

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 11, 2002

6:30 P.M.

AGENDA

Blessing

1. Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance
2. Correspondence
3. Consent Agenda
  - a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#786-794) Totaling \$7,10.43 – Tax Collector
  - b. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$505,856. from Accrued Expenses Acct. #7060-800-3230 to Various Accounts within the Dept. of Fire Services Budget to fund the Final Year of a Labor Contract Recently Arbitrated – Personnel Director
  - c. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$11,750 from Replacement Pay Acct. #2030-101-1500 to Other Pay Acct. #2030-101-1700 to Cover Continued Duty Pay Expenses of the Dept. of Fire Services
  - d. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$3,500 from Maintenance of Equipment Acct. #001-2005-570-5200 to Electronic Equipment Acct. #001-2005-999-9944 – Dept. of Police Services
  - e. SET A PUBLIC HEARING for June 25, 2002 at 7:45 P.M. to Consider Amending Ordinance #494 Entitled, “Noise Ordinance” as Requested by Ordinance Committee Co-Chairman Stephen W. Knight
  - f. SET A PUBLIC HEARING for June 25, 2002 at 8:00 P.M. to Consider Amending Chapter 210 of the Code of the Town of Wallingford Entitled, “Tree Warden” as Requested by Ordinance Committee Co-Chairman Stephen W. Knight

- g. SET A PUBLIC HEARING for June 25, 2002 at 8:15 P.M. to Consider Amending Section 198-16 of the Code of the Town of Wallingford Entitled, "Removal of Tree Limbs, Branches and Other Rubbish" as Requested by Ordinance Committee Co-Chairman Stephen W. Knight
- h. Consider and Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Make Application and Execute Contracts with the State of CT. Department of Social Services for a Social Services Block Grant (Meals on Wheels Program) – State & Federal Program Administrator
- i. Consider and Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Make Application to the State of CT., Dept. of Social Services for Community Service Grant Funds Used to Contract with Comunidad Hispana de Wallingford, Inc., "SCOW" – State & Federal Program Administrator
- j. Consider and Approve an Agreement Between the Town of Wallingford and Comunidad Hispana de Wallingford, Inc., "SCOW" to Fulfill all Terms and Conditions of a Community Service Grant Applied for by the Town – State & Federal Program Administrator
- k. Consider and Approve a Budget Amendment in the Amount of \$3,000 to Community Action Agency Acct. #205-3070-606-6810 and to Town Contribution Acct. #205-1040-051-5010 in the Meals on Wheels 148-SBG-37 Fund for F.Y. 2001-2002 – State & Federal Program Administrator

4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

5. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

- 6. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$6,502 from Regular Salaries & Wages Acct. #001-5010-101-1000 to AutoCADD (Desk Top Computer) Workstation and Software Licenses Acct. #001-5010-999-9906-00 - Town Engineer
- 7. Consider and Approve a Waiver of Bid for the Purpose of Contracting for Services to Perform Classroom Repairs at Lyman Hall High School – Board of Education
- 8. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Signage at Crosswalks for Pedestrian Traffic as Requested by Councilor Raymond J. Rys, Sr.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Assigning a Formal Charge to the Library Expansion Study Committee as Requested by Council Chairman Robert F. Parisi
10. PUBLIC HEARING to Consider and Act Upon a List of Municipal Projects and Corresponding Resolution to be Submitted to the State of CT. Under the Neighborhood Assistance Program – Program Planner – 7:45 P.M.
11. PUBLIC HEARING to Consider and Act Upon “An Ordinance Amending An Ordinance Appropriating \$3,610,000 for the Planning and Design of Town-Wide School System Renovations and Authorizing the Issuance of \$3,610,000 Bonds of the Town to Meet Said Appropriation and Pending the Issuance Thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowings for Such Purpose – School Building Committee – 8:00 P.M.
12. Remove from the Table for Discussion and Action Regarding Approval of a Tax Assessment Agreement as Covering E-F Node Addition Between the Town of Wallingford and Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. – Town Attorney
13. Discussion and Possible Action on:
  - 1) Repealing Ordinance #495 Entitled, “An Ordinance Appropriating \$510,000 for Park Improvements to Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Community Lake Parks and the Garden Road Area and Authorizing the Issue of \$510,000 Bonds of the Town to Meet Said Appropriation and Pending the Issuance Thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowings for Such Purpose” as Requested by Councilors Mike Brodinsky, Jim Vumbaco and Mayor Wm. W. Dickinson, Jr.;
  - 2) Scheduling of a Referendum on Ordinance #495 (see title above); and
  - 3) Designation of Polling Places for the Purpose of Conducting a Referendum on Ordinance #495 (see title above) as Requested by Mayor Wm. W. Dickinson, Jr.
14. Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-200(6)(B) of the CT. General Statutes to Discuss the Matter of the Town of Wallingford v. Southern New England Telecommunications Corp. and Lucent Technologies, Inc. – Town Attorney
15. Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-200(6)(D) of the CT. General Statutes with Respect to the Purchase, Sale and or Leasing of Property – Mayor
16. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Matter of the Town of Wallingford vs. Southern New England Telecommunications Corp. and Lucent Technologies, Inc. as Discussed in Executive Session – Town Attorney

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 11, 2002

6:30 P.M.

A regular meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was held on Tuesday, June 11, 2002 in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall and called to Order by Chairman Robert F. Parisi at 6:35 P.M. Answering present to the Roll called by Asst. Town Clerk Evelyn Fernandes were Councilors Brodinsky, Doherty, Farrell, Knight, Papale, Parisi, Rys, Toman and Vumbaco. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., and Comptroller Thomas A. Myers were also in attendance. Town Attorney Janis M. Small arrived at 7:22 P.M.

A blessing was bestowed upon the Council by Rev. Richard Diehl, Evangelical and Reformed United Church of Christ.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the Flag.

A moment of Silence was observed for Michael Papale, past Public Utilities Commission member and former employee of the Water/Sewer Divisions.

ITEM #2 Correspondence

A letter from the Wallingford Housing Authority was read into the record at this time (Appendix I).

ITEM #3 Consent Agenda

ITEM #3a Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#786-794) Totaling \$7,100.43 – Tax Collector

ITEM #3b Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$505,856. from Accrued Expenses Acct. #7060-800-3230 to Various Accounts within the Dept. of Fire Services budget to fund the Final Year of a Labor Contract Recently Arbitrated – Personnel Director

ITEM #3c Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$11,750 from Replacement Pay Acct. #2030-101-1500 to Other Pay Acct. #2030-101-1700 to Cover Continued Duty Pay Expenses of the Dept. of Fire Services

ITEM #3d Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$3,500 from Maintenance of Equipment Acct. #001-2005-570-5200 to Electronic Equipment Acct. #001-2005-999-9944 – Dept. of Police Services

ITEM #3e SET A PUBLIC HEARING for June 25, 2002 at 7:45 P.M. to Consider Amending Ordinance #494 Entitled, "Noise Ordinance" as Requested by Ordinance Committee Co-Chairman Stephen W. Knight

ITEM #3f SET A PUBLIC HEARING for June 25, 2002 at 8:00 P.M. to Consider Amending Chapter 210 of the Code of the Town of Wallingford Entitled, "Tree Warden" as Requested by Ordinance Committee Co-Chairman Stephen W. Knight

ITEM #3g SET A PUBLIC HEARING for June 25, 2002 at 8:15 P.M. to Consider Amending Section 198-16 of the Code of the Town of Wallingford Entitled, "Removal of Tree Limbs, Branches and Other Rubbish" as Requested by Ordinance Committee Co-Chairman Stephen W. Knight

ITEM #3h Consider and Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Make Application and Execute Contracts with the State of CT. Department of Social Services for a Social Services Block Grant (Meals on Wheels Program) – State & Federal Program Administrator

ITEM #3i Consider and Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Make Application to the State of CT., Dept. of Social Services for Community Service Grant Funds Used to Contract with Comunidad Hispana de Wallingford, Inc., "SCOW" – State & Federal Program Administrator

ITEM #3j Consider and Approve an Agreement Between the Town of Wallingford and Comunidad Hispana de Wallingford, Inc., "SCOW" to Fulfill all Terms and Conditions of a Community Service Grant Applied for by the Town – State & Federal Program Administrator

ITEM #3k Consider and Approve a Budget Amendment in the Amount of \$3,000 to Community Action Agency Acct. #205-3070-606-6810 and to Town Contribution Acct. #205-1040-051-5010 in the Meals on Wheels 148-SBG-37 Fund for F.Y. 2001-2002 – State & Federal Program Administrator

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

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #7 Motion was made by Mr. Knight to Move Agenda Item #7 Up to the Next Order of Business, seconded by Mr. Toman.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #7 Consider and Approve a Waiver of Bid for the Purpose of Contracting for Services to Perform Classroom Repairs at Lyman Hall High School – Board of Education

Motion was made by Mr. Knight to Approve a Waiver of Bid for the Purpose of Contracting with D. J. Contracting for the removal of ceiling tiles in room 6C at Lyman Hall High School and related asbestos abatement work for a cost not to exceed \$19,900., seconded by Mr. Toman.

Correspondence from Joseph Cirusuolo, Ed.D. to Mayor Dickinson dated June 11, 2002 was read into the record at this time. (Appendix II)

The request of the Town Council is to grant a bid waiver so that the school system can arrange for the replacement of the ceiling in room 6C in Lyman Hall High School. A portion of the ceiling in the room has collapsed and the room is currently unsafe for use. In order for the work to be done in time for the use of the room at the beginning of the school year 2002-2003, the work has to be started by 6/23/02. The project involves the abatement of asbestos which can only take place during the summer recess because it is only then that there is sufficient time for the work to be done and for the air to be cleared of hazardous materials. The cost for the project is \$30,112. Work that will cost \$10,212 will be done by vendors with whom there are contracts that were awarded after seeking bids. Work that will cost \$19,900 will have to be done by a vendor with whom there is no contract that was awarded after seeking bids. A list of the vendors who are under bid, the work that they will do and how much that work will cost was read at this time. The vendors are under contract for providing work to the system whenever it is necessary throughout the school year. The bids were awarded on a time and materials basis. The vendor who is not under bid is D. J. Contracting which is based in Clifton, N.Y. This vendor will remove the ceiling tiles that contain asbestos and this work will not exceed \$19,900 in cost. D. J. Contracting is under bid already for the removal of floor tiles that contain asbestos. Removal of ceiling tiles was not covered in the specifications in response to which this bid was submitted. Specifically, a bid waiver is being requested by Dr. Cirusuolo so that the school system can contract with D. J. Contracting for the removal of ceiling tiles in room 6C at Lyman Hall High School and related asbestos abatement work for a cost not to exceed \$19,900.

Chairman Parisi asked Dr. Cirusuolo if he was sure that \$19,900 is a legitimate price?

Dr. Cirusuolo answered, yes, it is not to exceed figure.

Mr. Rys asked if there was a preventative maintenance program in place prior to this happening?

Dr. Cirusuolo answered, yes, but these are simply old tiles. He offered to send to the council a full report on what has been done on a regular basis. Some tiles came down, no one was injured. As soon as that happened, the room was sealed off. The tiles are attached to the ceiling

of the room. It is old construction. Any replacement of the tile would be an asbestos abatement project. A new suspended ceiling grid will be installed with new tiles and, obviously, there won't be any asbestos involved. There aren't too many rooms with the old tiles left in the school system.

Mr. Vumbaco asked what caused the tile to come down?

Dr. Cirasuolo surmised that it was just old age.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville asked if the contractor has given Dr. Cirasuolo a date by which the work will be completed?

Dr. Cirasuolo replied, by the first or second week of August. The room will then need to be cleaned and made ready for instruction in September.

Mr. Melillo was opposed to waiving the bidding process.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #6 Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$6,502 from Regular Salaries & Wages Acct. #001-5010-101-1000 to AutoCADD (Desk Top Computer) Workstation and Software Licenses Acct. #001-5010-999-9906-00 Town Engineer

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

A supplemental transfer of funds in the amount of \$6,502 to allow for the purchase of two new software licenses, one new upgrade, on-site installation, one year phone support, a subscription service for the three licenses and one day of customized, on-site training. This supplemental transfer is a follow-up to an earlier transfer of funds submitted March 15, 2002 in the amount of \$12,000 and based on actual costs from recently received public bids.

Mr. Knight asked why the licenses and training was not included in the original bid?

John Thompson, Town Engineer replied that there was several additional elements that were not originally included in the \$12,000 request. After speaking to the vendors once the initial price quotes were in, the department became aware that they were going to need software modules such as land development modules, surveying modules to allow for the AutoCADD workstations to operate the way the department had envisioned. Going through the public bidding process afforded Mr. Thompson the opportunity to get competitive prices on the products.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville felt that the Town should assess safety measures it is taking or should be taking to safeguard reservoirs, schools, etc. from terrorist acts. He was of the opinion that security guards should be placed at all schools. The town, state and federal levels should be working together on this important matter.

Philip Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street asked for a summary report on the Housing Authority's correspondence. The letter was lengthy and Mr. Wright lost the meaning of it after a few sentences.

Chairman Parisi offered a copy of the letter to Mr. Wright.

Mr. Melillo asked if it was true that the Cooke Property is no longer being considered for a golf course due to it being watershed property?

Chairman Parisi replied that he would not say that it was abandoned.

Mr. Melillo would like to see the plan abandoned and the land left for the wildlife.

Robert Sheehan, 11 Cooper Avenue asked the Town Engineer, when will the road construction start on Constitution Street?

Mr. Thompson answered, it is scheduled for either Spring of 2003 or Fall of 2003.

Mr. Sheehan stated that North Farms Road has been repaved; it looks very good and has even been widened a little. He asked, is there a plan to put curbs in? Telephone poles are very close to the paved highway.

Mr. Thompson explained curbing will be put in to create a uniform 26' wide roadway. Pavement currently extends beyond its final width. Curbing will sit inside the edge of the pavement and it will be graded up to that. The road will actually be narrowed in many places from what is seen today.

Mayor Dickinson left the meeting at 6:59 P.M. to attend a D.A.R.E. Graduation Ceremony and returned at 8:04 P.M.

Wes Lube, 15 Montowese Trail asked Chairman Parisi if he remembered what the Town paid for the former Cooke Property which the Town took title of in 1998?

Chairman Parisi could not recall.



Comptroller Thomas Myers recalled, about \$3.8 million.

Mr. Lubee asked if anyone remembered what the appraisal was on the property?

Chairman Parisi did not recall.

Mr. Lubee replied, \$3,515,000.00. George Cooke stated at the meeting when the council approved the purchase, "there is about 80 acres on Whirlwind Hill Road and a little bit on the south side of Whirlwind Hill Road that runs directly to McKenzie Reservoir so it is watershed area." The extent of the wetlands was described and in hand that night in the appraisal report that the Mayor presented to the council. We had not one but two authorities that the property contained significant water lands and watershed. A state grant of 65% of appraised value or \$2,285,000 was available to the taxpayers of Wallingford and that would have reduced the cost to \$1.5 million instead of the \$3.8 million that Mr. Myers just reported. Do you remember why we did not apply for that \$2 million grant?

Chairman Parisi replied that he could not.

Mr. Lubee explained, prior to council approval Mayor Dickinson voiced two reasons; one was time; it would take too long and the seller would not wait. The second was it was too limiting, the state grant would prohibit development for anything beyond passive recreation. The Mayor's words were, "provide for future generations for the property may have to be utilized for a municipal purpose." He must have thought that that was worth losing \$2,300,000. state grant, that's a lot of money. We own it outright. Then the land was proposed for a golf course as was just mentioned. The State said no, it is watershed land. The driest portion, could it be used for four little league baseball fields? Has anyone considered that possibility? Does anyone on the council have comments on that subject?

