

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 5, 1998

8:00 P.M.

Mayor Dickinson called the meeting to order at 8:01 P.M. and requested that the Color Guards from American Legion Shaw-Sinon Post 73, American Legion Siedlicki Post #187, VFW Raoul Lufbery Post #591 & VFW Stanley Budleski Post #9965 come forward.

The Sheehan High School Brass Ensemble led by Fred E. Rossomando performed Stars & Stripes Forever as the color guards formed.

INVOCATION - REV. ERIC FJELDAL

Let us pray, gracious God we gather this night giving thanks for your presence, trusting in your goodness and relying on your grace and mercy. We ask that your spirit guide and inspire all gathered here this night. We ask to that your presence be felt in all that we do and say, so that our actions may be pleasing in your sight. We pray especially for our elected officials who are being sworn in this night that you be with them and guide them in the task and responsibilities they are about to undertake. Help them to understand all that is asked of them. Keep them humble and focused that they may remember those they are called to serve. Strengthen them for their tasks; support them and those who love them; remind them that we place our trust in them to govern over this community wisely, justly and fairly with compassion, mercy and understanding. That all that our community may be served, cared for and affirmed. Hear this, our prayer, we ask. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Jean Holloway, led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Sheehan High School Brass ensemble performed the National Anthem.

SWEARING-IN OF MAYOR WILLIAM W. DICKINSON, JR.

Judge of Probate, Philip A. Wright, Jr. administering the Oath of Office to William W. Dickinson, Jr. as Mayor of the Town of Wallingford, Connecticut (Applause)

Judge Wright - "Do you, William W. Dickinson, Jr., solemnly swear that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Connecticut so long as you continue a citizen thereof and that you will faithfully discharge, according to law, the duties of the Office of Mayor of Wallingford to the

* see correction to Pg. 7 - corrected at meeting of 1-27-98

best of your abilities so help you God?"

Mayor Dickinson - "I do."

(Applause)

Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. - "Thank you very much. It is very welcome and nice that you've all taken the time to come out and observe the ceremonies this evening. The so-called trappings of office mean different things to different people. The first time that President Eisenhower was elected he visited his brother Milton in a small town of State College in Pennsylvania. All of the residents were very excited; the President of the United States coming to the town. The town was abuzz and it was learned that the President was coming on a train and the train would be staying and waiting for the President, placed on a siding in the town and everyone as excited. But the most excited people were the children. No one could quite figure that out. They wanted to see the Presidential train. The day arrived; the train arrived; the President arrived; he got off the train; he was observed getting into a car and off he sped to see his brother. And the crowd gradually dispersed and the children were still there looking at the train. Two hours later a little girl arrived home and she was asked, what did you think of it all? She said, oh, I was disappointed. Well, why? She said, the teacher told us we see the Presidential seal. Well, it was on the train, you didn't see it on the train? We didn't see it, but I think I heard it bark once. In Wallingford we don't have a mayoral seal, we don't have a town council seal, we don't have an official board of education seal, we have one seal for the Town of Wallingford and that is the Town of Wallingford seal. Tonight we, as elected officials, pledge ourselves to work in behalf of the community. One seal; one community working together. It is meaningful that this ceremony occur in January; the beginning of a new year. Our resolution is that our decisions and actions be such that they address the needs and provide for our future. But as elected officials we only do a small part of the total. A man was talking to a friend and in the course of the conversation a young fellow came in and the friend just bubbled over; introduced him; told things about him; bragged about him after he left; spoke of him as a son. The other fellow said, you don't have any children, what's with this? The man said listen, as a youngster that kid tramped through my garden, ruined my hedge, chased my cat. When he was a little older, I bought candy bars and magazines and Christmas wrapping paper for every cause you can imagine. When he was still older, we were serenaded by the roar of a motorcycle and the sound of rock music coming out of an upstairs window. Now that he has turned into a rather decent chap, I intend to take some of the credit. Wallingford is a good town and a good place to be because everyone, everyone here can take credit. From scout troops to P.T.O.s; from Veteran organizations to W.C.I. and the Chamber of Commerce; from churches and synagogue to the Emergency Shelter; to Holiday for Giving; to

