

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 11, 1996

6:30 P.M.

AGENDA

Blessing - Reverend Robert C. Hass - Zion Lutheran Church

1. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call
2. Consent Agenda
 - a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#331-333) Totalling \$162.89 - Tax Collector
 - b. Consider and Approve a Transfer of \$165,791.65 from the Grand List to the Suspense Tax Book to Comply with State Statute #12-165 - Tax Collector
 - c. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$4,000 from Maintenance of Vehicles Acct. to Telephone Acct. - Dept. of Fire Services
 - d. Note for the Record Anniversary Increases Approved by the Mayor
 - e. Note for the Record Mayoral Transfers Approved by the Mayor to Date
3. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda
4. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD
5. Report Out by Recycling Ad Hoc Committee on the Residential Disposal Program
6. Consider and Approve the Departmental Bid Waiver List for F.Y. 1996-97
7. PUBLIC HEARING to Approve a List of Municipal Projects to be Submitted to the State Under the Neighborhood Assistance Program - 7:45 P.M.

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SUMMARY

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3. Withdrawn	
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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 11, 1996

6:30 P.M.

A regular meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was held on Tuesday, June 11, 1996 in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall and called to Order by Chairman Robert F. Parisi at 6:32 P.M. All Councilors answered present to the Roll called by Town Clerk Rosemary A. Rascati with the exception of Councilor Knight who was unable to attend due to a previous business engagement. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Assistant Town Attorney Gerald Farrell, Sr. and Comptroller Thomas A. Myers were also present.

A blessing was bestowed upon the Council by Reverend Robert C. Hass of the Zion Lutheran Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the Flag.

Mr. Parisi extended congratulations to Albert Killen who was the recent recipient of the Wallingford Rotary Club's Citizen of the Year Award.

ITEM #2 Consent Agenda

ITEM #2a Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#331-333) Totalling \$162.89 - Tax Collector

ITEM #2b Consider and Approve a Transfer of \$165,791.65 from the Grand List to the Suspense Tax Book to Comply with State Statute #12-165 - Tax Collector

ITEM #2c Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$4,000 from Maintenance of Vehicles Account to Telephone Account - Dept. of Fire Services

ITEM #2d Note for the Record Anniversary Increases Approved by the Mayor

ITEM #2e Note for the Record Mayoral Transfers Approved by the Mayor to Date

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

VOTE: Knight was absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #3 Withdrawn

ITEM #4 PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD - Frank Wasilewski, 57 North Orchard Street questioned the reason behind the need to transfer \$4,000 into the Fire Department's telephone account at

this point in the fiscal year?

Mayor Dickinson explained that the Fire Department had budgeted for a lower telephone service rate expecting the bidding process to have been complete and new rates in effect at this time. Unfortunately, the timeframe did not fall out as expected and the department is experiencing the prolonging of an existing rate subsequently resulting in a larger than expected telephone expense.

Mr. Wasilewski next asked, does the Town have one universal telephone service and computer system?

Mayor Dickinson responded, the bidding process drives the purchases of individual departments. Also, different buildings belong to different Town departments which makes it very difficult to standardize equipment and services.

Mr. Wasilewski stated that the Town could save money on its telephone service by having a telephone company come in and perform a survey/study of our equipment and service.

Albert E. Killen, 150 Cedar Street asked, have any of the Councilors reviewed a copy of the CMEEC (CT. Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative) contract with regards to the generation of electricity at the Pierce Plant?

Mr. Parisi responded, the Council is in receipt of a copy of the contract.

Mr. Killen asked, when was the contract passed by the P.U.C.?

Mr. Centner responded, almost two years ago.

Mr. Killen stated that Mr. Centner was referring to the wrong contract. The contract that I am referring to is the contract that sets out terms for CMEEC to use the Pierce Plant to produce electricity due to Northeast Utilities' inability to do so.

Mayor Dickinson stated, that is not a new contract, that is a relationship we have with CMEEC through the existing contract and CMEEC and Northeast have called upon the provisions of that contract in order to have Pierce operate. It is pursuant to the provisions of the contract that the Council entered into a couple of years ago.

