

Summary/Town Council Minutes

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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

February 26, 1985

7:30 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was held in Council Chambers, called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Vice-Chairwoman Bergamini. Answering present to the roll called by Town Clerk Rascati were Council members Bergamini, Diana, Holmes, Krupp, Papale, Polanski and Rys. Chairman Gessert and Mayor Dickinson arrived later. Councilman Killen was absent. Comptroller Thomas A. Myers and Town Attorney Vincent McManus were present. The pledge of allegiance was given to the flag and invocation was given by Rev. Walter Josephson, First Baptist Church.

Vice-Chairwoman Bergamini announced that Mr. Killen was absent due to personal problems and commented that it was very rare to have Mr. Killen miss a meeting.

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PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Mr. George Lane, 35 S. Turnpike Road, commented regarding the nomination of Mr. Henry Toman as Planning & Zoning Commissioner, saying that because of Mr. Toman's position as a bank executive there was a conflict of interest, due to the fact that banks do a lot of real estate transactions. Mr. Lane felt that the Council should not support this nomination.

Mrs. Bergamini presented for consideration and approval the appointment of Mr. Gary Solnik as Alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Rys moved to approve this appointment; Mr. Holmes seconded the motion.

VOTE: Council members Bergamini, Holmes, Krupp, Polanski and Rys voted aye; Council members Diana and Papale voted no; motion to approve Mr. Solnik's appointment duly carried.

Mrs. Bergamini introduced for consideration and approval the appointment of Mr. Henry Toman to Planning & Zoning Commissioner. Mrs. Bergamini read a letter from Ms. Gail Powell, Chairwoman - Republican Town Committee, endorsing Mr. Toman, a letter from Mr. Toman asking for the Council's approval of his nomination, and a letter from Mrs. Doris Bevan, P&Z alternate also seeking the nomination.

Mr. Polanski moved to approve the appointment of Mr. Henry Toman; Mr. Rys seconded the motion.

Mrs. Papale moved to consider and approve the appointment of Mrs. Doris Bevan to Planning & Zoning Commissioner. She stated that she wanted to make clear her reasons for this nomination. Mrs. Papale said Mrs. Bevan worked for eight months in the P&Z office, at a time when there was no staff there at all. It was a hectic time in that office and Mrs. Bevan ran the office almost by herself with the help of a limited part-time professional planner. Mrs. Bevan's pay could not compensate for the amount of time, effort and pressure that existed at that time. She handled all the complaints that came into this office like a professional, did the filing of applications and did many jobs that were done by a professional secretary before Mrs. Bevan went into that office to help. Mrs. Papale felt that personality conflicts extend into this Republican nomination and that the most qualified and dedicated person for this Commission is Mrs. Bevan. She wanted to put Mrs. Bevan's name in for nomination at this time and thank her for helping the Town of Wallingford when it needed someone as reliable as Mrs. Bevan in that office. Mr. Diana seconded the nomination.

VOTE: FOR MR. HENRY TOMAN

Council members Bergamini, Holmes, Krupp, Polanski and Rys voted aye.

VOTE: FOR MRS. DORIS BEVAN

Council members Diana and Papale voted aye.

Motion to appoint Mr. Henry Toman duly carried.

Mr. Diana stated that the Democratic Town Committee had a meeting recently and that they were going to come before the Council with a recommendation that Ray Havican be reappointed to the ZBA as an Alternate. Mr. Diana stated that Mr. Havican has been a solid citizen of this community and, although, because of politics, everybody recognizes the fact that it is a win or lose situation, he would at least like to recognize Ray Havican for the years of service that he has given to the Town of Wallingford and that he would appreciate the Council chair echoing those sentiments.

Mrs. Bergamini apologized and said that she did have a letter from Mr. Havican addressed to Mr. Gessert and this was read by Mrs. Bergamini into the record:

"Please inform all Council members that I would like to continue for another term my position as alternate on the ZBA. I have been serving in this position for a number of years and have been performing to the best of my abilities."

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Mr. Krupp echoed Mr. Diana's comments in the interest of making it a bipartisan observation.

Mrs. Bergamini introduced the next item on the agenda, to consider and approve the transfer of \$742 from A/C 307-681 (Contribution-Fuel Crisis Committee) to A/C 307-675 (Contribution-Wallingford Committee on Aging), as requested by May Warzocha, Chairman - Wallingford Committee on Aging.

Mr. Krupp moved to approve the above transfer; Mr. Polanski seconded the motion.

