Summary of Town Council Minutes February 14, 1984

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February 14, 1984

7:30 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was held in Council Chambers on February 14, 1984. Chairman Robert Parisi called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Answering present to the roll called by Rosemary A. Rascati, Town Clerk, were Council members Bergamini, Diana, Killen, Krupp, Papale, Parisi, Polanski and Rys. Councilman Gessert was not present because he was attending a championship basketball game in which his daughter was playing. Mayor Dickinson was also present. The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the flag.

The meeting was opened with the following prayer given by Reverend Craig Spooner, Advent Christian Church:

Today is Saint Valentine's Day and Saint Valentine was a Roman priest who was martyred in 269 A.D. for the crime of being a christian. The tradition was that he was able to reach a little violet plant which grew outside his window and he picked the heart shaped petals from the plant and arranged to have them sent to his family members. Even under personal difficulties, he was thinking of other people and I just would hope that this same spirit of selflessness would characterize all of us.

Let's pray together. Father in Heaven, we thank you for that giving and loving spirit that puts others ahead of self and I would ask for each man and woman around this table that same spirit that is willing to put others ahead of self. I would ask it in the name of Jesus who said He was the servant of all.

Amen.

PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Edward Musso, 56 Dibble Edge Road: I'm disturbed about the recall--those people were only doing their job. I would like you people to put the persons recalled back on the Board of Ed.

Mr. Parisi noted that the Council as a body would not move to reinstate them and Mr. Krupp stated that he had a discussion with the Town Attorney which indicated that the Council could not reinstate those members recalled. This would be a direct violation of the intent of recall.

Mr. Killen: If anything, its a violation of intent. There are 170 some odd pages of the old election laws which must be lived up to in order to get into office. With a little paragraph, you can remove them. That would appear to be a violation of intent.

Mr. Musso commented that he heard the resource recovery plant in Pittsfield, MA was an excellent facility.

The Public Question and Answer Period ended at 7:40 p.m.

Mr. Parisi read and Mr. Polanski moved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That

- (i) \$510,000 of \$1,500,000 principal amount of Land Acquisition Bonds authorized by Ordinance No. 239 enacted by the Town Council on the 13th day of December, 1977,
- (ii) \$410,000 of \$502,000 principal amount of Capital Improvement Bonds (Series A) authorized by Ordinance No. 269 enacted by the Town Council on the 10th day of July, 1979,
- (iii) \$310,000 of \$380,000 principal amount of Capital Improvement Bonds (Series B) authorized by Ordinance No. 279 enacted by the Town Council on the 10th day of June, 1980,

(iv) \$400,000 of \$424,500 principal amount of Capital Improvement Bonds (Series C) authorized by Ordinance No. 289 enacted by the Town Council on the 9th day of June, 1981,

(v) \$620,000 of \$660,000 principal amount of Capital Improvement Bonds (Series D) authorized by Ordinance No. 302 enacted by the Town Council on the 24th day of August, 1982, amended by Ordinance No. 304 enacted by the Town Council on the 12th day of October, 1982,

(vi) \$2,625,000 of \$3,200,000 principal amount of Library Bonds authorized by Ordinance No. 270 enacted by the Town Council on the 26th day of July, 1979,

(vii) \$525,000 of \$2,575,000 principal amount of School (Phase II) Bonds authorized by Ordinance No. 248 enacted by the Town Council on the 9th day of May, 1978, amended by Ordinance No. 281 enacted by the Town Council on the 8th day of July, 1980,

(viii) \$1,120,000 of \$1,600,000 principal amount of Sewer Bonds (Tuttle Avenue) authorized by Ordinance No. 234 enacted by the Town Council on the 19th day of July, 1977, amended by Ordinance No. 256 enacted by the Town Council on the 28th day of November, 1978, further amended by Ordinance No. 278 enacted by the Town Council on the 10th day of June, 1980,

(ix) \$755,000 of \$1,150,000 principal amount of Sewer Bonds (Nicholas Road Series B) authorized by Ordinance No. 235 enacted by the Town Council on the 19th day of July, 1977, amended by Ordinance No. 257 enacted by the Town Council on the 28th day of November, 1978, further amended by Ordinance No. 276 enacted by the Town Council on the 29th day of January, 1980,

(x) \$1,350,000 of \$1,575,000 principal amount of Water Bonds (Hillhouse) authorized by Ordinance No. 241 enacted by the Town Council on the 10th day of January, 1978, amended by Ordinance No. 280 enacted by the Town Council on the 24th day of June, 1980,

be consolidated and sold as one issue in the amount of \$8,625,000, such bonds to be known as General Public Improvement Bonds, Issue of 1984.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Mayor, Treasurer and Comptroller, or any two of them, are hereby authorized to arrange for the sale of such bonds of the Town of Wallingford in the aggregate principal amount of \$8,625,000.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Connecticut Bank and Trust Company, N.A., be designated as certifying, paying and transfer agent for the foregoing bond issue and Adinolfi, O'Brien & Hayes, P.C., of Hartford, Connecticut, be designated as the attorneys-at-law to render an opinion approving the legality thereof.

Mr. Krupp seconded the motion.

Mr. Polanski: Pine River Land Acquisition starts off at \$1,500,000, coming in small segments up to \$990,000 through 5 years. Do you want the rest now to pay off the completed project?

Mr. Myers: The Town issued short-term debt in the amount of \$1,500,000 and \$990,000 of that debt has been paid off over the years in cash and we only have to permanently finance \$510,000. There's a pending State Grant on that \$510,000 of about \$403,000 and if those funds are received by the Town, I'll reserve that against this. If you look at the \$990,000, \$561,000 was received from the federal government as a grant to purchase this property, as well as \$243,000 and since 1981, the Town has provided \$41,000, \$35,000, \$70,000, \$35,000 and \$5,000 to reduce this debt in accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes.

Mr. Killen: On the bottom of the first page, \$50,000--you had put \$45,000 I believe, in the budget. Why \$50,000 at this time?