Habitat for Humanity; from sports leagues to bingo, you people, we, make the difference. Wallingford is a great resource and its volunteers and it is their contribution that makes the community what it is. It is in their contribution that the personality of Wallingford is born. We are blessed as a community that so many people share their time in behalf of their neighbors. The Town also depends upon the services offered by government. For the most part they are essential services and I ask that all of us that work for government, whether plowing a street or teaching in a classroom; whether sitting at a desk or repairing a water or electric line, what ever the work may be that we perform our tasks with pride and caring. More than a century ago when the first american steamboat....Robert Fulton's Clairmont was scheduled to make its trial run on the Hudson River, a big crowd gathered to watch. One of the spectators was a pessimistic old farmer. He predicted, they will never start her...never start her. But the steamboat did start. Its speed increased faster and faster it went, belching black pillows of smoke. The crowd went wild. The old farmer turned away shaking his head, they will never stop her...they will never stop her. This Town, its spirit, for some three hundred and twenty-seven years will not be stopped. With God's help, if we continue to work together for each other's welfare we will have a bright future. May everyone have a very healthy and happy new year. Thank you."

(Applause)

At this time the Mayor asked Judge Philip A. Wright, Jr. to come forward to administer the Oath of Office to the Town Council.

SWEARING-IN OF TOWN COUNCIL

Judge of Probate Philip A. Wright, Jr. asked that the following individuals rise so that he may perform the Swearing-In Ceremony for the Wallingford Town Council:

Richard J. Centner, Jr.
Jerry Farrell, Jr.
Stephen W. Knight
Iris F. Papale
Robert F. Parisi
Frank A. Renda, Sr.
Raymond J. Rys, Sr.
Geno J. Zandri, Jr.
G. Thomas Zappala

Judge Wright - "Do you solemnly swear that you will faithfully discharge according to law your duties as members of the Town Council of Wallingford to the best of your ability so help you God?" (Applause)

Mayor Dickinson requested a Roll Call of the Town Council Members.

ROLL CALL OF TOWN COUNCIL

All Councilors answered present to the Roll called by Town Council Secretary Kathryn F. Zandri.

ELECTION AND SWEARING-IN OF TOWN COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Mayor Dickinson announced, at this time the floor is open to nominations for the position of Town Council Chairman.

Stephen Knight: "I am honored to have the opportunity to place the name of Robert Parisi in nomination to be Chairman of the Wallingford Town Council for the next two years. I have lots of nice things to say about Bob and why he should be Chairman but for two years all I have heard is, Steve, keep it brief; Steve, don't go on forever; Steve, just say what you need to say and stop talking, so I won't say all those nice things. Seriously, I can list any of a dozen reasons why Bob is the natural choice for this position but I really do want to exhibit the business-like approach that Bob has tried to install in all of us. So I will limit mention to performance, public service and manager. First of all, let's talk about Bob's performance these past two years. Bob's brought a no-nonsense approach to our meetings, that the vast majority of our constituents has truly appreciated. He has kept this body focused on the business at hand and we have met every issue in the decisive style for which he is well known. As my other political mentor, Dave Gessert, has said, some people confuse mere activity with real productivity; Bob Parisi darn well knows the difference. Secondly, I believe that well over twenty years of public service to the Town of Wallingford deserves reward and it deserves recognition. The voters of Wallingford have re-elected people like Bob Parisi and Iris Papale, I might add, time and time again. By doing so they have said that they want the thoughtful, consistent and focused leadership that Bob offers. And I am here to say to them that we hear you loud and clear. Lastly, and most important to me is that Bob has been a friend and leader to each and every one of us on the Town Council these past two years. Like any good manager he respects each of us for the unique perspective that each of us brings to this office. Like any good leader, he has provided a productive and positive atmosphere that has made our time spent doing the public's work a pleasure. For those reasons, and many others, I urge my colleagues to re-elect Bob Parisi to the position of Town Council Chairman. Motion was seconded by Mr. Renda.

Mayor Dickinson called for any other nominations.

Geno Zandri, Jr.: "I have been impressed by an individual on this Council that has served well on the Board of Education and he has impressed me in the last two years as he has served as a Councilman and he is a young individual and is very energetic and it is my

pleasure to put the name of Rich Centner in nomination for the position of Town Council Chairman. Thank you." Motion was seconded by Mr. Centner.