Mrs. Bergamini read Mrs. Warzocha's letter of February 8, 1985, accompanying the transfer request.

Mr. Krupp asked Mr. Myers why the money was being taken out of A/C 307-681. Mr. Myers responded that some years ago, when the fuel crisis occurred, there was a State grant available for people who did not have the means to supply heating oil or gas for their homes and at that time the Town matched it with \$1,000 and there is currently \$3,000 in that account. He stated that they did not foresee the need to take this \$1,000 and transfer into that account this year; they felt they had more than enough money in that account and not using the \$1,000, they could turn it over to the senior citizens.

VOTE: Unanimous ayes with the exception of Mr. Holmes, who was not present for the vote; motion to approve transfer of \$742 duly carried.

Mrs. Bergamini introduced a request to approve transfer of \$385 from A/C's 202-200 (Utilities) - \$100, A/C 202-606 (Dog Survey) - \$100, A/C 202-200 (Maint. of Bldgs.) - \$150, A/C 202-001 (Capital) - \$35, to A/C 202-500, as requested by Shirley Gianotti, Dog Warden.

Mr. Rys moved to approve the above transfer for discussion purposes; Mr. Krupp seconded the motion.

Mr. Rys wanted to make note that a correction should be made on A/C-202-200 (Maint. of Buildings) and should read A/C 202-510. Mr. Myers agreed.

Mr. Rys withdrew his motion and moved to approve the amended transfer request, to show this correction. Mr. Holmes seconded the motion.

Mr. Krupp stated that he would vote for this reluctantly because he felt that, considering how tightly Ms. Gianotti controls her finances, he was not sure she could afford to take the money out of the other accounts. He felt that it might be better to take the money out of Council contingency, although he realized Mrs. Bergamini would not agree. Mrs. Bergamini stated she would not like that, but it was only her opinion.

Mr. Rys stated that the \$35 coming out of capital was probably the leftover from the purchase of the vehicle. Mr. Krupp agreed but pointed to the \$150 coming out of maintenance of buildings.

Mr. Diana pointed out that Mr. Myers had not certified the transfer and Mr. Myers said that he would certify tonight.

VOTE: Unanimous ayes; motion to approve transfer of \$385 duly carried.

Vice-Chairwoman Bergamini introduced the next item on the agenda - a report regarding funding and plans for continuation of the DWI Enforcement Program by Police Chief Bevan. She pointed out that this agenda item had been requested by Councilman Rys, not Mr. Gessert as shown on the agenda.

Chief Bevan said that since his last report on the DWI program, the report has been reconciled and that he had Sgt. McNeil submit a report to him. He stated that they had worked up a schedule where they figured they could run the DWI program for sixteen weeks between now and June 30. He stated that they would also like to try the program on some Thursdays as well, for a total of 320 hours. He stated that they are "ready to roll."

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Mrs. Papale asked where was the funding for this continued program and was advised that the next agenda item dealt with this.

Mr. Krupp asked if Chief Bevan had the equipment to support this program and the cars available. Chief Bevan stated that he would "play that by ear" and that, if he did not have radio problems and cars tied up being repaired at Public Works, he should be able to get by. He said that otherwise he would have to go with unmarked vehicles, which he does not particularly want to do in that they do not have the safety equipment on highways.

Mr. James Ricci, from the Wallingford RID Chapter, stated that one-half of the people in the room will be involved in drunk-driving related accidents at some time in their lives. He said that these are the statistics as they stand today and that drunk-driving control will help to lessen those odds. Mr. Ricci asked that the people of the Town support the DWI program fully.

Mr. Andy Bravo, 474 N. Main Street, stated that he was 100% in favor of this. However, he pointed out that he happened to drive through one of the police DWI spot checks and that he, fortunately, noticed the policeman standing by his car but that, by all rights, he would not have noticed him. He suggested that they wear reflective uniforms or band.

Chief Bevan stated that he should have a supply of reflective breast bands and that if he does not have these on hand, he can get them.

Mr. Edward Musso, 56 Dibble Edge Road, stated that the Town has too many specialists in the police department and that there are no regular patrolmen anymore. He said that he guessed they had too much room in the armory conversion and that was why they were looking for more bodies to fill positions. He said that the DWI program was a good thing but that he felt it should be part of their regular work. He said if the patrolmen did not want to go through the trouble of booking these drunk drivers, then he agreed that they should have someone at the police station to process them.