William Cominos, General Manager of the Electric Division verified the Mayor's statement.

Mr. Killen stated, it states in the minutes of the P.U.C. and Council minutes that the P.U.C. is still negotiating with them. You cannot negotiate something that has already been signed. What is being called for now is not in the original contract. In the

original contract the town had the right at any time to do away with the Pierce Plant; should it be on a stand-by basis as it has been now, CMEEC could call on it at any given time to produce as much as it was capable of producing. What they are talking about now is bringing up to date the equipment that is in there now. That calls for a separate contract, there has to be an understanding of who is liable for what.

Mr. Parisi asked Mr. Cominos if he had information pertaining to Mr. Killen's point.

Mr. Cominos responded, CMEEC has agreed to see that the Pierce Plant is up and running by June 14th. They are going to do that at the expense of Northeast Utilities; no expenses to the Town, no liability to the Town; the plant was not running as of today but will be up and running, hopefully, by the 14th of this month. Any incremental costs that the Town would see would be absorbed by Northeast Utilities or through CMEEC.

Mr. Killen asked, where can I find that (in writing) Mr. Cominos?

Mr. Cominos responded, the agreement is being formulated between CMEEC and Northeast Utilities. That will be in writing.

Mr. Killen stated, it is not in writing now.

Mr. Cominos responded, no, it is not in writing. It has been forwarded to Northeast Utilities, I have seen the draft of it and it has been modified where we felt it should be modified and forwarded for Northeast's approval.

Mayor Dickinson stated, I think that we are getting confused over the operating agreement and the terms under which Northeast Utilities or CMEEC can utilize Pierce Plant.

Mr. Killen stated, there is nothing in that original contract that calls for what is being done now. As long as that plant was operable, CMEEC had the first crack at it. What we are talking about here now is a situation which developed because of the shortage and they now want to upgrade that plant. There is nothing in the original contract about upgrading the plant. This action calls for specific language that they will upgrade the plant and they will also take care of the fuel and personnel needs. These are all things that have to be reduced to writing and once done this Council has fifteen days in which to override any action taken by the P.U.C. on the contract. This action is being bypassed and the public is not in on anything that is going on here. It is up to the Council to know what is going on.

Mayor Dickinson responded, we can check into it. My understanding is that what is being done is pursuant to the contract that we have with CMEEC and Northeast. The actual details of this current use

of the Pierce Plant are being worked out between CMEEC and Northeast. But our making it available would be pursuant to the terms of the overall contract. We still own and have total control over the plant. We are allowing it to be used as part of a request from Northeast.

Mr. Killen asked, who are the "we" that is allowing the use of the plant?

Mayor Dickinson responded, the Town of Wallingford.

Mr. Killen stated, the Town of Wallingford is represented by this particular body and they don't even know what the agreement is. How can they enter into an agreement of which they know nothing about? The minutes of the May 7, 1996 P.U.C. meeting read as follows:

"Mr. Gessert: There is a major U.I. (United Illuminating) installation down in Bridgeport which is a fossil fuel plant.

Mr. Cominos: That will be out through the summer. N.U. (Northeast Utilities) is scurrying around trying to find generation. One of the areas that they are looking at is our Pierce Power Plant. The proposal, as it stands right now which has not been accepted by CMEEC or Wallingford at this point, is that N.U. is going to pick up the upfront costs of getting the two boilers we have at Pierce into operating condition, operate two of the three turbines and do some miscellaneous work that may come to about \$250,000. They would pay for all that. They would pay for all the incremental costs in running the plant namely, i.e., fuel, oil, overtime costs and if we have to bring in additional personnel, they would pay for that."

Mr. Killen went on to say, they have been informed that it is one thing to start Pierce up and another thing to keep it running. The point of it is that there were details that they had not agreed upon at this (P.U.C.) meeting. I have attended the two P.U.C. meetings held since that time and they have not yet agreed upon the terms. Somewhere along the line someone has an agreement alright, it is a gentlemen's agreement and we don't do business under those types of agreements. We are running a business here.

