

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 17, 1997

6:30 P.M.

AGENDA

NOTE: This meeting is re-scheduled from June 10, 1997

1. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call
2. Consent Agenda
 - a. Note for the Record Mayoral Transfers Approved to Date
 - b. Note for the Record Anniversary Increases Approved by the Mayor to Date
 - c. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#342-348) Totalling \$3,996.14 - Tax Collector
 - d. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$500 from Office Expense & Supplies Acct. #001-3010-401-4000 to Transportation Reimbursement Acct. #001-3010-300-3201 - Health Department
 - e. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$1,080 from Maintenance of Pool Acct. #001-4001-560-5110 to Telephones Acct. #001-4001-201-2000 - Parks & Recreation Dept.
 - f. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$1,490. from Regular Salaries & Wages Acct. #001-1401-101-1000 to Purchased Services - Clerical Acct. #001-1401-901-9007 - Comptroller
 - g. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$500 from Pressure Washer Acct. #001-5015-999-9989 to Purchased Professional Services - Medical Acct. #001-5015-901-9012 - Dept. of Public Works
 - h. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$3,369 from Tractor W/Hitch Acct. #001-5015-999-9998; \$920 from Player Benches Acct. #001-5015-999-9984 and \$361 from Snow Plow W/Hitch Acct. #001-5015-999-9994 for a Total of \$4,650 to Purchased Professional Services - Custodial Services - Dept. of Public Works

(OVER)

- i. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$300 from Property Insurance Acct. #924-000 to Proportionate Charges Acct. #923-002 - Water Division
 - j. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$300 from Property Insurance Acct. #924-000 to Proportionate Charges Acct. #923-002 - Sewer Division
 - k. Approve and Accept the Minutes of the May 13, 1997 Town Council Meeting
 - l. Approve and Accept the Minutes of the May 27, 1997 Town Council Meeting
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 \$499 from Weed Wackers Acct. #001-5015-999-9101 to Expand Second Floor of Central Garage Acct. #001-5015-999-9921 - Dept. of Public Works
 6. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$1,000 from Maintenance of Vehicles Acct. #001-2020-550-5000 to Overtime Acct. #001-2020-101-1400 - Animal Control Officer
 7. Consider and Approve a Request by Miss Prissy's and Courtside Cafe to Obtain Permission from the Town to Place Outdoor Tables and Seating on Town Property
 8. PUBLIC HEARING to Approve a List of Municipal Projects to be Submitted to the State of Connecticut Under the Neighborhood Assistance Program - 7:45 P.M.
 9. Report Out by the Senior Center Building and Parking Expansion Committee on the Following Matters:
 - a. Status of the Committee's Work Relative to the Bid Process for Architectural Services for Feasibility of the Washington Street Site
 - b. Committee's Recommendation on the Form and Composition of a Building Committee for Expansion of the Senior Center
 10. Consider and Approve the Bid Wavier List of the Board of Education for F.Y. 1997-98
 11. Consider and Approve a Transfer of \$185,621.00 from the Grand List to the Suspense Tax Book to Comply with State Statute 12-165 - Tax Collector

12. Consider and Approve the Departmental Bid Waiver List for F.Y. 1997-98
13. Discussion and Possible Action on a Request by the Wallingford Girls' Softball League for the Town to Meet the Teams' Needs with Respect to Adequate Playing Fields and Their Availability to the League so that they can Facilitate a Program of Scheduled Games in the Same Manner as the Wallingford Boys' Baseball and Football Leagues as Requested by Councilor G. Tom Zappala
14. Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-18a(e)(4) of the CT. General Statutes to Discuss Strategy and Negotiations With Respect to Pending Litigation - Town Attorney

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 17, 1997

6:30 P.M.

SUMMARY

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4. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD - Request to Create and Maintain Video Library of Town Council Meetings; Request to Televisе P.U.C. Meetings; Complaint Re: Violation of Litter Ordinance; Durham Property Status Inquiry; Potential Power Outage Comments; Skateboard Ordinance Discussion; Vietnam Veterans' Field Parking Lot; Lack of Council Representation at Liaison Committees; CMEEC Rate Increase Inquiry; Complaint Re: Wooding/Caplan Property; Inquiry Re: B.O.E.'s Right to Prohibit Participation in Project Graduation; Hazardous Waste Collection Site Request.	2-8
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9. Report out by the Senior Center Building and Parking Expansion Committee on the Status of the Work Relative to the Bid Process for Architectural Services for Feasibility of the Washington Street Site and on the Committee's Recommendation on the Form and Composition of a Building Committee for Expansion of the Senior Center	11-13
10. Approve a Bid Waiver for the Law Firm of Shipman and Goodwin for \$3,927. - Board of Education	14

Agenda Item

- 11. Approve a Transfer of \$185,621. from the Grand List to the Suspense Tax Book to Comply with State Statute 12-165 - Tax Collector 14-15
- 12. Approve the Bid Waiver List of the Board of Education and the Departmental Bid Waiver List for F.Y. 1997-98 15-17
- 13. Discussion on a Request by the Wallingford Girls' Softball League for the Construction of a Grouping of Playing Fields at Pragemann Park, Table Remove from the Table 17-18; 19-30
- 14. Executive Session - 1-18a(e)(4)- Pending Litigation Authorize Town Attorney to Negotiate Settlement Between the Town of Wallingford and Thurston Foods 18-19 18-19

Rule V

Waive Rule V to Make Correction to Item #10 13

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 17, 1997

6:30 P.M.

A regular meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was held on Tuesday, June 17, 1997 in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall and called to Order by Chairman Robert. F. Parisi at 6:34 P.M. Answering present to the Roll called by Town Clerk Rosemary A. Rascati were Councilors Centner, Knight, Parisi, Renda, Rys and Zappala. Councilor Doherty passed away June 8, 1997; Councilor Farrell was at home ill and Councilor Papale was out of town on business. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and Comptroller Thomas A. Myers were also present. Town Attorney Janis M. Small arrived at 6:41 P.M.

A blessing was bestowed upon the Council by Rev. Dean Warburton of the First Congregational Church of Wallingford.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the Flag.

Mr. Parisi made the following statement in memory of Councilor David J. Doherty who passed away suddenly on June 8, 1997:

Dave Doherty, husband, father, family man, educator, servant of the public, colleague and friend to all, you will be missed but your contributions to the quality of life we all enjoy will live on as will the pride and spirit you have imparted in so many.

A moment of silence was observed for Councilor Doherty.

Correspondence - Mr. Rys read a letter into the record from Rose Mary Christian, 6th Ward Councilwoman of the City of Batavia, New York. The letter expresses Ms. Christian's deepest appreciation to the Wallingford Police Department, especially Lt. Mikulski, Ofcs. Right and Thomas and Sgt. King for their professionalism and concern in the handling of a matter involving her daughter Justine who is a Wallingford resident.

ITEM #2 Consent Agenda

ITEM #2a Note for the Record Mayoral Transfers Approved to Date

ITEM #2b Note for the Record Anniversary Increases Approved by the Mayor to Date

ITEM #2c Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#342-348) Totalling \$3,996.14 - Tax Collector

ITEM #2d Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$500 from Office Expense & Supplies Acct. #001-3010-4010-4000 to Transportation Reimbursement Acct. #001-3010-300-3201 - Health Department

ITEM #2e Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$1,080 from Maintenance of Pool Acct. #001-4001-560-5110 to Telephones Acct. #001-4001-201-2000 - Parks & Recreation Department

ITEM #2f Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$1,490 from Regular Salaries & Wages Acct. #001-1401-101-1000 to Purchased Services - Clerical Acct. #001-1401-901-9007 - Comptroller

ITEM #2g Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$500 from Pressure Washer Acct. #001-5015-999-9989 to Purchased Professional Services - Medical Acct. #001-5015-901-9012 - Dept. of Public Works

ITEM #2h Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$3,369 from Tractor w/Hitch Acct. #001-5015-999-9998; \$920 from Player Benches Acct. #001-5015-999-9984 and \$361 from Snow Plow w/Hitch Acct. #001-5015-999-9994 for a Total of \$4,650 to Purchased Professional Services - Custodial Services - Dept. of Public Works

ITEM #2i Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$300 from Property Insurance Acct. #924-000 to Proportionate Charges Acct. #923-002 - Water Division

ITEM #2j Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$300 from Property Insurance Acct. #924-000 to Proportionate Charges Acct. #923-002 - Sewer Division

ITEM #2k Approve and Accept the Minutes of the May 13, 1997 Town Council Meeting

ITEM #2l Approve and Accept the Minutes of the May 27, 1997 Town Council Meeting

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

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

ITEM #3 Withdrawn

PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Frank Wasilewski, 57 N. Orchard Street stated once again his suggestion that the Council Meeting videotapes be kept for historical purposes. With Councilor Doherty passing away the tapes serve as a record to look back upon for posterity. There is plenty of money in the budget to keep a library of tapes.

