

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 8, 1999

6:30 P.M.

AGENDA

Blessing - To be announced.

1. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call
2. Correspondence
3. Consent Agenda
 - a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#559 -568) Totaling \$4,389.23 - Tax Collector
 - b. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$1,575 from Polyslides Acct. #001-4001-999-9919 to Informational Signage Acct. #001-4001-999-9954 - Parks & Recreation Dept.
 - c. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$2,000 from Self-Insurance Claims Acct. #001-8030-800-8280 to Office Supplies and Legal Expenses Acct. #001-1320-401-4000 - Town Attorney
 - d. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$3,000 from Heavy Duty Construction Forks Acct. #001-5015-999-9131 to Purchase Services - Tree Contract Acct. #001-5015-901-9023 - Public Works
4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda
5. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD
6. Consider and Approve a Waiver of Bid in the Amount of \$18,520 for a Design Change Order with Roberts & Juros, Incorporated for a New/Revised Design for the Pond Hill Road Bridge - Engineering
7. Consider and Approve a Waiver of Bid in an Amount Not to Exceed \$10,000 to Milone & MacBroom, Inc. To Undertake the Conceptual Design of the Proposed Pedestrian Bridge and Proposed Pedestrian Tunnel of the Quinnipiac River Linear Trail - Engineering
8. Discussion and Approval for the Board of Education to Apply for State Funding for the School Renovation Project - Board of Education
9. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Establishment of a Building Committee for the School Renovation Project - Board of Education

10. Discussion and Possible Action on a Recommendation that the Mayor Direct the Town Engineer to Perform a Cost Analysis on Renovation of Existing, and the Construction of Permanent, Rest Room Facilities at All Town-Owned Athletic Fields and Report Back to the Town Council with Results of the Analysis at the First Meeting of the Town Council in July as Requested by Councilor Geno J. Zandri, Jr.
11. Consider and Approve a Request to Approve the Proposed Name of "Argyle Road" for a New Road in the Fairlawn Farms Phase IX Subdivision as Requested by Attorney Joan Molloy on Behalf of Ravenswood Company, LLC.
12. Consider and Approve the Annual Bid Waiver List for F.Y. 1999-2000 - Mayor
13. SET A PUBLIC HEARING for June 22, 1999 at 7:45 P.M. to Approve a List of Municipal Projects and Corresponding Resolution to be Submitted to the State of Connecticut Under the Neighborhood Assistance Program - Program Planner
14. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$55,5167 from Regular Salaries & Wages Acct. #1401-101-1000 to Revaluation - Year 2 of 3 Acct. #1401-999-9909 - Comptroller
- Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-200(6)(B) of the CT. General Statutes with Respect to the Settlement of a Pending Workers Compensation Claim Involving Thomas Kuntz
16. Consider and Approve the Settlement of a Pending Workers Compensation Claim Involving Thomas Kuntz

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 8, 1999

6:30 P.M.

A regular meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was held on Tuesday, June 8, 1999 in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall and called to Order by Chairman Robert F. Parisi at 6:37 P.M. Councilors Centner, Farrell, Papale, Parisi, Rys, Zandri and Zappala answered present to the Roll called by Town Clerk Rosemary A. Rascati. Councilor Knight was absent due to vacation plans and Councilor Renda was ill. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Assistant Town Attorney, Gerald E. Farrell, Sr. and Comptroller Thomas A. Myers were in attendance.

A blessing was bestowed upon the Council by Deacon Wayne Griffin of the Church of the Resurrection.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the Flag.

ITEM #2 Correspondence - No items of correspondence were brought forth at this time.

ITEM #3 Consent Agenda

ITEM #3a Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#559-568) Totaling \$4,389.23 - Tax Collector

ITEM #3b Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$1,575 from Polyslides Acct. #001-4001-999-9919 to Informational Signage Acct. #001-4001-999-9954 - Parks & Recreation Dept.

ITEM #3c Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$2,000 from Self-Insurance Claims Acct. #001-8030-800-8280 to Office Supplies and Legal Expenses Acct. #001-1320-401-4000 - Town Attorney

ITEM #3d Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$3,000 from Heavy Duty Construction Forks Acct. #001-5015-999-9131 to Purchase Services - Tree Contract Acct. #001-5015-901-9023 - Public Works

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Approve the Consent Agenda, Items #3a-c, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

VOTE: Knight and Renda were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #4 Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

ITEM #3d Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$3,000 from Heavy Duty Construction Forks Acct. #001-5015-999-9131 to Purchase Services - Tree Contract Acct. #001-5015-901-9023 - Public Works

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Approve the Transfer, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

Mr. Zandri asked Henry McCully, Director of Public Works, how do you set a priority as to which trees are done first?

Mr. McCully responded, if I see a real bad tree or a dead tree or if a tree is reported; most trees are reported by residents and in my course in traveling around the town, I tag the trees. If it is a really bad tree, we can remove it immediately if I deem it a hazard. As the Tree Warden, I have that power. If it is an immediate hazard to the public we can bring a contractor in and take it down right away. Other than that I can tag the tree and it has to wait the seven days (before taking it down).

Mr. Zandri stated, there are three trees that I have noticed that are right in the center of town here that are dead. Not only are they an eyesore but they do pose a potential hazard. One is on Christian Street, I am not sure of the exact number.....

Mr. McCully replied, #47. It has been tagged and part of these funds are to take down some trees but I don't have the money to take them down.

Mr. Zandri explained, the other two (trees), one is on Ward Street just west where Boylan's used to be on the corner of Cherry and Ward, just west of it, a small tree, and there is another one on Orchard Street as you come up Ward and take a left on Orchard Street. There is a pretty good size tree there that is also dead.

Mr. McCully stated, as we speak, I have eleven trees that are dead and outstanding. There could be more added to the list. We are getting into the hot weather; Spring is over and we are starting to see the trees that are not going to make it this year.

Mr. Zandri stated, my recommendation would be to take a look at all these dead trees, I think those are the ones that could potentially pose a safety problem, and to bring back an estimate on costs. If you don't have the dollars then we should find them to make sure that we take care of them.

Mr. McCully stated, we are in year two of a three year bid and it is \$344 per tree for any size tree up to thirty-six inches (36").

Mr. Zandri asked, can I assume then that these trees are going to be done this year?

Mr. McCully answered, yes. The \$3,000 is not going to cover all of it...it will only give us eight trees. Some of those trees, like the one mentioned on Ward Street, a small maple, can wait until after July 1. That will be contracted out right away. I know the one on Christian Street; I want to get that one down. Choate has also just notified me of two trees by their crosswalk.

Mr. Zandri asked Mr. McCully to also check out the tree on Orchard because if it poses a safety problem, I think we should come up with the dollars.....

Mr. McCully stressed, if you ever see a dead or hazardous tree, don't hesitate to call the office (Public Works). We are a big town and I get a lot of information from residents on dead limbs, etc.

Frank Wasilewski, 57 N. Orchard Street asked, how much is budgeted for tree removal?

Mr. McCully replied, this year it is \$40,000. The previous year was \$35,000.

Mr. Wasilewski asked if Public Works works with the Electric Division on the tree removal?

Mr. McCully answered, the Electric Division helps us out from time to time with the trimming around the wires. They are more qualified to have the expertise to trim around the wires but they do not do removals.

Mr. Wasilewski stated, if you waited month until the new budget went into effect on July 1st, you would not need this \$3,000 would you?

Mr. McCully answered, that is correct.

Mr. Wasilewski stated, that is what I would do.

Reginald Knight, 21 Audette Drive asked, how long would you leave a hazardous tree up?

Mr. McCully answered, If I deemed it to be hazardous, it would be than maybe two or three days.

Reginald Knight stated, I have brought to the attention of the Town Council.....that it has been forty-five days at least on some that are marked hazardous, dangerous and dead and in areas which I am

concerned about because they are close to schools, crossings, etc. I think that is an awful long time. I have brought the issue up because of the danger and I was told that because of the price, we got an awful good deal from the contractor, Lutz.....I think you have to lien the price against the safety of children going to school. There was one that was marked dead and hazardous right near Moses Y. Beach.

Mr. McCully stated, I don't have a (tree) card with me but I don't believe it says anything about hazardous on it. It just says notice of tree removal. Notices inform the public that this tree will be removed and if they want to object to it they can contact the Public Works Department and they will be given a hearing. It does not say anything about being hazardous.

Reginald Knight disagreed, stating that the notice he brought in to show the Council had the word hazardous on it otherwise he would not have said it if it wasn't true. He brought to Mr. McCully's attention another situation which he felt warranted attention as soon as possible; as you descend N. Main Street Extension heading north towards Community Pool, there are several branches for at least one hundred yards that are protruding out into the roadway which block the view of the new traffic signal at the entrance of Community Pool.

Mr. McCully responded that all of those tree limbs have been cut today to allow the traffic a clear line of vision to the traffic signal.

Mr. Parisi stated, the light is not operating.

Reginald Knight was aware that the light was not operating. He was bringing it to Mr. McCully's attention so that when the light began operating, the motorists would be able to see it, he stated. He thanked Mr. McCully for having the limbs trimmed.

Mr. Parisi stated, the point is well-taken that you are better served if you have an observation on a tree that you call Public Works directly and they will respond as quickly as they can.

Lester Slie, 18 Green Street vouched for Mr. McCully that the limbs have been cut today for he was delayed in traffic while waiting for the trees to be trimmed.

VOTE: Knight and Renda were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Mike Brodinsky, 45 Valley View Drive asked, has Environmental Risk Limited started reviewing the report from the power company (PP&L) yet, does the Council know?

Mr. Parisi answered, I don't know.

Mayor Dickinson answered, I believe that Ray Smith (Director of Public Utilities) was going to turn over a copy of the report to them. I don't know if he has received reports sufficient to do that. Given that the Council has received their reports today, I assume that he has the report and it has been turned over but I have not talked to him.

Mr. Brodinsky asked, we are not sure, then, that is happening?

Mayor Dickinson answered, I am not sure of it because we were waiting for copies of the reports from PP&L.

Mr. Brodinsky asked, do we have a contract yet with Environmental Risk that is signed?

Mayor Dickinson answered, I do not know.

Mr. Brodinsky asked, would he (Mr. Smith) know that?

Mayor Dickinson answered, Ray (Smith) would know, yes.

Mr. Brodinsky asked, do you know the stage that it is in? Are we in contract negotiations or are we still.....

Mayor Dickinson answered, I don't know.

Mr. Brodinsky asked, is there a time which that will become available? Time is ticking off the clock as we all know and I guess we don't even have a contract yet. That would infer that they are not looking at the package if they have not signed a contract yet. That concern's me somewhat.