Mr. Myers: We attempted to reach a total bond issue that's attractive to the market and there are certain denominations that are more attractive than others. We needed an additional \$5,000 to round out that issue, available in the debt service budget of the General Fund.

Mr. Killen: Are the other figures of the Capital and Non-Recurring Fund amounts which were set aside in the past budget? Mr. Myers stated that they were.

Mrs. Papale moved for discussion Item 3(a) transfer of \$85,000 from A/C 801-853 Bond Anticipation Note Interest Library Project to Λ/C 801-851 Bond Anticipation Note Payments Library Project, seconded by Mr. Polanski.

Mr. Killen: Why is the money available from the note interest; wasn't that computed in advance?

Mr. Myers: It was computed in advance but at the time I prepared last year's budget, I was uncertain of when and what time I would approach the bond market. In preparing the budget, I budgeted interest at 9% and at that time, that's what long-term bonds were running. In the meantime, I decided the most prudent position for the Town to assume was to stay in the short-term market and we've been borrowing this on a temporary basis at approximately 5-1/2%. There's roughly one-third fallout from the budget. In the case of the library, I budgeted \$266,000 on the note of \$2,955,000 and I've got roughly \$90,000 fallout. I thought it would make good sense to further reduce that library bond. We're recognizing our debt and approaching an accelerated program to begin paying it off.

Mr. Killen moved approval of \$5,000 from A/C 801-900 Administration and Registration Expense to A/C 801-851 Bond Anticipation Note Payment Nicholas Road Sewer Project, seconded by Mrs. Bergamini.

Mr. Killen: Has the fact that you're going to be getting some money from the sale of the old library been taken into consideration?

Mr. Myers: When those funds are received by the Town, I will reserve that money to pay off that bond and those funds beyond any question will be used to pay the library bond.

Vote: Item (3) Resolution authorizing sale of \$8,625,000 General Public Improvement Bonds, Issue of 1984 and (3)(a) and (3)(b) as presented on pages 2, 3 and 4 of these minutes.

Council members Bergamini, Diana, Killen, Krupp, Papale, Parisi, Polanski and Rys voted aye and the motion was passed. (Councilman Gessert was absent from the meeting.)

A motion was duly made, seconded and carried and Item (15) of the agenda moved to this position.

Mr. Krupp: Immediately prior to this meeting, we interviewed Mr. Andrew Bravo to fill one of the vacancies on the Board of Education. I move that Mr. Bravo be appointed to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Charles Andrade on the condition it is understood that in the event of legal decision reinstating Mr. Andrade, Mr. Bravo will step down voluntarily and will hold harmless the Town of Wallingford for any legal liability resulting therefrom.

Mr. Polanski seconded the motion.

Mr. Killen: I'm unhappy with the recall and am waiting to see what the persons most involved with this are going to do one way or the other. I'm going to pass and that is the reason.

Mr. Diana: Mr. Krupp's motion contains safeguards.

<u>Vote</u>: All Council members voted age with the exception of Mr. Killen who passed and the motion was passed. (Councilman Gessert was absent from the meeting.)

Mr. Krupp moved to waive the waiting period for Mr. Bravo so that he may be sworn in tonight and attend a Board of Education meeting this evening. This motion was seconded by Mr. Rys.

Vote: All Council members voted age with the exception of Mr. Killen who passed and the motion was passed. (Councilman Gessert was absent from the meeting.)

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A motion was duly made, seconded and carried and Item (14) of the agenda moved to this position.

Mr. Krupp moved to remove from the table consideration of appointment to fill vacancy of Planning & Zoning Commission Alternate, seconded by Mr. Polanski.

Vote: All Council members voted aye and the motion was passed. (Councilman Gessert was absent from the meeting.)

Mr. Krupp: This item was tabled on 2/2/84 on the basis that there was an unresolved situation dealing with this appointment which has now been resolved. We previously interviewed Mrs. Bevan and I think she is an outstanding candidate for this position. I place in nomination the name of Doris Bevan to fill the unexpired Planning & Zoning Alternate position vacated by Mr. Shortelle. Mr. Diana seconded the motion.

Mrs. Bergamini inquired of Mrs. Bevan whether or not she was off the payroll and Mrs. Bevan stated she was not yet but the new secretary would be in on February 16 and then, after a short vacation, will return to P & Z as a clerk until their clerk returns from illness.

Mrs. Bergamini stated she had no problem with Mrs. Bevan's appointment but does have a problem with the appointment being made before Mrs. Bevan is off the payroll.

Mrs. Bergamini moved to make the appointment of Doris Bevan as Planning & Zoning Commission Alternate effective March 1, 1984, to enable her to attend the first meeting in March as Alternate. The term will commence March 1, 1984 and end January 8, 1985. Mr. Krupp accepted this amendment to his motion.

<u>Vote</u>: All Council members voted age and the motion was passed. (Councilman Gessert was absent from the meeting.)

Mrs. Bergamini moved the reappointment of the Joint Committee on the Taber House consisting of Council members Marie B. Bergamini, Edward L. Diana and Iris F. Papale and Library Board Robert L. Carmody, Barbara Borne and Marilyn Happy. This motion was seconded by Mr. Krupp.

Vote: All Council members voted age and the motion was passed. (Councilman Gessert was absent from the meeting.)

Mr. Carmody suggested that someone should be appointed through whom any proposals could be submitted. Mr. Parisi suggested that proposals should be submitted to the Library and asked the press to publish such notice.

Mr. Parisi read Item (5)(a) Quit Claim Deed from Red Abbey Corporation and Orange Boven Corporation.

Miss Bush, Town Planner, explained that this pertained to the road widening (FIP Corporation) along North Main Street, approved by Engineering and the Town Attorney.

Mrs. Bergamini asked Mark O'Connell if he was satisfied with the work done with the widening.

Mr. O'Connell: This isn't an acceptance of the widening; there's additional work to be done on the widening. This is simply a conveyance of the property that we needed to do the widening. The widening has not been accepted yet; there is some catch basin work to be done and the slope is not stabilized.

Mrs. Bergamini: Do we have to accept this deed?

