

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 22, 1997

6:30 P.M.

AGENDA

- Blessing - Rev. Terry Frizzel - Wlfd. Church of the Nazarene
1. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call
 2. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approve and Accept the Minutes of the March 25, 1997 Town Council Meeting
 - b. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#321-327) Totalling \$4,212.79 - Tax Collector
 - c. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$600 from Meetings, Seminars & Dues Acct. #001-5010-701-7990 to Gas & Oil Acct. #001-5010-300-3000 - Engineering
 - d. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$950 from Professional Services - Specialists Acct. #001-1320-901-9003 to Self-Insurance Claims Acct. #001-8030-800-8280 - Town Attorney
 - e. Consider and Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Preparation of Schematic Drawings and Reaffirming Designation of the Board of Education as the Building Committee and Reaffirming Authorization for the Superintendent to file an Application for a Construction Project in Order to Fund the Special Education Pre-School Relocation Project - Superintendent of Schools
 3. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda
 4. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD
 5. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$3,000 from Telephone Acct. #001-2030-201-2000 to Gas & Diesel Acct. #001-2030-300-3000 - Dept. of Fire Services
 6. Consider and Approve Accepting the Donation of a new Maverick Combination Tool to the Fire Department by the Firefighter's Union Local 1326 IAFF - Dept. of Fire Services

7. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$4,500 from General Wages Acct. #001-2005-101-1000 to Gasoline & Oil Acct. #001-2005-300-3000 - Dept. of Police Services
8. Consider and Approve an Appropriation of Funds in the Amount of \$5,000 to Charges for Current Services (Outside Work) Acct. #001-2005-1065-060-6020 (Revenue Line) and to Outside Contractor Pay Acct. #001-2005-101-1800 (Expense Line) - Dept. of Police Services
9. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$9,000 from Overhead Doors - Bldg. #10 Acct. #001-5015-999-9983 to Purchased Professional Services Tree Contract Acct. #001-5015-901-9023 - Dept. of Public Works
10. Consider and Approve a Waiver of Bid to Retain McGladrey & Pullen, LLP as Consultants to Provide Contract Review and Oversee Purchase and Implementation of an Interim Computer System at the Electric Division - Electric Division
11. Consider and Approve an Appropriation of Funds in the Amount of \$25,000 from Retained Earnings Acct. to Office Furniture & Equipment Acct. #391 - Electric Division
12. Consider and Approve a Waiver of Bid for the Purchase of a Unisys Interim Computer System for the Electric Division - Electric Division
13. Consider and Approve an Appropriation of Funds in the Amount of \$221,000 from Retained Earnings Acct. to Office Furniture & Equipment Acct. #391 - Electric Division

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 22, 1997

6:30 P M.

ADDENDUM TO AGENDA

14. Report Out by the Mayor on the Status of the Creation of a Health Director for the Town of Wallingford
15. Report Out on the Flood Control Measures
 - Meetinghouse Brook Study
 - Effect of Harbor Brook Project in Meriden Upon Wallingford

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 22, 1997

6:30 P.M.

SUMMARY

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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 22, 1997

6:30 P.M.

A regular meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was held on Tuesday, April 22, 1997 in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall and called to Order by Chairman Robert F. Parisi at 6:33 P.M. All Councilors answered present to the Roll called by Town Clerk Rosemary A. Rascati with the exception of Councilor Knight who was vacationing out of town with his family and Councilor Papale who was celebrating the Jewish holiday of Passover. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and Comptroller Thomas A. Myers were also present. Asst. Town Attorney Gerald Farrell, Sr. arrived at 6:28 P.M.

A blessing was bestowed upon the Council by Rev. Terry Frizzel of the Wallingford Church of the Nazarene.

A moment of silence was observed for Edward Glazewski, former Registrar of Voters of the Town of Wallingford.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the Flag.

Mr. Parisi acknowledged the efforts of a dozen or so students of Lyman Hall High School who displayed creativity and initiative by competing in the DECCA contest. They all returned with awards. Their teacher, Bill Paquette, was out of the country so they took it upon themselves to prepare for and compete in the contest. They did an outstanding job and should be acknowledged for it.