Mayor Dickinson replied, again, we just received copies for the Council today so it is a question of when copies sufficient to have a consultant review it were delivered to the Electric Division. Only one copy was given to the Town on Friday and we were waiting for additional copies. Friday was the first day and yesterday and today we had received additional copies.

Mr. Brodinsky stated, I think the newspaper said on Tuesday or thereabouts that your (Mayor's) office got it from the power company and then it was just a matter of getting copies, is that the only hold-up?

Mayor Dickinson replied, copies were delivered, I thought it was at the end of the week. I don't know that it was Tuesday or not but again, we are just receiving copies so I have no other knowledge about it other than that.

Mr. Brodinsky asked, is there a date by which you will know for sure when the contract for Environmental Risk Limited will be signed?

Mayor Dickinson answered, I will talk with Ray Smith. The Town Attorney's Office has received a proposed contract that has been given to Ray so he may have the best knowledge as to the status of it.

Robert Sheehan, 11 Cooper Avenue asked, when will the sixty days start? Was it Friday when the report was given to you?

Mayor Dickinson answered, I would....our argument would be that it did not start until this week but I don't know at what point the sixty days starts. I believe that is a time that the P.U.C.A., the State Public Utilities Commission, places on the process of approving an application to them. Their rules as to when the sixty days begins, I don't have their rules right now (confers with Asst. Town Attorney Gerald Farrell, Sr.). We don't have their rules with us.

Mr. Sheehan asked, has PP&L submitted their plan to the Siting Council or to the State yet?

Mayor Dickinson answered, as far as I know this is their report that they are submitting or have submitted.

Mr. Sheehan asked, and we don't know.....we have a debate as to when the sixty days start?

Mayor Dickinson answered, we only received copies today for the Council. The exact day, whether it was last Wednesday or Monday of this week, or today, I don't have an answer for that. We would have to probably talk with the State Public Utilities Commission; it is their process and procedure.

Sheehan asked, when do you plan on talking to them?

Mayor Dickinson answered, I will first talk with Ray Smith and find out what our actions will be and when we will be receiving information from our consultant.

Reginald Knight, 21 Audette Drive thanked Mayor Dickinson for a letter he had sent to him about the sweeping crews in Town and the cleaning of the catch basins that were supposed to be starting as of May 24th. I get around the whole east side quite a bit and I have not seen any crews as of yet. I see other forms of crews; public utilities crews but I don't see any cleaning out of catch basins or sweeping of the sand. In fact, if anyone wants to save the time going to the beach, they can come up to our local streets and the kids can play in the sand on the side of the road there. They will have quite a good time.

Mayor Dickinson stated, I know I saw the sweeper on Stevens Street or Sunrise Circle, in that area. Sweepers are on the east side but Mr. McCully would be the one to answer that question.

Reginald Knight stated that he has not seen the catch basin machine out for quite some time; quite a number of years ago.

With regards to the third meeting of the Council each month; the Public Speaking Meeting he asked, could the Public Speaking Meeting schedule be announced on the Government Access channel the same as all the other meetings?

Ms. Papale stated, the meeting is announced. On Mondays, the channel lists every meeting that is scheduled for every department for the entire week. It is publicized on Channel 20 as much as any other meeting is.

Reginald Knight stated, at the last Public Speaking Meeting there was practically no one here (Councilmembers). We had three people because two had left and three graciously stayed. I was told that there was not a quorum and that there is no need for a quorum at the third meeting because as it says on the paper the Town hands out that "no action will be taken". I think the Mayor, himself, had stated, it is an informational meeting where people are to bring forth their points of view, etc. Gradually the third meeting seems to be deteriorating and deteriorating and deteriorating. This is something that the Town put upon the people; the people did not ask for this.

Mr. Parisi responded, the meetings have not deteriorated. There was one meeting to which extenuating circumstances existed, you were apologized to profusely by myself. You were very smiling and very accepting; you understood; you agreed and then you chose to criticize the following

Reginald Knight replied, that is because I am not too swift; I have to go home and think about these things a while.

Mr. Parisi stated, I felt a slow, myself, with your criticism but I thought we tried to extend ourselves.

As far as the Council meeting goes; it is an official Council meeting; it has been scheduled as such and it requires a quorum to generate minutes.

Mayor Dickinson stated, as a scheduled meeting, there would have to be a quorum and it is posted as a regular meeting of the Council. It would require a quorum.

Mr. Parisi stated, and that night what we said was, because we did not have enough people, we would endeavorance to your attending, that those present would sit and listen to you and try to act on the items you brought up.

Reginald Knight asked, why would you require a quorum if there was no action being taken at the meeting?

Mr. Parisi stated, that meeting was an informational meeting because of the lack of a quorum.

Reginald Knight responded, it is supposed to be an informational input.

Mayor Dickinson explained, what Mr. Knight is pointing out is, since there are no items requiring action, it does not have to require a quorum. However, F.O.I. requires that any meeting of a public agency to be posted. For that meeting to take place, there has to be a quorum. Once there is a meeting scheduled, F.O.I. requires a posting and that is Freedom of Information and the quorum is necessary under our rules in order for any opening of a meeting and for minutes to be taken. To have an official meeting you must have a quorum under F.O.I., the posting of it makes it a meeting.

Reginald Knight stated, if we get passed all the legalese, the double-speak and the George Orwellian speech, perhaps just common niceness to have the meeting publicized and listen to the people. I think that was what the purpose of the meeting was and I think a little more aggressiveness in publicizing and having the people here is called for.

Frank Wasilewski, 57 N. Orchard Street asked Councilor Farrell if he ever got a report on the contamination on the old gas house?

Mr. Farrell replied, John Thompson, Town Engineer, continues to get periodic reports. I don't think there is anything final as of yet but I hear from him frequently about the scope of the project being changed. Is that accurate John?

Mr. Thompson replied, Yankee Gas is actually in the final phases of their testing. We met with them last Thursday and they were doing some additional borings on the site. They are expecting to have a

closure or remediation plan developed very shortly. They are moving ahead very slowly. It is an environmental problem and they want to take it very cautiously before they come up with a remediation plan.

Mr. Wasilewski stated, it is just my feeling that when they come out with the report, we may as well forget about Community Lake. All of that coal tar they have there can seep for miles; you'll never get rid of it.

Mr. Farrell stated, I am not sure that is accurate. As you know my family owned some adjoining property so I have some feel for how far it moves.

Mr. Wasilewski stated, as a child, I used to horse around down there so I know how much coal they had dumped all over the yard. I read the report on Adrian's Landing in Hartford. It is the same thing and they have said it has seeped three or four city blocks in Hartford. If it seeped that far in Hartford it will certainly seep that far in Wallingford. There is no stopping it. You cannot dig it out; it is just there.

Farrell replied, I am not a geologist but we are keeping an eye on it. Obviously, that is consideration for the senior center expansion and parking.

Mr. Wasilewski stated, with all the work that is being done on Quinnipiac Street by the State; all the money that is being spent to beautify the area and what upsets me is what they are doing with the traffic light stantions. It does not make sense for us to be beautifying the area and they are destroying it with traffic light stantions. Especially where they put the big pole right in the middle of the garden that the ladies are planting. There is one right in front of the gazebo. Something should have been done about that with the State.

Mr. Parisi answered, Wallingford Center, through Officer Doll, tried to address the issue. The State Traffic Division would not consider anything less than where it was installed.

Mr. Wasilewski stated, we are spending \$1,000 to get rid of four electric poles on Quinnipiac Street. To drive up to that, it doesn't do the Town any good. Especially where it is getting to look pretty good.

Mayor Dickinson stated, the original design called for the location of the poles where they are now being placed. The effort was to move the control box for the lights from the area in front of the gazebo off to the side. That was accomplished and the location of the poles were changed.

Mr. Thompson added, we had to have the poles on the park side of the intersection. We needed a traffic signal support appurtenance. It is a very tall post which will accommodate a street light; it has to support the traffic signals and we tried to clean up that corner of the intersection as much as possible by having a single post to accommodate all of the traffic devices. Everything else from that corner is going to be removed; the existing pedestals, the street light pole, the traffic controller. That corner, even though it will still have a traffic structure, it will be significantly cleaner than what it is currently today.

Mr. Wasilewski asked, can we paint the posts green to go with the.....

Mr. Thompson continued, as Mr. Parisi said, we did try....we spent five years fighting a battle with the State on the design of this. They were very rigid and very inflexible on the guidelines they gave us. To answer your question, there was not a real opportunity to have green span poles or some other color span poles.

Wasilewski stated, I think the representatives from Wallingford in Hartford are letting us down. They should have spoken up for Wallingford. He suggested to the Council, when considering PP&L's proposal, read in the Charter, Chapter XIV, Public Utilities, Section III, Contracts, Leases and Agreements, a legal opinion on this paragraph should come from one of our attorneys in Wallingford before they sign anything.

Mayor Dickinson stated, I do not want to leave on the record that our representatives and senator were derelict. I don't believe they were contacted in any effort to change the regulatory operational standards of the D.O.T. As a result of Mr. Wasilewski's comment; for us to get calls and say, "gee, you never contacted us", it was not that kind of a battle that we should involve our legislators.

Mr. Wasilewski stated, I make frequent calls to our legislators in Hartford but I don't get too many answers or results from them.

The Chair declared the Public Question and Answer Period closed at this time.

ITEM #6 Consider and Approve a Waiver of Bid in the Amount of \$18,520 for a Design Change order with Robert and Juros Inc. For a New Revised Design for the Pond Hill Road Bridge.

Mr. Rys stated, the project was initiated in the Spring of 1995 and was awarded to Robert and Juros, Inc. The initial design fee of \$15,900. Subsequently on August 18, 1995 the contract was amended by \$11,390. A Change order for additional hydraulic analysis and evaluation. The total value of the design contract at that time was \$28,290. In early 1999 the project was re-activated along with new directions to the designer to prepare biddable contract documents that do not require property takings.

The negotiated price for this additional work is \$18,520. producing a current total contract design fee of \$46,810.

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

Mr. Farrell stated, I think I asked you at budget session about this bridge, it is a hot topic in that neighborhood and that we are trying to come up with a design solution that everyone is going to be happy with; are we still doing that?

John Thompson, Town Engineer replied, I hope. We have met with all of the abutters, we have releases from each of them and they have seen the design plans that we have prepared so at least each of the abutting property owners liked the concept that we are proposing. We are having a public meeting on this next Monday night so if any of the other public has additional comments on it they will have an opportunity to bring it to our attention at that time. We have down-scaled the design to have all the work be accomplished within the available public right-of-way. We have attempted to make it more locally-sensitive than it might have been previously.

