

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 8, 2000

6:30 P.M.

AGENDA

Blessing

1. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call
2. Correspondence
3. Consent Agenda
 - a. Consider and Approve Appointing the Public Celebrations Committee for a Two-Year Term, Effective Immediately and Expiring 2/1/2002 – Mayor
 - b. Consider and Approve One (1) Mayoral Appointment to the Personnel & Pension Appeals Board for a Term of Five (5) Years to Expire 12/31/2004
 - c. Consider and Approve One (1) Mayoral Re-Appointment to the Pension Commission for a Term of Six (6) Years to Expire 12/31/2005
 - d. Consider and Approve One (1) Appointment/Re-Appointment to the Position Of Commissioner on the Planning & Zoning Commission for a Term of Five (5) Years to Expire 1/8/2005
 - e. Consider and Approve One (1) Appointment/Re-Appointment to the Position Of Alternate on the Planning & Zoning Commission for a Term of Three (3) Years to Expire 1/8/2003
 - f. Consider and Approve One (1) Appointment/Re-Appointment to the Position Of Commissioner on the Zoning Board of Appeals for a Term of Five (5) Years to Expire 1/8/2005
 - g. Consider and Approve One (1) Appointment/Re-Appointment to the Position Of Commissioner on the Inland Wetlands Watercourse Commission for a Term Of Five (5) Years to Expire 3/1/2005

- h. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$1,900 from Park Beautification Acct. #001-4001-901-9018 to Transportation Reimbursement Acct. #001-4001-300-3201 – Parks & Recreation
- i. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$2,303 from ½ Ton Pickup Truck Acct. #001-4001-999-9905 and \$697 from Aquasaurus Acct. #001-4001-999-9964 for a Total of \$3,000 to Scoreboards Acct. #001-4001-999-9906 – Parks & Recreation
- j. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$1,750 From Copier Acct. #001-6030-999-9905 of Which \$450 is Transferred to Map Cabinets Acct. #001-6030-999-9903 and \$1,300 is Transferred to a new Account Titled, “Fax Machine” #001-6030-999-9910 – Town Clerk
- k. Approve and Accept the Minutes of the January 11, 2000 Special Town Council Meeting

4. Items Remove From the Consent Agenda

5. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

- 6. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$14,000 from Contingency Acct. #8050-800-3190 to Purchase of Professional Services – Veterinarian Acct. #001-2020-901-9015 – Animal Control Officer
- 7. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$25,000 from Regular Salaries & Wages Acct. #001-1401-101-1000 of Which \$20,000 is Transferred to Overtime Acct. #001-1401-101-1400 and \$5,000 is Transferred To Purchased Professional Services Acct. #-001-1401-900-9007 – Comptroller
- 8. Consider and Approve an Appropriation of Funds in the Amount of \$790,000 To Sale of Assets Acct. #001-1075-070-7020 and to New Debt Financing Acct. #001-8010-800-8582 – Comptroller
- 9. Consider and Approve a Waiver of Bid to Hire an Outside Attorney for a Workers’ Compensation Matter – Town Attorney
- 10. Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-200(2) and 1-200(6)(E) of the CT. General Statutes Pertaining to Strategy and Negotiations with Respect to Collective Bargaining – Personnel

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- 8. Consider and Approve an Appropriation of Funds in the Amount of \$790,000 To Sale of Assets Acct. #001-1075-070-7020 and to New Debt Financing Acct. #001-8010-800-8582 – Comptroller
- 9. Consider and Approve a Waiver of Bid to Hire an Outside Attorney for a Workers’ Compensation Matter – Town Attorney
- 10. Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-200(2) and 1-200(6)(E) of the CT. General Statutes Pertaining to Strategy and Negotiations with Respect to Collective Bargaining – Personnel

11. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Approval of a Revised Chief of Field Party Job Description - Personnel
12. Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-200(6)(B) of the CT. General Statutes To Discuss Pending Litigation in the Matters of
 - Bristol Myers Squibb Co. v. Town of Wallingford
 - Town of Wallingford v. Widewaters Development Company Limited Partnership, et al
 - Omnipoint Communications v. Town of Wallingford
13. Consider and Approve Settlement of Pending Litigation Involving the Town of Wallingford v. Widewaters Development Company Limited Partnership, et al

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 8, 2000

6:30 P.M.

SUMMARY

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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

FEBURARY 8, 2000

6:30 P.M.