Kate Murphy, who placed second in a national speaking competition, was in attendance to give those present her Voice of Democracy speech that won her the national recognition. Ms. Murphy was sponsored by the Yalesville chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Ms. Murphy thanked the VFW for all their support, particularly Mr. Robert Fulton for his help for without it she would not have been able to compete.

ITEM #2 Consent Agenda

ITEM #2a Approve and Accept the Minutes of the March 25, 1997 Town Council Meeting

ITEM #2b Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#321-327) Totalling \$4,212.79 - Tax Collector

ITEM #2c Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$600 from Meetings, Seminars & Dues Acct. #001-5010-701-7990 to Gas & Oil Acct. #001-5010-300-3000 - Engineering

ITEM #2d Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$950 from Professional Services - Specialists Acct. #001-1320-901-9003 to Self-Insurance Claims Acct. #001-8030-800-8280 - Town Attorney

ITEM #2e Consider and Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Preparation of Schematic Drawings and Reaffirming Designation of the Board of Education as the Building Committee and Reaffirming Authorization for the Superintendent to File an Application for a Construction Project in Order to Fund the Special Education Pre-School Relocation Project - Superintendent of Schools

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

VOTE: Knight and Papale were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #3 Withdrawn

PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville asked if there has been a change in status with the Town-owned Durham Property?

Mayor Dickinson responded, nothing has changed.

Mr. Melillo asked, what is the status of the Senior Citizen Center project?

Mayor Dickinson responded, they are developing specifications for hiring an architect which will soon be going out to bid.

Mr. Melillo asked, will it be a new building or an addition to the existing center?

Mayor Dickinson answered, the specifications encompasses both situations. It looks for feasibility review of using the current site for either new construction or renovation.

Mr. Melillo asked for a status report out on the excavation problem that Bristol-Myers experienced and D.E.P. is investigating.

Mr. Farrell, Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Liaison Committee of the Council, informed Mr. Melillo that P&Z is working on the issue. There is an application not only before P&Z but possibly before Inland Wetlands also. A hearing is scheduled for some time in May to specifically address the excavation issue and the fact that there is matter going down stream.

Dan Donahue, 309 Long Hill Road expressed his concern over the fact that 60% of the pension fund is invested in the stock market which is very volatile. Since the fund is overfunded, is very successful and the Town has achieved its goal, there should be a lot of thought given to the idea of taking the funds out of the stock market. The money could be placed in fixed income, safe investments which pay 5-6% tax free. It would be negligent to leave it in the stock market. You are gambling with the Town's money. There is a good chance that you could lose 20-30% in a matter of a few weeks.

Mr. Myers stated, the Town is tax-exempt and we pay no State or Federal taxes. There is no question, it is a very edgy market.

Albert E. Killen, 150 Cedar Street protested the approval of a resolution on the consent agenda without the entire resolution before the Council. How does it benefit the Town to be able to take it to referendum if the townspeople have no idea what the resolution embodies?

With regards to the budget Mr. Killen asked, where does the money which preserves the integrity of our bonds appear in the budget book?

Mayor Dickinson responded, it is not part of an operating budget. The budget you hold in your hand is only a part of the financial picture of the Town.

Mr. Killen asked if it is true that \$4 million of the Town's money is available for appropriation?

Mayor Dickinson responded, that is correct.

Mr. Killen stated, this Council spent a few hours and cut back the budget so that the mill rate would not go up and there was \$4 million staring them right in the face without cutting anything out of the budget. If you add to that \$4 million the fact that there is money in the contingency fund which is there for no particular reason and besides that the fact that within six months of the adoption of this budget there will be money available again because the auditors will have closed the books and we will have next year's surplus available. Why isn't the mill rate going down? These monies are there, why isn't the mill rate going down?

Mayor Dickinson responded, because we do not appropriate all funds for operating budgets. Our financial picture is reviewed by auditors, by credit rating agencies and we get high marks. The reason being, in part, because we do not appropriate every dollar for operating budgets. At the point that we would do that we would probably be in a serious financial crises.

Mr. Killen responded, you don't come anywhere near close to appropriating all the monies that are available and our mill rate goes up instead of down.

