment, it would be somewhere north of, say, 15 or 20 million dollars for those positions and what I'm struggling with is the, kind of the number of firefighters

that we need in town. Could part of the negotiation have been, well, instead of the 20 we'll have 10 additional or we'll fill those 10 spots and we'll go ahead and provide this service to try and balance those two things? I was not a party to the negotiation but it's something that I'm thinking about as I sit here.

Mr. Van Winkle: I, and I see that you do understand what we're talking about. We didn't add 20 new positions as you, that I thought you were suggesting. We hired, we stopped hiring firefighters during negotiation and we're, once we completed our negotiations, we were able to begin hiring to replace positions, which were vacant at the time, and so all of these paramedics that are here are firefighters first and then paramedics and they are part of our complement of firefighters within the community. Um...we have looked at this question multiple times, too. What's the right number of firefighters in West Hartford? Could we reduce the number of firefighters in our community? You never make a mistake in the event of a significant emergency of having too many people there to help and so you build public safety to be able to respond to not the everyday kind of thing but to the significant emergency. If we were to have that debate over what is the appropriate size, it is and I have looked at numerous studies...it is really just a debate of opinion. Yeah, you could get along with 10 less. No, we can't get along with 10 less. There isn't a clear metric you can put your hat on. There isn't something that just sits right there and goes, well, of course, look at this, and this is why you can do that. So when we looked at this question of should we address minimum manning or should we provide additional service here, the reduction in minimum manning, to me, was gonna be a hard process to win and I wasn't sure at the end of that negotiation if we did win we were gonna be in a better place...so it's a tough change to institute and a tough change to win if we had to go to arbitration and I'm not certain that that was the right thing. This is a community that is very well protected by both police and fire and having this resource in the moment of that emergency will be very valuable to us, I believe.

President Slifka: Mr. Van Winkle or Chief Allyn or Mr. Privitera, I just, I wanna make sure we've solidified a couple of points 'cause we've had a lotta detail on this. Relative to the 17 new people you've brought on that have paramedic training and the 3 that you anticipate coming...I know when you say we've added 20 people, that sounds like we've literally added 20 people but, essentially, these are replacements for people who left, so at the end of the day, the fire department size is exactly what it was or it will be exactly what it was, correct?

Chief Allyn: Yes, that's absolutely correct. We had a mass exodus out of here in 2012/2013 because of the changes with the pension and healthcare system. We had a lotta folks that had the time to leave and they did leave, so that created those vacancies and, essentially, we're just putting people back in those vacancies and we've added the extra piece of providing paramedics because we know that that's the responsible thing to do because that's where we need to be going. As we all know, the fire services, fires are down but the fires that we do have are as dangerous as fires of old because of the products that're in buildings today. Buildings are built with lightweight construction. They're falling' down on our heads...that much sooner. The products and combustion are much worse so the staffing is important. Now we have paramedics to be able to provide not only emergency medical services, advanced life support, to the taxpayer but to our firefighters if they go down, so it's building in another layer of what we do. I mean, we are the first line of defense for any type of disaster that doesn't involve, well, I used to say

didn't involve flying lead and guns but even now we're getting but we're involved with the active shooter piece so we go to everything. When people have a problem with their plumbing, they call 911 and they get a big red truck. We've, the owl in the tree or the blue-tailed, the red-tailed hawk or whatever, I hate to say it, but we did the rescue on the hawk so it could go to Tufts and whatever the case was. I mean, but it was, for those people, it was a service that needed to be done and those are the things that we do regularly and we're going to the EMS calls now, provide the advanced life support and bringin' the tools that need to be done, to use, need to be used for those types of incidents. We're just adding to our repertoire of things that we can do.

President Slifka: So if we were to approve this and you complete the hiring process for filling the vacant positions, at the end of that, the net gain to the number of fire department positions is 0. We authorized...

Chief Allyn: That's correct.

President Slifka: ...some, the same number before and we're at the same exact number now.

Chief Allyn: That's exactly...

President Slifka: And the people you've brought in are arguably younger, cheaper, and have a broader skill set.

Chief Allyn: That's absolutely correct.

President Slifka: And then maybe more to Mr. Privitera but, Chief, fill in as you'd like, that period we had a little discussion there with Mr. Van Winkle about the time period where we had a hiring freeze of sorts. Now, there might be an immediate leap to that to go, well, that's where costs go down but in reality, they may have even gone up because at that period of time we still have the same number of people on duty and you're paying overtime to those people as opposed to the regular salary, right?

Chief Allyn: That's correct.

Mr. Privitera: Correct. The Chief still has to fill his slots so whether they're on straight time or overtime, they're still gonna be paid...

Chief Allyn: There's 21 firefighters in this town 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year and that's the way it is.

President Slifka: Okay. Thank you. Hold on. There's a couple people...

Councilor Barnes: I'm just gonna follow up but I don't wanna...

President Slifka: Well, we're kinda on your thing so...

Councilor Barnes: I appreciate it. Thank you. On that last point, during the freeze when, well, first with respect to the 20 not new hires but filling those spots, they were hired with the paramedic certification for this purpose?

Chief Allyn: Yes.

Councilor Barnes: Okay, so we agree on that?

Chief Allyn: Yes, they were hired, yes.

Councilor Barnes: And during the freeze when those positions were open, when you take into consideration the cost of the overtime, was it more expensive or less expensive to run the department?

Chief Allyn: The way, the way the overtime works in the fire department, it works on the Fair Labor Standards Act and they work, I believe it's the first 53 hours on straight time and then they go time and a half or time and a quarter but overtime kicks in after 53 hours.

Councilor Barnes: Okay. So...

Chief Allyn: Kerry, is that right?

Mr. Warren: It's a little bit misleading and complicated but it's a little longer than that. You hafta add in...

President Slifka: Kerry, if, it's a lot, Kerry, we'll need you to come up. It's more in-depth than we were anticipate...which is great. We all know you but if you could just introduce your name, introduce yourself for the record.

Mr. Warren: Kerry Warren, I'm the Union President for the West Hartford Firefighters Association.

President Slifka: And then back to your answer...

Mr. Warren: The answer to the FLSA is it can be calculated a bunch of different ways. The town has chosen to calculate it over, if memory serves, a 28-day period. It can be anywhere from 7-28 days and it's 182 accumulative hours, so above and beyond that, we would go to time and a half. So that would include our scheduled time that we have to work, accumulative overtime subtracting any time that we take off for any other endeavors.

President Slifka: Okay.

Mr. Warren: It's difficult to get to.

Councilor Barnes: So lemme just try it again. Um...without having to pay the salary and the benefits for the 20 that retired and paying overtime to existing firefighters to cover their shifts, did it cost the fire department more or less during that time period to operate?

Mr. Warren: Well, you're talking about if we hired 20 additional firefighters, we're paying benefits for 20 additional firefighters. So, if we don't have those 20 additional firefighters and we have existing firefighters in overtime, we're paying less in benefits.

Councilor Barnes: Thank you.

