

SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1991

7:00 P.M.

AGENDA

1. Roll Call & Pledge of Allegiance
2. Consider and Approve Waiving the Bidding Process to Solicit RFPs for Work to Be Performed at 88 South Main Street - 88 S. Main Street Building Committee
3. Discussion and Possible Action on Approving the Design of Renovations to Community Pool; Should Such Renovations Be Deemed Impracticable Discussion and Possible Action May Follow to Approve an Alternate Design for a New Pool Option - Community Pool Renovation Building Committee
4. Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-18a(e)(5) of the General Statutes to Discuss Records, Reports and Statements of Strategy and Negotiations with Respect to Collective Bargaining Pursuant to Section 1-19(b)(9) of the General Statutes as requested by the Board of Education

SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 3, 1991

7:00 P.M.

A Special Meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was held on Tuesday, September 3, 1991 at 7:00 P.M. in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall and called to Order at 7:12 P.M. by Chairman Albert E. Killen. Council Members answering present to the Roll called by Town Clerk Kathryn J. Wall were Bradley, Duryea, Gouveia, Killen, Solinsky & Zandri. Councilor Holmes was out of Town, Councilor Parisi was on vacation and Councilor Papale had scheduled a commitment prior to the scheduling of this special meeting. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. was present prior to and during the meeting but was out of the room at the time the Roll was called. Town Attorney Janis M. Small was also present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the Flag.

ITEM #2 Consider and Approve Waiving the Bidding Process to Solicit RFPs for Work to Be Performed at 88 South Main Street - 88 South Main Street Building Committee

Motion was made by Mr. Bradley, seconded by Mrs. Duryea.

Robert Avery, Chairman of the 88 South Main Street Building Committee asked the Council if he should report back on the proposals his committee receives.

The Council asked Mr. Avery to keep them informed as to who is awarded the contract for the specific type of work to be performed.

VOTE: Holmes, Papale & Parisi were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #3 Discussion and Possible Action on Approving the Design of Renovations to Community Pool; Should Such Renovations Be Deemed Impracticable Discussion and Possible Action May Follow to Approve an Alternate Design for a New Pool Option - Community Pool Renovation Building Committee

Motion was made by Mr. Bradley to Approve the Design of Renovations to Community Pool, seconded by Mrs. Duryea.

Mr. Jon Walworth, Chairman of the Community Pool Renovation Building Committee; Mr. Stephen Knight, Secretary of the same committee and Mr. Frank Homisky, State Department of Health Services were present to answer questions from the Council.

William Choti and Salvatore Falconieri, Community Pool Renovation Building Committee Members were also present and made public statements on behalf of the new pool designs and the effort and dedication on the part of the committee in following through with its charge.

September 3, 1991

Mr. Homisky stood firm to the belief that the State will not allow any exceptions to its regulations governing public swimming pools. It feels that the renovations proposed by the Committee, endorsed by the public and Council go beyond the meaning of renovations. The work would be deemed a reconstruction to the existing pool and thereby forcing the Town to comply with the current regulations set forth by the State.

Mr. Joseph Ferrara of 185 S. Main Street made the recommendation that the Town hire a lawyer or use its own counsel to fight or appeal the State on the issue of Mr. Homisky's interpretation of "renovation". It is Mr. Homisky himself who decides at which point a renovation becomes a reconstruction. Mr. Ferrara also suggested that the Town consider looking into declaring Community Pool an Historic Town Landmark therefore side-stepping the issue of having the current regulations apply to the pool. State Building Codes do not apply to the renovations of homes which are declared Historic landmarks.

Edward Musso, 56 Dibble Edge Road; Ann Altieri, 15 Apple Street; Steven Lazarus, 420 Center Street, and Diana Hotchkiss, 38 Clifton Street all addressed their opinions to the Council in favor of keeping Community Pool the way it is and making the necessary repairs to renovate it properly without losing its unique character.

After more than two hours of debate with the Mr. Homisky, the Council still held out the hope that legislature could be proposed to change the regulations.

Mr. Homisky explained that it takes approximately 1-2 years to change legislation at the State level.

Mary Fritz, 43 Grove Street, Democratic Representative to the 90th Assembly District, Voting Districts 13 and 14, recommended holding off a few weeks or months so that she may check into other options that may be available to the Town and/or to submit legislation or file an appeal process with the State. She would like the State to consider divesting its regulations with regards to community pools vs. public pools in the hopes it would recognize Community Pool as unique in this case and, therefore allow an exception to the rule.

The Council carefully considered Ms. Fritz's recommendations and suggestions. To this end the Council did not take action on the original motion.