A regular meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was held on Tuesday, February 8, 2000 in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall and called to Order by Chairman Robert F. Parisi at 6:32 P.M. Councilors Brodinsky, Centner, Farrell, Knight, Papale, Parisi, Rys, and Vumbaco answered present to the Roll Called by Town Clerk Rosemary A. Rascati. Councilor Zappala arrived at 6:36 P.M. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. arrived at 6:42 P.M. Corporation Counselor Adam Mantzaris and Comptroller Thomas A. Myers were also present.

A blessing was bestowed upon the Council by Pastor Tom Bish of the Heritage Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the Flag.

ITEM #3 Consent agenda

ITEM #3a Consider and Approve Appointing the Public Celebrations Committee for a Two-Year Term, Effective Immediately and Expiring 2/1/2002 – Mayor

ITEM #3b Consider and Approve One (1) Mayoral Appointment to the Personnel & Pension Appeals Board for a Term of Five (5) Years to Expire 12/31/2004

ITEM#3c Consider and Approve One (1) Mayoral Re-Appointment to the Pension Commission for a Term of Six (6) Years to Expire 12/31/2005

ITEM #3d Consider and Approve One (1) Appointment/Re-Appointment to the Position of Commissioner on the Planning & Zoning Commission for a Term of Five (5) Years to Expire 1/8/2005

ITEM #3e Consider and Approve One (1) Appointment/Re-Appointment to the Position Of Alternate on the Planning & Zoning Commission for a Term of Three (3) Years to Expire 1/8/2003

ITEM #3f Consider and Approve One (1) Appointment/Re-Appointment to the Position Of Commissioner on the Zoning Board of Appeals for a Term of Five (5) Years to Expire 1/8/2005

ITEM #3g Consider and Approve One (1) Appointment/Re-Appointment to the Position of Commissioner on the Inland Wetlands Watercourse Commission for a Term Of Five (5) Years to Expire 3/1/2005

ITEM #3h Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$1,900 From Park Beautification Acct.#001-4001-901-9018 to Transportation Reimbursement Acct. #001-4001-300-3201 – Parks & Recreation

ITEM #3i Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$2,303 From ½ Ton Pickup Truck Acct. #001-4001-999-9905 and \$697 from Aquasaurus Acct. #001-4001-999-9964 for a Total of \$3,000 to Scoreboards Acct. #001-4001-999-9906 – Parks & Recreation

ITEM #3j Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$1,750 From Copier Acct. #001-6030-999-9905 of Which \$450 is Transferred to Map Cabinets Acct. #001-6030-999-9903 and \$1,300 is Transferred to a new Account Titled, "Fax Machine" #001-6030-999-9910 – Town Clerk

ITEM #3k Approve and Accept the Minutes of the January 11, 2000 Special Town Council Meeting Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Approve Consent Agenda Items #3a, b, c, h, i, j & k, seconded by Mr. Centner.

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

ITEM #4 Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

ITEM #3d Consider and Approve One (1) Appointment/Re-Appointment to the Position of Commissioner on the Planning & Zoning Commission for a Term of Five (5) Years to Expire 1/8/2005

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Appoint John Whitney to the Position, seconded by Mr. Knight.

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

ITEM #3e Consider and Approve One (1) Appointment/Re-Appointment to the Position Of Alternate on the Planning & Zoning Commission for a Term of Three (3) Years to Expire 1/8/2003

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Appoint William Austin to the Position, seconded by Mr. Knight.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #3f Consider and Approve One (1) Appointment/Re-Appointment to the Position Of Commissioner on the Zoning Board of Appeals for a Term of Five (5) Years to Expire 1/8/2005

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Appoint Catherine Beaumont to the Position, seconded by Mr. Centner.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #3g Consider and Approve One (1) Appointment/Re-Appointment to the Position of Commissioner on the Inland Wetlands Watercourse Commission for a Term Of Five (5) Years to Expire 3/1/2005

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Appoint Barbara Lagerstrom to the Position, seconded by Mr. Knight.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

Since Mr. Whitney and Ms. Lagerstrom were in attendance, Town Clerk Rosemary A. Rascati performed the Swearing-In Ceremony at this time.

(Applause)

Ms. Beaumont was unexpectedly delayed, therefore arriving late. Upon arriving, Ms. Beaumont was sworn in to her position by the Town Clerk.

PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Philip Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street commented how some of the individuals were absent from the meeting who were being appointed to positions and repeated what he stated in the past, that the individuals should be present for their appointment or re-appointment.