On a separate matter Mr. Wasilewski asked again that consideration be given to televising the P.U.C. Meetings for the benefit of the public.

Mr. Parisi responded that the videotapes of the Council meetings are held in storage one year.

Mayor Dickinson explained that a meeting of department heads will be held this upcoming week to discuss the issue of storage space at the Town Hall.

Mr. Wasilewski next asked, is there going to be a sign of some sort placed at the entrance of Fairfield Boulevard announcing the location of the recreation center?

Mayor Dickinson responded, there is a sign out by the main road that refers to the Town departments located in the building.

Mr. Wasilewski's last comments pertained to enforcement of the Litter Ordinance. He has noticed that several trash containers/barrels are left out in certain areas days after the trash has been collected. Does the ordinance address this offensive habit?

Mayor Dickinson offered to check into the ordinance and get back to Mr. Wasilewski.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville presented the Council Secretary with an article for the Council to review on the issue of "Yield Burning" of municipal bonds. He thought it would be helpful for the Council to be informed on the matter.

Mr. Melillo next asked about the status of the Durham property owned by the Town of Wallingford?

There has been no change in the status of the land, the Conservation Commission continues to work at identifying possible open space parcels the Town may be interested in purchasing to replace the Durham property with.

Mr. Melillo next asked for an update on Northeast Utilities power situation in the State.

Mr. Knight responded that there has been no change. The presentation made by NEU personnel at the meeting of May 27th was very thorough and informative. They have a detailed plan of action(s) to follow to meet the power needs of the State throughout the summer.

Reginald Knight, 21 Audette Drive commented on the poor turnout at the skating registration recently held at Doolittle Park. He is of the opinion that one should not measure the interest of the Town's youth in skating by the turnout at registration. Bicyclists are commonly seen riding on the sidewalks throughout the Town and nothing is done about that violation of ordinance. When will the Council bring the skating ordinance back for a second look and vote as originally promised?

Mr. Parisi responded, if no motion is made to bring the item back there will be no vote.

Reginald Knight next asked, has anything been done about Choate's parking on S. Elm Street that was discussed at the last meeting? They continue to park in the area that is marked for registration only on a daily basis, keeping local taxpayers from using the spots.

Mayor Dickinson responded, we will have to check into the problem.

Reginald Knight asked about the change to the parking lot at Vietnam Veterans' field on E. Center Street and shouldn't there have been a permit and approval for the work? Did anyone from the Town departments contact Planning & Zoning?

Mayor Dickinson responded, the matter should have been dealt with beforehand but wasn't. Departments routinely come before Planning & Zoning for approval.

Reginald Knight expressed his concern over the fact that water and oil runoff will occur into the Muddy River nearby from the parking lot.

Philip Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street stated that the Council representative to the Planning & Zoning Commission has been absent from the P&Z meetings lately. What mechanism is in place to make sure that the liaisons to the commissions attend the meetings?

Mr. Parisi responded, there is no mechanism. It is the responsibility of the individual to attend the meetings. There is nothing he can do to make them attend.

Mr. Wright next asked if the Town can go back to CMEEC if the Town experiences a rate increase due to Northeast Utilities' sloppy management style? Can we recoup the increase?

Mr. Rys explained that the only increase that can be passed along to the Town is in the fuel adjustment costs.

Mr. Wright stated that he was recently driving through the Wooding Property and noticed that the hay bales placed around the catch basins to prevent the silt from entering the basins were not doing any good. The water is supposed to go in and the silt kept out but instead one of the catch basins has a hay bale sitting right on top of it. Someone is not watching the store.

With regards to the American Legion property, sumac and poison ivy are growing; old gloves, rags, a broken door, jugs and various debris is accumulating behind the building and it is beginning to look like Tobacco Road. Someone should be monitoring the property. Hopefully, someone will pick up the burden carried by Dave Doherty for a long time, that of being the watchdog of Town properties. The property is the jurisdiction of the Town Council until it is assigned a use. If you don't manage it you are abdicating your responsibility.

Shaun Rowe, 960 N. Farms Road, Senior at Lyman Hall High School asked, can you tell me if the Town funds or sponsors Wallingford's Project Graduation?

Mayor Dickinson answered, some funds are allocated but most of them are raised privately.

Mr. Zappala added, the Board of Education funds the program as well.

Mr. Rowe stated, throughout the year I have received much literature on Project Graduation. One handout states that Project Graduation is free activity for seniors. He stated that he has been banned from Project Graduation because he is an L.D. student who signed a P.P.T. which states that he cannot attend graduation; walk across stage with his fellow students; it was not a punitive measure but was due to my disability. My pupil placement team said that I cannot walk across the stage at graduation or take part in any senior activities at the school system. I went to the Board of Education meeting last night and asked, can I go across the stage at graduation? and after a long detailed conversation some members said that they would like to support me walking across the stage at graduation but stated, this is a P.P.T. and we do not have time to overrule a State-issued P.P.T. So the State says that I cannot walk across the stage at graduation. I have prepared info packets for the Council to review (distributed to each Councilor at this time). I was informed that I could not attend Project

Graduation either over the past couple of days due to a new ordinance and rule adopted by the Project Graduation Committee. According to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, being a disabled student I cannot be denied the right to attend programs and activities in any group or organization that is linked or funded to any sponsorship municipal or federal. The P.P.T. is from the State and is a separate issue. I went to the Board and asked if they had the authority to bar me from Project Graduation and they responded, although they give funds toward it the Superintendent stated that he could not keep me from attending Project Graduation. Out of nowhere this letter arrives and says that I cannot attend under this new ordinance that just came into effect. I feel that this is discrimination and take offense to this.

Mr. Parisi stated, this is not the forum for this.

Mr. Rowe stated the Mayor's Council on Substance Abuse supports Project Graduation to keep the students from getting involved in the wrong type of activities after graduation such as getting drunk. This action tells me that you, Mayor, do not care what I do on the night of graduation because you are not going to protect me from going out and celebrating; you are not going to protect me on those dangerous streets and protect me from the extra parties that go on where substance abuse is happening. If you are not going to protect me as an L.D. student, I am taking this as a punitive offense. Would you get back to me on this? I signed that P.P.T. before that ordinance went into effect so I take offense to how my actions are governed by an ordinance that was not even in effect when I signed the P.P.T. otherwise I would not have signed it.

Mayor Dickinson responded, I am not familiar with all the details but I can say that the requirement to participate in Project Graduation includes the necessity to leave from school grounds. If you are not permitted on school grounds there is no way that you would be able to board a bus and participate as everyone must if they are going to be part of Project Graduation. Buses are boarded at each of the schools. They do not go anywhere after graduation.

Mr. Rowe stated, I am allowed to attend graduation because it is a public place but I am not allowed to participate. I will be attending and standing near individuals who have to do with Project Graduation and then I will board the bus so there would not be any problems dealing with me. I believe that I should be allowed to go to Project Graduation. I believe that Project Graduation is a public function.

Mr. Centner stated, it is not a public function, it is a function that you can attend if you are a graduating student from any of the area schools.

Mr. Rowe responded, I am a graduating senior and there is nothing in my P.P.T. that says that I cannot attend Project Graduation.

Mayor Dickinson stated, you may want to check with the school system for I believe that they expect that you will not be there.

Mr. Parisi stated, you have to do this through the school system. We do not have jurisdiction.

Mr. Rowe responded, they referred me here. I will wait by or on the buses before they are boarded. I do not want to be out on these dangerous streets and this is how your program is supposed to protect me. I want to have a good celebration. My mom is on disability and my dad does not have the money for me to go to a fancy restaurant to celebrate my graduation.

Mayor Dickinson responded, the issue is whether or not you can be on school grounds and you should check with the school system.

Frank Wasilewski, 57 N. Orchard Street stated, when we signed the contract with CMEEC our rates went down for five years. The fifth year our rates will go up regardless of what happens, our rates will go up.

