

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 23, 1996

*** 7:00 P.M. ***

AGENDA

*** NOTE CHANGE IN STARTING TIME OF MEETING ***

Blessing - Rev. Sydney Parker (Retired)

1. Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance
2. Consent Agenda
 - a. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$150 from Training Account to Overtime Account - Fire Marshal
 - b. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$814 from Purchase Services - Custodial Account to Self-Insurance Claim Account - Department of Law
 - c. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#289-295) Totalling \$601.36 - Tax Collector
 - d. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$10,000 from O/S Consulting Account to the Conservation Account - Dept of Public Utilities
 - e. SET A PUBLIC HEARING for May 14, 1996 at 7:45 P.M. on an Ordinance Appropriating \$900,000 for the Planning, Acquisition and Construction of Municipal Capital Improvements 1996-1997 and Authorizing the Issue of \$900,000 Bonds of the Town to Meet Said Appropriation and Pending the Issue Thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowings for Such Purpose
3. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda
4. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD
5. Consider and Approve the Conveyance of Cabinets, Windows and Other Miscellaneous Items from the Tennyson Property at 397 Church Street, Yalesville to Habitat for Humanity as Requested by Councilor Richard J. Centner, Jr.
6. PUBLIC HEARING on an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 383 Establishing Fees and Penalties Pursuant to the Authority of the State Building Code - 7:45 P.M.

7. Consider and Approve a Resolution Establishing the Board of Education as the Building Committee for the Vo-Ag Equipment Grant, Authorizing the Preparation of a Plan/Specifications for the Vo-Ag Equipment Grant and Authorizing the Superintendent of Schools to File an Application for a School Project in Order to Fund the Vo-Ag Equipment Grant
8. Consider and Approve an Appropriation of Funds in the Amount of \$239,960 to Estimated Revenue State of CT. Vo-Ag Equipment Grant and to Expenditures Vo-Ag Equipment Grant - Board of Education
9. Consider and Approve an Appropriation of Funds in the Amount of \$366,000 to Revenue - Contract/Jobbing Account and to Cost - Contract/Jobbing Account - Public Utilities Commission
10. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$60,000 from Poles, Towers & Fixtures Acct. to Underground Conduit Account - Public Utilities Commission
11. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$32,000 from Line Transformers Account to Underground Conductors Account - Public Utilities Commission
12. Discussion and Possible Action on a Waiver of Bid for Architectural Services Performed on the John Street Electric Division Office Building - Electric Division
13. Discussion and Action on the Ice Rink

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ADDENDUM TO AGENDA

14. Consider and Approve a Waiver of Bid to Allow for Necessary Repairs to a Sewer Main in the Stream Bed of Meeting House Brook - Sewer Division
15. Consider and Approve an Appropriation of Funds in the Amount of \$75,000 from the Maintenance Reserve Account to Maintenance Collection System Account - Sewer Division

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7:00 P.M.

SUMMARY

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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 23, 1996

7:00 P.M.

A regular meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was held on Tuesday, April 23, 1996 in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall and called to Order by Chairman Robert F. Parisi at 7:14 P.M. Answering present to the Roll called by Town Clerk Rosemary A. Rascati were Councilors Centner, Doherty, Papale, Parisi, Rys and Zappala. Councilor Renda arrived at 7:17 P.M.; Councilor Farrell arrived at 7:18 P.M. and Councilor Knight arrived at 7:19 P.M. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. arrived at 7:24 P.M. and Comptroller Thomas A. Myers arrived at 7:17 P.M. Assistant Town Attorney Gerald Farrell, Sr. was also present.

It is noted that the Future Farmers of America Annual Dinner and a Kick-Off Ceremony for T.V. Turn-off Week were both scheduled this same evening at 6:00 and 6:30 P.M., respectively. This accounts for the 7:00 P.M. starting time of the meeting and the late arrival of Town Officials as well.

A blessing was bestowed upon the Council by Reverend Sydney Parker (Retired).

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the Flag.

ITEM #2 Consent Agenda

ITEM #2a Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$150 from Training Account #2035-501-5700 to Overtime Account #2035-101-1400 - Fire Marshal

ITEM #2b Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$814 from Purchase Services - Custodial Account #001-6010-901-9014 to Self-Insurance Claims Account #001-8030-800-8280 - Department of Law

ITEM #2c Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#289-295) Totalling \$601.36 - Tax Collector

ITEM #2d Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$10,000 from O/S Consulting Account #923-3 to Conservation Account #909 - Public Utilities Commission

ITEM #2e SET A PUBLIC HEARING for May 14, 1996 at 7:45 P.M. on an Ordinance Appropriating \$900,000 for the Planning, Acquisition and Construction of Municipal Capital Improvements 1996-97 and Authorizing the Issue of \$900,000 Bonds of the Town to Meet Said Appropriation and Pending the Issue Thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowings for Such Purpose

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Approve the Consent Agenda as Presented, seconded by Mr. Centner.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #3 Withdrawn

PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville inquired as to whether or not the Town of Wallingford is the recipient of a Neighborhood Assistance Grant? He has learned that Meriden received a similar grant from the State.

Mr. Rys responded, yes, we did receive an assistance grant from the State which will allow the Town to hire two additional police officers to utilize for special operations such as the uptown and neighborhood policing programs.

Mr. Melillo stated that he is opposed to the Town joining the Montessori School Alliance program run by the Hartford Public School System. In order to take part Wallingford would have to commit to paying tuition for any or at least one student each year; at a cost of \$1,325 per pupil. Currently one resident of Wallingford is a student at the school. He urged the Council to reject any offer to join such a program.

Philip A. Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street asked, what capital improvements will the \$900,000 (Item #2e) be used for?

Mr. Doherty responded, the funds will be used for roadway reconstruction of Yale Avenue, Route 5 to the Wallingford Town line.

ITEM #5 Consider and Approve the Conveyance of Cabinets, Windows and Other Miscellaneous Items from the Tennyson Property at 397 Church Street, Yalesville to Habitat for Humanity as Requested by Councilor Richard J. Centner, Jr.

Motion was made by Mr. Centner, seconded by Ms. Papale.

Mr. Centner read correspondence into the record from Wilbert (Robby) Robinson, Project Manager of Habitat for Humanity, requesting the material.

Mr. Farrell announced that he will abstain from voting due to the fact that Habitat for Humanity is a client of his.

VOTE: Farrell abstained; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #9 Consider and Approve an Appropriation of Funds in the Amount of \$366,000 to Revenue - Contract/Jobbing Account #415-1 to Cost - Contract/Jobbing Account #416 - Public Utilities Commission

Motion was made by Mr. Rys, seconded by Mr. Centner.