Mr. O'Connell: I don't believe we have to accept it but it's totally different than accepting the road itself. The deed is just the property they are conveying to the Town.

Mr. Parisi: I would assume that any work done which is not totally acceptable would not have the bond released.

Mr. O'Connell: That's correct.

Miss Bush stated that the Quit Claim Deed was accepted at the P & Z meeting on 2/10/84.

Mr. Krupp moved acceptance of a Quit Claim Deed from Red Abbey Corporation and Orange Boven Corporation as presented. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Papale.

Vote: All Council members voted aye with the exception of Mrs. Bergamini who voted no and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert was absent from this meeting.)

Miss Bush stated that Brookside Drive is a road in Barnes Industrial Park on which the bond has been released because Engineering approved the road construction and they want to present the Warranty Deed and Certificate of Title so it will be accepted as a Town road.

Mrs. Papale moved acceptance of a Warranty Deed and Certificate of Title from Orchard Properties to the Town of Wallingford for Brookside Drive. This motion was seconded by Mr. Krupp.

Mayor Dickinson: Item (5)(a) has already been voted upon. If there is a problem of some kind with the construction, we may be making an error in accepting the deed. If the deed is accepted, how can you hold the bond? Why are we accepting the deed before the work is completed?

Miss Bush: We're accepting two parcels of property, one of 6,291 feet and one of 1,540 square feet; accepting the land and not the improvements.

Mrs. Bergamini: Once we accept it, aren't we then responsible for it? Where is the guarantee that the work will be done?

Mayor Dickinson: What is the purpose of accepting the deed before the work is completed? When the Town Attorney receives something like this, he does not have the background on it. He is asked if there is any problem with the document.

Mr. Piscitelli: The Engineering Department has based the bond on what it would cost the Town to complete the work if in fact it is not completed.

Mr. Parisi noted that every department head has signed off on this deed that it is acceptable and perhaps there is something wrong with our procedure.

Mayor Dickinson stated that if there is a defect in the highway of any kind due to incomplete work, the liability will come down on the Town once the deed is accepted. What is the nature of the incomplete work?

Mr. O'Connell: One catch basin has an additional wall to be placed in it and we generally wait until the slope stabilizes. We had a tremendous problem at Century Fireplace Furnishings where the slope was not stabilized and the sediment ran down to Auto Artisans.

Mr. Piscitelli: I would suggest that if this is not the proper procedure, the procedure should be rectified and before P & Z is requested to act, all follow through should be completed and signed off and the bond is ready to be released.

Mayor Dickinson: Unless I am individually briefed on every item, I have to assume there's a certain amount of review by the proposing party. I'm not criticizing Planning & Zoning. I must raise the issue when I see a point that may involve liability for the Town. As a procedural matter, generally we should never accept property until the work has been completed to avoid any questions as to the completion or liability. There is a letter here from the Town Engineer stating that all aspects of the required construction have been satisfactorily completed. Based upon that, my review would have been to go with it. Now we hear from Mr. O'Connell that all aspects have not been completed.

Mr. Krupp: It is being used as a Town road, running on private land. I would assume it would be logical to be on Town property so the quit claim makes sense.

Mr. Piscitelli: Vinnie, would there be any problem for the bond release to take place before the quit claim?

Attorney McManus: Acceptance of the road would indicate that the Town is totally satisfied with the improvements. Immediately thereafter the bond would be released.

Mr. Diana: Where was this legal discussion ten minutes ago when this Council accepted in good faith the word of everybody right down the line. The people assigned to do this work have given us the okay and now we're faced with the prospect that we did the wrong thing. We have a letter from John Costello stating that everything has been satisfactorily completed.

Mr. O'Connell: Possibly, another letter should have been sent. The catch basin is a correction.

Mr. Diana: I'd like an opinion from the Town Attorney on our vote to accept this quit claim. Did we do the right thing?

Attorney McManus: Assuming the problem cannot be classified as a highway defect, you've probably made it a little better than it was. I've never seen roads accepted until everything was done satisfactorily. That is not what my office was asked.

Mr. Krupp: Mr. O'Connell, we have a letter dated 1/13/84 stating that all aspects of the required construction have been satisfactorily completed. Your office has accepted this road.

Mr. O'Connell: Planning & Zoning Regulations specifically state that no road in the Town of Wallingford will be accepted until you see a letter signed to the Planning Commission by John Costello and Steven Deak, Director of Public Works. That letter does not say that the road has been accepted by the Town of Wallingford.

Mr. Killen: Vinnie, what is our liability at this point since we are utilizing it as a road?
Attorney McManus: If the road is safe, you may consider accepting it. You should be asking if there is a highway defect which could cause the Town to be exposed to liability.

Mr. Parisi: Are we going to have a new procedure?

Mayor Dickinson: A new procedure is not necessary. Apparently, the situation out there is not the same as the letters indicate and that is what has created this issue. Mark, are you satisfied with what has been done there?

Mr. O'Connell: Yes, Mayor, I am. Any work which has to be done out there is of a maintenance nature.

Mr. Krupp: Is this set down in writing anywhere?

Mr. O'Connell: I'm sure my inspector has a notation on it. So far, its been verbal. We've been assured it will be done.

Miss Bush suggested keeping all paper until a year after the bond has been released and its guaranteed everything is in order.

Vote: (Brookside Drive) All Council members voted age with the exception of Mrs. Bergamini who voted no and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert was not present.)

Item (5)(c) Warranty Deed - Marjo Construction Corporation to the Town of Wallingford was withdrawn because the bond has not been released.

A motion was duly made, seconded and carried and Item (5)(d), acquisition of drainage easement/North Airline Road/Peter J. Fresina was removed from the table.

Mr. Krupp moved to accept acquisition of drainage easement/North Airline Road/Peter J. Fresina, seconded by Mrs. Bergamini.

Mrs. Bergamini: North Airline Road is a pet peeve of mine, as you well know. Mr. Fresina is here to provide an explanation. He has owned that property for 20 years and has never had a water problem until recently when P & Z approved a subdivision.