With regards to Reginald Knight's concerns about the Muddy River; I have lived in Wallingford all my life and that used to be farm land up there with hundreds of cows pasturing there for years and years. We had apple orchards where fertilizers was dumped into the ground. To this day I have never known that any of this contamination has come into our reservoirs. I don't think this parking lot will harm Muddy River.

Lester Slie, 18 Green Street asked if a day or two will be set aside and a site designated to which Wallingford residents can bring their waste oil and old paints? The Town used to set aside a time and location in the past. Many residents are older and do not feel comfortable driving all the way to New Haven to do so. Even if we have to charge a minimum amount to cart the collectibles to New Haven it would be worth it. He volunteered to help at the site should one be designated.

Mayor Dickinson responded, the Regional Water Authority hosts the hazardous waste collection. In the past they did have satellite collection days and we can look into doing that. For us to try and organize it would be a difficult matter. We can check into whether or not a satellite collection is possible.

Mr. Knight stated, some of the collections were sponsored by Cytec. Perhaps we can check with them to see if they want to sponsor another one.

Mayor Dickinson explained, the Town sponsored the collection with Cytec providing the site. It costs the Town approximately \$30,000 per event and there must be an accounting of exactly what someone is bringing to the site. We will have to see if we can have one of the satellite collections move closer to us and organize it that way.

ITEM #5 Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$499 from Weed Wackers Acct. #001-5015-999-9101 to Expand Second Floor of Central Garage Acct. #001-5015-999-9921 - Dept. of Public Works

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

Henry McCully, Director of Public Works explained, we have put the work out to bid and are \$499 short of awarding the bid.

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

ITEM #6 Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$1,000 from Maintenance of Vehicles Acct. #001-2020-550-5000 to Overtime Acct. #001-2020-101-1400 - Animal Control Officer

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

The transfer is being requested due to an increase in the number of sick wildlife calls this time of the year. One employee had been sick which necessitated some overtime charges to the department. There has been a "leveling off" of rabid racoon reports. With the building going on in town these animals are being flushed out of their habitats and are beginning to show up more and more in people's yards.

Philip Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street commented that there was little or almost no discussion on the item before this one, an item he feels should have had more questions asked of it.

Reginald Knight, 21 Audette Drive, commended the Animal Control Officer and her staff for the fine job they do.

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

ITEM #7 Consider and Approve a Request by Miss Prissy's and Courtside Cafe to Obtain Permission from the Town to Place Outdoor Tables and Seating on Town Property

Mr. Centner asked, during which hours will the tables be placed on the sidewalk?

Mr. Parisi explained that the tables would be out only during the hours of business so long as the weather was permitting.

Mr. Zappala asked, what will be served at the tables?

Mr. Parisi responded, no alcoholic beverages will be served outside on Town property.

Reginald Knight, 21 Audette Drive asked, if two large people are sitting at the tables will the sidewalk be blocked from foot traffic? If the business is expanding will they be paying additional taxes for the space as well?

Mr. Parisi respnded, I don't believe so to both questions.

Reginald Knight asked, will this be setting precedent? Can a barber put a chair out on the area in front of his barber shop next?

Mr. Parisi responded, no, for Miss Prissy's was granted permission before to do this.

Reginald Knight pointed out that there are benches outside on the median divider between parking in Simpson Court and Main Street proper. They are there for people to sit at and have a little snack or rest. These benches are set in a position so that they present no obstruction to anyone walking back and forth. He asked, who decided to put the garbage cans bolted down next to the benches where the smell of trash and onslaught of bees bother people? I would have thought that they would have been located a little farther away.

Mr. Parisi responded, perhaps people won't walk to the garbage cans maybe that is why they are so close. He asked Mr. McCully if there could be some sort of deodorant poured into the pails?

Mr. McCully responded, I suppose we could once in a while. This is the first time we have ever had a complaint.

Reginald Knight asked, if someone trips and falls, whose liability is it?

Mr. Parisi responded, the business would be. They have to supply the Town with a certificate of insurance.

Reginald Knight commented, the kids cannot skate there but the businesses can plant their stuff there.

Patrick Hayden, 212 S. Orchard Street asked, who will notify the store owner of the American with Disabilities guidelines to make sure they comply with them? There has to be a certain width of

sidewalk so people with wheelchairs and walkers can pass by.

Mr. Parisi stated, I think the space will be adequately provided for.

Mr. Hayden asked, who will monitor the tables to be sure they are in compliance?

Mr. Parisi responded, I am in there once a week myself. Mr. Zappala visits there for lunch. I think it will be adequately monitored and probably will be one of the more inspected areas in town.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville asked, if someone gets hurt will the Town be sued as well or just the business?

Mayor Dickinson answered, the business has to show proof of insurance coverage that extends to the Town so that any act or omission on the business' part that causes liability to the Town, they will indemnify us.

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

ITEM #8 PUBLIC HEARING to Approve a List of Municipal Projects to be Submitted to the State of Connecticut Under the Neighborhood Assistance Program - 7:45 P.M.

Mr. Rys read the Municipal Projects, by name, into the record along with the corresponding amount of funds associated with them (Appendix I).

Mr. Parisi asked if he should abstain from voting for the project list due to the fact that he is employed by one of the applicants, Gaylord Hospital?

Attorney Jahis Small stated that it would not be a conflict of interest to vote since Mr. Parisi fails to gain personally by the action.

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Approve the List of Projects, seconded by Mr. Renda.

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

ITEM #9a&b Report Out by the Senior Center Building and Parking Expansion Committee on the Status of the Committee's Work Relative to the Bid Process for Architectural Services for Feasibility of the Washington Street Site and on the Committee's Recommendation on the Form and Composition of a Building Committee for Expansion of the Senior Center.

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Hear the Report. There was no second to the motion.

Dianne Saunders, Chairperson of the Study Committee stated that the bid package is ready to go and in the Purchasing Agent's Office. It should be mailed shortly. The schedule is pretty much on target with the committee expecting the bid package to be mailed out in June; Part A of the bids opened by the end of July; Interviews conducted in August; Part B of the bids opened in September and the contract signed for Phase I in January of 1998. In meeting with the Mayor in May to gain direction as to where the committee goes from here, the Mayor recommended at this time that a more formal committee is in order to make a move to some type of building or oversight committee for the actual expansion. We took that into consideration and discussed two options; one being a formal building committee with members appointed by the Town Council or Mayor or some other method and two, a public advisory committee that would be a town administrative project much like the recreation center and railroad station. We discussed it at length over the phone and held a special meeting to discuss it. Overwhelmingly and unanimously this committee felt that the second approach was, by far, the better one for many reasons which are detailed in the handout sent to the Council (Appendix II). The committee is present to ask if the Council has questions about the bid proposal and to recommend the form of the oversight for the expansion project, itself, to be a Town administrative project under Mr. McCully's direction with an advisory committee appointed by the Council tonight or soon in the future. Mr. McCully would do all the hands on work, the logistics of carrying out the project much as he did with the Recreation Center. The committee would serve as advisors in a theoretical sense. The following names have been submitted for the Council's approval tonight:

Madeline Erskine
Robin Wilson
Robert Till
Walter Hahnel

Caryl Ryan
Dianne Saunders
Jack Sheehy

Ms. Saunders stated that the committee assumed that there would be a Council liaison appointed to it as has been the practice in the past and Mr. Knight has been asked to fill that position.

Mr. Parisi stated that he would prefer having an odd number of members on the committee and recommended that another Councilor be

considered.

Mr. Knight stated that he would very much like to see the enthusiasm and momentum of the group working on this to continue in the form that the committee is recommending; that being an advisory committee. Mr. McCully was at the last meeting of the committee and seems very enthusiastic about the project.

Mr. Zappala stated that he was surprised to hear that the project has gone out to bid and the committee had not been formed yet. He was also surprised that the committee had changed its name to include building committee in its title since it is formed and named by the Council and was not named as such. He had nothing against the committee and praises them for their work which he knows they will do very well.

Ms. Saunders stated that the committee is before the Council to ask their approval of the advisory committee format.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville asked for a clarification of the bidding process.

Ms. Saunders explained, the bids have not yet gone out they are in the Purchasing Agent's Office. They will go out by the end of June. The bid is for architectural and engineering services for expansion of the senior center. The first part of the process is a feasibility study of the Washington Street site with a lot of parameters to see if it can support the expansion the committee suggested needs to take place. When that is done the Town would then meet twice with the architect to review that study and decide whether or not it wants to proceed with the project at Washington Street or not. Any D.E.P. or Inlands Wetlands work would have to be done first before any design takes place.