Mr. Rys pointed out to Mr. Musso that the police department was not taking out men from the force to do DWI duty, but rather that they are coming in on an overtime basis to perform this special function. He added that the regular patrolmen on their regular activities do not neglect any drunk driving they run into - and that, if there is one, they certainly take action. Mr. Rys referred to Mr. Ricci's comments and said that it is an extremely dangerous problem and that what they are doing here is providing an additional bit of safety for the citizens of this Town, and that, secondly, they are sending a warning out to the people - "if you're going to drink, don't drive."

Mr. Musso responded that they should not bring people on overtime to do this and that the regular patrolmen should do this.

Mrs. Bergamini moved on to Item 8, a request to consider and approve a transfer of \$5,200 from A/C 201T-131 (Traffic Maint. Wages) to A/C 201AI-140 (Accident Invest. Overtime), as requested by Chief Bevan for the DWI Program.

Mr. Rys moved to approve the above transfer; Mr. Krupp seconded the motion.

VOTE: Unanimous ayes; motion to approve \$5,200 transfer duly carried.

Mr. Krupp moved to authorize the preparation of a football field at Parker Farms School, as requested by Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. Mr. Holmes seconded the motion.

Mr. Modica, coach for the football league, said that the league would need very little help from the town - the grading and heavy truck for transporting the fill.

VOTE: Unanimous ayes; motion to authorize the preparation of a football field duly carried.

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Mr. Krupp moved to to table until March 12 Mr. Killen's request to discuss the earnings of the Electric Division in view of Mr. Killen's absence. Mr. Holmes seconded the motion.

VOTE: Unanimous ayes; motion to table discussion on the earnings until March 12 duly carried.

Mrs. Bergamini introduced the next item on the agenda, a discussion regarding resolution to the Town's direction sign problem - with a report from Ms. Linda Bush/Town Planner, as requested by Mr. Diana.

Ms. Bush, Ms. Irene Sunday and Mr. George Cooke were present to report and answer questions.

Mr. Cooke stated that they will be having a meeting on March 7 to finalize their solution to this problem. A discussion followed regarding this, along with a comment from Mrs. Patricia Acton, of P&Z, that they plan to have an amendment to the sign ordinance which will allow certain organizations to keep their signs.

Mr. Diana moved to table the discussion on the town directional sign matter until the March 12 Council meeting. Mr. Holmes seconded the motion.

VOTE: Unanimous ayes; motion to table discussion duly carried.

Mrs. Bergamini introduced for consideration and approval a request for transfer of \$732 from A/C 701-140 (Overtime-Clerical) and \$1,000 from A/C 805-319 (Emergency) - Total: \$1,732, to A/C 701-410 (Advertising), as requested by Ms. Linda Bush, Town Planner.

Mr. Rys moved to approve the above transfer; Mr. Krupp seconded the motion.

VOTE: Unanimous ayes; motion to approve transfer of \$1,732 duly carried.

Mrs. Bergamini presented the next item on the agenda - a discussion regarding the grant application for the Downtown Beautification Program - a report from Mr. Donald Roe, Program Administrator, as requested by Chairman David Gessert.

Mr. Roe said that this was for the railroad station beautification and said that they were involved in the pre-application - which is the pulling together of relevant information to submit to the State on which they make a determination as to whether or not they will invite the municipality to formally apply for funds. He stated that the Town is not at this time making formal application to the State or to the Federal government for funds, but only in the process of pre-application. He said that the State has done this as a way to save the municipalities the time and effort of preparing a full-blown application. Basically, the State feels they can use more abbreviated data and information on which to make a determination as to whether the project is indeed eligible under the open space program. Mr. Roe said they have a deadline to get that pre-application to the State by the end of this month. Mr. Roe stated that they based this particular project on a presentation that was made to the Council about two weeks ago by the Downtown Beautification Committee and its consultants. Mr. Roe stated that they utilized the information that has been generated by that committee's and those consultant's work - the financial information that they are basing the pre-application, in that it identifies a project of approximately \$150,000 to do the work (gazebo, landscaping, appropriate park furniture, lighting).

Mrs. Papale said that she did not understand how the State could come to the Program Administrator and the Mayor on February 13 and ask for a reply from the Town by February 15. She asked what would have happened if the Mayor was out sick or Mr. Roe were out of town.