ITEM #5 Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$3,000 from Telephone Acct. #001-2030-201-2000 to Gas & Diesel Acct. #001-2030-300-3000 - Dept. of Fire Services

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

Mr. Zappala asked, why is there excess funds in the Telephone Acct.?

Chief Wayne Lefebvre responded, we replaced our phone system last year and this is our first full year of operation with it. We did not have a track record to work from so we left the funding in place to operate within the budget. The budget for this line item has been reduced in next year's budget now that we have a year's history on the account.

Mr. Centner asked, would you consider the increase in call volume a norm for budgeting purposes for future years? Your department was up 500 calls and I wondered if this will be the norm.

Chief Lefebvre responded, the annual report I recently produced shows that the call volume has steadily climbed over the past five years. This year happens to be higher than the previous years. Much of this year's increase may be attributed to some severe storms we experienced which creates a higher call volume but I would be surprised if the numbers "slipped back". The town seems to be growing in needs for protection.

VOTE: Knight and Papale were absent; Parisi passed; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #6 Consider and Approve Accepting the Donation of a New Maverick Combination Tool to the Fire Department by the Firefighter's Union Local 1326 IAFF - Dept. of Fire Services

Captain John Andrews was present to represent Local 1326.

Chief Lefebvre stated that he is pleased to accept the donation of the tool for it freed the department up from adding the equipment to this year's capital budget. It is a very valuable tool. The first tool the department purchased is getting older. This Maverick Combination tool is much lighter and more versatile.

Captain Andrews stated that the Uniformed Professional Firefighters Association of Wallingford has had a long tradition of supporting many civic organizations throughout the community and state. In the past they have supported local youth athletic teams, local

scholarships in our schools, Make-a-Wish Foundation and many other charitable organizations. The funds that are used to support these are, in part, contributed to the union by businesses and residents of the Town of Wallingford to which the firefighters are grateful. This year the membership discussed making a sizable donation directly back to the citizens of the community. The membership determined that the most effective use of their funds would be to purchase additional equipment that would be used for the extrication of victims involved in motor vehicle accidents as well as industrial accidents. The tool is a Hurst Tool which is the next generation tools that were formerly and are now known as the "Jaws of Life" and would normally cost the department \$4,300 to purchase. The original "Jaws of Life" was purchased by the members of Co. 7, Volunteer Company North Farms, in the mid 1970s. This tool is still in service on Rescue 7. The Town purchased an additional tool in the late 1970s which is still in use on Truck No. 1. Each of the original tools weigh in excess of seventy pounds. They are very large and bulky and have a great deal of power. The new equipment weighs in at thirty-eight pounds. This will be used primarily as a quick attack tool. For the majority of extrications it will be the first tool off the truck when they arrive at the scene of a motor vehicle accident requiring extrication. The tools that are in existence at this time will be kept on the respective vehicles and will be used in heavy extrication. This tool will improve the efficiency of our firefighters due to its light weight and multiple use functions.

VOTE: Knight and Papale were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #7 Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$4,500 from General Wages Acct. #001-2005-101-1000 to Gasoline & Oil Acct. #001-2005-300-3000 - Dept. of Police Services

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

Costs for gasoline throughout the fiscal year have been consistently about four cents more per gallon than the index figure required for use in this year's budget preparation. In addition to the cost variance, consumption has also been considerably higher than expected, a result of management's drive for higher overall productivity levels. The department anticipates needing one additional fuel delivery just prior to the end of the fiscal year.

VOTE: Knight and Papale were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #8 Consider and Approve an Appropriation of Funds in the Amount of \$5,000 to Charges for Current Services (Outside Work) Acct. #001-2005-1065-060-6020 (Revenue Line) and to Outside Contractor Pay Acct. #001-2005-101-1800 (Expense Line) - Dept. of

Police Services

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

The transfer is being requested for two principle reasons; the contractual extra-duty pay rate increased by twenty-five percent with the new police contract this past January and secondly, an increased level of outside work performed for, and paid for by, outside construction firms this fiscal year. This self-funding operation has seen an unexpected rise in demand, it is suspected, from the increased number of highway improvement projects this year.

Albert Killen, 150 Cedar Street asked for an explanation on the action the Council was being asked to take. He asked if the Chief was recognizing the fact that the dollars do exist and asking that they be put in their proper order in the budget?