Mr. Parisi responded, I agree with that point. The contract is forthcoming and I would ask that we make every effort to expedite that process if it is possible.

Mr. Cominos commented, I do not want to mislead the Council but the Pierce Plant could have been requested to generate at any time. It was part of NEPEX's (New England Power Electric Exchange) generation, it was always part of it until such time as the Town decides to decommission it or whatever. That plant could have been asked to be put on line at any time. Northeast Utilities has said

that they will put the money in it so that we can operate it if called upon to do so. So it is part of an existing agreement and part of our obligation as a utility.

Mr. Parisi stated, that puts a different light on the situation.

Mr. Killen asked, why would it?

Mr. Parisi responded, it is part of an agreement.

Mr. Killen reiterated, it is part of an agreement with CMEEC and now CMEEC is saying to U.I. that they may operate that plant...we are not in on the deal one way or another. The Town is becoming liable for something that is in a gentlemen's agreement between two other parties now.

Mr. Parisi asked, where is the liability?

Mr. Killen responded, if anything goes wrong and a lawsuit develops because something did or did not happen, we are going to be part and parcel of that lawsuit.

Mr. Parisi answered, I don't think we would be because we are still operating under the CMEEC agreement.

Mr. Killen stated, you are not operating under the CMEEC agreement and I will apologize to all of you if anyone can find language which shows that we are operating under the CMEEC agreement.

Mr. Parisi responded, there are special considerations here, first of all there is an emergency situation developing.

Mr. Killen stated, we were told last month...and at that point we were told that they wanted the plant operating by June 14th. In the meantime they came forward with no paperwork to let you know what is going on. What is the sense of the Council having legislative oversight if you don't even know what is happening?

Mr. Parisi remarked, technically, we did not have to give any approval. It could have been asked to generate at any time.

Mr. Killen stated, fine, generate at any time but I am talking about the fact that the Town is faced with liability because these people (CMEEC/NEU) are coming in and doing something with our plant that is not agreed upon in writing. They are also supposed to supply....there is also no agreement on paying for the additional personnel, overtime, fuel, etc., how do we know they will pay for it all?

Mr. Parisi responded, I don't know, I don't know that they are going to pay for those things but I do know that they are going to

pay to refurbish the plant.

Mr. Killen responded, I am reading from the P.U.C.'s official minutes.

Mr. Parisi asked the P.U.C. and Mr. Cominos to do what they can even though there is a question....maybe the P.U.C. attorney, Gerald Farrell, Sr. can explain this better.

Mr. Cominos responded, Attorney Farrell, Sr. has not been involved in this matter.

Mr. Parisi responded, then you (Mr. Cominos) and Mr. Smith (P.U.C. Director) can come up with something that will be palatable to the public.

Mr. Cominos responded, I would be happy to forward any information that we have.

Philip Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street asked, can anyone tell me in the original contract what CMEEC agreed to do and under what conditions, in a simplistic explanation?

Mr. Cominos responded, the contract is a three inch binder. It is not a simple agreement. In essence, what they are saying in so far as Pierce Plant is concerned that they are going to give us \$675,000 a year whether we run the plant or not.

Mr. Wright asked, in the ten year contract that was signed a year ago or so with CMEEC, what was agreed to by CMEEC? What did we buy?

Mr. Cominos responded, a ten year contract with stable rates.

Mayor Dickinson added, a contract for the sale of electricity. We are purchasing electricity.

Mr. Wright remarked, for the sale, for the delivery, for which?

Mr. Cominos responded, for both.

Mr. Wright pointed out, they (CMEEC) are not going to be delivering they tell us. When I hire someone to do a job for me I expect them to deliver their service/goods. If a contractor does not provide the goods for which he is contracted to provide he is subject to being replaced. What in our CMEEC contract says that they must deliver? Somebody is accountable, if they are not then they should be.

Mr. Parisi stated, it is not CMEEC that is not delivering, it is farther up the line.