Mrs. Papale felt that something has to be done and she said it was a terrible way to run their business - that in one day the Mayor and Mr. Roe would have to get together. She felt that it was unfair and she understood what Mr. Killen was trying to say (in questioning the public hearing set without Council approval) but that she saw that the Mayor and Mr. Roe had no choice.

Mayor Dickinson said that there is another aspect to this in that there is no commitment by the Town and, if there would have been a commitment, then he would not have acted upon it as he did.

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Mrs. Papale stated that, if the Mayor or Mr. Roe were not available, the Town would have lost their chance to get these funds. She felt that the way the State runs their business leaves a lot to be desired and it is not fair to the Town.

Mr. Roe stated that what they are doing is taking a shot at it and he has no idea whether or not it will be approved. He said they hope to know in the Spring and that they will obviously come back to the Council at that time.

Mrs. Papale said the idea was that the Council would have liked to have been asked first but obviously they could not have gotten together. Mr. Roe stated that the Mayor and he spent three hours trying to figure out what kind of project would meet the State's criteria.

Mrs. Papale asked, now that they have stated that it is for this particular project, does it have to go with this park or not at all. Mr. Roe stated that the material they will send is the project identified as the center green improvements. He stated that this was the project that they did have some financial information on.

Mr. Holmes said that the gazebo at the railroad station would be more of a decorative item rather than a functional one, since he felt it would be tough to have a concert or a singer with trucks and cars going by.

Mayor Dickinson said that this area is capable of some recreational use. He said that there have been bands scheduled in the downtown area and that certainly there have been fairs, gatherings of all different types. He pointed out that Public Celebrations always uses that park, whether for Santa Claus or the Halloween parade. He said that the area has been used repeatedly and the existence of a bandstand gazebo for review of parades, as well as an area that people could gather for these other occasions, as well as the historical aspect that there once was a gazebo there, certainly would improve the attractiveness of the area. He stated that all of those things go into the consideration. He added that, in terms of community group usage, that area seems to be used as much or more than any other park in Town, particularly with Public Celebrations. He said that with that kind of a present use, it is hard to come up with another site that would be better for improvement.

Mr. Diana stated that the events that happen in the downtown area generally are not so much for the public use, as much as it would be to benefit the merchants by having these activities in the downtown area. He said that it isolates these people so that, after they are finished with whatever the event is, they could move around in the downtown district and get to know the merchants a little more. He said that this might be the intent and he certainly was in favor of upgrading the green by the community center and the railroad station. He stated that he was also echoing his dissatisfaction with the way the whole thing was handled and he does not necessarily feel that it was someone's fault - since it was more a matter of timing. However, he said that not only would the Council like to have known about it and said yes or no but also they are locked into this one green area; he said the Council might have had other areas to look toward. He added that he did, however, like the idea of it being centralized in the downtown district and that hopefully it will help revitalize the merchants.

Mr. Polanski asked, if the grant comes through, how much funding would be available. Mr. Roe said that they did not know yet whether the Town would be invited to make an application. He said that only the Council could make an application. He stated that all they did was "float a trial balloon" by DEP. He stated that in the past, the State of Connecticut has participated as well in the open space program with a 25% match, but he did not really want the Town to count on that since its most recent experience has been that it takes 7 or 8 years to get that 25%, as they just got 2-3 weeks ago. He said that, from his point of view, the Town should think of it as a 50/50 program.

Mr. Holmes said he was not opposed to this on a overall scale and that there were certain items that they could discuss at a later time, and that he could not disagree with making the Town a better place to live. 126

There was no action at this time.

Mrs. Bergamini introduced for consideration and approval a request for transfer of \$1,175 from A/C 203A-901 (Professional Services and Preceptor) to A/C 203A-Capital (Ambulance Capital), as requested by Fire Chief, Jack K. McElfish.

Mrs. Bergamini read the letter from Chief McElfish accompanying the request, which states that this money will be used for the purchase of laryngoscopes.

Mr. Rys moved to approve the above transfer; Mr. Polanski seconded the motion.

Mr. Polanski asked, now that they have people certified (paramedics), what other equipment will be needed so that they can bring the equipment up to the training of the people. Asst. Chief LeFebvre stated that this should be the only equipment needed and that he had received this week the monitor/defibrillator and that the laryngoscopes will be needed to put a tube in the larynx. He said that they are starting this breathing and there is only one other hospital that is allowing this and this will be pushed through this region, ours being the first to do so. He said that the paramedics have the stuff to start up and he added that he found out today from the State that they have all passed their State test, and they will have to wait until March 13 for the Medical Advisory Committee to meet again. He said that they should be ready to go as soon as they satisfy the questions raised by the physicians in this region.