Chief Douglas Dortenzio explained, no money is expended by the Town. What is happening is we are raising the ceiling on the funds that the town is anticipating it will receive on the revenue side and no money is paid out to the employees unless the revenue comes in.

Mr. Killen commented, in reading the agenda it does not appear that way.

VOTE: Knight and Papale were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #9 Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$9,000 from Overhead Doors - Bldg. #10 Acct. #001-5015-999-9983 to Purchased Professional Services Tree Contract Acct. #001-5015-901-9023 - Dept. of Public Works

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

The transfer is being requested to fund the removal of dead trees from Town property that is the result of a hard winter of strong winds and weighted-down snow which affected many trees throughout the town. Currently there are fourteen trees on Gaylord Farm Road that have to come down. The bid for that work is \$4,500. The rest of the money will be used to take the department through the end of the year for their tree trimming and planting needs.

Albert Killen, 150 Cedar Street suggested giving a copy of "Trees" by Joyce Kilmer to the firm hired to trim trees in town. They should put a little more artistry in their trimming so that the tree still resembles a tree, if not, they might just as well take it down.

Mr. Parisi noted that the trees on Gaylord Farm Road are on Town-owned property.

VOTE: Knight and Papale were absent; Parisi passed; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #10 Consider and Approve a Waiver of Bid to Retain McGladrey & Pullen, LLP as Consultants to Provide Contract Review and Oversee Purchase and Implementation of an Interim Computer System at the Electric Division - Electric Division

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

Mayor Dickinson explained that the Electric Division budget has a sum in excess of \$1 million for a new mainframe computer system. That is not the subject on tonight's agenda. These items are regarding an interim computer system. The system we are speaking about this evening is an interim system that will be in operation from this time until such time as we have a new mainframe and possibly beyond that to handle the Assessor's records. For an interim period we have to keep that system going, even while we are buying a new mainframe. In order to keep that system going we have two options; one is to continue to put money in the unit that is currently in the Data Processing Office or purchase a new interim machine. To stay with the current machine will cost us some \$140,000 per year increasing at about 10-12% per year over the next three years. To purchase a new interim machine it will initially cost us somewhere around \$230,000. but after that it will be \$20,000 in year two and \$20,000 in year three. Over a three year period the new machine is clearly a financial winner and, in addition, Unisys, the manufacturer, will maintain the software and do what ever is necessary to keep the new one operating properly. They are backing away from the old one.

Mr. Centner referred to a statement in correspondence from William Cominos, General Manager of the Electric Division which reads, "The firm is best able and prepared to continue with the next task of overseeing the acquisition and implementation of the interim system." He asked, how did you qualify that statement? What experience led you to make that statement? I don't know who McGladrey & Pullen are in the industry?

Mr. Cominos responded, the firm has been working with the utility since December 1995, looking at our computer system, where we should be going with it, the state of it and making recommendations as to software, hardware, etc. They have a handle on what this town has and what the utilities, Assessor's Office, Tax Collector, Registrar of Voters are all using. McGladrey & Pullen have given us a detailed report as to where we should be going with our new system.

Mr. Centner asked, what credentials do they have that sets them apart?

Mr. Cominos explained, we went out to bid originally to bring them aboard in 1995. It was a two bid process at which time their credentials and qualifications were reviewed. Price was the third consideration given their bid. Every town department we were servicing was on the committee to review the bids. We determined at that point that the firm was the best qualified to take us through this process. They have been in business since either 1910 or 1920. They are the eighth largest accounting and consulting firm in the nation with a client list of approximately 80,000. They staff sixty-six offices in sixteen states. He has confidence in their ability to handle the task. If he was not happy with them he would tell the Council.

Mr. Parisi asked, how did they just come on to this? Did we approve them as part of this project? Have they done any work yet?

Mr. Cominos responded, they are not part of this, I am asking now that they be brought aboard.

Mr. Parisi asked, have they done any work?

Mr. Cominos answered, not with regards to the interim system. They worked on a project of looking at our system to see where we should be going and they did a report on that and gave it to us. They recommended that they bring in an interim system. My question was, how do I bring an interim system aboard if I don't have the people.....

Mr. Parisi asked, is this the company that recommended the purchase of the Unisys system? Were they around then?

