

**TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH  
TOWN COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
APRIL 23, 2008**

A special meeting of the West Greenwich Town Council was held on April 23, 2008. Present were Thaylen Waltonen, Mark Tourgee, Robert Butler, Robert Andrews and Susan Woloohojian. Also present was Town Administrator Kevin Breene and Town Treasurer Colleen Derjue. The meeting was called to order at 7:47 p.m.

Butler moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. Woloohojian seconded. VOTED: Waltonen – aye, Tourgee – aye, Butler – aye, Andrews – aye, Woloohojian – aye.

**BUDGET HEARING - FY 2008/2009**

Waltonen opened the following public hearing:

**LEGAL NOTICE  
TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH  
PUBLIC HEARING  
APRIL 23, 2008**

Notice is hereby given that there will be a Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget for the Town of West Greenwich for fiscal 2008-2009 on Wednesday, April 23, 2008 at 7:30 P.M. at the West Greenwich Town Hall, Council Chambers, 280 Victory Highway, West Greenwich, RI.

The Town of West Greenwich will provide interpreters for the hearing impaired at any meeting provided a request is received three (3) business days prior to said meeting. An audio tape copy of the minutes will be provided if requested by a vision impaired person at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting date.

Janet E. Olsson, CMC  
Town Clerk

Waltonen commented on the budget constraints for the upcoming fiscal year. The Town can only increase the levy by 5% to \$720,000 and after the school budget was deducted it only left \$145,000 by which the Town could increase it's spending over last year. Town Administrator Breene explained that each dept.'s budget got trimmed, with the exception of Fire and Rescue. Tourgee noted it was a decision decided by the State Senate for passing the 30/50.

The proposed budget and revenue sources were explained. It was noted that the police building fund had been cut, overrides were being requested from the Auditor General and Open Space and

Recreation funds were being utilized to meet the bond payment for the Open Space purchase last year.

Lengthy discussion was held on the police budget which had been cut by \$200,000 and the effect of the cut on the 3<sup>rd</sup> shift and coverage. Two police officers were purported to be laid off.

Town Administrator Breene cautioned that further cuts may be coming from the State as it passes its supplemental budgets.

Sgt. Richard Brown in his capacity of Vice President of the Union noted that the Police Union would not support any cuts to the Police budget. He questioned why the Council was cutting the Police budget and not cutting other administrative departments.

Sgt. Craig Barone in his capacity of President of the Union questioned why other non-unionized departments were receiving raises.

Chief Ronald Lepre was present. Discussion was held on other ways to cut the police budget.

Several residents spoke in opposition to elimination the 3<sup>rd</sup> shift.

Tourgee moved to adopt the proposed budget as Amended by decreasing Police Dept. appropriation by \$255,000, and adding \$13,000 for unemployment for a total proposed budget of \$17,452,445.00. Andrews seconded. VOTED: Waltonen – aye, Tourgee – aye, Butler – aye, Andrews – aye, Woloohojian – aye.

#### **ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION – SUMMER RECREATION DIRECTOR**

Butler moved to accept with regret the resignation of Rose Spadola as Summer Recreation Director. Tourgee seconded. VOTED: Waltonen – aye, Tourgee – aye, Butler – aye, Andrews – aye, Woloohojian – aye.

Butler moved to adjourn at 9:43 p.m. Andrews seconded. VOTED: Waltonen – aye, Tourgee – aye, Butler – aye, Andrews – aye, Woloohojian – aye.

Janet E. Olsson, CMC  
Town Clerk