Mr. Holmes asked what were the chances of being accepted or rejected by this regional authority. Asst. Chief LeFebvre said that there was no chance of rejection and that they would be riding on the licenses of these physicians on the Medical Advisory Committee. He said that these physicians are the Emergency Room directors from all the major hospitals in the region, and the procedure is to test them and make sure they know the protocols when they start working here. He stated that some of the drug protocols in the north central region are different from the protocols in this region. He added that, as a matter of fact, the paramedics have had more drug training and that there will be no problem with this.

VOTE: Unanimous ayes, with the exception of Mrs. Bergamini who voted no. Motion to approve transfer of \$1,175 duly carried.

Mrs. Bergamini introduced a report from Mr. Diana regarding the Parker Farms School Committee, as he requested. Mr. Diana said that he was pleased to announce to the Council that the Committee has in fact completed its charge to find a use for the Parker Farms property. The Committee unanimously agreed that the building should be returned to the Board of Education and reopened as a school and that the Committee voted unanimously to support the Board of Education's endorsement to reopen Parker Farms School - in anticipation of their favorable vote (they voted prior to the Board of Ed's voting).

Mr. Diana said that the Committee also agreed that, unless there is a problem with the existing heating system, the heat should be turned back on to reduce any possibility of further deterioration to the building. He asked Mayor Dickinson if there was a problem with the heating system and Mayor Dickinson replied that he did not know of any and believed that the heating had been shut off. The Mayor said he remembered the Council voting to shut it off to save funds.

Mr. Diana said that the Committee expressed some concern, because of the report (from Dr. Yulo), that they may want to get the heat turned back on to preserve the building and prevent further deterioration. He asked if the Council had any feeling about this.

Mayor Dickinson said that they might want to hear from Steven Deak since he thought he had said that when the heat was turned off that it should not affect the building. He said that the other theory is that he suspects it will be a fairly lengthy period of time potentially before it would be reopened as a school and it depends

Mr. Holmes stated that he understood Mr. Diana's concern but he felt that the school was pretty much in disrepair right now and that keeping the heat at 80° would not do much to help. He felt that events were rapidly changing and they were looking at a major expenditure to renovate that school. He did not think the Town should move too quickly down the road and that the Town should see what kind of money is involved and maybe study to see what will be needed to bring that school back into spec's. He said that it is easy to point a finger and say someone was right or wrong to close a school, but he felt there should be more investigation. 127

Mr. Krupp stated that the question as to whether they were wrong or right to close that school has already been answered. He said that he shared Mr. Diana's concern about shutting off the system, particularly when they are in that time of year where the temperatures fluctuate past the freezing point in both directions. He stated that he was not a structural engineer, but that common sense says they are dealing with stone, cinder block, etc., where condensation on porous surface that freezes will cause cracking. He said he would be most interested in some kind of review from Mr. Deak at the next Council meeting as to whether in fact there is a possibility or probability of damage resulting from this.

Mrs. Bergamini said that Mr. Deak had come before the Council and that they had approved the purchase of the boards to board it up and that, at that time, he said he was going to shut off the heat. She said that, right or wrong, that was the way the Council chose to go and she felt that they gave their approval and this was voted on.

Mr. Krupp stated that he recalled voting on boarding up the school, but that he did not recall voting on shutting down the heating system.

Mrs. Bergamini said she has not seen Parker Farms School and has not had the courage to go in and that she avoided going to the tag sale. She said that if all the reports she's heard are true, then all they have is a brick building, and they will have to work from the inside out. She said that a little bit of heat will not help now. She stated that when you have a school open, as long as it is open, you're fine; but once you close that school, the law changes - and you will have to "dot the i's and cross the t's" and you're talking about a lot of money.

Mr. Krupp said that if all they are talking about is a brick building, then they have to protect the brick that is in there. Mrs. Bergamini responded that they tried to protect the building and that it was the amount of vandalism that prompted the Council to vote to board it up. She did not know what more Mr. Deak could do but that certainly the Mayor could ask about the heating problem.

Mr. Rys said that he did not think the Council had voted to shut down the heating system, but rather to board the school up and the question was brought up about shutting off the heating system at that particular time and it was noted at that time if it would help deteriorate the building any more than it has been. However, he believed that the Council at that particular time had charged that department head at that particular time to look into that and discuss it with the Mayor, and that later on it was brought to the Council's attention that the heating was shut down. Mr. Rys stated that, although he is not an engineer, a building that is built on a slab, is completely brick and has very little wood would have very little need to continue heating it during winter months - which would cost \$20-30,000.