Mr. Cominos responded, no.

Raymond F. Smith, Director of Public Utilities stated, if you recall a few months ago we had the meeting...they were the people who developed the report making all the recommendations. At that meeting the Data Processing manager said that there was a chance that the system that is currently in place would cease up mid-year.

Mr. Parisi stated, my concern is that we are bypassing the bidding process. Every time we invite someone in to do something for nothing we end up asking to waive the bid because they are one up on the operation because of the work that they perform. This is what is happening again. I have a very difficult time waiving bids, I always have and probably always will.

Mr. Cominos explained, McGladrey & Pullen does not sell hardware or software applications to any governmental entity. They do not

have any financial interest in any companies that do perform such services, therefore it is my expectations that the firm will be independent and objective in their analysis and alternatives for the division and will be dedicated to helping the division find system solutions that are best suited to the division's needs and available resources.

Mr. Parisi responded, they did not bid for the job, they were, in a sense, given the job and they are going to be given the job. What I am concerned with is that they are saying that we have to go with an interim system that is the same piece of equipment that we are having trouble with to start with. I will be darned if I understand that.

Mr. Smith stated, we have made the decision that we need the interim system and we want to use McGladrey & Pullen to help expedite that. The next step in the process would be to go out to bid another consultant to give us the final package....

Mr. Parisi asked, who made the decision that we need the same piece of equipment?

Mr. Cominos responded, the Unisys system is a proprietary system. I don't like the fact that I have to go back to Unisys now. If I had my druthers I wouldn't but I have to. They will be the interim system and there is nothing we can do about that. It is proprietary software and that is the way it has to go.

Mr. Smith added, we made that decision for economic purposes. This interim system will cost us less over the next three years than trying to extend the life of the current system.

Mr. Parisi asked, why can't we just go to another computer, why do we have to go back to a Unisys?

Mr. Smith answered, we will ultimately get in that direction. We are going to develop plans for the new software and hardware during the last part of this year and get to a different type of system. We are not going to be held hostage in the future.

Mayor Dickinson stated, we are going to bid a new mainframe system. This interim issue deals with how we keep our current system providing information.

Mr. Parisi asked, why can't we bid the mainframe system and make that part of the specs that when we bid it, sell it and award it, that they be required to effect the switchover and we don't do an interim situation that is going to cost us. I believe that can be done.

Mayor Dickinson responded, we have to keep the interim system going....

Mr. Parisi responded, it can be kept going.

Mayor Dickinson explained, we are told that we cannot translate the Assessor's information from the software that we have to a different type of software and come up with the same results. The software change will cause differences in the mathematical results.

Mr. Parisi stated, I understand that the changes will be minute.

Mayor Dickinson responded, but still they will be changes.

Mr. Parisi commented, but they can be rectified.

Mayor Dickinson answered, but we are being told that it will not work.

Mr. Centner stated that he echoes all of Mr. Parisi's concerns in this arrangement. He asked, have you expended any funds for this consultant at all to date?

Mr. Cominos responded, only on the original 1995 study which they have completed. Otherwise nothing has been spent on the interim system with them.

Mr. Centner asked, what impact would there be in going back out to bid for the consultant part of the interim system, what impact would that have on the operation?

Mr. Cominos responded, it delays the process and I do not know if we can get anyone that is any better than what we already have. This firm has been with us for one year. We have already gone through the bidding process to get them to this point.

Mr. Centner stated, the package is \$25,000 for the consultant and possibly as high as \$221,000 for the recommended system. I am not comfortable with the bid waiving process that way.

Mr. Zappala stated that he, too, has a problem with waiving the bid also. Unless Mr. Cominos is saying that there is no other company that can do this job he is not comfortable with waiving the bid.

Mr. Smith stated, our goal is to get a July 1st implementation, operation of the new interim system. The only way to achieve that is not to go out to bid for a consultant. If we go out to bid we will delay the process by at least three months and it will end up costing us approximately \$35,000.

Mayor Dickinson stated, the total for the new system over a three year period is \$270,000. With the current system it is \$140,000. Over a three year period it will cost us \$420,000. vs. \$270,000.

Mr. Smith stated, we are proposing to bid the consultant for developing the plans and specs for the permanent system by the later part of this year.