Raymond F. Smith, Director of Public Utilities informed the Council that the action the P.U.C. is requesting this evening is to reduce some of their facilities in conjunction with some State projects, specifically, Route 5 at the crossing of the Merit Parkway and the South Hartford Turnpike in conjunction with work at the Cook Hill Road area. The State will reimburse an amount of \$366,000 of that work since it is at their request; their projects. The balance of the funds requested are for capital improvement work that is being done in connection with those two projects. That would be funded out of the utilities' capital accounts, hence the transfer requests this evening to cover the work. Regarding the Route 5 project, the commission feels that it is prudent to add a second circuit and install the conductors and conduit at the same time under the same work scope. Because it is a capital expansion the State does not pay for those types of support.

Mr. Doherty asked, out of the seven projects listed, what is the Town's total cost?

Mr. Smith responded, the Town's cost is a total of \$92,000; \$60,000 is allocated to underground conduit and \$32,000 is for underground conductors. The remaining portion, \$366,000., will be a pass-through from the State. We are budgeting it now for we don't know when the funds will be received from the State. The total for the projects will be \$458,000. with \$366,000. reimbursed from the State and the Town contributing \$92,000.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville asked if any of the proposed work is to benefit any big business in the area of the work?

Mr. Smith responded, the work is being done to part of the Town's electric distribution system and is not aimed at any particular customer. It is for the overall reliability of our entire electrical system.

Ms. Papale asked Mr. Smith to explain why the Town has to "make space" by replacing poles, and facilitating adjustments as listed under the description of State Project No. 148-158, work to be performed on Route 5.

Mr. Smith answered, another project that the Town and State are working on is to adjust roadways and traffic signalization from North Haven to the Meriden Town line and other various parts of the Town.

Geno Zandri, Jr., 37 Hallmark Drive asked, are any of the projects mentioned associated with the Cook Hill Road project?

Mr. Smith responded, yes.

Mr. Zandri asked, is that work that is associated with the improvements needed for the new Oakdale project?

Mr. Smith answered, it is associated with the roadway improvements that the State is authorizing. He assumed it is in connection with Oakdale.

Mr. Zandri asked, is that work going to be completed prior to Oakdale opening for business?

William Cominos, General Manager of the Electric Division responded, the Electric Division's work will be done, however, he is not certain that the State's, telephone company's and cable company's work will be finished.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #10 Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$60,000 from Poles, Towers and Fixtures Acct. #364 to Underground Conduit Acct. #366 - Public Utilities Commission

Motion was made by Mr. Rys, seconded by Ms. Papale.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #11 Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$32,000 from Line Transformers Acct. #368 to Underground Conductors Acct. #367 Public Utilities Commission

Motion was made by Mr. Rys, seconded by Ms. Papale.

Philip Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street asked, what are we doing that we need to transfer money into the underground conduit/conductor accounts?

Mr. Smith responded, under the Merit Parkway we currently have cable that hangs from the roadway that has been in place a number of years that has began to deteriorate. The long range plan is to replace the cable and add a second circuit to parallel the existing circuit that services existing customers and future customers.

Mr. Wright asked, does it have anything to do with the other work that is being done that is costing \$458,000.?

Mr. Smith answered, yes, the State will be paying for the removal of the cable, they will pay us the value of what that is but they will not pay for any additional improvements.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #12 Discussion and Possible Action on a Waiver of Bid for Architectural Services Performed on the John Street Electric Division Office Building - Electric Division

Motion was made by Mr. Rys, seconded by Mr. Knight.

Mr. Zappala stated that he would like an explanation for the benefit of those individuals who have been unable to attend the P.U.C. meetings at which this topic has been discussed.

David Gessert, P.U.C. member explained, a bid was solicited back in 1992 for architectural services to bring the John Street offices of the Electric Division into compliance with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) guidelines. The lowest, responsible bidder was chosen and the architect's work was started. Subsequently it was decided that with the 100th anniversary of the Electric Division around the corner it would be an appropriate time to incorporate much needed renovations to the lobby and adjoining conference room space into the work. Due to miscommunication the necessary paperwork associated with the change order failed to be filed with the Town.

Once the error was discovered and the underlying reasons determined for the mistake, the P.U.C. realized that it needed to seek approval for a bid waiver from the Council, hence their request for said waiver this evening.

Mr. Zappala asked if standard procedures were followed with regards to bidding the project?

Mr. Gessert responded, yes. He assured the Council that some changes have been made in procedure at the division and in the future all t's will be crossed and all i's will be dotted. He assured the Council that this will not happen again in the future.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville, was opposed to waiving the bid on this matter.

Mr. Parisi hoped that this oversight will not occur again.

Ms. Papale stated that it seemed to be a case of miscommunication between the Electric Division and the Purchasing Department. We all learn lessons by our mistakes. The architect performed the work and deserves to be paid for it.

Philip A. Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street asked, what was the cost of the additional work? What is the total cost to rebuild the John Street facility?

Mr. Gessert responded, the original purchase order was secured in the amount of \$2,900 and the total figure for architectural services was approximately \$18,000. The total cost of construction for the interior of the building will be slightly in excess of \$250,000 - \$270,000. The Purchasing Department is in possession of the bids but he has not yet had a chance to review them.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #6 PUBLIC HEARING on an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 383 Establishing Fees and Penalties Pursuant to the Authority of the State Building Code

Mr. Rys read the proposed ordinance repealing ordinance No. 383 into the record (Appendix I).

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Open the Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Centner.

Geno J. Zandri, Jr., 37 Hallmark Drive asked for an explanation as to why the fees are increasing?

Carmen Spiteri, Building Inspector, responded, to bring the Town in line with what other communities similar in size to Wallingford are charging for permits.

Mr. Zandri asked, is that the only reason?

Mr. Spiteri responded, that is the main reason. We could also use the revenue.

Mr. Zandri reminded everyone that the increased fees are passed along to the purchaser. It is not an expense that the builders will absorb, it will be tacked on to the price of the homes. It is tough enough today for many families to get started owning a home without adding another burden. It is a step in the wrong direction. Times are tough and all the extra fees will be passed along to the consumer.

Philip A. Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street asked, is this being done because it is costing the Town more to issue the permits? Or is it because other towns are "socking" the developers? Is that what we are doing?

Mr. Spiteri responded, it is costing more to operate the Building Department just like everything else.

Mayor Dickinson added, it is a combination of reasons. It is costing the Town more to issue permits with increases in overhead costs such as salaries, etc. and it costs more to provide the inspections and issue permits. It is also true that we are currently charging less than communities of our size. If the user is not paying then that cost is being absorbed by others in the community because our costs remain the same. Is it appropriate to be charging an amount similar to what similar services cost in other communities? I believe so.

