

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 24, 1998

6:30 P.M.

AGENDA

Blessing - Pastor Mark Angerosa - White Oak Baptist Church

1. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call
2. Correspondence
3. Consent Agenda
 - a. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#250-261) Totaling \$5,743.71 - Tax Collector
 - b. Approve and Accept the Minutes of the February 24, 1998 Town Council Meeting
 - c. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$700 from Office Expenses and Supplies Acct. #3010-401-4000 to Continuous Education and Training Acct. #3010-501-5700 - Director of Health
 - d. Consider and Approve a Waiver of Bid for the Dunhill Agency to Pay for Temporary Secretarial Services at Mark T. Sheehan High School - Superintendent of Schools
4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda
5. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD
6. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$20,000 from Misc. Distribution Maintenance Acct. #598 to Fuel Expense Acct. #501 - Electric Division
7. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$15,000 from Professional Services - Lawyers Acct. #001-1320-901-9002 to Professional Services - Specialists Acct. #001-1320-901-9003 - Law Department
 - o Consider and Approve a Waiver of Bid for Appraisal Services - Law Department

(OVER)

9. Consider and Approve Confirming a Mayoral Appointment/Re-Appointment to the Public Utilities Commission for a Three Year Term to Expire 3/1/2001
10. PUBLIC HEARING On an Ordinance Repealing Ordinance #182 and #288 Entitled, "Public Celebrations Committee" - 7:45 P.M.
11. PUBLIC HEARING on an Ordinance Amending Ordinance #418 Entitled, "An Ordinance Appropriating \$148,000 for the Design of Renovations to the Wallingford Community Pool" - 8:00 P.M.
12. Report Out on the Final Costs and Expenditures for 6 Fairfield Boulevard (Recreation Center) - Mayor
13. Consider and Approve a Waiver of Bid with SNET to Provide Town Departments with the Centralink 3100 Tariff System - Mayor
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Authorizing the Mayor to Execute All Agreements Dealing with SNET Centralink and All Distance Telephone Services - Mayor
15. Discussion and Possible Action on Authorizing the Mayor to Sign a License Agreement Allowing Use of Town Property as a Road During Construction of a Subdivision - Town Attorney
16. Consider and Approve Retaining the Staff of the Welfare Department on an Interim Basis to Help Facilitate a Smooth Transition of Welfare Services from the Local Level to the State Level as Requested by Councilor Geno J. Zandri, Jr.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 24, 1998

6:30 P.M.

ADDENDUM TO AGENDA

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Approving an Amendment to the Budget to Reflect the Deletion of One Full Time Assistant Animal Control Officer Position and the Addition of Two Part Time Assistant Animal Control Officer Positions to Work No More Than 19.5 Hours Each Per Week - Mayor's Office

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 24, 1998

6:30 P.M.

A regular meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was held on Tuesday, March 24, 1998 in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall and Called to Order by Chairman Robert F. Parisi at 6:31 P.M. All Councilors answered present to the Roll called by Town Clerk Rosemary A. Rascati with the exception of Councilor Papale who arrived at 6:48 P.M. due to employment commitments. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. Arrived at 7:02 P.M., Town Attorney Janis M. Small arrived at 6:35 P.M., Comptroller Thomas A. Myers was also present.

A blessing was bestowed upon the Council by Rev. Mark Angerosa, White Oak Baptist Church

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the Flag.

A moment of silence was observed for Richard Castello, member of the Public Celebrations Committee and active member of community events.

ITEM #2 Correspondence - No items of correspondence were presented.

ITEM #3 Consent Agenda

ITEM #3a Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#250-261) Totaling \$5,743.71 - Tax Collector

ITEM #3b Approve and Accept the Minutes of the February 24, 1998 Town Council Meeting

ITEM #3c Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$700 from Office Expenses and Supplies Acct. #3010-401-4000 to Continuous Education and Training Acct. #3010-501-5700 - Director of Health

ITEM #3d Consider and Approve a Waiver of Bid for the Dunhill Agency to Pay for Temporary Secretarial Services at Mark T. Sheehan High School - Superintendent of Schools

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

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #4 Withdrawn

PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Andy Kapi, 6 Deme Road asked, what is the decision based upon; content, discussion, type of actions which may be taken or anything else?

Mr. Parisi answered, a lot of it is the item that is going to be covered. We want to have enough time to discuss the items. We don't want the agenda to be crowding an item.

Mr. Kapi stated that the agenda for the special meeting indicates a lot of discussion on some important issues but it also indicates action, waiver of bids and in a couple of cases, taking action to bind us to an agreement with a power company for the use of the Pierce Plant.

Parisi stated, no, it is not binding.

Mr. Kapi asked, A binding exclusivity period during which we will talk, is that closer?

Mr. Parisi answered, yes, but we are in no way obligated to accept it.

Mr. Kapi continued, so it is a combination of discussion, information, dissemination, and possible actions as well?

Mr. Parisi answered, right.

Mr. Kapi asked, is this meeting going to be televised?

Mr. Parisi responded, no it is not going to be.

Mr. Kapi asked, how was that decision reached?

Mr. Parisi answered, we don't normally televise those meetings.

Mr. Kapi stated, I like procedures; I like the rule of law; I like the fact that the way decisions are made are documented or at least a prescribed procedure for having a discussion or having that decision made. I don't know who made this decision but I don't know if any of the other Councilmembers were brought into this or if this was a decision between [redacted] and the Mayor but I would first point out that there is a tremendous hole in your Council procedures right now. In [redacted] modern era of television that is part of the Council procedures. This is something that should be written so that it is not done in an arbitrary fashion. I don't know if I am happy with the language that you might include such as, the Chairman will decide whether a special meeting is televised. I would that is too discretionary; I would not be happy if the Mayor decided it. That should be taken care of; that should be amended; that should be part of the Council

Quinnipiac Street work; waiver of public bidding just to continue in a discussion with a power company? And as I understood it from the article that was written two weeks ago, possibly that would be the only proposal under discussion that night? The five or six other companies won't even be discussed?

Mr. Parisi responded, yes, as I understand it, that will be the only proposal to be discussed. The only thing is that they will have the right to make the proposal. The proposal will not be binding in any way.

Mr. Kapi asked, if one proposal is presented that night, that means the other four or five will be short shrift'd and we have to rely on one or two or a couple of people's judgement as to what is presented to the Council. It seems to me that, as part of a television audience you would like to see that proposal presented to see whether you find that judgement persuasive. I think the people that watch these meetings, if they were told tonight, if they are viewing this tomorrow night, and they are told that these kinds of actions are going to be taken next week and they will not have a chance to see whether the argument in favor of Webster and Pennsylvania Light and Power.....

Mr. Parisi reminded Mr. Kapi that the public could be here and there is no commitment going to be made and there is nothing to say that this Council would do anything more than just listen to it.

Mr. Kapi stated, two weeks ago the Mayor made a remark in a newspaper article, when discussing the fact.....

Mr. Parisi informed Mr. Kapi that he is running out of time and asked that he conclude his remarks.

Mr. Kapi continued, ...when discussing the fact that the third meeting of the month will not be televised the Mayor said, that would be the case because there would be no action; no public business taking place at that third meeting. This is a special meeting; there is action to take place here and pretty important action. We have been talking about the Pierce Plant for years; its disposition...

Mr. Parisi asked, who said there is going to be action?

Mr. Kapi stated, on the agenda it says that someone is going to vote on the waiver of public bidding and acceptance of the proposal and apparently someone is going to vote on authorizing us to go into this exclusivity period of discussion. Those are actions on issues that have far reaching implications we have had years of controversy with; whether the people as owners of the Electric Division should get tax rebates; whether they should get a reduction in their rates; if we enter into this type of agreement, those matters are going to be impacted tremendously. Any you are saying that this should not be televised so that the people at home could be part of that to see if these arguments are persuasive? Is that what you are saying?

Mr. Parisi responded, I am telling you that it is not going to be televised; the meeting is an open meeting; the people can be there; I am telling you that I don't believe....and I never speak for the Council as a whole; that there will be any definitive action taken there other than listening to the proposal and allowing these people to put a proposal together for presentation. In no way is it binding.

Mr. Kapi stated, and the small newspaper article that appears the next morning that will not talk about the discussion.....

Mr. Parisi answered, I don't know, I am not going to speak for the press. They may do a three page item on it, I don't know. They have usually covered important items.

Mr. Kapi stated, those folks at home viewing this tape tonight should turn the sound down real low and close your eyes because that is just about how much you are going to hear of next week.

Lucille Trzcinsky, 262 North Elm Street stated, a couple of weeks ago I attended a meeting and at that time we discussed a proposal; a motion was passed that the Mayor consider the hiring of an arborist. I would like to know the disposition of that matter.

Henry McCully, Director of Public Works responded, we have hired an arborist; Asplundh Residential Division. They will be trimming the trees and we are also bringing on a contractor to fertilize the trees a couple of times a year.

Mrs. Trzcinsky asked, is that an arborist that you are hiring and not just Asplundh?

Mr. McCully responded, an arborist.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville stated that he is still receiving a lot of calls from people about speeding cars in the school zones. They are still worried about the safety of their kids. I brought this issue up before, has anyone really digging into that?

Mr. Renda responded, in speaking with Police Chief Dortenzio last night, I reminded him of the complaint. There are only so many units for radar. They are being stationed wherever they could. They cannot cover the whole town at once. They are out there doing their job but they cannot be all over the place. If there is one particular spot with which people have concern, they should call up the Police Department for they will be more than glad to put a unit out there. They are on the job, I can guarantee you that but they cannot cover the whole town, it is impossible.

Mr. Melillo stated, I have been reading articles all across the country with regards to school buses. Some children are being killed or injured for life. Why can't we have seatbelts on the school buses?

Mr. Parisi suggested that he take his issue to the Board of Education for they are the entity to take care of that matter. We cannot make them do that.

Mr. Melillo stated the he has spoken with Senator McDermott who brought the issue up once but it was not supported by his colleagues. He has also spoken to Rosa DeLauro on the matter. He would like everyone to be aware of this because he would like to see the matter coordinated on the federal, state and local levels as soon as possible. He would like to have as many people in Town government as possible supporting him on this matter.

Mr. Melillo stated, since the last Public Question and Answer Period took only eighteen minutes then the public has another two minutes coming to them this evening.

Mr. Parisi informed Mr. Melillo that he has used all of his time up and called for the next speaker.

Philip Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street stated, as I walk around the town, I am struck by the fact that there are many, many areas where the grass is overgrowing the sidewalk; the shrubs are crowding out the sidewalk; leaves have not been picked up for more than just one season; it looks.....it does not look pretty. I don't know that we have any legal way of making people take care of their property as they should but I think it would be worthwhile if, in our electric bills or something, we could send out a little reminder to people to take care of their property. It does not look good; it isn't good and something ought to be done.

Mr. Parisi agreed with Mr. Wright stating, I do recall an area on the west side of Wallingford where there was a place that had tremendous problems in the yard and the neighbors were up in arms. As I recall there wasn't anything the Town could legally do. Unless it creates a hazard or causes danger to public safety...

Attorney Small added, it may be possible to take a look at it in terms of a form of an ordinance but sometimes beauty is in the eye of the beholder. My overgrown lawn to me may be wonderful; I don't have an overgrown lawn, actually, I have no lawn.

Mr. Wright stated, I understand we don't have anything with teeth in it but some people may be encouraged if reminded and we should give it a shot. It cannot hurt.

Atty. Small stated, I think some communities may have attempted it; I will take a look at the issue and try to do a survey and see what has been done. It is a tough subject.

Mr. Farrell stated, you have a legitimate concern but my recall is that several other Connecticut towns tried to pass ordinances like that and my recall is that they were found unconstitutional. I would be glad to hear that someone has found the right key to passing that.

Atty. Small added, shrubs that have not been trimmed is not going to do it but there may be some fine line where you reach something; it is not an easy subject.

Mr. Wright responded, I understand but if we try to encourage people, a few may get the message.

Albert Killen, 150 Cedar Street stated, we may want to have one of our civic organizations have an annual event for cleaning up the sidewalks and so forth. Sometimes all it takes is a little reminder and if everyone wanted to look a little better than their next door neighbor, they may join in.

Mr. Parisi stated, like a Freddy Fixer Day that some of the towns have. I don't know who would start that but it sure would be nice if someone volunteered to do it.

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

WIAVER OF RULE V Mr. Zandri made a motion to Waive Rule V of the Town Council Meeting Procedures for the Purpose of making a motion to have all special Council meetings pertaining to Town business televised, seconded by Mr. Zappala.

VOTE: Centner, Papale, Zandri and Zappala, aye; all others, no; motion failed.

ITEM #6 Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$20,000 from Misc. Distribution Maintenance Acct. #598 to Fuel Expense Acct. #501 – Electric Division

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

David Gessert, Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission explained, we recently ran a capacity test; we are required to run an eight (8) hour test to make sure that they system works. A fire broke out after six and one-half (6 ½) hours and burned a little hole in the roof. We are looking at running another capacity test because we had to do eight (8) hours of testing. We made this transfer prior to getting the latest transmission from Northeast Utilities that they would accept the six and one-half (6 ½) hours. That would replace the fuel that we burned. Since that time, however, since the six and one-half (6 ½) hour test has now been accepted, we have been requested by Northeast Utilities to, again, be available to produce power should it be needed when the weather gets warmer. Our request is to refill the tanks so that we will have fuel available should we be called on to supply power.