Mr. Farrell asked, can you send us a copy of it because I can understand what Mr. Wasilewski is saying that, the poles that sprouted overnight down on the green were a surprise to me. Sometimes we need to keep a firmer handle on the design of these things just so we know what is going on.

Mr. Thompson agreed to send the Council copies of the plans.

Mr. Zandri stated, what concerned me on this was, the lapse of time here. This project was awarded back in 1995 and one of the reasons for the additional cost is not only the change in design, and I am curious as to why we are doing that, but also because we are having to start this project over again because such a long span of time has lapsed. Why didn't this move right along from the beginning? Why such a long period of time?

Mr. Thompson explained, when the project was initiated under my predecessor in 1995 it was under the local bridge program. Initially when the design was started and the hydraulics were done we came up with a certain size bridge. That bridge had impacts on the abutting properties and we, the town, was unsuccessful in getting the abutting property owners to buy into that process. We don't use eminent domain to acquire property for public purposes for bridge projects. Whether it is right or wrong, the philosophy at that time was that we were not going to do it. When John Costello (Former Town Engineer) ran into the problem of the private property issues, this bridge, as with many of the others, fell into a state of no advancement. When I came on board a year and one-half or so ago, I tried to re-activate some of the local bridges. This was not the first priority. We tried a couple of others and we ran into the same issues with prior property acquisition. This bridge, because as

Councilor Farrell indicated, was a hot topic and we received letters from D.O.T. that we needed to take some positive action, I went back to the designer and said, "we need to do something different. We have got to fix this bridge, we have got to make it safe and we have to restore it to its capability of passing traffic." That was a directive from me to the designer to re-activate the work but to do it differently than had been done in the past. It was literally a three and one-half year lapse where there was no activity what so ever on this. I started the process again after running into obstacles on others and we seemed.....this one was critical; as I said, getting letters from D.O.T. that we had to do something and we did do something. Now we are prepared to go out to bid within the next week or so and hopefully go to construction during the dry spell in August when the river is at its lowest level.

Mr. Zandri asked, is this one of the bridges that is one the State's list of in need of work?

Mr. Thompson answered, yes.

Mr. Zandri asked, since the original design has been reduced, are we compromising anything because of the stumbling block of the acquisition of land?

Mr. Thompson replied, nothing in terms of hydraulics or traffic carrying capability. The bridge is still going to carry two lanes of traffic, it will have a sidewalk on each side and it is still going to be able to pass a one hundred year flood. It is just not going to have some of the amenities, the wing-walls, the specialty elements that were included in the original design that took it onto private property. We have scaled back the design in order to avoid the need for private property acquisition.

Mr. Zandri asked, are you moving forward in the same direction on some of the other bridges in town, even if it is a scaled-down version in order to move along? I know there is more than one bridge that is on that State list.

Mr. Thompson answered, there are six other bridges that are on that list. Yes, we are doing it however, it is a very, very time-consuming process. I have to personally meet with each of the abutters to get them to buy into this process. It has taken some time but we are moving ahead. We are still running into some very serious delays in terms of other bridges that we just can't scale back enough. We may have to explore some other strategies. We are looking at all seven.

Mr. Zandri stated, I would really like to see an emphasis put on this because, again, we are talking about a potential safety problem with these bridges. We have heavy fire vehicles that have to negotiate throughout the town and I want to make sure that all these bridges are up to par. What ever you have to do to prioritize this, I feel that this is important.

Mr. Thompson stated, this bridge was the highest priority in terms of safety. We were going to have to do some extraordinary measures of prohibiting trucks and buses from crossing the bridge if we did not go ahead with a plan to rehabilitate it. The State brought it to our attention on a regular basis through the Mayor's Office so we are going after it on a prioritized basis where the need is most evident.

Reginald Knight, 21 Audette Drive asked where, precisely, the bridge is located?

Mr. Thompson replied, it is right off of S. Elm Street as you are traveling out to the school complex.

VOTE: Knight and Renda were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #7 Consider and Approve a Waiver of Bid Not to Exceed \$10,000 to Milone & McBroom, Inc. To Undertake the Conceptual Design of the Proposed Pedestrian Bridge and Proposed Pedestrian Tunnel of the Quinnipiac River Linear Trail - Engineering

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

Mr. Zandri asked, why are we waiving the bid? Is this a specialty item? Is that the reason?

John Thompson, Town Engineer replied, we have a contract with them already and there is money appropriated for this project and it was not included in the original specification that went through the standard procurement process. What I was trying to do was take advantage of having an existing consulting firm already working on a project and just have them continue to provide some engineering services in terms of estimating how to go about best doing this.

Mr. Farrell stated, I have noticed that some of the iron truss bridges that around the State are for sale. Would we avoid any of this cost if we acquired one of those?

Mr. Thompson answered, better than being for sale, a resident of the Town of Wallingford has offered us some truss members at no cost. Part of the problem of accepting structural members from any offer is that someone has to be responsible for the structural integrity of those and sometimes to assess the structural integrity of a fifty year old truss or a one hundred year old truss is actually more costly than going out and buying a new wooden structure that would accomplish the same thing. That is not to say that we would not explore or consider it. One of the things that the consultant might do on this is evaluate the offer that has been made by the resident, as I indicated, of using those trusses.

Mr. Farrell stated, Clinton has a full-sized iron truss bridge that they would.....

Mr. Thompson asked, the singing bridge?

Mr. Farrell answered, yes, the singing bridge, as it was advertised as recently.

Mr. Thompson commented, I am not sure we would want to take that on.

Mr. Zappala stated, this Council does not like to waive bids. I hope since we are at the beginning of this endeavor or project that is why we are being asked to waive a bid but I hope we don't finish the way we started because I don't think it will go too far with this Council. I understand why you need the waiver now but.....

Mr. Thompson responded, as we go further on in this project and into the next phase of the project, if we go forward with design and construction, we may, in fact, have to come back to you and ask for a bid waiver. The reason for that is we will be using State and Federal monies for the design and construction of the next phase of the trail. The State and Federal regulations specifically preclude procurement of professional services through a bidding process. In order to capture these \$1 million federal funds that are available, I may have to come back to you and ask for a bid waiver.

Mr. Zappala stated, I think it is in the best interest to be able to get out there and get people involved in the business to be able to bid on anything the project is going to call for.

Mr. Thompson answered, I think part of the misunderstanding of coming to you and asking for a bid waiver is that we are arbitrarily walking away and then going out and selecting a firm. The bid waiver that we asked for does not do that at all. What it does is transfer from Part A/Part B selection process to a Part A solely. We select a firm based on a very specific evaluation criteria, on their qualifications and then you negotiate a price. You are not taking away any part of the system, you are just following a different avenue to get to the end result of procuring someone for those services. I understand what you are saying.

VOTE: Knight and Renda were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #8 Discussion and Approval for the Board of Education to Apply for State Funding for the School Renovation Project - Board of Education

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Approve the Board Applying for State Funding, seconded by Ms. Papale.

Dr. Joseph Cirsuolo, Superintendent of Schools stated, after we were close to completing the project that involved Yalesville and the two middle schools, we began to look at the needs of the buildings

that were not touched and also the middle schools in terms of renovation. The administration waited until we had three years in a row where our student population projections indicated that we would not need additional space because if we did, the administration would not have recommended to the Board a renovation project, we would have had to worry about something else. Once that became clear, we took a look at our building with the following criteria in mind; first, we did not include to what we recommended to the Board, anything that we had already planned to accomplish within the next five years within the operating budget. As some of you know we had the five year maintenance plan for each building and a five year capital improvement plan. We figured anything that could be done within that five year period, it wouldn't be right to come before the Council and ask for a supplemental project for that. In addition, we took a look at basic system problems within the building that you couldn't accomplish in any operating budget, they are just too expensive to address. Third, we took a look at needs that were there because of the way in which we teach, the way in which children learn.....and improvements since the buildings were built.....some alterations were needed for that, and then finally, we did need to accommodate for space for our special services programs. The reason for that is, when the Board put together the project we completed a couple of years ago, there was not a decision made at that time to reduce class size in the early grades, kindergarten, grades one and two. With the decision made to do that, to go from a maximum of twenty-five to twenty, the room that we would have had available to us for pupil personnel services (social workers, school psychologists) was all that was available. You will see in this proposed project some additional space for those staff members so that they will not have to work on stages and in closets and corridors, etc. A major part of the project in terms of structural improvement at every elementary school except Yalesville is a new library media center. Yalesville is not included in this project at all. An example of a basic systems problem that we have is the need for the capacity to have greater electrical power in every building but Yalesville. With the technology that we had brought into the schools, we simply are right up against the capacity of the buildings. In fact, in the last couple of days with the air conditioning running the way it is and with the computers operational, we have had a couple of instances of shut downs that we have had to work around. The project is not being proposed because the judgment was made that the buildings are in poor shape. The project is not being proposed because the Town Council, the Mayor, the Board of Education, the Administration did not adequately fund maintenance. That has happened for ten years. We have spent close to \$2 million a year on maintenance. I think our buildings would compare favorably to any school buildings in the state and around the country as well. No matter how well you maintain a building on an annual basis, there are times you have to address some larger building issues. There are instructional issues to be addressed as well as some space issues. All of that worked around those criteria and the Administration made a proposal to the Board of Education and at that point Mrs. Corsetti can tell you what the Board did.

Patricia Corsetti, Chairperson, Board of Education stated, it was in a master plan to reduce class sizes but the Board felt very important that we not only do kindergarten this year but we also do first grade.

Many studies have been done on the importance of smaller class sizes in the earlier grades; the benefits far outweigh anything that could not benefit it. The learning process is so much better. That is why the Board moved up the plan to reduce the class size in first grade this year. When the Administration proposed the plan, the Board, I felt, did its homework. We visited all the schools, we had five operation committee meetings with the principals and went through the plan detail by detail. I, too, feel our schools are in excellent shape. These are just projects that cannot be done within a capital budget nor our maintenance budget. Our schools are fit, they are maintained well and they are safe for our children to attend. Like the Superintendent said, the issue of doing it, the expense of doing it (project) within our capital budget and the fact that we are changing instruction, the Board felt the need to move this plan forward. We thanked those Councilors who joined the tours of the schools on Saturday. We appreciate it.

Dr. Cirasuolo added, when ever you do a project of this type, the State of Connecticut requires you to update the buildings for every code that is in existence. My impression is, of the \$46 million price tag, approximately \$17 million was estimated for code renovations.

Gerald Powers, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor replied, I am not sure of the exact figure but it is somewhere around there. I definitely put a figure in for every school that we are looking at to update ventilation, A.D.A. code, fire codes, etc.