Mr. Wright asked, when were the fees last increased?

Mr. Spiteri responded, approximately five years ago.

Mr. Wright asked, is the amount we are increasing these fees by directly related to the increase in out-of-pocket costs to the Town?

Mayor Dickinson responded, the increase was not calculated or analyzed in that way. We do not want to be in a position to encourage any more or any less development here as a result of the fees that are charged for permits. Why should we charge less than other communities? We really do not want to encourage everyone to come here because we have lower permit fees, we want gradual development.

Mr. Wright asked, do you really think that the increase in fees would actually encourage someone to or discourage someone from developing in Wallingford?

Mayor Dickinson answered, he doubted that would be a factor on a small development. It would probably be a factor if it were a sizable development.

Mr. Wright was opposed to raising the fees, he believes it is way of grabbing more revenue so that we reduce our tax rolls.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville asked if the proposed ordinance, if approved, will violate the State building code in any way?

Mr. Spiteri answered, the Town can set its own fees.

Mr. Farrell referred to Sections C and D of the proposed ordinance and asked, with regards to the Housing Code Certificate of Compliance does Mr. Spiteri have any feel for what the actual rate of compliance is on getting that type of certificate? Do we have any idea how many landlords are obtaining the certificates before renting their property?

Mr. Spiteri answered, he did not have actual figures but the rate has gone up significantly. The Housing Court is extremely tough on landlords that do not comply and many of them are aware of that so most of them do obtain the certificates.

Mr. Farrell stated that his law office does handle a lot of landlord/tenant cases. There is a statute which states that if the landlord does not have a certificate then the landlord may actually lose out on collecting rent. His misgivings about changing the ordinance would be penalizing people for obtaining the certificate of compliance. It is his understanding that a good number of landlords who rent are not getting the certificates.

Mr. Spiteri believes that most landlords obtain certificates. He is not sure where Mr. Farrell is getting his information from.

Mr. Farrell asked, where do the funds go that are received from the sale of the certificates?

Mr. Spiteri responded, currently we have no income at all for Housing Code. When it was started it was federally funded; a grant. It currently comes out of the Building Department's budget. The \$10.00 fee would just cover the paperwork costs.

Mr. Farrell asked, what is presently charged to the landlords?

Mr. Spiteri answered, nothing.

Mr. Farrell then referred to Section E which relates to the removal and/or relocation of a building and asked, is that section part of the present ordinance?

Mr. Spiteri responded, that is a building permit. If you own a building you have to take out a building permit. The fees are the same as if you were building a new structure or moving a building.

Mr. Farrell asked, if you have a building which is worth \$100,000. and you are moving it, are you going to pay on \$100,000.?

Mr. Spiteri responded, no, you pay on the cost of moving the building and setting it back up.

Mr. Centner asked, if approved tonight, when will the new rates become effective?

Mr. Spiteri answered, as soon as we get the o.k.

Mr. Centner asked, is the charge for a re-inspection a new item?

Mr. Spiteri stated, that has always been in the ordinance.

Mr. Zappala stated that he support the proposed increase due to the fact that we have great inspectors for which we have to pay to inspect buildings and apartments to make sure that they are livable to residents. He is sure that the residents would not mind paying the \$10.00 or \$15.00 for the assurance that the building is safe to be occupied. It is long overdue for it has been five years since the rates have experienced an increase.

Mayor Dickinson noted for the record that an appeal period of thirty days occurs upon approval and publication of the ordinance. After such time the ordinance would then become effective.

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Approve the Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Centner.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #13 Discussion and Action on the Ice Rink

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Open the Discussion, seconded by Ms. Papale.

Thomas Wall, Chairman of the Ice Rink Committee stated that it was not too long ago that the committee appeared before the Council seeking guidance as to which way to go or what to do regarding the construction of an ice rink in the Town. At that time the Council had many questions surrounding the construction and operating costs as well as the revenue projections made by the committee. Since that time the committee submitted a supplemental report (Appendix II) which he feels is one of the most detailed reports ever compiled on this issue. Letters were forwarded to the Councilors encouraging them to contact the committee if they had any questions with regards to the report.

The Council turned the floor over to the public at this time to hear their questions/concerns.

Amanda Milane, 593 Woodhouse Avenue presented the Council with a petition exhibiting close to 1,000 signatures of individuals who support the issuance of bonds for the construction of an ice rink facility.

Dave Canto, 4 Meadows Edge Drive asked, what is the proposed construction cost for the ice rink? Does the report detail a four or five year cash flow? Does it have a comparison of revenue with expected operating capital and financing costs? Is it positive in the first four or five years?

Chris Migliaro, 870 Clintonville Road, Ice Rink Committee Member responded, the cost is \$2.8 million; yes the report does exhibit a positive cash flow which occurs from year one which also compares revenue and expenses.

Mr. Canto asked, are you saying that the project will not require any taxpayer subsidy at all; every penny the Town puts out to issue bonds or for construction will be paid back from the revenue of the ice rink?

Mr. Migliaro responded, correct.

Mr. Canto stated, it is very hard to speak against the project if it is going to pay for itself but we have to be careful in the sense that once the general obligation bonds are issued if, for some reason, one year or any particular period the revenue falls for any reason the taxpayer has to pick up the bill. Hopefully it will never happen but it has to be a risk that is pointed out. Other than that there is nothing wrong with the idea, it is a good idea. It is nice to have a lot of things, ice rink; golf course; community pool; new recreation center, etc., can we afford everything that we want?

Frank _____, stated that his son has played in the Wallingford Youth Hockey organization for the past six years. He is a resident of North Haven but is proud to do business in Wallingford. This is one of the best run towns he has ever seen. His business is in Hamden, he has an associate business in Wallingford as well. As a businessman, he point out that the ice rink will bring in people from different states, cities, towns, to play against our teams as well as compete in tournaments. It brings in a nucleus of people that are very interested in the youth aspect of the sport, unlike the Whaler organization and the big tax dollars that are being spent on that situation. The youths are being supported by their parents and their relatives. When out of town players come to your town they end up establishing new friends and begin to associate with a lot of people who reside and do business in town. They patronize restaurants, hotels and other miscellaneous businesses in town. You become an extended hockey family residing in many states such as Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, New Jersey, etc. These "relatives" come together travelling to and from each other's states for tournaments. Wallingford would experience many positive benefits from building an ice rink.

(applause)

Wayne McDermott, 22 Cooper Avenue stated, if the Council agrees to the idea of building a rink, is there anyone from the Wallingford Hawks Association who would be willing to guarantee that Wallingford youths will be given priority over out of town youths? Otherwise we are building a rink for every youth hockey player in

the state. He has nothing against out of town players using the facility but hockey is a very competitive sport. He would like a guarantee that all Wallingford youths involved in any aspect of the program be given first priority at the rink.