Mr. Parisi explained, if something has come up and people are prevented from attending the meeting, there isn't anything the Council can do about it. Ms. Beaumont did indicate that she was planning on attending the meeting.

Mr. Wright asked that someone on the Council be certain that the individuals understand that they ought to be here and if they have a good reason why they can't attend, that is acceptable.

Mr. Parisi asked the Town Council Secretary to work jointly with him in making sure that Council appointees are notified that their presence is required when action is being taken with regards to their respective positions.

Frank Wasilewski, 57 N. Orchard Street asked if Community Lake will ever be restored to the condition it was in 125 years ago when it was stocked with trout and salmon? The issue has been on the burner for a number of years now and no progress is being made. If we are going to have a linear trail, we should have a lake with it. He asked if it is a top priority of the Mayor and/or Council? Who is willing to push this ahead?, he asked.

Mr. Parisi stated that he is extremely interested in attempting to push the issue forward. He is aware of report that has just been issued.

Philip Wright, Sr., Community Lake Restoration Committee member stated that five committee members met with D.E.P. today, in Hartford, and the ball is now in our court to say what we think we want and get back to the Council on it. The committee will meet in the next week or two to prepare a report for the Council.

Geno Zandri, 37 Hallmark Drive referred to the January 21, 2000 State of the Town Address given by the Mayor to the community. On January 22, 2000 an article appeared in the New Haven Register which quoted the Mayor as saying, "Wallingford ended 1999 with a \$3.7 million surplus." He asked the Mayor, is this true or false?

Mayor Dickinson replied, I didn't use the word "surplus" in the speech. I think that was applied by the newspaper. We ended the year with a \$3.7 million unappropriated balance; budget balance.

Mr. Zandri asked, that is not a fact then, that it (\$3.7 million) is a surplus?

Mayor Dickinson answered, we get into this surplus; how you describe the \$3.7 million in the black but I did not use the word surplus, to my recollection.

Mr. Zandri asked Comptroller Thomas Myers, in reference to the Annual Audit, specifically the lines titled, "Fund Balance July 1, 1998" and "Fund Balance June 30, 1999", he asked, what does "fund balance" mean?

Mr. Myers answered, the accumulation of resources that occur over a multiple year period.

Mr. Zandri asked, is that like a savings? Is it what we have left at the end of a particular year?

Mr. Myers answered, it is an accumulation of budget operations or revenues and expenses that occur over a multi-year period.

Mr. Zandri asked, if you were to compare the end of each year, from one year to the other, would that tell you what happened during the course of that year?

Mr. Myers answered, with the exception of, if you compare June 30, 1998 to June 30, 1999 it would tell you what you had on June 30, 1998 and that position changes on July 1, 1998. In the stated report, on June 30, 1998 there was approximately \$12.4 million of unreserved general fund balance. On July 1, 1998 that \$12.4 million was reduced to approximately \$8.6 million. The \$3.7 million was applied to the budget that began on July 1st. The one day comparison is a snapshot; it is a picture taken at one point in time.

Bernadette Renda, 753 N. Main Street Ext. asked, if there was any information available on the North Main Street project? Why are the electrical contractors wiring the poles on N. Main Street Ext.? Does it have anything to do with the project?

John Thompson, Town Engineer replied, the project is about 70% complete in terms of design. Independently, SNET and the Wallingford Electric Division are in the process of upgrading their pole facilities along North Main Street Ext. As soon as we saw the poles going in, we notified them to make sure that they were not coming any closer to the existing curb line so that we would not be duplicating installation and then relocation when we ultimately begin construction of the street. We are still on schedule. The relocation of the poles that you are seeing now have nothing to do with the roadway reconstruction.

Mrs. Renda asked, what is the target date for the work to begin?

Mr. Thompson answered, Spring, 2001.

Philip Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street commented that Item #10 is an executive session regarding negotiations with respect to collective bargaining. He expects that the Council will vote no in executive session since the Councilors have stated that they will not in vote in opposition to labor contracts that do not include Martin Luther King Day.

Mayor Dickinson clarified for the record that the Council does not vote in executive session. Any action taken would occur outside of executive session.

Mr. Parisi explained that the executive session is to discuss the job description for the Chief of Field Party position in the Engineering Department.

Mr. Wright asked for an update on the American Legion property.

Mr. Parisi announced that the item will be on the next Town Council agenda.

Robert Sheehan, 11 Cooper Avenue asked if there has been any decision on the West Dayton Hill Road Dam as of yet?