Mayor Dickinson stated, you are asking for a simple definition of the contract which is that we are supposed to purchase power from CMEEC and they are supposed to deliver the power. If they cannot do so, I am sure the contract makes reference to failure of any party to live up to the terms, and there certainly can be consequences, I suppose and I don't know this to be a fact, there would be an ability to terminate the contract. The question then is, where else will you get the power because no one else will have any power in CT., or capability of delivering power in CT? We would certainly not pay for power that we don't receive. The question is, if we terminate where else would we get electricity? We can have the Law Department look into exactly what the ramifications are but for us to talk here without reference to the contract has a greater chance of misleading than providing accurate information.

Mr. Wright responded, I have no other opportunity but here to talk about this. You now say you will have the attorney look into this? The horse is stolen. We are going to lock the barn door now?

Mr. Parisi stated, this CMEEC thing is not a bad deal. I am sure that the Council that voted on it was sure that it was.

Mr. Wright stated, if they are not going to provide the power to the Town then we have been sold a pig in a poke.

Mr. Parisi pointed out, anyone buying power right now has a pig in a poke. There are not many places that can guarantee 100% delivery of power.

Mr. Wright remarked, that may be but it does not resolve someone's responsibility when we have a signed contract.

Mr. Parisi stated, this is like beating a dead horse for we will not win on this issue. If you want to look into the contract we can do that but where do we go if we get out of it? We have to have a plan before we get out of it.

Mr. Wright stated, I want all of the elected officials to do what they think is the right thing to do for the citizens of this town.

Mr. Parisi stated, I feel that what we are doing is the best thing for the Town of Wallingford right now. We are on the right track. We know who goofed up, we cannot solve the problem. The matter is being addressed, a lot of people are talking to the entity responsible for this crises.

Mr. Cominos stated, the matter is being addressed by CMEEC. They are going back to the entities from which they purchase power and they will hold them responsible for their actions.

Mr. Wright added, the next step after rolling blackouts is rolling heads, somewhere. If we don't demand accountabilitywe were assured by all elected and appointed officials that we had the best contract going.

Mr. Parisi remarked, I am sure that was the way they felt, they could not perceive that a major supplier of power would fall flat on their face. There is no one in the State, with the exception of some of the people who should have been inspecting and checking, who could have known that this was going to happen. The inspectors are the ones that we should be upset with. Our staff, in working through CMEEC are doing what they can, legally.

Frank Wasilewski, 57 N. Orchard Street stated, two years ago when we had a contract with Northeast Utilities we would have to generate electricity when they called and asked us to do so. We signed a contract with CMEEC and we no longer have to produce electricity the proof of that is that we were close to shutting down the Pierce Plant for good. We don't have to produce electricity now if we don't want to. They cannot force us to do so.

Mr. Cominos responded, Wallingford's generation is part of the big generation picture today and if it is available and we can put it on the line it will go on the line, that is our obligation to the generation picture. If, at some time in the future, Wallingford decides to decommission Pierce, it becomes a moot point. We don't have to generate but it is part of the big generation picture. If asked to do so, we would not say no.

Mr. Wasilewski felt that Wallingford was being stepped on just a bit for he has not read of any other town trying to conserve electricity or doing anything to help the situation.

ITEM #5 Report Out by the Recycling Ad Hoc Committee on the Residential Disposal Program

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Hear the Report, seconded by Mr. Centner.

Mr. Rys read correspondence into the record from Don Roe, Program Planner which brought the Council up to date on its request to have Mr. Roe's office take a closer look at senior citizen coupon portion of the residential disposal program. The current program provides permit stickers and two free coupons per week to residents with Medicare cards and those sixty-five years of age and older. Just under 1,100 senior households participate in the program. On average, each senior or handicapped household uses about 1.2 coupons per week. Coupons not used in the designated week may not be used at any other time. The cost of the program in F.Y. 1994 was \$93,454., in F.Y. 1995, \$104,842 and the current year is expected to cost \$108,500. Because the current operating contract

expires 2/28/97, bids will be sought this fall or winter for an operator to run the Resident Disposal Program, with a new contract starting March 1, 1997.