Mr. Zappala stated, that he hated to see happen what happened in the case of Community Pool where we went out to bid at a cost of \$30,000 more than what we would have paid if we hired the people who were recommended by the committee.

Mr. Farrell asked, how close a tab are you keeping on what is happening with the State of Connecticut? In the articles that have appeared in the Hartford Courant on what they are considering, there has been some talk of the fact that municipalities may be able to piggyback onto what ever system the State eventually decides upon. How close a watch are we keeping on that issue? Can it save us money down the road?

Mr. Smith responded, that could be part of the specifications in the new mainframe system after we get through the interim phase. I don't know the specifics on the matter. The consultant looked at all the options when he did his report, even outsourcing.

Mr. Farrell asked Mr. Cominos to keep his eye on the ball on that issue.

Mr. Cominos stated, we have been keeping in touch with other municipal utilities in the State to see what they were doing. They are all doing what we are doing, basically. We stay in touch with them, we network with them.

Mr. Parisi stated, with all due respect, I don't believe that they are doing quite what we are doing because they were not quite in the pickle that we were in. This should not have happened in the first place. I will support it but very reluctantly. I hope in the future that when we have the opportunity for input on some of these subjects and it is free and its qualified then we would at least lend a better ear to it and generate a little more curiosity before we make decisions that we are so set on. If this ever comes to be again, I will not support it, I don't care how much trouble it causes. A proprietary system is very dangerous and that has come true.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville stated his opposition to waiving the bid.

VOTE: Knight and Papale were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #11 Consider and Approve an Appropriation of Funds in the Amount of \$25,000 from Retained Earnings Acct. to Office Furniture & Equipment Acct. #391 - Electric Division

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

Mr. Killen asked, how much money is in the Retained Earnings Account in the Electric Division?

Mr. Smith responded, it is probably in the order of \$25 million; the cash portion is about \$6 million.

Mr. Killen asked, is that available at any given time to not only the Electric Division but the entire Town of Wallingford?

Mr. Parisi responded, yes.

Mayor Dickinson answered, I believe so, yes.

Mr. Killen stated, add this (retained earnings account) with the pension funds, the other funds mentioned that are put aside readily...why don't you call another meeting of the Council to cut at least 1/2 mill or 1 mill off of the mill rate? It could be done very easily with the dollars at hand without even touching a single line item. He challenged the Council to show him that he is wrong in this matter.

VOTE: Knight and Papale were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #12 Consider and Approve a Waiver of Bid for the Purchase of a Unisys Interim Computer System for the Electric Division

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

Mr. Melillo was of the opinion that the Town should go out to bid on the Unisys system.

VOTE: Knight and Papale were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #13 Consider and Approve an Appropriation of Funds in the Amount of \$221,000 from Retained Earnings Acct. to Office Furniture & Equipment Acct. #391 - Electric Division

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

Mr. Killen remarked how the Council cut a few items during budget workshop and it is very apparent that after the budget workshop the Electric Division was able to come up with almost 50% of what the Council cut out of the budget. It is very evident that you can

also put it right back in again. Here is almost \$250,000 which appears out of the blue after you finish your budget workshop.

Mr. Melillo asked, why does the department need \$212,000 for office furniture and equipment?

Mr. Smith explained that is the proper name of the account to which the computer is charged to.

VOTE: Knight and Papale were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ADDENDUM ITEM #14 Report Out by the Mayor on the Status of the Creation of a Health Director Position for the Town of Wallingford as Requested by Councilor David J. Doherty

Mayor Dickinson stated, we have the report, the position is in the budget, we will be looking to advertise for it, we will be bringing a job description to the Council within the next couple of weeks. We will be looking to hire a health director.

Mr. Doherty referred to a report submitted by a William Kohlhepp entitled, Town of Wallingford Implications of Hiring a Full Time Health Director. In the beginning we were looking at a couple of different possibilities, one of which was hiring a full time health director and establishing our own Health District. Another option was to combine with several other towns. The third possibility was creating a combined health district. Why were the other two possibilities eliminated and why did we end up going with our own health district in Wallingford?

