

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 27, 2001

6:30 P.M.

AGENDA

Blessing

1. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call
2. Correspondence
3. Consent Agenda
 - a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#255-269) Totaling \$5,346.90 – Tax Collector
 - b. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$4,000 from Regular Salaries & Wages Acct. #001-5010-101-1000 to Professional Services Consultant Acct. #001-5010-901-9040 – Engineering Dept.
 - c. Consider and Approve Accepting a Grant Entitled, “Open Choice Grant” #1001-001-1912, and a Corresponding Appropriation of Funds in the Amount of \$316,424 to Open Choice Grant Revenue Acct. and to Program Expenditures - Board of Education Business Manager
 - d. Consider and Approve Accepting a Grant Entitled, “It’s About Choice” and the following Corresponding Appropriations requested by the Board of Education Business Manager:

Sheehan High School	\$5,000 to Aces Interdistrict Grant Revenue \$5,000 to Program Expenditures
Rock Hill School	\$4,000 to Aces Interdistrict Grant Revenue \$4,000 to Program Expenditures
Stevens Elem. School	\$3,300 to Aces Interdistrict Grant Revenue \$3,300 to Program Expenditures

- e. Consider and Approve Accepting the Following Grants and Corresponding Appropriations as requested by the Board of Education Business Manager:

“It’s About Choice” - Parker Farms Elem. School
\$ 2,130 to Aces Interdistrict Grant Revenue
\$ 2,130 to Program Expenditures

“It’s About Choice” - Yalesville Elem. School
\$ 4,960 to Aces Interdistrict Grant Revenue
\$ 4,960 to Program Expenditures

“IDEA – Part B, Section 611” Grant #962-100031101
\$27,861 to State Grant Revenues
\$27,861 to Program Expenditures

“IDEA – Part B, Section 619” Grant #963-100031101
\$ 2,436 to State Grant Revenues
\$ 2,436 to Program Expenditures

- f. SET A PUBLIC HEARING for March 13, 2001 at 7:45 P.M. to Consider and Approve an Ordinance Repealing Ordinance #479, (An Ordinance Exempting Certain Motor Vehicles from Taxation) Entitled, “An Ordinance Exempting Disabled Owners and Parents of Disabled Children from Motor Vehicle Taxes” (Proposed ordinance substitutes new language in accordance with CT. General Statutes)

- g. Approve and Accept the Minutes of the February 13, 2001 Town Council Meeting

4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

5. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

6. Consider and Approve Accepting a Grant Entitled, “Africa Donation Project” and a Corresponding Appropriation of Funds in the Amount of \$30,000 to Special Funds – Revenue and to Program Expenditures as Requested by the Board of Education Business Manager

7. Consider and Approve One (1) Appointment/Re-Appointment to the Position of Commissioner on the Zoning Board of Appeals to Fill a Vacancy in a Term Which Expires 1/8/2005
8. Consider and Approve One (1) Appointment/Re-Appointment to the Position of Alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals for a Three Year Term to Expire 1/8/2004
9. Consider and Approve a Revised Job Description Entitled, "Engineering Draftsperson" in the Water & Sewer Divisions – Personnel Director
10. Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-200(6)(B) of the CT. General Statutes to Discuss Pending Litigation in the Matter of Paul Atwater v. Wallingford Town Clerk – Town Attorney
11. Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-200(6)(D) of the CT. General Statutes With Respect to the Purchase, Sale and/or Leasing of Real Estate – Mayor
12. Consider and Approve the Settlement of Pending Litigation Entitled, "Paul Atwater v. Wallingford Town Clerk" as Discussed in Executive Session – Town Attorney

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 27, 2001

6:30 P.M.

ADDENDUM TO AGENDA

13. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$15,000 From Contingency – General Purpose Acct. #001-8050-800-3190 to Materials & Supplies Acct. #001-5015-401-4100 – Public Works
14. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$40,000 From Contingency – General Purpose Acct. #001-8050-800-3190 to Overtime Acct. #001-5015-101-1400 – Public Works

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 27, 2001

6:30 P.M.