Cathy Lilley, 27 Southview Drive, Vice President of the CT. Recreation and Park Association, CT. Representative to the New England Regional Council of the National Recreation and Park Association and Wallingford Hawks' parent stated that she had contacted the National Recreation and Park Association to ask them to research for her any known lawsuits against a community as a result of an injury suffered at an ice rink. They could only come up with three lawsuits in the past ten years, nationwide, against an ice rink. If there are any liability concerns on the part of the Council or Mayor, that information should tell you that there is no concern at all. When asked how this compared to other park and recreation facilities within communities in the United States they said that it did not compare at all, they could not even begin to count how many lawsuits have been filed against a municipality for injuries incurred at swimming pools, basketball courts, softball fields, etc., ice rinks do not even compare. She has a friend at the U.S.A. Hockey Organization in Colorado Springs, Colorado whom she contacted for some additional information. As far as the seven towns that the Wallingford Hawks draw from, in 1990 there were 210 players registered with U.S.A. Hockey. In 1995 there were 687 players from the seven towns that Wallingford draws from who were registered with U.S.A. Hockey. They have experienced a minimum increase of twelve percent (12%) per year for the last five years. It is a growing sport; there should not be any concerns about whether it will support itself or not because the numbers are here. There are over 106,000 coaches and players registered with U.S.A. Hockey within New England and New York, including Connecticut, that is 7,500 teams that can all come to Wallingford. Potentially there is the opportunity for all of them to come here to play in our rink. It can only be a great economic benefit to the Town to build this rink.

(applause)

Emmet Wright, 220 S. Whittlesey Avenue, Wallingford Hawks Player, stated that he would like to see a rink constructed because there is always a conflict of scheduling between Lyman Hall High School and the Hawks at Choate which restricts the number of practices the league holds and the times at which they are conducted.

(applause)

Bill Palmer, Clifton Street stated, we have ball fields, soccer fields, basketball courts, tennis courts, none of which have a positive cash flow. Here we have an opportunity to have a rink

that will not cost the taxpayers a dime which will produce a positive cash flow, possibly even a profit for the community. It will benefit Lyman Hall which practices at 4:30 a.m., Sheehan High which practices approximately 10:00 or 11:00 p.m., the community by having a facility for figure skaters, family skating and by drawing people into the Town. It will be a benefit to the entire community, not just to the hockey enthusiasts.

(applause)

Jessie Staugard, 31 Carriage Drive, Lyman Hall High School Hockey Team member stated that he must rise at 3:30 a.m. for hockey practice three days per week. Many times he is unable to retire to bed prior to 11:00 p.m. or 12:00 a.m. which means that he will only have three and one-half hours of sleep before a practice. Many of the hockey player's school responsibilities are compromised because of the odd hours of practice. He supported the construction of an ice rink.

(applause)

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville supported building an ice rink. Hockey is a good sport for developing a competitive spirit as well as good citizens. He asked the committee if they tried their best to get big business involved? He was of the opinion that the rink should be built on town-owned property so as to be sure that the Town retained local control. He asked the committee if they plan to charge admission fees for spectators?

Chris Migliaro responded, there is no charge to spectators and the families of the skaters pay in the form of league registration fees and associated travel costs. It can cost over \$600-\$700 per year for the children to skate on the league. The committee will take Mr. Melillo's suggestions under advisement.

(applause)

Mr. Wall responded to Mr. Melillo's comments of involving big business by saying that the committee has approached businesses in Town to see if they are willing to donate land for the rink and/or funds. The committee has been assured by three companies that when the Town has made up its mind what it wants to do they will join in.

Geno Zandri, Jr., 37 Hallmark Drive stated that he is supportive of an ice rink project; the money would be well spent on a venture that keeps the youth busy and active. If you look at the spread sheet prepared this evening for the Council, it speaks for itself. The ice rink will definitely carry itself financially. Comments have been made whereby some people are concerned that shortfalls may occur placing a burden on the taxpayers. At the last meeting

when this same point was discussed he mentioned that a cushion could be built into the first year's operating costs so that the Town would not need to go to the taxpayers for money. The Council should support this project.

(applause)

Wes Neimeck, 17 Cardinal Drive stated that the Town should build a rink in Wallingford because all of the parents are paying money to other towns for their children to skate when the funds could be going to Wallingford.

(applause)

Kathryn Wall, 278 S. Elm Street first stated that the item should have been placed early on the agenda, there are many children present this evening who need to rise early for school in the morning and they are very bored with this process. She could not imagine anyone on the Council who would not support the project. The studies have come forth, it is evident that the rink will support itself. For anything that will keep the youths off of the streets and give them something creative to do that involves teamwork, to show them what it is to achieve something, how can you not support it? She urged the Council to think carefully about their vote. This committee has been working long and hard on this issue. The Council re-appointed the committee in January - she thought it was with the idea that the Council was interested in pursuing the idea of building a rink.

(applause)

Mr. Parisi responded, as far as the item being on the agenda, the Council did make every effort to get this off on an early note but there were extenuating circumstances that were beyond the control of the Council.

Peter Dickson, 7 Saddle Drive, West Haven, Rink Director of the West Haven Ice Rink stated, if the Council has any questions this evening about an ice rink he is available to address them.

(applause)

Ed Makuch, Wallingford Hawks, presented the Council with the results of the ice survey that was used to substantiate not only the rentals from the various organizations but the revenue those rentals would generate.

Mr. Parisi asked, are you saying that these people have committed to using the rink?

Mr. Makuch responded, these people said that they will buy ice at the rates set by the committee during the hours that were listed on the survey. Just prior to coming to the meeting he received a call from the CT. Hockey Conference which is the Hawks' parent organization and represents thirty-five youth hockey organizations in the State. They informed him that they would like to run their State tournaments at this rink. One of the issues that is hard for the Council to understand is that there is not enough ice available. Mr. Dickson can substantiate that fact. For every group that would like to get ice at a rink or who currently gets ice at a rink there are three or four that are waiting in the wings to take that space up should they move out.

Mayor Dickinson asked Mr. Dickson, does the West Haven rink pay for itself?

Mr. Dickson responded, up until this past fiscal year during which the rink experienced a compressor problem, for the past twenty-one years the rink has paid for itself.

Mayor Dickinson asked, how was the compressor paid for?

Mr. Dickson answered, the City Council allocated the funding for the repair.

Mayor Dickinson stated that he did speak with the Mayor of West Haven who confirmed that the debt for the West Haven rink is handled by the taxpayers, the operating costs are handled through the ice fees. In effect, in a pure accounting sense it does not pay for itself.