Philip Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street asked if the total square footage and any/all of the committee's wants and wishes have been approved by whomever is supposed to approve them?

Ms. Saunders stated, it is really up to the architect in his study to determine the actual square footage. We are guessing at between 16,000 to 24,000 sq. ft.; that is our target.

Mr. Wright responded, there was some talk at one point of building a facility that would accommodate projections of ten to twenty years out. Is that where we are still?

Ms. Saunders responded, yes

Mr. Wright asked, who should have or has approved that part of it?

Ms. Saunders responded, the Committee on Aging has overwhelmingly

approved that. The matter has been brought before the Council twice before for comments back and have not heard any. There really is no entity other than the Committee on Aging to approve the concept.

Mr. Wright stated, I am concerned about taxpayer's dollars. When we were expanding the schools the Council had to approve specific numbers and parameters. If we have not done that in this case I would question whether or not we should. I believe we should.

Mr. Knight explained, the Washington Street site is very complex and needs to be studied before the committee can determine what kind of a footprint a building could have. The committee cannot assign any hard numbers to the project without knowing all of the ramifications of what this site may or may not be able to accommodate. Numbers will start to fall into place once the Town and committee receive more information from the professionals that have to be hired.

Mr. Wright was concerned that what the committee was trying to put at the Washington Street site was truly what the Town needed. He was also concerned with the recommendation that the Civil Defense and Traffic Offices be retained at the site.

Ms. Saunders stated, the Town prefers that they stay on that site because of the cost of re-locating them elsewhere. The bid package asks, in the feasibility study, to look at renovating the current building and building new on that site taking into consideration several factors such as purchase of additional property, trying to keep Civil Defense and Traffic Maintenance on site, room for future expansion, traffic flow, etc. They have to look at all those things in the feasibility study, that is the whole point of it.

Mr. Parisi stated, the committee will be formally appointed at the next Town Council Meeting.

Mayor Dickinson stated, the committee should be in place prior to the interviewing of the architect.

Mr. Parisi felt there was adequate time to appoint the committee.

No Action Taken.

WAIVE RULE V

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Waive Rule V of the Town Council Meeting Procedures to Make a Correction to Item #10, seconded by Mr. Centner.

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

ITEM #10 Consider and Approve the Bid Waiver for the Law Firm of Shipman and Goodwin for \$3,927. - Board of Education

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

Dr. Cirusuolo, Superintendent of Schools explained, under State law when the school system has under consideration the expulsion of a student the process works whereby the Superintendent makes a recommendation to the Board of Education and then there is a hearing before the Board. At that hearing the student may be represented by counsel. If that is the case it has been our practice then to have the Superintendent represented by counsel and a separate counsel advises the Board of Education from a different law firm. Since 1990 the school system has used the law firm of Shipman and Goodwin. We received a bill in January of 1997 for the amount that was specified in the motion and \$1,800 of the bill is actually for 1995-96 services. The rest of it was just over \$2,000 for services rendered this year. The account was not monitored as closely as it should have been because history has shown that we never exceeded \$2,000 in the past with this firm. We vow to not only monitor this account more closely in the future but obtain prior authorization and estimates to avoid this situation in the future.

Mr. Parisi thanked Dr. Cirusuolo for his candidness and honesty in the matter.

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

ITEM #11 Consider and Approve a Transfer of \$185,621.00 from the Grand List to the Suspense Tax Book to Comply with State Statute 12-165 - Tax Collector

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

The following amounts are transferred from the Grand List:

1984 Motor Vehicle	\$	30.97
1984 Supp. Motor Vehicle		217.95
1993 Personal Property		97.44
1993 Motor Vehicle		58.36
1994 Personal Property		32,699.26
1994 Motor Vehicle		123,916.54
1994 Supp. Motor Vehicle		28,600.48

Mr. Centner asked, with regards to the 1994 Motor Vehicle and Supp. Motor Vehicle amounts, what power does the Town have to extract payment for motor vehicles as compared to foreclosure for house properties?

Thomas Myers, Comptroller responded, the best tool we have is the re-registration of the vehicle, itself. In most cases the people cannot be located and/or have moved from the State or sold the vehicle and there is a mix up between motor vehicle records. Once they are on this list, however, should they ever try to re-register that vehicle or another they cannot do so with an outstanding property tax bill.

Mr. Centner asked, what percentage is the 1994 Motor Vehicle and Supp. Motor Vehicle amounts of the total Motor Vehicle billing?

Mr. Myers answered, our total motor vehicle billing is approximately \$4 million so this amount is an insignificant portion. We continue to make every attempt to collect these taxes throughout the years. On average, we collect \$50,000 - 100,000 per year on these types of accounts. It has not been practical for us to hire collection agencies in this matter.

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

ITEM #10 & 12 Consider and Approve the Bid Waiver List of the Board of Education and the Departmental Bid Waiver List for F.Y. 1997-98

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

Mr. Centner asked, was the new administration management computer system approved in the 1997-98 budget that was just passed?

John Quinn, Business Manager responded, it is approved and we will be buying it in 1997-98 and will be implemented then. We will continue with the Hewlett Packard and Carter Pertaine system processing payroll up until December 1997. In January 1, 1998 we will cut over to the new system. We will also have to run the W-2s which will be run in January so we will continue the support up until such time.

Mr. Centner asked, will you be salvaging any of the hardware or do you expect to have it totally overhauled?

Mr. Quinn responded, once we change over to the new system we do have names of individuals who do buy old computer equipment and we would put together a bid and advertise it. Whether that would be done separate from the disposal of the equipment process or not, I am not sure.

Mr. Parisi stated, in my lifetime I have seen the Board of Education buy two systems and this will be the third. I most seriously hope that I don't ever see you buy another one after this year because I have been told that the other two were going to last

forever.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville asked for an explanation of why the Town allows a bid waiver list?

Mr. Parisi responded, it is a select list of vendors that we waive the bid for due to the high volume of business the Town conducts with them. He offered his copy of the list to Mr. Melillo for review.

Mayor Dickinson further explained, in most instances the bid waiver list deals with proprietary-type issues. If we have a particular type of software where the owner of the software is maintaining it then we would seek a bid waiver to allow the owner of the software and/or the consultant who installed it to continue to do that for the next year. If we had a Pitney Bowes machine of some kind then we would want Pitney Bowes to maintain the machine for warranty and/or other purposes. For the most part the bid waivers deal with specialized services for proprietary issues where bidding does not accomplish a great deal. It could also involve ambulance services for the schools or specialized transportation.

Mr. Knight asked, why has the special education transportation line grown so much? Is it because there are more people included in the program?

Dr. Cirasuolo was not sure if there were more people enrolled in the program but it is true that the percentage of students being identified for special education services has increased. The vast majority of them do not require specialized transportation.

Mr. Knight stated, that particular budget has grown from \$6,900 two years ago to what is now projected to be \$27,000.

Dr. Cirasuolo responded, we do not do annual projections on the number of children who need the service because it varies from month to month. There obviously has been an increase in the number of students and some of the costs are differential. There are some young people whose transportation costs as much as ten other young people, depending on the exceptionality. The trend has been to have more and more children with severe exceptionalities provided programs in the school building and when that occurs obviously we need some very specialized transportation.

Mr. Knight asked, is what Hunter's bidding on all that they are going to do this year? No, it isn't, is this just short notice transportation?

Dr. Cirasuolo responded, yes, it is just short notice. We have a contract with Double A Transportation to provide as much

transportation for us as possible.

Mr. Knight asked Dr. Cirusuolo to explain why there is so much short notice transportation that requires Hunter's Ambulance, which is a very premium service.

Dr. Cirusuolo responded, things happen to children or they enter the school district and for a short period of time you have to provide transportation before it can be arranged with the regular transporter.

Mr. Knight next asked Henry McCully, Director of Public Works, why are the two or three standard auto parts stores no longer on your bid list that have been for years?

Mr. McCully responded, with the cooperation of the Purchasing Department and my garage foreman a bid was constructed for as many standard auto parts and supplies as possible for the Town's fleet of vehicles such as filters, light bulbs, etc.

Mr. Centner asked about the filter and brake parts that will be purchased through CT. Driveshaft as proprietary items. He asked, are these parts non-replaceable or broken or custom made?

Mr. McCully responded, we have State bids for John Deere parts, Mack truck parts that we have a lot of and we use CT. Driveshaft for repairs of brakes. They are maintenance items parts that we can't procure through dealers and other bids we have out.