Mr. Fresina: There are about 20 houses which drain from Center Street into my property. I have 2 acres zoned commercial for which I've been paying commercial taxes which is useless because after 2 days of rain my property is flooded. I owned property across the street which I sold 3 years ago but I kept the drainage easement so the water could be diverted to I-91, South, into ditches. I want to convey this easement to the Town. When the last subdivision was approved, the developer could have contributed to the drainage runoff on Airline Road. My land is being used for a drainage pond and I cannot use my property.

Mrs. Bergamini: This is the same developer on North Airline Road that P & Z waived the sidewalks on for which the people have since petitioned which will be another expense for the Town of Wallingford.

Mrs. Bergamini: There's no question that this easement must be accepted. Don't we have any recourse from the developers since they have caused intense flooding and a road that cannot be kept in good condition because of the water. We have nonconforming lots against every rule we've got but P & Z waived it and we are faced with expenses to correct a drainage problem not caused by us and which never existed on North Airline Road until all these homes were approved. Mr. Fresina, if we accept the drainage easement, will that help you in any way?

Mr. Fresina: Mr. Costello is going to design a storm water drainage system for Airline Road. Now, I'm draining 20 houses with paved driveways and a paved road. You cannot get in touch with Conrail--I've tried for 3 years. The best way to go is to I-91 which is a shorter distance.

Mrs. Bergamini: Mr. O'Connell, you note for the record that this situation must be corrected as Mr. Costello has promised.

Vote: All Council members voted aye and the motion was passed.

(Mr. Gessert was absent from the meeting.)

Miss Bush: Item (5)(e) Warranty Deed & Certificate of Title - MEDWAY substation - we received this from PUC asking us to accept it but according to Mark its not complete so we will withdraw that item from the agenda.

Miss Bush explained the nature of Item (6) which is presented in her letter dated 1/30/84.

Mrs. Bergamini moved approval of an appropriation of \$4,446 from A/C 805-319 to A/C 701-903 Professional Services for the purpose of paying legal fees for two court appeals filed against the Zoning Doard of Appeals by Planning & Zoning. This motion was seconded by Mr. Polanski.

Mrs. Bergamini: \$1,600 and we never went to Court?

Attorney McManus: At the point P & Z decided they did not want to pursue that particular area of litigation, the case was almost in the final argument stage. All briefs were filed, research done and a great deal of work was done.

Mr. Killen: Why wasn't the money sought in advance and why are we being asked to approve the money after the fact?

Miss Bush explained that P & Z by State Statute is required to enforce their zoning regulations in any manner they see fit. The Town Council is required to pay the bill.

Mr. Killen: That does not preclude the fact that you can come before the Council and ask for the money and at that time, you can tell us you have no choice in the matter. That is the correct procedure.

Miss Bush: If we're required to get your approval before we make an appeal which must be made within 15 days, approval must be granted that night.

There was some discussion about calling a special meeting if necessary for situations with such time constraints.

Mr. Killen asked Attorney McManus how his office decided which side of the coin he would take in cases of this nature and Attorney Mc-Manus stated that as a practical matter, the Town stayed out of most of them.

Mr. Krupp: The Charter is very clear, Chapter 6, "He shall appear for and protect the rights of the Town in all actions, suits or proceedings brought by or against any of its departments. . ."

In prior discussions with Brian Farrell, I was led to believe that he has no right but to take the defense. If one Town department sues another, the Town Attorney must represent the department that the suit is being brought against. Attorney McManus: This type of litigation is somewhat unique. Once the ZBA has made a decision, the Town wasn't involved at all except for P & Z which has under its regulation the duty to enforce the zoning regulations and they felt ZBA had overstepped their jurisdiction which clearly they had done because the Court overruled their decision. At that point, the Town doesn't have a great deal of interest in defending the ZBA decision.

<u>Vote</u>: All Council members voted aye and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert was absent from the meeting.)

Miss Bush stated that Item (7) transfer of \$262 from A/C 701-130 to A/C 701-903 for Planning & Zoning was withdrawn.

Mr. Parisi read the letter pertaining to Item (8), a letter dated 2/7/84 from Steven L. Deak regarding a ground water monitoring program for the metal hydroxide area at the landfill.

Mr. Krupp moved approval of waiving of bid to allow Public Works to expand the Fuss & O'Neill contract for ground water monitoring program for the metal hydroxide area at the landfill. Mr. Polanski seconded the motion.

Mr. Polanski commented that this requirement is enforced by regulatory agencies, state and federal, at a cost to the Town.

Mr. Krupp: I tend to get defensive about waiving bidding but I know Fuss & O'Neill have quite a reputation for pollution control work. Mr. Deak, how much would another firm charge us for the same service?

Mr. Deak: Fuss & O'Neill is doing the rest of the work at the landfill and this is a requirement of the State of Connecticut. This work must be done immediately.

Vote: All Council members voted age with the exception of Mr. Krupp who voted no and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert was absent from the meeting.)

Mr. Killen moved to establish a new account, 506-901 Professional Services Monitor Metal Hydroxide Wells at the landfill. This motion was seconded by Mr. Diana.

Vote: All Council members voted aye with the exception of Mr. Krupp who passed and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert was absent from the meeting.)

Mrs. Papale moved approval of a transfer of \$2,250 from A/C 503-130 to A/C 506-901 Professional Services Monitor Metal Hydroxide Wells at the landfill. Mrs. Bergamini seconded the motion.

Vote: All Council members voted aye with the exception of Mr. Krupp who voted no and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert was not present.)

Mr. Parisi read the transfer and explanatory letter for Item (9).

Mrs. Papale moved approval of a transfer of 1,241 from A/C 201P-131 to A/C 201D-170 Paid Holidays for the Police Department. This motion was seconded by Mr. Diana.

Mr. Krupp asked the reason for the transfer and Chief Bevan stated it was a miscalculation when working on the budget last year.

Mr. Parisi read the correspondence pertaining to Item (10), report on the procedure for clearing sidewalks after cessation of any ice, sleet or snow storm, a letter dated 2/3/84 from Police Chief Bevan. This question was raised by several Council members because many sidewalks were not cleared after the last snow storm, including some Town property.