Mr. Dickson stated, on a year to year operation the rink does pay for itself. For twenty-one years no one put a dime into that ice rink, no one.

Mayor Dickinson stated, so that everyone is aware of the information that I was able to obtain, the rink was originally built with school grant money which meant that probably at least fifty percent was paid by the State of Connecticut. Those funds are no longer available. That is another significant factor in making plans when you are receiving grants from the State. It is true that the Simsbury rink was built with funds from the State and that is a private developer.

Mr. Dickson commented, this is the twenty-eighth year of operation of the Bennet Rink. For twenty-one years that he knows of the Bennet Rink has maintained its own accounts. It is a wash account. We have profited approximately fourteen to fifteen of those years. What happens with the profit is that it is placed in the general fund of the City which takes it and uses it for other things. This year they had to pay for a compressor but there probably would have been enough money to pay if the profit was placed in a contingency

fund.

Mr. Makuch added, the City of West Haven gives 800 hours of ice time free to the West Haven High School team and program. We are not projecting that Wallingford give away any hours; that would generate another \$160,000 which would certainly make the West Haven rink profitable if you compared it to our proposal. In addition to that they give the Youth Hockey Program over 550 hours at a substantially reduced rate of around \$120/hr. We are not figuring that into our costs.

Mr. Parisi asked, what was the cost of the compressor?

Mr. Dickson responded, the total cost of the system was \$180,000. which includes installation cost.

Keven Weir, 14 Russell Street urged the Council to support the ice rink project. He has played hockey for the Wallingford Hawks and is an active member of the Lyman Hall High School hockey team. It is difficult to get up to practice at 4:30 a.m. and it is hard on the parents to be driving their children all over the state to play at other rinks.

(applause)

Mr. Zappala stated, this is one of those difficult times when you have to make a decision which will make some people happy and others unhappy. I believe strongly in recreational projects for I was a Parks & Recreation Commissioner for sixteen years for the Town. I have coached baseball and soccer and was always involved because I think that the children need to be involved in recreation. Tonight the Council is being asked to make a decision on a project that does not have a neutral committee that would make a recommendation to the Council. I did question some of the committee members on the recommendation they made several months ago when Mr. Migliaro was involved, I know what is happening. I do not know what is happening around the State but I do know that Cheshire does not want anything to do with a hockey rink because it is a losing proposition. I cannot confirm that for I did not research that deeply. The committee stated that Lyman Hall and Sheehan High Schools were going to be using the rink and if they do, who do you think is going to pay the difference between \$85/hr to \$200/hr? The taxpayers will be paying the difference. You are going to have to give them private time. I have received as many phone calls in opposition of the rink project as I have received in favor of it. In all honesty it will be a tough decision for me to vote no but I have to.

Mr. Wall responded, Mr. Zappala you mentioned the amount that the high school teams are paying to Choate now and what the Town would charge. Don't you think it is worth a little money to have the Lyman Hall and Sheehan players not have to get up at 4:30 a.m. or

practice 10:00 p.m.? Don't you have any sympathy towards the players?

Mr. Zappala responded, of course but we also have to figure the costs involved in having a hockey rink. The recommendation originally brought forth by the committee did not include the hourly rental fee of \$240.

Mr. Migliaro explained the \$240/hr is the amount paid to Tri-Town in Cromwell. That is the fee they charge for anyone who wants to skate there. Starting in September it will go up to \$260/hr. You are confusing your numbers and locations.

Mr. Zappala asked, if Tri-Town will be charging \$260/hr. what makes your think you can do it for \$185/hr.?

Mr. Makuch responded, other rinks are charging \$185/hr. He has no control over what Tri-Town charges. It is basically supply and demand, people are willing to pay that much money because there is such a demand for ice. We could easily charge \$200/hr. and all of your revenue would go up. We are listing \$185/hr. and we only considered 90% of that and we could make money on the rink. We could charge more and get it. Tri-Town charges \$260/hr. because of the demand.

Mr. Knight complimented everyone who worked on the numbers and spreadsheets. It was a very thorough examination of all of the financials. He asked, what is the initial operating money that will be needed before the anticipated revenues come on board? Every start-up business has to have a certain amount of money put aside to handle the cash flow and immediate bills before the revenue stream is generated. How is that covered?

Mr. Makuch responded, all of the organizations who were involved in the start-up of the Cromwell rink had to sign contracts ahead of time and pay in advance. The Hawks currently pay their contract in advance. There was a decision to get the start-up fee from those contracts.

Mr. Knight stated that the organization would have one months' revenue in advance and anyone who runs a business knows that is cutting it pretty close for cash flow.

Mr. Makuch responded, he does not run a business but a youth hockey organization and every group that he has dealt with has paid its bills and if he had signed contracts for all the ice rentals in his hand from the reputable organizations that he has dealt with, he would feel confident that he could pay his bills.

Mr. Knight examined the spreadsheet very carefully and felt that he could speak for most of the Councilors this evening in saying that they did the exact same thing. He found a few numbers that he did not agree with and Mr. Migliaro and a few other people went out and produced other numbers. By and large the numbers are realistic but it does come down to a few questions one of which has to do with, if this is a service that with the temper of the times not only in Connecticut but nationwide...is the kind of investment that government should be making now? He understands a lot of the arguments regarding the students at Lyman Hall, the youth hockey teams, etc., but government in the 1960s, '70s, and '80s and Weicker who would invest in practically anything, in the past has found it easy to go out and bond projects whether it is the federal government passing grants down to the states and the states passing the grants down to the towns and we found ourselves, at least on the federal level, \$4 trillion in the hole not because of hockey rinks but because of a whole number of factors but the philosophy still exists. This is not an investment that is without risk. We know that because the banks that the Town deals with said that we could not float revenue bonds; you would have to issue general obligation bonds. Revenue bonds are predicated on our revenue stream in order for the bondholders to be assured that the money is going to be paid back. Those kind of bonds take an interest rate well above what has been assumed here. What we are assuming here is a general obligation bond where the Town issues bonds and the taxpayers take the risk. A lot of people may be saying that there is no risk; of course there is a risk. If the revenue stream stops, for what ever reason, then this project is quickly in the whole and who gets to pay?, the taxpayers; all 41,000 people in Wallingford will pay. For me it gets down to, what is the proper role for government, especially local government in the 1990s? The federal government has gone on the cuff with the hope that projects such as these will recover their costs, with the hope but with the knowledge that if they did not make their bills that Mr. and Mrs. Taxpayer will pick up the tab. The federal government just wrote checks; "just write another check" was their solution; we can't do that here. We are going to go to everyone in town and say, "I'm sorry but it seemed like a good idea at the time but then Cheshire built a couple of rinks, North Branford decided that they would build a rink, a private developer in North Haven decided to build a rink, and where we were getting \$185/hr. now we are only getting \$150/hr. because there is that much more competition available." These are the things that this body and the Mayor, of course, has to consider. These are the very difficult decisions. I see some very good friends out here and I hope that they will remain my very good friends after this is over. We are charged with many responsibilities and the most important of which is to see that the money that Wallingford taxpayers put up is spent for the benefit of the most number of taxpayers and their hard earned money is put at as little risk as possible. I wish very much that I could support this project, I think that there may be some other

permutations that may be a little more palatable but at this time when I am being asked, on behalf of the taxpayers, to assume a risk for the next twenty years, I am afraid that I am not in the position to do that.

