

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 10, 1998

6:30 P.M.

AGENDA

- Blessing - Deacon Eugene Riotte - Holy Trinity Church
1. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call
 2. Correspondence
 3. Consent Agenda
 - a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#221-238) Totalling \$3,179.68 - Tax Collector
 - b. Approve and Accept Minutes of the January 13, 1998 Town Council Meeting
 - c. Note for the Record Mayoral Transfers Approved to Date
 - d. Note for the Record Anniversary Increases Approved by the Mayor
 - e. Consider and Approve Two Appointments to the Jubilee 2000 Steering Committee
 - f. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$600.00 from Continuing Education & Training Acct. #001-5010-501-5700 to Telephone Acct. #001-5010-201-2000 - Engineering Dept.
 - g. Consider and Approve a Waiver of Bid for a Two Year Contract With Adkins Printers for Microfilming Services - Town Clerk
 - h. Consider and Approve a Waiver of Bid for a One and One-Half Year Contract with Cott Systems for Computerized Indexing Services
 4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda
 5. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD
 6. Consider and Approve One Appointment/Re-Appointment to the Board of Assessment Appeals for a Term of Three Years to Expire 1/8/2001

(OVER)

7. Consider and Approve One Appointment/Re-Appointment to the Position of Alternate on the Planning and Zoning Commission for a Term of Three Years to Expire 1/8/2001
8. Consider and Approve One Appointment/Re-Appointment to the Position of Alternate on the Inland Wetlands Commission for a Term of Three Years to Expire 3/1/2000
9. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$6,400 from Station Equip.- Maint. Acct. #592 and \$2,700 from Maint.- General Plant Acct. #932 for a Total of \$9,100 to Maint. of Overhead Transmission Acct. #571 - Electric Division
10. Report Out by the Town Engineer on the Status of the Lacey Property and American Legion Property With Respect to Parking Project Schedules and Completion Dates for Each as Requested by Councilor Geno J. Zandri, Jr.
11. Report Out by the Water, Sewer and Electric Divisions on Upcoming Major Capital Projects Scheduled for the Next Two (2) Years as Requested by Councilor Geno J. Zandri, Jr.
12. Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-18a(e)(5) of the CT. General Statutes Pertaining to Pension Negotiations - Personnel
13. Consider and Approve Ratifying a Pension Agreement Between the Town of Wallingford and the Wallingford Police Union
14. Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-18a(e)(4) of the CT. General Statutes Pertaining to the Sale, Lease or Purchase of Property - Mayor's Office
15. Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-18a(e)(2) of the CT. General Statutes Pertaining to Pending Litigation Involving Tax Appeals - Town Attorney
16. Consider and Approve Settlement of Pending Litigation Involving Tax Appeals - Town Attorney

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ADDENDUM TO AGENDA

17. Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-18a(e)(2) of the CT. General Statutes Pertaining to Pending Litigation Involving Dellavecchia v. Factory Built Homes and Town of Wallingford
18. Consider and Approve Settlement of Pending Litigation
- Town Attorney

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FEBRUARY 10, 1998

6:30 P.M.

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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 10, 1998

6:30 P.M.

A regular meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was held on Tuesday, February 10, 1998 in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall and called to Order by Chairman Robert F. Parisi at 6:32 P.M. All Councilors answered present to the Roll called by Town Clerk Rosemary A. Rascati. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and Deputy Comptroller Eva Lamothe were also in attendance. Town Attorney Janis M. Small arrived at approximately 6:40 P.M.

A blessing was bestowed upon the Council by Eugene Riotte, Deacon, Holy Trinity Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the Flag.

Mr. Parisi noted the Elks Club's recognition of both Teri Wall of the Department of Fire Services and Christian Evans of the Department of Police Services as the Organization's Outstanding Citizens of the Year.

ITEM #2 Correspondence - A letter from Fire Chief Wayne Lefebvre to Dianne Hotchkiss addressing her complaint that there was no response to a 9-1-1 call she made recently. The Chief's response states that the department responded with their sirens silent due to the early morning hours. Upon reaching the scene it was determined that the alarm was false and the department returned to headquarters. At no time was a siren used out of courtesy to the residents.

ITEM #3 Consent Agenda

ITEM #3a Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#221-238) Totaling \$3,179.68 - Tax Collector

ITEM #3b Approve and Accept the Minutes of the January 13, 1998 Town Council Meeting

ITEM #3c Note for the Record Mayoral Transfers Approved to Date

ITEM #3d Note for the Record Anniversary Increases Approved by the Mayor to Date

ITEM #3e Consider and Approve Two Appointments to the Jubilee 2000 Steering Committee

ITEM #3f Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$600 from Continuing Education & Training Acct. #001-5010-501-5700 to Telephone Acct. #001-5010-201-2000 - Engineering Dept.

ITEM #3g Consider and Approve a Waiver of Bid for a One and One-Half Year Contract with Cott Systems for Computerized Indexing Services

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

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #4 Items Removed from the Consent Agenda - Withdrawn

WAIVER OF RULE V Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Waive Rule V of the Town Council Meeting Procedures for the Purpose of Ratifying Council Action, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

VOTE TO WAIVE RULE V: All ayes; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Approve a Resolution Ratifying the Town Council's Approval and Adoption of an Ordinance Amending an Ordinance Appropriating \$315,000 for the Planning & Design of West Side Tankage Project and Associated System Improvements Voted on at the January 27, 1998 Town Council Meeting, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

This action is being taken to clarify the vote and adoption of the West Side Tankage Project Ordinance. In reviewing the records of the last meeting, the Council voted to waive the reading of the ordinance in its entirety and also voted to amend the figures in the ordinance. Although the intent of the Council was to adopt the amended ordinance a vote was not taken on that specific action therefore this resolution ratifies the Council's intent and actions associated with the ordinance and project.

Robert Sheehan, 11 Cooper Avenue asked, when does the ordinance go into effect; from now or from the date of the last meeting?

Attorney Joseph Fasi, Bond Counsel responded, from the date of the last meeting (Jan. 27th).

Mr. Zappala asked, if the ordinance is being passed tonight, legally, why does the date go back to the last meeting?

Atty. Fasi responded, it is not being passed, legally, tonight. What is happening is, what you did on January 27th is being clarified so that in the future it cannot be contested.

Mr. Zappala asked, was the vote taken at the last meeting correct?

Atty. Fasi answered, it was correct in what you did which was to adopt the ordinance. Specifically what you did was voted on the ordinance and an amendment to the ordinance simultaneously. You

all thought you were voting on the ordinance as amended but, in fact, there wasn't a second vote to vote on the ordinance as amended. This clarifies what you actually did for purposes of your record and makes it clear for future historical reference.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Phil Sabo, 222 N. Whittlesey Avenue Extension stated, in driving through town this morning I noticed in the center of the downtown area a lot of notices on the trees that they planted approximately ten years ago. I called the Town Hall and talked to a lady named Joan and she said they are ripping all of these trees out because they are getting too big and they are tearing apart the sidewalk. Didn't they research this before they planted these trees? It is a lot of wasted money. From what I understand someone is going to be replacing these trees with more trees. What is that going to cost us? Is it costing us...where is it going?

Mr. Parisi stated, I asked the same question and what I was told was, at the time we thought we were going to get a limited growth-type of tree but evidently that didn't seem to be true. What the problem is, is that now they are getting so big that trucks coming by are hitting the branches.

Mr. Sabo asked, why not trim the branches?

Mr. Parisi answered, we could trim them back but it also creates a problem for the future. It will literally be overpowering if they grow.

Mr. Sabo asked, are they ripping out the trees to replant them somewhere? What will they do with the trees that are there now?

Mr. Parisi responded, no, they are going to replace them.

Mayor Dickinson stated, as far as I know they will have to be cut down because there is no way to have the equipment get in under them without completely destroying all of the sidewalks and too much of the area. They will have to be cut down.

Mr. Sabo asked, who paid for the trees to begin with, the Town of Wallingford?

Mayor Dickinson answered, yes, the Town of Wallingford.

Mr. Sabo asked, didn't anyone research these trees before they were put in? Could the landscaper be liable for these trees?