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

ITEM #13 Discussion and Possible Action on a Request by the Wallingford Girl's Softball League for the Town to Meet the Teams' Needs with Respect to Adequate Playing Fields and Their Availability to the League so that they can Facilitate a Program of Scheduled Games in the Same Manner as the Wallingford Boys' Baseball and Football Leagues as Requested by Councilor G. Tom Zappala.

Mr. Zappala stated that he met with League President Howard Greenburg a few weeks ago to listen to the problems that the girls' league was experiencing. He then held discussion with Mr. Dooley, Director of Parks & Recreation to get to the bottom of the issue. He felt that it is a difficult situation since there are so many teams involved in sports in the Town. It is difficult to situate everyone so that they are all happy. He was surprised to learn that the WGSL (Wallingford Girls' Softball League) was offered four fields at Pragemann Park with the hope of obtaining two more. It relieved him to find that the situation was not as bad as it sounded. It would be ideal to have everyone at one location to

supervise everything that is happening. We have twenty-two fields in Wallingford that we take care of and I am to believe that the Town has done all that they possibly could. I do not want to see parades or protests, although they were handled very well the issue could be dealt with in-house without going to the extreme of making statements in parades. I don't understand why it is so hard for the WGS� to accept what they have been given.

Dennis Murphy, 49 Laurel Drive stated that Mr. Greenburg is on his way to the meeting from Bridgeport and should be arriving in the next few minutes. The item was put on the agenda and then withdrawn and finally decided last minute that it would go forward not giving the team much time to organize and the League President enough time to rearrange his schedule. He asked if the item could be tabled.

Mr. Parisi suggested that the item be tabled until July 29th so that everyone would have enough notice to be at the meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Table This Item for Discussion at a Later Time, seconded by Mr. Centner.

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

ITEM #14 Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-18a(e)(4) of the CT. General Statutes to Discuss Strategy and Negotiations With Respect to Pending Litigation - Town Attorney

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Proceed Into Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Knight.

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

The Council entered Executive Session at 9:04 P.M. Present in Executive Session were all Councilors with the exception of Farrell and Papale, Mayor Dickinson and Town Attorney Janis Small.

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Exit the Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Centner.

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

The Council exited Executive Session at 9:18 P.M.

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Authorize the Town Attorney to Negotiate a Settlement Between the Town of Wallingford and Thurston Foods, seconded by Mr. Centner.

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

ITEM #13 Motion was made by Mr. Zappala to Remove Agenda Item #13 From the Table, seconded by Mr. Knight.

Howard Greenburg, President and George Marinelli, Jr., Vice-President of the Wallingford Girls' Softball League, Inc. (WGSL) were present for discussion on this matter.

Correspondence from the WGSL explains how it has become extremely difficult for the league officials to manage and provide good service to the players and their teams with a 100+ player growth experienced by the league this year alone. In just two short years if the league grows at half the current rate they will have 791 girls and 63 teams. If you add the number of coaches, league officials, and other volunteers the league will have over 1,040 participants. How is the league going to manage 1,040 people at 12 different fields spread all over town? The league maintains that it cannot.

The WGSL feels that the only solution is to group at least five of the ten separate fields together in a central location. This will enable them to rotate all teams through the home area so that all team's coaches, parents, players and league officials can come together at least once a week. This would enable the league to provide guidance and communication to all the coaches, provide the proper service including field repair, maintenance, field improvements, benches, and safety fencing. A central location would also enable the league to distribute and replace equipment needed throughout the season for safe play. The league also needs to centralize in order to manage the continued growth of the league.

WGSL made a proposal to the Town referred to as the "Pragemann Proposal" which details five fields together with a scaled map with adequate parking for all leagues (Appendix III). The league does not want to displace any other league and that is why they picked the open area at Pragemann Park. It was explained that the girls would raise the money for the cost of the new fields and that there would be no burden on the taxpayer.

To date, the Mayor's philosophy has been that it is Town policy not to have individual leagues create homes for themselves.

Mr. Marinelli explained that one of the ways around the lack of fields issue and the lack of cooperation on the part of the former Director of Parks and Recreation was to utilize schools fields. The fields were not being used in the evenings. Lyman Hall High School flatly refused the WGSL from using their field. Sheehan decided that they would give the league a try. The league used a

varsity field which seemed to work out well. The following year the league was able to use the Lyman Hall junior varsity field but was prohibited from using the varsity field because they had given the use of that field to Team Tradition (formerly known as Team Wallingford). Later on the Town had created Richard Sheehan field which they cut in the bases and redid the backstop. Two fields came on line for the league the following year, one being Marcus Cooke and the other being Lufberry. The league appreciates all that the Town has done in trying to construct the fields but there are a couple of safety issues they are facing. A packet comprised of reproduced photographs of various playing fields was given to each Councilor, the Town Clerk and Council Secretary. Mr. Marinelli referred everyone to the Algonquin Field photo; a field that the Town recently reconstructed for the league; pointing out that there are no safety fences shielding those players seated on the team bench from foul balls. The pitching rubber is located forty-six feet from home plate which is six feet further away than required. He pointed out a tan box in the photo in which the team places its bases. The only way for them to get bases with which to play is to place the boxes at their fields, themselves. The packet of photos were intended to show the disparity between the boys' fields and those at which the girls play their games.

Mr. Marinelli addressed each field photo making sure to point out the safety issues, lack of attention to details and lack of bathrooms for their team players.

WGSL contends that the Town has allowed other leagues to better manage themselves in the past by allowing them to group fields together and that this sudden change in policy is stunting the growth of the girls' league. The WGSL is the Town's second largest athletic league in Town and should be given the same opportunity as:

- Wallingford Soccer League which has five fields together at Vietnam Veterans Park, five fields at Woodhouse Avenue and in the Fall they have four fields at Pragemann
- Wallingford Little League which has four fields at Cytex and two fields at Vietnam Veterans Park
- Yalesville Little League which has five fields at Parker Farms School.

The league is aware of the Town's budgetary concerns and is prepared to contribute whatever funds are necessary to complete the Pragemann Proposal.

Mr. Marinelli went on to say that the most frequently asked question of his staff by the Mayor and Tom Dooley, Director of Parks and Recreation is, "Do you have enough fields to play on?"

Mr. Marinelli responded, today, June 17, 1997, my answer is, yes but if you saw the fields that they had to play on and with nine different fields all over town, it is an unbearable situation for the league. One of the benefits of grouping the fields together besides being able to monitor the coaches and better management for the league is field maintenance. If you visit the Yalesville Little League and Wallingford Little League fields you will see that they are extremely well maintained. The only means by which the WGS� can obtain permission to play on school fields is if they agree not to touch the fields in any way, shape or form. The league has been threatened, by letter, that if they should try to improve or touch the fields in any way WGS� will lose their permits for that field. Public Works does not want WGS� improving their fields either. The fields at the high and elementary schools are used on a first-come first-served basis and there are no guarantees that the league will have use of those fields next year. To date, the league has not received a permit to play at Lyman Hall High School due to their policy that the league must work out a schedule with Team Tradition which is a private team. Mr. Marinelli explained that he terms Team Tradition a "private team" because only three or four players on the team are actually from Wallingford, the rest are from out of town. He does not feel it is fair to have to share a field with a team of players who live out of town when his players live in town.

The league looked at three locations at which it thought it could build group fields together; Tamarac Swamp Road, Woodhouse Avenue and Pragemann Park. They initially approached Mr. Dooley, Director of Parks & Rec. with possibly trading Woodhouse Ave. soccer fields and finding a location for them in a different area and building their ballfields there. With a little bit of construction and work the league thought they could expand that flat area into six different softball fields. When the league officials talked to Mr. Dooley who contacted the soccer league, their officials said no, those were soccer fields and WGS� could not touch them.

In viewing Tamarac Swamp Road, it came to WGS�'s attention, and several officials agreed, that it was not a safe area to construct fields mostly because it would be difficult to get emergency vehicles up there for the road not was finished all the way to the area where the fields would be located.