Mr. Wall responded, I do not disagree with anything Mr. Knight said, however, the big investment here, today, is the youth of the Town. The Rink Committee are all taxpayers of this Town; two of them are the largest businessmen in this town. All these issues were considered and until we had compiled all the facts and figures the committee, themselves, were also not strong advocates of a rink. Now, we are convinced that it will not cost the town anything. We are concerned also and have been all along, and I am not certain why the Council has not considered that fact.

Mr. Knight responded, those facts were considered.

Mr. Centner stated, he, too, thoroughly reviewed the numbers and concurs with Mr. Knight's position and principle. He also was looking for other alternatives for this hockey rink and he is the one that suggested that the Town look through the Board of Education to see if it could be absorbed through them but the State no longer recognizes that avenue. One of the concerns he has is the latest presentation of numbers shows that the committee has a bottom line of excess funds to reserve in the \$52,000 range and Mr. Wall stated earlier that all the numbers in the report are solid and he would stand by them.

Mr. Migliaro explained, the only difference between the first set of numbers and the second set was, in the committee's meeting with Mr. Knight two issues were raised that were not addressed; one being depreciation. There is only a couple of numbers that are different. The revenues and expense; the top half of the page are identical and the totals are identical. The depreciation on the building and the fixtures and equipment was added after Mr. Migliaro had a long meeting with Mr. Myers who provided the second page that was attached to the numbers referred to as the bond payment schedule. Actual figures were substituted for the debt service that the committee had proposed. It is actually cheaper as a bond at 6% than the way the committee had calculated it as a traditional mortgage with interest. The difference is in the debt service payments of around \$230,000. vs. \$240,000. on the original projection. The debt was calculated different and depreciation was added which gave the Council a different number. If you look at the Net Income of \$40,751. that is almost identical to what the original numbers were.

Mr. Centner asked, you have come up with the \$52,000 bottom line figure because you have reinserted your depreciation as a source of income?

Mr. Migliaro responded, yes.

Mr. Centner stated that he is at a loss, everyone is confident of their numbers and he appreciates that however, with that kind of dollars going excess funds to reserves he is at a loss as to why this project could not be funded privately because at an 8% loan you are looking at a total burden debt service of \$300,000. and you are serving your debt at \$231,000. at 6%. That is roughly the difference and Mr. Makuch stated earlier that if you had to you could increase your rates to cover things.

Mr. Migliaro asked, where do you think you could get a loan at 8% with no money down and no land for collateral?

Mr. Centner stated, there was rumor that the committee may be able to obtain land at no charge from someone and they had backing from bigger businesses of undetermined amounts. He is not sure why further efforts have not been made to look into it as a private investment matter. The numbers are close in terms of an ongoing operation level.

Mr. Migliaro responded, he is yet to see any bank that will finance at 8% without 50% down on a commercial investment for a private matter.

Mr. Myers stated, the rate in the commercial market is driven by the collateralization factor. It would be much higher than a municipal rate but it will depend on the applicant. It will probably be higher than 8%.

Ms. Papale asked, what sites have been considered by the committee? Is there any specific site in mind?

Mr. Wall responded, one site the committee considered is by Community Lake where the Boy's Club was going to put their building. Some other private buildings were considered but he did not want to comment on them.

Ms. Papale stated, the rumor is that Cheshire is building a skating rink. Is this true?

Mr. Makuch responded, Cheshire wants a rink very badly but they want it privately funded and that is the reason the Hawks are not going to Cheshire. A private developer would like to put a rink in but currently it is not feasible for him to do so. They are not putting a rink in to his knowledge for the individual developer is not pursuing the project, two of the reasons being that the cost of the private financing was too costly and the site that Cheshire was going to provide was found to be unsuitable.

Mr. Parisi asked, when did you get that information?

Mr. Makuch responded, within the past month.

Mr. Parisi stated, we have been informed that it looks as if it will be a "go".

Mr. Makuch commented, if there is a rink that is a "go" in Cheshire he spoke, today, with the Athletic Director at Cheshire High School and he emphatically told Mr. Makuch that he would love to rent ice at Wallingford's rink and he knew of no rink in Cheshire. If someone was putting a rink in Cheshire the athletic department is not aware of it at the high school and Mr. Makuch feels that they would be the first people to contact to do a survey.

Mr. Parisi stated, the Council and Mayor is getting information that it is looking extremely possible.

Mr. Migliaro asked, is it going to be a privately funded project?

Mr. Parisi responded, yes.

Mr. Migliaro stated, it seems as though there is a major misunderstanding here regarding the cost of funding privately and publicly. It has got to be at least 9.5% or 10% funding.

Mr. Parisi stated, he is just telling the committee about the information that was given them. If it is private and someone wants to risk their money, what is he going to say?

Mr. Migliaro responded, I am not saying risk their money but when you plug the different cost of debt service into the same equation you are going to have to generate a lot more revenues to cover it.

Mr. Parisi agreed 100% but stated he is only informing the committee of the very good information they received that there is going to be a rink in Cheshire. In fact, there may be two rinks.

Mr. Migliaro stated, I would not care if Cheshire built a rink or North Branford but if they are done with private money they are going to have to charge a lot more than \$185/hr.

Mr. Parisi did not know the specifics around the charge for ice time but stated that he has very solid information that Cheshire is going to have two rinks.

Ms. Papale stated, what Mr. Migliaro is saying is, if there is a rink built in Cheshire then Wallingford would make out better if they also had a rink because our prices would be lower. She asked, how many Wallingford residents play hockey?

Mr. Makuch responded, in our league alone, 66% of the 387 children are from Wallingford. Some residents play in other leagues.

Ms. Papale asked, would it be used for other programs besides hockey?

Mr. Makuch answered, yes, at least 50% of the time it would be donated to other skating sports such as general recreation and figure skating. Those individual groups that did not rent ice, for example during public skating there will be a fee charged for those people who would like to come and just skate.