Chairman Parisi stated that Mr. Lubee is speaking to a topic that is on the agenda later on. The State also said that, in essence with their ruling, we can't use any of the land east of I-91. That is why we are going to go to court over the last two rulings we have had. That has a lot of impact on the Town of Wallingford. Was the property considered? I can't answer that for I don't know.

Mr. Lubee stated, we are faced with the possibility that we have land that we have purchased without state grant which we cannot develop even though we have bought it without state grant so that we could develop it. We purchased the land for \$3.8 million without a state grant in order that we might develop it later on. Now when we are faced with a possible golf course we can't do it and you are hinting there is a possibility that we may not be able to put little league baseball fields on it.

Chairman Parisi stated, right now I don't know that we can do anything there.

Mr. Lubee asked, in other words we have purchased land for open space without a state grant on which we can do nothing except use it for passive recreation?

Chairman Parisi replied, that is why we are going to challenge the ruling. I agree with you 100%. I don't think it is fair to say the least.

Mr. Lubee stated, in all fairness to the State, we knew it was watershed land before you approved the purchase.

Chairman Parisi stated, I am not going to get into that. The item is on the agenda later and I will be happy to discuss it.

Mr. Melillo asked if there are any new developments with the Wooding/Caplan property?

Chairman Parisi answered, I don't know. The Mayor would know.

Mr. Melillo stated that it should be put on the commercial real estate market.

Philip Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street asked that an update on the Wooding/Caplan property be placed on the agenda of an upcoming meeting.

Chairman Parisi agreed that it can be placed on the agenda.

Mr. Brodinsky stated that an appraiser promised Atty. Janis Small an appraisal in the month of May and he couldn't deliver. The latest information is that the appraisal will be forthcoming some time in the middle of June. As soon as that information becomes available it will probably be on the agenda.

Chairman Parisi stated, it will be on the agenda.

Mr. Melillo again spoke on the issue of overgrowth of foliage and how it blocks many traffic signs in town. He hoped that the council had taken his advice to take notice of the problem while driving in and around the town.

Chairman Parisi stated that he does and believes that every councilor who sees a tree overhanging the roadway or blocking signage brings the matter to the attention of the appropriate authority.

Public Question and Answer Period was concluded at this time.

ITEM #8 Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Signage at Crosswalks for Pedestrian Traffic as Requested by Councilor Raymond J. Rys, Sr.

Mr. Rys asked, is it a state law that traffic must stop for pedestrians in a crosswalk?

Chief Douglas Dortenzio answered, slow down or stop in order to afford protection to the pedestrian. There is also a statute that requires a motorist to afford reasonable protection to a pedestrian who is not at a crosswalk. However, what is frequently misunderstood is that there is a reciprocal obligation on the part of the pedestrian. The mere fact that a crosswalk is painted on a street does not give a pedestrian the opportunity or privilege to step off the curb into the path of an oncoming vehicle. Even if they don't get struck, it could alarm the motorist and cause secondary problems. There is an obligation on the part of the pedestrian and motorist to exercise good sense and reasonable precaution.

Mr. Rys stated that he has traveled through the state and have seen what other communities do. There are a few areas in Wallingford that have a bold, painted crosswalk such as in front of Parker Farms School and Highland School. The crosswalk in front of Town Hall has a sign posted that reads, "Pedestrian in crosswalk has right of way." I thought it may be an education not only for motorists but for pedestrians. It also affords pedestrians the chance to cross a street. For example, on Highland Avenue I stopped for a pedestrian who had just entered the crosswalk...I saw the pedestrian entering the crossing area. The pedestrian stopped in the middle of the road, turned around and commented that she was surprised that a motorist would stop. I am not saying that pedestrians should be allowed to step out in a crosswalk into oncoming traffic...but I would like to see a program put in place where we do have bold crosswalks on dangerous roads such as Parker Farms, Highland and Pond Hill. Vehicles do exceed the speed limit at times in those areas and I consider them dangerous roads. I realize your patrolmen are out with radar in these areas at times, but not all the time. If we could place more of the signs at areas such as these, we can alert the public.

Chief Dortenzio asked, are you referring to mid-block crosswalks; those that are not adjacent to intersections?

Mr. Rys answered, pretty much. Most of your dangerous intersections with crosswalks have stop lights. I think it would be redundant to put that type of a sign in front of that.

Chief Dortenzio explained, we don't use signs at intersections where there are stop signs and there are parallel painted lines on the street that outline the crosswalk. In addition, there is a wider one that indicates the stop bar. We started last fall to take a look at an optional painting layout described in the Engineering and Traffic Safety Manual as high visibility crosswalks that are recommended for what is referred to as mid-block crosswalks. We have started to change some of them last fall. At the present time...we have started again. It is done through Public Works even though I control the layout pattern or the signs that are put up. We have begun to

use these high-visibility layout lines in the areas we refer to as mid-block crosswalks. Also, for the first time in twenty years the federal publication which is used by both legal traffic authorities and engineers and regulates the type of lay-out lines and signs that can be used has changed. Some of the signs that we have become familiar with over the last decade have actually been supplanted by newer ones with brighter reflectivity and we have changed some 500 signs in town in the last twelve months and continuing to do so.

Mr. Rys stated, even though there will be special painting on the pavement, that still doesn't show the motorist that the pedestrian has the right of way in a crosswalk. I would like to see you investigate that a little better or get some signs up.

Chief Dortenzio stated that the signs are no longer text message but graphic display for the purpose of implementing a universal road signage system across the country. Some signs have begun to take on an international interpretation as well due to the fact that visitors from other countries vacation in the states or have family here and it makes it easier to understand and follow our country's motor vehicle rules.

Mr. Rys stated that he wanted to bring out the issue of a little more visibility. He understood that the crosswalks themselves are visible but felt that signs would enhance the crosswalk and make the motorists a little more aware of the law. He would like to see signs similar to the one out in front of Town Hall placed at other crosswalks in town. On his travels through other communities he has seen speed bumps to slow traffic in areas of crosswalks; plastic police officers in the middle of the road, etc. He did not want that in Wallingford for it slows traffic too much but would like to see a little more visibility at the crosswalks that are necessary.

No action taken.

ITEM #9 Discussion and Possible Action on Assigning a Formal Charge to the Library Expansion Study Committee as Requested by Council Chairman Robert F. Parisi

Motion was made by Mr. Knight that the Members of the Library Expansion Committee, pursuant to Public Bid, Select an Architectural Firm to Advise the Town Regarding the Feasibility of the Public Library Expansion and the Estimated Costs Associated with Construction, seconded by Ms. Papale.

Mr. Brodinsky asked if this is an interim charge to the committee that will evolve and grow over time or is this the complete charge to the committee and will not get any supplementary mission.

Chairman Parisi answered that it is the charge for this portion of the project.

Mr. Brodinsky asked if there has been any discussion as to whether or not this building committee will take on the role, mission or responsibility similar to the school renovation building committee?

Chairman Parisi answered that he did not believe so. This charge is to get it started; he is not driving the committee in any particular direction.

Mr. Brodinsky asked, after the architectural firm is selected what happens to the committee?

Chairman Parisi answered that it could be dissolved or if the project moves past that stage, they are offered the choice as to whether or not they want to continue. It is open-ended.

Ms. Papale stated that Mr. Gee was appointed Temporary Chairman and he will be in touch with the rest of the committee.

Chairman Parisi introduced the committee at this time:

- Louise Coffin
- Matthew Coyle
- James Fitzsimmons
- Fred Paige
- Steve Hazelwood
- Dick Rizzo
- John Gavin
- Atty. Richard Gee
- Leslie Scherer
- Karen Roseler

Chairman Parisi announced that the meetings are open to the public and the public is welcome to attend.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #12 Motion was made by Mr. Parisi to Move Agenda Item #12 up to the Next Order of Business, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #12 Remove from the Table for Discussion and Action Regarding Approval of a Tax Assessment Agreement as Covering E-F Node Addition Between the Town of Wallingford and Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. – Town Attorney

Motion was made by Mr. Knight to Remove the Item from the Table, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

VOTE TO REMOVE FROM THE TABLE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

Atty. Small provided some background information on the development of the E-F Node with the parking. She stated, the E-F node addition to Bristol Myers was approved in December of 1999. During the course of that approval, the issue with respect to the parking facilities was raised by Linda Bush and also by the engineer consultant for the Town. The actual application did not request additional parking. There had been a prior approval for a parking garage on the Bristol Myers property but it had at that point not been built. Linda Bush raised the issue of the parking being quite tight and so did the consultant engineer and the consultant engineer was not certain that the on-site parking, in fact, was adequate. When they asked Bristol Myers what was to be happening with the parking garage, Bristol Myers' response was that the construction of additional parking facilities was under review by the corporation and they hadn't made a decision at that point in time. They had, at that point in time, a temporary gravel parking lot which, for purposes of constructing the E-F Node would have to have been closed for construction purposes. The issue of parking became a reality. In the Spring of 2000 they applied for a special permit for an additional parking lot and they gave up the parking garage, they had no interest in building the parking garage and they sought approval for a parking lot. The parking lot, in addition to servicing existing employees was also going to be used by the new employees for the E-F Node, approximately 120 employees. It was in that sense connected to the E-F Node. The tax assessment agreement states that the company is entitled to the tax assessment agreement or major construction projects which the contract defines as a construction project of real property in excess of \$15 million. There is no further elaboration on what a major construction project is. As I did last time they had a major construction project, I asked the Assessor to evaluate the information from Bristol Myers to verify and be satisfied that, in fact, \$15 million was being spent on the current project and Shelby Jackson did so in this case. My understanding that the Council has raised the question of whether or not the two things combined constitute a major construction project. Based upon my review, I conclude that it does. I perhaps would have thought differently if, in fact, there were not any new employees for the E-F Node even though there seems to be this parking issue with regard to Bristol Myers. Given all the facts and given that the definition of major construction project is not very detailed, in my opinion, they have satisfied the requirement. This is a major construction project and they have spent \$15 million.

Mr. Vumbaco stated, I was the one who raised this because I didn't realize; I was under the impression that the E-F Node went in front of the P&Z (Planning & Zoning Commission) on separate occasions.

Atty. Small answered, yes, they were two separate applications.

Mr. Vumbaco stated, it was not presented as one project.

Atty. Small replied, as I just explained, that is correct.

Mr. Vumbaco stated, right, so there were two different nodes that went in front of Planning & Zoning separate.

Atty. Small stated, no. The E-F Node had a special permit approval in December of 1999, that is when it was approved and then in the Spring, they applied for special permit for the parking lot.

Mr. Vumbaco stated, but they already had the parking garage approved. Now they are replacing it with the parking lot. The parking garage, when they presented that to the commission, was for additional expansion in the future so it wasn't part of this project. I am having problems with your conclusion that the parking lot is part of the project, especially when Bristol Myers needs that in their dollars because their E-F Node expansion is \$13,900. and when you add in the \$2.5 million, it pushes them over the \$15 million for the project.

Atty. Small answered, right.

Mr. Vumbaco stated, I am having problems with the fact that that lot is part of the project since they already had a garage with, I believe, even more parking spaces assigned to the garage than what this lot is going to do. Now they came back and I am not sure what is going on because the last hearing that I sat in on is that they were back to a parking garage again. That was about a year ago that they were going to put in a parking garage, if you face Bristol Myers to the right side, that was what the big debate was over, the lighting and the whole situation. I am not even sure...

Atty. Small asked, is that a pending application?

Mr. Vumbaco replied, I think it was approved.

Atty. Small stated, they did get approval for a parking garage but then they abandoned the parking garage and looked, sought to have this parking lot built.

Mr. Vumbaco stated, right, and then the last one I saw was that they were back with the parking garage situation again. I thought that is where the confusion came in. Plus, since the parking garage was the initial application prior to E-F Node even being built and the lot, even if the new garage is not going to built, the lot is a substitute for that parking garage, I can't see how you can conclude that it is part of this package.

Atty. Small pointed out, the agreement does not say how Planning & Zoning approved and in what order they approve different portions of this construction governs what constitutes a major construction project.

Mr. Vumbaco stated, number 11 says "construction project..." singular, "...shall mean a construction project of real property in excess of \$15 million." You are concluding that these two separate projects that came in front of Planning & Zoning is considered a single project.

Atty. Small answered,....they are related to each other, the parking lot in part deals with the additional employees in the E-F Node and they were built at the same time.

Mr. Vumbaco asked, even though the attempt for parking was done prior to their presenting the E-F Node?

Atty. Small stated, the parking lot approval came after the approval...

Mr. Vumbaco stated, but the parking lot is just a replacement for the garage.

Atty. Small answered, it is a replacement and it deals with the new employees of the E-F Node. If it didn't include, if there were no new employees in the F-F Node, I think I would take the same position you are, although I am not sure in a court that I would win that argument but I think I would take that position. I was looking to see, whose coming to the E-F Node; is this something new that you need parking for? My review of the records shows that it brings on approximately 120 new employees for which they need parking. If it weren't for that fact, I think I would probably lean more towards your position.

Mr. Vumbaco stated, I, personally, feel that we are giving the ship away here. That is my personal opinion.

Mr. Brodinsky stated, as you know I wrote a letter; I asked Shelby Jackson, the Assessor, to calculate how much money we are talking about because I want to know if we have a \$10 issue; \$100 issue; \$1,000 issue. It turns out that apparently we have about a \$102,000 at stake. There are several ways to frame the issue; one is what can be said in favor of Bristol Myers' attempt to take from us \$102,000. pursuant to their contract. But, "construction project" which is in the contract is a vague term. Because of that, the issue should be phrased another way which is, what evidence is there out there that would support the Town's case that this is not one construction project but two? If we can look for evidence to build a case that this is two construction projects instead of one, we save \$100,000. The issue is, do we want to try and save \$100,000 and look for evidence that is readily available and if it is still muddy after we approach it that way, then it is a matter of compromise because if it is an unclear situation, there is no way we should give up without a fight the entire \$102,000. To start my investigation; I don't have paid staff, experts, engineers, assessors; I'm doing the best I can here but, I started



with a trip to the site to look at the E-F Node and the parking that is claimed to be associated with the E-F Node. What is immediately striking is that parking is nowhere near the E-F Node; nowhere near it. There are two major parking lots at Bristol-Myers, the north lot and the south lot and Bristol-Myers, with or without the E-F Node needs both parking lots. They would need the north parking lot without the E-F Node and that this the parking lot that is an issue today; the \$2.5 million when added to the \$13.8 million equals \$16.3 million which takes us over the \$15 million threshold. That north parking lot that was approved by separate application would have had to have been built even if the E-F Node was not there. Given that fact alone, if we deny Bristol-Myers' attempt to take from us this \$102,000 and we take it to court because we can't compromise our differences, I think we would probably win the case seven out of ten times and the other three cases we might have subject to appeal. But it doesn't stop there. Just a physical examination would convince anyone that this is not a parking lot associated with the E-F Node and I would urge my fellow councilors not to vote on this until they actually go out and inspect the site. An inspection is so persuasive that I think it leaves little room for doubt. There is a document in the P&Z Office submitted by Bristol-Myers dated June 6, 2000 and it is a chart. It is the Bristol-Myers Squibb Company existing and future parking document and it was prepared by Bristol-Myers and it lists what their existing parking is and what they want to build. Under the E-F Node which they say is under construction, under "parking spaces" they have zero (0). Zero (0) parking spaces under the same line, right on the same horizontal line as E-F Node. Under "Day Care" they have sixty-nine (69) parking spaces. Under "Main Parking Lot" they have seven hundred sixty-nine (769) spaces. Under the "PH Building" they have eleven (11) spaces. Under the "CUP" they have forty (40) spaces for a subtotal of eight hundred twenty (820) and then this lower gravel lot which is a temporary lot, they list one hundred ninety-five (195) for an existing total of 1,015 as of June, 2000. That is when we drop down to the E-F Node; zero (0) spaces. Add this document to the physical examination of the premises and we would win ten out of ten cases but it doesn't stop there. There are references in our P&Z files which gives a history of the project and Mr. Vumbaco eluded to it. I am looking at Planning & Zoning minutes...the gist of it is that Bristol-Myers, in 2000, wanted to rescind approval of the 749 space parking structure. The 749 parking structure is a lot larger than necessary to accommodate 120 employees so to say the entire \$2 million for this parking is somehow attributable to all of these employees doesn't make sense. In any event, someone went on to say that they wanted to rescind approval for the 749 parking structure, they say, "we have 1,200 employees now and by March 2001 we will have 200 more. We expect to have another 175..." and they are asking for a total of 1,590 spaces. The new lot is supposed to be in the northwest corner of Bristol-Myers, the E-F Node is almost one-quarter of a mile away. In fact, there are some parts of the other lot that are closer to the E-F Node, the other lot that is not an issue now. Mr. Austin (P&Z Official) asked what the length of the parking lot is and the answer was, just inside 1,000 feet; 1,000 feet to accommodate 120 employees? Give me a break. There are bus shelters every 250 feet. For 120 employees you need bus shelters every...? There will be 23 nine-foot (9') spaces to a section plus an island in the middle. This is 4.3 - 4.4 acre disturbance; you need that for 120 employees? This little E-F Node is not that big. If you look at Bristol-Myers it is huge. You look at this parking lot that cost \$2.4 million,