Mr. Dooley had asked if the league checked out Pragemann Park. WGS� had not given it a thought because they were under the impression that it was not an option and would not be politically correct to pursue. At Mr. Dooley's recommendation the league spent two days surveying and measuring the property. WGS� found they could construct five fields in open space area at Pragemann. Mr. Dooley indicated to the league that the Town was prepared to refurbish the Pragemann fields at some future date and that the money was in the budget. If the town moves the handball and

basketball courts over to the other side of the field it can work. There is a little bit of water that sits in the area where the league is proposing a field be constructed. It amounts to approximately 80' X 80'. There are some drainage problems and those were taken into account in the Pragemann Proposal. WGS� proposes to keep the water off the bank on the right hand side with drainage and filling in some of the area so that it would be above the water level in the Spring. The cost estimate for the proposal which consists of constructing two 180' fields; one 200' field; two 225' fields; the removal of the handball and old basketball courts; addition of drainage trench to west and south perimeter; expansion of the south-end parking lot to one hundred spaces and the construction of a concession stand 600 square feet plus second level storage totals \$243,600.

The concept was passed by Mr. Dooley who thought it to be reasonable. In February, Mr. Dooley and WGS� Officials attended a meeting with the Mayor in his office at which Henry McCully, Director of Public Works was present. The proposal was reviewed at that time as was the league's issues of growth and need to group fields together. Over a time span of approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes it seemed to WGS� that the Mayor was in agreement with their concept of putting the fields there. The Mayor indicated at that time that he was concerned with locating fields in the back where the water problem existed and that the map presented by WGS� may not be accurate and the fields would not fit. At that time the Mayor asked Henry McCully to send a survey group from Engineering to validate the field sizes. Two days later WGS� officials met with the Town's surveying team to survey and the figures came out exactly as presented by WGS�. It was the league's indication that they were going to follow through on the possible construction of the fields. Four to five weeks later WGS� held another meeting with the Mayor since Mr. Dooley informed them that, after some thought on the proposal, it was the Town's position that what was being proposed was not in the best interest of the Town. The meeting resulted in a change of position by the Town for they felt that football needed a place to play. Mr. Dooley stated that he felt it was important to find football a place and Mr. Dooley suggested at first that the football league be put on the 180' fields but it was later determined that the fields would be too short. Mr. Dooley proposed to put a game-size football field over the top parking lot and the two 220' fields and that the Town would budget for two fields at Pragemann Park. The number of fields that the team has to play on is not necessarily their problem. It is getting the league together to better manage and control it and to also allow the league other opportunities such as building a concession stand and maintaining fields.

Mr. Marinelli concluded his statements by saying that it was never the league's intent to make the issue a political one or one of boys v. girls. WGS� would like to have the same opportunities that

the other leagues have.

Howard Greenburg, WGS� President explained how the league tried to find another location that would suit a grouping of fields. It was Mr. Dooley's suggestion to consider Pragemann Park. Mr. Greenburg suggested bringing football over to Pragemann with WGS� with shared usage of the fields, storage, concession stand, utility buildings etc., so long as the league would not suffer for their two years of hard work. Football told Mr. Greenburg that the suggestion would work, however, when Mr. Dooley measured the area, he stated that the measurements were short. Mr. Greenburg suggested excavating the embankment on the north side of the field but Mr. Dooley stated that it could not be done. The final decision was made that the girls would get two new fields at a cost of approximately \$25,000 per field and they would also have use of the adult fields which are not sized for the girls and are not to their liking. Mr. Greenburg is concerned about the fact that adults may be coming to the field to use them and the girls will not have finished up their game. This will create a rushed atmosphere in which they will play, taking the fun out of the game. That is the issue. To have adults standing and breathing over their shoulders is too much stress for everyone. The adults need their recreation as well. The reason that the WGS� did not originally propose Pragemann Park is because they did not wish to displace anyone. The league is not trying to take over anyone's fields. Year after year the league presents its list of concerns and year after year most of the items have remained on that list.

Thomas Dooley, Director of Parks & Recreation explained, the issue is and remains a grouping of fields in Wallingford for WGS�. After discussion on this matter with league officials over the course of the last two years and on several occasions over the course of the past few months and several meetings with the Mayor, taking into account WGS� and other issues in Town that press the Recreation Department and needs, those being Wallingford Football, it was felt that the best way to go about this was to put money into the budget to develop two new fields at Pragemann and to somehow work out the scheduling to better utilize the two fields in existence with lights for girls softball and to develop a game field for the Wallingford Vikings with the possibility of allowing girls softball to utilize that field to build two clinic fields. There is also the possibility with WGS� and Pop Warner Football of utilizing the concession stand and/or build onto the existing concession stand and to also utilize it as storage. In a nutshell, that is the Town's position. With regards to maintenance issues Mr. Dooley stated, we know they exist but I don't believe in the scheme of things that their needs or their issues are intentionally put on the back burner. The Recreation Department works with several departments and are not always as attentive as they need to be. There are many, many issues the department deals with outside of fields. It is not an excuse but an explanation.

Mr. Centner asked, is this a matter of the Board of Education v. Public Works? Is this systematic maintenance.....

Mr. Dooley answered, some of it is B.O.E. v. Public Works, yes. I have heard in the past and I am aware of policy that the B.O.E. does not want independent groups going on the fields and fixing them. I am aware of situations where leagues are allowed, with discussion, to go on the fields and do some maintenance work. I believe during some of our discussions I have informed Mr. Greenburg that he can do some work on some of the fields, not extensive work.

Mr. Centner asked, if an issue is brought to your attention, Mr. Dooley, how do you follow through with the B.O.E. on a school field? Do you let them know?

Mr. Dooley responded, we met with Gerry Powers, Supervisor of Bldgs. and Grounds at the B.O.E., prior to last summer regarding the Stevens and Cook Hill fields. Both of those fields were redone over the course of the summer. Could they be in better shape? Yes, but they are playable.

Mr. Centner stated that it did not seem to involve a significant amount of dollars to remedy the safety issues and bring the fields into tip top shape. He could not understand why there has been a two, three, four or five year battle on the matter.

Mr. Dooley explained, the arrangement between Public Works and the B.O.E. was negotiated with Parks & Rec to have the fields done. The cost to re-fix those fields has not been determined. In negotiation the arrangement was made that we would skim the fields and the B.O.E. would maintain them.

Mr. Centner responded, this is minor for the schools to contribute to the fields. Some of the safety issues can have repercussions. Some of the faults are very visible.

Mr. Dooley responded, the Recreation Department, B.O.E. and Public Works Departments probably differ on the degree of priority on the matter.

Mr. Zappala stated that he was glad the item was on the agenda and finally presented. He was sorry that the league had to play under such conditions. It is almost disgraceful that the Town would let our children play in such conditions. It is not necessary no matter whose fault it is.

Mr. Dooley explained, building two new fields and allowing for two fields at Pragemann Park, which are in good condition and which can be made useable and playable by girls softball, is in response. It does not address WGSL's issue completely but it is a step in the

right direction. When we talk about other leagues and what they have done, it did not happen overnight for those leagues. The initial fields at Cyttec were not in the greatest condition either. It was only through time, effort and money that the fields are in the condition that they are in. Unfortunately, it is a monetary issue at some level. It is a slow, painful growth.

Mr. Parisi stated, I don't think any of us are pleased with the situation but in all fairness to Mr. Dooley, the Board of Education would have to answer for this.

Mr. Greenburg explained that the Mayor did offer the use of Pragemann Park all night long on Thursday night however Mr. Greenburg stated that he did not want the youngsters playing ball at 8,9, 10:00 on a school night. It is not fair. The league has been allowed to pretty much use any field in town on weekends. The league has also scheduled games six days a week and have played seven days a week at most locations. We need to have a cluster of multi-fields. The league was told that the bleachers were coming in for these two new fields in April. There was a delay and it is my understanding that they came in sometime in May but they have not been put out. If we build what we need to build all the issues will be taken care of.

Mr. Parisi asked Mr. Dooley if the bleachers will be put out?

Mr. Dooley responded, they were slated to be put out but, once again, it involves a lot of issues and two different departments and sometimes the coordination of having that done takes time. There is always the option of a split season and although it is not a popular one sometimes the necessity of the situation requires it.

Mr. Parisi asked Mr. Dooley, have you had any conversations with the B.O.E. regarding their fields?

Mr. Dooley responded, I have spoken to Gerry Powers, on occasions about the fields, yes. He is aware that there are field problems. It comes down to priorities.

Mr. Greenburg stated, the Town does not provide enough fields for the girls to play on which forces the league to the B.O.E. fields which are missing benches, safety fences, etc., and the B.O.E. has different priorities with regards to those fields. We put a proposal on the table that, at this point, does not affect any other league in town. We have proposed to pay for the entire construction of the fields for we would raise the money at no expense to the taxpayers and we are at a loss as to why this is not appropriate for the Town of Wallingford.