Mayor Dickinson answered, no, it was the recommendation of the firm that did the design for the improvements there. I don't think that anyone expected the trees to grow as quickly as they have. I believe they are a variety of locust trees. When they were first put in there were some serious arguments by the Public Works Director at that time to the effect that he did not think that they would last more than two years because of salt and snow removal and vehicles hitting them. Well, they outdid all expectations and are impacting the other improvements that were made there. The plan is

that they would have to be removed and we would plant probably the dwarf pear that is planted up in this area that flowers in the Spring. It is a slower growing tree, at least that is the expectation, and it doesn't have the width of canopy that the trees down there are showing. They exceeded all expectations with regards to their growth.

Mr. Sabo stated, personally, I think that we should look at this a different way. Maybe we should not plant anymore...we have a lot of trees down there on the green as it is, maybe we don't need anymore trees down there. Maybe we could just sidewalk that off or do something; put a little shrub in there.

On a separate matter Mr. Sabo pointed out that he moved to Whittlesey Avenue about seven years ago. When he first moved in the street was in pretty bad shape; it was disgusting and needed re-surfacing. Two years later they came in, they did a beautiful job. Two years later the Gas Company came in and ripped up the whole street. Last year the Town of Wallingford comes in and rips up the whole street again. Can't we get together here before any re-surfacing is done to save some money? Why was this done this way?

Mr. Parisi stated, I share your concern and I am in the process of trying, with the Mayor, to put together the right departments so maybe we could work out some sort of a procedure. I can honestly tell you that this is as elusive a recipe as I have ever heard of.

This has happened for all the years I have been involved in politics and it seems to defy a solution as to what you have to do to prevent this from happening on new streets.

Mr. Sabo asked the Councilors to take a ride down to look at the condition. Hopefully, this will be re-paved again.

Mr. Parisi stated, I have received calls on it already.

Mayor Dickinson commented, there could be a number of reasons why a street is dug up after it has been paved. If there is an emergency of some kind, the need for replacements by the Gas Company as well as our utilities, that can necessitate work. When we did Main Street out here we had a rule in place that no one could dig up the street for two years. Within the first year to year and one-half the Gas Company came in and said, fine, we won't do our work but you can liable. Naturally, the permit was issued and work was performed. Serious efforts have been directed at coordinating between the utilities, engineering and public works. One of the difficulties is, the surface of the road often needs repair in a schedule that does not conform with the scheduling of work by the utilities. Ideally, you would have often replacement of some of the underground lines by the utilities when you do the surface of the road but they are not always funded or in the position to be able to do that. Where they already have a project, they do move things around and the Quinnipiac St. project is an example. They were going to do some other work; the Quinnipiac St. will be under construction this Spring and into the summer and a water project

that would have taken place elsewhere was re-planned for that area and we appropriated funds in order to see that happen. That is an example where coordination has occurred well. Unfortunately, that is not always possible for some of the reasons that I have stated.

Mr. Sabo stated, I was talking to the fellow who was surveying the area. He works for the town and was pretty disgusted himself with this whole thing. He stated that the town tries its best to coordinate the work but sometimes it just doesn't work. Somebody should just make it work; someone should be held responsible for this. There is a lot of taxpayer's money that is wasted out there on trees and on this road.

Mr. Sabo went on to say, as far as this question and answer period; maybe another night should be set aside for a question and answer period. This is the first meeting I have come to and I have taken up quite a bit of time myself just to get a couple of questions answered. I left a message on your machine (Mr. Parisi) you can disregard it if you want. I talked to Geno and he told me to come down to the meeting, I did and I think that we do need the time for this. Thanks.

Philip Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street stated, I was interested in an article that appeared Sunday in the local paper and I find that I am compelled to make a few comments. Certainly, it is not President Clinton's lack of moral fiber; it is not Kenneth Starr's power; it's free speech that is a big issue in Wallingford. That is what the headline says. In that article most Councilors say that the question and answer period has spun out of control. My observation is that some of their "out of control" came about during the campaign season when every Councilor came alive and did a little bit of politicking. It was very interesting but that is when the meeting started to stretch out, it seems to me. Mr. Parisi is quoted as saying, these long dissertations are not what is called for. He is correct if someone is talking to hear himself talk but most people who come here have something that is bothersome and they would like consideration. Mayor Dickinson thinks there should be a twenty minute limit on the question and answer period. Now, limits are normally set because there are time constraints. I don't know what the time constraints are here that dictates twenty minutes only. I don't know of any. By the way, this is a Council meeting and not a Mayoral meeting. Mr. Mayor also says that the real purpose to this meeting is the conducting of other business. I am not sure that I understand that. Mayor Dickinson says, "there are other ways such as town department heads for residents to get their questions answered." Department heads are not here at most of these meetings and are not directly accountable to the voters; you folks and the Mayor are directly accountable to the voters every two years. If I ask a question here or if a question is asked here, the whole world of Wallingford may hear the answer, if we get one. If I call Tom Dooley, Tom Dooley and I will know what the answer is but nobody else will be privy to the question, to the subject, to the answer, to the question. I think it is well that we do continue to bring the issues here. You, the Council, have your constituency and some of

us have ours. You can ask Frank how often he is stopped on the streets when he is walking about to have people that are asking him questions and many of those questions are brought forward here; They are not necessarily mine or Frank's, they are questions that someone on the street has asked us to ask. The Town Attorney says, among other things, "when people are allowed to speak the Council must be careful not to interfere with the content of the speech." Mr. Grabarz (Exec. Dir., Civil Liberties Union) seems to agree with Janis (Attorney Small). He also states that, as a country, we along time ago decided that the public, not the government, would have the say on free speech issues. The involvement of the Town Attorney and the C.C.L.U. (CT. Civil Liberties Union) is pertinent and proper. I am glad they both weighed in. Caution seems to be the watch word from both of these entities. Mayor Dickinson and Janis (Atty. Small) both made strong reference to agenda items. This is right and proper. Time and again I have raised a question as to who decides the agenda. I have gotten some stock answers that always left me less than satisfied. I say to you, whomever controls the agenda wields the power. There must be, in a democratic society, a way for the lowly taxpayer to get his issue discussed and decided; anything less and it is merely a sham. Councilman Knight's statement that, "One man's constructive criticism is another man's personal attack" is right on target. He is also on target when he makes a point about policies and operations, not persons. Steve (Knight) calls for a code of decorum for public speaking at meetings. My friend Frank; Mr. Wasilewski; calls for the use of common sense. Decorum and common sense; two big, big words; if they had been employed by everyone, especially the Council folks and the Chairman, this issue need not have reached a fever pitch taking as much of our time as it has. We could have spent our time discussing the purchase of open space land. I really don't give a rambling damn what Meriden, Middletown, Cheshire or Willimantic does at their Council meetings. I care what Wallingford does and I believe that we are capable of setting our own course. I came to Wallingford on March 9, 1942 by my own choice. I raised a family here and, at last count, I have eight grandchildren living in this town. You can bet your bottom dollar that my obituary will read, 160 Cedar Street, Wallingford, Connecticut. In the interim, you can expect that I will give a full measure of effort to making and keeping this town, while not paradise, it's one hell of a good town to call home. I thank you.

Mr. Parisi stated, just so that you know now, that was like almost five minutes, o.k., and you did not really ask a question; you made a statement and the statement is acknowledged and on the record but the time is ticking. If we are going to have prolonged statements there is going to be people that may not be able to speak. We have to understand that.

Reginald Knight, 21 Audette Drive stated, what I have to say I wanted to say two weeks ago but due to circumstances beyond my control I was not able to say it. I want to address the rhetoric that came in the local paper from several statements made by several of the Councilors. I would like to address that...

Mr. Parisi interrupted Reginald Knight stating, I don't think, Mr. Knight that this is not the forum for that.

Reginald Knight continued at the same time, these were not made by Mr. Smith or Mr. Brown they were made by Councilor this or Councilor that so I think that the Council Chambers is the appropriate place to discuss this.

Mr. Parisi continued to stated, I don't believe that this is the forum for that.