it is huge. The evidence just piles us. They than rescinded the parking garage application and substituted a 506 space surface parking area. First they started with a garage, they substituted an open air parking area of 506 spaces, not to accommodate or be associated with the E-F Node, that was the entire Bristol-Myers complex. This is evidence that we can put into court and say that this parking lot costing \$2.4 million is really not the same project as the E-F Node, and so on and so forth. It goes on and on, the evidence is just there. This is not a parking lot associated with the E-F Node. It is a parking lot needed to service the entire Bristol-Myers complex. Under those circumstances, we should not give away \$100,000 and, in my opinion, shouldn't even compromise it. This is a case we can win in court, all we have to do is try. We should be looking for ways to protect our money and not try to make Bristol-Myers' case for them. If there is any councilor who wants to go up and look at this, I think they should before this is voted on. I feel that if you were on the fence before, once you see what is going on, you are going to say, let's hold onto this \$100,000.

Mr. Brodinsky made a motion to Table the Item so that everyone would have the chance to go out there (to Bristol-Myers). Mr. Toman seconded the motion.

Mr. Farrell stated, seemingly, a lot of this comes down to a legal document that is over 20 years old; different Mayor, different Town Attorney. Who drafted this? It seems to be that there is a problem with this definition and what it encompasses and what it doesn't.

Atty. Small answered that she did not know who drafted the agreement. She will try and pull the old file when it was entered into back in 1983 to take a look at it.

Mr. Farrell stated that he could not support entirely everything that Mr. Brodinsky stated but thought maybe it is worth going back and talking to whoever drafted the file so that they will remember some of the discussions and perhaps shed some light on things that are on the file.

Atty. Small stated that she had no problem doing that. She commented on the issue of the parking lots not being anywhere near the building by saying, the last time I was at Bristol-Myers for their tax appeal doing a tour of the facility, I don't think that any of the parking is actually close to the building and they shuttle you from the parking lot to whatever building you are going to. They have a very elaborate system of doing that. I did not mean to and I don't think I did state that this parking lot was built exclusively for the E-F Node, I am not taking that position. It is, in part, for the E-F Node and for other employees because the E-F Node only adds, according to them 120 employees. I would be more than happy to pull the old file out. You can table it again and I will pull the old file out and see what is in there.

Mr. Farrell stated, and try and talk to whomever the drafter in question was?

Chairman Parisi asked, counselor, are you saying that you don't feel that you have strong case?

Atty. Small answered, I think that if we are going to have discussions about the legal pros and cons then we really ought to be doing it in executive session. I wouldn't want to elaborate further on that but I am willing to go look at the file. I don't recall that there was anything earth shattering in there because I think I did this the last time around but I would be more than happy to take another look at it. I think perhaps the conversation ought to occur in executive session and we can do that at the next meeting.

Chairman Parisi stated, maybe that would be the course to take is that we can go along with another tabling but I would strongly suggest that the next discussion would be in executive session if that is the feeling of the council, that is fine with me.

Mr. Brodinsky asked, If I may inquire, that would be because; only be because....

Atty. Small answered, discussing legal....

Mr. Brodinsky continued, we are contemplating denying it and that is strategy for litigation?

Atty. Small answered, right. We need to have that conversation in executive session.

Mr. Brodinsky answered, that is fine but my comments were to build the Town's case to get you in executive session.

Atty. Small answered, I hear you.

Motion was made by Mr. Brodinsky to Table the Item, seconded by Mr. Toman.

VOTE TO TABLE: Knight & Parisi, nay; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #10 PUBLIC HEARING to Consider and Act Upon a List of Municipal Projects and Corresponding Resolution to be Submitted to the State of CT. Under the Neighborhood Assistance Program – Program Planner – 7:45 P.M.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville asked for a brief overview of the program.

Ms. Papale inquired about Rushford Center, Inc. agency for she was not familiar with it.

Don Roe, Program Planner stated that it is also known as MidState Mental Health, part of the MidState Hospital.

Councilor Brodinsky abstained due to his voluntary involvement on the Ulbrich Boys & Girls Club Board of Directors but stated that he fully supports the program and would enthusiastically endorse it if not for his volunteer service. Chairman Parisi stated that he felt the need to declare

that he serves on the Community Relations Committee at Gaylord Hospital however does not feel a conflict of interest exists. Councilor Knight declared that he is on the Board of Governors and Community Advisory Committee of MidState Medical Center but does not feel a conflict of interest exists. Councilor Farrell stated that he is the Chief Executive Officer of the Wallingford Preservation Trust and, although the organization does not receive any money from the program, he has chosen to abstain from voting on the matter to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest.

Mr. Vumbaco clarified, the dollars listed in the ordinance are not actual dollars available to the participants but are available credits from the state to companies who wish to make donations. If a company wishes to donate \$100,000 to a certain organization, the limit is set out that the company can donate and be able to take as a credit on their taxes. These are not dollars in the bank going out to organizations.

Mr. Roe explained, each agency goes knocking on the doors that they may already have familiarity with. How much they then get can be considerably less than what the designated amount listed in the ordinance is. You're right, a company, to the state gets a credit. It is not dollar for dollar.

Motion was made by Mr. Knight to Approve the List of Municipal Projects and Corresponding Resolution to be Submitted to the State of CT. Under the Neighborhood Assistance Program, seconded by Ms. Doherty (Appendix III).

VOTE: Farrell & Brodinsky abstained; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #11 PUBLIC HEARING to Consider and Act Upon "An Ordinance Amending An Ordinance Appropriating \$3,610,000 for the Planning and Design of Town-Wide School System Renovations and Authorizing the Issuance of \$3,610,000 Bonds of the Town to Meet Said Appropriation and Pending the Issuance Thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowings for Such Purpose – School Building Committee – 8:00 P.M.

Motion was made by Mr. Knight to Read the Title and Section 1 of the Ordinance into the record and to Dispense with the Reading of the Ordinance in its Entirety, Incorporating its Full Text Into the Minutes of the Meeting, seconded by Mr. Farrell (Appendix IV).

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville asked why there was a \$160,000 increase to the ordinance?

Don Harwood, School Building Committee Chairman replied that it is attributed to the abatement of hazardous material at Moses Y. Beach School.

The public hearing was closed to the public at this time since there were no other comments offered from the audience.

Motion was made by Mr. Knight to Approve Adopting the Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #13 Discussion and Possible Action on:

- 1) Repealing Ordinance #495 Entitled, "An Ordinance Appropriating \$510,000 for Park Improvements to Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Community Lake Parks and the Garden Road Area and Authorizing the Issue of \$510,000 Bonds of the Town to Meet Said Appropriation and Pending the Issuance Thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowings for Such Purpose" as Requested by Councilors Mike Brodinsky, Jim Vumbaco and Mayor Wm. W. Dickinson, Jr.;
- 2) Scheduling of a Referendum on Ordinance #495 (see title above); and
- 3) Designation of Polling Places for the Purpose of Conducting a Referendum on Ordinance #495 (see title above) as Requested by Mayor Wm. W. Dickinson, Jr.

ITEM #13.1

Mr. Vumbaco stated that both he and Mr. Brodinsky felt that this item should be brought back to the Council because personally, he felt that this has been a very hot topic the last few months since the ordinance was initially passed. At the time the ordinance was passed he, personally, did not feel that all of the information was provided to him as a Councilor. All the information that was garnered was given to the Council the evening of the vote. It was the first time he had a chance to take a look at it and decide which way to vote; should the Little League be supported or the Soccer League. One should not be supported over the other and he felt that the plan presented was presented as a do-or-die-situation; a take-it-or-leave-it-situation. There has been a lot of discussion and articles in the newspaper and a lot of hard work on the part of members' families, Board members of the Wallingford Little League and other leagues that are supporting them. One of the avenues the Little League decided to take to keep this in the forefront was to garner enough signatures to possibly have a referendum to overturn the ordinance. He did not think it was the League's first priority to go to referendum but felt that they probably thought they had to explore every avenue possible to make sure they have a say in the matter so that all of their thought processes and hard work has been presented to the Council. He believes their main objective is to sit down and work together with the Town to develop a project that would be beneficial to all. Be that as it may, signatures were garnered and presented and the Council now has on the table the possibility of a referendum. If the item to rescind the ordinance was not put on the agenda by the next Council meeting, it would

automatically have gone to referendum. He wanted to be able sit down, talk about it with the Little League; listen to some of their ideas, thoughts, processes, etc. It will also allow the Council and the group to enter into fruitful discussion this evening and hopefully a conclusion can be reached rather than spend unnecessary tax dollars going through the process of referendum to repeal the ordinance. He did not think tax dollars should be spent on the referendum if, in fact, the subject project itself is in doubt. He wanted to hear what the Little League had to say and will reserve the right to comment later. He deferred to Mr. Brodinsky at this time.

Mr. Brodinsky stated, on March 26<sup>th</sup> the Council unanimously passed Ordinance #495. Thereafter there were about 3,000 people who signed a petition which said basically that they didn't like what the Council did. I feel they were saying in their hearts, do something about it. When 3,000 people sign a document that says to nine members of the Council, do something, help us, we don't like what you did, there are three positions the Council responsibly can take and a fourth which is indefensible. A responsible position would be for the Council to reconsider on the merits, the facts, the arguments, the logic; revisit the issue and decide that perhaps on March 26<sup>th</sup> we were right and we are not going to change our minds. Another position the Council could take is, revisit the issue on the merits; reconsider the facts, the arguments, the logic, and decide we were wrong. If the Council made a mistake or did something that was less than what they might have done, it is up to the Council to rectify it in the first instance. Another position the Council could take is to say, forget right or wrong, in view of changed circumstances, the path that we started on March 26<sup>th</sup> is no longer valid, there is too many changed circumstances, too many new factors that came into play and just on the basis of change, circumstances, new revelations, new opinions, new viewpoints, new facts that come out, we should revisit the decision on the merits. The position that I think cannot be defended is to take the position that we better walk off the field, the nine Councilors, before the game begins; we better leave our duty station before the battle starts; we don't want to step up to the plate when it is our turn at the batting order because there is a fast ball pitcher out there; we don't want to think again about it because we have already thought about it once. I think it is indefensible to say that we are not going to take a position and hide behind some view of populism or democracy and say that we are not going to take a position because we are going to let the public take a position. I just think that is a cop-out. We made this decision. We, in the first instance, can rectify it if it was the wrong decision. If it was the right decision, we should step up to the plate and say that we made the right decision then and we are going to re-affirm it. I hope every Councilor will review it on the merits, vote on the merits and not sit on the fence and refuse to do that on some view of democracy of, "let the people decide because we don't want to." It is our job to decide. Wallingford expects us, I believe to rectify a situation that can be rectified. Have things changed since March 26<sup>th</sup>? They have in a couple of ways; the State of CT. issued a ruling that essentially, if not killed the plan has stalled it, they said that we could not build a soccer field that we wanted to build and we couldn't put in a parking lot. We could tear up a soccer field and put in two little league fields but the fact that the parking has been squashed by the state, at least temporarily, and the fact that the state has squashed the

construction of a soccer field, at least temporarily, takes the guts out of the plan we passed on March 26<sup>th</sup>. On that basis alone, we should say, what is going to happen? Two years; three years... when we are faced with litigation, what do we do? Do we just follow a plan that, in the end, the courts may say you are not going to be able to achieve? Should we follow a goal that the state has said, "over our dead body?" or should we start looking around for another plan, something that may make more sense. I think the other thing that has changed is that we heard from the Little League after the vote and my interpretation of what they said and are saying is, after they had a chance after March 26<sup>th</sup> to fine tooth comb the plans, they found some problems that the Council was not aware of; that I wasn't aware of. If they had found some problems with the plans and if they had some ideas as to how they might be rectified, I think we ought to hear them out. The third circumstance that has changed is, I was told when I was sitting here on March 26<sup>th</sup> that the people at Community Garden were behind the change of location of the Community Garden over to Garden Road and I have since read in the paper that they were not very happy with it and, based on some private conversations, I am more convinced that they were not very happy with it. So I was not given accurate information and I think that whenever the Council is not given accurate information I think it deserves reconsideration. If the decision is still the same, fine, but the information needs to be rectified. Mr. Parisi indicated that he wants to strictly follow the procedure of having every councilor speak their peace. Under these circumstances, when we are faced with the possibility of a referendum...

Chairman Parisi corrected Mr. Brodinsky and clarified his statement by saying, every councilor has the right to speak before we go to the audience. That is our normal procedure. If, after you speak, if anyone else wants to they can, then we will go to the public.

Mr. Brodinsky stated, my point wasn't clear because I'm sure I had a chance to finish it. I think at some appropriate time is a meaningful time in this decisions-making process we need to hear from the Little League. I want to see them at the desk and I want to ask them some questions and have a dialogue. I just wanted to make sure that that was in the cards. So we agree?

Chairman Parisi stated, I resent that, I will be very honest with you because there is absolutely never been and never will be an occasion as long as I am chairman where the public is not allowed to speak and you know that. They will be allowed to speak as far as they want to on this issue.

Mr. Brodinsky stated, thank you Mr. Chairman. I look forward to seeing them at the table and your comments are appreciated.

Ms. Papale stated, I am not ready to give an opinion on my decision. I am not sure as of this minute what my decision will be. It is very important to me to hear from the people in the public and I know you all have a chance to speak. I keep hearing that we will have to hear what the little league has to say and I am sure and I know that there are people in the public that are not only here that belong to little league; I hope there are people involved with soccer and the

Community Garden and they will all speak. I don't think it is all just about little league. I think it is even about girls softball. I knew that people were out there with a petition and I know it was a lot of hard work but, I don't always believe the amount of people; if 3,000 people signed the petitions, I can almost bet that half the people didn't even really know what they were signing.

A majority of the public in attendance voiced their objections to Ms. Papale's comments loudly from their seats in the auditorium.

Ms. Papale continued, people came up to me after and this is what they told me. I will give my opinion the way I am going to sit and listen to your opinions.