Mayor Dickinson stated that there was a hearing at the state. I am not sure what the results were although our title search shows that the Town is not an owner of the dam. Atty. Small is handling the matter. I don't have anything further.

Vincent Avallone, 1 Ashford Court stated that he read an article on Bertini park and its caretaker. There was a statement in the article that the Town had leased some property to an individual and that the property leased was not up to code. He asked if anyone had any information on the issue?

Mayor Dickinson answered, the matter is being handled by the Town Attorney's Office.

Corporation Counselor Adam Mantzaris stated, this lease has been in effect for three years. The house did not meet (housing) code and my understanding is that work has been done on the house recently. Whether it actually meets code today, I don't know. I know that the Public Works Department has made some corrections that were found to be in violation by John Wolcheski (Housing Code Enforcement Officer) during his inspection performed last September. We have been involved with that property for some two or three months which was prompted by other matters besides the code violations. There is an ongoing dispute now between the Town and the tenant/park attendant. I am not sure if there are any outstanding violations.

Mr. Avallone asked, before the Town leases property, what precautions are taken to make sure that what we are leasing is up to code? I know that there are a lot of landlords out there that are leasing their property and have obligations to meet code before they can lease to tenants. What steps do we, as a town, take to assure that when we lease a home that is going to be inhabited by a family, that what we lease is up to code?

Atty. Mantzaris answered, the house had been used by a prior park attendant. I don't know what steps were taken when the new person was hired. We don't have but one or two places that we rent. Those properties are brought up to code when violations are brought to our attention.

Mr. Avallone commented, if we lease property, we should make sure that what we are leasing is up to code. If we find out that it is not, we should bring it up to code immediately. Especially in a situation like this where people are living in the property.

Mr. Parisi stated, the point is well-taken. We should be aware how we do things; it is a good point.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville asked Chairman Parisi, since you are eliminating the Public Speaking Meeting, why don't you increase the amount of time allotted to Public Question and Answer Period at the regular meetings?

Mr. Parisi answered, people signed up for a set amount of time at the Public Speaking Meetings. It is not possible to add that time to the regular meetings.

Mr. Melillo asked Comptroller Myers, when you factor in the cost of all the bonds we have with the interest costs involved in the past, present and future, isn't the town actually running a fiscal and financial deficit when you get to the bottom line?

Mr. Myers answered, I would not make that statement, no. That is not an accurate statement. That is not the way municipal finances are viewed in the market place.

Mr. Melillo stated, a federal judge recently ruled in favor of Omnipoint Communications and against our Planning & Zoning Commission and now the taxpayers are going to have to pay over \$50,000. How did that come to be? Why didn't P&Z grant Omnipoint their application?

Mr. Parisi answered, they (P&Z) were representing some of the taxpayers when they did not grant the permission. There were a good number of taxpayers who did not want the tower there.

Mr. Melillo asked, did P&Z consult with our legal department?

Mr. Parisi answered, they consulted with every department they had to. They had a major public hearing on it, too.

Mr. Melillo asked, why did we lose the case?

Mr. Parisi answered, because we were not viewed as being right.

Mr. Melillo asked for an update on the Goldfedder Property?

Mr. Parisi answered, there is nothing new. I think we have complied with what we had to do.

The Public Question and Answer Period was declared closed.

Catherine Beaumont had arrived late at the meeting and was sworn in by the Town Clerk at this time.

ITEM #6 - Withdrawn

ITEM #7 Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$25,000 from Regular Salaries & Wages Acct. #001-1401-101-1000 of Which \$20,000 is Transferred to Overtime Acct. #001-1401-101-1400 and \$5,000 is Transferred to Purchased Professional Services Acct. #001-1401-900-9007 – Comptroller

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

Correspondence from Comptroller Thomas Myers explains how his department has experienced and will continue to experience the need to work additional hours due to the computer conversion project. Friday, January 28th a staff member of the Purchasing Department returned to private sector employment. During the time it will take to hire a new employee, it is necessary to use an outside service to perform the work and keep the office up to date. The account for this purpose is completely expended.

Mr. Vumbaco asked why the service was not being put out to bid since it is over \$2,000.? Mr. Myers explained how the Town has bid the service out and has contracted with two firms for this type of service. One of those firms will be contracted with for the temporary help.

Robert Sheehan, 11 Cooper Avenue asked, how long a period will this money hire temporary help for? We had a similar situation with the Assessor's Office and the Comptroller was back every three months asking for money for temporary help because staff was being held in other departments.