Mr. Polanski asked, if the building is returned back to the Board of Education, will the reconstruction costs come out of the Board of Education's budget or out of the Town's budget. He was advised that it would come out of the Town's budget.

Mr. Edward Musso said that he didn't know why everyone was excited about the report, since it says nothing except verify the fact that it should have been closed and it was a good idea. He felt that all the rooms could stand two or three more pupils, and that there is no reason to do any changes or movements. He felt that all Dr. Yulo wanted to do was confuse everybody and shuffle the classes around. He felt that the schools should be left as they are and students can always be transferred if they are overloaded.

Ms. Louise Loubier, 21 Lori Lane, asked if the building is turned over to the Board of Education, will it be repaired and then given over or will they be given money to repair it. Mr. Krupp thought that the protocol is that the money has to be appropriated by the Town. Ms. Loubier asked if it was the Town that hired the people to come and fix it or the Board. Mr. Krupp replied that it would probably be handled through a building committee. 128

Mayor Dickinson commented that he felt Mr. Krupp was correct and that this committee would be appointed by the Council, and that the funding is done by the Town.

Mr. Diana said that Committee would proceed with having the property split and has contacted Town Engineer Costello as to the delays; they are waiting for some maps and they will let the Council know after discussion with Mr. Costello. He also stated that the Committee plans to have another tag sale some time in the Spring and will be another attempt to clean out some of the old items that are there. He said that they are still very saleable and that they wanted to see if they could raise a few dollars there.

Mr. Bravo asked, if the school is turned over to the Board of Education and they decide to rebuild, will the fields go to the Board of Education. Mr. Diana said that the consensus of the Committee is to continue on with the split of the property and that when, in fact, they do get the school back, it will be with some adjacent property (playground, etc.), but the football and little league fields they would like to see retained by the Council, so that there is never a dispute as to whose responsibility it is to cut the grass as they have in the past; and this time around, they want to do it right since they have a second chance at it.

Mr. Krupp said that the last thing the Board wants is the fields because of the maintenance costs involved.

Chairman Gessert came in at this time and commented that it is one thing to have a tag sale and to empty a school when it will not be used for a school, but he wondered what the cost is going to be in replacing all the items that they practically gave away. He said that things were sold at bargain prices and when they go to replace them, they will pay top dollar. Chairman Gessert said that if the Board plans to reuse that school, he felt that they should go through all the items and see which can be reused so that they don't pay \$50 for chairs they gave away for \$2.50.

Mr. Diana replied that Mr. Gessert's comment was good but not factual. Mr. Gessert commented that they gave away a Public Works ladder for \$8 that is costing them \$150 to replace. Mr. Diana responded that the ladder, some fire hoses, etc., that were sold had nothing to do with the Board of Education whatsoever and were just brought there by existing Town departments. He said that what was considered school property were books that were obsolete and no longer used in the classrooms, table and chairs that are old-fashioned and he was sure the Board would not use if they were to renovate. He said that there was nothing there, to his knowledge, that was usable by the Board of Education or it would not have been there, according to the Board of Education. He stated that on more than one occasion, they badgered the Board of Education asking them if they needed the goods and if they did to get it out of the school. He said they went to the Town and the teachers, and asked them to take anything they want for their classrooms. He said he could defend this right to the hilt and that there is not a person in this room or in this Town that is going to tell him that they made a mistake by selling any of the goods that were on that property.

Mrs. Bergamini said that apparently there was a misunderstanding with the ladder and that Public Works had left the ladder there to board the school up. Mr. Diana said that if it was not nailed down, it was sold.

Mrs. Papale said, with reference to Chairman Gessert's comment regarding the tag sale being moved to the Spring until they knew what the schools were going to do, that they as the Council set up this Committee and that she, herself, thought that the school was closed and that she had never thought it would be opened again.

Mrs. Papale said that she thought the tag sale was done in good faith and that, at the time, they wanted to get the stuff out.