Mr. Renda stated, in looking at these pictures of the fields I

can't help but feel that the girls got the short end of the stick. I think it is negligence. It is a disgrace. We need to put our heads together and look into this matter to serve the public and solve the problem.

Mr. Greenburg stated, we have looked at every possible area available and the cluster of fields would fit at Pragemann. We have offered to re-build, not move, the basketball court that would need to be relocated. We have exhausted every possible option, Pragemann is the most logical solution and we still cannot get an answer from the Town as to why we cannot go there.

Mr. Renda asked, what is the cost estimate for the project?

Mr. Greenburg responded, approximately \$250,000.

Mayor Dickinson stated, there is a rather serious public policy question and that is, to what degree does public land be dedicated to a private organization for almost exclusive use? The Town, as a general rule, has put in all fields. For many good reasons some of them are oriented to liability. Any improvement on public property that causes an injury, it is the Town who will be held liable. We have had, in some circumstances, improvements made by private organizations and then not known exactly what was done or permits became questions, etc., and then the Town has a problem. The Town of Wallingford had to contract to put the lights in at Pragemann for we could not allow a private organization, in this case soccer, to put in the lights.

Mr. Greenburg asked the Mayor, will you take our money to build the fields? Soccer raised part of the funds for their lights. Yalesville is continually pouring money into their complex. It is not just fields, it is a complex.

Mayor Dickinson responded, if there are specific proposals and you want to raise funds and there are funds made available by the Town and there is a use by the Town in order to construct whatever the facility is, then that would meet the requirements of what we have done in the past, generally. It is a different matter if it is a donation.

Don Pierson, 25 Mettlar Drive, Coach, Junior Division of the WGSJ explained that he was a coach for many years for Yalesville Little League. He started off his practices at Highland School on Wednesday nights. When he showed up with his team there was a Yalesville Little League team already there practicing. He asked, what are you doing here? We are supposed to have this field on Wednesday nights. The other team manager pulls out a permit and says, not only do I have this field on Wednesday but also on Tuesday April through June. The team was unable to practice at all

on Wednesdays. This was a team with five fields at their own facility yet they had to practice at Highland. My first game of the season was at Stevens School. There were no lines on the field at all, no batter's box, the bases couldn't be put in the ground due to the lack of holes and anchors for them. We had to dig our own holes after measuring it all out with a 100' measuring tape. We had to measure out the pitcher's mound because they are not legal, either. If the umpire doesn't show up you cannot call anyone because everyone is out at different fields all over town. We have played at Yalesville Little League and if you did not have an umpire you just walked over to the office and told them. If there was a problem and a girl got hurt you had a telephone. If you had to go to the bathroom there was a toilet. We played at Highland School last year and there is no place to go to the bathroom, you go in the woods. At Moses Y. Beach this year there is a fence the entire season down on the ground where anyone could walk on it and get really injured. I played the whole season not knowing where we stood in the standings. I had no idea if we were in 1st, 2nd or last place and we had playoffs. There is no communication. When you go to Yalesville Little League, on the side of the concession board it tells you all the teams, what their record is and what place they are in so you know where you stand. We have asked the Record Journal to print our standings in the paper so that we can at least find out some way where we stand, they have not done that at all this year. This league does not get any respect and we should right now.

Kristen Thurston, 671 N. Elm Street stated, with regards to using the adult fields at Pragemann Park, they are not our size. The infield is as large as one of our entire fields and you have no way of knowing what is going on and what to do, we cannot play there. It sounds like we are getting four new fields and that is not correct.

Tim Kehoe, President of Wallingford Little League, 31 Eaton Drive stated, I sympathize greatly with WGSJ and what they are trying to accomplish. We have four town fields. They took some nice pictures of our fields at Cytec Park at which we have spent about \$220,000 of the kid's money and of our participant's money over the last four or five years at those fields. We have three fields there, not four. That fourth field happens to be there because I over-ordered sod so I laid it down and made a small infield for our five year olds. All of the Town fields are in the same shape. I don't know about the B.O.E. fields. I guess they need to be educated on the fact that the education does not stop when the school doors close, it is involved outside the schools also. They don't give to boys and what is going to happen is that the feeling that is coming from my league and my parents...if the Town is going to build a nice facility such as the one proposed then be ready to build Wallingford Little League one because I don't want to spend seven days a week raking and planting grass and everything else too. I had to put in a third and fourth field because I lost

fields to the girls softball league, Dag Hammarskjold and everything else. I don't understand what the problem is....grab the fields and start a home.

Mr. Greenburg explained to Mr. Kehoe, if we take the two new fields and utilize the adult fields, once that game football field goes in which has already been in the budget to start in the Fall then there is no more land to expand. That is the problem. You have land at Cytec, you had land on which to throw the sod....we have no where to go. Two fields is not doing the girls the same service. Yours is private land and most certainly private money and we don't want your fields and we don't want Yalesville's fields...

Gerry Diana, 8 Huelstede Lane stated, for me lights is not a solution for my two young daughters are in bed by 9:00 P.M. We need fields and not lights. Mr. Mayor, I think you are the person that can make the changes, can make this a reality for the girls. In years past I have supported you because you have done a good job and I still feel that you have done a good job. I think this is an issue of boys and girls. I think the girls deserve equal footing with the boys and should have their own fields. Mr. Mayor, I am counting on you to support us so I can support you again, in November.

Abey Frank, 674 N. Elm Street stated, I was staying at my friend's house while my parents were away last week and we both had softball games on Tuesday and Thursday. She was at Lyman Hall while I was at Sheehan the same day. The next incident found that I was at Lyman Hall while she was at Sheehan. Her mother had to drive us to two different locations for our games. If we had a cluster of fields we could go to the same location and take less time doing so.

Jan Thurston stated, I have five children of which one is a son. He plays for Wallingford Little League and they have indoor plumbing. I have four daughters, three of which play in the WGS. We have been supplied with Portable Potties but this year there was a two week period when we did not have them. I have had to take my daughters out into the woods and a couple of the girls have gotten poison ivy from doing so. It is nice that my son can go into a bathroom and I love going to the field where I can go into a bathroom. I would like to make the point that girls, too, need indoor plumbing.

Dennis Murphy, 49 Laurel Drive noted that there is 4,500 acres of open space in town of which 2,500 acres give or take are owned by the Town. There is over 900 acres between the E. Center Street soccer fields and the Woodhouse Ave. soccer fields. We are only looking for 15-20 acres somewhere for us to invest our money to build fields that we will have a priority use at, not exclusive but priority use. We will work with any other sport that would like

to share the land for combined use.

Mr. Renda stated, I believe that the WGS� deserves better.

Mr. Parisi stated, it is easy to play up to the crowd but we do have a responsibility to try and act rationally and fairly and give everyone their say. Tonight, that was the objective of this meeting. One group had a position that they wanted to present and they did. The Town had the opportunity through Parks & Recreation to respond. The Council had the opportunity to sit here and listen, gather the information presented. This is not anything that will be solved tonight. It is not anything that will be solved immediately. I don't know if there is a solution. The sole decision does not rest with Council. The budget is done and whether or not anything can be funded additionally over and above the budget is another consideration. There are a lot of things to deal with. This has been presented well and I commend the WGS� officials for a fine, informative presentation. Everyone has been polite and kind to the Council and we appreciate that. I recommend that the Council table this item for further consideration.

Mr. Greenburg stated, in speaking for the league, all we want at this point is the opportunity to build for the girls for the league and the only question I have at this point is, is that proposal the way we have it written now dead or alive?

Mayor Dickinson responded, I am not going to say that all aspects of it are dead. I will sit down with Mr. Dooley and want to be sure that some of the aspects that I understand regarding use of the existing fields, whether that is possible or not. There are some concerns about the wetness in the area and there are engineering ways of handling things but when the engineering ways fail and the difficulties arise regarding cutting grass, etc., then the accountability comes in. There are some real concerns there but I will sit down with Mr. Dooley and we can.....

Mr. Greenburg asked that the parking lot be torn up yet for the football fields because once that happens....

Mayor Dickinson answered, you won't suddenly see that happen. I don't have drawings yet regarding any proposal there and they would have to be approved by Planning & Zoning.

Mr. Greenburg responded, it was my understanding that the project was going to begin in the early part of the Fall, that is my concern.

Mayor Dickinson responded, there are no drawings.

Mr. Parisi asked that the Council be included to some degree in the discussions on this matter.