Mr. Zandri stated, I had the opportunity this past weekend to tour three of the schools and there is a definite need for this renovation project from what I have seen. I feel that the school system needs this upgrade. I think that Yalesville School sets the example of the way all the town elementary schools should be. I was very supportive of the Yalesville school and middle school projects and I will also be supportive of this particular endeavor the Board is undertaking for bringing all of the schools up to par. It is my understanding that the State shares in the cost. What is the percentage that they share in?

Dr. Cirasuolo responded, the share that Wallingford qualifies for is a little less than fifty-five percent but like any project, there will be some items that are not eligible for reimbursement. At this point we are estimating that of the total cost of the project, the State will reimburse the Town fifty percent. We will know better if we get to the point where an architect is hired and actually gives us professional estimates.

Mr. Zandri stated, you said at the beginning, correct me if I am wrong, that you did not include capital improvement plans that are in your normal five year plan. Should we take a second look at that seeing that the State is picking up fifty percent and try to include some of those (projects) in this project since it would definitely be a cost advantage to the community if we can get the State to help us out on those things we are going to do over the next five years anyway?

Dr. Cirsuolo answered, there is a financial advantage but our concern is, by the time we go through the approval processes, the design of the project, the actual construction....it will take five years to do that so we would have a whole bunch of items that we could get accomplished over the next five years that just won't be done. All of those things need to be done. Instead of postponing them, our preference was to go ahead and do them out of the regular budget.

Mrs. Corsetti added, the Board felt that it would see the capital plan go on as normal. Anything that is in this plan, we felt are items that we could not do within that capital budget and we wanted to make sure those were items we were addressing in this plan as opposed to do it in the five year plan.

Mr. Zandri asked that the Board and Administration give the suggestion a second look. You are saying this will take five years. I hope that somehow we can accelerate that because I would like to see this entire process done in the shortest amount of time. We are affecting the school children of Wallingford and I want to address the project as soon as possible. If you can accelerate the project in any way, I encourage you to do so.

Dr. Cirsuolo stated, we all would like to but a couple of factors that need to be kept in mind is, first of all, it is going to take a couple of years just to get to construction; just to get through the approval and design process. In every instance we will be working on schools that are occupied every day. That slows down a lot of what you can do. A lot of it has to be postponed until vacation periods. Realistically, we will try and move it along but realistically, it is going to take about five years. A lot of that and even the issue of, do you take things that are planned for the next five years and include them in the project, would be reviewed if the Council agrees to establish a building committee. Those issues go before the building committee, they then come back to both the Board and Council with their thoughts and recommendations and those issues get revisited again.

Mr. Zandri stated, my only point is, if we can incorporate some of those (capital improvements) and if we can obviously get some State help to finance that, we would be better off. That is why I ask that you take a second look at it.

Mr. Centner stated, for those of you who are not aware, I was on the Board of Education about four years ago and I served on the building committee from the past completed project. However, with this particular proposal, I am feeling unfairly pressed here. I have received the documentation; I heard word about it at one of our dinners we had for the scholar's banquet and I have received this information just about a week ago. I am kind of concerned with this particular application because it could be conceivably the largest project the Town has ever undertaken. Looking at this, and I am aware that the final cost will be tuned in as it is conducted out but my concern is, approving this application.....the project comes to \$43 million plus architectural fees and others, could be as close to

\$50 million with \$6 million worth of other fees, means endorsing the \$43-50 million package. Going on what I have heard and what you have stated earlier, I am in agreement that things need to be done to the schools. Currently there are eleven schools that are shown on the list.....to go with your statement of needing updating of the HVAC, safety lighting, public address systems, alarms, etc., I have no difficulty with that at all. What I did was spent the weekend reviewing the Board budgets, looked at items you had in repair and maintenance, 4300 account, through the past couple of years; what has been accomplished and what has been left open, what has been moved here to a capital standing from maintenance, and I don't fully agree with all of it at this point in one program. What I would be able to support would be staying close to keeping those buildings current with their basic needs systems and things. The other items considered such as the media centers and other expanded programming space, I am not comfortable with only having a day or two. Unfortunately, I missed your walk through for the three schools. I did receive the notification on June 3rd and unfortunately I conduct the CT. Trails Day at the Lake so I missed it. What I actually did was look through the proposal and by looking at all of what is proposed for each school; the \$8.5 million for Lyman Hall, I would not have a problem approving \$3.7 million and so on and so on and the way I felt was, right now I can be in a position to approve application for somewhere between \$10-15 million worth of renovations. The \$43-50 million price tag right now without having the ability to get more specific data.....I feel kind of pressed because I am aware of the June 30th deadline that is driving this. But even the past building project that we had took five years to get the thing off the ground. I was part of it and we were working with the Mayor and when we did get it going it actually finished out higher than what we expected. It was targeted for a \$30 million project but closed at \$27 million which was good but initial feelings were somewhere between \$14-16 million. What I am getting kind of concerned with is, between \$43-50 million, by saying yes and applying today and having it end up somewhere around \$50 million, I can't do that today, I just can't. I looked through this and did a pretty thorough study and I read your five year plan. I would rather just support the fact that we need to do a program and get more specific data and then just apply when the data is a little more accurate and appropriate. I can take reference to a couple of items, they are with the code updates, the A.D.A. (Americans with Disabilities Act), the electrical; it is in the millions of dollars per school. Then within each school there is an electrical study required which is a \$100,000 study times eleven schools which equals \$1.1 million. We get hammered up here when we spend \$18,000 or \$19,000 for a consultant. We put \$18,000 against the golf course that has been kicking around for ten years. We just backed up our consultant with a second opinion for the power plant. Unfortunately, I am just not ready to say yes, I would like to approve this one. I would like to approve one that had some consultants look in on and fine tune because a \$10.00 per square foot number.....times all the square feet in our entire educational district is a huge number. Whether we need it or not? We might but right now I am standing back and the schools are quite large; it is a per square foot number for all buildings in the district.

Dr. Cirsuolo replied, there has been public discussion of this project for almost one year. We had some discussion at the last Board of Education/Council Liaison Meeting about it. We had hoped to schedule one before this meeting but could not do so. The estimates that you are receiving are very much ball park estimates. They are based on the best that the staff could do; Gerry (Powers) could do. Without incurring any costs for engineers, consultants and people of that type. We did not incur those costs because if the process goes forward as it did last time, it would be the building committee that would make a decision, with the approval of the Town Council, as to whether those consultants, engineers, and so on were necessary. There are two reasons we put a dollar figure there; one is that we had to do something to explain to people what you think the cost might be and secondly, we have to apply to the State with some dollar figure. That application does not commit the Town to anything. It does not commit the Town to the project. It does not commit it to the cost of the project. Really, all the Board is asking the Council tonight to do is to give the Board permission to get the ball rolling on this. This is exactly what we did with the project that you worked on. The Board approved the project at about the same time in 1992 that the Board approved this project this year and it was in the fall of 1992 that the Town Council gave the Board permission to apply for the funding knowing full well that everything I have just said about the estimates here were said then. You are quite right, the actual cost of the project came in higher than the estimates in that case. All we are trying to do is get the ball rolling. The issues you are referring to, what should be in the project, what should not be in the project....if the Council goes along with this motion and the next one, would be considered by the building committee. They would have to come back before action was taken to do any substantial work on the design. The building committee would need the approval of the Board and the Town Council on the scope of the project. Basically, what the administration tried to do for the Board and the Board is trying to do for the Council is to give you some idea of the scope of what we think we are dealing with. I hope that makes you feel more comfortable with moving forward on that.

Mrs. Corsetti added, please feel free to make an appointment with the principals and tour the schools yourself. I know it was a rush date on Saturday and people had prior commitments but please visit the schools to see for yourselves, maybe it will give you a better idea.

Mayor Dickinson stated, at the point that we have an architect more definite costs can be derived. At that point an analysis as to tax impact, etc., becomes possible. At this point it is nothing real sure. When that occurs then everyone makes a judgment about what the impact is or isn't and we move forward. I do see this the same way; this is a first step in a lengthy process. It may be too lengthy in many ways but it does give a chance for that analysis occur as information becomes more and more certain.

Mr. Centner replied, I agree and I have never disagreed that the buildings need some updating in terms of their systems. That is not in disagreement with me at all. What it is is, I have some principle

areas here and because they are on this list, I don't know why they would be on this list if they weren't, maybe possibly looking to be put in the scope. But there are a number of items in here that I just can't agree with and are quite expensive. On a couple of schools there is house acquisitions and more property. There are additional fields; there is one field at Sheehan, the track. What happened there? We put \$250,000 in that field only a couple of years ago due to drainage problems.

Mr. Powers answered, that would be in the five year plan and if it is that is one reason why it is not here.

Dr. Cirasuolo added, we are talking about an all-weather surface at the Sheehan track. That would be very similar to what is at Lyman Hall.

Mr. Centner stated, the original track fields went under with the poor drainage.

Mr. Powers explained, if you look at Sheehan High School (project proposal) down the bottom says, "track - new, \$400,000."

Mr. Centner asked, so you want an additional new track with.....

Mr. Powers replied, not an additional track, it would be updating the current pea stone track that they have and enlarging it and the surface will be different. In order to do that they may have to lose some of the bleachers and enlarge that existing field.

Dr. Cirasuolo stated, the house acquisition you referred to I believe has to do with the Moses Y. Beach list. What we have given you there is a worst case scenario in order to acquire more parking space. Actually the tour that we took on Saturday, we saw some other options for that and in all likelihood will make it unnecessary to acquire any private property. It is desirable not to do that for many reasons, financial being one of them; other reasons as well. As we took a look at the area behind Moses Y. Beach, most of us concluded that there would be another way to add parking there without having to acquire any houses. That kind of process is what the Mayor just referred to; the more the process gets looked at, the more it gets refined. We are hoping to get the ball rolling tonight if we can.

Mr. Centner stated, that is my point; I feel a little pressed here. I am not going to argue that it wasn't going on in the Board of Education activities for a year. I heard it at a dinner just a few months ago and this is the first real hard data that I got. It includes, and when we are talking media centers, that is one thing or another, but to do a media center at Moses Y. Beach is a better than \$2 million program because of the program. It cannot support a media center.

Dr. Cirusuolo replied, you need new construction, yes.

Mr. Centner continued, ordinarily, I guess what I feel is, on that kind of item for programming space versus the other basic service needs, is where we get committees, consultants and decide whether we should abandon the building or not. You are putting \$5.7 million into a building where conceivably the parking may never ever work. Do you know what I am saying in that respect? It is a lot of evaluation in my opinion.