Mr. Centner asked, can you tell me what caused the roof to burn? What caused the fire? What combusted?

William Cominos, General Manager of the Electric Division stated, we found that some of the fire retardant materials on top of the boilers had come loose and fell off. The heat had become so intense that the materials above the roof, which were dry for a number of years, had just gotten so dry that it ignited.

Mr. Centner asked, was it a boiler run away condition?

Cominos responded, no, the boiler operated properly but when the shielding devices fell off, the extreme heat escaped and ignited a portion of the roof.

Mr. Centner asked, is the damage of the boiler, itself, minimal?

Mr. Cominos answered, all the damage has been repaired to the boiler and the roof is just about done. It cost us somewhere around \$34,000 to do all of the repairs.

Mr. Gessert added, the roof was insured.

Mr. Cominos stated, it will only cost the division \$1,000 for the deductible.

Mr. Centner asked, does that change our experience and raise the rates in your operation at all?

Mr. Cominos answered, I will have to check with the Risk Manager on that.

Mr. Knight stated, the E.P.A. disposal rules that you indicate have not been changed and therefore we have funds available in that account, have they subsequently found a starting date for those new disposal rules or is that still up for grabs?

Cominos responded, the disposal rules that we mention have to do with the disposal of lead cable. The cable that was burned on December 24th, that cable has oil in it. Normally, under old E.P.A. rules you had to dispose of that in a specific manner. Those rules no longer apply so we have the money that was allocated to dispose of the cable now being referred to this account. They have relaxed those rules.

Mr. Knight asked, the E.P.A. actually relaxed the rule? O.K., great.

Mr. Zappala stated, it is under contract with CMEEC that we keep the plant up so there is no question about the fact that we have to put the fuel in.

Mr. Gessert agreed. It is under contract that we have to keep it operable and if we are going to be on a standby basis so that we can be called upon by Northeast Utilities to produce power, you have to have fuel in the tank.

Mr. Cominos stated, as a point of interest, Mr. Zappala. That \$20,000 will operate the plant for less than twenty-four (24) hours. It is about 2,000 gallons per hour at \$ 60 per gallon.

Mr. Centner asked, concerning the \$1,000 deductible, is that a reimbursable we can get from the contract as part of keeping the plant operating?

Mr. Cominos responded, I don't think so. I think that is our obligation. The fact that it is NEEPOOL, not Northeast Utilities that granted us the complete eight (8) hour run rather than six (6) hours was quite a concession on their part. I thought we would have to re-run that test and for another eight (8) hours. It is quite a savings to us in town and CMEEC is the one that really interceded for the Town to see if they would accept that six and one-half (6 1/2) hour

t. We did save a lot of money and I think the \$1,000 deductible... if we had to run again you would spend for sixteen (16) hours of test, another \$20,000. It is a wash in my estimation.

Mr. Centner stated, if it is something clear cut in the contract that you could just throw it in and get reimbursed I figured, why not, but....

Mr. Zandri asked, regarding our obligation to have this plant operable; was it the CMEEC agreement or was it the enhancement that happened over the last two years because of Millstone being down?

Mr. Cominos responded, it is the CMEEC agreement. It states that the Town will receive "X" amount of dollars a year, I believe \$650,000 a year, for having that plant available to run. That is our obligation.

Mr. Zandri stated, but we don't have to, we have a choice in the matter.

Mr. Cominos answered, if you don't run it then CMEEC will have to go out and purchase that 17 megawatts of power that Pierce Plant would be normally generating and you wouldn't get the \$650,000 a year. It would cost them at least \$650,000 a year to pick up that 17 megawatts of generation.

Mr. Zandri stated, the way I understood it was, we did not have to have the plant running. The terms you just mentioned now come back to me and only if they need to purchase the power will we then lose the money.

Cominos responded, that is correct.

Mr. Zandri stated, I was not sure whether that was the agreement or because of the enhancements that were made to the facility over the last two years because of the problems at Millstone.

Mr. Cominos explained, the enhancements were only for that specific period of time and that ran up to about \$750,000 that they spent on the Pierce Plant. Our obligation at that point was just to be able to come on line if they needed us during that summer period. This summer they may also have a need for us to come on line and they have called us to ask us if we would be available.

Philip Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street asked, what is the Misc. Distribution Maintenance Acct. #598? What does that constitute? What is the purpose of that account?

Mr. Cominos recited from a publication entitled, "Uniform System of Accounts" "the account should include the cost of labor and material used and expenses incurred in the maintenance of the plant, the book cost of which is includable in accounts 371, Installation on Customer's Premises; Leased Property maintenance of which is assignable to the distribution function as not provided elsewhere in this book. Items of work of similar nature to that listed in distribution maintenance accounts, maintenance of office furniture and equipment used by distribution systems department." It is an account used generally, for the maintenance of the distribution plant.

Wright asked, how much money was in the account?

Mr. Cominos responded, we had appropriated in that account at the beginning of the year, \$333,231. We have an unencumbered balance of \$120,972.76 as of the 19th of March which is about sixty percent (60%) or better expended

Mr. Wright asked, does it appear as though you will expend all of the funds in this account?

Mr. Cominos responded, it is running pretty much true to form as far as the number of months that we have been in operation. It all depends on what happens on our facilities if we go ahead with some projects or breakdowns or maintenance items do come up that we would spend it on, otherwise we will not.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville asked if extra precautions have been taken since the accident occurred to make sure that something like this is not going to happen again?

Mr. Gessert stated, we did double check any other areas where there may be exposure or problems.

Mr. Melillo stated that he has recently read an article about two big utilities in this country who are requesting that the Town of Wallingford...

Mr. Parisi informed Mr. Melillo that the Council is discussing Item #6 and that Mr. Melillo's questions or comments do not seem to pertain to the subject.

Mr. Melillo responded, it is relative to a request for exclusive bidding.

Mr. Parisi explained, that is not applicable to this item.

Mr. Melillo asked, why not go into it?

Mr. Parisi asked that Mr. Melillo comment to item #6 or that is it.

Mr. Melillo agreed to ask the questions at the next Public Question and Answer period.

Albert Killen, 150 Cedar Street asked Mr. Cominos, were previous transfers made with this particular fund this year?

Mr. Cominos could not recall. He agreed to look up the information for Mr. Killen.

VOTE: All ayes, motion duly carried.

At this time Mr. Gessert asked to make a comment regarding Item #9 (Consider and Approve Confirming a Mayoral Appointment/Re-Appointment to the Public Utilities Commission for a Three Year Term to Expire 3/1/2001) since he will be unable to remain in attendance for the matter due to a previous commitment.

Gessert stated, Mr. Cooke has done an excellent job, he brings great insight to the (Public Utilities) Commission, he is very candid in his comments and he is an asset to the Commission and I would certainly endorse his confirmation.

ITEM #7 Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$15,000 from Professional Services - Lawyers Acct. #001-1320-901-9002 to Professional Services - Specialists Acct. #001-1320-901-9003 - Law Department

Mr. Zandri asked, why do we have two set of line items, can't they be rolled into one?

Attorney Janis Small responded, they used to be one; just to keep better track, it was divided into two accounts one budget year.

Mayor Dickinson stated, due to the system of accounting we are trying to follow, the professional services accounts are separated according to the type of services. It doesn't mean it is impossible not to combine it but that form shows; in order to separate whether you are hiring a specialist in one area or another, they are just lumped.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #8 Consider and Approve a Waiver of Bid for the Appraisal Services - Law Department

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

Mr. Zappala asked, do we use these people all the time and for how long have we been using them?

Atty. Small responded, I presently use four different appraisers. I make the determination based upon the type of tax appeal that they want, which appraiser to use. This is also for open space. I do have some concerns in regards to open space for it is important to have consistent appraisals, particularly when you are talking about appraising land that would be zoned residential. One appraiser is used particularly for that so that we have a consistent analysis. I do have four (appraisers) at this point that I would consider using.

Mr. Zappala asked, how long have we been using them?

Atty. Small responded, one is considered more of a specialist so we don't use their service very often, only for major analysis such as Bristol Myers. I have used Mr. Heber for a number of years; Donald Nitz does a good amount of work for us; John Nitz is used for foreclosure work and for tax appeals, he is fairly new. John Nitz is from Wallingford and is a nephew of Donald Nitz who is from North Haven. Mr. Heber has merged his office with another in Hartford. Mr. Flanagan who is used for more specialized work is located in the Old Lyme area. All the appraisers listed have a very good reputation with the judges in New Haven County which is a very important factor when I select someone for a tax appeal case.

Mr. Zappala stated that, in his opinion, a local appraiser may be more knowledgeable on the value of property than an outsider.

Atty. Small responded, generally, the people who have done the bulk of their practice in New Haven County have the required knowledge.

Mr. Zandri asked, are the costs associated with this type of work fairly uniform from firm to firm?

Atty. Small answered, I think so. Their fees are consistent. I have said no to a few on occasion when their fees seem to be a little high to me but they generally stay in the same ball park.

Mr. Farrell stated that he would be abstaining from the vote because one of the individuals is a client of his law firm.

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

ITEM #9 Consider and Approve Confirming a Mayoral Appointment/Re-Appointment to the Public Utilities Commission to the Public Utilities Commission for a Three (3) Year Term to Expire 3/1/2001 - Mayor's Office

Correspondence from Mayor Dickinson states that he is Re-Appointing George Cooke to the position and that the term is to commence immediately. The letter goes on to say that Mr. Cooke has been a valued member of the commission for the past six years and is requesting that the Council approve the appointment.

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Confirm the Re-Appointment of George Cooke to the Position for a Three Year Term to Expire 3/1/2001, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

Mr. Parisi commended the Mayor on the appointment, stating that Mr. Cooke has served the public as a valued member of the commission and has been doing some very good things.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

Mr. Cooke was not present at the meeting to be sworn in this evening by the Town Clerk.

ITEM #12 Report Out on the Final Costs and Expenditures for 6 Fairfield Boulevard (Recreation Center) Mayor

Henry McCully, Director of Public Works stated that the final figure for the renovation work which included contributions from the Public Works Department, contractor, and architect is \$1,458,645.98 (Mr. McCully may have misstated the amount which reads on his memo \$1,452,652.98) (Appendix I). The cost to purchase the building was \$1,100,000. The total for the complete project was around \$2.5 million. That equates to approximately \$51.00 per square foot. The building is complete and fully-occupied and except for a few little things the Town is getting good use out of it.

Mr. Rys asked, what were the miscellaneous items which cost \$2,205.00 as noted in Mr. McCully's memo?

Mr. McCully responded, when the work was finished although the art room closet was part of the contract, they wanted more closets, additional outlets, there was some additional work that was not included in the bid with some of the rooftop heating systems that required some minor maintenance. This covers a whole slue of minor things that were not covered by the contract as well as work that we have since put into the building.

Robert Sheehan, 11 Cooper Avenue asked if Public Works will maintain the building from this point forward and what will the yearly cost to do so be?

Mr. McCully responded, Public Works will maintain the building and the warranties expire the end of this month so I could not really give you an accurate figure on what it will be. My times contractors were called back to repair plumbing, etc. It will probably take us another year before we get a real feel for what it is going to cost to do that. It is also based on experience. If your HVAC system work O.K. and with general maintenance you don't have any major repairs. A lot of it depends on your experience.

Mr. Sheehan stated, it seems we have a tendency to start projects, approve money, go along and forget about it. I realize this is a new building and there are a lot of small items to work out but this building is now open a year and we have not heard anything. I have been asking for almost every quarter since it has been open and I get no answer. The last one I got before I asked two weeks ago was, "it was around \$2.5 million". Last meeting I was told I could get a report. I don't know how long this report has been final but its seems, as a citizen, I should not have had to come up here and ask for this. When we do a capital project for a substantial amount of money, I should not have to be up here asking for figures. We got a nice report from the School Building Committee but I guess this doesn't fall under that because it is not enough money?

Mr. Parisi stated, this has been reported out several times.

Mr. McCully stated, if you had called my office I would have been more than glad to get you this figure.

Mr. Sheehan continued, I don't want to criticize you, Henry, because you do more thanI don't know how you do it all and it is going to sound like you should have come here and told us but I had to ask and the last time I asked, two weeks ago, it got on the agenda here. We do these projects and never have a final accounting. I don't care if it is over budget or under budget, just give me a final figure.

Mr. McCully stated, it has been over a year that it has been appearing on Council agendas and you will find somewhere in there that I made a report that the building was complete and it was occupied on time, etc. I didn't feel the need to take it much beyond that since it was announced at that time.

Mr. Parisi stated, we got it done tonight.

Reginald Knight, 21 Audette Drive stated that the building was named the David Doherty Recreation Facility therefore it should appear on the agenda that way and not 6 Fairfield Boulevard. It would be nice to be talking about the David Doherty Recreation Center instead of the cold words that are on the agenda. We were supposed to be praising his service to the community and his name is still not mentioned. I think it would be nice if we started using the name for the facility.

Mr. Parisi stated, for the public's edification, there will be a dedication Thursday night at Sheehan High School at 7:00 P.M. that will be in Dave Doherty's name. In no way is he being forgotten.