SUMMARY

<u>Agenda Items</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
3. Consent Agenda – Items #3a-g	1-3
4. Withdrawn	
5. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD – Questions re: what is being done about the mold in classrooms of elementary schools; Golf course – have studies proven it will pay for itself; When will Council review School Bldg. Project; Comments re: Record Journal articles and cartoon pertaining to Golf Course/State Dept. of Health concerns.	3-10
6. Approve Accepting a Grant Entitled, “Africa Donation Project” and a Corresponding Appropriation of Funds in the Amount of \$30,000 – Bd. of Ed.	10-13
7. Approve Appointing Gerald Lefebvre to the Position of Commissioner on the Zoning Board of Appeals to Fill a Vacancy in a Term Which Expires 1/8/2005	13-14
8. Approve Appointing Patrick Birney to the Position of Alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals for a Term of Three (3) Years to Expire 1/8/2004	14
9. Approve a Revised Job Description Entitled, “Engineering Draftsperson” in the Water & Sewer Divisions – Personnel	14-15
10. Executive Session – 1-200(6)(B) – Pending Litigation – Paul Atwater v. Wallingford Town Clerk	15-16
11. Executive Session – 1-200(6)(D) – Purchase, Sale and/or Leasing of Real Estate	15-16

Agenda Item

Page No.

12. Not Addressed

Addendum

- | | |
|---|---|
| 13. Approve a Transfer of \$15,000 to Materials & Equipment Acct. – Public Works | 3 |
| 14. Approve a Transfer of \$40,000 to Overtime Acct. – Public Works | 3 |

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 27, 2001

6:30 P.M.

A regular meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was held on Tuesday, February 27, 2001 in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall and called to Order by Vice Chairman Raymond J. Rys, Sr. at 6:30 P.M. Councilors Brodinsky, Centner, Farrell, Knight, Papale, Rys, Vumbaco and Zappala answered present to the Roll called by Town Clerk Rosemary A. Rascati. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Corporation Counselor Adam Mantzaris and Comptroller Thomas A. Myers were also present.

A moment of reflection was observed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the Flag.

ITEM #2 Correspondence

No items of correspondence were presented.

ITEM #3 Consent Agenda

ITEM #3a Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#255 - 269) Totaling \$5,346.90
Tax Collector

ITEM #3b Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$4,000 From Regular Salaries and Wages Acct. #001-5010-101-1000 to Professional Services Consultant Acct. #001-5010-901-9040 - Engineering Dept.

ITEM #3c Consider and Approve Accepting a Grant Entitled, "Open Choice Grant" #1001-001-1912, and a Corresponding Appropriation of Funds in the Amount of \$316,424 to Open Choice Grant Revenue Acct. and to Program Expenditures – Board of Education Business Manager

ITEM #3d Consider and Approve Accepting a Grant Entitled, "It's About Choice" and the Following Corresponding Appropriations requested by the Board of Education Business Manager:

Sheehan High School \$5,000 to Aces Interdistrict Grant Revenue
 \$5,000 to Program Expenditures

Rock Hill School \$4,000 to Aces Interdistrict Grant Revenue
 \$4,000 to Program Expenditures

Stevens Elem. School \$3,300 to Aces Interdistrict Grant Revenue
 \$3,300 to Program Expenditures

ITEM #3e Consider and Approve Accepting the Following Grants and Corresponding Appropriations as requested by the Board of Education Business Manager:

“It’s About Choice” - Parker Farms Elem. School
 \$2,130 to Aces Interdistrict Grant Revenue
 \$2,130 to Program Expenditures

“It’s About Choice” – Yalesville Elem. School
 \$4,960 to Aces Interdistrict Grant Revenue
 \$4,960 to Program Expenditures

“IDEA – Part B, Section 611” Grant #962-100031101
 \$27,861 to State Grant Revenues
 \$27,861 to Program Expenditures

“IDEA – Part B, Section 619” Grant #963-100031101
 \$2,436 to State Grant Revenues
 \$2,436 to Program Expenditures

ITEM #3f SET A PUBLIC HEAIRNG for March 13, 2001 at 7:45 P.M. to Consider and Approve an Ordinance Repealing Ordinance #479 (An Ordinance Exempting Certain Motor Vehicles from Taxation) Entitled, “An Ordinance Exempting Disabled Owners and Parents Of Disabled Children from Motor Vehicle Taxes” (Proposed Ordinance substitutes new language in accordance with CT. General Statutes)

ITEM #3g Approve and Accept the Minutes of the February 13, 2001 Town Council Meeting

Motion was made by Mr. Knight to Approve the Consent Agenda as Presented, Items #3a-g, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

VOTE: Parisi was absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #4 Withdrawn

ADDENDUM ITEMS #13 & 14 Motion was made by Mr. Knight to Move Agenda Items #13 & 14 Up to the Next Order of Business, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

VOTE: Parisi was absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #13 Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$15,000 From Contingency – Gen. Purpose Acct. #001-8050-800-3190 to Materials and Supplies Acct. #001-5015-401-4100 – Public Works

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

VOTE: Parisi was absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #14 Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$40,000 From Contingency – Gen. Purpose Acct. #001-8050-800-3190 to Overtime Acct. #001-5015-101-1400 – Public Works

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

Robert Sheehan, 11 Cooper Avenue pointed out that a similar request for overtime dollars was made approximately two weeks ago. Since that time we experienced two storms. He wanted to know how much money remained in the account?