Mayor Dickinson called for further nominations. Hearing none he called for a motion to close nominations.

Motion was made by Mr. Farrell to Close nominations, seconded by Mr. Renda.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

VOTE ON ELECTING TOWN COUNCIL CHAIRMAN: Centner and Zandri, Centner; Farrell, Knight, Rys, Renda, Zappala and Papale, Parisi.

A vote of 6-2 in favor of Robert Parisi was recorded.

(Applause)

Robert F. Parisi: "I have a very short statement. I wish to thank my colleagues for the confidence they have placed in me and Steve for saying that you are not going to say a lot of nice things I am very appreciative for your very fine nomination. I'll settle for what you did anytime. The Council has several projects to oversee this term, the Senior Center, Community Pool, Community Lake, Linear Trail and the commitment to open spaces, 9-1-1, computer upgrade for the Town and the P.U.C. and the police radio upgrade. I have every confidence that this Council will be ready to conduct the Town's business in a business-like manner. I urge my colleagues to remember that we will not be judged on the length of our meetings but the content and what we are able to accomplish. There has been much printed about public participation at meetings. The intent of this Council was never to eliminate individuals from speaking but to stay away from personal attacks and lengthy statements that were not appropriate to our agenda. The Council will review its rules to ensure that we move business and not deal with personalities and minutia. This election showed a very clear and decisive mandate that the public was pleased by our work for the last two years. This is the first time in my memory, and it goes back some twenty-three years on the Council, that the Republican Party has been able to maintain a majority for two successive terms. This Council, working with Mayor Dickinson and not against him; questioning him when we felt it was necessary but always respectfully; has allowed Wallingford to continue to maintain its financial strength while providing its people with a healthy and positive atmosphere. Again, I thank you for the honor of being your Chairman and I wish us all success in this term.

(Applause).

ELECTION AND SWEARING-IN OF TOWN COUNCIL VICE CHAIRMAN

At this time Chairman Parisi called for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman.

Jerry Farrell, Jr.: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to put into nomination for Vice Chairman the name of Raymond Rys, Sr. There are no set qualifications for being Vice Chairman but if you were to come up with such a list I think that Ray would score high on each mark. One of the most valuable things that I think Ray brings to the table is values. He is a good husband, good father, a church member, a solid person who understands the people in this community and what their trials and tribulations are. In trying to sort out the various demands that are put on the Council, those values help him to reach good decisions both as an individual Councilor and for the collective whole of the Council as Vice Chair. He also brings to his position strong interpersonal skills. As Vice Chairman he has gone way out of his way to try and strengthen lines of communication within the Council, whether it is making sure the Councilors are made aware of various items or advising colleagues on how and if some proposal will fly, Ray is very much an interconnection between all of us. In so many ways that helps to move the business along and helps all of the members of the Council to get along with one another. That is not an easy role to serve but Ray is very adept at it and it benefits each and every one of the nine people up here, not to mention the 40,000 people out there. Along with interpersonal skills Ray also scores well in the political skills department. When Bob has been absent, Ray has stepped right in without fanfare without fuss and has ensured that the meetings go on and the business gets taken care of. It is good to know that he is there when we need him. Good personal values, solidity, communication and managerial skills, these are all attributes that we need in a Vice Chairman and which we find in Ray. He has done the job well in the past, he will do the job well again and for those reasons I very enthusiastically move his nomination. Motion was seconded by Mr. Renda.

Chairman Parisi: "Ray has been a very, very fine Vice Chairman. He has been extremely helpful, there is at times a lot to do. He has been there when he has been needed. I don't even have to really ask for the help, he is very generous with his time and effort. I echo the words of Mr. Farrell."

Chairman Parisi called for any other nominations for the position of Vice Chairman.

Geno Zandri, Jr.: "I would like to place the name of Jerry Farrell, Jr. into nomination for the position of Vice Chairman. Jerry has impressed me over the last two years as he has served on the Council and I think that he would make an excellent Vice Chair."

Motion was seconded by Mr. Centner.