Chairman Parisi stated, let's understand that we are here to discuss this issue. I will ask that everyone just stay calm; everyone will have the opportunity to speak. I don't want to hear any outbursts, it doesn't make for any productivity at all. Everyone has a right to their opinion and has a right to speak their mind and we are going to guarantee that right tonight. Please try and stay as calm as we can.

Mr. Toman stated, I don't think that everyone who signed the petition subscribed to what Mr. Brodinsky said about the fact, "we didn't like what you did." I think that a lot of the people who signed the petition wanted to expand the debate, find out what else could be done out there, turn it over to the public and see what they think. I think the councilor put too personal a point on this and I know we are all here because we want to help the little league; we all want to listen to what is going to be said and I just feel that a referendum is a time honored, democratic tradition and should not be termed a "cop-out".

Mr. Dickinson stated, I just want the record to show that in 2001 the issue was the Cytec fields could not be used in 2002. As a result of that ultimatum Engineering, Recreation, Public Works got together and began working on a plan to alleviate that problem; that there would not be fields available at Cytec this spring. As a result of that, in November or early December, league officials, Tom Dooley and I, went to Cytec and showed them the plan and Cytec indicated that we had a plan that we were working towards and stated that the league could use the fields in 2002. This is the context in which this plan was advanced. It was an effort to deal with a serious situation with lack of fields. A lot of work was put into it and the league is using the fields this spring. I understand that not everyone is happy with the plan, however, the plan is one that achieved the initial goal of using fields this Spring and, I still believe, lacking every other plan, that it is a plan that is affordable and will provide suitable fields and an area where baseball play will occur.

Nick Economopoulos, 65 Farm Hill Road stated that he and his wife were two of the 3,000 signatures on the petition which they signed not simply because of the Little League. He applauded Mr. Vumbaco and Mr. Brodinsky for putting this on the agenda. He stated that he



signed the petition because the town needs more little league, fields and need to improve what currently exists. He travels all over the country and the state with an AAU organization he is involved in and with the type of town that Wallingford is, the willingness of the Town's Council and Mayor to support our children is definitely there but the fields are lacking as well as the Town's garden. Mr. Dooley, although he is doing a good job with the programs, the Recreation facility is too small. He asked that the Council and Mayor put a plan together of improvements. AAU has gone public and private and he is aware that the Town's public/private situation with Cytec has not worked out at this point, but maybe there is an area where public and private ventures together can be pursued. He asked the Town to spend some more money, come up with a five year plan; something that can be done to make the town proud of its facilities. The Town's facilities are a little below par as compared to the Town's ability to support its youth. We need more support with our fields and we need the Town to start that plan tonight if at all possible, he stated.

(applause)

Atty. Jim Loughlin of Loughlin & Fitzgerald stated, I am appearing on behalf of the Wallingford Little League. The people you will hear from tonight will include, among the many families involved with soccer and little league and gardens, the former President, Mr. Keogh of the Wallingford Little League as well as Mr. Larson who is President of the Wallingford Youth Soccer League. The intent is to overview some comments and then ask them to come up for further comments and questions from the Council. We have always wanted to cooperate with you as well as the administration in making sure that the fields are built adequately and professionally and we do not in any way intend to interrupt that. Please do not make us go to referendum, it is too difficult a task. There is too much work and it will only further divide us from you and us from the Department of Parks & Recreation. Our intent is to foster the good of Wallingford, foster the relationship between us and you because that is what little league does. If you have a strong little league program then all of America smiles happily on what Wallingford does for its youth. It is the most visible sport in the country and there is no way that you can possibly deny developing a good little league program for the benefit of the kids as well as the benefit of the town and families looking to move to this town. In addressing this matter, there is a lot of variables; the history that went behind it, all that work that went behind it and believe me, Mr. Dooley gave me an earful this afternoon about the history that went on behind it and I am not denying that whatsoever. We are asking you to recognize the work that the Dept. Parks & Recreation, Mayor Dickinson's Office, the Wallingford Little League and Wallingford Youth Soccer League has put into this. Mr. Andrews will stand up tonight and talk about the six or seven plans that the Wallingford Little League has elaborated on in the last three years trying to come up with an adequate plan. We also had to take upon us the difficult task of you reconsidering your vote from just a few months ago. No personalities are intended to come into conflict here; nothing personal should be taken from what we are saying, rather we ask that we all act like adults and work together for the common goal of coming up with a strong little league program. Right from the very beginning when the plan

was first submitted to you about a month ago for a vote, we asked for you to slow down. We are the ones at risk if we don't have the fields to play on next year or the year after that. We are the ones who are saying "slow down." We are not saying that we don't want the \$500,000. we just want to make sure it is spent properly for the good of the entire community; it is good for everyone in the town, not just Wallingford Little League. In addressing the weaknesses we saw in the Vietnam Park plan, please don't suggest that we don't think it is a good plan. We are just asking for a better one. When we came before you that night, there was still so many variables then that were un-addressed and continue to be un-addressed now in addition to the questions that Councilor Brodinsky brought up in his comments. For instance, now we know that we can build a field on the west side of the Merit Parkway, we did not know that at the time. We were operating under the misapprehension that we can only build our fields on the east side of the field because Yalesville Little League has their fields and we thought we had to be segregated from them. That is not the case. We cannot take players from Yalesville and have them play in the Wallingford Little League but we can play on the west side of town. In addition, there are proposals that we did not consider at the time when we were voting on this a couple of months ago. Mayor Dickinson does not like this certain plan that I will propose to you, nor does Tom Dooley, but we ask that you consider it because it is a viable option. Perhaps the neighbors won't like it as well but we need to consider it if we are going to properly spend that \$500,000 and that idea is to further develop the baseball field that is out at Marcus Cooke Park which is by the Rock Hill School. Another idea is one that was briefly discussed some time ago but passed over because we didn't know the benefit of that program at the time and we didn't also know of another piece of property that was nearby to it; Community Lake, along with Garden Road, along with a piece of property that Councilor Farrell brought to our attention that is on the opposite side of Community Lake. If it were all tied together could yield a viable little league facility that would allow for a 200' fence, tournaments, concession stands. If we can provide for all of those things, we would be able to act as a league more autonomously so we won't have to come back to the town and ask for money on a yearly basis. If we can have a concession stand, run tournaments we can make more money so we can act autonomously and that is our goal. In building out these programs that we want to consider further, these and others that we have considered in the past as well as those that we might not know of, we aren't asking for Town contribution of money, we are only asking for contribution of the land. The Little League has a ton of professional volunteers, like Mr. Andrews, who can get out there on his bulldozer to clear and flatten land. We have professionals who can come in and give us their expertise in engineering and legal advice. We can develop the little league fields that we propose, just as well as we have developed the Cytec fields over time. That is what we are looking to do on our own for the good of Wallingford. From the very beginning we have asked you to wait and now we have to wait because of the State Health Department action. I know from my own personal experience that a litigation matter with the State of CT. can take at least two to three years or more. If we wait then we are going to be left holding the bag, 2-3 years from now in the same position that we are in right now because for some reason we weren't permitted to further examine the opportunities that are out there for us. In talking to many of you, you have reiterated over and over again what was wrong with the plan, kind of like if you

lived in the best house in town and you were being forced to move to a smaller house in town and you felt as if you were being placed in that house against your will on a schedule that you did not want to follow. You might be somewhat apprehensive. You may say, let's stop and see if there are other opportunities out there. We have an ideal program down at Cytec field and that is what we would like to maintain, that is what we strive for. We need to consider all the options. They do not necessarily have to come together for a complex, although that is our ideal. We want to make sure that whatever is out there is the best that is available. Although time has been spent in examining options, there has not been a full discussion to allow for the best possible action yet. Particularly, in light of the moratorium that was forced upon us as a result of the State Department of Health action, we shouldn't deprive ourselves of a full discussion. It makes no sense. Please do not have us go to referendum because even if the ordinance is sustained, we are not going to be able to approve the fields that we have not for some 2-3 years and we can take full advantage of those 2-3 years now if this ordinance is repealed. Thank you very much.

(applause)

Keith Larson, 3 Tammy Hill Road asked the Mayor how he plans to address the State's issue with the building of a new soccer field?

Mayor Dickinson answered, we would not move forward with the fields without being able to deal with parking or the soccer field. The plan was for all of that. We all now there are parking needs the Vietnam Memorial Park area. We had actually been planning for the parking issue prior to the baseball fields becoming a critical issue. As you know, I suspect that if we had just gone in for the parking to the State Health Department they would have told us the same thing; we can't do that. All of it would have to occur and even to build another soccer field without additional parking would be crazy. It all fits together.

Mr. Larson stated, from the last meeting that we all had, a lot of us showed up and you heard a clear voice from the baseball community that they were not interested in this plan as it was laid out, it was something that we didn't want. You heard from the soccer community that we didn't want it and provided a number of reasons why we didn't. We brought up a number of safety issues which many of you, as Council members, asked for promises that they were addressed first. WE talked about traffic and if you have not been and gone to East Center Street on a Friday night to see what happens now, you should. There is an area where there is a bridge and that bridge is not wide enough with the way the people park to get two lanes of traffic. It takes anywhere from 15-20 minutes to get out of that field and that is without additional baseball traffic being placed over there. You hear all of this objection but I haven't heard anyone com to this Podium and speak in favor of this plan. Last time you, Mr. Parisi, mentioned that they were all home. They had a chance through the articles and referendum to come out here tonight and speak in favor and we will see how many people do

say that they really are in favor of the plan. If we've got our signatures, which I believe were from people that did understand what they were signing; if they are out there and we, for the most part as a community, feel we shouldn't do this, I would like to hear from the council members what aspect of this plan you understand that we don't. Baseball has provided their own contingency plan for how they will survive next year with the existing ball fields as they are today. We are facing spending upwards of \$25,000 as I understand it to go to referendum and we are also spending money in litigation to go after the state. My question is, what is it that we are missing that you understand that makes it necessary to put this plan in place if anyone in the public that is here objects to this?

Chairman Parisi answered, I don't think this is a question and answer situation. You can make your statements and, at the right time, we will make our statements.

Mr. Toman asked for a point of information stating, the cost of the referendum is \$25,000? I think it is \$10 (thousand)?

Chairman Parisi answered, I think it is a lot lower than that from what I have been told.

Mr. Larson replied that was what he was told and the information could be wrong.

(applause)

Tim Keogh, 10 Huntington Road stated, the present plan, as it was passed, was passed with stipulations that wouldn't affect either soccer or baseball and with the Department of Health involved now, soccer would, indeed, be down a field. It was presented to us as the only answer to have additional fields to play on next year. It was the most expedient answer for us and, as Dr. Diehl said in his opening blessings, "grant us all the wisdom to know the difference between an expedient and a wise decision." It may take years for us to actually play on these Vietnam (Veterans Park) fields. The plan was presented to Little League as the only way to take advantage of a \$450,000 grant. That grant, as I understand it, has only been approved for \$40,000+. That money hasn't come through either. The plan was approved by many of you with reservations pending further investigations of traffic safety, sanitary conditions, etc., and my knowledge I have not been reported back to and to my knowledge none of that has been done. There was never any consideration for common use areas for these fields. For example, this year presently we have four hundred games scheduled for little league. Only 72 of those games are on Town fields and that is mainly due to the traffic issues, we try to keep everyone together at the four fields that we have so as to allow parents to play on one field with one age group and another field with the older groups.

Chairman Parisi asked, where would the other games be played?

Mr. Keogh replied, right now at Cytec. My point is, we are going to increase the usage from 72 games a year to 400; an increase usage of 550% and there has been no allowance as to where pitchers line up. We only have 10-15' between those fields to line up. We have talked about safety issues, about foul balls going to soccer. We all saw what happened a few years back with Yalesville, they are wide open and have a ton of land but we had a woman who was hit and severely hit with a ball over there. Pitchers and teams warm up and we will have eight teams down there with that parking lot full and nowhere to go on the road and we have eight more teams coming in for the next game. There is an overlap of ½ hr. to 1 hr. in between there. God forbid someone gets hurt on one of those fields. There is no way for anyone to get in or out of that park. It has never been addressed. They don't even meet the minimum Little League recommendations. A lot of those have to do with safety issues to the 200' fences for tournament play. We have a partial field with 200', the rest are somewhere between 165-175'; 25' between the base pass and the dugouts again, for safety to keep the kids out of the way of foul balls; 25' between the foul lines and the fences, we have 5' on some of those fields. The kids are going to get killed on these fields. The last thing is, we have the advantage right now of our concession stand and our community at Cytec to raise the appropriate funds to keep our league pretty healthy. We are a pretty healthy league at this point. Our budget for baseball per year is about \$2,500-\$3,000. Once those things start disappearing into those wetlands out there, we don't know if they are going to double or triple, but that money, because we won't have that advantage again of raising those extra funds, we've got to find it someplace or we've got to find a way to address that. Those are basically the things that are wrong with the plan. With that said and with the state and the issues with the Health Department and all the things that this was approved with at the March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting...there have been a myriad of things that have changed. You are telling us how to take care of our little league. Believe me guys, we have done it for fifty years and have done it very, very well for the past ten years. We are not doing anything to hurt the little league. This plan will hurt the little league and I just hope you reconsider your vote and repeal the decision.

(applause)

Chairman Parisi asked, is there any interest in the Garden Road proposal?

Mr. Keogh replied, we have had six or seven...once this plan came to the table, everything else was taken off the table. We weren't given reasons why; I know this was the most expedient measure at that time to take advantage of a grant that was due on that following Friday, it was a plan they had in hand and it seemed like the most expedient at time but Garden Road was there with the development of Community Lake; Marcus Cooke seemed like a very promising property for us...

Chairman Parisi asked, is Garden Road...

Mr. Keogh answered, we don't know. I can't tell you how many fields it could hold. We talked about possibly joining with Community Lake with the Linear Trail. That may be so many years down the road, I don't know that...

Chairman Parisi asked, if it could work with Community Lake and two fields at Garden Road, is that an acceptable solution to this situation?

Mr. Keogh answered, after we had exhausted everything else. You are asking about Garden Road and I realize you want to get it off of your plate. Marcus Cooke is there and...

Chairman Parisi replied, there are reasons for Marcus Cooke not being a very good situation that it can be drawn out.

r. Keogh answered, and as we can with Garden Road also.

Chairman Parisi stated, Garden Road has the least of the problems from what I am led to believe.

Mayor Dickinson stated, the issue with Marcus Cooke will be what will require a significant cutting of trees. That is all wooded area and would mean clearing many acres. That would be a contentious issue when we cutting down the trees in an established park with trails and everything else. Garden Road was discussed and the league was not happy with that which is why it was taken off of the table. Tom Dooley can probably speak to that. There was a rejection of that, thus we went to the proposal that was ultimately adopted. As I indicated earlier, we did apply for the grant but that wasn't as much, even if we didn't get the grant we were prepared to go forward with this plan in order to deal with the fields for the year 2003. What really drove this was not the grant but fields for 2003. I think that was made pretty clear when the Council voted on it in March.

Mr. Keogh replied, we do have a plan and I have a schedule here for using the existing five fields that the town presently has for us to get by for next year. We will sacrifice some playing time and we may sacrifice some membership but it is no worse than where we were prior to our development of Cytex when that was just one or two fields. We do have that in place and would rather do that right now as a league. It would be a better option for us as a league and as we work together to find a final place to play. There really is no point in going forward with this on the table.

Chairman Parisi asked once again, is that a viable consideration or isn't it?

Atty. Loughlin answered, yes it is. There is a lot of considerations that have to be put into it such as how big the fields would have to be, how many can we fit in there; what sort of role with the property that Atty. Farrell brought to my attention that is on the opposite side of

Community Lake; how soon will the linear trail be built out; what sort of opportunities other than Garden Road are out there? But if that is the best plan that we can come up with, absolutely, we will jump at that chance.