Ms. Papale stated, she also reviewed the numbers and spoke to a committee member. She believes that the numbers are realistic. This committee and people involved spent a great deal of time getting together and knowing that we have people in town who would check out everything...she has not heard from anyone that the figures are unrealistic or that it could not work if everything went as planned. She has complete confidence that the figures are correct. Maybe there are risks but the way that everything has been researched by the committee, she believes that the committee would be proven right. She may be very popular with everyone seated in the audience tonight...she received only two calls from people involved in with the skating rink and the same amount of calls from people opposed to it...she felt that she was speaking for all the Councilors saying that she believes that none of the Councilors vote with the thought of whether it will garnish or cost them votes during an election. Although she may be popular with the audience tonight after casting her vote she is sure she will encounter people who will be upset with the way she voted as well. She has many friends involved in the sport and is very aware of the time and effort they put into it therefore she feels that this group needs to have chance to have a rink in our town.

(applause)

Geno Zandri, Jr., 37 Hallmark Drive stated, I am disappointed by some of the comments made by the Council. This is a very important project. In serving on the Council for the number of years that I did, I am well aware of the workings of the Town and what the Town is capable of doing. I have always said that it is just a matter of how we manage our dollars. This administration has to take a hard look at itself when this administration can turn around and take a business that this town owns and take the money that we generate from that business that belongs to the residents of Wallingford and take that money and subsidize big business with it and in turn deny the residents of this town a rink like this; you have to take a hard look at yourselves. That is exactly what is happening. We are taking the resident's dollars and subsidizing big business and then are saying no to a project like this. Think

about it.

(applause)

Mr. Parisi commented, I challenge you to find a town that is run any better than the Town of Wallingford is, financially.

Mr. Zandri responded, it is a matter of opinion.

Mr. Parisi stated, it speaks for itself in the way that the financial posture of this town reads, it is the envy of the towns around us in the area.

Mr. Zandri responded, if you don't do anything, sure you can be well off.

Mr. Parisi answered, we managed to get it done anyway and that is just my response to your comment.

Walt Schrenker, 1 Grandview Court stated, I sit here and I watch the Town Council on television...you want to spend \$1.2 million to make a "fix" down here at Community Pool, how many people go there and use the facility? How much money does the Town make or recoup from that? You are spending \$2 million on this recreation center that I don't think anyone up here put as much time in as they did for this rink. You went and bought this building (Fairfield Blvd.) and you are spending \$1 million to renovate it for who? Who is going to use it? I sit here and listen....you want to put in a golf course, who will subsidize that? Right here, the taxpayers. (applause) I don't think you are going to get one person in this place to vote for your golf course.

Mr. Parisi stated, I don't think that statement is realistic because we have not yet even dealt with the golf course.

Mr. Schrenker continued, I sit here and listen to all this nonsense and I have had it up to here.

(applause)

Mr. Wall asked, how much does the possibility of Cheshire building a rink influence your vote, Mr. Chairman? How long will you wait to see if they build a rink in Cheshire? Evidently that fact is weighing heavy on your decision.

Mr. Parisi responded, it is merely a consideration, it is not weighing heavily on the decision. The rink in North Branford has to also be a consideration as well as the talk about the rink in North Haven. It was in the New Haven Register yesterday.

Mr. Makuch stated that he has been involved in hockey for a long time and other people involved in hockey will substantiate this statement; the rumors of new rinks among hockey and skating enthusiasts are rampant. As long as he has been involved there is always a new rumor of a new rink being built somewhere. He has gone to the building department, there is nothing being considered in North Branford, I checked; there is nothing being considered in North Haven and there is nothing being considered in Cheshire. I have spoken to all the people who rent ice; anyone who would consider putting up a rink without a youth hockey organization or figure skating organization to back them; to anchor that group and to be able to count on that revenue would be out of their minds. Of all the groups that he has contacted, none have been contacted by anyone in Cheshire, North Haven or North Branford to be part of a proposed rink project. Anyone who is considering building a rink must have all the money that they need and does not need to generate revenue.

Mr. Parisi responded, that may be and I am not going to question their operational plans. I will not debate the issue regarding Cheshire but we have it on very good source from Town officials in Cheshire. If they are lying then let it be. I don't believe that they would.

Mr. Renda stated, when the committee appeared before the Council last I left an open window; you had your ideas and you brought them forth. That night I told you that I would discuss the matter with the Mayor, Comptroller and my colleagues. If the Town could afford it I think we would go for it; most likely we would go for it but the Town has serious projects coming up. When I ran for this seat one obligation I had was, what was in the best interest of the Town. Now with this, it looks pretty good but we are talking about all the good stuff, not what could happen. If that ever happens it will put a burden on the Town and the taxpayers. Don't get me wrong, I am all for the ice rink but I talked with the Mayor to find out what the Town could afford or could not afford. If we could come up, cut corners, and do what we had to do like we did in our budget, we still ran short with the budget...but we have to go by what is on this side of the fence. We are in a position now with our projects where we cannot take gambles. We cannot afford to take a loss. I gave you the opportunity, I want to commend you for doing a real good job. If the dollars were here and it was guaranteed or if they could come up with the dollars, I am all for it. I told you that before. I believe in investing in our youth because of the pay off...the numbers are astonishing. In this business you learn one thing, you are going to make friends and you are going to lose friends. I don't want to make any enemies and I don't want to lose any friends. You have to listen to our side of it. I have received thirty-nine or forty calls between Friday night and Sunday. In reviewing the paperwork, some of the figures made sense and some were questionable but I have to think about what is in the best interest of the Town.

With all the projects coming forth it is a bad time. Perhaps two years down the road, come back and if the dollars are there we will go for it. The committee did a heck of a job and I want to commend you for it.

Mr. Wall stated, I, too, have spent many years on that side of the fence. You have to think what is best for the people of the Town, not only the dollars. I did not know this Town was so hard up. The youth of this Town are its future, are they worth the investment?, you people have to make the decision.

Mr. Doherty stated, as I look at this situation I see a growing town; a town that needs additional places of recreation; it is a good investment. We built in the last couple of years a new boy's club with a gym in a private neighborhood; we are in the process of building a new recreation center that will also have a gym in another part of town; we have a new Yalesville School under construction with a new gym in that building; we are renovating Community Pool; we possibly may do Community Lake; all kinds of family activity; all pluses for the town. This town also has a history in terms of ice sports, hockey especially. We have 387 participants in this particular program spending \$150,000 of our money out of town. They could be spending it here. We have a Aa credit rating; we set aside \$3.9 million that is sitting there to back up that credit rating; we should use that credit rating to bond the rink. (applause) This town can afford this facility. Don't believe that it can't. We can afford these other projects, too. It is run fiscally sound and we can do these things. There is a risk in doing everything. I am sure the Electric Division people who built the Pierce Plant thought there was a risk in starting an electric company but it is paying pretty good dividends now.