Mr. Zappala asked what the original bid for the project was?

Mr. McCully responded, the original bid from LaRosa was \$1,295,000.00. to renovate the building. Their final contract was \$1,333,000.00. We went \$38,000 over due to change orders.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville asked, wasn't it true that this property was on the market for quite some time at a sales price of \$750,000?

Mr. Parisi stated, that is not appropriate at this time. The item is done.

Mr. Melillo stated, I have the right to ask why the Town paid \$1,100,000.00 for the property?

Mayor Dickinson stated, the history on it is, we went to an auction in Boston and bid on the property; subsequent to that the owner was interested in selling; the Town purchased the property for somewhere around \$1.1 million. It was at an auction that the property was purchased due to a bankruptcy. We bid at the auction; someone else out bid us....

Mr. Parisi stated, they didn't have enough money to bid.....they went to the dance and didn't have the price for the ticket.

Mr. Melillo asked, what was the dedication for David Doherty?

Mayor Dickinson explained that the Library at Sheehan High School will be dedicated in Dave Doherty's name on Thursday evening.

Mr. Melillo stated, that has nothing to do with the Recreation Center.

Mr. Parisi agreed.

Mr. McCully stated that he was reading off of the old letterhead which gives the 6 Fairfield Boulevard Address and he will make sure in the future that the stationary and all references made to the property appear correct.

Mr. Melillo asked, has anything been done to provide skating for the children?

Mr. McCully responded, you will have to check with the Director of Parks and Recreation. The entrance, not the exterior, has a sign over it for David Doherty. We are waiting for the deliver of special metal letters that are installed on the brick.

Philip Wright, 160 Cedar Street stated, I remember Tom Myers saying that every nickel and dime would be accounted for in this project. We, the public, come here tonight with nothing to look at. I looked up here and the Council secretary gave me a piece of paper. I think that if the public asked the question then they should be provided the information so that they could ask some reasonable questions when this kind of a report out is being made. Looking at what I got, I see the Mayor and Henry are at variance in the total number of approximately \$6,000. Peanuts, maybe, but \$6,000. What is the accurate figure? Is it the Mayor's figure or Henry's?

Mr. Knight told Mr. Wright to turn the page over for more information was included on the back of the first page.

Mr. Wright next asked, what was the original contract for?

Mr. McCully responded, \$1,295,000. There was \$38,000 in change orders.

Mr. Wright asked, did you approve all of those?

Mr. McCully answered, yes, along with the architect. Recreation Department, Youth Service Bureau and Government Access Television all wanted design changes. In order to keep costs down on this we knew right from the get go that it was a very low budget item for the amount of money that we were trying to bring this job in for. I volunteered services for outside work which was, connecting of roof drains; spreading of mulch; minor landscaping of the exterior of the building.

Mr. Wright asked, do you really believe that you do it cheaper than hiring someone?

Mr. McCully answered, yes.

Mr. Parisi asked that the Mayor make every effort to correct all references to the building.

Mayor Dickinson pointed out that the report written by Henry McCully was in October of 1997.

ITEM #13 Consider and Approve a Waiver of Bid with SNET to Provide Town Departments with CentraLink 3100 Tariff System - Mayor's Office

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

Correspondence from Mayor Dickinson (Appendix II) states that a review of the phone system(s) and services used by the Town and public utility departments has been performed. The purpose of the review was to ascertain whether additional economies may be available and achievable. Since the Town Hall has moved to 45 S. Main it has been a SNET Centrex free tariff customer. The proposal is to change to SNET CentraLink 3100 tariff and enter into a five year agreement through the multi-year arrangement and the change to a fixed number of access paths that additional economies are achieved. In addition, the proposal as formulated would have the Water/Sewer and Electric departments become CentraLink 3100 customers as well, thereby providing internal services such as four-digit dialing and call transfer. For our emergency serviced departments the proposal is to have the Police Department become a CentraLink 2100 customer as did the Fire Department some years ago, thereby providing ease of call transfer between these two departments. These changes will result in a savings of over \$17,000 per year to the Town. On the equipment side, it would appear preferable for Town departments to own phone sets. Also being reviewed is the possibility of eliminating the cost visited on each department for the monthly preparation of individual bills by the phone company. This amounts to almost \$4,000 per year.

Mayor Dickinson pointed out that the first step before the Council is the waiver of bid in order to meet Charter requirements. We would be paying more than \$2,000 per year, obviously, and in order to enter into the agreements there should technically be the bid waiver. He stated, we are suggesting it because we have been a SNET customer for many, many years; we receive good service and given the services we offer to the public I would be reluctant at this point to try and formulate a relationship with some other phone company and risk major changes or interruptions in service. I think we should stay with SNET. There are other agreements that have to be entered into for the all distance calling as well as the CentraLink switching service. We are estimating a savings in the range of \$17,000 per year; the letter indicates some other things we are looking at; we are not prepared to recommend them at this time but we do believe that the savings varies. The five year contract provides this level of savings. Lesser contracts would result in lesser levels (of savings).

Mr. Centner stated, my only concern is that we keep all features and aspects that we have come to expect from the present service with this change.

Mayor Dickinson stated, with anyone calling the Town there would be no change; the principle change may be that there is a broader range of inter-departmental calling using four digits. Our savings is that we will have fewer dedicated lines I believe.

Don Roe, Program Planner stated, we will have fewer network access pads.

Mayor Dickinson explained, our access pads are more limited than what we have now so we save those expenses but this gives us a range of fifty (50) calls in and out and we feel that is well beyond what we would ever really need given not only our own experience but the experience in other communities that have signed up for far less.

Mr. Centner asked, can we put blocking on some of the calls like the 900 numbers and some other things that can be problematic?

Mayor Dickinson responded, yes, that would be the same situation as we have now.

Mr. Knight asked, I gather that even if we go with the Centralink, the phone numbers, the phone exchange won't change?

Mr. Roe answered, right, we are looking to continue our numbering system. There might be, for the PUC in the Electric Division, there might be a couple of other changes but they are aware of it and it is not something that was deemed to be impossible. For them, and the PUC they actually gain by joining the Centralink 3100 in that they will be able to do call transfer between their different sites. That is something they are not able to do right now. That is an enhancement for them that they have been looking to accomplish for quite some time.

Mr. Knight asked, the Board of Education has had their own system for quite some time, why is that? If you are able to differentiate between departments with this system, why would it not yield further savings to include the Board of Education?

Mr. Roe answered, they are an entity unto themselves.

Mr. Knight asked, why is that not something that would make sense to tie the whole town into one phone system?

Mayor Dickinson stated, it may make sense but there is no authority to tell them this is the way to go.

Mr. Knight asked, was there an attempt made to include them in the event that there possibly could have been some savings and also some efficiencies that are acquired through better networking with the Board of Education Offices and various schools and what not?

Mayor Dickinson stated, I believe that they just recently entered into a new.....

Mr. Roe added, I think that they have gone their own directions in the not too distant past.

Mayor Dickinson added, I seem to remember that they are having trouble with the phone ringing when actually the phone was busy; it did not register busy so they went to another system not too long ago.

Mr. Knight asked, did they go to a different carrier or is it that they physically bought another phone system?

Mayor Dickinson responded, I don't know; I am not informed on what the Board of Education is using for a phone system.

Mr. Zandri asked, if there is that much of a savings for the Town to utilize this system, then I would recommend that the Mayor's Office at least contact the Board of Education Offices to explain the enhancements and advantages of this system and hopefully they will be able to look into it and maybe down the road be able to go to the same system and enjoy the same savings the Town is.

Andy Kapi, 6 Deme Road asked, request a waiver of bid compared to what? If we did not go out and talk to other carriers, other providers, we always leave open the possibility that someone else could have come and taken a look at this overall project and overall conversion and said, in the course of five years, they could have saved us \$28,000. I assume that this is not as simple as signing up for a service or subscription rates; this is a custom project which probably involves some hard wiring; something that needed to be negotiated. I know that the Mayor has many talents but a telecommunications background; I don't know. What background did we bring into this discussion to be able to make the assessment that we don't need to talk to other companies?

Mayor Dickinson explained, this involves no wiring. This is only a change as far as I know.

Mr. Roe added, that is correct. There is no hardware; no equipment; this is a service agreement.

Mayor Dickinson added, it involves solely the electronics that SNET provides for our telephone service and we are changing from what is now the Centrex package to what is now called CentraLink which is the subject of this agreement. For us to compare what we have now with what anyone else may provide requires the hiring of a consultant and write bid specifications and put the matter out to bid. My guess is that the bid would be very complicated and potentially a very expensive process to have that done. We have received good service; there are no complaints regarding our service and given the nature of our services I don't think it is worthwhile for us to shop around when our phone capability; making and receiving calls; is, at times, very vital to the public health, safety and welfare. I think those factors weigh heavily and, again, we don't have the expertise to draw up specifications and make this a public bid issue.

Mr. Kapi stated, my first assumption was wrong, it does not involve hard wiring so it really isn't a project, it is more of a service subscription-type thing. That would seem to indicate that if we had the expertise, if we could draw up a bid, other companies could then quote to that bid rather easily to match the service or not so therefore the hang up is the fact that we don't have the expertise. The question would be for the future; I am not going to argue whether this is the appropriate move at this point; but at some point don't we one day rue the day that we never had the expertise to make these types of judgments?

Mayor Dickinson responded, any proposals that I have received as an individual, coming from different phone companies promising this rate or that rate, I can't tell what is the reality. I think that is my concern about trying to evaluate different proposals on this type of service. If you, as an individual, receive requests from AT&T and SNET and I don't know who else, and I think it is very difficult to sort out exactly whether you use Sprint, etc., whether you are going to save any money or not. There are so many different conditions and variables, you can't compare one to

another and that would be the Town's problem in trying to arrive at an evaluation of bids. I suspect that it would be very difficult to compare one to another.

Mr. Kapi asked, and we are going to be doing cable service with these people now, too? Didn't we discuss doing an alternative to cable access delivery?

Mr. Parisi stated, that does not really enter into this.

Mr. Kapi stated, it only touches on the point that we don't have expertise in this area. Maybe one day at budget time, maybe these types of concerns; call it "wish list", but if there is a long term plan, or a five year plan or a ten year plan, it ought to be put on a list and looked at.

Joe Chordas, 33 Martin Avenue asked, what is the total expenditure for telephone service for the Town now?

Mr. Roe answered, the approximate cost for the general government departments and P.U.C. for telephone service is about \$70,000 per year.

Mr. Chordas asked, and your savings by going to CentraLink is \$17,000 per annum over five years?

Mr. Roe answered, correct.

Mr. Chordas asked, is there any way in the agreement that you are signing for them to increase their rates at all?

Mr. Roe answered, if it goes up or down; if the PUC should change the tariff, correct.

Mr. Chordas asked, are they guaranteeing you \$17,000 in savings the first year; what is the guarantee over the five year term, per year?

Mr. Roe stated, let me change that; if it goes up we still stay at what the rate is that we have.

Mr. Chordas asked, so they are guaranteeing us a minimum of \$17,000 per annum?

Mr. Roe answered, correct; that is the estimate.

Mr. Chordas commented; first of all, I am familiar with CentraLink, I helped a medium-sized company convert over its phone service and I don't have a problem with that type of service; I think it is a good way to go. It shows that the Town is approaching the twenty-first century, which is surprising. If we have a \$70,000 expenditure currently, CentraLink is a type of service and to waive a bid for a \$70,000 expenditure would be shortcutting the process. I think that if you went to other providers out there and said that you were thinking about going to CentraLink,

and asked, what similar type or exact type of service could you provide; what savings would we enjoy over a five year term, you might realize some greater savings and you may see SNET come back and give you \$20,000 or \$22,000 per year (savings). I hear the Mayor's comments that we enjoy service currently; good service; no one is complaining about the service, why go to a different company and jeopardize that? My comment to the Council tonight would be not to waive the bid process on a \$70,000 expenditure even though we have a promise of \$17,000 per year. There are other vendors, other providers that provide the same kinds of services and you may benefit from a greater savings. It is a five year agreement; not a one year agreement. It is a five year agreement. The Mayor said it himself; with a Centralink-type set up they recommend that you go out and purchase your own phones. There may be other services that you may want to wrap into an overall agreement like this and where you may save in some areas, they may get you in other areas if you don't look at the big picture, just a piece of the pie.

Albert Killen, 150 Cedar Street stated that he agreed with Mr. Chordas. What is crossing my mind is that you are dealing with nothing but a bunch of words here, this evening. We have no idea what is out there. The Charter does allow you to award to other than the lowest bidder if it is in the best interest of the Town of Wallingford. You have nothing to lose to bring in the other team to let them put on their best front and decide from them for yourselves what is best for the Town and whether we will make a savings, not slamming the door on anything at all.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville, agreed with Mr. Chordas and Mr. Killen. He urged the Council to encourage the bidding process, it should not be waived.

Diane Hotchkiss, 38 Clifton Street agreed that the bidding process should not be waived. The Town should go out to bid because we do that for jobs for this town, we always find better outside the Town of Wallingford; that is not a positive thing; I don't think that we should short change ourselves in this area either. We should open ourselves up to other people; other services and get all the bids this time.