Mr. Myers stated, there is a civil service register and we are waiting in line for it. There are people who are certified to be employed by the Town but I have to wait in line because there are several departments ahead of me. I will use these funds to hire temporary help as a stop gap measure for probably no more than two to three months.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #8 Consider and Approve an Appropriation of Funds in the Amount of \$790,000 to Sale of Assets Acct. #001-1075-070-7020 and to New Debt Financing Acct. #001-8010-800-8582 – Comptroller

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

Mr. Rys explained that the \$790,000 is the money the Town has received for the sale of the Town-owned Durham property on Howd Road.

Mr. Zappala stated that he was glad this was finalized but was very disappointed by the final sales price. He was of the opinion that the Town could have much more money had it been sold to private interests than the Town of Durham.

Mr. Centner asked if the check had been deposited already?

Mr. Myers answered, yes.

Mr. Centner pointed out that the copy of the check provided to the Council shows that the written amount on the check disagrees with the numerical amount. It is written as "seven hundred and ninety and three dollars and 85 cents" rather than "seven hundred and ninety thousand, three dollars and 85 cents" which is correct. Banks honor the written amount and not the numerical amount. He wanted to make sure Wallingford received face value of the check.

Mr. Myers answered, we got the face value. We put it in the bank as quickly as possible. Also, you will notice we received the check in December. When it is a government check I don't think anyone even looks at the written amount.

Philip Wright, Sr. asked, what is the new debt financing account?

Mr. Myers explained, it is the title of an account I use to apply money towards bonded projects. In this case, the \$790,000 will be used to offset the purchase of what we all know as the Cooke Properties.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #9 Consider and Approve a Waiver of Bid to Hire an Outside Attorney for a Workers' Compensation Matter – Town Attorney

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

Corporation Counselor, Adam Mantzaris explained, we have prepared a set of specifications so that we can put this item out to bid next fiscal year. Presently we have two attorneys working on this and we have gotten bid waivers for them. I want to use a third attorney, Robert Ciulla, who is representing us in a lawsuit involving other worker's comp matters and that is why I would like to try him but I need a waiver because I believe this item will be in excess of \$2,000 in fees.

Mr. Farrell suggested that the motion be amended to include Atty. Ciulla's name.

Mr. Parisi did not think it was necessary to do so.

Mr. Brodinsky asked, what is the test for a bid waiver...in what circumstances should a bid be waived? When it is in the best interest of the town?

Atty. Mantzaris answered, yes.

Mr. Brodinsky asked, what do you have for us that suggests it is in the best interest of the Town to waive the bid in this situation? Why not go out to bid?

Atty. Mantzaris answered, the file was transferred to us two weeks ago by our workers' compensation adjusting service. I could have assigned it to one of our present attorneys for which I already have a bid waiver. I would like to try a third attorney who has done work for us before who has been very successful for Wallingford, Robert Ciulla. I would not have enough time to go out to bid in a two weeks spread. Before that time some appearances were necessary at the workers' compensation office in connection with the matter.

Mr. Vumbaco asked, do you have any idea as to how much it is? I have a hard time voting on a bid waiver when I don't know how much the dollars are, at least somewhat.

Atty. Mantzaris answered, it should cost between \$5,000 - \$6,000 but not over \$8,000. It seems like a complicated matter, but not that complicated. I would guess that it will cost between \$5,000 to \$8,000.

Mr. Vumbaco asked if it would be wise to amend the motion to include language "not to exceed...".

Atty. Mantzaris answered, no. I will come back to the Council if it is going to exceed \$8,000 but I don't think it is a good idea to limit a professional with fees. He may be in the middle of a brief or preparing for a formal hearing. That would not be in the best interest of the town.

Mr. Brodinsky asked, what is the hourly rate of the attorney and how does that compare to the other attorneys?

Atty. Mantzaris answered, it is the same, \$110.00 an hour.

Frank Wasilewski, 57 N. Orchard Street asked, how many workers' comp cases do we have?

Atty. Mantzaris answered, we have about 12-14.

Mr. Wasilewski asked, how many are handled by outside attorneys?

Atty. Mantzaris answered, most of them are.

Mr. Wasilewski asked, on the average, what does it cost us for each case?

Atty. Mantzaris answered, on average, about \$6,500.

Mr. Wasilewski suggested that the Mayor consider budgeting more money for outside attorneys in next fiscal year's budget.

Mr. Parisi asked, will the bid be part of the general bid waiver list? Or will it be an R.F.P.?