The Program Planning Office met with the Ad Hoc Committee to review the Council's request. The Ad Hoc Committee agreed to the following recommendations for modification of the program beginning April 15, 1997 when new coupon books are issued:

1. Issue coupon books with 52 coupons in them. To provide greater flexibility in the use of coupons by senior and handicapped users, date coupons by quarter.
2. For those residents who register late for the program, reduce the number of coupons in the book to the number of weeks left in the program year.
3. Eliminate registration stickers.

The above-listed recommendations would reduce future year coupon reimbursement costs by approximately eleven percent and eliminate the printing charge for the registration stickers. At the same time it would only nominally impact senior and handicapped residents.

Mr. Roe explained that the committee is not seeking action at this point. It would be more appropriate to do so when bids are received and fees are set. At that point the committee will come before the Council with a fee resolution.

Mr. Centner asked, with the elimination of registration stickers how do we verify the user as qualified for the program?

Mr. Roe responded, they have to appear at Public Works and verify their residence in order to obtain coupons. That is the control factor. In terms of control beyond that point, there is none.

Mr. Centner stated, a senior who never intends to use the service could actually get a book of coupons and hand them to anyone.

Mr. Roe responded, that is correct.

Mr. Centner stated that the registration sticker was a second means of control over the system.

Mr. Roe remarked, not necessarily so. Some seniors have two vehicles that they switch between and they don't always take the one that has the sticker on it to the landfill. The vehicle identification ends up being more of a headache for people end up selling their cars with the identification sticker affixed to it. The control point is at the point of distribution. Is there a

true way of controlling the abuse of the program, not really. For the most part our sense in reviewing data collected over the past three years we don't detect that much abuse, the numbers don't change much.

Mr. Centner asked, do you expect other seniors to come forward to use the program once it becomes simpler when the vehicle identification component is removed?

Mr. Roe responded, our expectation in growth is related to the fact that our population is aging and that is where you see the increases; the number of people in that age group is increasing.

Mr. Centner asked, in the end do you have a feeling for the program, itself, in terms of its funding? Or are you going by what your estimate is and then request funding?

Mr. Roe answered, we report to the Council what the cost had been for the year. At this point it is difficult to speculate what the future costs to the community are going to be because we have not yet gone out to bid for the residential disposal program. Once the bids are received we will know much more accurately what the costs will be for F.Y. 1997-98.

Mr. Farrell asked, is there any law that mandates that we have this program to begin with? If not, please explain why the program was initiated to begin with.

Mr. Roe explained, there is no mandate.

Mario Tolla, Ad Hoc Committee Member stated, the program was started to be nice to seniors. At one time residents were allowed to bring their garbage to the landfill free. To help the seniors out we initiated this program.

Mr. Farrell remarked, it is nice to help the seniors but I wonder, given everything, if we need the program, given its costs.

Ms. Papale asked, what happens if a senior does not drive?

Mr. Roe responded, they can be provided transportation.

Ms. Papale stated, I am aware of a case where a senior did not drive and her grandson, who is not a Wallingford resident, would come to Wallingford and take her to the landfill so that she could dispose of her trash. How will that work now?

Mr. Roe responded, we don't anticipate any change in that.

Ms. Papale asked, if the coupon books are made out to people who reside in Wallingford and a relative has the coupon book, can they bring the trash or does the resident have to accompany them?

Mr. Roe responded, the senior must be in the vehicle.

Philip Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street asked, are we discussing reducing the number of trash bags that seniors will be allowed to bring to the landfill?

Mr. Roe answered, that is correct. Figures gathered over the past three years show that the usage rate is 1.12 bags/coupons per week. The proposal is to reduce it to one coupon per week, fifty-two coupons per year. Instead of the coupons expiring on a weekly basis, they will be dated on a quarterly basis which will give the senior households the flexibility to cover that 1.12 figure. We tried to average on a seasonal basis to see whether or not there was any possibility of essentially issuing coupons during the winter time or during months where there was high usage, low usage, etc., and basically we did not detect a way of accomplishing that. This proposed method seems to be a reasonable approach.

Mr. Wright asked, how much is it costing the Town now?

Mr. Roe answered, approximately \$100,000.