Mayor Dickinson responded, the Board of Health reviewed this and it was their consensus that service would be better provided if we have our own director. Some towns are joining districts and some are looking to get out of districts. There was some concern about what portion of the resources of a district would be devoted to Wallingford. Rather than deal with those issues the approach was to have our own health director. There was at one point an overture to Durham to create a health district approximately a year ago but that desire no longer exists.

Mr. Doherty asked if the Town is eligible to receive a per capita grant from State aid once the position and department is established?

Mayor Dickinson responded, it depends upon a lot of factors. The application would have to be written by the director of health and there are qualifying features. I am not informed on everything that is necessary to qualify for the money. It may be approximately \$.52 per capita.

Mr. Doherty stated, that would equal approximately \$21,000 that could be used to offset the salary of the director. He asked, what would the full time salary be?

Mayor Dickinson responded, that has yet to be determined as well as whether or not the employee will have membership in the union.

Mr. Doherty stated, the average salary in the report is about \$62,000. Will we be somewhere in that ballpark?

Mayor Dickinson answered, probably.

Mr. Doherty asked, how much was appropriated this year for the salary?

Mayor Dickinson answered, \$48,000. The issue for us is that we have a decentralized system as is stated in the report. Some of the concern was exactly what the function of the director will be. It will not be an easy position.

Mr. Doherty stated, one of the things pointed out in the study is that the public health statistics and planning are ill-defined. Someone such as the director of health would be more in line to collect these particular health statistics and do some sort of health planning from these particular statistics. The VNA does some planning with the statistics but the town does not.

Mayor Dickinson responded, we do have statistics reported through the Health Department and VNA does some and that is where there perhaps is need for greater coordination.

Mr. Parisi pointed out that the program "Wallingford Healthy 2000" is being started and that group, in fact, will also be generating useful statistics on various types of disease and illnesses that occur in the town.

Mayor Dickinson explained how the group facilitating the "Wallingford Healthy 2000" program is comprised of volunteers who are representatives from various organizations. They are expressing the issue of health as something that everyone should be concerned with and involved with and encouraging awareness of healthy lifestyle. They will be distributing information.

Mr. Parisi stated, they are statistically sound and quite an asset to a community.

Mr. Centner stated, a steering committee is starting to gear up and there is a kick-off ceremony slated for Town Hall on May 6, 1997 at 8:00 a.m. If anyone wants further information they can contact Sue McLaughlin at the Youth Service Bureau.

He expressed his concern with the position, particularly the changes that will occur in the present structure once the hire is effected. It is not so much what the health director will be doing, it is more of a concern over what is going to happen to the personnel that is presently sharing a lot of the responsibilities in the decentralized method. There may be possible union ramifications.

Mayor Dickinson responded, most of the personnel are not Town employees or if they are they are clearly managed or supervised by other offices. For example, the school nurses are in the education system and the VNA is a separate organization. Our Health Department has employees but that really is the prime area that the director would have immediate supervision over. Coordination would certainly be necessary. The physician who is the advisor for the school system is a private contractor for the Board of Education and that would be another area of coordination for the health director. It would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for everyone to be reporting to a health director.

Mr. Centner stated, I am concerned that there may be personnel receiving a stipend presently for extra duty and once the director is hired and in place would continue receiving compensation for that duty even if though they are no longer performing it.

Mayor Dickinson was not sure what Mr. Centner was referring to and stated that Dr. Smith is the Town's part time Health Director however, at the point that we would have the health director who is not a physician, we would still need a physician advisor. It then becomes a question of choosing an advisor, assuming that the director is not a physician, and arriving at an amount of money that would cover what they would be doing on behalf of the Town for a year.

Mr. Centner asked, do we have office space for this particular individual?

Mayor Dickinson answered, the use of the Health Department space would have to be juggled a bit.

Mr. Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville asked the Mayor if he originally opposed the hiring of a health director?

Mayor Dickinson responded, I do not feel it is a meaningful position in terms of total responsibilities and what actually will be achieved for the town. I do not oppose it in the sense that I am willing to budget for it and meet the State laws as far as our having to have a person in that position. Given the limited scope of what the individual will be able to do, I question the amount of money that we will spend for a full time director and what that individual will actually achieve in the way of a meaningful service to the community.