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Mayor Dickinson said that he did not feel at the time the sale was held that it was not something one could second-guess now, although Mr. Gessert's comments were certainly well taken. He felt, however, that if there is a chance that they will need the tables, chairs, desks, that are in good condition and those that are not can be refurbished, those should not be sold because if they are going to be reopening any school or using additional classrooms any place, he would rather have those materials and use them rather than go out and buy brand-new. He said however that the books were obsolete and the fire hoses could not be used any longer, but that the chairs and tables, which he had seen, looked to be in very good condition. He felt that they might want to think about whether they are going to sell them or not because he suspected that if they need more classrooms, they will have to come up with that furniture.

Mr. Polanski said that at the last tag sale, he noticed that the teachers opened doors and looked in places that others would not have thought of and found things that they could use. He recommended that, before they have another tag sale, the Board of Education should take another look.

Mr. Modica asked if they reopen Parker Farms and close Yalesville, could the desks, etc., be used in the Parker Farms school. Mr. Gessert replied that the only answer he could give to that question is that Yalesville is a smaller school and the only purpose to reopen Parker Farms is to have more space, and he would assume that they would need more desks than there are in Yalesville. Mr. Modica said that he realized that but that they would then have some to replace.

Mr. Clarence Loubier, 21 Lori Lane, stated that he did want to defend Mr. Diana. He said that Mr. Diana did go to the Board of Education twice, if not three, times to ask them if they wanted that school or not. He said that the third time he went, when Dr. Yulo was working on the report, they had asked him if he could hold off until February or March and at that time he said he did not know if he could hold off that long.

Mr. Gessert commented that if you are moving out of your home and you want to have a tag sale and then change your mind about moving, that you ought to take a second look at having that tag sale. He said this may be 20/20 hindsight that they made a mistake.

Mr. Bravo stated that if the Board of Education decides to reopen the school, the students coming into that school will have their desks and chairs come with them. So he felt that some new furniture would have to be bought but that a lot will come with the students.

Mr. Diana stated that recently he went through with the Police Department to take a look at some music chairs with the idea of taking the chairs to the State Correctional facility to try to refurbish them. He said that the cost to refurbish the chairs he believed was about \$15 each, while the cost of a new ones would be almost half the price. He said that they did make an effort to get rid of the items that were in the school and hopefully whatever is usable will get used by the time they empty the school out.

Mr. Krupp said that with the heating system turned off, they will have condensation and metal is going to rust and that he suggested that they make a decision pretty quick and get the stuff out of there.

Mr. Edward Musso felt that the student population was not going to change and would probably drop. He said that there is no reason to reopen the school. He said that Wallingford should think about closing another school not reopening one.

No action was taken at this time.

Mrs. Papale moved to advance Item 19 (addendum to the agenda) - Report from the Police Station Building Committee; Mr. Krupp seconded the motion.

VOTE: Unanimous ayes; motion to advance Item 19 duly carried.

Mr. William Fischer - Chairman of the Building Committee, Mr. Howard Marshall, and Mr. Kaestle were present to report to the Council.

Mr. Fischer stated that all the bids were in and that they were at \$1,599,546, out of an estimated \$1,605,000, and they are within their construction budget. He added that this did not include ceramic tile, carpeting or wallpaper. The committee met last night and reviewed what was going on at the armory. All the demolition work is 75% underway. Everything is going along according to schedule as far as the job is concerned. He said that they had a discussion and that they felt that any money, as opposed to having the ceramic tile, wallpaper and carpeting, would be better spent to add furnishings to the police department since it is now about 4,000 sq. ft. and the new building is 27,000 sq. ft. and that the current furnishings would be lost in the vast expanse of the armory. He said that the pistol range would cost approximately \$85,000 and is not in the budget. He said that there is nothing more that they can do to the building without starting to detract from the quality of the building itself. He said that all the changes that have been made have not detracted from making the building a very functional police station. He said they did not cut corners by using 1x2's vs. 2x2's. He said that everything was done according to plan. 130

Mr. Kaestle stated that all he could add, from a construction management view, was that they agreed with Mr. Fischer's comments in that all the changes that were made were ones that were beneficial from the standpoint of costs without affecting the functionality of the building and all of the functions of the police station should not be affected by the changes that were made and should provide a useful facility for the Town and save some money in the process.

Mr. Kaestle said that with the building costs so close to the budget, they really cannot afford to add to construction costs at this point in time because construction is just starting and they need some contingency for unforeseen conditions and that for a building of this size, a contingency figure of about 3-4% is not unusual, and the contingency available does not even come close.