Mr. Polanski raised the point of the working person who leaves for work at 8 a.m. and Chief Bevan noted that common sense must be used when issuing notices of violation of this ordinance.

Mr. Krupp noted that some sidewalks are not cleared for the entire winter and children walking to school are forced to used the streets. Our concern is from a safety standpoint and my question is to what degree is this enforced?

Mr. Rys: I addressed this problem at the last Council meeting because I wanted to know what could be done once a notice of violation is issued.

Chief Bevan: Carmen Spiteri has gone out and I would say for the most part, sidewalks have been shoveled. I don't know if Mr. Deak has enough men to have 2 men shovel, keep track of the time it takes and pass it through the Town Attorney's Office and attach it to that individual's tax rate. I don't know if that could be done.

Mr. Rys: If persons are given repeated violation notices, they are probably willing to simply pay \$5 for each violation and not clear their walk and this is not fair.

Mayor Dickinson: I just want to make clear that part of the procedure is not for Public Works to remove the snow.

Mr. Parisi recommended having the ordinance reviewed and the Ordinance Committee will do so.

Mr. Krupp: It must be noted that it can be very frustrating to clear a sidewalk on the West side by 11:00 a.m. before the street is plowed and then have the plow dump the snow back on the walk.

Mr. Krupp moved establishment of new line A/C 601D-135 Democratic Town Committee Primary, requested by Vivienne Goodrich, seconded by Mr. Diana.

Mrs. Bergamini asked Mr. Myers if there is any other account from which these funds might be obtained and Mr. Myers stated that Council Contingency, 805-319 is nearly depleted and after tonight, the General Fund balance will be \$309,000.

Vote: All Council members voted aye and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert was absent from the meeting.)

Mrs. Papale moved approval of an appropriation of \$831 from A/C 805-319 to A/C 601D-135/\$495, A/C 601D-900/\$100, A/C 601D-200/\$200 and A/C 601D-660/\$36 for the Democratic Town Committee Primary. This motion was seconded by Mr. Diana.

<u>Vote</u>: All Council members voted aye and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert was absent from the meeting.)

Mr. Parisi read the letter dated 2/8/84 from Mayor Dickinson recommending Mr. Richard Nunn for reappointment to the Public Utilities Commission for a term of three years effective 3/1/84.

Mrs. Bergamini moved confirmation of reappointment of Mr. Nunn to the Public Utilities Commission for a three year term, commencing 3/1/84 and ending 3/1/87, seconded by Mrs. Papale.

Mr. Krupp: During the mid and late 70's, I was a very strong critic of the Public Utilities Commission. Having seen Mr. Nunn's professionalism and performance in that slot and what he has done for the PUC, the exceptional service he has rendered to this Town, I believe that Mr. Nunn is very deserving of reappointment to the Commission.

<u>Vote</u>: All Council members voted aye and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert was not present at this meeting.)

Mr. Parisi noted that Item (16) was withdrawn from the agenda at the request of Mayor Dickinson.

Mr. Parisi read the 2/1/84 letter from Councilman Diana regarding splitting Parker Farms School property into two parcels, keeping intact baseball and recreational facilities, to be retained by the Town of Wallingford and not considered in sales negotiations.

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Mr. Diana stated that if we are faced with the prospect of having to sell that property, we as Council members have an obligation to the community to maintain the recreational areas which would be very costly to move and relocate. A division would include the building, right of way and parking area to the side, leaving the parking area directly adjacent to the ballfield and the rest of the recreational facility as part of the Town property.

Mr. Krupp suggested making the right of way part of Town property and Mr. Diana agreed.

Mayor Dickinson noted that any changes must be approved by P & Z. A site plan would be drawn for approval by P & Z.

Mr. Krupp: It must be recognized that the fields at Parker Farms represent the only fields that the Yalesville Little League has available to them and as a result, it is critical that the property be protected and turned over to the Recreation Department. Since that school contains 22 acres of land, its probably being eyed as prime development property.

Mayor Dickinson suggested that a letter stating this request be directed to his office and he will get it to the Town Engineer.

Mrs. Bergamini stated that we are simply putting the recreational area at Parker Farms School under the auspices of the Recreation Department and this point should be made clear.

Mr. Killen suggested asking the Town Engineer to provide the Council with a recommendation of how to split this property which recommendation would come back to the Council for approval.

At the same time, we should be directing a letter to the Board of Education asking them what they see down the road for that particular piece of property before we decide.

Mrs. Bergamini stated that Mr. Hayden asked for a letter from the Board of Ed which they stated they do not foresee any use of that property.

Mayor Dickinson: I am in receipt of a letter dated 2/9/84 from Frank Soldan that indicates the Board of Education's opinion regarding Parker Farms School. I requested the letter and will make it available to the Council.

Mr. Robert Devine, 22 Jodi Drive: Tonight at the Board of Ed meeting, Mr. Soldan presented a recommendation dealing primarily with the 2 high schools. He wants a composite study of whether or not a reorganization is necessary, including whether or not we go to a 7 through 9 junior high and bring 6 back to elementary. In January, Mr. Soldan stated categorically at that time that the

existing elementary schools do not accommodate for reorganization of the sixth grade. If we're going to seek a clarification, we might want to do it in light of this new study.

Mr. Diana: I would like to have the Council send a letter to Mr. Soldan asking what his intention is on the Parker Farms property and the feasibility of reopening the school in the forseeable future. Mr. Parisi feels that this should be done through the liaison committee.

Mr. Krupp: In terms of any impact that this might have on Mr. Diana's proposal, I would suggest that we proceed with the proposal. This subject was first broached in February of 1982 and that study was to be undertaken.

All Council members approved of sending a letter to Mayor Dickinson asking the Town Engineer to draw a site plan dividing the Parker Farms School property to retain the recreational areas. Councilman Polanski will receive a copy of the letter as Chairman of the Education Liaison Committee.

Mr. Parisi read the 1/12/84 letter from Charles F. Walters regarding the \$2,100 transfer requested by the Electric Division.