Reginald Knight continued, Councilor this and Councilor that spoke and said things about me which were not very nice. This is the Council Chamber....

Mr. Parisi stated, you are out of order.

Reginald Knight asked, what do you think Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Dickinson offered no response.

Reginald Knight stated, "there goes democracy" and left the meeting.

Mr. Parisi called the next speaker to the microphone, that being Mr. Kappi.

Andy Kappi, 6 Deme Road stated, obviously I am not happy about what came out in the paper about a fifteen minute overall restriction. The point you just made about, if people talk for five minutes then we are not going to get a whole lot of them in here on a given night, is absolutely true. At another time or on another occasion or in the press and not at this moment when my meter is running, I would be interested for individual Council members to tell us why the average of thirty minutes, roughly or so that it has taken over the last couple of meetings is so excessive and what the manic obsession with a fifteen minute limit means to them and what they would rather do with those fifteen minutes per meeting than to listen to us. That is a rhetorical question because that can be answered at your own leisure. In reviewing the comments in this morning's article I noticed that one Councilor is still referring to fifteen minutes and I went back to the article of December 17th and that same Councilor made that same statement so I guess that not a lot has happened to influence people's opinions on this issue. Another Councilor was talking about decorum and I, myself, had made suggestions about a rule of civility and I can go with that. I just would like to, on Reginald Knight's behalf, say that I would think that the decorum would extend to remarks beyond the meetings as well. The idea that we have recourse, that we can go and talk to department heads is something that, in theory, works and I do expect and I hope and I really do believe that we have many department heads who would be cooperative and who would be considerate and would take a phone call and would return a call. I also suspect that given the mix of human beings that we very likely have in just about any grouping, there are going to be some who are

going to be put off by that. It is interesting that you read Mr. Lefebvre's (Chief Lefebvre, Fire Department) letter earlier today. Obviously he was correct on that point but during his appearance here a couple of weeks ago he did not seem too thrilled about answering, let alone questions from a gentleman in the audience, but even giving Mr. Zandri a lot of consideration in his responses, he seemed to be put off by it. That's what it is. Obviously, this is the place where the rubber meets the road; this is the place where you bring an issue out into the open and people address it and it is responded to and people can acknowledge it and view it and that has a terrific meaning to me. I think that is one of the pluses of having this Q&A session. It is one of the things that its always been valuable for and to my knowledge the current set of procedures do not call for a fifteen minute limit. Apparently in the past there was one but I don't think it was ever adhered to.

Mr. Parisi stated, it is unwritten but it has always been about fifteen minutes long.

Mr. Kappi stated, I did talk to a reporter to make a remark in this morning's article and it would be one thing if this speech issue was being considered in and of itself but apparently there are other things going on and other new procedures that you are considering...

Mr. Parisi stated, why don't we wait until they come out?

Mr. Kappi responded, I don't know if that is particularly practical on the night that you are going to vote them in place. Do we get a look at them two days beforehand?

Mr. Parisi stated, if we can get them resolved I will have copies available for people to take so that they don't have to wait for that night.

Mr. Kappi commented, if I don't have final draft language and you are saying that I can't respond to what will be a final draft, I can only speculate. I will make a couple of observations; if there is restrictive language in terms of the ability of individual Council members to speak on an agenda item, clearly there is an absurd way of going about that and there is a less absurd way. If, for example, someone were to say, the majority will be allowed....

Mr. Parisi interrupted to Mr. Kappi to tell him, that is not the issue tonight. We are not going to discuss the rules tonight. We haven't even really finished them yet.

Mr. Kappi responded, I have been making it the issue at this moment for a brief couple of minutes.

Mr. Parisi stated, fine, but you are speculating on things that are not finalized.

Mr. Kappi answered, I would like to address some hypotheticals in my brief stint up here.

Mr. Parisi asked, it's not going to serve any purpose is it?

Mr. Kappi continued, If, for example, you were to write a procedure that said the majority shall be allowed to speak on an agenda item for eighteen minutes and the minority would be allowed to speak for nine minutes, that would look on the surface of it to be pretty silly. If, for example, you were to write it so that an individual Council member could speak for three minutes on an agenda item, it doesn't sound as silly but it amounts to the same mathematics. If, for example, the majority of the Council were to speak in favor of a particular agenda item or on one side of it, and if someone, Mr. Zandri or any other Democratic Council members wanted to speak to rebut that and if each of you spoke in turn obviously, that person, if he had a rebuttal argument to make.....

Mr. Parisi stated, we don't operate that way and there is no limit for Councilpeople, it is a Council meeting.

Mr. Kappi next stated, the next one would be the limiting of the number of agenda items.

Mr. Parisi explained, that is based on the agenda. If there are thirty items on the agenda, it is obvious that we cannot accommodate five reports or what ever. It is dependent upon the agenda.

Mr. Kappi stated, there is a tension here, a bit of a squeeze; call your Councilmember to get him to put your item on the agenda but you have fifteen minutes here. It seems like a squeeze from both ends.

Mr. Parisi stated, I don't think it is because that is basically what we have been doing. There is not a major change made, yet. In fact, there is not any change made yet. If you have seen anything it is basically a working draft is what it is.

Mr. Kappi added, yes, and I am trying to have some input before you make your final draft. I would be paraphrasing but I guess the remark was made this morning that when you win this is what you get to do.

Mr. Parisi stated, I don't know if there is a win or loss here.

Mr. Kappi stated, I am looking at the remark that was made in the paper that said, when you are victorious in an election you get to write the rules. I understand that; I understand that when you are victorious you have the votes that will enact.....

Mr. Parisi stated, this isn't going to ever change; that is our society, bad or good.

Mr. Kappi responded, I understand that but when you set procedures....

Mr. Parisi commented, it is by majority vote.

Mr. Kappi continued,...to limit discussion, to limit the ability of individual Councilors to debate a point or contest an issue or to bring the people's business to the agenda, you create the impression that there is unanimity, that there is no alternative point of view and that there is no real debate.

Mr. Parisi commented, that is the perception of what is being done; it is not what's being done because people will have the opportunity to speak on every agenda item, which they have always had. I don't see where there is a restriction, really. Again, I would say, let's see the final product before we start judging anything.

Mr. Kappi commented, again, the night we see the final product is going to be an awful difficult time.

Mr. Parisi stated, you can see it ahead of time if I can get the responses back from the Council. It will be made available in the Council office. A copy will be made available for anybody who wants one.

Mr. Kappi asked, would you object to one being given to the press so that an article can be written?

Mr. Parisi responded, I cannot....Freedom of Information won't allow me to object to give it to anybody. Anyone can have it, it is free information; there is no problem and there is no secrets; none at all, sir. You know there aren't.

Mr. Kappi stated, I apologize for taking so long; I would rather have seen a bunch of different faces get in on it and since the fifteen minute restriction does not exist at this moment that a few more folks can talk.

Mr. Parisi stated, I hope we can get our responses in from the Council so we can put this to bed.

Frank Wasilewski, 57 N. Orchard Street stated, the way I look at it is, forthright criticism of the Mayor or the Council is essential to the American way. That is what you have to remember because in the Declaration of Independence it says that one of our freedoms is, to be able to criticize the government. You have to read that and understand that. We have the right to criticize the government; not to slander but to criticize. Remember that. That is the end of that. It works both ways, I have said it before. I am not putting all the blame on the Council and I am not putting all the blame on the public. Somewhere along the line, years ago, I can remember you (Mr. Parisi) having a big discussion against a democrat and somehow when you had intermission you went back and had a coffee and put your arms around one of them and everything

was fine. We don't have that today. That's wrong! There is no reason why we can't get along whether you are republican or democrat. That is what we are forgetting. We're saying, "I'm a republican and I'm a democrat and we are not going to see eye to eye and that is wrong! You people are public servants; that is what you are. I got that from the Mayor one day in the parking lot at Holy Trinity Church. I went to a funeral, the Mayor was leaving, it was a beautiful day and I said, why don't you take today off? He said, I can't, I am a public servant. I said, well, I am the public, take the day off. He said, I can't do that. I don't think we have heard any bad words said about anyone here in Wallingford like they said about Abraham Lincoln. He was known as a braggart, buffoon, monster, ignoramus, scoundrel, robber, swindler, tyrant, fiend, butcher, ape, demon, beast, baboon, gorilla and an imbecile and yet he was shot. We have not said any of those words about anyone here in this room.