Mr. Van Winkle: And I just need to add we ran lots of overtime while we were down the manpower but there's a point you burn up your employees, too. There's only so much overtime you can actually work before you have an impact on you and your family. The firefighters work those long hours. We couldn't have continued that. We needed to begin to hire and we finally were able to finish negotiations so we could move forward but there's a point at which police officer, fire fighter, or Town Manager at 10:00 at night almost gets so tired and worn out. So, we ran the overtime. It did save us money because you're not paying for a health plan for a new firefighter. You're paying for the same firefighter plus his overtime so it does save us money but you also burn those guys up pretty quickly.

Councilor Barnes: Very good. Thank you. All right, so it was less. We got there. Okay, thank you. And just one final point that I didn't mention earlier and I'm not sure whether it weighs in favor or against in this analysis is that, Chief, as we had an opportunity to speak about these issues, I believe you mentioned that about 80% of the calls that the fire department receives today are medical-related calls and not fire calls.

Chief Allyn: The number, actually, is it's about 64% of our calls are medical when you look at *all* of our calls. When you look, when we extrapolate out the false alarms and so forth, the actual calls where we have to go to work, about 80% is medical.

Councilor Barnes: Very good. Thank you.

President Slifka: All right. Who's next? Mrs. Casperson?

Councilor Casperson: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. So, in my understanding and I do appreciate the fact that we're talking about hiring a new breed of firefighters who are multi-talented and, really, are going the extra mile to have this certification for paramedics as well as the skills to become a firefighter, which in and of itself are not an easy feat. If you were to move or have other communities move to have the firefighters replace the ambulance and does that save a great deal of money in the long run? And not that I'm saying that that's where we're looking but if we progress down this road, would there be an eventual savings because we're then again passing on those expenses to the consumers?

Chief Allyn: If I hear your question right, you're asking about ambulance transport? That right now, AMR doesn't charge us to do that. That is because of that primary service area that they have through the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health. So, what pays them to do

that is the revenue from that transportation and, as I said, it would help us in the future if we did that because that revenue would come into the Town of West Hartford. I don't believe that we're there yet. I believe we need to focus on crawling before we start at a rough jog, so I think that may be a goal for the future but today we wanna get started with the service that we know we can provide, with staff to provide, to be able to do it to the best of our ability for the taxpayers and town.

Councilor Casperson: Have other communities made that leap from?

Chief Allyn: Well, Milford as I said earlier...

Councilor Casperson: You said Milford.

Chief Allyn: Milford has been providing paramedic intercept services and they've made that leap. They were the first to test out the new legislation from last year but the, as I said, East Hartford's been doing' this since 1972 and they're still operating paramedics off their fire apparatus and so is Manchester and they've been doing it since 1976. So, and they work with the ambulance service of Manchester, which is a commercial service as well and the, there's, the teams work well together so...at that point, you decide if you wanna move forward, you certainly can and now the ability is there to do that without any negative aspects as there was in the past to get that PSA assignment but right now we wanna focus on doing this and doing it well before we make any decisions about the long-term.

President Slifka: Okay. Mrs. Kindall?

Councilor Kindall: I have not had the advantage of having seen you at Finance and Budget or Public Safety so this is my first shot at this presentation so some of this material undoubtedly has been covered many times in those committees but I ask your indulgence. As I understand it, the fire department has attended every medical call since January? Is that correct?

Chief Allyn: That's correct.

Councilor Kindall: And how has that experience been? In other words, we're not short, we're not being cut short, we're not having, delaying things...

Chief Allyn: Not at all. We have the capacity to handle it, absolutely. Fire calls, we were running, we were averaging about 4,200 calls a year and with the addition of the medical calls, we were going to all life threatening medical emergencies anyway or to accidents with injuries so our call numbers are gonna jump about 3,000 calls. So, I mean, we're gonna be right around 7,000 calls a year, which is when you do the average, it's about 22 calls a day. So that's, it's certainly within, I mean, when you keep in mind the medical call and the duration of a medical call is not the same duration as a building fire, so it's a quick turnaround. Our hospitals are close so...

Councilor Kindall: And that was the other question was just statistics. How about how many calls a year? I saw a number in the memo of 2,900 calls. Is that for the six months or how, what's, how does that work?

Mr. Privitera: Yeah. One of the things that we talk about when we started on this road, the Chief came in with a bunch of numbers and I said to him maybe we should get an independent third party vendor to look at this to verify and validate those numbers so we did. We hired a company who does this for a living. They analyze the practicality of going into this type of situation so the 2,900 calls are basically the annual ALS calls, advanced life support calls, that we were told by the contractor, the vendor we hired, that there's a high probability we'll have about 2,900 ALS calls and about 88% of those ALS calls we'll be able to bill either private insurers or Medicare. The rest that're Medicaid, we won't be able to bill on so that's what the analysis is based on.

Councilor Kindall: So, then going back to the statistics of our experience with these calls, we're assuming about, we're assuming if we take this on and continue to take this on 'cause we've been doing it since January, right...

Mr. Privitera: Mm-hmm.

Councilor Kindall: ...about 7,000 calls a year of which about 80% of those would be medical calls?

Chief Allyn: Could you repeat that again, please, I'm sorry.

Councilor Kindall: Absolutely. I'm just tryin' to get my hands, we've been doing, we've been attending all these calls since January so we have some real data about how many calls are going to be and we're assuming about 7,000 calls a year of which about 80% would be medical calls?

Chief Allyn: Well, the 7,000 would be including our fire calls.

Councilor Kindall: Correct. I'm talking total calls. I mean, any time a crew goes out.

Chief Allyn: Of the medical calls, we're gonna be up over 70% *total* 'cause right now we're doing 64%, throwing everything in are medical calls.

Councilor Kindall: Including false, okay, 64% including false alarms?

Chief Allyn: Right, so if we go, that's the whole number.

Councilor Kindall: Okay.

Chief Allyn: So up at 70, up at 7,000 calls, we're gonna be close to 70%, which is pretty much the industry standard, looking at the numbers that we've taken from East Hartford, Manchester, and Wallingford, who are providing these services now so they're right around the 70 percentile for medical calls. What it's, a large body of what we do. Now, those medical calls don't only

include the chest pains, the cardiac arrests, the fall down the stairs and so forth. That includes automobile accidents with injuries, any industrial accidents, all those types of things too that would have people injured.

Councilor Kindall: And of the remaining 30%, what percentage of that is fire?

Chief Allyn: I would, well, our numbers, I can give you what our experience is. We, National Fire Protection Association, we contribute every year when we send in our statistics through our NFIRS, our National Fire Incident Reporting System. The forms that we have are a national form that goes for those statistics and we have, we do somewhere in the neighborhood of 250 fire-related calls per year.

Councilor Kindall: Okay.

Chief Allyn: That's anything from an ash can to a kitchen stove to a building that's got fire coming out of every orifice.

Councilor Kindall: Right.

Chief Allyn: So, when you take all that, brush fires and everything else, anything with fire involvement, so it's about 250 of what we do and we do roughly 18-24 actual structural fires, where we're putting everybody to work in the course of a year.

Councilor Kindall: Um, and...again, I'm sure this is covered but all of this is really is but has all negotiated with the union and there's union support for it?