Mr. Krupp moved approval of a transfer of \$2,100 from A/C 591 to A/C 596 Street Lighting & Signal Maintenance, Electric Division. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Bergamini.

Mr. Walters stated that the balance in this account last week was down to \$130 and the transfer was needed for the reasons stated.

Vote: Council members Bergamini, Diana, Killen, Krupp, Parisi and Rys voted aye. Council members Papale and Polanski were not present for the vote and Mr. Gessert was absent. The motion was passed.

Mr. Diana moved approval of a transfer of \$10,000 from A/C 555 to A/C 501 Fuel Expense for the Electric Division, seconded by Mr. Killen.

Mr. Parisi read the 1/12/84 letter from Mr. Walters requesting this transfer of funds.

Mr. Krupp questioned the 4,000 gallons per hour and Mr. Walters stated that when the station is at its full capacity, that is correct. Mr. Krupp inquired about the power generated and wanted to know if it goes back into the grid. Mr. Walters stated it goes into the Electric Division's system, saving buying an equivalent amount from C. L. & P. The cost is about 10¢ as opposed to 6¢ or 7¢ to buy.

Mr. Killen wanted to know why the winter test was required and Mr. Walters said CONVEX had the right to require it all along and it was not requested until after the budget was put together. The test showed that the division was slightly more efficient than they had occasion to operate in the past because generally they only operated at 1 or 2 units, only to meet the peak.

Vote: All Council members voted age with the exception of Mr. Krupp who was not present for this vote and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert was absent from this meeting.)

Mr. Rys read Item (18)(c), a transfer of \$22,000 from A/C 373 to A/C 370 and letter dated 1/12/84 from Mr. Walters, Electric Division.

Mrs. Bergamini moved approval of a transfer of \$22,000 from A/C 373 to A/C 370, requested by the Electric Division, seconded by Mr. Polanski.

Mr. Diana questioned taking the funds from the street lighting account and Mr. Walters explained that this account is for new street lights and not a maintenance account so funds are available.

Mr. Polanski inquired about how the Electric Division is notified when a new home is built about a need for service and Mr. Walters explained the procedure. In answer to a question by Mr. Killen, Mr. Walters stated that there is no up-front cost for installation of a meter, unless additional poles are required and then the contractor is required to pay for that.

<u>Vote</u>: All Council members voted age with the exception of Mr. Diana who was not present for this vote and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert was absent.)

Mrs. Papale moved authorization of a request for a permanent fourth Meter Reader for the Electric Division, seconded by Mr. Krupp.

Mrs. Bergamini asked Mr. Walters if this was in the budget and was told no. Since the change of the operation of the Pierce Station which was 3 years ago, a period of adjustment and attrition, the division had a pool of people upon whom they could draw to assign into meter reading. As of 7/1/83, staff at the power plant had been reduced to 6, a minimum to man it around the clock and be in a position to operate it under our Rider A commitments. Mr. Lee recapped today from a situation of 3 years ago we had 3 people as meter readers who had been there for 10 years, very familiar with the function and 65 or 70 meter reading routes.

Mr. Walters explained that a fourth meter reader is needed to stay on a reading cycle that would not deviate more than 1 or 2 days. Late bills upset budgets of persons on fixed incomes and take the time of people in the division to explain why bills are late.

Mr. Lee: Our meter readers are averaging 330 meters per day, too many for accuracy, etc. We have sufficient funds in A/C 902 to get through this fiscal year. We will not ask for funds for a car for this fiscal year. We'll either double up or use a truck.

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Mr. Parisi: How will you use meter readers for collection notices?

Mr. Lee: If we had a meter reader for one-half day per month to knock on doors, it would be more effective than telephone calls.

Mr. Parisi stated he would rather see this request made at budget time.

Mr. Lee explained that average meters read per hour is 25 to 30 and this is monitored.

Mr. Walters pointed out that even with a fourth man added, the rate of reading required is still greater than what was required when the third man was added some 30 years ago.

Mr. Polanski asked if remote meter readings, such as by cable, have been looked into and Mr. Walters stated that it is being experimented with in other communities and it's highly costly to get into.

Mr. Krupp: I'd like to see some study done in terms of participating in SNETCO's experimental type program. They are dealing with certain utilities an an experimental basis which might be worth analyzing. As this is presented, if you add the fourth person, it appears that you can eliminate the overtime and appears to be an immediate cost-cutting step. I would support it on the understanding that this displaces overtime and reduces the operating cost of the program.

Mr. Diana: What efforts can or will be made to employ somebody from Wallingford?

Mr. Walters: We have a list prepared and do give preference to Wallingford residents.

Mr. Nunn: There are a number of things the Utility Commission asked of staff to save the costs of reading meters. One suggestion was estimated readings every other month. I'm in favor of that type of a billing procedure which would make a significant cutback in work but the public is not in favor of this. Another area I advocate for meter readings within the Water Department is more frequent readings for large users.

We've gotten a lot of criticism on the post card billing which was a saving technique. There have been some shortcomings to us because we cannot do insert mailing on the card. It was a study made by the American Public Power Association and many utilities have gone to that. We had a consultant who indicated that the public is not in favor of post card billings. We are very sensitive to customer input.

Mr. Lee: The dollars are in A/C 902 because we have been forced over the last two years to work an overtime basis. It cost some \$22,000 to \$27,000 in overtime to maintain the basis we are operating under today. In November you had a 24/25 day reading which went to a 40 day reading. This was caused by inability to read meters at the proper time. Industrial meters take one-half to one hour to read. We are paying overtime to meter readers who earn double what an entry meter reader would receive. The readers are in such a hurry to maintain production that the quality of reading has dropped and corrected bills need to be sent out.

Mr. Killen: Estimated readings for electricity would hold up a lot better than estimated readings for sewer use which is never accurate.

Mr. Nunn: The support of a fourth meter reader has been approved by the Commission. We've studied this and certainly feel that it's an obligation that the tradeoff be met. Overtime is a very expensive practice.