Mr. Parisi added, and nobody got shot.

Mr. Wasilewski stated, and you're not getting shot. I want to ask, is it true that we are saving \$400,000 on Liability Insurance in Wallingford?

Mayor Dickinson answered, can we save?

Mr. Wasilewski asked, are we?

Mayor Dickinson answered, I am sure we are if it is pursuant to the bid.

Mr. Wasilewski stated, I asked the Risk Manager who told me we are saving \$400,000. I don't know if it is from this past year or this coming year but it seems like we are saving this year because they have already transferred money out of Liability Insurance in the Water and Electric Divisions, \$40,000 and \$20,000, respectively. Is that going to reflect in the new budget?

Mayor Dickinson answered, yes, I am not sure what his comments were directed to but what ever we have for a bid price for the upcoming year would show up in the next budget.

Mr. Wasilewski stated, I hope the Council remembers this when this item comes up at the next budget. I am trying to save the Town money. I also read that the Police Department is going to save the Town \$60,000 on overtime but I understand that they already went through the \$367,000 they budgeted for overtime this year. Is that correct?

Mayor Dickinson answered, I know that they are running low, I am not sure they are through all of it.

Mr. Wasilewski pointed out that the bottom line of the police department's budget will go up anyway because they have recently hired three or four new officers so there goes the \$60,000. They are not saving anything. We are spending more to cut down on the

overtime. You have to remember these things when the budget comes up. I have one more question and I hope I don't offend anyone but I understand that the Mayor is going to give another State of the Town Address to the Republican Town Committee. I would like you to stand in front of the public in Wallingford and give us...

Mr. Parisi invited Mr. Wasilewski to the Republican Town Committee meeting.

Mr. Wasilewski stated, I don't want to hurt your feelings, Mayor, but you are showing disrespect for the taxpayers. I would like to have you come before the Council and make a big thing of it; give us that State of the Town message where we taxpayers get it first.

Mr. Parisi stated, the night of the budget hearings you will hear it.

Mayor Dickinson stated, I speak to the upcoming budget. I think that Frank is talking about the more general comments. I will be repeating what I said earlier tomorrow night at our meeting (Republican Town Committee). Frank is one of the few that want to hear a politician speak.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville stated, the biggest problem we have by far is, most people who are allegedly supposed to be serving the public and geared to serving the public are not taking that mental attitude. That is by far the biggest problem there. Guess who those people may be? A perfect example of that is what occurred at the last meeting we had where Geno Zandri came out with some very skilled and constructive suggestions that would benefit the public relative to participating in Town Council Meetings. But no, Geno's ideas as good as they were, as sincere as they were and as public-oriented as they were for the benefit of the public and taxpayers were soundly rejected. Why were they rejected? Could it be because he was a democrat? Could it be because most of the republicans sitting there favor politics instead of the public and the welfare of the taxpayers? Could it be? Those are the areas where you have the biggest problems, right there and until they are corrected you are still going to have troubles and problems. Remember, the way you have so many rules of the Town Charter relating to the First Amendment of the Constitution, in my opinion, the evidence is blatant that the First Amendment of the Constitution is being violated by restricting the rights of the public to speak....

Mr. Parisi stated, I don't think we are restricting anybody right now.

Mr. Melillo continued, especially with regards to what you guys are drafting right now and what has been made publicly known through the newspapers with your articles in there that you want to cut down. Why cut down? What is the motive behind that? I think it speaks for itself. We have had it up to our ears, remember, we are the bosses, not you or anybody else in the town government of Wallingford. We will make sure you understand that one way or

another as time goes by. We have had it up to our ears and we are not buckling down, we are not going to become slaves to anyone with our minds and brains. People have spilled their guts for this country so that we could have a free society.

Mr. Parisi suggested that Mr. Melillo familiarize himself with the rules before he speaks to them. We are not doing anything that is illegal here.

Mr. Melillo stated, there are too many people in this town government who are too power and money-oriented and that is one of the biggest problems; too power and money-oriented, geared for their egos. I made my point beyond a shadow of a doubt and as time goes on I will make my point time and again. I am not going to take any baloney.

On a separate matter Mr. Melillo asked what happened at the Pierce Plant that caused a hole to be burned in the roof?

Raymond F. Smith, Director of Public Utilities responded, last Thursday a capacity test was being conducted at Pierce. Coincidentally there was a system fault out in the transmission system, not ours, in the N.U. (Northeast Utilities) system. The second fault tripped off all of the auxiliaries at the Pierce Plant. We lost fans and pumps and motors and as a result there was a "hot spot" that developed in the boiler that had been running all day, six hours. Apparently, insulation and roofing material adjacent to the boiler ignited as a result of the hot spot. Murphy's Law somewhat came into effect, we had not run the plant in many, many months and the same day we run it is the day that N.U. had a fault in the system. I have not gotten the final report on the situation yet. There were temporary repairs made to the roof. We have had the Fire Marshal there and at this time I do not have a full report so I don't know to the extent the amount of damage is. The insurance carrier has also been there. It was an accident as a result of several conditions that occurred. We do perform preventative maintenance.

Lastly, Mr. Melillo stated, someone in town government made the statement that people should only be allowed to speak on public matters. Remember, everything that goes on in this town is public matter. Title, power and authority have to be used not for the benefit of the individual but for the benefit of the taxpayers and public.

Albert Killen, 150 Cedar Street asked, the plan that the Council is looking over, does it have time restraints on the amount of time that will be allotted to the general public to speak?

Mr. Parisi answered, they are not too different from what we have now, to be honest. There is a specific time period for the question and answer period.

Mr. Killen asked, what is going to happen when it is violated?

Mr. Parisi answered, I would declare the people.....when the time period is over the session would be closed.

Mr. Killen asked, don't you have a time constraint now?

Mr. Parisi answered, not written. We have always said 7:30 to 7:45 on the agenda but it is not specific to the rules.

Mr. Killen asked, what is going to make it automatic that if you put time restraints in there that you don't have what you just had this evening?

Mr. Parisi stated, that's right, it most likely will be flexible.

Mr. Killen stated, you are not gaining anything. You are going to put in a series of rules and at your own discretion you will decide whether you will put them in effect or you will just let them go by the wayside.

Mr. Parisi stated, that's good input. Maybe we will stick with what ever time limit we set then. That's a good point.

Mr. Killen stated, if you are going to put rules into effect, the best government is the least government. It works very well with rules the same way. Why muddy up the waters with a lot of rhetoric if you can't carry it out and you can't carry it out it has been very evident that you can't carry it out.

Mr. Parisi stated, I will tell you why. I am allowing the speaking tonight, to be very honest with you.....

Mr. Killen begged to differ stating, unless you remove some of these people physically tonight you would not have brought a halt to it. Why kid yourself?

Mr. Parisi stated, we could have just went on with the meeting and left them talking.

Mr. Killen stated, you could have done that when this thing first came up and taught all of us a lesson out here but by your own behavior you have let us get out of hand. Don't put the blame on us, look back at yourself and ask, should we have done something else.

Mr. Parisi responded, I am not putting blame on anyone. This is, quite frankly, it is very easy to stand there and say, you didn't do this and you didn't do that and I accept that. I do the best to try to control the meeting as Chairman. If people cooperate then we are able to do it. If people don't cooperate, it gets more difficult, there is no question about it.

Mr. Killen stated, remember, this is one rule in a whole series of rules and if you are going to decide which ones you are going to carry out and which ones you are going to ignore then there is no sense in having the rules or a question and answer period.

Mr. Parisi stated, that is a very good point. We will take that under advisement. I think what we are trying to do is strike a middle ground but that is a very interesting point of view. Maybe we should just stick with the rules as written. I don't know, it is a good point.

The Chairman declared the question and answer period closed at this time.