Dr. Cirusuolo answered, we could have looked at that but I do know that I can give you a ball park figure right now that a new elementary school, all by itself is \$35 million. I did not think I could recommend that in good conscience to the Board of Education. I propose that there is some formula somewhere that says, after you put a certain amount of money into an old building you should build a new one, but that formula presumes that the money for the new building is somehow available. How we can justify \$35 million for a new school and doing the renovations at all the other schools that you don't close up, I found that difficult to support.

That is why we went the route we did. Moses Y. Beach, to have an adequate media center there is expensive but I could not make a recommendation to the Board that everyone else is going to have a media center except the children who attend Moses Y. Beach. That is why it is there.

Mr. Centner stated, I guess that is where there are principal disagreements and it just shocked me to learn that we completed an almost completely new Yalesville School in just two and one-half to three years ago for \$10.8 million and it is now better than triple that amount.

Dr. Cirusuolo replied, if you built a new elementary school a few years ago it would have cost \$35 million. That was a renovation project which reduced the cost considerably; there was no site acquisition that had to take place. In fact, when the Board looked at whether it should propose or renovate Yalesville or a new elementary school back in 1992, the Board decided to suggest and recommend a renovated Yalesville purely on the basis of cost, which is about one-third what it would have cost to build a new school. We had cost estimates to build a new school.

Mr. Centner stated, at this point, because of how I feel with this proposal and where it is going is, tonight, I am going to abstain because I just can't get a comfortable feeling. I would rather sit and see more specific numbers as they appear and then I will vote yes or no as the numbers are more fine-tuned in the program. That is the only way I can be comfortable with it. Thank you.

Ms. Papale thanked Dr. Cirusuolo, Mr. Powers and the principals who did take Saturday morning off to give us the tours. I had the opportunity of touring Moses Y. Beach and to Rock Hill School. I have not been in these schools for a long time. I got a pretty good idea of the problems that are in the schools. If I just looked at this list, I would be appalled or shocked at the amount of money because I always feel that you have to see what it is all about. I am not sure I will agree with everything that is in this renovation project now but I do know that what I saw in those two schools....things have to be done there. There was one classroom that was not much bigger than where Mr. Zandri and I are sitting and there was a teacher there.....I don't know how anyone could apply themselves for one minutes. We are lacking classrooms. To me, these are the important things to this project. I am not saying that when the time comes I would think the media centers are not very important; I know we have to move with the technology of the times but there were many things in these two schools that I saw that really concern me. I know we have to perform code updates; the lockers don't lock. With everything that is going on all over the country, how do you go into school and the lockers don't lock? I thought that was terrible that the lockers did not lock. Am I right Mr. Powers? The lockers at Moses Y. Beach.....the locks were broken or.....?

Mr. Powers replied, I don't believe they have locks on them, Iris. I am not absolutely sure of that.

Ms. Papale replied, something was wrong with the lockers.

Mr. Powers stated, some of them don't close.

Ms. Papale stated, so that means the locks are broken and they cannot close?

Mr. Powers answered, absolutely.

Ms. Papale continued, there were just small things I saw with my own eyes....we all have so many things in our lives to do but I hope that the other Councilors could tour the schools. I know we can't see all of them; I only saw two; Bobby (Parisi) saw two; Geno happened to be able to see three....

Ms. Corsetti stated, that is a good point because the Councilors have always attended the school functions; we see them there all the time; Board members are at the schools all the time, but until you really look do you really see. We are in the cafeteria or we are in an auditorium for an event but you don't see where a speech pathologist is trying to teach or a gifted program or other things until you really start looking. What you saw in those two schools are happening

in all the elementary schools. As an active Board member, and I feel I am in the schools often, until you start to look down the list at everything, it really starts to sink in.

Ms. Papale stated, first of all we could finish up lower than the estimate that you gave; you don't always finish higher. If we vote yes to apply for the state funding for the renovation project and then we go out to bid for the architects and they do their work; we don't have to o.k. this project. I think it is important tonight that we give the people in Wallingford a chance to see what the Board of Education can offer for the amount of money.....all we are doing right now is to apply for the state funding. We do have a time limit in which to do that, June 30th?

Dr. Cirasuolo replied, if we are going to get into the funding cycle in a way where we can get a building committee together and work with an architect, it will be a lot easier for us to get in by June 30th otherwise it postpones everything a year.

Ms. Papale commented, I would like to see an architect get in there, come back and give us a price and then the decisions could be made. I visited two schools and saw probably only one-tenth in each school because we were all limited on time. The lighting; just the things that I see through layman's eyes; I have no clue about architects and buildings. That is why I have to visit and ask questions of Mr. Powers. I am hoping that we will vote yes on this item and the next, then we can see what happens.

Mr. Zappala stated, I was unable to tour the schools Saturday because some people have to work for a living. It happened to be a busy day for me and I could not possibly come. I was able to go yesterday to visit some of the schools and I think, during the school hours I saw things that probably others missed. I saw things that did not exist when I went to school fifty-five years ago in Sicily which was a very poor country. I was able to see a teacher teaching a couple of children in a hallway and at the same time they are being taught, a classroom of children went through the hallway. I hate to see that happen in Wallingford. I would like to see all the schools to be as equally nice as Yalesville School but we know it is almost impossible. But the condition of some of the schools today.....I am shocked that the Fire Marshal does not do something about it. Yesterday was very hot and you could experience the odors that existed in some of the schools. I definitely support the possibility of hiring or forming a committee to see what has to be done. We are not talking about dollars right now. There is a desperate need that certain things have to be done in the system. The buildings are old, we all know that.....I think regardless of where the children in Wallingford live, they should have equal opportunities in everything. The way I saw Moses Y. Beach school yesterday, I felt bad about it; very bad. I support forming a committee to see what we have to do to bring our schools up to date.

Mr. Farrell stated, while I do understand some things Mr. Centner is saying about some of the items that are the multi-page list that you gave us, my feeling this evening is that I don't want to lose a whole year on this project. The day to get into the specifics and talk about them is not today, it is at a future date. It makes a lot of sense to give you the ability to go forward tonight rather than make this a six year project as opposed to a five year project. I will vote in favor of this, this evening.

Mr. Rys stated, I may not agree with the figure that I see here but I am also aware of what you have indicated to us; this is not a figure in stone, it is a preliminary estimate. I would like to see the project move forward. Let's get some figures, let's get them back to the Council and get the building committee and then we will make the hard decision on what we are going to do; it is as simple as that.

Mr. Parisi stated, I agree with both sides. It is the start of a long process and tonight is the easiest vote that will take place in this entire process because nothing is for sure. The \$46 million is not for sure or anything else. We can be very comfortable tonight, supporting this. I have a question that I wish I had thought of on Saturday (while touring the school) and I hope I don't embarrass anyone by asking this; it is a one year cycle for funding and my question is, why we would get it in June with the deadline June 30th and it seems there is not much latitude for the Council. We feel like we are pressed against the wall.

Dr. Cirasuolo answered, I did not go to the Board of Education until I had the student population projections done in October. Then the Board went through.....

Mrs. Corsetti interrupted to say that she would speak for the Board stating, the Board went through this process extremely carefully. We did not want to come before the Council unless we felt extremely comfortable and the Board, too, felt that it was not the time....it was hard not to put a figure on things. It is hard to say that we need something without putting a figure on it but at the time the Board felt that we needed to address what we feel we need. We had five Operations Committee Meetings with every principal. We did take our time because we were not really sure if we were going to bring this forward and we wanted to make sure that if we did we were really educated. Again, at your convenience, take the time if you need or want to, to go through the schools. The principals will give you the tours and go through the list. The Board really wanted to be very, very sure.

Mr. Parisi stated, the only observation I would make is, in the future the sequence should be kept in mind because coming at this time to try to get through the schools and make a decision is difficult. I don't have a problem supporting this but you look at things and ask, how can we do it better? One procedure in this process that would improve considerably the Council's

ability to deal with it would be that we start it and present it a little bit sooner so that we would have more of a leisurely pace, if you will, to get everyone together so that we could tour the schools. Some of the Councilors are unable to be there because of seasonal work schedules and what ever...

Dr. Cirasuolo stated, that is a point well-taken and I am sure that the next time the Board proposes a \$50 million project, they will do it sooner. We have no plans for future projects.

Mr. Parisi stated, I make that as an observation and not a criticism.

Mayor Dickinson asked, at what point would the General Assembly approve the project for funding? What is your anticipation for the ideal schedule?

Cirasuolo answered, the 2001 legislative session. For the project to be considered in the year 2000, the building committee would have to hire an architect, a lot of the design phase would have to be done, votes would have to be taken by Council and Board of Education all before next October or November. That is not realistic. If the Council does not approve the application by June 30th any funds that are expended for architects in the next year are not reimbursable. I think the plan will be that the building committee will go to the State in the year 2000; this would be a priority one project because it qualifies as that; the State Department of Education would recommend approval to the legislature, the legislature would approve it in the spring of 2001 and by this time, if all goes according to plan and there are approvals all along, there would also be an actual bid price obtained on the construction so that both decisions at the State are going to be "yes" and the local decision, which will be the topic of discussion, will take place in the spring of 2001.

Cynthia Seaver, Amy Lane stated, I have two children in Wallingford public schools; one in Lyman Hall and one attends Rock Hill School. With regards to my daughter attending Rock Hill School, my daughter is required to do searches on the internet and research topics at the age of eight years. She is going to be tested on that next year in the CT. Mastery Test and those tests are publicized and we are compared to other towns so the scores are important; my daughter's education is important. When she goes to the library at Rock Hill School, it is such a small room that when she tries to do searches, her whole class is in there trying to learn how to do these searches and other children are coming in to borrow or return books. My neighbor just did a project and was required to make a commercial and was in need of a video camera. That was available to him in the school. The materials are available to our children but the space is really a problem. It is a shame to shut down the library because one class is doing a search and it is a shame not to let a class go and learn how to do searches for projects they have to do

because children need to borrow books. I recommend that you go and visit (the schools) during a school day to really see how these children are fitting in these small spaces and the creative, wonderful tasks they are being required to do as part of the system. Please support it (the project).

Mr. Parisi replied, I think we are all going to support it if we get to vote on it, so let's keep that in mind, O.K.?