Mr. Killen: Would you make a list available to me of the vehicles you have, not line trucks, but cars and pickup trucks, please. If they are assigned to a particular person; I'd like to know. If they are in a pool, I'd like to know that, too.

Vote: All Council members voted age with the exception of Mr. Parisi 85 who voted no and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert was not present at this meeting.)

Mr. Krupp moved to note for the record the Report of the Director of Utilities for the month of December, 1983 on provision that we reserve the right to offer additional commentary at a later date. Mr. Diana seconded the motion.

All Council members voted age with the exception of Mr. Parisi who passed and Mrs. Papale who voted no and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert did not attend this meeting.)

Mr. Krupp moved noting for the record the financial reports for the period ending December, 1983 for Library, VNA and Senior Citizens Center, seconded by Mr. Rys.

All Council members voted aye and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert was absent.)

Mayor Dickinson: I just want to keep you informed that testing is going on and there is some evidence of migration of the gas across Town boundaries which can be a fairly serious matter. We are continuing to look at the matter and the next time I come in here, we should have an indication of what we must do to rectify the situation. It is very serious and under federal law, we must stop migration of the methane gas.

(No action necessary on methane gas situation at the Dog Pound by the Council this evening. Informative update only.)

Mr. Diana: Have we notified everybody upon whom the gas is infringing?

Mayor Dickinson: Yes, it affects one other property owner and they are aware of it. An engineer is involved and our consultant is involved and we must check on migration to the north and protect the site for the new sewer plant. It is a very serious situation.

Mr. Killen: Mr. Mayor, what is the situation with the Dog Pound? Mayor Dickinson: It's been complicated by an added feature. When we Mayor Dickinson: It's been complicated by an added reature. When we first looked at the Dog Pound situation, we thought we were dealing with a fairly confined problem. It's a much larger problem, perhaps involving the length of Pent Road. Therefore, any solution that's going to affect the Dog Pound is going to be incidental to correcting a much larger geographic area involved. I'm still very hopeful that we're going to be able to combine the two and save the Dog Pound down there. There will be more testing tomorrow, use of a backhoe to take out the garbage along the road, finding the depth backhoe to take out the garbage along the road, finding the depth of that garbage, etc. It's a very involved situation. I'm hopeful that we will be able to save the Pound by ringing it with a trench.

I was interested in knowing the cost of relocation of Mr. Killen: the Pound should this become necessary before we went ahead with anything there.

Mayor Dickinson: I recognize that. I think I would be subject to criticism, however, if I slated the expenditure of \$60,000 to to criticism, however, if I slated the expenditure of \$60,000 to \$100,000 in funds to move the Dog Pound without knowing if we could spend far less to rectify the situation as it now exists. Shirley Gianotti and her assistant are anxious to have things resolved but are dealing with the situation the way it is. They want to be safe from the gas and I want them to be. It is conceivable that we'd be able to relocate the Dog Pound on the land behind the Pierce Power Plant if necessary which may be the best alternative. All of this is conjecture until we find out what we're going to do with the migration problem.

Mr. Diana: I'm really concerned with the safety aspect of this and I want to know if we've done everything we can. I'm probably over-reacting but I really don't understand the potential of this.

Mayor Dickinson: Right now, you know the Dog Pound has been closed and nobody is in that structure due to the possible buildup of methane. We are checking through the Fire Marshal, with the co-operation of the Department of Environmental Protection. The warehouse that Bradlees uses across the street from the Dog Pound is being monitored by the Fire Marshal. The gate house and Public Works garage are being checked on. Continual testing is being done. Keep in mind that this problem exists because the ground is frozen. It is a very serious problem and I'm trying to keep you informed.

Mr. Krupp moved to remove from the table for discussion purposes only Codification Ordinance, seconded by Mrs. Bergamini.

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<u>Vote</u>: All Council members voted aye and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert was absent from this meeting.)

Mr. Krupp: I realize the purpose here is to set a public hearing date and it must be recognized that setting a public hearing on any ordinance involves a certain amount of expense. I am adamantly and totally opposed to this Code. In reviewing it, I find (1) it is incomplete in terms of some of the ordinances, (2) it contains no resolutions, (3) it contains ordinances which have since been superseded by Charter provisions. I think that before we can go to this code, we must start with the review of every single ordinance which

exists, starting with Ordinance 1, determining which ones are still active, which ones should be deactivated and this is a project for the Ordinance Committee. In my estimate, we're looking at one and one-half to three years to complete this project. I can't see setting a public hearing and going through the expense and time involved for a code which I consider to be totally unacceptable.

Mrs. Bergamini: When this first came up, I asked to have this tabled because I was not happy with this company. Now it is published and I don't know who approved it or transferred the funds.

Attorney McManus: With all due respect, it doesn't contain items which the publisher was not asked to put in. I'm not terribly happy with this as a code because it's not complete but the company wasn't told to do anymore than they did.

Mayor Dickinson: At this point, there's been some question as to whether or not it's been completely paid for and that should be resolved.

Mr. Krupp: One thing we do not have at this point in time is a document that lists the ordinance number, the full title of the ordinance, whether its active, whether its been repealed and what its been repealed by. That's the starting point. The Ordinance Committee must create a listing of active ordinances and look at those ordinances to see if they should be repealed. That must occur before this code ever exists.

Mrs. Bergamini moved to table setting a public hearing on acceptance of the Codification Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Rys.

Mr. Polanski suggested a motion to terminate the contract with the printer but Mrs. Bergamini suggested waiting two weeks to determine what has been paid, etc.

<u>Vote</u>: All Council members voted age and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert was not present.)

Mrs. Papale moved to remove from the table authorization to waive bidding for computerized indexing system and associated transfers for the Town Clerk's Office. Mr. Krupp seconded the motion.

<u>Vote</u>: All Council members voted aye and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert was absent.)

Mrs. Rascati explained the benefits of a computerized indexing system as opposed to handwriting the daily log. 50% of the time will be saved in indexing all land records which come in to the office.

Mrs. Papale: For any new equipment, we like to wait for budget time. Since the Town Clerk's Office has run without this, why can't it wait until July?