Mr. Krupp stated that he had originally asked that this be placed on an agenda pending receipt of finalized bids, which they did not receive. Mr. Kaestle provided this updated list, as of 1/24/85, at this time and copies were made for the Council. He stated that they should use figures a little higher than those on the sheets for items they might want to add on later because the bid amounts expire within 30 days. He said that the low bids were as of last November and they cannot absolutely guarantee for those items. He said that the pistol range, for instance, was bid at approximately \$80,000 and that, if the Council were to add this on, they should look at a figure of \$85,000 because the items would have to go back out for bid.

Mr. Polanski stated that the comment was made that there would be a need for more furnishings because of the larger size facility and he felt that this did not go over well with him since there should not be that many more people requiring more furnishings. He said that he did not care if the furnishings were lost in the building, only if they were really needed.

Chairman Gessert suggested that they consider, in lieu of say buying new desks, they buy four new desks and send the replacements for refurbishing and then continue sending out four at a time, they would have some new and some refurbished items.

Mr. Marshall stated that one problem they have is that they have maybe four detectives using one desk and each detective has his own drawer with his own lock on it and that maybe it has to be this way. He also said that maybe half of the equipment the Police Department has now is really undesirable and would have to be refurbished. He said that there were things the Department couldn't get in the last 10-15 years, because if they got it there was no room to put it in anyway. He said that there were rooms that had no space to put another desk in. He said that some of the typewriters could be repaired although they are used. He said they will need more furniture but they could replace it a little bit at a time.

Mr. Fischer commented that there were things the Police Department did need and that even though they would have a lot of space at the armory, they would not be requesting things indiscriminately.

Mr. Gessert thanked the Committee for their report, and asked that they come back to the Council, preferably before budget workshops.

Mr. Edward Musso commented regarding the bids list and said that he had not had it long enough to analyze it. Chairman Gessert said that he had two weeks to review it and come back at the next meeting during the Public Question and Answer Period.

Chairman Gessert introduced item 16 - consideration and approval of request for transfer of \$900 from A/C 603-406 (Elections) and \$450 from A/C 603-140 (Overtime) to A/C 603-404 (Microfilming for Storage), as requested by Town Clerk, Rosemary A. Rascati.

Mr. Holmes moved to approve the above transfer; Mrs. Bergamini seconded the motion.

Mr. Krupp asked if this was the same company that they had waived the bidding on last time. Mrs. Rascati said that this was for the original company and they are just starting with the new company, for which the bidding was waived, which will be cheaper.

Mr. Polanski commented that one of the items on the Police Department budget for the new building was a microfilming system. He suggested that Town Clerk Rascati inquire of them, if they get the system, if her office could use it. He stated that if they have the micro-filming capability, why should they pay out of town for it.

Chairman Gessert suggested that they arrange for a meeting between the two department heads to determine the feasibility of this.

VOTE: Unanimous ayes; motion to approve the above transfer of \$900 duly carried.

Chairman Gessert introduced the next item - acceptance of Town Council Meeting minutes of 2/13/85. Mrs. Papale moved to accept the minutes; Mr. Holmes seconded the motion.

Mr. Krupp stated that on Page 24, regarding the relocation of Gopoian Trailer Park, he had passed due to insufficient information, which was not noted, and asked that this be included in the minutes.

VOTE: Unanimous ayes with the exception of Mrs. Bergamini who passed. Motion to accept minutes, as amended, duly carried.

Mr. Krupp moved to go into executive session at 9:35 p.m., to discuss settlement of a claim, as requested by Atty. McManus; Mr. Holmes seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous ayes; motion to go into executive session duly carried.

Mr. Rys moved to come out of executive session at 10:05 p.m. Mr. Holmes seconded the motion. No votes were recorded during this period.

VOTE: Unanimous ayes; motion to come out of executive session duly carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Gessert mentioned that the Council had the financial report from Mr. Myers and that if any Council member wanted to have a meeting to go over it and ask Mr. Myers questions, they can do so.

A motion to adjourn was duly made, seconded and carried and the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen L. Gonzalez
Council Secretary

APPROVED:

David A. Gessert
David A. Gessert, Council Chairman

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3-12-85
Date

Rosemary A. Rascati
Rosemary A. Rascati, Town Clerk

3-13-85
Date

PLEASE NOTE: Due to a faulty extension mike connection on the tape recorder, parts of page 1 (INVOCATION and PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD), page 5 (FOOTBALL FIELD, TOWN DIRECTIONAL SIGN PROBLEM), page 6 (REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF \$1732 - TOWN PLANNER) were inaudible.

clg
2/27/85