Chief Allyn: Yes, we have two memorandums of understanding related to the stipends and the training and all the particulars that we needed to discuss to go forward with the process and that's been, it's been great to work with them. They've been very collaborative. We've got some good people that wanna make this happen and so to get back to why we, and I'll just add on into that 'because I heard the comment about this is the fifth time that we've done this so let me address that. Anything in life, the stars have to align and this was an opportunity where the stars aligned with the opportunity to have the vacancies to be able to hire the paramedics. We had, we have cooperative union leadership. The Public Safety Committee has been great. The Town Manager has been great. We've got a great partner with American Medical Response. I mean, everything has lined up to kinda help us go forward with this process, which over the last 28 years of my career, there's always been something that was a little outta skew and we could never get the stars lined up, so this is, this has been a great process for us and it's been a great process for me, so that's kinda why it took five times and you might say I might be the common denominator, which maybe I am but anyway, I, I'm a slow learner.

Councilor Kindall: Could we have done this without the unions? In other words, if the unions had objected, would this have been able to go forward?

Chief Allyn: No. No.

Councilor Kindall: So, to the extent there are savings and to the extent that we are getting more services, we really can thank the unions for that?

Chief Allyn: We sure can.

Councilor Kindall: Okay. Thank you.

President Slifka: Mrs. Hall?

Councilor Hall: Thank you. My first question is for Pete. With East Hartford and Manchester doing this for a long time, did you speak to the finance officers of those towns and find out whether their experience...lines up with what we think this would be, that this would actually generate money as opposed to cost us?

Mr. Privitera: I spoke to a few individuals with respect to the contracting services for the billing and out-servicing. I didn't get into any detail whether or not they were satisfied with the type of service they were providing. My assumption was that they were providing over some time so...there wasn't an issue with it but I didn't come out and point blank ask 'em are you happy with the way it's turned out for you?

Councilor Hall: But you verified your assumptions?

Mr. Privitera: Yeah. What we would probably do is if we're gonna move this quickly, I believe was it East Hartford who just went out to bid for billing and collection services and Manchester has a company that they use, so I would probably reach out to them and ask them who they have when they went through this process, how much, what their billing rates are and everything and we would probably go with the best, most economical company. And with respect to the numbers, as I said, when we first sat down a while ago and Chief Allyn presented his numbers, I said to him, I said, jeez, I know your numbers are fine but this is not the type of business I'm in and I went to the Town Manager, I said we need to hire an independent third party company to verify these numbers, so when they came back and pretty much verified the information that Chief Allyn had presented, then that gave me an additional level of confidence in the numbers. And the company that we hired, they pretty much do this for a living so we didn't have any reason to doubt those numbers so I was pretty comfortable at that point.

Councilor Hall: Thank you. In regard to the whole first responders, so the town has designated the police as our first responder, presumably because there's so many of 'em and they're already there...

Chief Allyn: The designation was done by the State of Connecticut on the recommendation of the Town Manager in 1992.

Councilor Hall: Okay. And so...I know the question that I get from a lot of people is I called 911 and the hook and ladder showed up and so I wonder if you could just sort of address one of my concerns, which is I know what the costs of this equipment is and if we're now sending out pumpers and everything else to go on medical calls then I'm worried about the wear and tear on

everything and whether those costs...I know we talked about this a little whether we have taken that into consideration?

Chief Allyn: Absolutely. We've been running medical calls... the fire department has, since 1997 when we put AEDs on the fire apparatus and after we put those on the apparatus, there was a sharp success rate in sudden cardiac death because of the stations being located where they are and the firefighters getting there as rapidly as they did with the AEDs so we saw at that point in time and we've been tracking it, our apparatus is on the road anyway. The only thing we're burning essentially, I mean, we're not replacing our apparatus any more than we have been. We're on a 15 year replacement with the pumper and it, the apparatus goes into reserve for 5 years and our, and as you mentioned, ladders, we have three fire trucks in town that have ladders on their backs. Those are called quints. When we downsized the fire department in the mid-90s, we went from 100 fire fighters on the line to essentially 84 is what we have out there today. And to do that, we had two ladder trucks running around with two people on each ladder truck. Well, two people riding around on a million dollar piece of equipment, were out doing, the only thing they were doing is getting it there 'cause there was no staff to work off of it because it takes more people to operate all the equipment so we downsized the fleet down to five first response pieces of apparatus, so we essentially have three quints and two engines. We're gonna be downsizing that a bit. We're gonna go to three engines and two quints after March of next year. We have a brand new pumper on order and it'll be here in March, so it's a smaller piece of equipment and that quint will become a reserve piece of apparatus 'cause we maintain two reserve pieces of apparatus for when we have breakdowns but as far as, we do see an increase in fuel at this point and it has nothing to do with the apparatus that we had before versus what we have now. The apparatus that we use today have bigger engines in 'em because the trucks are that much larger and with the tier IV emissions the EPA emissions, it burns a little more fuel than what we were running around with in 1990. So our fleet, essentially two of our reserve units are 1990 vintage, I mean literally 1990, and our fleet, the way it's, the way they're spaced out through time, we have a 1999, a 2002, a 2010, a 2013, and a 2014 and we'll soon have a 2016. So, I mean, we're not replacing our apparatus anymore. We put tires on 'em and the worst thing a diesel can do is sit and do nothing, so we're keeping 'em exercised and our people are out. If they're not inspecting, they're training. If they're not training, they're out there doing calls so, I mean, you folks, you pay good money to have a service and we do everything we can to make sure that service is good as it can be.

Councilor Hall: Thank you. My next question is about minimum manning clause, so maybe if you wouldn't mind just describing again what that contract in our clause is just for the...in our...

Chief Allyn: Basically, it says that we have...

Councilor Hall: ...clause in our contract.

Chief Allyn: ...we'll have 21 people on duty 5 days, well, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. That minimum manning clause has been closed since 2002 I wanna say and it, so that it couldn't be opened. Next year, we come to the time where that contract can be opened as far as the language for minimum manning. So that's a discussion that I'm sure will surface during negotiation time and that contract expires June 30th of next year, 2016 so...

Councilor Hall: So then, um...assuming we go forward with this and a firefighter then ends up in an ambulance or at the hospital, how does our minimum man clause play into that because we now have someone who's at the hospital and not on duty.

Chief Allyn: They're still in, the unit's in service with three people until the medic gets back to get back on the fire truck, all right? So there's 21 people on duty whether they're in, at the hospital or whether they're here sitting on the fire engine or they're training, there's still 21 people on duty.

Councilor Hall: So there won't be a need to call in...

Chief Allyn: No.

Councilor Hall: ...someone else if they're...okay.

Chief Allyn: As a matter of fact, there're times when we send firefighters in for cardiac arrests *today*. That very thing occurs, the firefighter goes in with, as additional pair of hands on the ambulance and they get back in service. As soon as we get 'em back into town, they go back into service, that unit is still in service.

Councilor Hall: Can you explain what parts of our contract changed? Earlier this evening we said there had been clauses in the contract that prevented us from doing this in the past. Um...