Alex Goodin, Sophomore at Lyman Hall High School stated, I can only speak to Lyman Hall as far as this plan is concerned because that is the school I am familiar with. I realize that \$8.5 million is a tremendous amount of money but to experience some of the conditions at Lyman Hall first hand, the school is definitely in need of renovations. Anyone who was in that school today in this heat and trying to pay attention to anything, I am sure, can convey that to anyone. Some of the various problems that have happened there; our band room has had numerous inspections performed and the decibel level in the room has been deemed unsafe by a lot of the tests conducted there. We have

science labs; a tremendously low number of them, present in our school and much of the equipment that is used there is not up to the level of a lot of the things that you hear about or read about in the newer schools such as Yalesville and even the renovations that took place in the middle schools recently. I would just like to say that I feel the Council needs to get the ball rolling on this. Obviously, specifics are not known, but to not want to look into this....changes need to be made and specifics need to be looked into. This plan should definitely move on to the next level if only because just in my two years at Lyman Hall, I have nothing but great things to say about the teachers and staff and all of the programs there. Physically the building does not keep up with all of that in my estimation. It is important to bring it up to that level as well as all the other schools and to do it now as opposed to doing it far into the future when things are only going to get worse.

Mr. Parisi stated, again, I will say that I think we are all in favor of the project but you are welcome to speak.

Wendy Barry, 212 Cook Hill Road stated, I, too, have children in the school system and I only want to say thank you for your support and it appears to be almost unanimous. To Mr. Centner, I would like to say, I assume you have children in the school system.....if you don't, maybe you are not as sensitive to the issues as we all are.....I have a small child in the first grade who had the chance recently to visit her pen pal at Yalesville, my daughter is at Cook Hill School. She went to Yalesville and visited the school and she did come back to me and say, "mom, that library was unbelievable, it is so beautiful, it is so wonderful, the books are where I can get to them, I can get to the computers, I really wish I can go to Yalesville School", so there you have it. Cook Hill's library is set up the way all the other (school) libraries are with the exception of Yalesville. They are appallingly small and inadequate for our needs. They are the center of the learning cycle for a school and I feel very strongly, as do all the parents that I am representing here, tonight, that this is something that you

really do need to look at. I understand your misgivings but I would like to appeal to you to think through what you are saying when you say this to us because this process Dr. Cirusuolo has started will allow us to pursue and get an architect. He has spent no money doing this process which I think is very responsible of him.....(change of tape at this time resulted in a loss of a few words or statements).....as you said, but if it comes back that this is the amount of money that is required, I would seek your support in that as will a lot of the voting population in town.

Mr. Centner replied, I have triplet children in the fourth grade in Highland School so I am pretty aware of that. Not being ready to vote on a huge menu of items is not a misgiving. I only vote when I am comfortable and ready to vote. In reference to your last comment.....when it is specifically placed in front with accurate dollars, I will make my vote.

Howard Greenberg, 9 Gina Lane stated, when my family moved into town about thirteen years ago, one of the main reasons was because of the education in Wallingford. Having said that, Dr. Cirusuolo, it is a lot of money, obviously. Do you really believe that this price tag will enhance and aid in the education of our children?

Dr. Cirusuolo replied, I believe that if we do the things listed, regardless of the price, the education we provide our children will be much better than we are providing now.

Mr. Greenberg stated, then I certainly urge the Councilors to go forward, thank you.

Reginald Knight, 21 Audette Drive stated, I approve very strongly for three or four reasons; first, the health and welfare of the children should be very strong in the minds of all parents and all administrators of the school. Secondly, the maintenance, construction and planning of the school should be such that it would look to the future and not be ground down into the today. Change today is not just moving along, it is accelerating. The change of tomorrow is twice and three times what it was yesterday; it is really moving along. I think we get to a point here of prioritizing the wants and needs of the town. I am not too fussy about the fields getting a little on the down side there; I have had my children playing soccer on the plateau above Sheehan track, playing soccer in four inches of water but that's good for them, it runs off their back like a duck. But if it was in the building and they were sitting there in damp, moldy conditions, that is a different situation. So we have to prioritize. When we get to the word, "prioritize" the children are our first priority in this community. What money we have in this town, we have to prioritize where that money goes. The children are the future, not only of this town, but of America because you never know, you never know where one of those students might go; they might end up in the White House. Thank you.

_____, Elmwood Road thanked the Council for their support on this project. She stated, I have one of our youngest school members with me and I have another one that will be starting school

in a few years and I have a stepson at Stevens School and a kindergartner at Parker Farms. I have lived in this town going on thirty years now. I attended Parker Farms twenty-some-odd years ago and I am proud to be a resident of this town and I would like to thank you for your support. This morning I had a chance to speak to our social worker at Parker Farms and I went down to her small closet that she works out of and I think it is kind of a shame that these people, the money that we are paying them and the conditions that they work in, out of closets and gymnasium closets with hula-hoops and basketballs piled up around them, I think it is something that we need to look into and until my youngest had started school, I had no idea those were the conditions that we are paying these people thousands and thousands of dollars per year to work under. I just wanted to thank you for your support and hope that we can get the ball rolling on this program.

Valerie Nolan-Ford, 7 Templeton Road, Sitting Member of the Board of Education stated, I would like to thank the Council, in advance, for your support tonight. I would like the Superintendent to give everyone a timeframe here. This is a very small step we are taking here, tonight and I am extremely anxious to know what the figure will be down the road, as well as anyone else would be. We are working with extremely rough figures. Could you outline for the Town Council and members here what the time frame would be from the beginning to possible completion of project, Dr. Cirasuolo?

Dr. Cirasuolo replied, I think it would take two years approximately to get to the point where the design of the project has been established and where there are actual bid-derived construction figures. That would put us somewhere in the spring of 2001. If the project receives local approval at that point, I can see construction beginning in the summer of 2001 and I would estimate construction, from beginning to end, would be about three years. Some thing would be done sooner and some later; there is no way of predicting what the schedule will be but I would think it is a two year design phase and a three year construction phase.

Robert Sheehan, 11 Cooper Avenue stated, I am all for this plan. We hear a lot about the environment today and what our children grow up in. They should have the best environment to learn in. Is there anything in your renovation plan that we can do now?

Dr. Cirasuolo replied, yes, but they would be done in lieu of things that we already planned to do that have a higher priority over the next five years. There isn't anything in here that could just be added without some major budget adjustments.

Mr. Sheehan stated, I am very concerned about classroom size and the number of. I went to Lyman Hall High School when it first opened forty years ago. I was a member of the first class in there. At that time it was "state of the art" but maybe that is too generous a term. I also think, I am not sure, but the price of that school then was about what the price of the renovation is going to cost today.

When I went to school, I don't know what the total number of students was in the town but it might be close to that same cycle now. I would just hope that you take what ever you can do in the two year process and do it fast.

Mrs. Corsetti stated, if I can address class sizes....

Mr. Sheehan had one last question, he asked, when you do this project are you recommending that the neediest gets done first?

Dr. Cirasuolo stated, one would hope that the greatest need would be addressed first with a lot.....it isn't necessarily going to take place because we will be doing this project while the students are in the buildings. There may be something of a high priority that has to wait for vacation period for it to be done and something else will get done in the meantime. Generally speaking, when these things are scheduled those things that are going to take the longest amount of time to accomplish get started first. Usually they are the things that have the highest priority because they are obviously meeting the greatest need.

Mrs. Corsetti stated, the Board is extremely committed to reducing class sizes. We did push up the time frame, next year kindergarten and first grade and the Board will be looking at second grade the year after to reduce class sizes.

Mr. Zappala asked, how can we allow a class room on the second floor with a window the size of a basement window and one stairway going out?

Dr. Cirasuolo stated, the one behind the gymnasium? It is the only space available....it is not a classroom it is a remedial teacher or a pupil personnel service staff that is there. It is the only space that is available so it is used. Our preference would be not to use that for.....our preference is to use it for storage. When you are pressed for space, it is better to put a person there than to put them in the kind of situation where our bi-lingual teacher is, the situation you described in your remarks. When you have the kind of situation we have, you do the best you can with what you have.

Mr. Zappala asked, was the special education that was located at Moses Y. Beach moved or will they be moved?

Dr. Cirasuolo stated, they have not been moved yet. They will be moved next year. We have had some difficulties with that project but we are now certain, barring an earthquake literally, that project will move to Cook Hill in the fall. Additional classrooms will then be available at Moses Y. Beach.

VOTE: Knight and Renda were absent; Centner, Present; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #9 Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Establishment of a Building Committee for the School Renovation Project - Board of Education

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Establish a Building Committee Comprised of Eleven Members. Each Town Councilor will Appoint one (1) Member to the Committee, the Mayor Will Appoint Two (2) and Two (2) Board of Education Members will Serve in the Capacity of Ex-Officio Members, seconded by Mr. Centner.

Mr. Zandri asked, when do we have to have the names available?

Mr. Parisi asked the Superintendent, what is the time frame for this?

Dr. Cirsuolo replied, as soon as possible.

Mr. Parisi asked, does that go in with the application?

Cirsuolo answered, no. We only have indicate that the Council has given approval to apply. Given that you want to get an architect working on this as soon as possible, as soon as possible.

Mr. Zandri asked, can we make it a month's time frame? If you say as soon as possible, it tends to drag.

Mr. Parisi suggested that everyone aim for the next meeting. That is a target but it is not always easy to find people that are willing to serve, especially on a building committee. I think we can have that as a target. We will have one meeting in July and one meeting in August. Our third meeting in July and August will be canceled. Those changes will be posted. We can aim for the next scheduled Council meeting then we will see where we are from there and will then act accordingly.

Mr. Rys asked that the time frame be incorporated into the motion.

A friendly amendment was made to the motion that all the Council, Mayor and B.O.E. have their names ready to be submitted to the Town Council at its next meeting, seconded by Mr. Centner.

VOTE: Knight and Renda was absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

The Chair declared a five minute recess at this time.

ITEM #10 Discussion and Possible Action on a Recommendation that the Mayor Direct the Town Engineer to Perform a Cost Analysis on Renovation of Existing, and the Construction of Permanent,

Rest Room Facilities at All Town-Owned Athletic Fields and Report Back to the Town Council with Results of the Analysis at the First Meeting of the Town Council in July as Requested by Councilor Geno J. Zandri Jr.

Motion was made by Mr. Zandri, seconded by Ms. Papale.

Mr. Zandri explained, the reason I put this item on the agenda was due to the recent problems we had with the portable rest room facilities at some of our athletic fields. I thought about it after we had the discussion at our last meeting and thought about the first two fields that I know of that were constructed in Wallingford, Doolittle and West Side Field, and noted that both of them had rest room facilities. I feel that there really is no reason why we can't construct permanent facilities at all our fields and that is why I would like the cost analysis should be done so we could get a handle on what the dollars are. We can construct the facilities to be as close to vandal-proof as possible if they are designed properly. It is something that is needed in our community.