Henry McCully, Director of Public Works, explained that a balance of approximately \$18,000 remained in the account with a month of winter left ahead of us. Once winter is over, however, overtime dollars are still required up to the end of the budget year to cover hours worked on weekends cleaning up after picnics in the parks.

Jack Agosta, 505 Church Street, Yalesville, questioned why the sidewalk along side of the cemetery on Center Street was not cleared until four days following the recent large snowstorm?

Mr. McCully explained that Center Street is a state road which the state crews plow. A significant snowfall, such as the 18-20" we recently received, turns into approximately 5' of snow on the sidewalks after the state crew plows Center Street, pushing it all the way back onto the sidewalk. The Public Works Department must wait for their heavy

equipment to finish clearing town roads and public areas before dispatching it to clear the sidewalk on Center Street. The procedure involves traffic control and must be scheduled when enough equipment and manpower are free to perform the job safely and correctly. He cannot pull someone off of a snowplow to clear sidewalks. This presents a dilemma that he is equally frustrated with. The intentions of the ordinance are good, but it is not a perfect tool. He doubts that a perfect ordinance can be written, given so many unusual circumstances that occur in managing a large snowstorm.

Mr. Agosta stated, it doesn't seem fair to cite residents for failing to clear their sidewalks within a specific amount of time following a storm yet, we can wait days to get around to clearing ours. He visited the Police Department and spoke with Chief Dortenzio about Kmart and Home Depot's sidewalks not being cleared and the next day both managed to get the work done quickly and no one will probably walk those sidewalks at all.

Mr. Rys stated, Public Works does the best that they can do with what they have. I understand, totally, how they operate. There was some mention made about overtime dollars; not only do they work major snowstorms but tonight it is supposed to get cold again and they may have to call men out to sand the roads. That costs money. We have to maintain our roadways.

Mr. Agosta stated, I am not criticizing the job Public Works is doing, I was only making a point.

VOTE: Parisi was absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PEERIOD

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville referred to an article in the Meriden Record Journal about the outbreak of mold discovered in classrooms in the elementary schools which have disturbed parents of the school children. He asked for an explanation of the problem.

Mr. Rys stated that Mr. Melillo should have attended the Board of Education meeting last evening to voice his concerns.

Mr. Melillo replied that he was attending a Planning & Zoning Meeting here, last evening. He failed to understand why the issue could not be addressed this evening by the Council.

Mr. Rys stated, it does not concern the Council, at this point. Five Councilors attended a special meeting of the PTO at Rock Hill School, listened to the parents' concerns and gave

them direction on how to follow up on the matter. I believe they are following that direction and hopefully the issue will be resolved soon.

Mr. Melillo asked, why hasn't the Council gotten together with the Board of Education or Board of Health? Why not have a meeting of all the parties that may be involved?

Joseph J. Cirasuolo, Superintendent of Schools, stated, we had one case where a teacher's respiratory problems were documented to be caused by mold spores and we have had one student. I don't know where the numbers are coming from; I have no indication that it has cost anyone thousands of dollars. We do not have any absentee rate at that school that is any greater than any of the others. What we are dealing with is a very common occurrence, unfortunately. Where you have carpet that is on grade and carpet that has been put on grade at that school and many others about 12-15 years ago was put over tile that has asbestos in it. As that carpet got older and the moisture comes up through the slab that is on the grade, you end up with a very nice place for mold to grow. When mold grows, obviously, it gives off spores. I think we need to be careful that we realize what this situation is not; we are not dealing with toxic substances, carcinogens, or things that cause illnesses. We are dealing with a substance that can aggravate an existing condition if you happen to be allergic to it. It affects relatively few people. Nevertheless, as soon as we became aware of the problem we started making plans to deal with it. Our objective is to remove all carpet that is on grade anywhere in the school systems, whether it is at Rock Hill or any other school. We are testing rooms, as appropriate, and we are looking into a short term solution that will give us time to remove the carpet and alleviate what ever problems a few people might have. The removal of the carpet is made much more complicated and much more expensive by the fact that in just about every instance it is an asbestos abatement project. That means, not only is the cost somewhere between the five to ten times more than it would be otherwise, it also means that we can only do it during the summertime because it is only during the summertime that we have enough time when there is no one in the building that we can do an asbestos abatement project. It is going to sound as if I am saying it in defense of the staff but, I think they deserve some defense here; the staff has been on top of this from the first time we became aware of it. It was discussed not for the first time last night with the Board of Education. In fact, we went to the Board in December and said that we were going to postpone bringing you our maintenance plan for the next five years because we need to revise it so that we re-allocate resources and money to remove the carpet. We brought that to the Board in early January. It was January 8th when it was approved and we are moving forward. Those are the facts.