Chief Allyn: It wasn't clauses that prevented us from doing it. It was...I don't know what's the word you wanna use...we just couldn't get together on what needed to occur. Um...there was demands on both sides that neither were willing to discuss and we kind of ended up with a stalemate in the past. There had been not the will of the Council for us to do this, so there were a lotta, a lot of players over the last 28 years that kept us from getting here and we have gotten to a point now where we've got a lotta folks that have the interest and you're asking great questions, which is good, because they're educated questions and it's, you haven't said, turned your ear to this and that's some of the things that we have run into in the past. Um...we have a great union executive board and a great group of young firefighters that wanna do more. We have better prepared and educated firefighters than we had 28 years ago and it's no reflection on them, it's just that we're in a different world today. An individual that wants to do this, wants to be the best they can be and provide as much of the service and firefighter/paramedics is what this job is gonna be someday so there's a lotta change in attitudes and it's taken a lot of sitting down and having conversations but we're all in the same, we're heading in the same direction finally which, again, the stars lined up and...it's good that we're here and I'm more than happy to answer your questions.

Councilor Hall: Yup, thanks. I think just one more. You mentioned that we have between 18 and 24 structure fires a year.

Chief Allyn: Mm-hmm.

Councilor Hall: Can you tell me how that's trended over the last 30, 40 years or whatever off the top of your head?

Chief Allyn: Well, over the last several years and I'll go back 30 or 40 years, there were more fires because we didn't have sprinkler buildings as we do today. West Hartford is a community where people pay attention to what they own. They have responsibility and their belongings mean something to them, so folks help with this process. They heed what they see on the news. We have a great fire prevention program. Our plan reviews, when buildings get built, Chief Sinsigalli does an excellent job and that's the reason we do what we do so that if there is a fire it stays in the compartment it started in so that people can survive. And because we are where we are here, we can get, and our ISO rating does reflect that, because of our short response times, we're able to get there and keep fires small, from getting out of the, getting out of hand. I mean, I live in a town that has a volunteer fire department and I'm gonna tell you right now, if there's a fire in your house, you stand out at the street and just because they can't get there in enough time with enough people to make a difference and there are communities around us just like that. A couple of weeks ago, we were in Bloomfield...

Councilor Hall: Maybe you should move to West Hartford.

Chief Allyn: I'm getting ready to retire. He's been after me to do that. But a couple of weeks ago, we went to Bloomfield in a commercial building right in the center of Bloomfield behind the police station, all right? We sent apparatus over there and our folks went to work, found the fire, and because, by the time they got their firetrucks there, the fire was above their capability at that point in time and they didn't have the people so it's great for the firetruck to show up but if there's nobody to do the work, that's why we're in a great position having four people on a piece of fire apparatus. They can do a lotta work in a hurry and that's what makes us as successful as we are so...

Councilor Hall: I guess that was sort of getting to my thought process of we have a lot fewer fires but when you have one, you want everybody there but, in the meantime, if you're all hanging around maybe it makes sense to have another purpose besides the fighting the fire.

Chief Allyn: I mean, I have two of my folks sitting right here. There's not a lot of hanging around that goes on in the fire department, trust me.

Councilor Hall: I meant as opposed to...

Chief Allyn: Oh, no, I understand. I understand. It's just another service that we can provide because we're out there anyway. We're out there.

President Slifka: Thank you. Mrs. Cantor.

Councilor Cantor: Thank you. I'm gonna start with a question. So AMR, once their paramedic, assume this passes and you move forward with it, once the paramedic services are carved out in there, the ambulance, does their priority to get to an injured person change in any way and are there guarantees and how do we, how does that?

Chief Allyn: No, because they hold the priority service area for ambulance, that's not gonna change. I mean, they have a responsibility to get there in a, in the most timeliest of fashions, so that's not gonna change, all right, so they're gonna be there.

Councilor Cantor: Okay. If it were to change for any reason, do we have a, are there contractual measurements and all that? How would you resolve...

Chief Allyn: We have language in the contract. I'm sorry, we have language in the contract now for their response times for the ambulances and any time I've reached out to the folks from AMR, they've been more than cooperative, I mean, because this is a team sport and we need to work as a team and we do work very well together. I mean, I came from a commercial EMS. I, most of my years when I first started here, my part time job with commercial EMS so I understand their needs as I do for the fire department so, I mean, it all comes down to people talking'. I mean, that's what communication's all about and at the end of the day, we're on the same team, providing a public safety to the town.

Councilor Cantor: Okay, thank you. I just wanna say that I know, well I've been on the Council Board for 11 years and I think we've been talking about it almost that whole time...this possibility and, again, like you said, stars aligning. It has taken a tremendous amount of discussion, negotiation, thought process, and I really appreciate your leadership. I think Mr. Privitera bringing it to Finance and Budget, the understanding, the detail, the third party objective, third party analysis, was critical to, and of course the Town Manager's incredible leadership and stick to it-ness on it and the unions and, Kerry, and all that you've done because without that component, we never would be in this place. To me, the priority is safety and then maximizing capacity of the people that are in your community. I actually remember my brother, we, I grew up in West Hartford, and my brother was stuck in a tree when he was seven and the firetruck coming and me looking up, going oh my gosh,, what heroes. They got him, he was hanging out of the tree and his foot was completely stuck and blew up and whatever but, and then down the road we had a, I personally had a fire in my washing machine and people came. My son fell off the couch and was, had a concussion and I dislocated my arm. I mean, we've had many, many situations where we've been recipients of that great care and then my own parents, so I truly appreciate the place that we're in and the opportunity that our community is being given right now to increase the response. I think with people that live in our community, care about our community, know many people in the community and at a, and a financial model that makes complete sense to me. And, again, sometimes you do think why didn't this happen again but I know that the people did not, the stars did not align. I also know that the critical nature of cardiac and all that we've, the progress that we've made in the '90s and the priority that we have, the AAD and the numbers are great. I sat in a...a Heart Association meeting a number of years ago and they were talking about the response rates and how critical it is and our, actually our region came up very, very high in our response rates and the numbers, so we're lucky to live here. People are lucky to visit here. You should move here. And thank you all for your, and, oh, and Mr. Captain from Public Safety, it could never have happened without his hard work and perseverance and I appreciate it.