Mr. Keogh added, when the vote to repeal the ordinance takes place, we ask that, in the future, we be somewhat included in the decision-making process and discussions on the development of these projects because we had very little input and very little chance to share anything as far as this last development goes.

Chairman Parisi asked, are we reaching middle ground here?

Mayor Dickinson stated, if there is significant interest in the Garden Road. I am not sure what property is being referred to on the opposite side. Is it Town-owned?

Mr. Farrell answered, part of it is. It is the old Lake Grove Park. You are too young to remember it. It is between Oak and Silk (streets) and backs up, in part, to the Senior Center Parking Lot, or at least close to it.

Mayor Dickinson stated, certainly if that can be something we can orient to, that is fine. As to the number of fields at Garden Road, we are probably limited to two because of the flood plain area. I would hate to put a field where there is potential flood because that would not only destroy the field but make it unplayable. Both Tom Dooley and John Thompson agree that two fields could be developed at Community Lake.

Atty. Loughlin stated, in considering Garden Road, I ask that you not "pigeon hole" us; don't limit us to just looking at Garden Road because there are options now on the other side of the Merit Parkway. There are options throughout the town that we can look at. If we go from this meeting directed to only look at Garden Road, then that is really not what we are all about. We are asking for a full discussion and cooperation between you, the administration and us to exhaust the opportunities that are out there.

Mr. Farrell stated, someone from the league really needs to clarify the answer to the question that Mr. Parisi asked a couple of minutes ago. If I understand it correctly, and you can correct me, there are some internal disagreements within the league over Garden Road. That is problematic to me because I have had a lot of time to think about the solutions that were proposed to me. You had made calls to me and Lars did as well. I don't think Marcus Cooke works because the amount of trees that would have to be cut down, I don't think is something the rest of the Town is prepared to swallow. The Branford Road parcel doesn't work either because it has the same litigation issues as does Vietnam Veterans which does, at least for what's on the table, leave us with Garden Road. I know there is disagreement out there based on phone calls that got made to councilors over the weekend. Can someone with one voice for the league clarify this issue over Garden Road. This is very important.

Atty. Loughlin answered, yes, indeed. We want to look at all options. If everything is favorable down on Garden Road, tying in the proper size field, tying in the linear trail, tying in the property that you and I and we all now know about, tying in the property at Community Lake, without reservation.

Mr. Farrell stated, I still don't think you are answering my question because I guess this thing I have heard in the background is that Garden Road is not going to meet the criteria for having the fields.

Atty. Loughlin answered, we don't know.

Mr. Keogh stated, Garden Road, as it stands alone, no. Let me clarify that. As Atty. Loughlin said, we are willing to look at it. There is a possibility of joining that to Community Lake and to this new property. Our fear is, as we walked away last time, if we say yes we would like to look at Garden Road, you will pigeon hole us into Garden Road and, as you said, you don't think people in the neighborhood would want the trees removed, well let's look at that. That is not a decision to be made here, let's go out and talk to the neighbors and talk to the people. Let's look at the other properties that are out there. We have opened up lines of discussion with the state Health Department and the D.E.P. and we think that some of these properties that we are being told be developed can actually be developed. We fail to explore them deep enough.

Atty. Loughlin stated, just like if Garden Road doesn't work, if Marcus Cooke Park doesn't work, we don't want to develop it but we have to take time to look at it. We are just going in blindly in accepting Vietnam Park. That is not good leadership. We want to take a look.

Kevin Didden, 32 Mapleview Road stated, from what I understand, the agenda item is a repeal of an action this Council took on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Subsequently the Town entered into litigation against the State of CT. which actually changed the plan. The counselor put it very well; in a sense there is no soccer field because there is litigation which...will take two years. The Town actually repealed the plan by litigating with the State of CT. The Town has actually frozen out the ability for a period of time...? When the Town took litigation, what expectation did it have? Was it a month, five months, twelve months? From what I understand the standard for this action is two years. In theory, you have taken away the soccer fields. You are forcing the little league to come up with an action now. The action the Council took on March 26<sup>th</sup> gave these people no option but to follow the referendum procedure. That is the only avenue you provided by taking the action of a unanimous vote. Ms. Papale, I actually resent the comment of the validity of the signatures. This is a due process.

Chairman Parisi stated, let's not get into personalities, please.



Mr. Didden continued, you, Mr. Parisi, actually said you resented when the counselor talked about the procedure, you said, "hold on a second, we have a standard procedure". So I am just echoing the same comment you made in the sense that this group took the only course of action that this council allowed them. I am actually watching this council grilling this team to actually go out and within two weekends the parents got 3,100 signatures which is over 10% of your registered voter based. They have taken their action. By litigating with the State of CT., you have actually now even narrowed their options even further because there is no soccer field. You have taken it away. From a course of action purview, I keep hearing is a common theme and I think it gets overridden here is that this group is saying let's review all alternatives. This agenda item is not to have the final solution. It is to repeal your action on March 26<sup>th</sup>. I think it is unfair for the Council to put this group on the spot to have a solution. What the group is telling you and I am an observer here is, hey, we are open to all options and we want to work with the Council and administration to come up with a solution. We have taken the due course you provided us. We have taken the referendum avenue, we have gotten the 3,100 signatures. You heard it put very eloquently that it is a pain to go out and now go get a referendum. From the Town's point of view I think it is going to be divisive. From my perspective, I keep looking at process. What is the process? What is the agenda item? To me it is very clear, a repeal of the March 26<sup>th</sup> action by this Council and that is all. It is not a final solution by this group. You forced the hand and they did not have a lot of time. They had to follow one course only. If they had concentrated on coming up with a solution and not getting the signatures you had every right to continue on with your March 26<sup>th</sup> decision. I respect what this group has done and you should as well. They followed the process that the Council laid out, the laws of the town. The agenda item is to repeal of the March 26<sup>th</sup> decision and not to have these leagues to have a final solution.

Chairman Parisi replied, if we followed the process, the process would be to have a referendum, that is the process. We are not following the process. Secondly, no one is trying to pigeon hole anyone into anything. If there was an opportunity for some agreement, that is why that was presented at the time. I thought there might be and if it was there, that was fine. No one is holding anyone to anything at this point. If there is ever an opportunity to find some common ground, I think we would be negligent if we didn't try to reach out for it.

Mr. Didden replied, I understand that. You are hearing from this group that they have taken the appropriate action, are open to all alternatives but they can't get pigeon holed in any one. I saw the previous plan and all of a sudden two weeks later there was a parking issue and they had to change the parking lot. Then all of a sudden there was a state... things change. Any one of these plans you are talking about require a planning process. There was not enough time put into the planning process. It was a rushed event and look at how this town has paid for a planning process that I thought was poorly executed in the sense that look at the issues that we are now faced with, the Town is in litigation. The Town is in litigation on one specific issue.

Chairman Parisi stated, I believe there was a little more planning than you may be aware of Kevin and if Mr. Dooley or Mr. Thompson care to amplify that, they are welcome to. If they don't, that's fine too.

Mr. Didden stated, Mr. Vumbaco said that the plan was given to him that night and there were things that were not incorporated in that plan that he was unaware of. Your actual councilors are saying the same thing that I am. Don't just take it from me that there was poor planning or execution, I heard from some of your councilors that they felt the same way.

Tom Dooley, Director of Parks & Recreation explained, the goal of the department is to provide for the children; no agenda; no political agenda; that is what my career is about. The whole process started in November, 2000. Larry Russo, elected spokesperson for the league on this matter approached me on a Saturday morning and indicated that there may be problems in the foreseeable future with regards to the Cytec properties. He charted for me the fact that they may not be able to use the fields by 2002. The subsequent week, the following Monday and Tuesday, I contacted Mr. Thompson and gave him a preliminary overview of what we needed to do. We then began the process of identifying pieces of property in town. Ten pieces of property, including existing fields such as West Side, Doolittle Park & Pas Wall Park fields were all looked at. Mr. Russo was apprised of everything that we did from the very beginning. IN fact there were meetings held with Mr. Musso and Mr. Mulligan at that time. We were in discussion with the Little League as early as 2000. In early 2001 we had a meeting, which included myself, Tim Keogh, Larry Russo, Dan Sullivan, several members of the little league, discussing what was going to be the directive for the Town and for little league to act on a cooperative basis at that point. We outlined some of the public relation aspects of this for Cytec, some of the political ramifications for both little league and the Town; we covered a multitude of projects beginning Jan. or Feb., 2001. I then began to work with Mr. Thompson, Mr. McCully and the Mayor on what was a viable plan for little league taking into account the timeframe that we were working on and the pieces of property which were available. We were working on a timeframe of 2003. We were not trying to pigeon hole little league at all into accepting a program, a facility, a piece of property but it had to be workable for both the Town, the league, Cytec, etc. The first thing that we did need to consider was the numbers that little league had, that is our first responsibility, to provide fields, not for the little league for the children of this town who want to play in little league. The second thing was to try and accommodate what had been referred to as the "bells and whistles", perks which were probably classified as a necessity; lights for the fields, a concession area, a four field complex. The initial proposal was the Garden Road proposal tying in with Community Lake which is building one field at Community Lake and hopefully tying it in with two and at the time we thought we might be able to get three fields in. I still feel there is a possibility for two fields at Community Lake and having the linear trail connected to that. We also conceded the fact that we would have to tear down the pavilion and replace an already existing facility which could be utilized for concessions. I know that is not a four field complex with concessions but it is a two field complex with concessions, plus a heavily populated linear trail and lit tennis and basketball

courts. There is an opportunity, I believe, to raise funds there. We also offered to move/transport the lights from the Cytec complex at no cost to the little league to the Community Lake field. All of this was going to be done at Town expense using the grant monies and monies that the Town was going to give to the little league on its behalf. That was a very viable plan, a very workable plan, a plan that I, personally, liked. The little league did not like that plan because they felt that it didn't meet the four field complex issue with a concession stand; two, they were concerned with traffic issues in that part of town at the time when their games were going to be started. If I am wrong on that, please correct me now. The plan itself is a viable plan to accommodate your needs. Let's not forget what your needs are; to provide fields to play baseball. Those are the very essential needs. All the other things we can talk about but those are the essential needs. I don't think we should lose sight of that, please. That plan was rejected, off-hand, it wasn't going to work. Still working under a guideline, still working with presenting a plan to Cytec to at least allow the little league to stay at Cytec for the 2002 season, we looked at other parts of town. The next viable piece of property that I felt was the Vietnam Veterans Field, building two fields there, thus giving them a four field complex, building a field at Community Lake, giving them two fields with a concession stand and lights. We were not taking a field from a soccer, we were going to replace the field from soccer. Safety issues; Mr. Thompson brought in several safety consultants that looked at it and said there were some issues that needed to be addressed. It did not provide safety problems that they felt could not be accommodated. I am not saying we don't have problems up there with parking and issues of netting, but all of these issues can be dealt with. I still believe that plan is a very, very viable plan. It is not the only plan but it is the most viable that we can come up with right now with the property that we own in the timeframe that we were looking at. This plan was not thrown together to meet some sort of a deadline to accommodate funds. This plan has come together over the process of two years. I resent anyone who says this plan was thrown together. It was a lot of work and a lot of time and a lot of energy. There are constraints with it. The plan is worthwhile to pursue. I agree with the Mayor that we should argue this and, yes, we are going to have to come up with a plan to accommodate little league; no one has ever denied that, I don't deny that.

Mr. Didden asked, where will little league play while you are fighting this litigation... while there are no fields in the next two years?

Mr. Dooley replied, in Mr. Keogh's own words, they have come up with a schedule which will accommodate their league with the present fields we have in Wallingford.

Mr. Dooley reiterated, no one asked for the situation to come about. Had Cytec not put us in this position, all of our fields situation are taken into account. It is a situation we were presented with in a short amount of time to come up with fields to accommodate 500-600 players.

Jeff Andrews, 210 Northford Road stated that he is the fellow that hunts up the land for the Wallingford Little League for the past 1 ½ years. He stated, I met with Mr. Dooley and the Mayor a few times in his office. You can see the kind of problem we have here; obviously there has not been enough dialogue and that is why we are here tonight, to get the referendum reversed and set up a committee to look at all the land that I have looked at and discuss the land. There is no doubt, we did Garden Road. I told them that it flooded...we really don't want to be in a flood plain. It is 200' from the race to the fence of the residential neighborhood. Little league fields are 200' which does not leave room for much of anything else. There are a ton of things to talk about. There is no sense in talking about them until you reverse your decision. If you were to ask me questions about Garden Road, Community Lake, Marcus Cooke Park...there are tree cuttings, filling to be removed nothing is impossible. There are thirty-five acres; Little League has fourteen acres now, it would leave 21 acres in woods. Again, that takes discussion. I have been working on this for two years. The Williams' property, you can connect that to Community Lake, we have to talk about it. North Branford Road is probably an ideal, pristine situation. Janis Small has the same problem with North Branford Road as she does with Vietnam Fields right now. Harrison Park came up originally and Cooke Road. We are asking for time. If you go to referendum, it costs money. Do we get pigeon-holed in Garden Road or not if we go to referendum? How does that work? Are we stuck with that plan?

Chairman Parisi answered, no. If we went to referendum and if the resolution was upheld, it stayed, what you have is a working resolution that could be amended to deal with anything that would come up. It is not necessarily anything that is really cast in stone, am I correct?

Atty. Small answered, it can be amended.

Mr. Andrews stated, that is what we want to hear. As you can tell there is quite a bit of things to be discussed. I know there is a Park & Recreation Commission. I thought that would be ideal, to get the little league and soccer together and discuss all the options.

Chairman Parisi answered, I don't know that the Park & Rec would make that decision, to be very honest with you. I don't think they would but I understand what you are saying. I also want you to understand that, should the referendum and it is upheld, for example, Community Lake could still be done as part of that resolution.

Mr. Andrews asked, could Marcus Cooke be done?

Chairman Parisi answered, it would require an amendment.

Mayor Dickinson stated, the ordinance would have to be amended to allow construction some other place than where it is now indicated.

Chairman Parisi stated, the point is, if the resolution stays, there is something to work with. If the resolution goes, you have to start all over. It adds a measure of time; 60, 90 days, whatever.

Mr. Andrews answered, we have the time; little league does. We have the time to start over.

Chairman Parisi stated, we are concerned that there have to be fields available for kids to play on. That is our responsibility and I don't want to be accused of not providing them, not by you but by anyone.

Mr. Andrews replied, we have a schedule that would accommodate us losing Cyttec, losing players, we would have to monitor registration, less practices, etc.

Chairman Parisi stated, that means you're going to have to cut back and that means that some people are not going to have the opportunity to take part. I know you are doing the best you can with what you have and I commend you for that but our responsibility is to make sure as many can play as possible. I know you would have to cut back and I am concerned about that, as a public official. I don't like to hear that anyone would have to be turned away from playing because of a schedule that is lagging along. I don't want it to take three years; we have more of a responsibility than that. That is a decision we have to make and, at the right time we will all do that.

Ms. Doherty asked Mr. Dooley to respond with regards to losing Cyttec's fields.

Mr. Dooley stated, in the past when we debated the issue of Fairfield Blvd., the moving force behind that move was that kids were being left out of playing basketball. For two seasons we went to split seasons to accommodate everyone that wanted to play. It is an option to consider; look at a split season in the interim. I would think that five fields could accommodate 500 kids, maybe I am wrong on that. When it comes to any challenge, you can always make a schedule that at least allows people to play, whether they play the amount that is optimum is another question but it allows everyone who wants to play to play. Sometimes we have to compromise. This is not an ideal situation and there is no ideal resolution to it. There are some plans that work. That is why we are all here.