ITEM #6 Consider and Approve One Appointment/Re-Appointment to the Board of Assessment Appeals for a Term of Three Years to Expire 1/8/2001

Motion was made by Mr. Zappala to Re-Appoint Mr. Louis DePonte to the Position, seconded by Ms. Papale.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #7 Consider and Approve One Appointment/Re-Appointment to the Position of Alternate on the Planning & Zoning Commission for a Term of Three Years to Expire 1/8/2001

Motion was made by Mr. Zappala to Re-Appoint Doug Harnois to the Position, seconded by Ms. Papale.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #8 Consider and Approve One Appointment/Re-Appointment to the Position of Alternate on the Inland Wetlands Commission for a Term of Three Years to Expire 3/1/2000

Motion was made by Mr. Zappala to Re-Appoint Matthew Fritz to the Position, seconded by Mrs. Papale.

Bernadette Renda, 753 N. Main Street Ext. asked, shouldn't the term expire 3/1/2001?

Town Council Secretary, Kathryn Zandri, explained, the term expired last year and Mr. Fritz has been sitting in the position ever since. Technically, it expired last year and the three years will take him to the year 2000.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

The Town Clerk performed the Swearing-In Ceremony for Mr. DePonte and Mr. Harnois at this time.

ITEM #9 Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$6,400 from Station Equip. - Maint. Acct. #592 and \$2,700 from Maint. - General Plant Acct. #932 for a Total of \$9,100 to Maint. of Overhead Transmission Acct. #571 - Electric Division

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

Mr. Rys noted that the transfer is necessary to accommodate an increased number of switching operations required by CT. Light and Power and United Illuminating Co. in connection with maintenance and repairs of a 115 kV transmission line.

Dave Gessert, Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission explained that the transfer is needed to pay the labor of the gentlemen who are performing the switching. A lot of the switching is done after hours rather than during a normal day so that as few customers as possible are effected during these switching operations. They had people work overtime to do that. It was not budgeted for so they are just moving money over to pay them.

Mr. Knight asked for an explanation of the switching process.

William Cominos, General Manager, Electric Division explained, we have a number of bulk power substations in town that are served by 115kV transmission lines. NU and UI have to repair those lines or perform maintenance on those lines. We have to take those lines out of service; we have to coordinate our work with them and it requires us to do this work normally on an overtime basis. They had an extraordinary number of repairs to do replacing cross arm members and broken insulators on transmission lines this year which we had not anticipated. We feel that the amount we have placed in the budget will cover us through the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Gessert stated, it is in our own self-interest that we cooperate with them so we can feed from a different direction if we have to so that our customers do not lose power.

Frank Wasilewski, 57 N. Orchard Street asked, in 1996-97 you budgeted \$1850 for maintenance of overhead transmission lines, correct?

Mr. Parisi stated, that is not the agenda item.

Mr. Wasilewski stated, this is leading up to this. Why budget so little for this account in the maintenance. We have five or six different maintenance accounts. Maintenance is maintenance whether you have to do it for the station or what ever. Do we get paid for this?

Mr. Gessert responded, it is our obligation.

Mr. Wasilewski warned the division that they should budget more money in the account because he thinks this will come up again. Before you take another substation out of service; how many more are you going to take out?

Mr. Cominos answered, it is the transmission lines servicing the substations that they are working on. Before the end of this fiscal year we will try to establish what their maintenance schedule looks like for the next fiscal year.

Mr. Wasilewski asked, who is the liaison officers from the Council to the P.U.C.?

Mr. Parisi stated, Mr. Renda, Mr. Rys and Mr. Zappala.

Mr. Wasilewski stated, I never see them down at the meetings. I think at least one of them should attend one of the meetings. All three do not have to come but I think they should take turns.

Mr. Parisi stated, there are other obligations and these gentlemen do converse on the telephone with the Chairman of the P.U.C. and the Director and General Manager. It is not that they are totally ignoring their duties.

Mr. Gessert proceeded to explain how the division is making a concerted effort to upgrade the lines so that they won't fall down by themselves or under force of a branch.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #10 Report Out by the Town Engineer on the Status of the Lacey Property and American Legion Property with Respect to Parking Project Schedules and Completion Dates for Each as Requested by Councilors Geno J. Zandri, Jr.

Town Engineer, John Thompson, presented the Council with a drawing of Proposed Town Hall Parking Improvements. The area behind the American Legion and the property on Prince Street have been re-configured to accommodate an expanding parking area with landscaping behind the Town Hall proper. Currently there are approximately 70-75 spaces in the Town Hall parking lot. By re-configuring the parking lot and making use of the Prince Street property as well as the land behind the American Legion, a circulation pattern around the entire parking lot is created producing a total sum of 156 parking spaces. The program would double the number of parking spaces we currently have. The program also includes the creation of a landscape buffer around the entire perimeter of the parking lot. Significant filling activity in this area as well as the Prince Street property is being proposed to bring this all up to one uniform and consistent grade across the rear of the property. In order to do that, a retainer wall must be constructed around the north side of the property across the entire west side of the property abutting the properties. Architecturally sensitive treatments are being proposed in recognition of the fact that six private properties are located to the west of the Town Hall. An interlocking wall system with a rough texture facade would face the abutting property owners. At the top of the wall a dense landscape buffer is being proposed along with the elimination of the fence. A wood, architecturally-treated rail is recommended for separating the cars from the landscape areas. A new pavement surface along with storm drainage system to accommodate the new configuration will be included in the project. Operationally, access to the parking lot will continue to be two ways off of Prince Street. We are talking about creating a two-way circulation

throughout the entire lot with a one way proposed access off of South Main Street behind the old American Legion. The reason for the one way is due to the narrow right-of-way off of S. Main Street and we do not want to encourage additional traffic driving out onto S. Main Street.

Mr. Thompson has been directed by the Mayor to include the moneys for this project in the department's 1998-99 six year non-recurring budget. If the moneys are approved the work would commence possibly as early as late this summer and would take approximately four months to complete construction. The total projected cost for the entire project is estimated at \$200,000 to \$250,000. The cost of the wall accounts for a large portion of the amount. The wall currently in place is made of metal and is rusting away. It has a remaining life of only a few years before significant repairs are going to have to be made. It is also an unattractive element. If we are going to do the job we should do it so that it is aesthetically pleasing as well as practical.

Mr. Zandri stated that the drawings call only for backfill behind the retaining wall.

Mr. Thompson explained, it has been identified as backfill but we are pursuing the use of the material that has been excavated from the Fire Station Expansion Project. That material has been categorized as slightly contaminated. In discussions with the Fire Department and the D.E.P. (Dept. of Environmental Protection) they have told us that the material can be used as common fill under a paved surface. This appears to be an ideal location for the use of that material. It is contained in a fully-enclosed area. We have found a site that appears to be compatible for the use of the material and we will be saving the Town \$60,000 which is the cost to remove the fill from the Fire Department property.

Mr. Zandri stated, I have had some working knowledge of this type of wall construction and the manufacturer calls for at least one foot of gravel behind those walls and the location of a drainage system at the base of the wall to take the water away.

Mr. Thompson stated, at the lower corner we will place a perforated pipe enclosed in a cloth material surrounded by stone. That system would drain out to our storm drainage system on Prince Street.

Mr. Rys asked, when was it determined that the American Legion property would be turned all into parking and paved surface? I remember discussing the Lacey Property but never the American Legion as parking. Is this something new?

Mayor Dickinson answered, it has been discussed on occasion. Tom Zappala has asked about it before. We did not purchase the American Legion property for parking nor was the Lacey Property purchased for parking. The purpose was to have those properties available in the future when the Town Hall would probably need expansion. In the interim it doesn't hurt to utilize the properties and it improves our parking as well as some deficiencies

in the retaining wall that currently holds up the rear portion of the property.

Mr. Rys stated, the reason I brought that up is because of the amount of parking that is available across the street at 88 S. Main Street which cost us millions of dollars. Now we are going to add more parking to the left side of the building when, perhaps, we should be fully utilizing what we have now. If there is a need for this I can understand expending the funds but I know that we have an empty parking lot there that can be utilized.