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

Councilor Davidoff: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I'm kinda glad that I got the opportunity to listen to my colleagues this evening. I think you all asked excellent questions and addressed all the concerns that ran through my mind. I had a detailed conversation with the Manager this afternoon and a lot of the questions that I discussed with him were discussed here. I've been on the Council for eight years and this is the first time around this table here where we have a Resolution before us for an up or down vote and I would say that it's an exciting opportunity that awaits us here and I'd encourage my colleagues to vote in the affirmative this evening. Mr. Captain and Mr. Slifka have worked tirelessly on this issue. I've sat in many caucus meetings, hearing the variety of obstacles that were being encountered and as Chief Allyn points out so right these evening, everything has aligned between our union leadership, our administration, our Manager where the fire service today is going and other factors. And I think one of our charges as Town Councilors is not only to provide a budget that our residents can afford to pay and is fair but to provide for the public safety of all that live here, all who come here to work, and all those who visit here and that is of utmost importance to me as a Town Councilor and a responsibility that I take seriously. When we look at the budgets for police and fire, I'm not one to question those who are experts in those fields as to what equipment or needs or manpower they need to perform their day-to-day functions. They're experts and I'm a layman at that point and I rely upon their professionalism to make certain we get it right and I would say in the eight years that I've served on this Council, we've gotten it right up to now because we don't hear from our residents complaining, wow, it took so long for a police cruiser to arrive at my house or the fire department never got to my house and we've got all these total losses of structures, or we can't extricate somebody from a vehicle or things of that nature. We don't hear that. And lemme contrast that with a situation when I served on the Newington Town Council in 1991. There was a call placed, an emergency call. There was a severe accident at a gas station. A person was fixing a tire, a tire blew. An ambulance didn't show up for in excess of, I think, 15, 10-15 minutes, and it made a difference and it, what was the response there? The Council took the action to change the provider of the service. Something happened terribly. We don't find that here and thank goodness we don't because we've got every, from the dispatcher to the execution, we've got what's happening and we do it right and if we didn't we would hear from our constituents, whether it be election time or not election time, that things aren't right here in West Hartford. And I think we have to look at the fire service in particular as an operation in transformation. It's no longer the fire department of 40 years ago. It's not the fire department of 10 years ago. The fire department of today, as the Chief rightly pointed out, is one that responds to a lot more medical calls and medical needs and what do we need? We need personnel who are well trained, equipped, and ready to act to meet those needs. And, yes, we were lucky because we changed the way that our contract operated, that we are able to now concentrate on hiring firefighter/paramedics and going forward that's what we're gonna be looking for because that's now the basic entry level for service needed to serve on the West Hartford Fire Department. I lived in Newington and I have a business in Newington and people ask me, well, how do you deal with that career fire department? Isn't that expensive? I said you get what you pay for. Newington has a very good volunteer fire department and I've seen it in action. I think West Hartford has a better career fire department. The administration and the men and women on the front line make us proud every day and as our residents point out several times a year, they consider them to be our community heroes. What they're asking for this evening is to provide further service to our community. The Chief's not standing here this evening before us with some idea that has not been thoroughly vetted. I have had very little dialogue with Chief Allyn

during my tenure on the Council but when I heard him this evening explain why this is necessary, there is no doubt in my mind that he's 100% right. So, when residents dial 911, they expect a response and the response they expect is someone's gonna be there to help them and, yes, we have the police officers as the first response but what, it's gonna be really great and better to have our firefighters as the paramedics. The people see these members of the firefighter team throughout the community and there's nothing more heartening to see a familiar face come to you in your most time of distress. So this, for me, is an easy vote this evening. My job is to keep our residents safe and the way that we're gonna keep our residents safe this evening is by enacting change here and the change that's needed is to provide paramedic service as the second level here that's necessary. And I just wanted to touch on the transportation part and the Chief says you need to crawl before you run or walk, I would agree. Transportation brings in a whole slew of other issues; capital equipment and make certain the equipment's working and make sure it's put in the right place and all those things. Let's perfect this, that our people are ready to engage. Let's get this town 100% perfect before we look at something that may have a lotta obstacles beyond our control so I implore my colleagues this evening to vote in the affirmative on this Resolution. Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Davidoff. Anyone else? Oh, sorry, Harry. Thank you.

Councilor Captain: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I just want to thank Mr. Davidoff for using the word 'opportunity' and to thank the Chief for outlining sort of the history of five attempts at trying to do this. This is a historic opportunity for West Hartford to deliver better service at a lower cost. Um...there is no better need for government to perform a service than to provide better services at lower costs. Um...and I just wanna bring my colleagues' attention to Mr. Privitera's memo that he sent us on August 14th and his conclusion that he said in, at the end of one of his paragraphs, he said in effect the town is currently paying \$315,000 annually to provide half the paramedic service that the town can provide through the existing fire department personnel. And that's the existing fire department personnel, the number of bodies that have been in the budget for a few years now and I even like to challenge you, Pete, on your number of half the paramedic services 'cause when you look at the hours that're provided, you've got one body doing' 24/7 and you've got another doing 40 hours a week, so the services is almost three times when you're at four stations and it's almost four times the level of service when it's at five stations and we will be able to respond faster and provide that service to injured parties at a lower cost. To me, it's very much a no-brainer and I hope people make a good decision tonight that's based on the long-term benefit to the Town of West Hartford. Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Captain. Mr. Doar?

Councilor Doar: Thank you. I wanted just to address something Mr. Captain said. I am, I agree with you, Harry, that service is, that the numbers indicate that the service is gonna be better but I think you'd agree with me that, and one of the reasons that I'm leaning to support this Resolution tonight is because of the confidence I have in our Town Manager and our Chief. The service is really in the future. That has to be earned. These paramedics hafta be trained. They hafta go through that additional training. They have to provide day in and day out that kinda service we're all going to expect and that takes good leadership and management by the people that'll be supervising the paramedics and I've got, I guess in the end of the day, I've got a lotta confidence

in our Town Manager's hiring and development of his staff. If I look at Chief Gove and the success I think he's earned and developed in his team in the police department as he took over for the prior chief. Obviously, we heard for the first time tonight that our distinguished Mr. Allyn may be pondering retirement. I hope that's not the case but I do have a confidence that if it comes to that, in Mr. Van Winkle. So getting a chance to be part of the management of the paramedics in our town strikes me as another positive for this. But it's clear 'because the service could degrade 'cause AMR is providing the service and they're judged based upon their performance prospectively not always...is what they earned a given day, month, a year. I, what I take away from this is the utilization, the efficiency, the productivity and, again, the morale that I think will be boosted by if we've, if this Resolution passes. I've always believed that people in public service get into public service because they want to serve the public and they didn't, if they wanted to make more money or if they wanted to take a less job that required less courage, they could've done it but these firefighters that have decided to serve the public, they express an interest in wanting to do more, to utilize themselves to grow their capabilities by taking the additional training to be paramedics and I applaud that. I applaud that. However, I, to the extent that any of my colleagues that have reservations about making a change tonight, I don't disparage them for it because I think it's a very difficult, it's clearly had to have been a difficult decision. We've been working at it for several years and weighing the benefits and the risks associated with that and whether or not we really should bring something in-house, so I don't think it's necessarily just a no-brainer vote. I think it requires a lot of thought but, in the end, when I and I as you all know, we all bring to this table our own backgrounds and experiences, and I've dedicated my life to manufacturing in the United States. And, in manufacturing, in order for us to try to compete obviously in a private sector nothing to do with the safety and security of people, but we've had to try to do ask of each other to wear more than one hat in a company, in a manufacturing company. It's become kinda the mantra, will you agree to learn a little bit more so that you can help us so that we can approve our efficiencies and still maintain the quality of life we all want and compete with overseas competitors that don't necessarily have the standard of living that we do. And, for the most part, many manufacturing companies in this country have stepped up to that and so I see an analogy to that in this and I, so, and I think that Ron and I have had many conversations about efficiency and productivity. He knows my position and I think those of you know it as well. The one point that Minority Leader Hall brings up, I, it may not happen next month, it may not happen next year but I think there are some, there will be some opportunity to look at your fleet and determine whether or not if, in fact, it's 64% or 70% of the calls are medical-related and aren't needing necessarily even a quint or a pumper, it may be that the fleet will change over time the way it was, we've changed the fleet in the police department because there are cases where municipalities have purchased lots of equipment that ended up not being really in keeping with what the municipality really should be doing that is recent in this surplus of armored vehicles that came, come back from some of the overseas conflicts we've had and municipalities have had a chance to look at that and say maybe that wasn't such the right thing to use resources for, so those questions and you and I have looked at that on the committee. So, anyway, again, I commend the Town Manager. I think he's reflected on this very carefully. He, I commend Mr. Privitera for working so hard on the numbers, Privitera, I apologize for...but it wouldn't be me if I didn't screw up his name and...Chief Allyn. I'm just much better on singular syllable names and so, anyway, that's, I've said enough. Thank you.