Mr. Melillo stated, according to a reliable source, there has only been a sampling here and there, of the schools in Wallingford for pollution, contamination, etc., but not a total sampling.

Dr. Cirasuolo replied, we have not been looking for pollution. We took a snapshot of the schools to get a sense of what the dimensions of the problem are. We did not need to go any further to get enough information to conclude that we need to remove all carpet that is on grade. As we go through that process, we will be doing more testing because we will have to decide which rooms are in greater need of attention. Obviously, those rooms get dealt with first and the other ones later on. Your source is partially correct.

Mr. Melillo asked the Council if they wanted him to give the article to the Council Secretary to make copies for their review?

Mr. Rys declined the offer stating that he trusts that the article was written, for he read it himself.

Jack Agosta, 505 Church Street, Yalesville asked, has the Town ever had a study performed to determine whether or not the golf course will pay for itself?

Mr. Zappala, Co-Chairman of the Golf Course Committee explained, there have been a couple of studies performed involving different locations in the past but a complete study has never been finished because of different obstacles we have run into. The studies that have been done proved, according to the numbers, that there is enough support for a golf course.

Mr. Agosta asked, it will support itself?

Mr. Zappala answered, yes.

Mr. Agosta asked, where will the money come from to build the course, which I understand is very expensive to do? Will it come from the Town's fund balance or our taxes?

Mayor Dickinson explained, at the current time a golf course project would require authorizing bonds, that would be the appropriation process and the money from the borrowing would be used to construct the golf course. I am not aware of any funds from any other source. The general plan is that the fees generated by those who play on the golf course would be used to generate funds sufficient to pay the bonds and operating expenditures of the golf course. But the Town's full faith and credit would be behind the bonds.

Mr. Agosta stated, we would have to build the course and then start making money. It comes out of taxpayers' money to build the golf course.

Mayor Dickinson answered, it would be taxpayers building the golf course. Hopefully the fees generated by the people who play at the course, many of whom would be taxpayers in Wallingford, would be the money that would then actually pay the indebtedness and the operating costs on the course. Initially, certainly the money raised would be at the taxpayers' expense.

Mr. Agosta asked, do you have any idea what that golf course would cost to build?

Mr. Zappala answered, it is too premature to talk about how much it will cost; how much money we will make and how much it will cost to play. The complete study has never been finalized for the simple reason that we don't have a specific location. When that occurs, that is when the study will be conducted to determine how much we will have to charge to pay for all the expenses.

Mr. Agosta stated, the Mayor has made it very well known that he is not going to support a golf course unless it is going to pay for itself. Did anyone in the Town's Administration contact our state representatives regarding the bill that they are trying to pass? Did anyone contact them or did they do that on their own?

Mr. Rys stated, that certainly doesn't help us.

Mayor Dickinson answered, the legislation regarding the location and exemption was not legislation suggested by administrative offices. The Council never voted on it so I don't know if any Council members, individually, encouraged it. It was not part of our legislative package.

Mr. Agosta asked, did you, Mr. Mayor, contact them?

Mayor Dickinson answered, no, I did not.

Mr. Agosta asked, will this have to go to a referendum?

Mayor Dickinson answered, any vote regarding approval of a bonding ordinance can go to referendum following the procedures identified in the Charter. Yes, the adoption of a funding ordinance does allow for a referendum.

Mr. Agosta asked, Mr. Mayor, will you support this golf course after they go through all this trouble to get the bill passed? Are you going to support it or let it slide by and not do anything about it?

Mayor Dickinson answered, I am not sure what you mean.

Mr. Agosta stated, you made it known in the past that you were not crazy about having a golf course and you would not spend the money unless it is going to make money. Now we are going to spend money up front to build it. Are you going to support the golf course?

Mayor Dickinson answered, I am supportive of a course that will pay for itself. It is still my position; it has been my position all along. I am supportive of a golf course provided that it pays for itself. I think that will require us to adopt operating requirements that fees be set at such a rate that allows it to pay for itself. Mr. Zappala is right; studies have to be done on that; we don't know the cost of construction, ultimately, we will have a clear picture once we know where it will be located and what the costs of construction might be. As long as it pays for itself and as long as people are willing to commit to paying fees sufficient to pay for itself, I think it is a fine idea.