Mr. Wright remarked, I suspect that we can find \$100,000 to save the Town in a lot better ways than going through all kinds of gyrations to upset senior citizens. I believe that if the seniors and/or others read their agendas or watched the agenda listing on the television would not have any idea of what is being proposed here this evening; that they are being cut from two bags of trash per week to one. If we are going to discuss such a topic we should make it very clear to the public what we are talking about.

Mr. Parisi pointed out that this is merely a report out requested by the Council. There is no action being taken this evening.

Mr. Tolla stated, this is merely a proposal by the committee. I am hard-pressed to understand how a senior citizen, be it one or two in the household, can generate two bags of trash per week.

Mr. Wright asked, who will benefit from acting upon the proposals?

Mr. Parisi responded, the taxpayers of the Town.

Mr. Wright asked, are the haulers pushing this proposal?

Mr. Tolla responded, in all fairness to Mr. Wright, it is a benefit to the Town but also to the haulers. Walt Sawallich is an Ad Hoc Committee member who also happens to be a hauler in town. The senior program has taken away business from the haulers and we are trying to figure out a reasonable way to solve a problem. The proposed changes will help the haulers somewhat but if we eliminated the program altogether it would help them tremendously.

Lester Slie, 18 Green Street stated, the whole set up must be promoted by the haulers. If the haulers were such good-hearted people would they give the many elderly people in my neighborhood who do not drive a break on their trash removal? They only have one small paper bag of trash yet they are still charged the same amount as everyone else. One third of the population of this town is senior citizens and 97% of them pay their taxes in town. If the haulers want to fight the seniors they are in for a surprise. The Town can find some other place to save \$100,000.

Albert E. Killen, 150 Cedar Street stated, if there was an article in the paper detailing the proposal, I am sure that a large crowd would have been present this evening to change some votes. There are two sides to every coin and we must make sure that the coin is flipped. Allow the public their voice on this issue when the time comes.

On a separate matter, Mr. Killen asked, did we appoint a new P.U.C. commissioner this year?

Mr. Parisi responded, we re-appointed Michael Papale.

Mayor Dickinson stated, the coupons are issued in April and the program that is in effect now will continue on until next April.

Mr. Parisi pointed out that this report is being given very early in terms of the expiration of the program.

Mr. Tolla stated, he believed that an article appeared in yesterday's paper regarding the topics of discussion at this evening's meeting. He remembered the article mentioning the senior program.

Frank Wasilewski, 57 N. Orchard Street, stated that there are many programs in the Town that the Council can begin to look at carefully over the next year to see where funds can be cut or costs reduced, for example, Fairfield Boulevard. The Council recently voted unanimously to appropriate \$1.4 million more to Fairfield Boulevard. He urged the Council to vote unanimously against the proposal.

Mr. Zappala stated, the reason the committee came to the conclusions it did was due to the fact that the weight of the bags being brought to the landfill by seniors were below what was allowed. Consequently some people were using two bags when they could have used only one. This results in an expense to the Town. It was a waste of an extra coupon that we felt we could save.

Mr. Parisi thanked Mr. Roe and Mr. Tolla for their report this evening.

ITEM #6 Consider and Approve the Departmental Bid Waiver List for F.Y. 1996-97.

Mr. Rys stated that the list includes a lot of items that are proprietary to the works of computers, cars, etc., in the following departments; Finance, Fire, Police, Water & Sewer, Electric, Public Works, Board of Education, Planning & Zoning, and secretarial services for the Planning & Zoning Commission.

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

Mr. Wright asked, how much are we talking about in terms of dollars?

Thomas Myers, Comptroller responded, most of the dollar amounts are smaller, in the \$4,000-\$5,000 range. There are a few such as the C-Med agreement for the ambulance service which is \$52,000. They are the only provider of that service and all the area municipalities belong to C-Med. The sludge removal service provided by MDC is \$108,000. It is noted that the special transportation bid waiver from Yellow Cab for the Board of Education was removed from the list and it will be bid. The cost of the bid waivers for the Board of Education is approximately \$170,000.