Mrs. Rascati: We are required by law to be no more than 5 days behind in indexing. We were 3-1/2 weeks behind when I took over the office. Part-time help did this indexing in the evening and there was approximately \$6,000 for part-time help. This system will run about \$6,000 for six months, plus \$500 or \$600 for supplies. The reason I didn't wait until July is because we keep the records on a calendar year and January 1 will be a good time to start. If this is not approved, I must purchase 4 index books for about \$1,400.

Mr. Diana: This would eliminate the part-time help?

Mrs. Rascati: Yes and no. I would like to eliminate the part-time help but I don't know what is in store for me. When dog license season comes, I may need somebody for a week or two.

Mr. Polanski: We have a proliferation of computers; will there be a study made to determine compatability of the systems?

Mrs. Rascati: We can't wait for computer time. The deeds must be indexed immediately. I would be leasing this computer.

Mayor Dickinson: It is a yearly lease. If there were some way to accommodate it within a general system, we have a year's lease. You may want to listen to John Carroll here who is the examiner of indices for the Town and title searcher supreme.

Mr. Carroll: I don't know where I could begin to tell you how important it is to make this decision right now. We have not indexed one single deed since January 1. The books we have are packed. The handwritten system is 40 years old and if you make an expenditure for the old system it would be foolish to discontinue that system on the first of July and institute a computerized system. It should be done as of the first of the year.

Numerous towns in the area have this system and each of the Town Clerks with whom I have spoken are extremely happy with the system. There are faults and there is one town who in my opinion mismanages the system and has fallen behind. We are 400 behind and another town is 900 behind with a computerized system and that's their fault. Rocky Hill can do all of their deeds in one-half hour and out comes this alphabetical index. This is used every single day. I first started title searching 9/1/47 and the Cott index came into vogue at that time.

A computerized indexing system is efficient, time saving and easily readable. The most important thing is we must do something right now because we have a month and one-half of work to do now.

Mr. Killen: Are Cott and Hall-McChesney the only two companies in this particular field?

Mr. Carroll: They are the only two I know of and have any experience with and I've worked all over the State.

Mr. Diana: This is being presented as a money saving step. Once we lease the equipment, we must buy supplies, etc. Does that figure approach what part-time help costs?

Mrs. Rascati: We do around 6,000 instruments and without supplies, it will cost \$2.00 per instrument. It will probably cost \$13,000 with paper. There is \$6,000 in part-time help and money in microfilming but we are still going to microfilm.

Mrs. Bergamini: How can you take money from microfilming if you must still microfilm?

Mrs. Rascati: I believe there is extra money in the microfilming account because the former Town Clerk was going to microfilm old volumes and 37 were done but they are not very legible. I will still leave money in the microfilm account.

Mr. Killen moved to waive the bid to permit Town Clerk's Office to adopt a computerized indexing system, seconded by Mr. Krupp.

<u>Vote</u>: All Council members voted age and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert was absent.)

Mr. Rys moved to establish a new line item A/C 603-650, seconded by Mr. Krupp.

<u>Vote</u>: All Council members voted aye and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert was absent.) Mrs. Bergamini moved approval of a transfer of \$6,000 from A/C 603-404 to A/C 603-650 and a transfer of \$1,200 from A/C 603-135 to A/C 603-400, seconded by Mr. Krupp.

<u>Vote</u>: All Council members voted age and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert was absent.)

Mr. Killen moved to note for the record the financial statements of the Town of Wallingford for the month ending January 31, 1984. (Mr. Krupp reserved the right to question at a later date.) Mrs. Bergamini seconded the motion.

<u>Vote</u>: All Council members voted age and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert was absent.)

Mrs. Bergamini noted for the record the letter dated 1/27/84 from Roger A. Appell requesting appointment to the Board of Education. Mr. Killen seconded the motion.

Vote: All Council members voted age and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert was absent.)

Mr. Krupp moved acceptance of the minutes of February 2, 1984, seconded by Mrs. Bergamini.

<u>Vote</u>: All Council members voted age and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert was absent.)

Mrs. Bergamini moved to go into Executive Session for the discussion of personnel and items pertaining to litigation. This motion was seconded by Mr. Krupp.

Vote: All Council members voted age with the exception of Mr. Rys who was not present and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert was absent.)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 p.m. and Executive Session began.

A motion was duly made, seconded and carried and the Executive Session ended at 11:55 p.m.

The following votes were recorded after coming out of Executive Ses-

Mr. Killen moved to establish a new line item A/C 132-903 Professional Services - Section 8 Housing Code, seconded by Mr. Krupp.

Vote: All Council members voted aye and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert was absent.)

Mr. Krupp moved approval of an appropriation of \$10,000 from the Unappropriated General Fund Balance to A/C 132-903 Professional Services - Section 8 Housing Code, seconded by Mrs. Bergamini.

Vote: All Council members voted aye and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert was absent.)

Mr. Krupp moved approval of an appropriation of \$5,000 from the Unappropriated General Fund Balance to A/C 132-902 Professional Services Personnel Appeals, seconded by Mrs. Bergamini.

Vote: All Council members voted aye and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert was absent.)

Mr. Krupp moved to table approval of funds to pay 90 days accumulated sick leave benefit to the former Town Clerk, Mrs. Carolyn Massoni. This motion was seconded by Mr. Rys.

Vote: All Council members voted aye and the motion was passed. (Mr. Gessert was absent.)

A motion was duly made, seconded and carried and Rule V was waived to discuss granting additional sick leave to John J. Costello, Engineering Department.

Mrs. Bergamini moved approval of an additional 24 days sick leave for Mr. Costello in accordance with 2/14/84 agreement prepared by Stanley Seadale, Director of Personnel. This motion was seconded by Mr. Killen.

Vote: All Council members voted aye and the motion was passed.
(Mr. Gessert was absent.)

A motion was duly made, seconded and carried and the meeting was adjourned at midnight.

Approved
Robert F. Parisi, Council Chairman

2 - 28 - 84Date

Rosemary A. Rascati, Town Clerk

2-28-84 Date