Mayor Dickinson responded, the need is dependent upon what your habits may be. On a day when everyone pays taxes there are definitely a lot of people trying to access the building. Unfortunately, there are not a lot of people who want to park across the street and walk over. It is human nature. We do have requests at certain time periods because people want to park new the building.

Mr. Rys stated, we have had discussions with some of the people who live on Prince Street who are looking forward to having the street widened. It is not wide enough from the carriage house down. The drawing shows that we are going to landscape that.

Mr. Thompson stated, what is missing off of the plan is the existing alignment of Prince Street west of the existing driveway for Town Hall. That property creates a narrow section of roadway. We are proposing a widening of a portion of Prince Street abutting and adjacent to Town-owned property. If we were to go any further we would be into property acquisition. We have been told by the Mayor's Office not to get involved in property acquisition.

Mr. Parisi asked, are you showing any parking on the road, itself?

Mr. Thompson responded, this plan is not addressing any change in parking on Prince Street, itself. I think that if we were to go ahead with this program of creating off-street parking the opportunity would exist for the elimination of on-street parking at least from the westerly driveway down to the next intersection. There is an opportunity, while not widening the road, perhaps by eliminating parking to make that one short section appear wider because of the opportunity to remove cars from the on-street parking situation.

Mr. Zappala stated, alleluia! I don't remember how many times I have had this item on the agenda to achieve something like we are being shown. I think it is inevitable. We have to do something. I don't think I am the only one who comes to Town Hall and can't find a parking spot. You could blame who ever you want for it, you could blame the employees if they don't want to park across the street but very seldom will you find a parking spot at the Town Hall. I think this is forthcoming; it should have been done a long time ago and it will probably eliminate the problem with the neighbors. Their concern has been that there has always been cars in front of their houses and they can't park their own cars there.

By extending the parking lot it should eliminate the problem and benefit everyone who uses the Town Hall. I am happy to see this and hope that the funds are approved in July.

Mr. Farrell asked, in terms of the backfill, you described it as contaminated. What is it contaminated with?

Mr. Thompson answered, I don't know the exact composition of the contamination. Chief Wayne Lefebvre could probably address that better. I believe that it is some kind of petroleum product contamination from the fire apparatus but don't hold me to the record.

Mayor Dickinson stated, D.E.P. had reviewed it and sanctioned it for certain uses.

Mr. Farrell stated, it is all well and good that the D.E.P. thinks it's nice to place there but we are talking about a neighborhood that is residential and while I guess it is nice to try and contain the cost, I don't know that we necessarily gain by bringing contaminated soil to a site that is not otherwise contaminated.

Mr. Thompson stated, it is something that has not been finalized. It is something that we may want to consider since it benefits us by keeping the cost down for both us and the Fire Department. I will provide the Council with further information on the composition of that slightly contaminated soil and we can make a decision jointly if that is something we want to do.

Mr. Farrell stated, I grew up in this area and there are numerous springs in this area and I would be worried about that this is not solid material that we may be leaching into something else.

Mr. Thompson answered, the possibility of leaching does exist and you are raising legitimate concerns. We will get a detailed answer as we pursue the designs. It may not be suitable.

Mr. Centner concurs with Mr. Farrell on the leaching aspect. I am not familiar with the wall construction and during saturation periods, heavy rains and groundwater, I am not sure if that wall would retain it.

Mr. Thompson assured the Council that he will pursue other alternatives if there is the slightest doubt that the use of that material would have any leaching into adjacent properties.

Mr. Parisi stated, I think there are other areas in Town that are using a similar product that are having good luck with it (the wall material).

Mr. Centner stated, the wall does look attractive but is it prone to weed or moss growth and will it create a maintenance problem?

Mr. Thompson answered, we did look at the maintenance aspect of it and the possibility that if we had a "terracing" of the wall it

would have to be maintained by the Dept. of Public Works. The wall itself is not prone to weeds. The barrier in the back (fill material) stops the weed growth on the surface. There is also the possibility of spraying on some kind of defoliant. Our experiences have been very successful in minimizing weeds.

Mr. Centner stated, I was concerned with small, vine-type weeds climbing the wall.

Mr. Thompson continued, the terracing is gone but the potential for some type of creepy growth exists. Any wall has to be maintained.

Mr. Centner asked, what is the height of the wall?

Mr. Thompson answered, a maximum of seven feet. It changes based on the other abutting properties. The high point of the wall is the area in which the wall exists today.

Mr. Centner stated, this is my concern that if it were challenging enough it would be a climbing mountain for children; for liability purposes. Regarding on-street parking; do all of the homeowners have driveways? Some houses in that area of town don't have them. If you remove on-street parking you may actually box someone out of where to park their car.

Mr. Parisi explained, when I said remove on-street parking I meant on the Town Hall side, not on the house side.

Mr. Renda asked, when you put this driveway in will you have water drains put in around the area?

Mr. Thompson answered, an entire new drainage system is being proposed for the parking lot. None of the drainage from the parking lot is going to flow out onto the street. That is not permitted according to our own regulations. The plan will reflect our own Town of Wallingford procedures with regards to landscaping as well.

Mr. Rys stated, there is a driveway that comes off of Center Street behind the church and then there is a very narrow section where you can come through. Is that going to be blocked off or remain open?

Mr. Thompson answered, we don't have the legal authority to close off that access. We are not proposing any change in the use of that right-of-way.

Ms. Papale stated, I believe that when we bought the Lacey Property it was purchased for property. The American Legion property was purchased for possible future expansion. I never expected to see something as nice as this. It is a good idea putting the two (properties) together. I was quite upset wondering, what is taking so long here, it seems like forever and nothing is getting done? I am very pleased to see that we are going to have parking lots with class. It should be very nice. I do receive a phone call at least once a week from a person who lives on Prince Street and

cannot find a parking space each day when he comes home from work. She wanted to make sure that problem is kept in mind.

Mr. Thompson feels, if there is sufficient off-street parking then the demand for parking on the street is going to go away. This lot can become an asset to the Town, not only to accommodate the parking demand but if it can be constructed in a fashion that is consistent with the streetscape that is out in front of Town Hall, the lighted theme and brickwork can be carried down to the parking area so that it is a cohesive design element which should compliment Town Hall. It has taken a lot longer to get to this point than ever envisioned and Mr. Thompson stated that he will be before the Council asking for money for the project in the very near future. Funding the project will be paramount to achieving what everyone wants to see happen.

Mr. Zandri stated, the plans are excellent; it will be an asset to the community. I encourage the Mayor's department to try and keep to the schedule as Mr. Thompson has laid out so that this project can be finalized by the end of this year. Thank you for an excellent presentation.

Jason Zandri, Circle Drive stated, with regards to the slight contamination of the soil; I work at Norwalk Harbor Generating Station so I deal with D.E.P. There are different levels of classification of contaminants in soil. A slight contaminate of the soil can be the amount you may spill from a lawnmower filling it up with gasoline. If it is a small amount and we have the ability to save \$60,000 and there is no major threat of it leaching then I suggest that you consider using that material. It may be that a small amount of fuel dripped off of a fire truck while it was parked on the soil area. That would not be a risk at all. You contaminate more soil by working on power equipment in your backyard. On the upper portion of the wall, what will prevent people from coming over the wall?

Mr. Thompson stated, we are proposing a guardrail at the parking lot area to stop the vehicles from physically being able to drive over the top of the wall onto private property.

Jason Zandri asked, what will stop a child from playing and coming over the top of the wall?

Mr. Thompson stated, we are proposing a dense landscaped area in that four foot wide area which will serve two purposes; one, to stop the light penetration from the cars in the parking lot and two, to act as a physical barrier to anyone walking through the area. It may happen that we have to get into some type of fence to locate at the top of the wall as the project moves ahead.

Jason Zandri stated, I am not too far removed from being a kid and I never met a shrub that could stop me. I am concerned that someone may find that as a challenge, be up there goofing around, end up falling and suing the town.

Mr. Thompson stated, that possibility always exists and to the extent that we can we will protect the area. If a fence is necessary then it will have to be done.

Philip Wright, 160 Cedar Street asked if the figure of 156 parking spaces was exclusive of 88 S. Main Street?

Mr. Thompson responded, yes.