Mr. Doherty stated: I would like to make a motion to move that the Town of Wallingford commit itself to bonding for the construction of an ice rink. Seconded by Ms. Papale.

(applause)

VOTE: Doherty and Papale, aye; all others, no; motion failed.

Mr. Wall asked the Council at this time to dismiss the Ice Rink Committee.

Motion was made by Mr. Farrell to Disband the Ice Rink Committee with Commendations for Their Hard Work and Dedication, seconded by Mr. Centner.

Mr. Doherty asked, if Cheshire does not build a rink does the possibility exist that some of the Councilors may change their mind?

Mr. Parisi responded, I don't think that was the main problem, I think it was one of the factors. One of the primary differences was philosophical....does the Town have the right to take taxpayer's money and become involved in a speculative investment? That was the issue Mr. Parisi wrestled with.

Mayor Dickinson stated, one of the chief issues was that there are private parties who are coming forward in these other communities.

Mr. Parisi stated, if anyone could find a private party, I would venture to say; and I don't very often speak for this Council; we would find you some land for nothing; that I could almost guarantee that we would do. If we could net one of these private investors with a lot of money, I would be only too happy to be right there with you, I sincerely mean that. That is something to be considered, I would have no problem with it then. It is just that I question the use of public money. I have said that before and that is my decision. The door may be closed but it is not locked.

Mr. Centner concurred with Mr. Parisi.

Mr. Zappala stated, as I told you before, Mr. Wall, it would be much easier to have a couple of towns involved with this effort; the burden would be much less on the Town; the cost would be a lot easier to handle. It was my hope that you would have found another town to become affiliated with the project and go through it together. I am sure you would have had the support of the Council.

Mr. Wall stated, you can give me all kinds of excuses; I am not surprised with the vote, tonight. I am very disappointed. Please take a vote on dismissing the committee.

Mr. Zappala stated, one person who will be disappointed is my son at home, he takes his grandchildren to Hamden. That is a commitment that he made and my grandson is going to play hockey and he is going to do what he can to take him there. You also have to understand the feeling that we have on this side of the table. We feel pretty strongly about recreation but we also have to consider the taxpayers.

VOTE: Doherty and Papale, no; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #7 Consider and Approve a Resolution Establishing the Board of Education as the Building Committee for the Vo-Ag Equipment Grant, Authorizing the Preparation of a Plan/Specifications for the Vo-Ag Equipment Grant and Authorizing the Superintendent of Schools to File an Application for a School Project in Order to Fund the Vo-Ag Equipment Grant

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Approve the Resolution and Append a Copy of it to the Minutes, seconded by Ms. Papale (Appendix III).

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #8 Consider and Approve an Appropriation of Funds in the Amount of \$239,960 to Estimated Revenue State of CT. Vo-Ag Equipment Grant and to Expenditures, Vo-Ag Equipment Grant - Board of Education

Motion was made by Mr. Rys, seconded by Mr. Centner.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville asked for an explanation of this grant.

Mr. Rys explained that the State of Connecticut has agreed to fund specific items identified by the administrators of the Vo-Ag Program as equipment needed to facilitate the VO-Ag Program. He listed items; VCR monitors, tractors, manure spreaders, scanners, cameras, to name a few, stating that the entire list of equipment identified totalled \$239,960. If approved by the Town, the State of Connecticut will mostly likely approve the funding and the Vo-Ag Program will receive all the equipment listed.

Mr. Doherty questioned the need for \$50,000 worth of networking software for the computers.

Wilford Schultz, Department Head of the Agricultural Program at Lyman Hall High School responded, there are twenty computers in operation in the department. The software would allow for the installation of a networking system. We cannot purchase software unless it is included as part of the total package. We will also acquire a server and we will upgrade the machines so that they will work off of the server, plus connect us to any services available at that time.

Mr. Doherty commented that a VCR monitor listed at \$600 seems to be very costly.

Mr. Schultz responded, on one of our previous equipment grants it cost approximately \$500 for a professional VCR model to match with a monitor. Unfortunately, the monitor was removed from the building.

Mr. Doherty then asked, since some of the equipment was stolen have any additional security measures been taken?

Mr. Schultz answered, we do have security monitors in place currently. The equipment was taken prior to the installation of the cameras. Motion sensors have since been installed in all areas where movable equipment is located.

Mr. Doherty reviewed requests for a copier machine at a cost of \$11,000., saddles for \$3,000., riding lockers and six (6) 35mm cameras.

Mr. Schultz explained that the \$11,000 is an estimated figure to work with for purchasing a copier. With regards to the saddles, the program presently owns one horse and has three others available for use at any time. The \$3,000 should allow for the purchase of three or four saddles, depending upon the bidding process results. Other than hall lockers, the department does not have lockers to store riding equipment and clothes in. The six cameras are a conservative number to purchase considering the fact that the class is comprised of fifteen students. The department currently owns a few cameras which are being shared among the students.

Mr. Doherty was satisfied with the information provided by Mr. Schultz and concluded his line of questioning with regards to the Vo-Ag grant.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ADDENDUM #14 Consider and Approve a Waiver of Bid to Allow for Necessary Repairs to a Sewer Main in the Stream Bed of Meeting House Brook - Sewer Division

Motion was made by Mr. Rys, seconded by Mr. Centner.

The recent storm event occurring on April 16, 1996 resulted in significant erosion in a section of Meeting House Brook. This erosion included the washout of rip rap covering and protecting a section of sanitary sewer main within the stream channel. This section of pipe is now exposed within the stream bed and has been seriously undermined resulting in pipe deflections. Although the sewer main is not currently leaking as a result of the damage, another storm event would almost certainly result in pipe failure. The Sewer Division is requesting a waiver of bid in order to proceed with the necessary repairs at the earliest possible time. It is anticipated that the Division will attempt to obtain a minimum of three quotes from prospective contractors and if a waiver of bid is approved, issue a purchase order to the lowest quoting contractor available to begin the work immediately.

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VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ADDENDUM #15 Consider and Approve an Appropriation of Funds in the Amount of \$75,000 to the Maintenance Reserve Account and to Increase Maintenance Collection System Account #673-000 - Sewer Division

Motion was made by Mr. Rys, seconded by Ms. Papale.

This appropriation is being requested to fund the necessary work to repair the sewer main in Meeting House Brook.


VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Adjourn the Meeting, seconded by Mr. Centner.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:54 P.M.

Meeting recorded and transcribed by:



Kathryn F. Milano
Town Council Secretary

Approved by:


Robert N. Parisi, Chairman

May 14, 1996
Date


Rosemary A. Rascati, Town Clerk

May 15, 1996
Date