Robert Sheehan, 11 Cooper Avenue stated that he has been asking for two years now, "who owns the dam?" on West Dayton Hill Road. That shows how long it takes for an answer when the State is involved. When Cyttec first announced they were no longer going to allow use of the fields, I asked the question at Council meetings, "what are you doing about little league fields?" The answer that always came back was, "we're working on it." Three months later, "we're working on it." Three months later, "we're working on it." It went on for 1 ½ years until March 26<sup>th</sup>. Not once in that 1 ½ years, did you sit in that chair before this Council or the public and let anyone know what is going on until that night and it was presented here and the public is right, it was a take-it-or-leave-it situation. Because if the Council didn't pass it that

night they couldn't have the field torn up. I am tired and getting a little frustrated here that everything that comes before this Council is a dire need and it has to be done now or we are going to miss an opportunity. The details are worried about later. That is no the way to run a business and this is a business. You made the statement, "due process of law if this goes to referendum." Some of you people were on the Council a few years ago that decided you were going to buy the Terrell property over on Rte. 68 for \$4.5 million and passed an ordinance to do that. Some citizens in this town got up and started a petition drive saying that it was a waste of money and it happened and all of a sudden you repealed your ordinance. I always look at it this way; the people who are involved are the people who come to the town and look for help, guidance and what ever. I don't have anyone involved in Wallingford Little League...but there are citizens, 3,000 or more strong, and anyone who knows the history of referendums in this town knows that the don't generate enough interest or votes and are held during a time when people work and the voters don't turn out. I strongly advise you to repeal your action. It is not slap at anyone. Hopefully we can come up with a better solution working with both the Little League and the Youth Soccer. Frankly, I live on the east side of town and I am just waiting for something to happen at Vietnam Memorial Park with cars, I am not even getting into kids playing. Just the cars that go in and out of there. It is on a blind curve and it is a difficult time going in the driveway with other cars leaving at the same time. One of the cars has to back up to let others in. It is not an ideal situation to put more activity in a place like that.

Chairman Parisi stated, I am going to defend a referendum. A referendum is a right and these people assume that right when they exercise the right to petition. We all too quickly in this town make the assumption that if there is a referendum, it is going to fail. History may tell us that but I am saying that one day the right issue is going to come forward and everyone is going to be passionate about it it is going to pass. I am just not quick to put a referendum down. It is a process and it is to be respected for what it does and what it allows the public to do. Your comment about the history of them is correct, they are not usually very successful in this town.

Mr. Sheehan stated, there are times when you have to do the right and the right thing with this, to me, is not going to a referendum, it is to repeal the ordinance.

Mariana Hotchkiss, 38 Clifton Street asked Mr. Dooley, you will be losing a soccer field?

Mr. Dooley answered, no, we would be building two baseball diamonds on the existing field five and building another soccer field on the corner of Northford Road and E. Center Street.

Ms. Hotchkiss asked, is that going to create a problem for soccer because you are in two different areas?

Mr. Dooley replied, they will be in the same general location, the fields are only 500' apart. They are on the other side of Community Garden.

Ms. Hotchkiss stated, I think they should both be in one spot so parents can attend both games.

Atty. Lars Edeen, 986 Clintonville Road stated, I understand this is a very frustrating issue for everyone concerned. I know you, the Mayor, Mr. Dooley all want to do the right thing as we do. What I can't understand is, if you are intent on going forward with a plan that the intended beneficiaries don't support; the State Health Department has thrown roadblocks in our way so the plan cannot even be developed in short order which is the reason why you acted so quickly and efficiently the first time because you knew we had a deadline and you needed to take quick action to provide a place for us to play. Now with this property in certain litigation, we are not looking at the same result as initially was thought. Thirdly, as you continue with this plan, we are headed towards a costly and divisive referendum. Wallingford Little League is a volunteer organization. We teach the kids how to play baseball and we teach them about life. We take care of the fields, we make sure the equipment is there, we spend a lot of our time devoted to the kids. If we have to take additional time to go out and push the referendum, I am afraid we will break. I am not even sure we could put up a good fight at this point. We certainly have been spread pretty thin just getting the signatures and mobilizing the forces. We had tremendous support from the people in this room and in this community and I would like to thank all of them for their support. I have heard that the whole area at the Vietnam Veterans Park is potential future reservoir. However unlikely that it would ever be turned into a reservoir, what if ten, twenty, thirty, forty years from now we decide that we need more water because of the natural expansion of the population in the Town, the Little League would then be looking for a new location. Forty years from now, there will have been more development and quite a bit less open space available at that time. It is very unlikely that would ever happen but it could happen. If it did we would be even more pressed to find an open space in that time. I would think that we would want to find something that has an absolute permanent home and then we will be set. The Wallingford Little League is a volunteer organization and I would like to see a sub-committee of members from the Council, Park & Rec and Little League organized to look at the various other alternatives that there are. Marcus Cooke has been mentioned. Mr. Andrews said that there is 35 acres there and a baseball field currently exists. The Cytec field is about 14 acres. We would probably only need 10 acres maybe. That would leave 25 acres of trees. Right now there is probably 2-4 acres that has been cleared. That leaves only clearing 6-7 acres of land for us to make it a viable alternative. I am not saying that is the answer but I think we need to sit down with all concerned and truly look at the various alternatives. I believe that Mr. Dooley has worked hard to look at the various alternatives but I also believe that he doesn't think that Marcus Cooke will work. I do. I think Marcus Cooke holds great promise. But there is other land, this is a large town. I think we should be able to find something that would work. I think we need to work together and need not to be partisan but partners in this action. Please remember, it is not about politics, it is about the kids.

(applause)

Mayor Dickinson replied, with regard to the reservoir, that area would not be the subject of a reservoir, the reservoir area is off of Tyler Mill Road and Tamarac Swamp Road further to the south so the area in question would not be the site of a reservoir. It is class II watershed but it is not the actual site where a surface impoundment would occur. That is within the Tyler Mill wooded area. Even so, that whole Class II water plan issue is the reason for the Health Department's claim of jurisdiction. The other thing is, no one wants to deal with creating fights or anything but obviously there are some things that have to be looked at. Realistically, the Town can't be in a position, going forward, looking to plan something, creating complexes for leagues. If we start down that path, every league will be looking for a complex. When the tax bills go out which will happen soon with significant increases for everyone, then the whole town will be ready to weigh in on exactly what it should cost and where we are going. I am very concerned about that aspect of it. I have no problem with looking to provide fields but I do have some real concerns about heading down a path that will open us up to enormous new expenditures in order to meet the new threshold that everyone can then feel entitled to look to achieve.

Mr. Edeen replied, I know you expressed that as a concern when we spoke earlier, and I would like to point out that at the Yalesville Little League Fields there are four or five fields there; at the E. Center Street area, there's five soccer fields and at Prageman Park there's five or six softball fields. We are not asking for a complex. We are looking for some land that we could actually develop. We have done a tremendous job over at Cytec. It has taken us time and over the years we have worked hard but we have made it a nice place.

Mayor Dickinson replied, it is a great location, I agree with you but since we have had some problems with private organizations building on public land, we pretty much have stopped that. We have had some major concerns regarding some high school projects and, at this point, if there is any construction that occurs on public land must be overseen by the Town departments in order to make sure there's the as-builts and everything necessary in order to protect the general public. Certainly, the involvement of volunteers and some of care of the fields, that occurs in a number of locations, but to actually construct on public lands will require the town departments to oversee and direct that activity.

Mr. Edeen asked, if there were a lease arrangement where the league actually leased land from the town, that might create a different scenario. All those things need to be addressed, discussed and explored. That is why I would suggest that you repeal the ordinance tonight and let's form a committee. I would be willing to meet every week if that is what it took.

Chairman Parisi asked, how many leagues are left that will be in line after you asking for leased land or a donation of land?

Mr. Edeen answered, I don't believe we have a beach volleyball league yet.



Chairman Parisi answered, we have football and girls softball, I know that. I am on the board of girls softball. I would be the first one to recommend to my group that we approach the town for ten acres...

Mr. Edeen answered, I believe the girls softball league does have four or five fields in one place. My daughter plays for girls softball league. That is why I say this is a very frustrating issue for all concerned. I feel we have just scratched the surface, we have not fully explored all of the alternatives that are out there. Again, I would implore you to...I would be the first one to throw my name into the hat to be on that committee.

Frank Brinaldi, 141 Constitution Street stated, I am a commissioner in the AA in the Wallingford Little League. I have been in the little league for about three years now, serving as commissioner for two years. My interest is totally the children in this league and what we are doing for them day in and day out. It seems to me that if we go forward with the current plan that you have already put in place that the state has stopped it in progress and will be going to litigation, we are going to have no choice but to cut back either way. We will not benefit if you go forward.

Chairman Parisi replied, that isn't always true. If the referendum was upheld...it can be amended so it allows for change.

Mr. Brinaldi stated, I am hearing that it is your preference that this go to a referendum. I am getting the feeling that you are hoping the referendum would fail and therefore you would have the opportunity to amend it to the council's benefit, not necessarily what is beneficial to the league or the children in the league.

Chairman Parisi stated, please don't make the assumption that we don't care about the children. I want to make sure you understand that.

Mr. Brinaldi stated, I am sorry but that is the message I am receiving from your comments about the desire to keep going forward to referendum. If the council is here to represent the people of Wallingford and you have been elected by the people of Wallingford and 3,000 people have signed a petition against this; they don't feel it is the right plan; 600 kids in the league don't feel this is the right plan; 1,200 kids in the soccer league don't feel this is the right plan, then I can't understand why the council would still want to go forward and not repeal the ordinance. I would just hope that in arrogance or hard-headedness that your vote not to repeal this, that wouldn't be the case. I hope you are hearing the people; the 3,000 votes, the kids and if you are interested in the kids then you would repeal your vote tonight and we could start from scratch. It would benefit both the council and the league.

Ms. Leila Edgar, 5 Cheryl Avenue stated, I have four kids that play little league and soccer and I am the coordinator of the Community Garden. I am out there at Veterans Field on a daily

basis. It amazes me that no child has gotten hurt there yet. It is a very dangerous place. The traffic there is tremendously clogged. I know when there were tournaments there, they had a shuttle bus set up for a recent tournament which was a good thing but, there were so many people involved and I know you all want to do the best thing for the kids and town but there has got to be a better plan than what has been voted for. I am not sure what the best political way to do that is, whether it is stick with what you have and try and amend it or start all over again. As a parent I can say that I really hope that you will look at this more carefully. I know that Mr. Dooley and everyone has done a lot of work here but there's got to be a better plan than what there was. As far as Garden Road from Community Garden's point of view, I am sorry to say that I wasn't here the day you voted, I didn't know that it was coming before you that day. I was pretty uninformed. I didn't realize also that Garden Road was being considered for a ball field until this evening. I can say that, for the same reason that it is probably not a good ideal for a ball field because it floods, it is also not a good idea as a location for the Community Garden because it floods. Also, it is in a location where vandalism can be an even greater problem than it is to us currently. Our participation in the last five years at the Community Garden since I have been coordinator has gone from 75 families to approximately 30 families. Much of the reason for that is because we have a huge problem with vandalism and pilfering. In the past people have been caught red-handed, if you will, with a basketful of produce that they have stolen from our gardens. The police have been notified and we have been told politely that it is public land and we have no recourse and they (police) will not follow up on it. I say to that, if someone comes to the Town Hall that has some lovely plantings out front and digs them up and takes them away, would the police not respond? I am sure they would but because it is just some vegetables, the police feel that is not important. However, it is marked and we have had some backing, Mr. Dooley has helped us put up some signs that say, "permit use only" just like the hunting permits out on Tyler Mill. We issue a photo I.D. permit to our gardeners and we request that the gardeners self-police and when there is someone in the garden who doesn't belong, we kindly ask them to leave and we try and do the best we can to protect the work that we do. I don't know if there is a good alternative to that.

Mayor Dickinson asked, who told you at the Police Department that they wouldn't act on it?

Ms. Edgar replied, several of our garden members have spoken to police officers.

Mayor Dickinson asked, the police officer arrived out there?

Ms. Edgar answered, I think they might have called the police station or maybe spoke to... I am not sure. A couple of those people are no longer with us because they left in frustration.

Mayor Dickinson stated, I will speak to the Chief. I don't know why there is any reason that a police officer couldn't take a statement, act against... that is property owned by someone else and it is an actionable issue at law as far as I know. Have you heard of this Mr. Dooley?

Mr. Dooley answered off microphone and therefore his comments went unrecorded.

Mayor Dickinson continued, I will check on that because that doesn't make sense to me. I am hearing it for the first time. I can't imagine the Chief would want his department not responding where someone's vegetables are being stolen.

Ms. Edgar stated, I have spoken to officers myself who have said, "call me" but how do you call a specific officer.

Mayor Dickinson instructed Ms. Edgar to call the dispatcher who, in turn, should send someone.

Ms. Edgar stated, I will be more forward with our members, encouraging them to take license plate numbers and descriptions and maybe even try to detain people. We now have an emergency call box there because we had a couple of elderly members who had some health concerns and we asked Mr. Dooley to help us out with that.

Mayor Dickinson stated, I cannot recommend you try and detain someone there.

Ms. Edgar continued, as far as our location being changed for the Community Garden, we knew that was coming for a while. I have often spoken with Mr. Dooley and Mr. Gawlak about things that needed to change out there and, I agree that we need more parking, more ball fields, etc., I am just looking for the best possible location for the Community Gardens to go.

Chairman Parisi stated, I understand your concern. I think primarily, we are trying to deal with the ball fields. I am not saying that you are so small you are unimportant. Yes, you are important but if we can get the big project straightened out I think that you will probably be o.k. too.

Ms. Edgar stated, the Williams property on Tamarac Swamp Road was recently purchased and it is adjacent to the Veterans Field where we are currently located. It is my understanding that if the property is paid for with grant money the use of the land is restricted but agricultural use is one of them and that may be a good location for us somewhere there.

Mayor Dickinson replied, that's possible. I think one of the issues is availability of water.

Ms. Edgar reminded the Mayor that the Williams property is wetlands. The current location has city water.

Mayor Dickinson stated that the plan was to try and duplicate that same scenario at any other location because there are going to be occasions where it won't rain enough or what ever.

Ms. Edgar stated, some of the old timers told me they used to haul water from the river with buckets when they first started so, I appreciate that. Please keep your minds open. We are all here looking to do the best thing for the town and the best thing for our kids. I grew up in Wallingford and I think it is a great town. I have lived many places in the country and I came back here to raise my kids because it is a great town. I am proud to say that I live here and I am in the process of moving and have searched far and wide and I choose to stay in Wallingford because it is a good town and a good place to raise my kids. I appreciate all the work that you do and I just urge you to be patient with us. Some of us get a little impatient because we all have an agenda. Thanks for listening.

(applause)

Vincent Avallone, 1 Ashford Court stated, I was here March 26<sup>th</sup> when several representatives of the Little League, Mr. Russo and Mr. Sullivan, made a statement to the council that if they did not pass the ordinance, 600 kids would not be playing little league this year. Do you recall that?

Chairman Parisi answered, yes.

Mr. Avallone asked Mr. Dooley, when you were talking to the Little League representatives, did they present that same information to you that they were in need of a field right away or kids wouldn't be playing ball this year?

Mr. Dooley answered, there was an urgent need to provide fields at some point in the immediate future.

Mr. Avallone stated, I heard tonight that the Little League has some contingent plans. That even if they don't have these fields, they can work out a schedule where kids will play. I am wondering, if that had been presented, could you have considered a longer period of time to come up with a plan different than the one that was presented and passed on March 26<sup>th</sup>?