Mr. Wright stated, I was on the Planning & Zoning Commission when the Town was permitted to move into this building without adequate parking. I was very sorry that we ever permitted that because it was like pulling teeth to ever get anything done to remedy the lack of parking space. We finally were forced to go to 88 S. Main Street. By the way, please take a look at the roof on the south side of the building. The shingles are very bad. Right now I believe that we should go ahead with the expenditure to make parking. One day we will do something with this building next door (American Legion) either for our own use or we are going to rent, lease it out and it is criminal to have it sitting there totally unoccupied. It is the responsibility of the Council to see that something gets done about it; they own the property, not the Mayor. We are going to have 250 parking spaces here around the Town Hall and I don't know how many at 88 S. Main Street. No one ever uses it. One day we ought to either sell 88 S. Main Street or start renting out parking spaces to people around here. We have no need whatsoever for the 250 parking spaces here and all that is over at 88 S. Main Street. Our problem is that we have never taken the bull by the horns and said, from A-F you park over across the street for the first two months of the year; from F-G you park over there the second two months of the year, etc. Someone has got to get around to assigning people to use 88 S. Main Street. It is senseless that we are not making use of that property. I come down here often times and find that I have to drive around a bit and every time I do I take a drive over to 88 S. Main Street and count the open spaces. It is not good management to have 88 S. Main Street over there not being used and we are going on to spend money over here. One day someone will get the backbone to do something about that. Maybe it will be before my obituary is written, I hope so.

Mr. Thompson stated, nothing that we are doing as part of this parking lot enhancement project is going to, in anyway, constrain what the Town may eventually want to do with the American Legion building.

Mr. Parisi agreed with Mr. Wright.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville questioned whether we need the two properties for parking. He never has any problem getting a parking place. Maybe we should lease the properties out or sell them to private developers to make money for the town. Another perception is, as time goes by you will have more employees working for town government in Wallingford at the Town Hall. Could it be the other way around? Since they are making more and more

advancements in computer technology, the odds are that as time goes by you will have the need for less workers than you have right now. Is the Town going to have as much of the project done by Town employees to save the taxpayers as much money as possible?

Mr. Thompson stated, we are evaluating have the Public Works Department do the entire project and that will be a function of their other workloads; roadway construction or other maintenance activities.

Mr. Melillo asked, when are we going to make use of the American Legion building?

Mr. Parisi stated, we are making use of it, that is why we are doing something.

Dave Gessert, Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission wanted to make the Council aware the that substation out by Prince Street and the carriage house will be decommissioned before the end of this calendar year. By this time next year it will be removed.

Frank Wasilewski, 57 N. Orchard Street reminded the Council that quite a few years ago Mr. Gouveia suggested that a parking garage be constructed at the Town Hall.

Mr. Parisi added, and years before that Mr. Zandri and myself had proposed the same thing. You can go back in history and probably find the same proposals just coming out.

Mr. Wasilewski stated, because before we are through, between the two parking lots we are going to spend over \$1 million. That \$1 million would have gone a long way with a parking garage. We probably would have had three or four floors with convenient parking for everybody. I can't see having the Public Works Department doing the work because you are going to be taking them away from important things they have to do in the summer. It will push everything else back. A private concern should come in and do the job and get it over with.

Mr. Parisi thanked Mr. Thompson for his report out.

ITEM #11 Report Out by the Water, Sewer and Electric Divisions on Upcoming Major Capital Projects Scheduled for the Next Two Years as Requested by Councilor Geno J. Zandri, Jr.

Raymond F. Smith, Director of Public Utilities Stated, we have recently developed our five year program so we will give you specifics on the short term projects but also will touch upon the longer term issues we will be facing as we get down the road in developing rate programs and looking at costs. We need to understand where the big impacts come in and how they might effect the rates in a going forward basis.

Roger Dann, General Manager of the Water & Sewer Divisions began his presentation by reporting out on the Water Division.

Water Division

The West Side Tankage project is scheduled to begin in March to April of This year. It is anticipated that the project will be completed somewhere around mid-July, 1999. This is the single largest and most immediate project of the division.

Additional projects have been identified in the five year capital program including the removal of accumulated sediment from McKenzie Reservoir and renovations and possible installation of treatment systems for Well #1. Mr. Dann explained that the division is looking at beginning some preliminary work, whether it be studies to determine what its options may be or preliminary design work likely to begin in 1999 - 2000 or 2000 - 2001. In addition, there are a number of smaller projects relating to water main upgrades. Amongst those are the Quinipiac Street Project and water main replacement at Church Street. A five year program has been laid out for water main replacements and the division anticipates that, on average, there will be approximately \$400,000 per year committed to the upgrade of older and smaller water mains in the system.

Sewer Division

The two major projects listed in the five year projected capital budget are the installation of an east/west parallel interceptor or at least an upgrade of it. It is associated with capacity issues which will result from development ultimately to build-out in the drainage areas served by that sewer. It has been looked at on a periodic basis and the build-out has not occurred as quickly as we originally projected. We will continue to look at it and if it is possible that, rather than have to do that work in a single, major project, we may be able to break it up into a series of somewhat smaller projects and space those out over five to ten years. That will be an evolving project.

The other major project the division is facing is the installation of de-nitrification treatment processes for the wastewater treatment plant. The contaminate of concern right now with environmental agencies is nitrogen within Long Island Sound. With the next issuance or re-issuance of the division's operating permit for the wastewater plant, Mr. Dann anticipates that there will be nitrogen limits imposed for the first time. The division will be looking at what retrofits it is able to accomplish within the facility to meet the phase goals in nitrogen removal however that may lead to a significant capital project. That data has been carried in the budget as an informational item at this point with a fairly substantial dollar value that represents the highest possible cost. Hopefully, as the options for nitrogen removal are studied, the dollar figure can be cut down significantly.

Other minor projects in the Sewer Division include two sewer main project; one being a 1200' section of main in Christian Street in the Spring, the other is the replacement of several segments of the Parker Farms sewer that will be upgraded in the summer of 1998.

Mr. Zandri asked, what is the cost estimate for the West Side Tankage and the McKenzie Sediment Projects?

Mr. Dann responded, the ordinance for the West Side Tankage Project is \$3.8 million. We are currently showing an estimated cost of \$1.1 million for the McKenzie Reservoir project. In the upcoming year, however, we anticipate putting some time and effort into both a better definition of the quantity of the material to be removed and also some sampling to determine the quality of the material which will be removed. It is conceivable that there will be a market value to the material and if that is the case then the overall cost to accomplish the task may come down. We will not know that until we get further into the project.

Mr. Zandri asked, are those two projects the most expensive on your list?

Mr. Dann answered, the retro-fits and upgrade at Well #1 is also costly; \$1.5 million.

Mr. Zandri asked, do you project that this will effect the rates in any way?

Mr. Dann answered, we have not completed a full rate update at this time. That is a process that we are going through at this point in time. I can't comment now as to how it may effect it.

Mr. Zandri asked, is there a chance for some federal subsidy in any way for any of these projects?

Mr. Dann answered, I don't believe that there is any federal grant money available. There is low-interest loan money available for certain water projects. Eligibility must first be determined for funding and then all of the projects that are submitted by various utilities in the State are then ranked on a priority point system. As we go through these projects, if there is an opportunity to apply for that we will look seriously at it.

Mr. Rys asked, is Well #1 on Hartford Turnpike?

Mr. Dann responded, yes.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville stated, when you put these three projects together you automatically know that you are involving millions and millions of taxpayers' money. He asked, doesn't the Water, Sewer and Electric Divisions have a total of approximately \$11 million that you are not using?

Mr. Smith responded, there is a large amount of cash in each division but some of that cash is already committed to certain projects. Some of those projects have had funds appropriated for them; the new computer system is a good example. The money has not yet been spent and is in reserve for that purpose.

Mr. Melillo stated, it seems that the utilities have enough money in reserve to avoid bonding and pay cash for the projects.

Mr. Smith answered, we intend to do that for some projects; some projects are a bit beyond the means of the division such as the denitrification process. An early estimate of that, which is about five years out, is about \$6-7 million. That is far beyond the means of the Sewer Division to handle that on a cash basis.