Mr. Zandri commented that the points brought up by Joe Chordas were right on the mark and I don't think that we are under the gun at all. We have a phone system that is working and if we go out to bid on this SNET might come in with a better deal. It would be worthwhile to go through that effort. I will be voting against this.

Mr. Centner stated, I am interested in what the other speakers had to say and if we were to go out to bid and another carrier were to bid to supply service, would that then require hardware equipment upgrades or is it something they should provide when you go on the lines?

Mayor Dickinson stated that he did not know the answer to that.

Mr. Roe stated, the availability for competitors to provide local phone service is not here yet. It is on the horizon and we viewed this as an interim step until that event happens and the shake out from local service transpires. But right now, there aren't vendors knocking on our door saying, we will provide your local phone service. It is on the horizon.

Mr. Centner asked, if you were to try and bid for local service, you are not sure that you would get any other than the one you got anyway?

Mr. Roe responded, that is what I am representing to you. That right now, there's not other vendors out there in Wallingford providing local phone service. It is on the horizon. This state, much like other states, is going through the telecommunications deregulation process as all of you are aware. That has happened on the long distance toll side and on the in-state toll side. It has not yet happened on the local phone side.

Mr. Centner asked, is it possible to get less than five years in the contract that we are considering waiver the bid for? Can we get two or three years?

Mr. Roe stated, the tariff that they were approved to offer by the DPUC was for two years or five years however, the savings is considerably different. The question is, will the shake out have taken place in a two year period of time?

Mr. Centner asked, do we have any of the numbers for the two year contract?

Mr. Roe answered, we did look at those numbers, I could not quote them for you.

Mr. Zappala asked, what you are telling me is that SNET is the only carrier that will be able to service us right now?

Mr. Roe stated, right now, right. Just like they are your local provider of your local phone service right now at home. That is what they are for us. There aren't other, O.K., vendors providing local phone service right now in our community. It is on the horizon.

Mr. Zappala asked, it is not existing right now?

Mr. Roe answered, right.

Mr. Zappala asked, so we have no choice?

Mr. Roe answered, well, you can continue as is and continuing as is means we would continue paying the Centrex III rates.

Mr. Rys asked, has the CentraLink 2100 system worked well for the departments that have been utilizing the system?

Mr. Roe answered, yes, they converted two or three years ago. They have been very pleased with their service.

Mr. Rys stated, I recall that they have had service reductions in their cost also. Just looking at that, dealing with the Police Department and Fire Department and emergency services, I would be reluctant at this point to even consider going to another carrier other than SNET.

DTE: Zandri, no; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #10 PUBLIC HEARING on An Ordinance Repealing Ordinance*#182 and #288 Entitled, "Public Celebrations Committee" - 7:45 P.M.

Mr. Rys stated, I have the ordinance before me. It has items one through five on it. The only item with a change is item 2 so I will read that and we will just append the rest of the item to our minutes. That deal with number 2; "The Public Celebration Committee shall consist of twenty-one members appointed by the Town Council. The number of members of the Public Celebration Committee shall hereafter be determined by resolution of the Town Council. The Mayor shall be a member ex-officio." That increased the number of members.

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

Albert Killen, 150 Cedar Street stated, the item on the agenda says, the ordinance is repealing the original ordinance. That is what your public hearing is on. There wasn't any repealing action; you amended.

Mr. Parisi stated, we have to repeal ordinance #182 and #288.

Mr. Killen added, the whole body of the ordinance is all about time element and so forth. All you really have to do is amend it. That was the intent of the whole thing; to change the number of the members, the rest is status quo, the

Mr. Knight stated, if the first statement in the new ordinance repeals ordinance #182 and ordinance #288 and we enact the new ordinance, do we not, in effect, accomplish all that with one vote?

Mr. Killen stated, we should not be handling two ordinances with one vote. The person has the right to vote for one against the other. They should always have that option.

Mr. Parisi stated, we are repealing both of them.

Mr. Killen stated, the one that stands there now is mostly what Ray had, the original one that was there. All the original ordinance did was set up a framework and designated a number of members. It was amended and changed; the number of members from twelve to fifteen, that is the whole body of the thing; there is no more to it than that. When I saw this evening that you were going to repeal it yet it did not say what you were going to replace it with, I could not understand what you were doing. You were taking two separate actions, repealing and replacing. It should be a public hearing on both of them.

Atty. Small stated, if you are opposed to the other ordinances being repealed then you vote no. This is an attempt to put all in one document the revisions to those two previous ordinances. There is nothing technically wrong with doing that.

* Killen stated, the simple wording, amending, more applicable than this is by a long shot.

Atty. Small stated, if you do the, by amendment, that means that if you wanted to see this ordinance you would have to go to three different ordinances to see what its current version is. This is just more of a housecleaning by taking care of the prior two.

Mr. Killen asked, do you know how many sheets the two other ones take up? Each one takes up one sheet, one side of one sheet

Atty. Small stated, I understand that but certainly when someone is looking to see what the current state of the law is, they should not have to go to three different places if you can avoid it. It is an effort to make it easier to find it.

Mr. Killen stated, by the same token, a person reading, "Public Hearing on an ordinance repealing ordinance #182 and #288." and so forth, saying, I don't want that repealed, has the right to come up and find out what is going on. When he finds out that he is not repealing it in the first place he then says, what am I doing up here.

Atty. Small responded, they are being repealed. They are being repealed and replaced.

Mr. Killen stated, repealing and replacing are not always one in the same. You are amending, all you are doing in amending. All the rest of it is staying the same.

y. Small stated, the end result is the same.

Mr. Killen stated, when don't you repeal an ordinance? They are not in any way, shape or form, repealing the previous ordinances; they are amending them and that is the way it is worded.

Atty. Small stated, they are repealing them because they are taking them off of the books and replacing them. You are saying that you want to have three of these things (ordinances) sitting there which you would have to make reference to every time you wanted to look up the ordinance regarding the Public Celebrations Committee. It does not make any sense to do it that way when you have an opportunity to put it all into one.

Mr. Killen asked for a reading of the motion in the first place.

Town Council Secretary Kathryn Zandri stated, motion was made on a public hearing on an ordinance repealing ordinance #182 and #288 entitled, "Public Celebrations Committee" and then the note was made that there was a change to section number two regarding the number of members; up to two by-one.

Mr. Killen stated, now you have repealed it. If you vote on this and you repeal it, how are you amending it after that if it is already repealed? There is no ordinance to amend.

Atty. Small stated, you have to add that you are adopting this ordinance.

Killen stated, that is not the way it was worded.

Atty. Small asked, how was it noticed in the paper?

wn Council Secretary Kathryn Zandri suggested that the first paragraph of the ordinance into the record which explains that the Council is repealing and establishing a new ordinance.

Mr. Parisi stated, yes it does, that "Ordinance #182 and #288 are hereby repealed and the following ordinance is substituted in lieu thereof."

Atty. Small stated, and you have that in your legal notice so that is really what the motion should be.

Mr. Killen stated, that was not there.

Mr. Parisi asked that a proper motion be made.

Mr. Rys stated that he removed the first motion and replace it with that language; Ordinance #182 and #288 are hereby repealed and the following ordinance is substituted in lieu thereof. Seconded by Mr. Farrell.

Mr. Knight stated, our secretary brought it to my attention that there is some wording that is different than what was passed in the Ordinance Committee meeting. What it amounts to is adding the words, "up to" instead of saying the Public Celebrations Committee shall consist of twenty-one members which is what we passed in the ordinance committee meeting, it is changed to read that the committee shall consist of up twenty-one members. The rest of the language is the same and I would like to move that change. Seconded by Mr. Farrell.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: All ayes; motion duly carried.

Mayor Dickinson stated, so that we don't get confused; the language I have here is, "Public Celebrations Committee shall consist of up to twenty-one members."

Mr. Parisi responded, that is correct. That is what we are saying.

Mr. Parisi stated, it was not in what we have. That is why we are changing it based on what we have.

VOTE ON ORDINANCE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #11 PUBLIC HEARING on an Ordinance Amending Ordinance #418 Entitled, "An Ordinance Appropriating \$148,000 for the Design of Renovations to the Wallingford Community Pool" - 8:00 P.M.

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Read the Title and Section 1 of the following proposed ordinance, in their entirety, and to waive the reading of the remainder of the ordinance, attaching its full text to the minutes of this meeting, seconded by Mr. Knight.

VOTE TO WAIVE THE READING OF THE ORDINANCE IN ITS ENTIRETY: All ayes; motion duly carried.

Mr. Rys read the title and Section 1 into the record as follows: "An Ordinance Amending an Ordinance Appropriating \$148,000 for the Design of Renovations to Wallingford Community Pool and Authorizing the Issuance of \$124,000 Bonds of the Town to Meet Said Appropriation and Pending the Issue Thereof the Making of Temporary Bonds for Such Purpose. Section 1. An ordinance entitled an ordinance appropriating \$124,000 for the design of renovations to

Wallingford Community Pool and Authorizing the Issue of \$124,000 bonds of the town to meet said appropriation and pending the issue thereof making of temporary borrowings for such purpose. Enacted by the Town Council on the November 26, 1996 and Approved by the Mayor on November 27, 1996 which ordinance is hereby ratified, confirmed and adopted. It is amended to increase the appropriation and bond authorization therein by \$1,941,000 from \$124,000 to \$2,065,000 and to provide for project construction thereby making the title of the ordinance read as follows: An ordinance appropriating \$2,065,000 for the planning, acquisition and construction of renovations to the Wallingford Community Pool and authorizing the issuance of \$2,065,000 bonds of the town to meet said appropriation and pending the issue thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose."

Tom Dooley, Director of Parks and Recreation read the following two quotes into the record, "Nothing splendid was ever created in cold blood; heat is required to forge anything. Every great accomplishment is a story of a burning heart. Commitment is the stuff character is made of, the power to change the face of things is the daily triumph of integrity over skepticism." (No author mentioned) The accomplishment of bringing the Community Pool Renovation to this point is a story of burning hearts, of commitment to a project, of a passion for a facility and a legacy for our community. It has a very long history I am sure you are all aware of. It started back in 1987 when Stan Shepardson, then Director of Recreation; Phil Lacousier, Pool Engineer, were looking for a better way for better water clarity. In 1991 while we were still pursuing better water clarity, we determined that the bottom of the pool and the pool, itself, needed to be addressed for it was falling into disrepair. We formed a committee which presented two options in 1992, neither of which were pursued because the town was involved in a much higher priority at that time. In 1994, Friends of Community Pool picked up the ball and delivered us here tonight. They gave us the base idea and strategy which brings us here. There have been countless others who have been involved in one way or another, past and present council members, people who have attended the public hearings, written letters, called on the phone or spoken to me at an event. All of these people deserve my thanks and sincere gratitude. It is because of their passion, their commitment, their ideas, that I am able to propose to you tonight the Community Pool renovation. It has been the subject of much debate, discussion and newspaper scrutiny, editorial and commentary. I dare say that I would be hard pressed to find a resident in Wallingford who doesn't have an opinion on Community Pool. The past year Mr. Brewer of TLB Architect, Henry McCully (Director of Public Works), John Thompson (Town Engineer) and myself, have undergone a rather lengthy and arduous process of meetings, analysis and discussion of Community Pool. We have met and incorporated the thoughts and feelings of every department head and every department in Wallingford and held three, very informative and productive public hearings. Members of the Town Council and community of Wallingford, I sit here tonight to present to you what I believe to be a very sound, viable proposal. I must warn you that, for the most part, this is a very basic, bare bones renovation. We made several difficult decisions to reduce the overall cost of the Community Pool renovation. Several items suggested by the public have been eliminated. In fact, we have given to you exactly what you have asked for; a renovated Community Pool. This time I would like to introduce Mr. Tim Brewer of TLB Architect. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude. TLB Architecture has done a magnificent job. They have put in much more time than I ever could have hoped for. They have presented us with an outstanding proposal that I think we should accept and the amount of hard work and dedication to this project sometimes at great personal expense to their firm, goes beyond words I can say. I am very thankful that we chose them, they did a great job. Without further ado, Mr. Tim Brewer.

Tim Brewer, TLB Architecture refreshed the Council on what is proposed for the facility; give a brief discussion of some of the alternates that we had bid by contractors and are not recommending to pursue this evening on the basis of cost. I will do this very rapidly because I know that you are all very well aware of the project and I think just so that

the public is brought full circle on this, take you through the proposed renovations. In referring to a rendering of the project located on the stage along side of the Council, Mr. Brewer stated; Mr. Dooley mentioned that it is a bear bones renovation and that is the truth. It is not an inexpensive renovation and that is the conflict, if you will. We are trying to manipulate a very, very large body of water by any standard, much less a normal aquatic facility standard.