Mr. Agosta asked, are you saying that if the Council votes on it and lets it go through, that you will see that it goes through? Is that what you are saying?

Mayor Dickinson stated, I am saying that I am in support of a golf course that will pay for itself. I don't know how else to state it.

Mr. Agosta asked, are you going to support paying to build it?

Mayor Dickinson answered, provided that the fees that are raised subsequent to that are sufficient to pay for the golf course, I am in support of it.

Mr. Agosta stated, I take that as a yes.

Robert Sheehan, 11 Cooper Avenue asked, when is the Council going to discuss and review the School Renovation Project? Is there going to be a special meeting?

Mr. Rys replied, we are holding a special meeting March 12th.

Mr. Sheehan asked, is that going to be the only item on the agenda?

Mr. Rys answered, it will be a special meeting specifically dedicated to that.

Mr. Sheehan asked, will it be televised?

Mr. Rys answered, I...yes.

Mr. Sheehan stated, when Jepson, Cook, Jeter presented their proposal, part of the project in some of the schools was removal of tile and carpeting. That was part of their plan. I am a little disturbed over Rock Hill because, if I read the paper right, this has been known since November and now it is the new year and it has just come forward and there seems to be a question about the chemical used in spraying the rugs. I am not an alarmist, I don't believe everything in the air is going to affect everyone the same way but I am also taken aback that our Superintendent says that he held the maintenance record because they were going to revise it. If part of this plan was already in the renovation project plan, maybe the problem is more than what we are making it out to be? I hope it isn't. I know the plan has been changed so many times, it is almost like the old comedy skit of "who's on first" and what is getting done. I hope this problem that we have, whether it be small, isolated or what, becomes part of that program of renovation. I may be out of line commenting on it now but a lot of that renovation project is a lot of cosmetics. I think maybe we should give up some of the cosmetics to have our student population safe and in an environmentally-friendly atmosphere. That is more important than how the school looks as you are driving up to it.

William Fritz, 43 Grove Street, Yalesville stated, I am not a frequent visitor to this chamber. I really don't get stirred up that much to show up. I do want to state that it is William Fritz, not Mary Fritz, I speak for myself and not my wife. I am here tonight because, in reading the paper lately, I have become quite upset with the Meriden Record; not just lately, but over the years. I think anyone that serves in public office in the Town, or on any board or commission, should feel highly insulted by the editorial by Mr. Kelly this weekend in the paper; the cartoon about Bob Parisi who, by the way, doesn't even play golf. I happen to be a Democrat, and probably will hear something about it later, but these people serve on these boards and commissions to do their best. There is no one serving in the Town of Wallingford, and I firmly believe this, who is out to hurt the people or the community. I will speak first of the two people who proposed the bill for the golf course property; Cooke property. It was an opener to get it on the table. A simple phone call from another state representative in town could have kept this out of the newspaper and it could have been settled and resolved beforehand. But that did not happen. For some reason, this person never seems to communicate with anyone. As far as the character assassination of the Town Council Chairman, I would hope all of you who feel the same will speak up for the integrity of Bob Parisi. You may not agree on the issues

that come before you all the time but when you assassinate the character of an individual, I would hope all of you would rally around no matter what party it happens to be. I brought some of the testimony that was presented in Hartford and I happen to know the two Krohl brothers; Teddy and Emil Krohl who testified, Steve Holmes, former Councilman and Bob Parisi, the Chairman. At the end of the testimony the committee chairman congratulated them on the superb job they did. Not once, during the testimony, did they ever talk about taking any of the powers away from the Department of Health in the State of CT. They asked to work with them on this property. When the testimony was over and the hearing ended, the committee chairman and the Health Department, which did not even testify against the bill, said that they could sit down and work this out. In fact, the opposing group that appeared, which is the Quinnipiac River Association or board went on record twice when the committee chairman asked, "do you have a problem with this bill if organic fertilizers and pesticides are used?" and twice, the opposing group said, we have no problem with this bill if those two things are in the bill. Now we read the Meriden Record and Mr. Kelly, who obviously has never looked at the record of the public hearing, and chastised not only the committee members for the golf course; I'm not here for the golf course because I will be dead before there is a golf course in this town; but to criticize the integrity of these good people, whom many of them I know, I think someone has to stand up for them. To criticize our Council Chairman, no matter what party, and accuse him or Mary Fritz or Brian McDermott of wanting to pollute the waters of the Town of Wallingford, is ludicrous. I find it amazing that we only have one individual in this town who cares about anything and that person gets all the ink. I was told by my best friend, who works for the newspaper, "never fight with someone who buys their ink by the barrel". The Meriden Record Journal buys their ink by the barrel but I think they better start reading and interviewing fairly, when they get into these issues. I happen to think that if any of our spouses worked at that particular newspaper and sat next to the editor, we might get good press coverage, too. But, unfortunately, we are not all in that position. I would like to see the Council come on record in defending these people and their integrity. They are not trying to hurt his town and I think the Chairman should really be given some credit for even going up and testifying.