Mr. Bradley then made a motion to Approve an Alternate Design for a New Pool Option (Revised Plan Dated 8/26/91), seconded by Mrs. Duryea.

VOTE: Holmes, Papale & Parisi were absent; Bradley, aye; all others, no; motion failed.

ITEM #4 Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-18a(e)(5) of the General Statutes to Discuss Records, Reports and Statements of Strategy and Negotiations with Respect to Collective Bargaining Pursuant to Section 1-19(b)(9) of the General Statutes as

Requested by the Board of Education.

Dale Wilson, Donna Lange, Roger Rivers, Dr. Cirasuolo, Susan Wright, George Bozzi, Jr. and Joseph Ferrara were present for the Executive Session.

Let it be known that Council Woman Iris Papale tried to attend the meeting approximately 9:30 P.M. but was unable to gain access to the building.

Motion was made by Mr. Bradley to Enter Into Executive Session, seconded by Mrs. Duryea.

VOTE: Holmes, Papale & Parisi were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Bradley To Exit the Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Solinsky.

VOTE: Holmes, Papale & Parisi were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Bradley to Adjourn the Meeting, seconded by Mrs. Duryea.

VOTE: Holmes, Papale & Parisi were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn F. Milano

Kathryn F. Milano, Town Council Secretary

Approved by:

Albert E. Killen, Town Council Chairman

Date

Kathryn J. Wall, Town Clerk

Date

SOUTH WINDSOR COMMUNITY POOL

SUMMARY OF CONVERSATION WITH JIM SNOW, REC. DIRECTOR

as recorded by Diana Hotchkiss, 38 Clifton Street, Wlfd.

Submitted to the Town Council on Tuesday, August 27, 1991 at the Public Hearing on the Community Pool.

Mr. Snow stated that the Town of South Windsor has been operating its pool for the twenty years that he has occupied the position of Director of Parks and Recreation.

Ms. Hotchkiss: When was the pool built?

Mr. Snow: Originally, it was a pond that was privately owned. The town purchased the property and at that time renovations were made, they did not pan out, our filter system was not adequate enough. In 1979 we initiated applications for federal grant funds to renovate this area. In 1982 we were awarded a grant to renovate our filtration system.

Ms. Hotchkiss: That grant came from the State of Connecticut?

Mr. Snow: It was a federal grant administered by the State. It was a 50% reimbursement from the federal government, 25% reimbursement from the State. I believe the name of the grant funding at that time was the Harried's Conservation and Recreation Service, Land and Water Conservation Grant. We received approval of funds on December 31, 1986.

Ms. Hotchkiss: Can you tell me, the pool that we are looking at, is this a legal pool according to the State of Connecticut?

Mr. Snow: To my knowledge, yes.

Ms. Hotchkiss: You are licensed to run as a pool and your Board of Health has passed it as a legal swimming pool?

Mr. Snow: Yes and we have regular State inspections yearly as well as town inspections.

Ms. Hotchkiss: Have you had any problems with the State in regards to different standards that they have in their manuals for what swimming pools should entail or....

Mr. Snow: Since this renovation, not to my knowledge.

Ms. Hotchkiss: Are your renovations up to State as of 1980, do your renovations include them or were you placed under a waiver, how were you able to keep this pool the way that it is?

Mr. Snow: We applied to the State for this grant and we had to submit our design for their approval, specifications for the filter system, etc. We told them exactly what we wanted to do and were planning to do. They reviewed it several times and was received back approved by

a Mr. Alan Bezzeti, who was working for the State at that time.

Ms. Hotchkiss: As of 1982 you have been operating with no problems as far as filtration?

Mr. Snow: I would like to say '86 now, looking at the date of this approval. In recollecting I thought it was 1982, apparently it was 1986. Our plans were received by the State Department on August 17, 1981. We started all the procedures paperwise, etc., in 1981.

Ms. Hotchkiss: How many people use your pool on a given summer?

Mr. Snow: Last year's figures specifically was 47,000+ people visited the pool during the summer. We average roughly 350-375 patrons a day.

Ms. Hotchkiss: Can you tell us about your gradual inclination of your pool works, how it is set up as far as what we are looking at now?

Mr. Snow: It is of irregular shape, from 0 depth in certain areas, two specific areas and is like a big bowl that gradually gets deeper as you go towards the center. Some areas are deeper than others but we have it all marked and the depth all around the pool goes from 0 feet to ten feet in the diving area and there is white lines painted on the bottom of the pool so people know exactly where the depth lies as they progress across the pool. On top of that we also have line demarcations, the floating line with the buoys that we place in the pool that shows two feet, five feet, etc. They know what areas they are in, if they go beyond this rope it is going to start getting gradually deeper.