President Slifka: Can anybody top that? Mrs. Hall, go ahead.

Councilor Hall: You know, I think my first public safety meeting six years ago or whatever this topic was brought up to me immediately by one of the firefighters, a union rep, and I have to say that if we were in the same place as we were six years ago, I wouldn't even begin to consider this. It was just a nonstarter. I think the relationship between the town and union precluded our working together and I think that the steps that were taken in this past contract negotiation, which makes a huge dent in our biggest issues, which is the pension and the healthcare. And I think, for me, that brought me to the table to say I'm willing to listen to this, which I never would have been before. Um...and then, secondly, I do have a tremendous amount of respect and faith in Chief Allyn, Pete, and Ron in their ability to analyze this. So, I would also say that there is a little bit of...I think inevitability when it was brought to us that I think was a little off-putting, that all of a sudden we found out that 17 firefighters were hired and it was like, okay, well isn't that a little cart before the horse and what's going on here, so I think that created some reservations about, oh, is this a done deal? Do we not have a say in this? And I think that right or wrong, sometimes you end up trying to figure out what's really going on and I think that...made us ask a lotta questions and it's taken me time to get comfortable with this idea but, based upon what you guys're saying, and in my...hope and expectations for continued positive relations with our union and working towards that common goal of trying to make sure that if we've got pensions and healthcare that we're promising that we've got the ability to fund it and they're realistic so, with those caveats, I would be willing to support this.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mrs. Hall. Anyone else? Mr. Barnes, go ahead.

Councilor Barnes: Thank you. If we keep this going long enough, we'll get a free pizza tonight so we're just...we're gonna...we're gonna keep going. Um...so I raised the concerns. I didn't get much traction. Everybody seems set and I appreciate everyone's comments and I always appreciate Mr. Davidoff's lectures on how I should vote since I think some of those comments were directed at me, but, in all honesty, appreciate them. I wonder about the Holdsworth Group report and the objectivity of it. I'd be interested to know if they ever said that this type of situation was not a good idea. My I guess is...I don't know how objective it is and so when I look at it and studied the issues as I've done, while I still have some concerns, as many of you have already commented, I think it's the faith that I have in the Chief and the Town Manager and with Peter running the numbers that I think I will support it and, hopefully, it turns out to be in the best interest of the town going forward but I wanted to say my piece and see if anybody agreed with the way I was viewing it or shared any of the concerns that I have, I still have, but I guess I'm gonna have to accept the recommendation that's been made to us in good faith and our best faith and hopefully it works out as it's been presented.

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

Councilor Davidoff: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Mr. Barnes, you're free to vote any way you want. I was just trying to be persuasive and present the arguments that I thought were relevant to get a yes vote and make it unanimous. I think it's, would be in the best interest of our community for that to happen this evening but if you don't feel that way then...don't allow anything that I would say to prevent you from doing it.

President Slifka: Okay. All right, with that, I'll just, a couple things. Um...I think, first, I think the discussion was very good. I appreciate the questions and, Mr. Barnes, don't, I wouldn't take if nobody picked up your position as a lack of interest or thinking it wasn't worth going down that road. I think several of us, particularly those who have served on the Public Safety Committee and, like Mrs. Cantor had it in other areas, have been the road so many times that maybe we just got a little more familiarity with it but part of, to pick up on what Burke had said about confidence and others have echoed, is, part of the confidence I have in it is that this mirrored the discussions that I've seen us have previously in committee and, but more importantly the people who are making the recommendation have and I had written down somewhere in here the word 'restraint' because I don't know when I heard of this, it might've been over, probably over a decade ago and when you first hear about it, it sounds deceptively simple, like, oh, we ship this from here to there and we don't pay this money out there and we, the employees do a little more than they were and it's great. It turns out, it's incredibly complicated to organize, to pull off, and even two or three times in the last probably six months, I know Mr. Captain and I were having these discussions, it seemed like it was on the verge of being recommended and we'd say, okay, it sounds like all our questions got answered and then someone in the administration would pull back and say, well, mm, we wanna look at one more thing and Pete had it sent out to a third party or they redid, run some of the numbers, whatever it might've been and to the point actually we were the ones saying, wait, like, where is it? I mean, I don't know how many times we talked to Ron and said, hold on. It sounded easy. We got the concept, right? If you're telling' me it's gonna make us much safer and it's gonna modernize us and potentially save money, what're we waiting for and it was always, well, because we wanna be really, really, really sure and so that restraint, though it was frustrating for many of these months, I, it gives me more confidence in what the ultimate recommendation would be. I wanna say on the record not that we haven't covered it in other ways but none of this is a knock on AMR or the people who provide the services through AMR. I have heard from them in the past. We may hear from them again in the future about this. They, much like everybody we know who works in public safety, they take their jobs very personally and that this in a way can be perceived as a slight. We are not, I think, I appreciate that the Chief and Mr. Privitera have gone out at length to say this is not about AMR several times. They do provide an excellent service. Their people are top-notch and I have been extremely impressed in the couple of occasions I've had to work with them where none of this going on has impacted their professionalism in any way, shape, or form. This is simply about modernizing ourselves and I wanna say bring us into the 21st century but it's already 2015, so I don't know if that's a proper analogy anymore but it's bringing us into where the fire department and other, all fire departments should be going forward so I, it's very complicated. I'm glad everybody asked these, the discussion. I think it's actually for those, the junkies of the WHCTV, this is probably a fairly fascinating night and I think it was great that it's all out on the record like this and it wasn't maybe just in a committee but I would, in the end, first say a couple thank you's to Mr. Captain, who's worked on this many years being on Public Safety and who will not be coming back to the Council next term. I know it was very important that he wanted to see this through and that's not why it's happening tonight. It's just, it's good that it happens before he's gone and we're not saying kudos to him sometime in the future. I'm glad you're here to help shepherd it through and thank you for everything you did in keeping me and Burke focused on this over the last couple years and to Chief Allyn and Mr. Privitera, bringing both the interesting balance, the ying and the yang of the public safety and making sure the numbers work out and those are not two worlds that

necessarily meet all the time 'cause you wanna throw all the personnel and force we have at something and that can sometimes be expensive but this seems to be an area where it is working out. To Ron, for being the, of all those Managers, the one who's finally seeing it through and that it did take good timing but it also took somebody who really put it as a priority and thank you for keeping us focused on it. And then a few people have said it but we've got two of our representatives from the union in the back, Kerry Warren, the President of the union, as Mrs. Hall said, this, we wouldn't have been at the table even discussing this had we not had such a wonderful turnaround in our relations and the fact that you guys and women, I didn't mean, make that a gender-specific guys' reference, but that you not only helped us with, through the negotiations helped us make it happen but I think we also appreciated, once we were able to get through that, seeing the energy and that we had heard from Chief Allyn but then got to see it personally through our firefighters you were bringing to this, that this was something very important to you in terms of your mission, that it was rounding out the fire department. It was enabling you to demonstrate another skillset that wasn't being as evidenced on the job and to show that at a time where, as Harry was saying, we are asking all of our departments to do more with fewer resources quite often, that you guys stepped up and said, yeah, we can do it. We can. We're up to it and let us show you how. So, thank you for enabling this to even make the vote tonight. So, with all that, I, it's a complicated subject. I, it's gonna be difficult to administer. We're gonna be watching it like crazy but I appreciate the time and effort that went into this and Chief Allyn, gosh, for the 35 years if my math is correct. I'm running out of fingers and toes but it must feel pretty good to be here at the table and to finally be able to say that it, you could advise us to do this and actually see us act that way. Okay. If we ever get to the vote and I stop talking, so if there's nothing then I'm...all those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries. Thank you guys.