Approximately 42,000 square feet of surface area will be re-developed and that is really by mandate of the community. With respect to the bare bones description, I want everyone to know that the renovations to the existing locker room and bath house facility will be modest. The renovations are limited to essentially interior aspects of the facility to make it safe, handicapped accessible and code conforming. We are doing extremely little. In fact, I think I am completely accurate in saying that we are doing no renovations to the exterior of the building which will upgrade it cosmetically. We are going to have to replace some doors and frames to make it accessible, we are going to be lowering the existing service counter at the ticket booth but we are literally going to do precious little to that facility and it is my moment to editorialize to suggest that this facility will be very well received by the community if you elect to proceed with this and build it. Just a few years down the road you will hear discussion again, from the community about renovating now the bath house because the time will come and you will be faced with a decision about appropriating a capital project to renovate that facility and bring the bath house up to snuff with the pool. You will notice in the built facility that, at the exit of the bath house onto the pool deck there is one remarkable change and that is that the current configuration slopes off to pool extremely rapidly; at a slope in excess of that which is acceptable to anyone in a wheelchair and, in fact, to the standard of the code. We are proposing a small platform at the back side of the facility which will have a central stair to help ambulatory users negotiate that grade and we will also have a ramp down along the side so that wheelchair users can negotiate that grade. The balance of the facility is very simple. We have recommended accepting

alternate which is alternate number two on your hand out for \$70,000 to increase the parking capacity, the adding of the loop drive and turn around to the facility. This was something that in the sort of test designs if you will, which we ran by the public, was very well received and more importantly, when we ran it by planning and public safety officials in the town, it became an absolute mandate that if we were to renovate this facility, there was no way in good conscious that we could do it without extending this, making it a loop drive and creating very clear and accessible entry and exit to emergency vehicles. We are proposing that you accept an alternate to extend the current parking lot which is very short and accommodates about sixty-two cars to the full loop configuration that you see here which will accommodate approximately ninety-six cars, plus emergency vehicles. Very importantly, that loop drive will establish a very clear circulation pattern through the building with a drop-off and very clearly defined entry point at the end for ticketing or verification if you will, showering and then entry into the pool facility which is required by the health code. On the filtration end of the facility is where we are going to be investing significant number of your public dollars into water clarity, circulation and turnover rate. The facilities that you have there now are workhorse variety, three very large, very low rate, trickle filter tanks will be replaced by three modern, efficient, high rate sand filter tanks which operate also at low pressure. Those tanks are specified to come with a fifteen year warranty, will probably see you through twenty years of good water clarity at this facility and will be coupled with a piping system and a system of three large, twenty horsepower variety pumps to re-circulate this water throughout the pool. We are talking about a million gallons of water here and that is not like anything you would have ever seen or tried to circulate in a typical YMCA or Olympic-size swimming pool. Other aspects of the facility which we did hear very loud and clearly from the community would be desirable are a maintenance of the overall water surface area of approximately \$40,000 square feet. We are within four percent (4%) of the existing water surface area. We have shallowed up the bottom of the

pool from its current depth of about eight (8) feet to a proposed depth of approximately five (5) feet to really serve a number of purposes, not the least of which is to get the new re-circulation piping system up and out of the water table and to put the new wearing surface of pavement up and out of the water table which we believe to be the primary culprit in the deterioration of that pool bottom surface, currently. You will also see a linear area proposed which is new. It takes advantage of existing spillway and bulk heading concrete construction to basically use as a back form for

the new three-sided concrete lap pool so that swim lessons could be given here, training could be done for lifeguarding programs and certification right up through level three training done for all of your aspiring young lifeguards in the town. We will open up a number of programming opportunities and was a component of the project that was very well received by the public. Beyond that we are really talking about putting the facility back together. We believe that we have a solid proposal here to give you a low maintenance, a lower maintenance pool facility which we believe will free you up from the major maintenances, the routine maintenances that have needed to be put forward out there every spring at opening time for the next fifteen to twenty years. With that, I am finished and leave it open to questions and answers.

Reginald Knight, 21 Audette Drive asked, is there a safety area for the kiddies? Unfortunately, a few years ago a small child wandered away from the adults and ended up in the deep end, fell in and was drowned. I would hate to see any tragedy like that again. I would like to see an area where it would be impossible for tots to get access to the deep water. Is that built in as a safety measure anywhere?

Mr. Brewer responded, there is no way to insure, physically guarantee complete separation of any of the toddlers that may use the facility from the five foot water depth. That is not only true of this proposed but virtually all that I have been involved with. What this facility does offer, by way of clarifying and bringing a greater degree of safety for your younger users is, in the current shallow area, we are providing a couple of things which are of some import. Number one, a very gradual, even more gradual entry situation than the one that currently exists and that this will be a one in twenty-grade ramp or sloped walk to a maximum depth in this area of only eighteen inches. That compares to a current maximum depth of about two feet. We are proposing the removal of the chain link fencing which goes across this area and I believe some think provides that physical barrier separation. We perceive that to be a serious safety concern in that toddlers can get caught on that fencing, somehow their bathing suit could get hooked up in some of the wiring of that fencing. We are pulling that out and proposing a floating line to differentiate that area. I am sure that the guarding attributes of this area will be stepped up in kind.

Mr. Dooley stated, the one issue that we already do address which is of great concern to myself also, is the issue of pre-schoolers being separated from their parents and getting into the deep end. We already have in place a twelve to fifteen minute check. Every twelve to fifteen minutes we pull everyone out of the pool and make every youngster under the age of six hold hands with their parents. That has been in place for the last two summers.

Reginald Knight stated, what about have a separate little wading pool for the tots? I believe that the child did not wander through the water he went along the side and fell in. Possibly a wire mesh fence going up to the edges from the water and that there be some sort of a guard stationed at a narrow doorway leading from one section to the other and he could monitor who goes through and still keep an eye on the pool. The guard could be stationed at the wall either side of the pool. I am mentioning it because I would hate to see another tragedy of a little tot getting.....

Mr. Knight explained, I would like to give you a little history on why you will not see that incorporated in this design, the original pool committee was going by the Public Swimming Pool Design Guide which does specify that the shallow areas for children and the deeper areas for adults should be separated. That did not seem to meet with the approval of a number of people in the public nor with the approval of the Town Council then in session. Subsequently, one of our state legislators had a special bill passed which allowed us to deviate substantially from the CT. Swimming Pool Design Guide. That is why this feature has never been considered since that act has been passed. It seemed to be a very prime consideration that the public wanted is no separation between the two areas.

... Brewer added, while we were not charged, in fact we were publicly discouraged from expanding the scope of this project to include that type of a pool, I am now familiar enough with the site and its confines to be able to say, at some point in the future this park and this facility, there is land in reserve. You certainly could, on one side of the turnaround there is enough open area where you could stage the development of a fully-enclosed wading pool for those little tiny kids with its own filter system as demand for the facility may require it.

Diane Hotchkiss, 38 Clifton Street asked, has the Council or committee gone to the State to see if there was any available funding for this project? Back in 1987 it was brought out that Windsor's pool was done totally by the State. Why hasn't that been checked out after all these years?

Mr. Dooley responded, no, we have not checked it out. I am not sure that we would receive State funding for this pool based upon the kind of latitude that we have been given to renovate the pool at this time.

Mr. Centner stated, to add to that I even checked through the Board of Education's schools program to find out how they get their pools built, there wasn't any funding statewide there either.

Mrs. Hotchkiss responded, I remember back in 1987 when we had the man from the State here and he said that the pool in Windsor was totally funded by the State; the same type of pool that we have here.

Mr. Centner stated, that is absolutely correct.

...s. Hotchkiss continued, hence, my question as to whether or not anything was done to check on getting funding elsewhere to help us offset that for the bonding.

Mayor Dickinson stated, we are aware that there is no grant program. A legislator could propose special legislation but, to my knowledge, there is no grant program that you can apply to obtain funds for a public pool.

Andy Kapi, 6 Deme Road stated, in looking at the \$2 million cost, it would help me compartmentalize not really the line item per se but just to divvy up some areas, I see what you term the modest renovations to the building, perhaps the smallest, I see the reconfiguration of the parking lot, I see the resurfacing of the pool bottom and I see the installation of the filtration system. Can you give us a rough idea of how that breaks down?

Mr. Dooley explained; the base bid for the renovation of the pool was \$1,698,000. To construct alternate number two which is the parking lot, expanded parking lot was \$70,000. We have a utility connection fee of \$6,000. We have a geotechnical inspection of \$5000; a bulk inspection of \$5,000; bituminous inspection of \$5,000; installation of a traffic signal, \$70,000., contingency of \$25,000., debt administration of \$37,000. and a clerk of the works at \$20,000. Which brings us to a total of \$1,941,000.

Mr. Kapi stated, I was thinking more of the actual construction costs.

Mr. Brewer stated, I will preface my answer with this remark; that we put a bid document together which was very complicated for bidders, not anymore complicated than it needed to be but it was complicated and we asked for seven alternates. What Tom (Dooley) started to read to you was a listing of some of those alternates. I do not at this point in time have a contractor's schedule of values with a very, very precise breakdown of costs but I can tell you that,

based on our own estimating, which has proven out to be somewhat accurate, I would suggest to you that wholly, \$1 million of the \$1.698 million is dedicated to the pool re-circulation system; pool paving, that would be the major cost. The balance, say \$698,000., there is probably \$70,000. worth of building renovations. There is a tremendous amount of fencing on this project; probably around \$75,000. You will also see that we are putting new sidewalk or decking around the perimeter of the facility which is also required by code and that is probably somewhere around \$200,000. There is a thumbnail sketch of the breakdown.

Mr. Kapi stated, with the filtration system, for example, I try to do some service on my car and I really like it when I can change a part and replace it if it wears out later on. With the filtration system, I liked hearing the comment about the water table. Would you say that care has been taken in this design to set us up for fifteen or twenty years down the line so that if the filtration system needs replacing at that point, componentially, it can be closer to, take this one out and put in another one?

Mr. Brewer answered, to the extent that it is at all practicable, we have done that and worked very closely in concert with the Town engineer and department of public works director and all the experts in town to do that. I would be more than happy to go over the details of this which will allow for componential replacement. If this is the forum, I will do it now.

Mr. Kapi responded, I will take your word for it.

Mr. Brewer continued, it is a very good question but also a fundamental challenge of dealing with a pool of this size.

Mr. Kapi asked, of the construction costs, which would you say, what part of that would be the most inflation-driven; at what aspect goes up every year we delay?

Mr. Brewer answered, that is a very good question. It is only recently, within the last ten to twelve months, we have begun to see inflationary pressure come back to my little piece of this industry. What we have seen over the last few months in the bidding process, more so than any of the other sixteen divisions within the construction industry, sitework seems to be going up. I can't explain it, there may be expertise here, on Council, that can help me with that. We have been involved with a number of very diverse projects over the last many, many years. Site pricing has held fairly constant until early winter and I believe that site contractor's backlogs finally got to the point where they felt that they could command a little bit better pricing. You need to understand that a big, big portion of this work is sitework; excavation, structural backfill and utility grade underground piping. You are looking at a tremendously big sitework component of this and that is just the area of the industry that we see price escalation in right now.

Mr. Kapi asked, are we going to tear up the old surface and get rid of it appropriately or are we simply going to cover it over with something that will seal it?

Mr. Brewer answered, all of the old comes out and becomes the property of the contractor for legal off-site disposal or re-constitution.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville asked, has the ordinance been passed yet in any way?

Mr. Parisi answered, no.

Mr. Melillo asked, is TLB in the business of renovations, relative to the way this is described in Item #11?

Mr. Parisi stated, that is correct, they are here to explain the project.

Mr. Melillo asked, but they haven't been hired in any way?

Mr. Parisi responded, they have been hired, one of the gentlemen before you is Tom Dooley (Parks & Recreation Director).

Mr. Melillo asked who the other gentleman was?

Mr. Brewer responded, I am Tim Brewer, Principle at TLB Architecture. We were hired about a year ago to design these renovations.

Mr. Melillo asked, then how does this ordinance relate?

Mayor Dickinson explained, the \$148,000 is the existing ordinance. We are looking to amend it, to reflect the \$2,065,000. that would allow construction in accord with the plans that you see up here. The subject of the ordinance is to allow the spending of \$2,065,000. in order to renovate the pool as shown on the drawing here.

Mr. Melillo asked, it will be put out to bid?

Mayor Dickinson answered, it has already been bid, we have a bid price and the ordinance will allow us to enter into a contract and hire a contractor to accomplish these improvements. It has already been bid.

Mr. Melillo asked for a better explanation of the \$148,000.

Mayor Dickinson stated, the actual sum should be \$124,000. It relates to an existing ordinance, we are amending that ordinance so the subject matter for tonight is \$2,065,000.

Mr. Melillo asked, this \$148,000 figure is not correct?

Mayor Dickinson responded, the existing ordinance is \$124,000. The figure is not correct, right.

Mr. Melillo stated, before voting on this, you are going to have to change that figure of \$148,000.?

Mr. Parisi stated, the figure has been corrected in the ordinance; Mr. Rys read the correct amount into the record. It is wrong on the agenda but it is right in the ordinance.

Mr. Melillo, what I gather from listening to other speakers, most people in town are not really concerned about a special area for the kids and their safety. That is the impression I got. It angers and baffles me. It seems to me that something like this should automatically have a special area for little children. I can't see getting this pool going and renovated without the situation being addressed the way that it should be for the safety of the little kids. I don't sense any deep commitment relative to that addressing the concerns and safety of the little kids.

Mr. Parisi stated, that was discussed earlier but I think there is an area at the present time and I believe that the gentleman said, should the need arise, there is room to accommodate a section for little toddlers.

Mr. Melillo stated, the time is now.

Mr. Parisi explained, at the present time there is an area allocated; it is a shallow area for the little children.