Mark Parisi, 41 Jones Road stated, there is a need and we don't want to see things get swamped and it take forever like Community Pool. Don't just let this disappear.

Chairman Parisi stated; this Council has met every issue that has come up head on and have dealt promptly and fairly with it. I don't believe that anything will slide by.

Lucille Trczynski, 262 N. Elm Street stated, the Council should discover why, by the next meeting, why our school fields are in such deplorable condition. As a taxpayer I find that very hard to take. Those fields should be in perfect and safe condition. I will ask that question at the next Town Council meeting. Someone needs to tell us who is responsible for maintaining those fields, is it the B.O.E., Park & Rec. or is it Public Works? Someone is responsible for the mess that those fields are in and the taxpayers need to have an answer for that.

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Table This Item, seconded by Mr. Centner.

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

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

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

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:12 P.M.

Meeting recorded and transcribed by:

Kathryn F. Zandri
Kathryn F. Zandri
Town Council Secretary

Approved by: *Robert F. Parisi*
Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

8-5-97
Date

Town Council Meeting

- 31 -

June 17, 1997

Rosemary A. Rascati

Rosemary A. Rascati, Town Clerk

8-22-97

Date

REVISED SUMMARY LIST OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
June 10, 1997

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Center Street Cemetary Assoc.	Preserving Historic Headstones	\$150,000
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
	Children's Special Activities and Field Trips	\$ 2,500
	Summer Cottage Experience	\$ 2,000
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
Gaylord Hospital	The Patient Information Systems and Equipment Program	\$ 50,000
Ulbrich Boys & Girls Club, Inc.	Youth Development	\$150,000
Veterans Memorial Medical Center	Building a Healthy Community Capital Campaign	\$150,000
Wallingford Family YMCA	Purchase of Wood Property 105 So. Elm St., Wlfd., CT	\$150,000
Wallingford Historic Preservation Trust, Inc.	Museum Restoration Program	\$150,000
Young Women's Christian Association of Meriden (YWCA)	Renovations/Services Improvements	\$ 75,000
<u>Previously-Approved Multi-year Programs (1996 and 1997)</u>		
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Meriden & Wallingford, Inc.	Business-to-School Mentoring Program @ EC Stevens School	\$ 20,000
Wallingford Little League	Field Renovation/Lighting	\$140,000/yr

(1) Status of bid process:

- (a) purpose and contents of bid package - as previously reported (copy enclosed for your reference)
- (b) current status: final draft being typed by Program Planning Office, for final submission to Purchasing Office
 - expect the Purchasing Office to send the bids out in June
 - expect to open Part A of bids by end of July
 - expect to conduct interviews in August
 - expect to open Part B in September
 - expect to sign contract for 1st phase January, 1998

(2) Recommendation for achieving the Senior Center's expansion:

Mayor Dickinson outlined two possible approaches for this, and asked the Study Committee for a recommendation. The following approaches were discussed:

- Town administrative project - the project would be overseen by Henry McCully, Director of Public Works, with the Study Committee continuing on as an advisory committee for the project; or
- building committee appointed by the Council and Mayor - with all of the work carried out and overseen by the building committee.

The Study Committee has given extensive thought to the issue, and recommends unanimously that the project be carried out as an administrative project overseen by Mr. McCully, with the Study Committee becoming an advisory committee for the Center's expansion. This approach is recommended for several reasons:

- The Study Committee has done considerable work, the results of which should be used as the basis for the Center's expansion. The members of the committee have extensive backgrounds in issues relevant to the expansion of the senior center, and the committee has a vision of final product needs for this project.
- The program for the architect needs to be developed by people familiar with senior center management issues.
- The committee works well, has proven to be committed, capable and objective, and has kept the project focused and moving forward in a positive manner since its inception.
- This approach would be administratively effective - those involved with the project would be able to concentrate on issues, without getting overwhelmed by the details of administration. The Study Committee is impressed with the expertise which Mr. McCully has gained with the Recreation Center project, and feels his experience would be an asset to the Senior Center's expansion.

- Mr. McCully is already familiar with many of the issues relevant to working on a senior center facility, of the complexities of the Washington Street site, of working with this target population, and he has an established working relationship with Senior Center staff and the Committee on Aging.
- The Study Committee has an established and effective working relationship with the Committee on Aging and the senior citizens, and will be effective in coordinating their needs and interests, the overall goals of the project, and the administrative issues which will occur as the project proceeds.

(3) As you recall, the Council appointed the Senior Center Building/Parking Expansion Study Committee on 11/23/93, and reappointed the Study Committee in January, 1996. We recommend that those persons now be appointed to serve on an Advisory Committee, to work with the Director of Public Works for the expansion of the Wallingford Senior Center (with two persons added to fill existing vacancies):

Madeline F. Erskine	Town Council Representative
Robin Wilson	Town Council Representative
Robert Till*	Committee on Aging Representative
Walter Hahnel	Committee on Aging Representative
Jack Sheehy	Citizen Representative
Caryl Ryan*	Mayor Representative
Dianne Saunders	Mayor Representative

*Please note that these people would be replacing members who have resigned from the Study Committee. They have been recommended for the following reasons:

^
Caryl Ryan has served ex-officio on the committee since the inception of her term as Chairperson of the Committee on Aging. She has contributed tremendously to the Study Committee and her tenure on the Committee on Aging is limited. It would be extremely advantageous to have her serve as a regular member of the expansion committee.

Robert Till retired from Masonic Home after 21 years of service, and was the Project Manager for Ashlar Village. He would bring a wealth of specific knowledge about facilities for the older population to the expansion committee, and he has the time and interest to devote to this project.

Senior Center Building/Parking Expansion Study Committee
Synopsis of Bid Package
June 2, 1997 - *As Revised* from March, 1997

Purpose of Bid Process:

To hire a professional architectural engineering firm to ascertain the suitability of the Washington Street Site for expansion of the Senior Center, and, if so directed by the Town, to prepare specifications for a project there.

Description of the Bid Package:

The bid package is based on the standard bid procedure used by the Town for professional services. It consists of two sections which are opened publicly at different times:

- (1) Section A - bidder's qualifications and technical proposal;
- (2) Section B - bidder's price proposal.

After review by appropriate representatives of the Town, an evaluation tabulation combining the score for merit with the price proposal score is completed and posted publicly. The Town awards to the bidder who has the highest score.

The Town has the right to reject any and all proposals, in part or in total. The costs of preparing the bid proposals are solely the responsibility of the bidders.

Contents of the Bid Package:

Bidder must be a firm, not an individual, and shall have designed at least 2 new and/or renovated senior centers/or multipurpose community facilities in Connecticut within the last 6 years, with construction initiated on at least 1 or more of the projects, for projects valued at a minimum of \$500,000 each.

The project is broken into three parts; Parts 2 and 3 are dependent on the outcome of Part 1:

1. evaluation, planning, and schematic design phase
(the bidder is required to evaluate the suitability of the Washington Street site, including the pro's and con's of renovation vs. new construction, including provisions for maintaining Traffic Maintenance and Civil Defense on-site);
2. design development phase
(development of a detailed design for the Senior Center, as directed by the Town based upon the outcome of the evaluation & planning phase); and
3. construction phase
(bidder will oversee the construction of the facility and collaborate with the Town on developments which occur during construction).

Project Schedule (target completion dates for each phase as estimated 6/2/97):

Phase A - Evaluation, Planning and Schematic Design Phase	04/01/98
Phase B - Design Development and Construction Bid Phase	08/01/98
Phase C - Construction Administration Phase	10/01/99

Criteria for Award of Bid:

After opening envelopes for Section A - Bidders' Qualifications, bidders will be ranked on several criteria, and given a score for merit:

- a. specialized design and technical competence... 25 pts.
- b. experience as demonstrated in similar previous projects... 25 pts.
- c. capacity and capability of the firm to perform the work... 20 pts.
- d. familiarity and experience with the State's regulations which may affect the project... 10 pts.
- e. past record on performance...cost control, quality of work, ability to meet schedules... 10 pts.
- f. evidence of understanding the scope of the work, the site, and existing conditions... 10 pts.

After opening envelopes for Section B - Cost Element, total scores will be determined by adding the points received for Section A (merit) to the points received for Section B (cost).

The above process is the Town's normal process for securing professional services on a competitive bid basis.

The Town reserves the right to select other than the lowest bidder, to reject any or all bids for reasonable cause, etc...

Pragemann Park with Added Fields