Mayor Dickinson responded, we have fourteen parks and seven of them have permanent facilities. The seven are Community Lake, Doolittle, Pragemann, West Side, Parker Farms, Lufberry, Marcus Cooke. Those seven meet requirements, according to information I have. However, they are on a consistent basis, the site of considerable effort by vandals. We reviewed the existence or placement of rest room facilities at the parks several years ago when we dealt with the Americans With Disabilities Act requirements and at that time realized significant dollars would be associated with renovating some of our facilities and entertaining thoughts of trying to put facilities everywhere. The Park & Recreation Director, Tom Dooley, is here and he can speak in more detail to the problems associated with the permanent facilities. I believe we even have the portable facilities at sites where we have the permanent facilities for a number of reasons, some of which are convenience because of distance from playing fields and other factors. The issue of who has the keys, the proper monitoring, the cleaning of the permanent facilities, is a significant and major problem. At this point the Town really is not in a position to handle any more permanent facilities and I do not favor us going forward with the placement of additional permanent facilities at other fields. Seven out of fourteen have them. I do not favor going forward with placement of any additional ones.

Mr. Centner commented, I agree with the Mayor on anything the permanent rest room facilities....I will tell you why. I have triplet children and we are in soccermania right now. We do these tournaments and the entire East Center fields and Woodhouse fields are covered with teams. Every square foot of them have people on them. I prefer the port-o-lets because, the way they have been in the last few tournaments, they are scattered around in very convenient locations and then they are removed and the ones that I have been in are clean. I have to agree, because the parks that I have been at with the permanent facilities, they are locked up most of the time and when they are open they

are not that great. They hard to clean. Every event my kids have played, we have been in every park in this town and they have been very convenient when they are there but I would prefer that we stay with the port-o-lets and have them sub-contracted and have them delivered and cleaned and maintained and scheduled for major events and just not have them there. I have seen some of the damage. Just by having events for our Linear Trail Committee at Community Lake, having to go find that key and get the key and open up those rooms and check them and lock them and return the key, secure it and deposits and all that stuff, it is a lot of work. I would rather improve the program that we have for the availability of the port-o-lets and stay with it.

Mr. Farrell asked, when you looked at the idea of putting permanent facilities at each of the Town parks, Mayor, did we look at the idea of making that a concession? I know that sounds a little different but I just got back from vacationing in Europe where it is very common that you find public rest room facilities that are leased out to a vendor and you have to pay \$.25 or \$.50 to use them. Someone is there on a continuous basis so that the rest room not vandalized but kept clean as well. Is that something that is out there as a potential solution?

Mayor Dickinson replied, I don't know what experience has been with that. That would have to be something that Recreation would have to monitor.

Tom Dooley, Director of Parks & Recreation stated, I think there would be as many complaints from people being charged to utilize facilities as you would with the port-o-lets not being there. I think it is a bigger headache than you want to deal with.

Mr. Farrell replied, in Europe the people appreciate them because they are kept cleaner than the average other public rest rooms. It is just a thought.

Mr. Dooley answered, it is an idea. I can understand why you pursued this and wanted to bring it to the table (Mr. Zandri). What happened this year was an administrative mistake of which I will take responsibility for. We have never had a problem in previous years nor do I foresee after this year ever having the problem again. I think we are in much better shape providing the port-o-lets, getting the service and not having to deal with all the extras that come along with permanent facilities at our parks and fields. In fact, we just removed one at Kendrick Park because of some of the problems that we were experiencing there. I believe the situation we have right now, in the big picture of the town, best situation for us to be in.

Mr. Zandri stated, I did not necessarily just bring this up because it just brought this to light for me to think about it a little bit; I feel the permanent facilities are better all around for the community. It will serve the community better and that, basically, is what we are all here for, to serve the public. To have some better things in life for the community takes effort. It takes organization, it takes effort, it

takes work, but that is really what we are all here for, to do that. Years ago when all these fields were constructed, back then, most athletic events had boys playing. Now we have a lot of young ladies that are participating in sports that we never had before and I don't know about you but I don't particularly like using portable rest room facilities. We have no place for anyone to wash their hands. I think it is something that has to be considered in conjunction with the activity for the youth for a lot of reasons, if not for sanitary reasons alone. Is it going to take a little effort? Yes. Can they be designed to be as vandal-proof as possible, yes. If we put our heads together we can design a rest room facility that is less vulnerable to vandalism. Again, it takes an effort and a will to want to accomplish this to get it done. That is the reason why I put it on the agenda tonight. My feeling is that I think it is something that we can give the residents of this community if we put our minds to it. It is easy to look at the bad points. The way to analyze this is, can we work around the shortcomings of this issue and have a better quality of life for the residents of Wallingford? That is why I put it on the agenda.

Mr. Zappala stated, the comments made by Mr. Farrell, I was going to make myself. In Europe, it is very much appreciated on the soccer fields and street corners (to have public rest rooms). I don't think it would be a Park & Recreation Department function to keep the rest rooms clean, but Public Works. How do we possibly keep the toilets clean and proper to be used? Mr. Dooley answered the question we have all had and I am sure this will not happen again in the following years. I feel that the idea is good but the upkeep of it; to be able to them sanitary and clean, not always locked up, would be a major problem. The idea is great but I think we would have to hire someone to keep them clean because if they are not clean, no one is going to use them. If they are kept locked up no one is using them. That is the reason why you don't open the seven bathrooms that we have, right? It is because we have difficulty keeping them clean?

Henry McCully, Director of Public Works responded, the areas that you are alluding to, particularly West Side Field, they are given to the teams to open up and be responsible for closing. Most of the other rest rooms, Marcus Cooke, Lufberry, Community Lake, when people rent those parks for picnics on the weekends, Public Works clean all the rest rooms once a day, seven days a week. We bring people in during the summer, on the weekends, to clean all the parks early in the morning before the picnics that day. That is the system we have. One of the problems we have if you want to bring up the vandalism is, Pragemann Park is open and you don't have anyone who is directly responsible for that. You end up with rolls of toilet paper being stuffed down there....they may be clean when they are open but they don't stay too presentable too long. That, for instance, is one problem we have been faced with.

Mr. Zappala stated, I have rented the Port-o-Potties for the Church of the Resurrection carnival and after the second day, it is tough to get in there because they do make a mess, even the people who use it. If they could be kept clean, the idea is great. If you find a way to keep those clean that we have

our own, that would be great but if you don't have that solution, I think we are looking at a problem that we will not be able to solve.

Howard Greenberg, 9 Gina Lane asked Mr. McCully, does Public Works maintain the rest rooms behind Parker Farms School?

Mr. McCully answered, no, the little league takes care of them. We take care of the trash and everything else.

Mr. Greenberg asked, is that, in part, because Yalesville Little League utilizes that area, almost if not exclusively?

Mr. McCully answered, as you know they have been there for many, many years through volunteerism, fund raisers and a very ambitious group. They have a lot of volunteers and they do a lot of things by themselves and it is obviously a big help to the town and themselves, as well as me.

Mr. Greenberg stated, at Vietnam Veterans Field, there are two little league fields which I know that Wallingford Little League uses. I am not aware of any other league that uses them. But, for the most part the fields are used exclusively for soccer. Maybe what could be done is, if a rest room facility was established there, let soccer maintain them as Yalesville Little League does theirs.

Mr. McCully answered, off the top of my head, just from logistics, I can tell you that Vietnam Veterans' Park, I believe the closest unless you install a galley system to collect the raw sewage, the closest sanitary to the sewer hook-up is North Airline Road. You would probably have to put up a pump or something. That would be a problem installing facilities there with a hook-up to Town sewers. You would have to install a septic system up there.

Mike Brodinsky, 45 Valley View Drive stated, I understand the motion is to merely try and get a cost analysis. I interpreted it as an attempt to look at all sides of the issue, collect all the data and when all the data is in, then weigh the pros and the cons. And if there are obstacles to it, the positive thing to do is try and solve those problems, overcome the obstacles rather than cutting it off at the knees now. I would urge you to support this, at least get the data and then decide later on how to approach this.

Ronald Knight, 21 Audette Drive stated, the other night I was watching a softball game at Pragemann Park. The other adult league was across the field and there were two or three girls teams. On top of that there were teams waiting to go on the fields as the others finished their games. There was one port-o-pottie there and the permanent facility was not open. I noticed that after the game the referee managed to use his key and go and use the toilet but, contrary to what other people say, I know for a fact that these permanent toilets have not been in use for a long, long time. The last time I

remember the one at Doolittle being used is when there was ice skating on that man-made pond. It is never opened for the games held there. On those two fields alone you have streams or rivers; the Quinnipiac on one. When people go into the woods over there to perform bodily functions, their effluence is going into that river which is being polluted. There is no need for it, plus the fact that children are running in and out of those trees and should not be seeing things like that anyway. It is a heck of a thing to explain to a young child that there just is no toilet available and the poor child is uncomfortable. At Doolittle Park there is a stream that runs through there and ends up in Wharton Brook. I would hate to think that I was swimming in Wharton Brook State Park and that there is bodily fluids from people coming down that river. With regards to vandalism, we have it everywhere. If Mr. Farrell remembers, it occurred in the Town's graveyard. We did not stop burying people there and we did not stop putting headstones there. You are going to get vandalism no matter where you are. You will see vandalism on bridges but we don't take the bridges away because someone painted, "John loves Mary" or something like that on it. Let's put things in perspective. The perspective health-wise is that we need permanent latrines there that need to be open there for these functions and if there is vandalism, let's punish the vandals to the point where there won't be anyone anxious to do it again. If you charge or fine them three times the amount of the damage they have done plus a punitive fine, I think you will get away with it. Even if you can't do that, you would have to live with having the facilities there. I am told that one facility is not open because there is a connecting door to an electrical room. That door can be barred, bolted or welded and a door put on the other side of the building to access the electrical part. There should be permanent facilities. There are hundreds of people who need to go to the toilet and if someone is aged or in any way incapacitated and they have to walk all the way from Doolittle Park to what used to be a gas station on East Center Street, that is a pretty bad situation.

Mayor Dickinson asked, are the portable toilets at all parks, even those with the permanent facilities?

Mr. Dooley answered, yes.

Mayor Dickinson replied, the program, I believe, has worked pretty well. We had a problem this year but I have not been aware of any complaints from other years and I think the Engineering Department has plenty, more than enough, to keep him busy. I really don't think this is something we need to spend time on in order to deal with developing further information.

Mr. Parisi asked, how many facilities are we talking about?

Mr. Dooley answered, you are talking about providing facilities at fifteen parks. I believe there are two at Pragemann Park and we are looking at putting an additional one at Doolittle Park near the Playscape. Right now, the company that we are working with has them spread all out and as they come back in, they are giving them to us. We are trying to accommodate.....

Mr. Parisi asked, are they cleaning them too?

Mr. Dooley answered, yes. Since they have been in place we have had some tip-overs and they have been responding to our needs. They understand our situation and have responded appropriately.