Atty. Mantzaris answered, it will be a general bid.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville asked, how will the interests of the town be affected if this bid is not granted?

Atty. Mantzaris answered, the cases should be handled by someone who is an expert in this field who has had the case from the outset.

Philip Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street asked, what is the case worth?

Atty. Mantzaris answered, I have no idea of what the workers' compensation payments will be.

I can't tell what the employee will receive.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #10 Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-200(2) and 1-200(6)(E) of the CT. General Statutes Pertaining to Strategy and Negotiations with Respect to Collective Bargaining - Personnel

ITEM #12 Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-200(6)(B) of the CT. General Statutes to Discuss Pending Litigation in the Matters of

- Bristol Myers Squibb Co. v. Town of Wallingford
- Town of Wallingford v. Widewaters Development Company Limited Prtnshp, et al
- Omnipoint Communications v. Town of Wallingford

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Enter Into Executive Sessions Listed Above, seconded by Mr. Knight.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

The Council entered executive session at 7:28 P.M.

Present in executive session were Terence Sullivan, Personnel Director and John Thompson, Town Engineer, Mayor Dickinson, all Town Councilors, Atty. Mantzaris and Atty. Janis Small Agenda Item #10.

All parties, with the exception of Terence Sullivan and John Thompson, remained in Executive Session for Item #12.

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

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

The Council exited executive session at 8:24 P.M.

ITEM #11 Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Approval of a Revised Chief of Field Party Job Description – Personnel

Philip Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street asked; what is the employee going to do? What are we hiring him for? Did we already have someone in a job called "Chief of Field Party" and, if so, how long has it existed?

Terence Sullivan, Personnel Director answered, the job existed for a long time, many years. The position is now vacant; it was held by Larry Tremaglio, he retired last year. The only significant change made to the job description besides the re-wording and making it more contemporary, is the requirement for a land surveyor's license. We currently contract the land surveying out to a private company and we want to have that expertise in house.

Mayor Dickinson explained, with the surveyor's license the individual is able to certify an agent's survey and matters of that kind.

Robert Sheehan, 11 Cooper Avenue asked, will the position be part of the Engineering Department?

John Thompson, Town Engineer replied, there is no change in the staffing compliment for the Engineering Department. The title is exactly the same, the only difference is that this individual will now be able to sign and seal documents for filing purposes.

Mr. Sheehan asked if Mr. Tremaglio ever had that authority?

Mr. Thompson answered, no.

Mr. Sheehan asked, if Mr. Tremaglio did not have the expertise then we must be going outside of the department to hire someone for this job, right?

Mr. Thompson answered, that is possible, yes.

Mr. Sheehan asked, there isn't anyone within the department of our own who has worked there years that could possibly qualify for this position, or even if you didn't change the job description to fill Mr. Tremaglio's position?

Mayor Dickinson answered, positions are posted and anyone inside who is interested in it can indicate their interest. They would have to qualify. It is available to inside employees who are interested.

Mr. Sullivan stated, it is posted to local 1183 first and then town-wide if no one in that union is interested. If no one in-house is interested then we post it outside.

Mr. Sheehan asked, do we have people in the system who are qualified for this position?

Mr. Sullivan answered, I have not heard of anyone who is but the posting requirement tends to bring those people out so if they are and they are interested, then they will sign up.

Mr. Sheehan stated, if someone in the system is qualified and interested in the position, he would like to see that person rewarded for their hard work first, rather than give the position to someone who is outside of town employment. He does not want to see any town employee who is qualified and interested in the position passed over. If the Town got along for years without someone possessing that specific qualification in the job, there is no need to have that now, if you can fill the position with an in-house candidate.

Mr. Wright asked, does this new qualification change the pay rate of the job?

Mr. Sullivan answered, the pay rate remains unchanged.

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Approve the Revised Job Description, seconded by Mr. Knight.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Approve Settlement of Pending Litigation Involving the Town of Wallingford v. Widewaters Development Company Limited Partnership et al as Discussed in Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

VOTE: Brodinsky abstained due to the fact that the law firm he is associated with is involved in the matter; Parisi abstained due to his being absent from a portion of executive session; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

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

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:32 P.M.

Meeting recorded and transcribed by:

Kathryn F. Zandri
Kathryn F. Zandri
Town Council Secretary

Approved by:

Robert F. Parisi
Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

3-16-2000
Date

Rosemary A. Rascati
Rosemary A. Rascati, Town Clerk

MAR 15 2000
Date

(These minutes are filed three (3) days late due to physician's restrictions)