Motion was made by Mr. Farrell to Close the Nominations for Vice Chairman, seconded by Mr. Renda.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

VOTE ON ELECTING TOWN COUNCIL VICE CHAIRMAN: Centner and Zandri, Farrell; Knight, Papale, Renda, Rys, Zappala and Parisi, Rys.

A 7-2 vote in favor of Raymond J. Rys, Sr. for the position of Vice Chairman was recorded. *FARRELL corrected at meeting of 1-27-98 **

(Applause)

SWEARING-IN OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

At this time Chairman Parisi asked that the following individuals step forward to be sworn in by Judge Wright as Members of the Board of Education:

Carmen J. Arisco, Jr.
Joan Barbuto
Patricia L. Corsetti
Phyllis DeChello
Karen A. Hlavac
Dennis B. Lewis
Andre P. Loubier
Pamela F. Mangini
Valerie A. Nolan

Judge Wright administered the Oath of Office: "Do you solemnly swear that you will faithfully discharge, according to law, your duties as members of the Board of Education to the best of your ability, so help you God?"

A collective "I do" was the response given.

(Applause)

APPOINTMENT AND SWEARING-IN OF TOWN CLERK

Chairman Parisi called for the nominations for the position of Town Clerk.

Raymond Rys, Sr.: "I would like to put into nomination a lady who I have known, and I say lady, for twenty years if not longer. She has been a friend, an excellent Town Clerk past and present. I put in the name of Rosemary Rascati for Town Clerk. Motion was seconded by Mr. Renda."

Jerry Farrell, Jr.: "I would also like to echo those remarks of Ray that, of all the people on the Council who has to use the Town Clerk's Office on a daily basis, I just want to say that it is very much to the credit of this Council. It is a very professional office that Rosemary and all of her assistants run. We are grateful to have you and I would concur with the nomination."

Chairman Parisi called for further nominations. Hearing none, he called for a motion to close nominations.

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Close the Nominations for the position of Town Clerk. Seconded by Mr. Centner.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

VOTE ON APPOINTING TOWN CLERK: Unanimous vote cast for Rosemary Rascati.

(Applause)

Judge Wright administered the Oath of Office: "Do you solemnly swear that you will faithfully discharge according to law your duties as the Town Clerk of Wallingford to the best of your ability so help you God?"

Mrs. Rascati: "I do."

(Applause)

BENEDICTION REV. JOHN NIMON

Our God and God of our ancestors, we pray that you accept our prayers. May this community, under your providence, be an influence for good, uniting all people. Creator of all flesh, bless all the inhabitants of this community with your spirit. May citizens of all races and creeds forge a common bond in true harmony to banish all hatred and bigotry and to safeguard the ideals and free institutions which are our pride and glory. Our God and God of our ancestors we ask your blessings on this community and tonight we pray especially for its government, for its leaders and advisors, for all to exercise just and rightful authority. Teach them insights that they may administer all affairs of the community fairly; that happiness, prosperity and justice may forever abide in our midst. Let us say, amen.

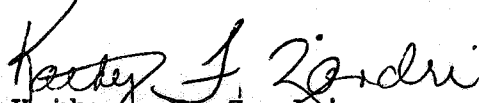
The Sheehan High School Brass ensemble played, God Bless America.

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

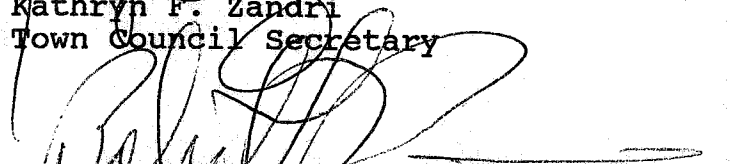
VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:36 P.M.

Meeting recorded and transcribed by:

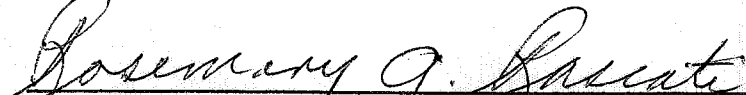

Kathryn F. Zandri
Town Council Secretary

Approved by:


Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

1-28-98

Date


Rosemary A. Rascati, Town Clerk

1-28-98

Date