Mr. Melillo stated, the issue of money should be last; the safety of the kids and public should come first. There was no problem with the parking capacity all these years, why are we suddenly concerned with increasing the parking area? Will that encompass having to chop down trees? I think we should forget about increasing the parking area.

Mr. Knight stated, the reason they want to expand the parking is, it is our fondest hope to attract more people to come to this \$2 million pool. If we have the same number of people coming to this pool as we did last year, then we have wasted \$2 million. Town-wide support for this renovation is there. I think, therefore, that it follows that you have to provide parking for the increased number of people who are going to use the facility.

Mr. Melillo asked, will you have to chop down trees for the increased parking?

Parisi responded, no.

Mr. Melillo asked, what are the dangers of electrocution with the equipment you will have with this pool?

Mr. Parisi answered, very, very little.

Mr. Melillo asked that Mr. Brewer answer the question.

Mr. Parisi responded, he (Mr. Brewer) agrees with me; he said there is none.

Mr. Brewer stated, that is a technical question and I can understand why it would be a matter of concern. One, you need to realize that we do not design these things in a vacuum. There are all sorts of codes and standards and safety precautions that need to be met; reviewed by Town departments and approved. We went there with Zoning, Inland Wetlands, all the people who were concerned about cutting the trees. We are not cutting down any trees. With respect to your specific concern to electrocution, please understand that there is a.....part of what costs \$1.6 million to build this facility is, all of the improvements that we make under ground that are for safety purposes that most people will never see. Every run of reinforcing bar, every deck-mounted stantion and insert that will support a backstroke line or a piece of fencing if it is within five feet of the pool edge, or a lifeguard chair will be continuously bonded in accordance with the National Electric Code to prevent any possibility of electrocution at all. It is a very good question. The codes that are in place are designed to take those concerns away.

Melillo stated, I have read articles on stories from all around the country of people periodically getting trocuted relative to lights, lights malfunctioning in the pool. Are we going to have any lights in that pool that may produce the same results?

Brewer responded, no, they are dangerous.

Mr. Melillo next asked, from time to time you hear stories from around the country where adults and children have been sucked by drains with a powerful suction; certain types of drains actually choking.....

Mr. Parisi stated that the matter was not appropriate.

Mr. Melillo disagreed stating, I have the right to ask the man a question. What do you mean it is not appropriate?

Mr. Parisi called for the next speaker to come forward.

Don Harwood, 4 Chestnut Lane stated, first, as a preface comment for Mr. Brewer and Mr. Dooley, I compliment them on the front end of this because they had a mission that they went out and worked on and obviously, they went out and came back with what has been asked of them. However, I really have a problem with investing \$2,065,000.

Mr. Melillo interrupted the speaker to ask why his question was not going to be answered. He thought Mr. Harwood was approaching the microphone to answer his question.

Mr. Parisi stated that he, as Chairman, was very generous in allowing Mr. Melillo to speak and now he wanted to give someone else a chance to do the same. Mr. Melillo can come up to the microphone again, at the end of the public hearing.

Harwood continued, I compliment Tom (Dooley) and Tim (Brewer). Obviously we sent them on a mission, I have been in that seat, I have gone out and put things together and have come back and listened to positive and constructive criticism over the years. (It is noted that Mr. Harwood served on the previous Community Pool Building Committee). Looking at what is being developed here and listening to the comments that Mr. Brewer made as our architect tonight, it seems that, first off, we are not addressing the total issue of the facility because we are not addressing the bath house properly which is going to be an investment down the road; with a \$2 million investment we should not cut items short. I certainly have some concern when we go out and we ask the State Legislature to make an exemption so that we can "skirt" the current public safety guidelines for pools. It doesn't seem consistent to where we should be going, at least from a layman's term. The comments that Mr. Brewer made is, "this is not a normal aquatic facility"; "42,000 square feet of water is challenging"; "the filtration aspect represents a significant share of the dollars invested" "One million gallons of water"; "nothing you have ever seen in water filtration"; "fundamental challenge of dealing with a pool this size", those are all comments made by the architect tonight. With that being said, he is bringing a professional perspective forward and that perspective is, this is not an easy task; what you have given him. Tom (Dooley) as the director, followed the mission as he should; he got the marching orders and off he goes. It seems all these things are extremely inconsistent. I would expect the architect to be coming in and saying, "this is the right pool, this is the proper design; the gallonage is...we can handle the gallonage, the churn rate of the water is going to be "X"; the ability to keep excretion in the pool under control"; everything that you talk about relating to a pool. That is not what I heard this evening and I didn't come with those questions, it is just that sitting here listening to what he stated, I really think that we are going to miss an opportunity or we are going to invest in something that is going to cause us a problem down the road. When I grew up in the 1960s in Yalesville, we did use the pool but dynamics in /n have changed. Many pools were not even here. Many, many people who want to use pool facilities have

just using a personal experience going to Sesame Place with my children. You can build a pool the size of this little area here and put 150 kids going up and down those little slides and they will have more fun in that type of environment, you should go there; just go to one of these places, it is absolutely astounding. The kids don't want to be in a lap pool for the most part, they love these little uniqueness. We sat there watching for hours, hundreds; if you have gone there it is beyond hundreds, it is thousands of kids; it gets out of control, enjoying a very small, easy, simple, very shallow pool environment that I am certain would address the issues related to the small kids and safety. I happen to have the very, very unfortunate experience as an active member in the Fire Department of working on a child that died in that pool. Not to say that it can't happen in a pool at Sheehan or anywhere else but it is a very odd design. Maybe that is what we are trying to be is unique but it is certainly not consistent with anything you go to. We are totally off the scale in addressing what you are seeing investment companies running as a business. They are doing that because that is what attracts the kids and that is what the kids want to enjoy. This is a lake, it was a lake then, it is a small lake; it could be a pond, sometimes it is a muddy pond. It certainly is nothing more than a pond. I think of the Clampett's (television show) with the cement pond. That is what comes to mind when I think about this. When you look at the investment versus the return, I have got to tell you from a financial perspective, we invested \$2 million+ in a park and recreation facility which is servicing a population far in excess of what this could ever envision serving because, just based on time, we have two months season for this pool. It is not going to get used. You have a park and recreation facility and maybe we should invest in a beautiful pool at that facility and made it an all-encompassing facility. I don't want to be the Johnny-come-lately and bring issues forward but, when you start looking at what is being put in front of us tonight, you have to ask those questions. In all honesty, the Council is in a predicament; the Council is in a pickle tonight because I have heard the comments made by the Council over past meetings when I have been here and you have committed to the public and I question that. The town-wide support; I guess I am not sure what that means, exactly. Did we survey all 41,000 residents? Did we survey the Community Pool supporters or Supporters of Community Pool group or what ever that was that came out and supported it? I am not sure that we have town-wide support for \$2,065,000 in a pool that we are going to get up and running with a tar pavement base to it which I have never swam in another pool like that and I am sure you haven't and then we...truly, you go into a bath house... what is one of the most important elements in going to any pool?; the cleanliness of the bath house; how it appears, we are all very in tune to hygiene. Do we still require the State of Connecticut special exemption for the filtering? I thought that is what we went and got a few years ago. That was a big issue because we were not filtering the water properly so we are going to go ahead and have a pool that is very similar but are we going to still...are we still going to have to have that exemption? If we are, or if it still stays out there, again, I am absolutely astounded by the fact that we did not approach that. When you renovate or replace you try to bring us up to current standards, if it is health codes, building codes or any applicable codes. Would investment at Lyman Hall or something along that line where we could have a pool that would service a growing population of Wallingford in high school students that could, maybe be all-encompassing? I know I am throwing out a lot of things tonight; I understand where you are right now; you have put yourselves on the line but I have to tell you that I am concerned about the liability. I think that the liability is the number one issue that I have heard tonight; liability related to deviation from the Public Pool Safety guidelines. I would only; I would be very concerned that down the road, God forbid, we have a problem and Wallingford is the only town out of 169 that has an exemption and we didn't follow pool safety guidelines. Could someone explain to the family who has a dead child in that pool, why we did not follow those guidelines? I am not sure I want answers tonight, other than, I hope all of you wrote these things down. These are things that were said tonight, are on tape, I am not making them up but, \$2 million for a pool is one thing; \$2 million for a pool that I think is a significant concern and potential liability to the community, has to be looked at. To move forward on this finance, I really have concern.

Mr. Brewer explained the process that they had gone through which was rigorous and included the Town's Risk Management department and that process concluded that the pool is safer than your current pool from a guarding perspective, from an access perspective, from a lifesaving perspective, from a water chemistry perspective, it is safer and better than your pool. With respect to meeting the criteria set out in the State Department of Health Standards, this pool, if you can call it that, in every way will be guarded and will have to perform to all of that criteria. The criteria is based on perimeter and how many guards per linear feet and you will meet that.

Mayor Dickinson asked, with regards to the filtration and water quality, will we meet the State requirements?

Mr. Brewer responded, yes. The State will require, if the State had a category that this facility would fall under, and they don't, but if they did, as a recreational complex serving multi-age group and multi-purposes, it would require an eight hour turnover. We are exceeding an eight hour turnover rate with the new filtration system.

Mayor Dickinson explained to Mr. Harwood, with regard to the exemption, that primarily dealt with zero depth. There was major public comment resistant to having a pool that more typically does not have zero depth entry. This is like a beach; you walk in and it gradually gets deeper. I think that is what the exemption principally dealt with. I believe that the water quality, filtration and all of those things will meet the State standards, is that correct Mr. Brewer?

Mr. Brewer responded, that is correct.

Harwood asked, is that under an exemption or does this just fall outside of what the standard guide would be for pools?

Mr. Brewer answered, you can seek an exemption or not; that will be a matter of operation. The existing exemption will remain in place because this is a restoration of the existing pool or you can go and seek another one. I am not sure how that will play out in the future.

Mr. Harwood stated, in closing, even with that said, I think the points that I raised, the points that Tim (Mr. Brewer) raised this evening, certainly identified that we are going along a path that is not the normal facility that is challenge; that we have never seen in water filtration, is fundamentally challenging in dealing with a pool this size; it is not a normal aquatic facility, it certainly doesn't seem as though we are going down the right road. I certainly would hope that despite, we haven't spent \$2 million but, despite the fact that the commitments have been made, I really would ask the Council and the Mayor to look at this project and really decide, is it the right investment at this time?

Mr. Knight asked, does not that State statute that was passed specifically for Wallingford say that we are exempt from everything except the water filtration and re-circulation sections of the CT. Swimming Pool Design Guide?

Mr. Brewer responded, I don't really want to go out on a limb and give the legal interpretation; I asked for one and I got one from the Town. I have one in my file but it will take me a couple of minutes to dig it out and read it.

Mr. Knight replied, probably not, I just thought that it might satisfy Mr. Harwood's question regarding how we got far down the road with a pool that deviates this far from the State....

Mr. Brewer responded, I would be happy to say that I agree fully with your interpretation; I'm just not a lawyer.

Mayor Dickinson asked Mr. Brewer, is there a way; are you able to say where we depart from the State standards?

Mr. Brewer responded, in general terms, I am. The fundamental departure that this facility has from the State standard is, its size, its surface area and its slope. The fact that, and I did not give those in any priority order, the number deviation from the State standard here is that, you have for all intensive purposes, 360 degrees sloped access to this pool. That is the fundamental difficulty that the State has in recognizing this facility; that and only that. And that was the fundamental design concept that we heard repeatedly in the public hearings that wanted to be retained. That was the character of this facility that we were charged with retaining.

Dianna Hotchkiss stated, I was part of the Community Pool issue back in 1991. An option presented at that time had a separate pool for the small children. The problem with that was that the separation was too far apart, there was a separation of six feet with a lot of shrubbery in-between. This concept to me is 100% better than what we had before only because it does not separate children of different ages in a separate pool where a mom has to leave the responsibility on the lifeguards to watch older children while she tends to younger children. The Town totally took into consideration the children and the safety of all children within a family, not just little children. I am very happy to see that in there. As far as risk of injury in a pool like this; I was informed today that the jungle gyms were removed from the parks in town because of risk of injury to children. A jungle gym to me has no injury to me, as far as a pool goes, I don't see what the injury here is versus having a "bucket-type" pool where you jump in on top of one another. I think this is great and I am happy to see it; it has been a long time, eleven years. I think that the town needs to get moving on it before we are all not around to even see it in existence. You did a very good job, Tom (Dooley).

Philip Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street stated, I will not question Don Harwood's technical evaluation of this. I respect Don for all that he has done in many areas here, in town, particularly the school expansion committee. I do, however, feel that we have supported this for a number of years; I believe I was a few inches taller and not bent over quite so much when I first came up here to speak about this. In this case we seem to be a year late and many, many dollars overrun. One year ago, on March 22nd, the Town approved \$1.3 - \$1.4 million to repair North Main Street Extension pool with \$124,000 for the design work. I have seen that contract; the pool was supposed to open, of course, this coming July as it stated. Now we are going to be at least one year behind we are talking about several hundred thousand dollars overrun. Instead of \$1.3 million we are now talking about over \$2 million. Something has gone awry here. We contact to have a certain job done. I believe that we should hold the fellow who bids on this contract to that figure. I do not believe that we should keep jockeying this thing up so we are now at least four or five hundred thousand dollars over and above what was put to the public and what you, the Council approved. Something is wrong with the way we have been managing this. I support Community Pool pretty much as it is; I leave it to those who have made these decisions to judge that it is technically acceptable but I really do not believe that you, as a Council, should open this thing up without, in some way, having some further proof that we are going to do it this time; that we are going to manage this project and not come back again and again. Something is wrong. I would suggest that if you are going to approve this, that you do something to obviate the possibility of this thing escalating again. Back in 1991 we could have built this pool with more than this available for \$2.3 million +/-, the Mayor at that time refused to approve it. It has been bounced around a long time and I sure wish you would put some dampers on this thing so that we don't continue to escalate the figures and to delay it.