Mr. Wright asked, what is the criteria used for determining who is placed on the list?

Mr. Myers responded, it is determined by the type of service or product being purchased.

Mr. Wright asked, does the bid waiver list change much from year to year?

Mr. Myers responded, four or five years ago the list was three to four times larger than it is today. We looked to whittle the list down five years ago starting with some serious reductions. We have bid many products and services for which waivers were granted in the past. We are getting to the point now with the list where there is little left to be removed.

Mr. Zappala asked, how many children does the special education transportation expense serve?

Dr. Cirasuolo, Superintendent of Schools responded, our best estimate is approximately thirty youngsters this year. The only time that we utilize taxi service is when it is less expensive than using AA Transportation which is the contractor for bus service to the Board of Education.

VOTE: Knight was absent; Farrell abstained; all others, aye;

motion duly carried.

The Chair declared a five minute recess at this time.

ITEM #7 PUBLIC HEARING to Approve a List of Municipal Projects to be Submitted to the State Under the Neighborhood Assistance Program

A list of the projects was read into the record by Mr. Rys (Appendix I).

Don Roe, Program Planner pointed out that a correction had been made to the summary list changing the YMCA program to YWCA. He distributed a corrected list to the Council.

Mr. Rys noted the correction for the record.

He next read the resolution into the record (Appendix II) authorizing the Mayor to Submit the List of Municipal Projects to the State Department of Revenue Services.

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Approve the Resolution and Corrected Summary List of the Neighborhood Assistance Program, seconded by Mr. Centner.

Mr. Roe explained, Wallingford, under the State Statute, is a conduit for the submittal of applications that go to the State. It is the responsibility of each organization that submits those applications and gets the approval to go out and line up companies and businesses that are willing to be supportive of their projects. We do not participate in that process in any way, shape or form. Not all of the agencies are successful in finding businesses to support them.

Mr. Wasilewski asked, who owns the little league field that is on the list for improvements?

Mr. Roe responded, Cytec. If a project is deemed approved by the State then businesses who pay taxes to the State can essentially divert tax dollars that would normally go to the State to that program agency.

Mr. Wasilewski asked, do you feel that the State will approve a lot of the grants?

Mr. Roe answered, there is a limit to the number of tax dollars that the State is willing to have diverted from its coffers. What happens is that there is a day when all of the potential donors have to line up and those get approved up to the point of the limit. It is something like \$2 million or \$3 million as set out in State Statute.

Mr. Wright asked, is it lighting for one field or all of them?

It was not determined how much lighting the grant is seeking nor for which fields.

The financial information sheet states that \$80,000 will be used for field modernization, \$30,000 for field amenities and \$18,000 for equipment.

Mr. Farrell asked, how do we go about letting eligible organizations in Wallingford know that they could apply for this program? There are only six organizations on this summary list who are located in Wallingford.

Mr. Roe responded, we do a press release; news account. We also facilitate a direct mailing to all the not-for-profit organizations. Over the years the State has had this program available. Ninety-nine percent of the organizations who would be eligible have, in some way, been made aware of it. In the past we have had more organizations respond; participation varies from year to year.

Mr. Farrell asked, is there some big limitation that is precluding people from knocking down the door to apply for this?

Mr. Roe responded, it has to do with the fact that most of the leg work is not upfront here but as you go out to beat the bushes trying to line up corporations, that is where the leg work comes in. My sense is, given what the general response has been and the averages, it is just not a major source of revenue.

Mr. Farrell stated that the library maintains a list of non-profit organizations in Wallingford and it may be worth spending \$5.00 to send all of them a mailing letting them know that this is coming up.

Mr. Roe responded, we presently do that.

Mr. Zappala asked, what percentage of the money requested is granted?

Mr. Roe answered, each year in November we do receive a report from the State on how successful the response has been. I can forward that information to you.

Mr. Doherty asked, do we have any way of knowing how many Wallingford people the State serves through this program?

Mr. Roe responded, no. The State has rendered that if a company only serves one person they can essentially apply through many communities that they provide services to.