He left copies of some of the testimony from Hartford for the Councilors.

The public question and answer period was closed at this time.

ITEM #6 Consider and Approve Accepting a Grant Entitled, "Africa Donation Project" and a Corresponding Appropriation of Funds in the Amount of \$30,000 to Special Funds – Revenue and to Program Expenditures as Requested by the Board of Education Business Manager

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

Joseph Cirusuolo, Superintendent of Schools explained, approximately 1 ½ years ago, while serving his term as President of the American Association of School Administrators, he led a delegation of about thirty-three educators to South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Kenya. They visited many schools of which about twenty educated poor children in those countries. Approximately 80-98% of the children in the entire country are poor. As they visited school to school, the picture was the same; there were no blackboards, white boards, or any standard type of classroom furniture that we are accustomed to. He stated that he never saw a classroom that had a complete set of textbooks, nor a textbook that was complete or any more recent than twenty-five years old. He never saw a classroom that had less than 30-35 young people in it. Although the visiting educators had read about these conditions previously and had seen pictures of them or talked to people about them, when seen graphically, it truly affected each and every one. The realization haunted them that the only reason these children were in those schools was due to the accident of birth; something over which the children had no control. There are a number of sources that can be blamed for the situation but when you see 6,7,8,9 year old children in those conditions, you realize that they are not people you can blame for that. A good number of visitors were superintendents of schools who went on this trip. They all began to discuss what a major challenge it is to them each year to take the books that are obsolete for their classes, and the furniture that is no longer appropriate for them and other materials, and declare it surplus and have it disposed of. The items that are being declared surplus here, would be state-of-the-art in the schools that we visited. The group began to talk about establishing a method, nationwide, where the materials from the 16,000 American school districts could be channeled to schools in developing nations all over the world; be it Africa, South America, Asia, etc. Towards the end of the trip...the group dropped in on a school without calling ahead of time. This school proved to be the final motivating factor behind this proposal.

Dr. Cirusuolo visited a classroom occupied by approximately 30-35 children of eighth grade age. When he walked in he had noticed that the students had benches and wooden tables and they were sanding the tables. He engaged the children in conversation about their hopes and aspirations. All of them had the same hopes and aspirations as any other child would, of the same age, in Wallingford or anywhere else. They dreamed of becoming doctors, lawyers, businesspeople, educators, etc. Many photos were taken and the students asked if copies of the photos could be mailed back to them. Dr. Cirusuolo asked for the address of one contact person to whom he would mail enough copies of the pictures for distribution to all. The students began to search for a piece of paper on which to write the address. It took them five minutes to find the only piece of paper in that classroom (he displayed a small, ragged, weathered piece of paper to the Council). It is

the kind of paper that would be thrown out and never used by any of us, here. He began to realize why they were sanding the desks; Kenya is a British form of education so there are state examinations. The children take their notes on the wooden desks; there is no paper on which to write. One or two days before their exams, they have to sand the desks so their notes are erased. There are government inspectors present to make sure the desks are cleaned before the children take their exams.

Upon returning home, Dr. Cirusuolo started to talk to people about the situation and began to realize that a program could be established, here, to send our surplus equipment and materials back to those schools in dire need of it. He thought, perhaps something worthwhile can be accomplished and from that some other ideas and programs will grow and develop to help the students in other countries. Everyone he has spoken to about this program has become excited about it. Out of this experience, some interesting things have developed. A few students at Lyman Hall High School viewed material on this subject distributed by Dr. Cirusuolo and wanted to get involved. They raised money to put together packets of educational materials for the approximately 300 students in one particular school. Some anonymous donors have loaned approximately \$2,000 needed to mail those packets to the children. A news conference will be conducted on Thursday of this week to announce the good deed and next week the packets will be mailed out. There is a proposal before the Rotary Club to acquire the \$2,000 to reimburse the donors. In order to properly accumulate and account for funds associated with these actions, an account needs to be established in which to deposit donations.