Councilor Cantor: Thank you.

Councilor Kindall: Congratulations.

President Slifka: Okay...so where were we? Um...Announcements.

ITEM #21 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Slifka: Well, we are almost, we almost done. Um...first, I know she's been dying out there for several hours but Ronni Newton has asked us to remind you of a very special event on Thursday night. It has not happened here in West Hartford before. It is going to be the Best of West Hartford winners will be announced. There'll be an unveiling of the winners while enjoying hors d'oeuvres, drinks, validated parking...very important...giveaways and more. Come eat, drink, relax and mingle in your business or cocktail attire. The results from this people's choice contest will be under lock and key and will not be revealed...sorry? No cocktail unless you really want to, right? Okay. Just business attire. So the results will not be revealed until September 10th between 5:30 and 8:30 from the stage here in the West Hartford Town Hall Auditorium at 50 South Main Street. Brad Drazen will be our host. Tickets are \$60 each and

available by clicking on the banner we-ha.com. Upon purchasing, your name will be added to the list and you'll receive an email confirmation. There are no paper tickets so, again, let's, hope we can all see you Thursday here at Town Hall beginning at 5:30 for the Best of West Hartford winners. And then, wow, there could not be a more appropriate event to combine everything we did tonight than the 7th Annual Firefighters Grill & Beer Tasting, right? Saturday, September 12th from 5:00 - 9:00, our firefighters will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs and serving beer samples on Saturday to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The event's from 5:00 - 9:00 at the front lawn of Town Hall. They'll have live music by Fat Grip and for \$10, attendees will receive ten, 2-ounce sample cups of beer from around the world. There'll be over 30 beer distributors providing over 100 varieties of beer. I see Mr. Alair putting it into his calendar right now. And parking is available at the Town Hall parking lot and in our garages and the event is obviously sponsored by our West Hartford Firefighters Local 1241 and Whole Foods Market here in West Hartford. All the food and beer are donated and 100% of the money goes to the MDA. Then, following up on the announcement Mrs. Hall made earlier tonight, the 3rd Annual Feast on the Farm will be held on Friday, September 25th from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Westmoor Park. It will include a four-course dinner featuring a range of locally grown produce and products prepared by Chef Dorjan Puka of West Hartford's Treva Restaurant and Bar. It is BYOB. Tickets are \$85 and available at Westmoor Park and the customer service desk and at Town Hall lobby. Note, last year's event was a sellout and as we had also discussed, the proceeds from the event support the restoration of the historic Westmoor Park Barn. If you want more info other than going on our website, you can call Leisure Services at 561-7510 or Westmoor Park at 561-8260. The 4th Annual West Hartford Relay and Growing Great Schools will kick off two great events on Saturday, September 26th, again, here at Town Hall. Kids' 5 mile relay features four person teams where each runner completes two loops around Blueback Square. The event begins at 8:00 a.m. for kids ages two through grade five. Then there is a 20 K relay consisting of one 5-K route that starts and ends at Town Hall. It begins at 9:15 for teams of two or four and is geared toward middle school and high school students as well as adults. One hundred percent of the proceeds are donated to the West Hartford Public Schools Physical Education Department and you can register at www.westhartfordrelay.com. The MDC Household Hazardous Waste Collection will be held on September 26th. It's a Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at our public works garage, 17 Brixton Street. The event is free and open to residents of any MDC town. And, last but not least, National Take-Back Day is also September 26, 2015. This provides an opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications for destruction. These drugs are a potential source of supply for illegal use and an unacceptable risk to public health and safety. Again, it's on Saturday, September 26 in the Town Hall parking lot from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Please enter through Raymond Road. Not acceptable items: Intravenous solutions, injectables, and needles and illicit substances, such as illegal drugs, are not part of this initiative if any of you out there are watching our broadcast. And a thank you to our West Hartford Police Department and West Hartford/Bloomfield Health District, who run this in cooperation with the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency. That is the end of my announcements. Anyone else? Mrs. Casperson?

Councilor Casperson: So the West Hartford Food Pantry needs your help. At this time, the food pantry is in urgent need of rice, canned fruit, soup, tuna, macaroni and cheese. Food donations can be dropped off in the lobby of Town Hall Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Thank you.

President Slifka: Mrs. Casperson. Anyone else? Oh, Mr. Davidoff, go ahead.

Councilor Davidoff: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Next week begins the Jewish High Holidays and I'm certain Mrs. Cantor and I would like to extend to all the members in our community a very happy and healthy New Year and as we say I'shana tova to all who celebrate and the reason that the Council will not be meeting on the 22nd is it is Kol Nidrei, the holiest night of the year and our meeting will be on the 24th, so if you wanna catch what we do, tune in Thursday, the 24th.

President Slifka: Thank you. And anyone else? Mr. Barnes?

Councilor Barnes: I have one announcement. This Friday is a 10th Anniversary of A Hand Up. They are having a dinner celebration at The Pond House, drinks, auction items. If you're not familiar with A Hand Up, it is an organization that receives donated furniture and other household items to help people transition from homelessness into independent living. It's a West Hartford-based organization. It was started by four individuals ten years ago. They had this idea to help people kinda get on their feet and be able to live independently, hence the name A Hand Up. It's a great cause and, as I said, their dinner is this Friday at The Pond House. Go to their website, ahandup and register.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Barnes. Anyone else? Okay. Then we are up to Report from Corporation Counsel. Mr. O'Brien?

ITEM #22 - REPORT OF CORPORATION COUNSEL

Mr. O'Brien: Well, fortunately, given the late hour, we don't need Executive Session so I'll be happy to answer any questions you might have.

President Slifka: I think I know the answer to that but I'll check. Any questions for Mr. O'Brien at this late hour? No? Okay. Thank you. We're up to Appointments, Mrs. Cantor?

ITEM #23 - APPOINTMENTS

Councilor Cantor: Appointments. I move that we appoint Aaron Frankel to the, as a Council Zoning Alternate. Term expires 12/31/2017.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Motion's made and seconded. All those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries. And we are now up to...Consent Calendar, number 32.