Mr. Melillo asked if the Town is being mandated by the State to create the position?

Mayor Dickinson answered, yes.

Mr. Melillo asked, what qualifications does an individual have to have to qualify for the position?

Mayor Dickinson answered, the position requires either a physician's license or a masters degree in public health administration.

Mr. Doherty asked if Dr. Smith is fully retired yet?

Mayor Dickinson was not sure.

Mr. Doherty asked, has anyone asked Dr. Smith if he would be interested in applying for this job?

Mayor Dickinson has not spoken to Dr. Smith about the issue. He is not sure if the doctor would be interested in the position.

Mr. Doherty thought Dr. Smith would make an excellent candidate for the position.

Mayor Dickinson did not disagree but stated that the Town would still need to go through a selection process.

ITEM #15 Report Out on Flood Control Measures as Requested by Councilor David J. Doherty

- Meetinghouse Brook Study
- Effect of Harbor Brook Project in Meriden
Upon Wallingford

Mr. Doherty asked that the item be withdrawn because Representative Mary Fritz on short notice is not able to be in attendance and she has investigated most of the Meetinghouse Brook situation and also is aware of what is happening with regards to the Meriden project. If the Mayor wants to address it tonight, fine, but I would like to bring the issue up again when Mary Fritz is available.

Mayor Dickinson stated, I don't have a problem with it coming up again. The Natural Resources Conservation Service performed a review of Meetinghouse Brook at the end of 1996 and the conclusion was that there were no obvious means of reducing the flood and erosion issues along the brook. There is identification of the usefulness of having a hydrologic and hydraulic study with regard to the use of any property that hasn't been developed and perhaps looking at the need for stricter controls over what happens in that

watershed. We will be meeting regarding that subject and I will have to come back to you if there is a need for funds for a study. There was a walk-through with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and representatives from Meriden as well as Wallingford and others participating in that. They could not identify anything that could be done immediately in order to mitigate the flooding issues.

With regards to the Harbor Brook Project, there was a meeting at the capital that involved Senator McDermott, Rep. Fritz, Rep. Mushinsky, Rep. Abrams as well as a number of other legislators from Meriden regarding the project. The City of Meriden was represented and assured everyone that their efforts regarding Harbor Brook were not meant in any way to adversely affect Wallingford. Their specifications for hiring an engineer for the project contain language that requires a report to address the potential impact of the project on Wallingford as well as D.E.P.'s Quinnipiac Watershed Program. There were representatives of D.E.P. at the meeting also who indicated that they would not approve any project as a result of the engineer's work that did not clearly indicate there would be no adverse impact on Wallingford. Charles Berger from D.E.P. stated, D.E.P. has to approve what ever is the study's result and it could not go forward without D.E.P.'s approval. He assured everyone that they would be looking at downstream impacts as well as the mitigation of flooding in Meriden.

Mr. Doherty suggested that the item be revisited at the end of May or early June.

Mr. Farrell suggested that the member of the Law Department who is keeping tabs on the issue be present the next time the item is presented for discussion. This is a serious enough issue and our Law Department should be following the permitting process.

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

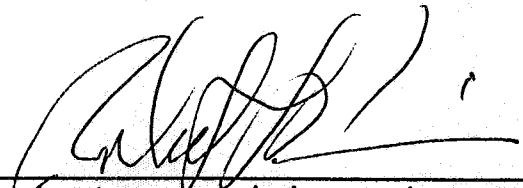
VOTE: Knight and Papale were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:29 P.M.

Meeting recorded and transcribed by:

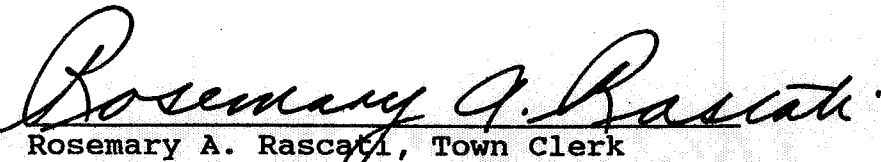
Kathryn F. Zandri
Kathryn F. Zandri
Town Council Secretary

Approved by:



Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

5-13-97
Date



Rosemary A. Rascati, Town Clerk

5-13-97
Date