A list of available materials was forwarded to the Headmaster of the recipient school so that he could check off the items that his school is in need of. Those items have been set aside and are awaiting shipment. It will cost approximately \$20,000 to ship those items. The Mayor has agreed, and Dr. Cirusuolo will be working with him, to try and raise that money from members of the community. An account is needed in which to place those funds. This is not a request for dollars but a request to establish an account in which to deposit funds. It will be a public account so that there will be no question as to who is getting the money. No funds will be expended on overhead expenses. Everyone who will be working on this project will do so on a volunteer basis. School staff have offered to help and anyone else interested in getting involved in encouraged to do so.

Mayor Dickinson stated, at the point that a list of surplus items is finalized, the Council will be asked to approve donating the equipment and shipment of it to the recipients. It is a wonderful project. How can anyone not be moved when hearing that children have to sand their desks to be able to learn. It is incredible.

Dr. Cirasuolo stated that he was very pleased that there were students in our school system who wanted to get involved, because that helps to broaden their perspective and acquire very defendable values in terms of their efforts and how they look upon their responsibilities to help other people.

Mr. Rys asked, if they are sanding their desks so much, how much is left of them?

Dr. Cirasuolo answered, pieces of what I saw were not bad, but eventually...in other schools where they were not having exams the next day, the desks were thread-bare. Some of that was rot and some was, if you sand them enough, there is no wood left.

Mr. Rys asked, are you going to be soliciting funds through organizations and private donations?

Dr. Cirasuolo answered, yes. Once we get the account established, the funds will be going into that account.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville supported the program. He asked that Dr. Cirasuolo do his best to coordinate with the state and federal governments to try and get more money for this worthy cause.

VOTE: Parisi was absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried

ITEM #7 Consider and Approve One (1) Appointment/Re-Appointment to the Position of Commissioner on the Zoning Board of Appeals to Fill A Vacancy in a Term Which Expires 1/8/2005

Mr. Knight read correspondence from Karen Hlavac, Chairperson of the Republican Town Committee, stating that Ms. Catherine Beaumont had moved to North Haven, vacating her position on the Zoning Board of Appeals. At a recent meeting, the members of the Republican Town Committee voted to endorse the appointment of Gerald Lefebvre to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Lefebvre currently serves as an alternate member to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Motion was made by Mr. Farrell to Appoint Gerald Lefebvre to the Position, seconded by Mr. Centner.

Mr. Farrell stated, Mr. Lefebvre is very well known amongst his own board for his diligence. One of the most central parts of being on the commission is to go out and actually visit the properties. He makes quite an effort to get out there and do that which is very essential. He goes above and beyond just going to the meetings.

VOTE: Parisi was absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #8 Consider and Approve One (1) Appointment/Re-Appointment to the Position of Alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals for a Three Year Term to Expire 1/8/2004

The above-referenced correspondence from Chairperson Karen Hlavac also stated that Mr. George "Rick" Hillegas was not interested in seeking re-appointment to the position of alternate member on the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Republican Town Committee members voted to endorse Patrick Birney, Esq., to the position.

Motion was made by Mr. Farrell to Appoint Patrick Birney to the Position, seconded by Mr. Centner.

Mr. Farrell stated, I can speak, personally, to the fact that I know Mr. Birney as a fellow attorney and I have dealt with him quite a bit. He is a very honest person and is very interested in the Town of Wallingford and I think he would do an excellent job.

VOTE: Parisi was absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

At this time the Town Clerk, Rosemary Rascati, performed the Swearing-In Ceremony for both positions. (Applause)

ITEM #9 Consider and Approve a Revised Job Description Entitled, "Engineering Draftsperson" in the Water & Sewer Divisions (Appendix I) – Personnel

The revised draft reduces the experiential requirement in order to address recent difficulties in attracting candidates for the entry-level position. There are no changes in duties and no revision to the wage scale.

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

Mr. Brodinsky asked, do we have a vacancy now because of the job description?

Roger Dann, General Manager of the Water & Sewer Divisions replied, we have a vacancy currently, and we have had difficulty getting a sufficient number of candidates to fill the position.

Mr. Brodinsky asked, how long has it been vacant?

Mr. Dann answered, since October or November of last year. It went out for advertisement once. There was a very limited selection of candidates and we were unable to fill the position. We are hoping, through these revisions, that we will be able to get a larger pool of eligible candidates. We have gone through this once before. We had a vacancy in the same position, approximately one year prior to that. We only had one candidate for the position but that person did not remain for a substantial length of time.

Mr. Brodinsky asked, what is the pay scale?

Terence Sullivan, Personnel Director answered, \$14.94/hr. to \$17.83/hr.

Mr. Vumbaco asked, why wasn't the wage scale revised when we decreased the experience required?