ITEM #32 - CONSENT CALENDAR

ADOPTED

ITEM #10 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUSPENSE OF TAXES OWED ON THE 2011 GRAND LIST FOR MOTOR VEHICLES AND PERSONAL PROPERTY

ITEM #13 – RESOLUTION TO CARRY FORWARD AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS AWARDED TO TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD UNDER THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF UNDERAGE DRINKING EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT

WHEREAS, the Town of West Hartford applied for and was awarded Federal Funds by the Connecticut Department of Transportation’s Highway Safety Office under the Federal Highway Safety Program (Federal Program Area 2015-405d, State Project 0195-0743-BC) in the amount of \$43,620 to fund an Underage Drinking Education and Enforcement Initiative, and

WHEREAS, the objectives of this initiative are to educate teenagers and parents about the dangers and pitfalls of drinking underage and to improve the safety of citizens and visitors to West Hartford through underage drinking enforcement activities, and

WHEREAS, these funds were appropriated in the fiscal year 2014-2015 General Fund budget but were not fully expended, and

WHEREAS, per the terms of the grant award these funds can be carried forward to fiscal year 2015-2016, and

WHEREAS, the Town of West Hartford desires to utilize such carry-forward funds to supplement the current alcohol education curriculum in the Town’s schools, assign an officer at school events such as dances and athletic events held in the evening, and through directed patrol and inspection of bars, restaurants and liquor stores, in accordance with both Federal and State regulations, policies, and procedures that govern the use of highway safety funds,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD THAT unexpended grant funds under the Federal Highway Safety Program are appropriated for the purpose of underage drinking education and enforcement activities in accordance with the terms of the grant, and the fiscal year 2015-2016 General Fund budget is amended as follows:

<u>Increase Estimated Revenue</u>		
01-220410-20101-9070	Federal Grant Revenue	\$17,292.81
<u>Increase Appropriations</u>		
01-220410-20101-1010	Overtime	\$17,292.81

ITEM #14 – RESOLUTION TO CARRY FORWARD AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS AWARDED THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD UNDER THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY

SAFETY PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMPREHENSIVE DUI ENFORCEMENT

WHEREAS, the Town of West Hartford applied for and was awarded Federal Funds by the Connecticut Department of Transportation’s Highway Safety Office under the Federal Highway Safety Program (Federal Program Area 2015-154AL, State Project 0195-0722-DR) in the amount of \$117,525 to provide comprehensive Driving Under the Influence (DUI) enforcement program activities from October 2, 2014 through September 12, 2015, and

WHEREAS, the objectives of this program are to reduce the number of impaired driving crashes, injuries, and fatalities through increased high-visibility enforcement and to communicate to the public, through media venues, the increased level of DUI enforcement so that drivers will perceive that the chance of being caught operating under the influence is too high a risk, therefore deterring that behavior, and

WHEREAS, these funds were appropriated in the fiscal year 2014-2015 General Fund budget but were not fully expended, and

WHEREAS, per the terms of the grant award these funds can be carried forward to fiscal year 2015-2016, and

WHEREAS, the Town of West Hartford desires to utilize such carry-forward funds for extra DUI patrol activities, in accordance with both Federal and State regulations, policies, and procedures that govern the use of highway safety funds,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD THAT unexpended grant funds under the Federal Highway Safety Program are appropriated for the purpose of expanded DUI enforcement activities in accordance with the terms of the grant, and the fiscal year 2015-2016 General Fund budget is amended as follows:

<u>Increase Estimated Revenue</u>		
01-220410-20101-9070	Federal Grant Revenue	\$42,652.94
<u>Increase Appropriations</u>		
01-220410-20101-1010	Overtime	\$42,652.94

ITEM #18 – RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE GRANT FUNDS OF \$62,544.26 IN THE CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND FOR LOCAL BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS, the Town of West Hartford applied for and was awarded grant funds under the Fiscal Year 2016 Local Bridge Program of the State of Connecticut’s Department of Transportation, and

WHEREAS, the Local Bridge Program provides for State grants to municipalities for the removal, replacement, reconstruction or rehabilitation of bridges on municipally maintained roads, and

WHEREAS, the grant funds awarded to the Town will be used for the rehabilitation of the Whitman Avenue bridge over Trout Brook, and

WHEREAS, the project consists of a design phase and a construction phase, with a total estimated cost of \$133,101.21, and

WHEREAS, the project will be funded with grant funding of \$62,544.26 and Town matching funds of \$70,556.95, which are available within existing appropriations,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of West Hartford does hereby appropriate grant funds of \$62,544.26 for local bridge improvements in the Capital Projects Fund as follows:

Estimated Revenues

41-871649-80003-9071	State Grants	\$62,544.26
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Increase Appropriations

41-871649-80003-3040	Bridge Improvements	\$62,544.26
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ITEM #19 – RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING A HISTORIC DOCUMENT PRESERVATION GRANT FROM THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,000

WHEREAS, the Town of West Hartford has applied for and been awarded a grant from the Connecticut State Library in the amount of \$4,000 for the purpose of historic document preservation, and

WHEREAS, these funds are to be used for preservation of historic documents of the Town of West Hartford, Office of the Town Clerk,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of West Hartford that the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 General Fund budget is hereby amended as follows:

Estimated Revenue

01-010101-40305-9134	Preservation of Historic Documents	\$4,000
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Appropriations

01-010101-40305-2004	Miscellaneous Administrative Expense	\$4,000
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ITEM #25 – FROM TOWN PLAN AND ZONING – RE: PERMITTING MANUFACTURERS OF ALCOHOL INCLUDING RETAIL SALES WHERE PERMITTED BY LAW – RECOMMENDING APPROVAL

ITEM #26 – FROM TOWN PLAN AND ZONING – RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TOWN MANAGER TO QUITCLAIM THE TOWN’S INTEREST IN AN UNIMPROVED PORTION OF CRAIG PLACE – RECOMMENDING APPROVAL

ITEM #27 – FROM CAPITOL REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS – RE: PERMITTING MANUFACTURERS OF ALCOHOL INCLUDING RETAIL SALES WHERE PERMITTED BY LAW – FINDING NO APPARENT CONFLICT WITH REGIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES OR THE CONCERNS OF NEIGHBORING TOWNS

ITEM #28 – MINUTES FROM COMMUNITY PLANNING AND PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – 7/23/15 AND 8/25/15

ITEM #29 – MINUTES FROM FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE – 7/23/15 AND 8/25/15

ITEM #30 – MINUTES FROM HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE – 7/23/15

ITEM #31 – MINUTES FROM PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – 8/13/15

Councilor Cantor: I move that we adopt.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: All those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries. And 33.

COMMUNICATIONS:

ITEM #33 – FROM THOMAS BLATCHLEY (8-27-15) RESIGNING FROM THE CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

Councilor Cantor: A communication from Thomas Blatchley, 8/27/15, resigning from the Conservation and Environment Commission. I move that we receive.

Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: Motion’s made and seconded and we thank Mr. Blatchley for his service. Any other discussion? Okay, all those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries.

ITEM #34 – PETITIONS

President Slifka: We have no Petitions so I'd like to entertain a motion to adjourn.

ITEM #35 - ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Cantor: So moved.

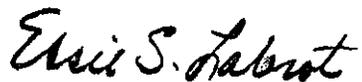
Councilor Kindall: Second.

President Slifka: All those in favor?

All: Aye.

President Slifka: Those opposed? Motion carries. We're adjourned. Good night.

Meeting adjourned at 10:44 p.m.



Essie S. Labrot
Town Clerk/Council Clerk

ESL/dd

APPROVED AT OCTOBER 13, 2015, TOWN COUNCIL MEETING