Mr. Dooley answered, the fields that will be available for next year have always been on the bucket to be utilized if they so chose. We were trying to address their need for speed and to do it in such a manner as to accommodate as many of their needs as we possibly could. Having five fields spread about town I don't feel is an ideal situation for the little league in their own words. I am not sure that was a viable long term plan and the kind of plan that Cytex was looking at to say, o.k., you can utilize our fields for 2002. The challenge was to provide a working plan for a future for little league that they can call somewhat permanent and home. I have heard tonight, "we have time; we have time; we have time" but when this challenge was first presented to us, we were working under the gun.

Mayor Dickinson reiterated, a good deal of our effort was due to the need for a plan for the 2002

season could not be played at Cytec. That was the message I got and received from Cytec. Once we had the plan, we moved forward with it.

Mr. Avallone stated, if that was the information you were operating under and right now the information is different than what was presented to this council on March 26<sup>th</sup>, the sense of urgency; give us fields, go along with this plan as presented or 600 kids aren't going to play ball. Now you are hearing something different. I know of at least two councilors who when they voted for this...voted for this plan exactly because of the fact that it was presented in a way, "if you don't go along with this plan, 600 kids will not play baseball." That is not true right now. Maybe there was some miscommunication by Mr. Russo and Mr. Sullivan. I don't think, in what is being said tonight, that that was an accurate statement. I am wondering if March 26<sup>th</sup>, those two gentlemen said, "kids will play, we can adjust our schedule, we need a little more time to look at some other alternative plans" I am wondering if this council would have voted the way they did? What they are asking is to give them a little more time, they are no longer making the statement that children will not play. If you repeal this ordinance...

Chairman Parisi stated, I am aware of the fact that they need more time and I agree with you. That is all I am saying, Mr. Avallone.

Mr. Avallone stated, I am not trying to convince you but set out some facts for the general public to understand that when this plan was presented to the council on March 26<sup>th</sup>, I would think that the statements made by Mr. Russo and Mr. Sullivan had some impact on the way this council voted. Quite frankly, I can't understand how, if they got up here and said, "we're in a little bit of trouble but, give us a little more time for a long term plan, we can get by the next year or two with another plan", I can't imagine why you would push them into taking the plan that was on the table. When Mr. Dooley was explaining all the pains that were taken...if you were operating under the thought that we have got to get something and put something on the table because this is what the little league is telling us we need, if someone said that to you, that was not true.

Mr. Dooley responded, in all fairness, at the time that this decision was made, the only guarantee that we had at that point in time because we had a plan was they could play their season at Cytec. They are now almost through with their season and there is nothing that can really be done about the 2002 season. Yes, we do have the luxury of time now. At the time this information was presented and the time that we went before you, we are in the situation of having a plan, going forward with a plan and, yes, you could use Cytec if the plan was going to be followed.

Mr. Avallone stated, the luxury of that time is absolutely useless if this council doesn't repeal the ordinance. The soccer group would be out of a field right now because of the pending litigation if baseball fields were put on the soccer fields. You can't go forward on the site that you want to put the soccer fields.

Mr. Dooley answered, I don't think we are going to pursue the plan in bits in pieces. Either we accept it in full, which includes the parking lot and soccer field I believe, or we probably won't pursue it. I stand to be corrected if that's not right.

Mayor Dickinson replied, that is what I stated earlier, that we would not proceed; actually we do not have permission to put the baseball fields in the existing soccer fields. The State Health Department, in an interesting way, suggested that we do something that we didn't apply for. We don't have permission to put the fields in on the existing soccer field without another application going to the State Health Department.

Mr. Avallone asked, can you tell me that if you decide for this to go to referendum, how really that is interpreted as, you feeling that you know more than the Little League does with regards its needs and possible remedies to its situation?

Chairman Parisi replied, I am not going to answer that. I can't answer that. I am not going to answer that. How would I know more than them? Conversely, you are saying they know more than...I am not going to answer that. You can ask whatever you want.

Mr. Avallone stated, you have asked me to be respectful to you and I would ask the same when I am talking to you.

(applause)

Chairman Parisi replied, I am.

Mr. Avallone stated, I am not getting smart. Bob, I know you; I like you; I know there are times you say that I am not treating you right. I think that when you are talking to me or making a statement, you can look at me and talk to me.

Chairman Parisi replied, I am going to look at you right now. I am not going to answer that question.

Mr. Avallone continued, what I am saying is, discount 3,000 signatures on a petition. Take representatives of the Little League, and there is no doubt that they have done an awful lot of work, and they tell you right now, give them a little more time. If you do the children will not be prejudiced, they are going to play ball. All they want is a little more time to get a long term solution to the problem that they are faced with right now. That is all they are asking you. I just can't imagine why anybody on this council wouldn't say, "we are going to give you the chance to work things out", especially since the kids are not going to be prejudiced. Thank you.

(applause)

Chairman Parisi stated, several of us on this council haven't said anything yet. I want to make that point. Several of us have said that we are going to try to sit in the middle and listen to both sides.

Mr. Avallone stated, you talk about the right of the people to have a referendum; there is no question about that. They know they have the right. That doesn't mean there has to be a referendum. It just sounds by the way that you are speaking about this, we don't want to take the right away from you to have a referendum so we are going to let you have the referendum. That is the way it is coming across out here. Even though they have the right, you also have the right to come up with a decision so there doesn't have to be a referendum.

Chairman Parisi stated, Mr. Avallone, you are an attorney and you know that when you take away the right of a referendum of the people that signed believing that there would be one, is that the process? Did they sign to not have a referendum or signed to have one?

Atty. Loughlin answered, they signed for the repeal of the ordinance.

Chairman Parisi stated, I never saw the petition.

Mr. Avallone asked, you feel that because people signed a petition which gives them the right to a referendum that, if you vote to repeal this ordinance, you are depriving them of the right to have a referendum?

Chairman Parisi replied, you can take that slant on it.

Mr. Avallone stated, I'm not taking a slant, I am asking you a question. Did you say that or didn't you?

Chairman Parisi replied, you are saying that I am saying that as if I am proposing it. What I am saying in simple words is that, conversely to what you have said that, if people vote for a referendum, then they have a right to expect that there would be a referendum. I am not saying that I believe in that, that I am voting for that or anything. It is just a statement of fact that if you are presented with a petition and you sign it, you expect there to be a closure to it, that's all. I am making a very simple statement. It is not my opinion; it is my observation. There is no feeling or position in it. I am sorry I said it because, evidently you are not understanding what I am saying.

Mr. Avallone replied that he resented Mr. Parisi's statement that he (Mr. Avallone) did not understand what Mr. Parisi said. The record will show what was said.

(applause)

Luigi Ferraro, 331 Pond Hill Road stated, in listening to what has been said so far, my feeling is that you, on the council, are set...and determined to go to referendum when all they wanted was more time. What is the big deal? Give them more time. We want to play baseball. It is nice to play at Cyttec where there is all four fields together, Vietnam Veterans is not a good place. Have any of you been there? Do you have children that play ball? If so, you must not be going to that field. All they are asking for is more time and you don't want to give it to us. We can spend all night here debating this process and you have made up your minds already that you are not going to give us the time.

Chairman Parisi answered, I am just trying to give everyone the chance to speak that wants to speak. I will sit here as long as someone wants to speak.

Mr. Ferraro stated, I do know right from wrong and, from what I see, you don't want to give us time because if you did, this would have been over two hours ago and get us home. Give us the time and let us go home.

(applause)

Keith Platenyk, 40 Country Way stated, I have just come from the little league park in Cyttec. I am one of those passionate fathers. I have been a Wallingford resident for twelve years. For the last ten years I have been actively engaged with the little league as both a Board member, teacher, mentor, coach and hopefully I have impacted the lives of our young kids in a positive way. I am really troubled from what I see. This is the first time for me to be through this process. If you people are listening to the community, you would realize that baseball has become an important fabric of this community. It is here to stay. If you look at the past three years in terms of what has been accomplished from some of these young men. It is outstanding what we have done as a program. Baseball is both sides of town. Over the last three years, the 2000 Wallingford Little Leagues secured the District Championship and they were one game away from winning the state title. That was an amazing feat for those young kids. Those kids have developed friendships and peers who will continue to be their friends throughout their years through high school. The 2001 Yalesville Little Leaguers win the District and State and fall one game short of the Regional Championship. One game away from going to Williamsport which is an amazing feat. In 2001 Sheehan Varsity High School Team wins the State Class M championship. In 2002 Lyman Hall Varsity High School Team just won the State Class L championship. We, as community members and fathers, has helped to make their program what it is. It takes a lot of volunteer support. It takes a lot of children to be motivated to play ball. What I don't see is a commitment from the town to go one step beyond. It sounds like we are settling for second-best. In my years with Wallingford Little League I have had the privilege to travel with some All-Star teams as a coach and I have seen some truly amazing complexes in the state. I have been to Orange, Madison, Guilford, Southington, and these are truly trophy-case complexes. Places where you, as a father, mother, community resident, can be



proud of a complex in your own community. It doesn't have to just be little league, it could be a place where even the middle school or varsity high schools play their games. I'll echo Mr. Economopoulos' point earlier; we have a lot of work to do. If you are a baseball fan, we have a lot of work to do on the fields in this community. This past weekend we had rain and the fields were not prepared. Where is the commitment to our kids?

(applause)

Jack Agosta, 505 Church Street, Yalesville stated that on March 26<sup>th</sup> he was disappointed that the little league supporters did not stand up and say that they needed something better than what you were giving them. He felt the people were being very nice and respectful and were trying hard to work with the Town but within a couple of days they realized that it was the wrong way to go. He didn't think that should be held against them. It is amazing that ,300 kids are playing soccer in this town. He did not support going to a referendum for the sake of closure. Closure can be attained if the ordinance is repealed this evening. The ordinance was a mistake because people were not involved in it. The people here tonight are involved. The town has a low crime rate because the parents are involved in their children's lives. He suggested the council change their minds if they have it in their minds not to repeal the ordinance. Give the league a chance; start a committee if you have to, that is the proper thing to do. Give them a chance.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville stated that 3,000 signatures on the petition is the will of the people. That is what should be considered. There are too many over-sized egos in Town government. One of the smartest things that can be done is to withdraw the litigation that the Town is entering into.

(applause)

Atty. Loughlin presented Chairman Parisi with a copy of the petition for his information reading into the record as follows: "Petition for Repeal or Referendum". He stated, they certainly would not have signed this had they thought that the plan that was presented represented the best that was available considering the resources that are available to the Town of Wallingford.

(applause)

Motion was made by Mr. Knight to Take a Five Minute Recess, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

VOTE: Doherty was absent; all ayes; motion duly carried.

The council recessed at 10:39 P.M.

The council reconvened the meeting at 10:48 P.M.

Tim Keogh, 10 Huntington Ridge Road stated, for two years many plans were worked on. The current plan was presented to the league shortly after election day and 3-4 days prior to making application for the grant. We were told that this probably was the only chance we had of getting any fields to play on next year and being good soldiers we accepted that and allowed this to go forward up until this point in time. After further review we got the details after the meeting that night (March 26<sup>th</sup>) scale drawings, etc., etc. Right now we have 1,300 families that are directly involved in this decision tonight who are all against it, bar none. We have 3,100 signatures that were presented to the Town asking for the repeal of the vote. You are authorized to spend \$500,000 on a project that cannot happen in the timeframe that you said it could happen; it is not happening according to the way that it could happen and I just don't understand how there is any other way to vote for this other than a repeal. It is a waste of the taxpayers money, we are talking about going to a referendum which we don't have the time or the energy to follow through on. It will not stop us or inhibit us from still investigating, walking, looking for other places that are more ideal for us. With that said, you are talking about spending taxpayer's dollars to go to referendum to allow the people to speak. The people who are involved in this deal are here; they are speaking to you. We have been speaking for the past month. You cannot tell me what is right by little league. I know you would like to Bob, but it just can't happen. We have been involved a long time, we know what we need, we know what we want and we believe that it is out there.

Chairman Parisi asked, have I ever tried to tell you what's good?

Mr. Keogh replied, you made some comments earlier that...like you didn't believe it. Somebody was saying that this may not be the best area and we want more time and one of your utterances was, "that's not how I feel" or "that's not what I believe" and that is why. Nobody has talked to us. Nobody has talked to us in the development of these plans. Nobody has talked to us...

Chairman Parisi interrupted to say, I never tried to tell the Little League what is good for them. I just want to make that very, very clear.

Mr. Keogh replied, I guess we will see that on the repeal of this vote. We were never given any opportunity for input on any of the plans or any of the decisions that have been made. It has been handed to us right down the road. I just ask that you vote the right way. Repeal this decision.

Bob Kowalski, 36 Gavin Avenue stated, I didn't want to speak but I am sitting here and getting madder and madder. I was born and raised here in Wallingford. I have been involved with little league for fifty years. I am past president of little league. I was involved with the boxing team which was thrown out because we can't get a place to have boxing. Now I here the same thing over and over and over; "If we give this to this group, we got to go through all the other

groups.” That is a cop-out as far as I am concerned. You have 3,000 signatures telling you what they thought you did wrong. Repeal this and let’s go home.

(applause)

Mr. Edeens stated, I find it very unusual to hear that the only argument from your perspective is trees. To me, there’s a simple solution to such a simple problem unless I am missing something.

Mayor Dickinson explained, that is the only concern there. The road is of significant concern but we really shouldn’t go into discussing what the issue is there. The road is very narrow, there is a school and church there in a residential area. It is not a great situation for a lot of traffic.

Mr. Edeen stated, I don’t sense that there is an open mind here. I see that there is already a position taken by the group and I find that very striking as a community. I would think that there would be some active participation to work together to find a solution that we all can be happy with. I don’t sense that we are working together. That troubles me.

(applause)

Mr. Rys stated, I was involved with soccer with my daughter and son for quite a few years. I can remember the days of selling candy and running around supporting my children. I can understand where you are coming from. I would not want to be kicked off the fields that we had to play on. With those concerns put aside and listening to the audience this evening, I would like to make a motion.

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Repeal Ordinance #495 to give more time to come up with a plan, meet with the respective departments and finally come back to the Council for some approval, seconded by Mr. Toman.

(applause).

Mr. Farrell stated, I did have a nice chat with both Mr. Edeen and Mr. Loughlin and I appreciated the opportunity to do that. They pointed out, and I thought quite correctly that, by rescinding the ordinance, it gave the Council an opportunity to work with the league and try and come up with a solution. I indicated at that time that that was the basis on which I would vote tonight to rescind the ordinance. I am still of that position. However, I do have to tell you that I think it is somewhat unfair to the Council that the possibilities that we talked about last week that were mentioned by both of you, that other league officials spent part of the weekend trying to push pins into and I think that is the best way to describe it. I hope we can come to a solution here in the next month or so but we are only going to come to a solution if you guys are able to

Speak with one voice. As Ms. Papale commented in the paper last week that it is very confusing to all of us to try and figure out what is going on and who is right about what the requirements are, etc. I think she is right on target. Please try to pick someone who can speak for all of you and make sure that that is the consistent position of all of you. I followed through on what I said, I am going to vote to rescind tonight but so that we actually get a solution in the end, that is the important thing, we need you guys to be consistent and of one opinion.