Mr. Sullivan answered, we looked at all of the jobs in the ladder of progression for promotion opportunity. This is an entry-level position. It is comparable to an Engineering Aide position which requires two years' experience. Each of those two jobs have places to go for promotion opportunity. We don't believe in dealing with this level of a job for the hourly rate that we do pay, that trying to reduce the hourly rate would help us. It would probably put us back to where we are right now. We are finding out right now, especially with this economy, that we can't attract the people that we want to, so we think it is wise to leave that pay where it is. It is a union position but, because we would not be changing the rate of pay, there is no negotiations required. If you were to reduce the rate of pay, it would have to go back to the union for negotiation.

VOTE: Parisi was absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #10 Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-200(6)(B) of the CT. General Statutes to Discuss Pending Litigation in the Matter Of Paul Atwater v. Wallingford Town Clerk – Town Attorney

ITEM #11 Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-200(6)(D) of the CT. General Statutes with Respect to the Purchase, Sale and/or Leasing Of Real Estate – Mayor

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

VOTE: Parisi was absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

The Council entered executive session at 7:30 P.M.

Present in executive session were all Councilors, with the exception of Councilor Parisi, Mayor Dickinson, Corporation Counselor Adam Mantzaris.

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

VOTE: Parisi was absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

The council exited executive session at 7:55 P.M.

ITEM #12 Not addressed

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

VOTE: Parisi was absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:56 P.M.

Meeting recorded and transcribed by:


Kathryn F. Zandri
Town Council Secretary

Approved by:

Robert F. Parisi
Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

3-2-01

Date

Rosemary A. Rascati
Rosemary A. Rascati, Town Clerk

3-2-01

Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 3-1-01
AT 1:20 PM AND RECORDED BY
Rosemary A. Rascati TOWN CLERK

Appendix I
ENGINEERING DRAFTSPERSON (Water and Sewer)
Town of Wallingford

Town of Wallingford
Department of Personnel

Engineering Draftsperson
Water and Sewer

POSITION TITLE: ENGINEERING DRAFTSPERSON

DEPARTMENT: Public Utilities, Water and Sewer Divisions

GENERAL DUTIES: General Statement of Duties: Prepares and maintains tracings, drawings and maps, from rough sketches and field notes. Prepares construction and as-built drawings to record sanitary sewers, water mains, pumping stations, street maps, subdivisions, rights of way and zoning maps. Assists in final preparation of specifications, estimates, control sheets for all utility construction, under the jurisdiction of the Water and Sewer Divisions. ~~Departments; may also act as construction inspector, engineering aide and do other related work as directed.~~

ADDITIONAL DUTIES: May operate survey equipment and assist in determining elevations. May utilize pipe locating equipment and other related equipment as assigned. May also act as construction inspector, engineering aide and do other related work as directed.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED: Supervision Received: Works under immediate supervision of Division Engineers or designated supervisor.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED: Supervision Exercised: May supervise personnel assigned to assist in work for which he has responsibility.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILL AND ABILITY: Required Qualifications: Knowledge, Skill and Ability: Considerable skill and ability in the use and care of drafting instruments. Considerable knowledge of the principles, practices and methods of civil engineering drafting. Some knowledge of construction methods, material and specifications. Some knowledge of architectural drafting as applied to utility works appurtenances. **Some ability to use familiarity with** surveyor's instruments and tools. **Good ability to perform work with** a high degree of accuracy, neatness and capacity for detail. Considerable ability in mathematical and engineering computation. **Good** ability to understand and convey complex written and oral instructions.

QUALIFICATIONS: Graduation from high school or trade school and two (2) years experience working in an engineering office, preferably in civil engineering, including at least one (1) year of direct experience performing either mechanical or computer aided drafting (CAD). Additionally, some experience in land surveying work is preferred OR an associates degree or equivalent two-year post-secondary technical school certificate in general engineering technology with course work including technical or mechanical drafting, computer aided drafting and college level mathematics, including trigonometry. An equivalent

ENGINEERING DRAFTSPERSON (Water and Sewer)
Town of Wallingford

~~combination of education and qualifying experience may substitute on a year-for-year basis. Required Experience and Training: Not less than five (5) years full-time employment in drafting, preferably in civil engineering, including at least one (1) year in the complete preparation of pencil and ink drawings from field notes or college level courses in civil engineering, substituted on the basis of two (2) years of college for one (1) year of experience or, in lieu thereof, an equivalent combination of both totaling five (5) years.~~

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Must possess and maintain a valid State of Connecticut Motor Vehicle Operator's License.