Mr. Doherty referred to the Curtis Home's request for a multi-position recliner for their elderly program. He was of the opinion that this request does not seem appropriate for the grant.

Mr. Roe stated, some agencies have experienced very small amounts of contributions and it is my guess that they may already have someone lined up who will donate that piece of furniture.

Eleanor Durgan, Kingsland Avenue asked, who else besides the little league children would be using the fields at night?

Mr. Roe was not involved with the organization so he was unable to answer that question.

Ms. Durgan stated, I cannot understand why the Town would encourage children to be playing after dark when everyone is talking about placing curfews on the children to keep them in after dark to keep them out of trouble.

Mr. Roe made it clear that the Town is not encouraging such activity.

Mayor Dickinson stated, the summary list we submit pursuant to State law to allow for separate, private organizations to gain access to funding and encourage contributions to them. It has no direct contact with the Town.

Mr. Wasilewski stated that he is a non-profit organization and asked how he would get his name on the list?

VOTE: Knight was absent; Parisi abstained; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Rosemary A. Rascati, Town Clerk reminded everyone that June is Dog Licensing month.

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

VOTE: Knight was absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

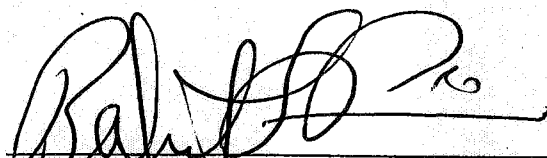
There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:14 P.M.

Meeting recorded and transcribed by:




Kathryn F. Milano
Town Council Secretary

Approved by:


Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

6-25-96

Date


Rosemary A. Rascati, Town Clerk

6-25-96

Date

Appendix I

SUMMARY LIST OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
June 11, 1996

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Meriden & Wallingford, Inc.	Business-to-School Mentoring Program @ EC Stevens School	\$ 20,000
The Curtis Home Corp.	<u>Children's Program</u> Curtis School Renovations	\$ 85,000
	Children's Work Experience Program	\$ 5,200
	Staff Training Program	\$ 3,000
	Summer Cottage Experience	\$ 2,000
	Children's Recreational Games and Equipment	\$ 1,500
	Winter Camping Trip	\$ 500
The Curtis Home Corp.	<u>Elderly Program</u> Handicap Accessible Vehicle	\$ 39,600
	House Care	\$ 12,000
	Multi-position Recliner	\$ 500
	Table Linens for the Elderly	\$ 450
Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center of Central CT, Inc.	Equipment Purchase Project/Improvements	\$ 25,000
Gaylord Hospital	The Patient Information Systems and Equipment Program	\$100,000
Ulbrich Boys & Girls Club	Youth Development	\$150,000
Wallingford Family YMCA	All Day Kindergarten	\$ 7,000
Wallingford Little League	Field Renovation/Lighting	\$140,000
YWCA	Classroom Improvement	\$ 25,000

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 12-631, the State of Connecticut has provided tax incentives for Connecticut businesses that donate to community programs under certain circumstances, and

WHEREAS, it is required under Connecticut General Statutes 12-631 that any municipality desiring to obtain benefits under the provisions of this Act shall, after holding at least one public hearing and after approval of the legislative bodies, submit to the Department of Revenue Services a list of programs eligible for investment by business firms under the provisions of this Act; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the best interest that the Town of Wallingford submit such a list to the State of Connecticut.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WALLINGFORD:

1. That after holding a public hearing on the list required under Connecticut General Statutes 12-631, the Town Council of the Town of Wallingford hereby approves the attached list entitled: Summary List of Neighborhood Assistance Programs, and
2. That the Mayor of the Town of Wallingford is hereby authorized and directed to submit to the Department of Revenue Services the approved list of programs eligible for investment by business firms and to provide such additional information; to execute such other documents as may be required by the Department to accept on behalf of the Town any funds available for those municipal programs on the list; to execute any amendments, recisions, and revisions thereto; and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Wallingford.

Certified a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Town of Wallingford at a meeting of its Town Council on June 11, 1996, and which has not been rescinded or modified in any way whatsoever.

(DATE)

(CLERK)