Mr. Knight stated, it is now approximately three hours since we started and we are at the point where we are going to vote to repeal this ordinance and I am going to vote in favor of repealing the ordinance. I spoke to a number of people and I listened for three hours tonight and was fascinated by it because there is a wide variety of opinions of what the proper course of action is. All I would ask is that everyone who is involved elect your leadership, talk to them, plot out what your strategy is going to be and make it clear but understand that not everything is possible all the time for everybody in every instance. This town is going to make a darned good effort and always has to provide as much recreational facilities as this town can afford. We thought we were doing that before. What I have heard tonight is that some people think that perhaps there are more options available and that all options should be considered. I think that is fair. I hope the leadership of the league will enter into discussions with Park & Rec now that you have told us that you are willing to sacrifice a good deal of your membership's ability to play little league in order to get a better solution to this problem of not enough fields. I think from what I am hearing, there is willingness out there. There certainly is willingness on the part of the nine of us up here. There is willingness on the part of the administration and I hope there is willingness on the part of the league to put everything on the table and deal with it one small issue at a time and we will come to a solution. Everyone has to be forthright and be willing to keep their minds open as we have been asked to do tonight.

Ms. Papale stated, I have been involved in politics a long time and tonight I have to say that you gentlemen and ladies did come forth after doing a lot of homework, calling us and talking with us and I think you really made a big difference. I don't want to spend a lot of time dwelling over the comment I made as far as the petitions. I just want to say very quickly that I have been involved in many petitions and they are always not what the people think. I didn't mean it as a derogatory statement to you people out there. Anyone who knows me, as I look out there at twenty-five or so people, I would say that twelve of them are good friends of mine and they know me and they know that I would never do anything as far as belittling anything that has to do with the children in the Town of Wallingford. I am also going to repeal this ordinance but I think it is very important that the cooperation that was going on for the last week or so with everybody has to continue. Atty. Loughlin, you are as good as your father. You really did a magnificent job explaining everything to us and I hope you will continue in this capacity. I know that it is a non-money-making responsibility for you; you are doing it as a volunteer. I hope everyone out there that worked with you will continue. I don't know if it is necessary to have a councilperson on the committee or two but, I think it is wonderful to see the soccer and little league on the same line and I think with the help of the Mayor and with Mr. Dooley, I

think something can be accomplished. I was confused about what was going on because I think we were all in that same situation. I am not confused now. I know you need time and eventually, working together, you are going to come up with something that is going to be good for everyone. I wish you luck and if I can be any help, I will be happy to.

Mr. Vumbaco stated, coming in everyone knew where I stood, therefore I don't have to tell you how I am going to vote. I want to commend the people who showed up tonight and endured 3+ hours of this to present your goals, thoughts and ideas. Personally, I thought this was a no-brainer coming in and we probably could have done this in five minutes. I also appreciate the five minute recess that we just had that allowed my colleagues on my right to come to what I consider the proper collusion. Last but not least, I would like to thank Ray (Rys) for making the motion that I was going to make tonight.

Mr. Brodinsky stated, this suddenly is the era of good feelings and I guess my message is not quite the same. This isn't over tonight, it is really just beginning or a fresh start which means there is a lot ahead of you. There is a lot that has been put behind you but there is also a lot that is ahead of you. For those who came to the microphone and spoke very eloquently in favor of repeal and for those who supported them, whether here or at home, I would ask you not to lose your fire and dream and don't get negotiated out of your long term goals. The ultimate question, it seems to me for the Town is, can the Town provide four little league fields together in one location? The answer to that is, absolutely; absolutely, you just have to have the will to do it.

(applause)

Mr. Brodinsky continued, but you have heard two points of view tonight. I say, absolutely we can do it and we should look for opportunities, but there has been another position put forward tonight that a four field facility is bad public policy. That statement has been made tonight and you will be confronting the people who hold those views as you proceed on forward. Providing a four field facility I think is good public policy, something we can do, something we ought to do, something that other towns have done. Keep your values well-guarded; keep the fire; keep up the fight and hopefully we can see a four field facility in the near future. I am very glad that a motion that was passed unanimously on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March is being repealed tonight unanimously but I also hope that the ultimate conclusion of this is something that we can all get on the same page on. You are going to have to keep up your advocacy to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I will be voting in favor of this.

Ms. Doherty stated, I will also vote to repeal this ordinance but I also just want to respond that everyone has put in a lot of time on this, your side, our side, the public; a lot of time. I also want to echo what has been said about one mind; you have got to get on the same page because it makes it very difficult to make decisions when different people are saying different things when you all kind of want the same thing. The focus is on the kids, to get a place for them to

play. That is what my hope is. I sympathize with you having a complex like you had at Cytec, it is a wonderful facility. Whether we can do that again, I don't know.

Mr. Toman stated, a lot of adversity has been thrown at you and at us, most of it out of our own making. I am sorry for the elimination of the Cytec fields to you and in going through the State of CT. getting involved with plans that the Town tried to come up with. I hope a lot of people watch this on television and I think you have impressed the voters of Wallingford with your commitment. I, for one, am looking forward to being impressed again when you come back with one voice and with a plan that you think will keep the little league happy for twenty or thirty years.

Chairman Parisi stated, I made the public statement that I would keep an open mind on this issue. I came to this meeting in that very frame of mind. I said also in the paper that I would be to be convinced. It is obvious that I was convinced. I never doubted your passion or your sincerity for what you believed in and I would hope that you wouldn't doubt mine or ours either. You had a more direct focus view and you are allowed to have that. Our thinking and my thinking involved the overall time, the town and many situations. I have to say that I was impressed with the presentations. Many were very eloquent and some were just extremely sincere and very passionate. I think any public figure always has a right to have a change of mind but I never had a mindset to start with. The newspaper tried to pin me down into one but I said no, I want to hear the presentations. I want to ask the questions that I asked; I wanted to make the issues that I made. I am satisfied at this point but I think it has been said before and I am going to re-amplify it; this is not over by any stretch of the imagination. It is going to require a lot of hard work and a lot of give and take and that give and take is going to have to come from everybody that is involved. I would suggest that we all really think about that. Whatever course we choose to pursue, be it by committee or through the Mayor's Office and the departments, whatever, that is fine with me. Let the majority rule and let's have the best and most productive process that will put this thing away. I think that is one thing we all agree on right now, we want to get it done. I am going to support the appeal process and I am going to caution everyone, don't ever come in here with a foregone conclusion that something is automatic because in many, many cases it isn't. Many times it depends on how you conduct yourself and how you present your facts and how you represent your feelings and your league. You did that tonight, at least you did that to me and I am sure you did it to others. That is how this thing changed. I hope you will remember that. Don't ever put someone in a slot and say that you know where they are voting, you don't always know that.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

(applause)

ITEM #14 Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-200(6)(B) of the CT. General Statutes to Discuss the Matter of the Town of Wallingford v. Southern New England Telecommunications Corp. and Lucent Technologies, Inc. – Town Attorney

ITEM #15 Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-200(6)(D) of the CT. General Statutes with Respect to the Purchase, Sale and or Leasing of Property – Mayor

Motion was made by Mr. Knight to Enter Into Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

The Council entered executive session at 11:14 P.M.

Chairman Parisi left the meeting at 11:20 P.M.

Present in executive session were all Councilors (with the exception of Chairman Parisi), Mayor Dickinson and Atty. Small.

Motion was made Mr. Farrell to Exit the Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Toman.

VOTE: Parisi was absent; all ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #16 Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Matter of the Town of Wallingford vs. Southern New England Telecommunications Corp. and Lucent Technologies, Inc. as Discussed in Executive Session – Town Attorney

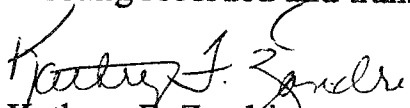
This item went unaddressed.

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

VOTE: Parisi was absent; all ayes; motion duly carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:42 P.M.

Meeting recorded and transcribed by:

  
Kathryn F. Zandri  
Town Council Secretary

Approved by: Robert F. Parisi (by RR)  
Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

J-20-02  
Date

Rosemary A. Rascati  
Rosemary A. Rascati, Town Clerk

J-20-02  
Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD JUL 31 2002  
AT 1 10 M P M AND RECORDED BY  
Rosemary A. Rascati TOWN CLERK



# Wallingford Housing Authority

P.O. BOX 415, 45 TREMPER DRIVE, WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT 06492  
269-5173

FAX: 269-5150

ROBERT PRENTICE  
Chairman

FREDERICK MONAH  
Vice-Chairman

JOHN SAVAGE  
Treasurer

WILLIAM ULBRICH  
Assistant Treasurer

CHESTER WOJCIK  
Tenant Commissioner

STEPHEN  
Executive

May 30, 2002

Mr. Robert Parisi, Chairman  
Wallingford Town Council  
Wallingford Town Hall  
45 South Main Street  
Wallingford, Connecticut 06492

RE: Simpson School Update

Dear Chairman Parisi:

As we discussed earlier, I would like to bring you up to date on our progress surrounding the funding of proposed renovations of Simpson School.

Our application for a Predevelopment Loan application was submitted in late August of 2001. On January 10, 2002, we received notification from The Department of Economic and Community Development, (DECD), that we had been approved for a Predevelopment Loan in the amount of \$74,000.00.

Prior to the formal approval of the loan, we interviewed several prospective consultants, discussing various approaches to the project and which funding sources would prove to be the most viable.

The Board selected ACF Inc. of Hamden, principal Jon Gottlieb, as our consultant. We have found Jon to be a very energetic individual, well skilled in navigating the various bureaucratic avenues we will be following.

After several meetings with Jon and our Architect Foti Diamon, it was decided that we would peruse 40 units, all one bedroom, in the old Simpson School. The project would be funded from three different sources. The Authority would issue tax-exempt bonds, the proceeds producing about 42% of the total development costs. The Authority would also apply to the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, (CHFA), for an allocation of low-income housing tax credits. These are non-competitive credits, known as 4% credits, and are sold to investors, yielding about 25% of the development costs. The final piece of the financing would require an application to DECD for an allocation of Federal HOME funds.

HOME funds are the most competitive of these funding sources and at present we are waiting for a response from DECD surrounding the project scope and budget. Once the State reacts favorably, action on the other two sources can begin.

The preliminary development budget anticipates a total cost of \$4,350,000.00, or \$108,750.00 per unit, each unit containing approximately 575 square feet of living space.

Tax credit sale proceeds and HOME funds are sources which will not require repayment. Principal and interest payments on tax-exempt bonds are derived from the rents paid by the residents. It is anticipated that an average monthly rent of \$509.00, plus utilities, will be enough to cover all operating cost of the development, including debt service.

At this time proposals have been received to perform a market study to confirm that the proposed rent will be affordable to a sufficient number of low-income seniors. Also the study will be performed in concert with DECD, satisfying their requirements for a market study when applying for HOME funds.

The commitment of HOME funds to this project are key. Once assurances have been received from the State, all other aspects of the project, including detailed drawings from the architect, can commence.

I will keep you informed of our progress.

Very truly yours,



Robert Prentice  
Chairman

cc: Board of Commissioners

June 11, 2002

Hon. William Dickinson  
Office of the Mayor  
Town Hall  
Wallingford, CT 06492

Dear Bill:

This is a request that the Town Council grant a bid waiver so that the school system can arrange for the replacement of the ceiling in Room 6C at Lyman Hall High School. A portion of the ceiling in this room has collapsed and the room is currently unsafe for use.

In order for this work to be done in time for the use of the room at the beginning of school year 2002-03, the work has to be started by 6/23/02. Work has to begin by this date because the project involves the abatement of asbestos. Asbestos abatement can take place only during the summer recess because it is only then that there is sufficient time for the work to be done and for the air to be cleared of hazardous materials.

The work to be done will cost \$30,112.00. Work that will cost \$10,212.00 will be done by vendors with whom there are contracts that were awarded after seeking bids. Work that will cost \$19,900.00 will have to be done by a vendor with whom there is no contract that was awarded after seeking bids.

The vendors who are under bid, the work that they will do and how much that work will cost are as follows.

Ceiling Replacement – Central Connecticut Acoustics - \$3,562.00

Reinstallation of existing lights – Electrical Contractors - \$3,550.00

Asbestos monitoring – Enviromed Services - \$3,100.00

These vendors are under contract for providing this work for the system whenever it is necessary throughout the school year. The bids were awarded on a *time and materials* basis.

The vendor who is not under bid is DJ Contracting which is based in Clifton, New York. This vendor will remove the ceiling tiles that contain asbestos and this work will not exceed \$19,900.00 in cost. This vendor was selected for this work partially because DJ Contracting is under bid already for the removal of floor tiles that contain asbestos. Removal of ceiling tiles was not covered in the specifications in response to which this bid was submitted.

**Specifically, then, I am requesting a bid waiver so that the school system can contract with DJ Contracting for the removal of ceiling tiles in Room 6C at Lyman Hall High School and related asbestos abatement work for a cost not to exceed \$19,900.00.**

Please contact me, if you have any questions about this.

Thank you for your consideration.

● Page 2

June 11, 2002

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Cirsuolo, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Cc: BOE  
D. Wilson  
  
G. Powers  
B. Skaught  
B. Parisi

**SUMMARY LIST OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS  
June 11, 2002**

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Meriden and Wallingford	Business-to-School Mentoring Program	\$ 20,000
Center Street Cemetery Association	Preserving Historic Headstones	\$150,000
Gaylord Hospital	Annual Appeal – To Support Patient Programs & Services	\$150,000
Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis, Inc.	Domestic Violence Services	\$ 11,000
Rushford Center Inc.	After-School Enrichment Program	\$ 12,000
Ulbrich Boys & Girls Club	Youth Development Programs	\$150,000
Wifd. Family YMCA	Teen/Outreach Program	\$ 75,000
Wifd. Historic Preservation Trust	Museum Restoration Program	\$150,000
Wifd. Housing Authority	Moderate Rental Renovations	\$100,000
Wifd./Meriden Branch American Red Cross	Wallingford Food Pantry	\$ 22,000
<b><u>Previously-Approved Multi-year Programs</u></b>		
Wifd. Little League	Wallingford Little League	\$150,000/yr.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$3,610,000 FOR THE PLANNING AND DESIGN OF TOWN-WIDE SCHOOL SYSTEM RENOVATIONS AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$3,610,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE

An ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Appropriating \$3,610,000 For The Planning And Design Of Town-Wide School System Renovations And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$3,610,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose" adopted by the Town Council on December 14, 1999 and as amended at Town Council meetings held August 21, 2001 and January 8, 2002, which ordinance is hereby ratified, confirmed and adopted, is amended to increase the appropriation and bond authorization therein by \$160,000, from \$3,610,000 to \$3,770,000, and to include acquisition and construction, as follows:

Section 1. The title of the ordinance is amended to read as follows:

"AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$3,770,000 FOR THE PLANNING, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF TOWN-WIDE SCHOOL SYSTEM RENOVATIONS AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$3,770,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE"

Section 2. The first sentence of Section 1 of the Ordinance is amended by substituting the amount of \$3,770,000 for \$3,610,000, and by providing for project acquisition and construction and thereby making the first sentence of Section 1 read as follows:

Section 1. The sum of \$3,770,000 is appropriated for the planning, acquisition and construction of Town-Wide school system renovations, including facility additions, expansions and space reallocations, approximately in accordance with the project summary approved by the Board of Education at a special meeting held May 24, 1999, to various school buildings including Lyman Hall and Sheehan High Schools, DAG Hammarskjold and Moran Middle Schools, Moses Y. Beach, Cook Hill, Highland, Parker Farms, Pond Hill, Rock Hill and Stevens Elementary Schools, and for appurtenances, furniture, equipment, and design, engineering, and other consultant services or so much thereof as may be accomplished within such appropriation, including administrative, advertising, printing, legal and financing costs related thereto, said appropriation to be inclusive of any and all State and Federal grants-in-aid.

Section 3. The first sentence of Section 2 of the Ordinance is amended by substituting the amount of \$3,770,000 for \$3,610,000, thereby making the first sentence of Section 2 read as follows:

"To meet said appropriation \$3,770,000 bonds of the Town or so much thereof as shall be necessary for such purpose, shall be issued, maturing not later than the twentieth year after their date."