Ms. Hotchkiss: How many gallons of water is in this pool?

Mr. Snow: Between 1.5 and 1.7 million gallons.

Ms. Hotchkiss: Do you drain your pool out at the end of each summer?

Mr. Snow: Not at the end of the summer. We have a concern. We shut the system down completely, leave the water in the pool because we are concerned that frost heaves might push the walls in so by leaving the water in it creates an equal pressure and we don't get the shifting of the walls. We do completely drain it in the spring, sweep it, clean it, scrub it down and repaint it prior to the start of the year. In very early April we use this facility for a fishing derby. The Recreation Dept. stocks it with trout and on a particular Saturday we have a Super 60's Sportsman Club in town and they conduct the fishing derby. We drain it immediately following the derby. In the winter it freezes and we use it for ice skating. We use our bath house for warming since it contains a fireplace and we sell hot chocolate.

Ms. Hotchkiss: So you get to use your facility all year long by incorporating several activities centered around the pool.

Mr. Snow: That is correct, the ice skating portion is quite a struggle. It is dependent upon the outdoor temperatures and weather. The State requirements being certain thickness's of the ice, etc., we have to cut several holes to measure the thickness of the ice and if we don't have a standard thickness all over, we don't allow skating. It is a lot of work and if we are lucky we get about six days of ice skating out of it.

Ms. Hotchkiss: Did you have any main problems getting the State approval for this type of pool or not?

Mr. Snow: Not to my knowledge. It was time consuming but eventually it was done. The procedure from day one took approximately two years in the making.

Ms. Hotchkiss: So prior to this you were just a pond with a sand bottom?

Mr. Snow: Not prior to the latest renovation. It was a pond when it was privately owned years ago. Our filtration system was antiquated and it started failing and we were closing down by the end of July due to algae blooms and so forth, that is when we decided to go full board here and make this an acceptable facility. That is when we did this major renovation with this new filtration system.

Ms. Hotchkiss: What year was that?

Mr. Snow: It was started in 1982.

Ms. Hotchkiss: Can you explain to me how your filtration system works to get this skimming...

Mr. Snow: The front wall of the filter well has cut outs in it, with a prevailing wind blowing towards that filter area along with the way the water coming into the pool is distributed through the various diffusers (24 of them) strategically placed, it creates a current that everything will float towards the filter wall area. It goes into the well there and that is our skimming. We do not have gutters all the way around the pool. That is just a large gutter that is probably thirty feet wide.

Ms. Hotchkiss: When the State said that you were allowed to renovate were you allowed to dig up your whole bottom of your pool and place all this stuff in it?

Mr. Snow: We did not dig up the entire bottom, we dug trenches to lay the new piping.

Ms. Hotchkiss: That is how you stayed under the restrictions still being a renovated pool?

Mr. Snow: I can't answer that question. This was nothing other than a renovation from day one.

Mr. Snow: I don't consider the renovations minor when they cost \$350,000+. My only recommendation to the Town of Wallingford is to go for it because it is a great facility, people love it, the layout, it is not like going to a normal pool with a cement slab with a hole in the center filled with water and a fence all around it. There are thousands of those throughout the State. We have a private swim club in town that has a similar facility, which is a very nice facility but I know families, personally, that have withdrew their membership from there because they would rather come down here because of the atmosphere. In our town one out of every ten households in this community has a swimming pool in their backyard. I have one in my own backyard, an 18'X36' in the ground pool. I have five grandchildren who live within two houses of me, where do they swim? Veteran's Park because all of their friends are here. We have days during the very hot season where we have accommodated 1,500-1,600 people here per day.

Ms. Hotchkiss: How do your fees work, are they paying to keep the pool going with no problem?

Mr. Snow: We operate on the premise that any fees collected through the Recreation Dept. which are family passes, selling for \$60/family, allows everyone in that household to swim every day throughout the entire season between 12 Noon and 7:30 P.M. We charge gate admissions of \$2/person/day for those individuals not wishing to purchase a seasonal pass. Non-residents, \$4/person/day. Because federal funds were used to renovate this, there is no way we are allowed to restrict this to just So. Windsor residents. Anyone that wishes, can come. We cannot charge a non-resident more than double what you would charge a resident, that is the only restriction. A dock was constructed and permitted by the State to allow for competitive lap swimming. When not be used by the Swim Team, adults are allowed to use it. We do not come near recovering total cost of operation because of personnel and pollution testing costs. The bath house was part of our renovations as well.

Ms. Hotchkiss: Thank you very much.

Mr. Snow: You are welcome.

Recording transcribed by:

Kathryn F. Milano

Kathryn F. Milano, Town Council Secretary
August 30, 1991