Mr. Parisi asked, how many parks do not have the ability to be made permanent or hooked up to?

John Thompson, Town Engineer replied, there are seven parks that do not have permanent facilities. Some have access to water, some may not. Part of the reason I have compiled this list to have something to talk about is, to go and do an engineering evaluation clearly can be done. I am not out there looking for additional tasks to undertake but some of these will be very complicated in terms of developing an engineering assessment. Perhaps we can come up with a standard, unit cost for a structure itself but some of these facilities, because of their location are going to need evaluation from the Water & Sewer Division. Can we get water service there? Can we service the facility with sanitary sewers as was indicated. Veterans' Park for example, because of its location, there is not only the distance issue of accessing the sanitary sewers, there may be D.E.P. regulations that actually preclude us from running sanitary sewers out there which means that we would have to do an engineered septic system. If we do that at some of these facilities and they don't have access to water then we are going to have to run electrical service to it to have a well operated off a pump system. One thing leads to another and the cost analysis, the development of the cost estimates becomes a very complicated issue. If, fundamentally, Mr. Dooley or Mr. McCully are saying that they are really not needed or appropriate or maintainable, for what ever reason...I am not making a call as to whether they are good, bad or indifferent, I am just offering an engineering assessment, that why would we want to spend the level of effort to go to this engineering cost estimation if, in fact, they are not desirable from the get-go?

Mr. Zandri stated, as far as I am concerned, they are needed. If you want, anything can be maintained. You can look at each one.....the way I looked at this is, we can get some cost estimate on what the structure, itself, would cost; a typical structure that could be used for all the different parks. Then we could lay out the obstacles for those particular fields that might need water or well; septic or sewers were available, so that we could have some sort of ball park idea of what we are up against as far as the facilities are concerned. I would not want, at this stage of the game, to do a real accurate cost study on every single one; just something similar to what the Board of Education has done projections for the school systems. It is a ball park idea of what it could potentially cost us to accommodate the different fields.

Mr. Parisi stated, the only concern I would have with "ball parking" is, and I understand what you are trying to do, that perhaps if the figures come in low and then it goes beyond, then we are criticized for

over-expending. It is possible, it is kind of a guesstimate. Is it the recommendation that we stay with the portables right now? Is that what the staff would recommend?

Mr. Dooley answered, that would be my recommendation.

Mr. Zappala asked, how often do we get the portables cleaned?

Mr. Dooley answered, once a week.

Mr. Zappala stated, the time frame under which Mr. Zandri has requested the report may be kind of short but maybe if you had a longer period of time to conduct the study without interfering with your work, maybe you could do it in your spare time. It would be good to know what the cost would be and how we could maintain them, that is the important part. Unless we have a concrete way to clean them and keep them sanitary I think we are wasting our time. Maybe if you were given until the end of July it would not be a bad idea to get a.....

Mr. Zandri stated, if timing is the problem, that is one issue. I just put that down off the top of my head. Mr. Dooley, is your recommendation to stay with the system we have now because it is easier for you or whether you feel we are better accommodating the residents of Wallingford by the system that we have in place today?

Mr. Dooley answered, I understand and appreciate your quality of life statement. I think I am looking at it from a very pragmatic point of view in having to deal with Public Works....it is not as simple as putting facilities out there and letting them go. If we are willing to spend the money and purchase the people that it takes to administer to them, and do everything you would like to see us do then I say, that is fine. But, pragmatically speaking, it is more entailed than just putting a permanent facility out there and saying, "here it is, utilize it". You are talking about supplying sewer, water, electrical costs and the personnel to ensure that not only the facility is keep clean but when they are being utilized or when they are open that people are not gathering and committing vandalism and using them for negative social behavior. There are a lot of issues connected with permanent structures that are out of our vision. That is what concerns me. There are a lot of costs we are not looking at to this point.

Zandri stated, you can look at all the negatives you want. It takes an effort to work around these things. These facilities are put there for the use of the people that are involved in the athletic programs. Maybe we have to put some of the responsibility on the part of the people utilizing them, as one individual stated in the audience. The people using the fields may have to monitor them. Maybe that goes along with being involved in coaching; we make the people utilizing the facilities responsible for helping us with a potential problem. This is what I talk about when I talk about

looking to see what the problems are, is there a way around it and can we make everyone happy by putting a little effort into solving the problem.

Mr. Dooley responded, in an ideal situation I would agree with you. Having been here long enough to make the statement that I think it is difficult to give someone a key and sometimes the key comes back and sometimes it gets duplicated and sometimes people are not as responsible as we would like them to be. To do this right, you need to hire the personnel to oversee the administering of the building. If we are looking to consider that, I am all for it. No one wants to serve the community more than me but I also look at it from a pragmatic point of view. It takes money and it takes responsible people making responsible decisions to make sure they get cleaned and we are not constantly out there to take care of things that encourage negative social behavior.

Mr. Zandri replied, I don't disagree. Everything positive takes effort.

Mr. Dooley added, I am not opposed to providing the service. The reason I make that commendation right now is because people need a place to use. We have a contract which provides maybe not the best service or the cleanest but it is a service that accommodates the need to go to the bathroom. Are there better alternatives? Yes. But it all comes at a price. If we are looking to pursue that, that is fine. I just want people to know that it takes money, costs money and we have to be willing to spend the money.

Mr. Zandri answered, that is right.

Mr. Parisi stated, having been in the business, as they say, I can say tell you that this is an extremely labor-intensive effort. Not only is it the cleanliness but the supplies themselves are going to have to be anticipated; the hand towels, toilet tissue, soaps, etc. It is not an easy situation. It is not easy in a facility that is enclosed. Your suggestion about the help is an excellent one but the problem is that people, for some reason, there is a segment of the population that has no respect for a community facility. That is where the vandalism comes from, unfortunately and graffiti and what have you. Anyone who travels along the highway and stops at one of the rest areas, the commercial ones especially, and the same things; stalls are broken and locks are broken on the doors and they are struggling to maintain probably just a passable level of cleanliness. It is not easy. It is a very difficult problem.

Mr. Dooley added, without a full-time attendant....the nice thing about a port-o-let is, they go in, they do their business and they leave. With an open facility, people congregate, they hang out, it just makes for devil's work in there.

Mr. Zandri stated, no one said it has to be open.

Mr. Dooley stated, with regards to making league officials administer, that is great, so long as they are responsible. If something breaks down or the water has been overflowing for two days and you want to bring the issue to a league official, however, I am not going to say none of them take responsibility but it is always, "we weren't there", "we could not administer to it", "it wasn't us". It gets to be very difficult. I am just providing a pragmatic viewpoint. I am willing to sit down and discuss it and negotiate it and talk about it.

Mr. Zandri replied, maybe some day we will.

VOTE: Knight and Renda were absent; Papale, Zandri and Zappala, aye; all others, no. Motion failed.

ITEM #11 Consider and Approve a Request to Approve the Proposed Name of "Argyle Road" for a New Road in the Fairlawn Farms Phase IX Subdivision as Requested by Attorney Joan Molloy on Behalf of Ravenswood Company, LLC.

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Table this Item Until the Next Meeting at the Request of Atty. Molloy, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

VOTE: Knight and Renda were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #12 Consider and Approve the Annual Bid Waiver List for F.Y. 1999-2000 - Mayor

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

Mayor Dickinson pointed out that the bid waiver list is almost identical to the list that was approved for the prior year. It deals almost entirely that are proprietary and items of that kind.

VOTE: Knight and Renda were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #13 SET A PUBLIC HEARING for June 22, 1999 at 7:45 P.M. to Approve a List of Municipal Projects and Corresponding Resolution to be Submitted to the State of Connecticut Under Neighborhood Assistance Program - Program Planner

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

Mr. Farrell stated that he would abstain from voting because two of the entities on the list, the Preservation Trust and Center Street Cemetery, he holds membership in.

VOTE: Knight and Renda were absent; Farrell abstained; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #14 Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$55,5167 from Regular Salaries & Wages Acct. #1401-101-1000 to Revaluation - Year 2 of 3 Acct. #1401-999-9909 - Comptroller

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

The purpose of the transfer is to replace funds that were transferred from re-evaluation budget for the following purposes: \$45,000 for contract with Cole, Layer and Trumbull for the company to assist the Assessor with office work; \$4,800 contract with Flannagan Associates to assess Bristol Myers Squibb F Wing and \$5,716 for staff overtime.

VOTE: Knight and Renda were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried; motion duly carried.

WAIVER OF RULE V Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Waive Rule V of the Town Council Meeting Procedures for the Purpose of Considering a Transfer for the Comptroller, seconded by Mr. Centner.

VOTE TO WAIVE RULE V: Knight and Renda were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$8,500 from Employees Pension & Benefits Acct. #926-000 to Maint. Of Wells & Springs Acct. #614-000 - Water Division

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

While performing re-development of well #3 it was found that the well screen had deteriorated and must be repaired. The necessary repairs will cost approximately \$8,500 therefore it is necessary to request a transfer to proceed accordingly.

VOTE: Knight and Renda were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #15 Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-200(6)(B) of the CT. General Statutes with respect to the Settlement of a Pending Workers Compensation Claim Involving Thomas Kuntz

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

VOTE: Knight and Renda were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

The Council entered executive session at 9:20 P.M.

Present in Executive Session were all Councilors (with the exception of Mr. Knight and Mr. Renda) Mayor Dickinson, Asst. Town Attorney Gerald E. Farrell, Sr., Risk Manager Mark A. Wilson; and Atty. David Weil of the Law Firm of Nuzzo & Roberts of Cheshire.

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

VOTE: Knight and Renda were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

The Council exited executive session at 9:34 P.M.

ITEM #16 Consider and Approve the Settlement of a Pending Workers Compensation Claim Involving Thomas Kuntz

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Approve the Settlement of the Pending Workers Compensation Claim of Thomas Kuntz as Discussed in Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Centner.

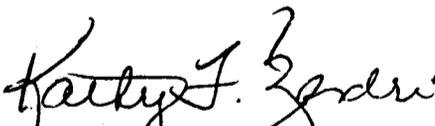
VOTE: Knight and Renda was absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

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

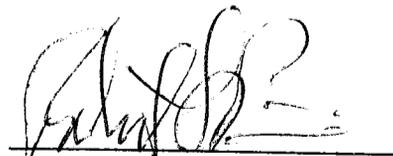
VOTE: Knight and Renda were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:35 P.M.

Meeting recorded and transcribed by:


Kathryn F. Zandri
Town Council Secretary

Approved by :



Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

9-14-99
Date

Rosemary A. Rascati
Rosemary A. Rascati, Town Clerk

9-14-99
Date