Bernadette Renda, 753 N. Main Street, Ext. stated, this is one of my babies here. I am part of Friends of Community Pool and I go along with Tom Dooley in going ahead with this pool. As far as drawing people to it. I think that once it is all set and you go ahead, you will draw people. Last year and the year before I would switch my hours at work just to go over and watch the pool, watch the kids swim in there and it drew a lot of people then as it did the year before. I am sure once they see this procedure, you will have a lot of people coming to swim there. The swimming lessons they teach there through the Red Cross was worthwhile; my kids all took the lessons and became instructors. I have a son in the Marines who teaches swimming and he has learned to swim through the YMCA in Wallingford at Community Pool. I think that you should give the go ahead and get this job going and get it done instead of holding on year after year and the price keeps rising. As far as the children's safety; I was there when they wheeled that little boy out that drowned; I think that when the parents bring their kids there they should be responsible for those kids, not just drop them off while they go shopping. There was an incident when the lifeguard blew the whistle for all the kids to get out of the pool and pair up with their parent. One woman came back to the pool after going somewhere and could not find her child. Where was he? In the sand pile playing. I think the parents should stay and keep an eye on their children, not let them wander. Let's get the pool done. I think that it should be noted that the fence where they make the turn to go into the pool is going to be moved back.

Mr. Brewer explained, there are a number of safety upgrades proposed within this \$1.68 million; not the least which is that the main gate of the facility will be moved into the parking lot by about thirty feet so that if you are coming down the hill from the center or up from the shopping areas, you are not trying to turn into this facility in the middle of traffic if the gate is closed and often when the first guard comes to open or a chlorine delivery is made. That truck or that vehicle is out on North Main Street Ext. and is very, very exposed. In this design the gate will be pulled back to that first clump of newly planted trees as exhibited in the rendering, and will provide a much safer ingress and egress to the facility.

Mr. Melillo asked, is there any danger of anyone being killed by suction?

Mr. Brewer responded, I think it is a very good question; one that we would have been happy to answer at any time including the public hearings and I will answer it now. It is one million gallons of water; it is a lot of water; there is a potential for high velocity so that at all of the main drains at this facility we have specified anti-vortex plates which will not allow that pressure gradient across the drain that could trap somebody. It is just a physical impossibility with the design of these drains; a good question; needs an answer; you can rest easy, it can't happen at this facility.

Mr. Melillo was pleased to hear that. He then asked, why was the \$148,000 figure raised; why is it that the cost had been increased?

Mr. Parisi responded, if we wait another ten years it will go up again, yes.

Mayor Dickinson responded, the bids have come in higher than what we would like to see. We have estimates at a lower amount; the bids have come in at a higher amount. This is a project that has gone out through public bidding and the sum of money for construction is a result of that bidding. The approval of the ordinance will allow signing a contract and having the work to be done.

Mr. Melillo stated, I hope that you have everything organized right to the tee; legally and for the welfare of the people as a whole. I still say that you don't have to have any more....if you go ahead and increase this area tremendously, make it much bigger to try and attract more people, is that the intent of that pool? It should be as it has been all along; to accommodate the local people. If you make it real big, you may start attracting people from out of town also.

Mr. Knight explained, it is a community pool and you are required to purchase a pass in order to get into the facility. The Recreation Department will be very cautious about who they are selling these tags to.

Mr. Parisi stated, understand now, this has been going on since 1987; the pool committee.

Mr. Melillo concluded, I hope that once and for all we get this organized the way it should be and use as much caution as possible. There is too much recklessness going on in this country.

William Choti, 44 Lincoln Avenue asked Mr. Brewer, you mentioned that at the east side of the pool you were going to have a one in twenty slope? How far is that slope going to go into the wetted area?

Mr. Brewer responded, approximately thirty feet in each direction. That will get you down to the twelve inch depth we are proposing.

Choti asked, where will the five foot depth will be?

Mr. Brewer referred to the rendering. He added, there will also be a floating line all the way around that. The shallow depth in ramp; really is excessive...it is sloped walkway; comes in from the edges and slopes down to the central area which is about twelve inches deep at that point.

Mr. Choti asked, how deep into the water do you have to get to say, knee deep?

Mr. Brewer answered, the slope at every other point around the pool is a one in twelve slope; that is a handicapped accessible ramp; so that if your knee is sixteen to eighteen inches, that means your sixteen or eighteen feet into the pool.

Robert Sheehan, 11 Cooper Avenue asked, you already have an accepted bid and contractor, right?

Mr. Brewer responded, no.

Mr. Sheehan replied, well, Spring has sprung and if you sign one and say that we are lucky enough that he gets to work within a month, how long do you figure that this is going to take?

Mr. Brewer responded, by awarding the bid within the next month or so, we believe that ninety percent of all the work that needs to be done out here will be complete by this Fall; October, which will include the paving before the plant shut down. We will then winterize the pool, let that new paving season out and then the plan would be to paint that new asphalt next Spring after it has completely cured. That is one of the problems that

you see across the country at facilities this size; everyone is rushing to the deadline to get the thing built, full of water and occupied, then they paint it too quickly. The paint then fails because the bituminous is continuing to off-gas. The plan is to have it paved by the time the bituminous plants close late this Fall. Next Spring when the temperatures come up, paint it, fill it full of water and go swimming June 1st.

Mr. Sheehan asked, we will lose a year?

Mr. Brewer responded, absolutely.

Mary Alice Petrucelli-Timek, 7 Chimney Sweep Road asked Mr. Dooley, how much money do the pool tags cost presently?

Mr. Dooley answered, \$5.00 per person with a maximum of \$25.00 per family.

Mrs. Petrucelli-Timek asked, do you anticipate with the increase in what the Town is spending that the pool tags will be more expensive?

Mr. Dooley answered, not at the present time I don't, no.

Mrs. Petrucelli-Timek asked, does that mean you have no plans for that or it is not going to happen?

Dooley answered, right now I envision, at least for the next couple of years, keeping them at the same price.

Jon Walworth, 28 Laurelwood Drive stated, it would have been good if our pool committee had Tim with us about seven or eight years ago (Mr. Walworth was a member of the previous Community Pool Committee). I appreciate what he has done here. I have some questions regarding how this project will work. In regards to the ordinance, it appears that we were more involved in writing an ordinance than we are with informing the public and that concerns me. I really think that this Council and the staff have responsibility to inform and then we can do the paperwork afterward. If one were to receive this; the people who vote and who watch the cameras; have an agenda item which talks about modifying \$140,000 design fee for the renovations of the pool and it really doesn't indicate what this public hearing is about. I would implore the staff to look at another way to write these so that either before or after we say, by the way we want to appropriate \$2 million to build a pool. Maybe you would see more people here. It almost seems as though we are more involved with filling out the form. What do we project as the total project cost with all fees and all construction and all bonding for the life of the project; financing?

Mr. Brewer responded, the number that is in front of you this evening which includes our fees; the base bid; the suggestion that you add the parking lot alternate; some monies for professional inspections of the bituminous work....\$2,065,000.

Mr. Walworth asked, how much will the bonding costs be on top of that; approximately?

Mayor Dickinson responded, \$700,000 to \$1 million in interest.

Mr. Walworth asked, do we know what the user population of the pool will be? Have we done any projections as far as what type of population we expect to be using the pool on a given day?

Mr. Dooley answered, presently we serve between 200-250 people which are made up mostly of young children via lessons and of being at Community Pool with their moms. It is young mothers and young children between the ages of 3 and 10.

Mr. Walworth stated, actually that is probably quite a bit lower than the pool capacity. He asked Mr. Brewer, do you know what the formula is for the actual capacity of the pool?

Mr. Brewer answered, I do know the formula and the capacity of this pool would be something like 500 swimmers which would far exceed the capacity of your bath house.

Mr. Walworth asked, how many parking places do we have?

Mr. Brewer responded, 94.

Mr. Walworth stated, so we really are not able to use the full pool. Let's go with the 230 number; actually I've been at the pool a number of times and have seen only 100 at any given time. If I do the numbers roughly; how many days are we open a year?

Mr. Dooley answered, we are open seven days a week for eight weeks.

Mr. Walworth continued; so let's say 60 days. Somebody help me with the math but, that might come out to \$25. per person visiting the pool. I would ask that the Town reconsider the tag price of \$5.00 per year when it is costing the town perhaps a much greater number to accommodate swimmers. It is the responsibility of the Town to provide a good aquatic facility; and I am not saying that it is the responsibility of the users to bear the entire cost but I am saying that we should re-visit the fairness of the rate that we charge, especially considering the price of the facility. Maybe when we did that, we would do more things to attract other users. We are proposing a signal light and that appears to make sense. It may have the actual traffic warrants for a signal light but with the sight lines and the youth that will be in the neighborhood, it appears to make sense. Will we be doing anything to Beaumont Road to accommodate overflow parking? We have a capacity of 500 swimmers and we have parking for 60 and in the past when the pool was thriving we had a lot of people who were trying to park on Beaumont Road. It would behoove us to at least put a sloped curb and perhaps permit parking on Beaumont or allow the cars to climb over the curb so that if we have a signal light for \$70,000 we might be able to actually have somebody use it?

Mayor Dickinson stated, I think we are considering one-way traffic on Beaumont Road. I don't know that there is any conclusion on that yet but one-way traffic directed toward Route 5. If it is one-way traffic, that would facilitate parking on one side of the road, if not both sides.

Mr. Walworth stated, that is a good response and we may want to look at the safety of that but you may be able to get another 100 cars on Beaumont Road or 50 or whatever.

Mr. Walworth asked Mr. Brewer, are you aware of any other aquatic facilities that are using bituminous for the base of the pool?

Mr. Brewer responded, not brand new, no, but we are aware of something line 25 in the New England states that are in operation right now.

Mr. Walworth asked, what color is being proposed? I hope it is not that aquamarine; that putrid green that is out there now? Would we consider something a little more like the blue color on the rendering?

Mr. Brewer replied, we are proposing aquamarine. Actually, we always let the owner pick the colors because that is territory that we do not venture into. I will tell you this, in the type of coatings which we need to apply to this to give you some life cycle, you don't have every color under the rainbow to select from.

Mr. Walworth suggested, perhaps there is something they can add to it (the paint).

Mr. Brewer stated, the pallet that we would lean to is beige to off-white to light blue. We think that any of those could be fine. They are excellent (colors) from a (life)guarding perspective in that they illuminate the bottom of the pool very nicely. We would steer you away from any of the trendy colors really from a safety point of view.

Mr. Walworth stated, speaking of safety; if there are several items in the Swimming Pool Design Guide that have not been accommodated here, one of which is that the State would typically say that you have a certain youth population; you will build a wading pool; we could have accommodated a wading pool in this 40,000 sq. ft. if we so desired?, within that perimeter 40,000 sq. ft.?

Mr. Brewer answered, not and maintain the existing swimming surface.

Mr. Walworth asked, perhaps the swimming surface is taking priority over separation of the waders?

Mr. Brewer responded, frankly, that was perfectly clear to us as a design direction. We heard that very loud and clearly from the public.

Mr. Walworth asked, has the Health Inspector of the Town looked at the plans?

Mr. Brewer answered, yes.

Mr. Walworth asked, what nature of comments resulted?

Mr. Brewer answered, they were all very positive, quite naturally but actually we had a very good round of meetings with the departments and Health was one of them. We explained very carefully the filtration system we were proposing and how it would really outstrip the existing system in terms of its ability to circulate the water and they were very pleased and had no negative comments at all, that I recall. I am sure that if there was a negative comment it was resolved in re-submission of the plans.

Mr. Walworth stated, Tom (Dooley) has been very creative in developing innovative recreation programs and I hope that we are able to entice all ages to the pool, not just the young. In doing so, it provides a more complete environment. In doing so, we also have to talk about handicap access. A sloped surface in a pool does not mean handicapped access. It must have a railing and other devices. Have we accommodated any such equipment?

Mr. Brewer replied, I won't challenge you about railings. In fact, the slopes that we are proposing at one and twenty do not require railings because they are that gentle. But just to make sure that we have taken the belt and suspenders approach, even at the one in twenty slope designated for handicapped access, we have provided a handrail. We think it will be a very attractive, wonderful feature in this facility that it will attract and accommodate all users.

Mr. Walworth stated, I suppose that we could debate the one in twenty but there are individuals in chairs and in other things; that have aquatic chairs that cannot handle the one in twenty in the water but that is another item. On a typical project, construction administration and inspection costs may be five percent of the total project costs; have we considered that or are we doing this on a piece meal basis? I am a little concerned about having \$5,000 for pavement and \$5,000 for several different inspections. Tim (Brewer) you are going to do construction administration on an agreed upon number of hours and that is going to vary depending on the amount of work that is being done. I really think that we really should be pushing more for a more full-time individual and I am not sure that Park and Public Works was going to help out but how are we really going to administer this project?