Mr. Melillo asked, is that project being mandated by the State?

Mr. Smith answered, it is a long range plan of the State to help clean up Long Island Sound. At this moment, no, it is not mandated by the State. Some studies have been performed on the issue and it is our expectation that there will be some requirements to reduce nitrogen loading in the Quinnipiac River.

Mr. Melillo asked if all avenues have been explored with federal, state and local representatives to let them know we need their help in funding a project like this?

Mr. Gessert stated, we always do and will continue to do so.

Mr. Parisi stated, we have to give them credit; when they are up there they do not ignore any sources of funding. I am sure they are going to turn over every rock they can and this Council will make sure that they do that.

Mr. Melillo congratulated Mr. Zandri for bringing this item forward to the agenda.

Electric Division

William Cominos, General Manager of the Electric Division stated, for the next two fiscal years we will be re-conductoring some overhead systems in town; underground system re-conductoring; replace direct-burial cables on a routine basis at Pilgrim's Harbor over the next couple of years; re-vamp the Rte. 68 and I-91 intersection underground system; fleet replacement, and the East Street Substation distribution project will be performed in F.Y. 1999-2000 at an estimated cost of \$2 million. On the transmission side of that substation we will perform \$1 million in improvements. The fleet replacements will take place in that same year.

Mr. Smith explained, there are other projects in place that have not yet had funds expended on them, the computer is replacement is one. We are modifying the East Street Substation in conjunction with our power supply contract. That will most likely take place

in two phases; the initial phase will be to get the transformation upgraded and modernize some of the low voltage equipment and in the future we will be looking at some upgrades to the transmission portion and some work on the 115kV side. We are also investigating options for the Pierce Plant replacement. That is not budgeted but it is a major capital program. It will probably be done by an outside vendor consistent with the re-structuring process. Associated with those projects will be ancillary work that goes along once the new plant is renovated/created then there is going to be some de-mobilization and retirement of the existing facility which will have a price tag too. We have not identified a specific cost element with that. In the budget submitted to the P.U.C. but not yet acted upon, we are looking at approximately \$3.6 million of capital projects for 1998-99 and \$4.85 million for the following year that have been identified to this point. Of course, those figures are subject to review by the P.U.C., Mayor and Council. We envision about a \$2.6 million, \$2.6 million and \$1.6 million to fill out the five year capital program as we see it.

Mr. Zandri asked, most of the capital project for the upcoming year deals with re-conductoring. Is that where the \$3.6 million come in, for the upcoming year?

Mr. Cominos responded, between the overhead and underground, yes; a large part of that.

Mr. Zandri asked, what is your normal budget for that? What have you budgeted in the past year?

Mr. Smith explained, in the current year's budget, \$700,000. for Overhead Systems Re-conductoring; \$918,000 for Underground Systems Re-conductoring and \$425,000 for Distribution System Undergrounding.

Mr. Zandri asked, in your overall plan of re-conductoring the town, where do you stand? Are you 80% done; 90% done; 75% done?

Mr. Cominos responded, in the range of 75%. We still have three substations that we want to retire. By the time they are retired there will still be some upgrading of the older units.

Mr. Zandri asked, do you feel that within the next two to three years that project will be complete as far as re-conductoring?

Mr. Smith answered, the bulk of it will be. That does not take into account expansion or growth.

Mr. Zandri asked, as far as the East Street Substation is concerned, are any of those dollars associated with the project coming from either United Illuminating (U.I.) or CT. Light & Power (CL&P) on that project?

Mr. Smith answered, \$3.8 million is coming from CL&P as part of our agreement. The total rehab of that station including transmission, we are estimating somewhere beyond \$5 million.

Mr. Zandri asked, so the Town's portion is somewhere around \$3 million?

Mr. Smith answered, yes.

Mr. Zandri stated, we just got through building a substation up on Colony Street; is there any future plans for any additional substations once you get the East Street Substation up to par?

Mr. Smith answered, we don't have any in our horizon. If we had a major customer come into town any we did not have the facility to serve, that could change things. At one point we were looking at the North Branford Substation but we have since re-earmarked those dollars to go back to the East Street Substation and upgrade that as opposed to building a new facility.

Mr. Zappala asked, what is our position with the underground wiring and Pilgrim's Harbor? Is it different than private homeownership? Are we responsible for underground wiring?

Mr. Cominos responded, many years ago underground wiring was direct-burial in type and that wiring is not starting to fail. Now we put wires in conduits so that it is easy to replace and get at to expedite repairs. It is our responsibility to take care of what is currently in subdivisions, the repairs and maintenance of that cable. The contractor may have installed the old wiring under our watch and we accepted it upon completion, therefore we are responsible. The same thing would happen today.

Mr. Zappala asked if the North Branford Substation proposal has been abandoned altogether?

Mr. Gessert responded, it proved to be cost-prohibitive. It is more cost-effective to improve the network rather than build a substation.

Mr. Knight asked, what does it mean to re-conductor?

Mr. Cominos responded, you are removing the old wiring and installing new wiring.

Mr. Knight asked, where is the undergrounding taking place on Route 5?

Mr. Cominos responded, the division's cables hang under the overpass bridges on Route 5. This creates a hazardous situation not to mention maintenance problems. There is only one left to do.

Mr. Knight asked, is there any chance that the division would consider further undergrounding of utilities for Route 5 for improvement, aesthetically speaking? Route 5 is unsightly with all the wiring and poles.

Mr. Cominos responded, our rates do not allow us to go into something like Route 5 in one fall swoop. That would be

significant dollars. We are trying, through Planning & Zoning, to have new services installed underground; electric, cable, telephone, etc.

Mr. Knight asked, as Route 5 undergoes changes and the division has to move poles, would that be an opportunity to underground at that time?

Mr. Cominos answered, the cost difference between re-locating those poles and undergrounding those wires is tremendous. I wish I could say it was a wash but it is a tremendous cost.

Item #12 Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-18a(e)(5) of the CT. General Statutes Pertaining to Pension Negotiations - Personnel

Item #14 Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-18a(e)(4) of the CT. General Statutes Pertaining to the Sale, Lease or Purchase of Property - Mayor's Office

Item #15 Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-18a(e)(2) of the CT. General Statutes Pertaining to Pending Litigation Involving Tax Appeals - Town Attorney

Addendum #17 Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-18a(e)(2) of the CT. General Statutes Pertaining to Pending Litigation Involving Dellavecchia v. Factory Built Homes and Town of Wallingford

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Enter Into Executive Sessions Listed Above, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

The Council entered into executive session at 9:12 P.M.

The Council exited the executive sessions at 9:57 P.M.

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Exit the Executive Sessions, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

Item #13 Consider and Approve Ratifying a Pension Agreement Between the Town of Wallingford and the Wallingford Police Union

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

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

Item #16 Consider and Approve Settlement of Pending Litigation Involving Tax Appeals - Town Attorney

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Approve the Settlement of a Tax Appeal Involving Phoenix Units #5 & 6 at Phoenix Park, 29 North Plains Highway, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

Addendum Item #18 Consider and Approve Settlement of Pending Litigation - Town Attorney

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Approve the Settlement of a Tax Appeal Involving #116 & 118 Center Street, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

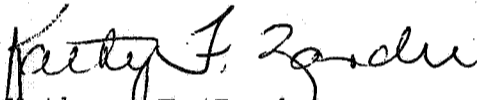
VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

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

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

Meeting recorded and transcribed by:



Kathryn F. Zandri
Town Council Secretary

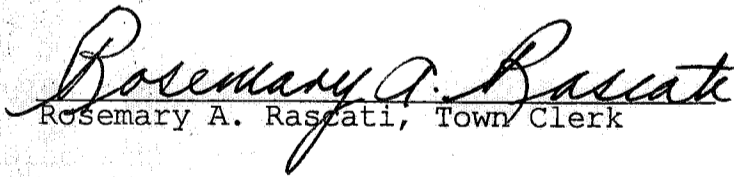
Approved by:



Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

3-10-98

Date


Rosemary A. Rascati, Town Clerk

3-10-98

Date