Mr. Dooley answered, we have appropriated \$20,000 towards a clerk of the works. Discussions have been held between Mr. McCully, myself and Mr. Thompson about someone from the Town being involved with this project on a full-time basis.

Mr. Walworth asked, at the front end and then at the punch list, something like that and then have the clerk of the works pick up.....

Mr. Dooley stated, I think right through the whole project.

Mr. Walworth answered, that is a good idea. How do you propose to check or test the water after the facility is open?

Mr. Brewer stated, we will have both automated chemistry controllers in the filter house and we will also have all of the good methodologies of going around the pool with a test tube and doing the code-required field test on the water surface on the water quality.

Mr. Walworth asked, are you going to be then self-contained or will you need to, as they used to in the old days, run up to the Health Department?

Mr. Brewer answered, you don't have to do that anymore. It is sort of like one of these instantaneous feedbacks. If it is in the pink-red range it is o.k., if it is in the blue-green range, it is no good.

Mr. Walworth asked, what about chloroform and other.....

Mr. Brewer stated, a whole separate round of testing is required by the local Health Department before they will open it which is beyond the scope of the guards and the kind of testing that we do.

Mr. Dooley added, we do that twice a week and that procedure will continue.

Mr. Parisi asked Mr. Walworth if he had many more questions?

Mr. Walworth responded, I will just let you make the decision without any more questions then.

Mr. Parisi asked, do you have any more?

Mr. Walworth asked, with a population of 500, do we meet the Health Department's requirements for the number of showers, the number of toilets?

Mr. Brewer answered, no.

Mr. Walworth stated, \$2 million is a lot of money but the pool committee tried to tell you that about four or five years ago.

Andy Kapi, 6 Deme Road asked, when I was up earlier I had not been aware that this figure came in that much higher than the projection of a year ago and it suddenly dawned on me a remark that Mr. Brewer made earlier when I asked about general line item costs I think he said something to the effect of, I can't be specific about that because I haven't got the exact numbers from contractors. And then the Mayor said a little later on that this had gone out to bid and the bids had come in higher. I am a little confused. Do we have specific bids and quotations from subcontractors? Did you conduct that bidding process and what sort of numbers are these \$1.94 million or what ever it is? Is that a general estimate; is it a hard figure; what does that mean for our expectations here?

Mr. Brewer replied, you have a hard, competitive bid from a general contractor who has no obligation to the Town at this point to share any of his subcontractor's line items. His bid was \$1.68 million. You can hold him to that number and we play a role in that as well, just as you held me to my number when I bid on this to do the design work. We have allowed; the way the number gets from \$1.68 million to the \$2 million + is that there is some contingency money in there and there is some corner costs in there for testing and clerk of the works to ensure that the general contractor is doing his job for the \$1.68 million as promised.

Mr. Kapi asked, who actually selected the general subcontractor? Was it TLB?

Mr. Brewer answered, he is not selected, we have solicited bids.

..... Kapi asked, in your past history of project management of these sorts of things, can you generally give us your track record at bringing in contractors to their bids?

Mr. Brewer answered, our track record is excellent, but we don't control the pricing out there in the market place. We control the design and the pricing of the design service. I am not going to tell you that you are not going to spend your contingency line item, that is why we put it in there and that is why we didn't think it would be prudent for Tom Dooley to come to Council with a number like \$1.68 million without any contingency. There is a \$25,000 line item that has been proposed to cover the eventuality that we run into some bad material underground. The likelihood that we do is strong, that is why that contingency line is there so that you have enough money to deal with it.

Mr. Kapi asked, is it your view that the \$1.9 million is a ceiling figure?

Mr. Brewer responded, yes.

Don Harwood, 4 Chestnut Lane asked, why does the Town of Wallingford feel that we should not follow the Public Pool Safety Guidelines?

Mayor Dickinson responded, I don't believe that the Town of Wallingford ever took a position on that. Legislation was passed and exempted us from I think what was indicated was the surface area and the zero depth or the slope gradient issues but the Town never really took a position on it. We at this point are the recipients of that legislation. I designed the pool around it as a result of public comment urging that the pool retain its current characteristics.

Mr. Harwood asked, would it be more appropriate to address it now, Mayor? You are clearly identifying that we are just taking advantage of the fact.....

Mr. Parisi interrupted Mr. Harwood to say that this is philosophical. I would like to go on to the next question.

Mr. Harwood commented, I am discouraged. You come to a meeting, you're tired, Bob (Parisi); you are displaying that to the public and you want to shut down things. I come and I speak with clarity, I come with I think factual information that was presented this evening, I ask pertinent questions and I am just discouraged. I will go on to my next question.

Mr. Parisi stated, I don't want to shut anything down.

Mr. Harwood asked, why does the Town of Wallingford feel that we should potentially expose the community.....

Mr. Parisi stated, you are not being shut down. What you are trying to discuss is a philosophical situation, we are trying to decide whether we are going to vote on this project tonight. The legislation has been taken care of, these people have tried to respond to several public hearings.

Mr. Harwood explained, the legislation was taking care of to address....the pool; a situation that we had in front of us, looking forward to go ahead in creating the proper approach but to take care of an existing situation. That is fair. Now how we got here.

Mr. Parisi stated, this is how we got here whether it is right or wrong. I hope the powers that be did it thinking it was right.

Mr. Harwood stated, the bottom line is, we are taking advantage of a situation that was to address a condition that was built in the 1960s versus being pro-active in building towards public pool safety guidelines in the future? Why does the Town of Wallingford feel that we should potentially expose the community to possible liability of deviating from the safety guidelines? My concern is the liability related to the deviation from the public pool safety guidelines since we did get an exemption but I think we do expose ourselves to liability from a layman's standpoint. I stated that earlier but I did not ask the question directly so I am going to ask the question directly; why does the Town of Wallingford feel that we should deviate or potentially expose the community to possible liability by deviating from the guidelines?

Mayor Dickinson responded, at this point we are willing to under take the project because we have been told by the architect designing it that it will be a safe pool. It is not ideal from a State standards viewpoint but what we are being told is, the pool can operate safely with the proper water quality, proper filtration, proper attention to the depth and other features such that the public should not be at risk. That is what we are depending upon given the professional expertise that we hired and the design given to us.

Mr. Harwood asked, how are we going to address the lack of rest room facilities?

Brewer replied, what Mr. Dooley and I have discussed is the fact that you may find yourself in a situation where you have to put some self-imposed limits on this facility, i.e., post its occupancy much the way you would in this room. For example, if you want to run this facility, and I suggest that you do; in accordance with the State specification for the bather load as a function of rest room facilities, you may post an occupancy limit on the pool water area of something like 300 and it is certainly not beyond the realm of possibility to post that occupancy load so that the balance between the swimming area and the rest room facilities is completely within the mandate of the State requirement. The facility can be operated that way without any strain on any of the components or systems and, in fact, it is our belief that at ninety-five or six parking spaces with a reasonable ratio of three passengers per car, you are going to end up with a maximum bather load which is somewhat self-policing at about 300 people. It is a matter of posting a sign and allowing people to enjoy the facility as it is meant to be.

Mr. Harwood asked, would it be more appropriate to have a smaller facility?

Mr. Brewer responded, no, it is a choice, it is not whether it is appropriate or not.

Mr. Harwood responded, you guys were sent out on a mission and I am frustrated by that. I think that the mission was wrong, but those are my questions.

Mr. Zappala stated, I would love to vote no on this project but I think I cannot do that because it has been a long time coming. We are finally getting what the people of Wallingford have been wishing for; restoring the existing pool as they (committee) were addressed to do from the beginning. The problem was that some people took the wrong road that is why nothing ever happened before. At this point I think that we have achieved what the wishes of this body has been and I think what the wish of the people of Wallingford has been. I am just sorry that some of the items that were presented by the Friends of Community Pool were not taken into consideration; one of which was the

deviation of the children swimming versus the higher water. It was presented on November 14, 1995 that the Friends of Community Pool that there was such a deviation where the kids would have been safer without detracting from the size of the pool, itself. That was a project presented to us by Century Pool at a cost of \$1.4 million and this body decided to go out and get different bids. The Council granted, will be paying \$2 million today and the longer we wait, the more we will be paying. That is just a fact. I have a question for the Mayor that I posed to him about a year ago; if he intends to have a committee or to have Mr. Dooley and Mr. McCully run this thing?

Mayor Dickinson answered, at this point Mr. McCully had indicated that he would head this up. It is not a new pool; it is a renovation in similar fashion to the Recreation center. He will work with Mr. Dooley and the Town Engineer. It will be dealt with as an administrative renovation.

Mr. Zappala stated, we do have a Park & Recreation Commission. Are they involved at all with this?

Mr. Dooley responded, strictly on an advisory basis.

Mr. Zappala asked, will they be giving any advice as far as pricing the user fee or is it a decision that you, Mr. Dooley, will be making?

Mr. Dooley answered, I would make that decision.

Mr. Zappala stated, I am sorry that it took this long but I think we are finally going to be getting something that we always wanted and I will vote for it. We achieved what we wanted to; the best of luck.

Mr. Centner stated, I mimic the concern of a number of people in terms of the overall length it has taken to get the project this far and its apparent correlation in increased pricing on the bids. My initial concern would be; as I look at the bid breakdown, your having the construction management aspect performed by the clerk of the works. That is the way of approaching this project? I am not familiar with that aspect. Can you give me a brief description of what it would entail responsibilities of a clerk of the works? Is it like a construction manager?

Mr. Brewer answered, no. Without going into a lot of detail, you need to understand that when we submitted our bid a while back, we were contracted to do construction administration. The Town in its wisdom actually bought a certain amount of our hours on site everyday; something like at least two hours a day for at least three days a week which is pretty far-sighted on the part of the Town. In moving this project to this point in time, we are recognizing the complexity of this renovation and it is because of that the proposal has been made and supported by me that our time out there, as good as we are, if the Town could somehow afford to supplement out time on site with either a clerk of the works and/or town staff in the name of Henry (McCully) or John Thompson (Town Engineer) that would be wonderful. The way the clerk of the works line is held right now at \$20,000, is, I know that Mr. Thompson has been working on a legal advertisement for a clerk of the works; that is going to go forward. We are also going to be evaluating the bang for the buck that you are going to get out of that when those bids come back in deciding just how best to utilize that \$20,000. It is not a construction management role, it is a guy who's out there counting how many eight yard or twelve yard dump trucks are coming in and out of the site with material so that there isn't any chance that a guy is not taking out or bringing enough. He is really the eyes and ears of my office and you folks in the end to make sure that what has been specified goes in every step of the way.

Mr. Centner stated, you will take that feedback, then if there is some negotiation or any kind of rectification going on with your role you will stay right to completion then?

Mr. Brewer responded, yes.

Mr. Centner stated, then you will draw on our talent we have in the Town?

Mr. Brewer answered, yes.

Mr. Centner stated, I can't say that I complain about that. One of the speakers brought up this concern earlier and it has also been an interest of mine; it has to do with recreational programming and I didn't know if someone in the town could answer for me; do we intend to put a pool in up at the recreation center in the future?; an indoor pool?

Mr. Dooley stated, I don't believe at this point in time that that has been brought even to a discussion phase.

Mr. Centner stated, it helps overall for me to visualize when someone says that we need a water park-type of version or if someone else says we need swim lanes and instruction, etc. It helps me to decide. Speaking of handicapped access; would a person who cannot walk and they are confined to a wheelchair, do they transfer to a water-type of a chair or do they roll the wheelchair right into the water?

Brewer responded, there are a number of ways to do that. We accommodate all of those ways. The most common way for someone confined to a wheelchair who has an interest in enjoying aquatic facilities, is they either have a submersible chair or they own two chairs. As a community pool, there is an obligation to have what we call "deck chairs" available. If you come in a street chair you can transfer into a deck chair; that deck chair allows you to go in and out of the shower facilities and then you can roll that deck chair right down the ramp and into the water. That is a nice way to use this facility. That is the only means of access that we provided to this facility because it is the least common denominator, everyone can use that access route.

Mr. Centner asked, is the handrail for that area also like a stainless steel; something clear and smooth?

Mr. Brewer answered, yes.

Mr. Centner asked, the toddlers others spoke of, would they be separated from that area?

Mr. Brewer answered, by lane line only. This area is meant to be utilized by all ages and it is really the spirit of integration that mandates that we design it that way.

Mr. Centner stated, in closing, it did come up from some of the speakers as to some pledges that we have made up here, collectively speaking, I would like to make it clear from where I stand. My pledge was to support a renovated pool somewhere around \$1.5 - \$1.8 million. I can't say that I am pleased that the price tag is going up but I can see why. This proposal, however, meets what I had envisioned when I gave my pledge of support, so I will be voting in or of it.

Zandri stated, the first question I have seems to be one of the shortfalls of this whole project is, the bath house. question is; what is the estimated cost to properly renovate the bath house?

Mr. Brewer answered, we did not study it at length because we were steered away from it early on in the process. I think that you are looking at \$95.00 a foot for renovated areas and \$110.00 a foot to put an addition on it. Those are probably numbers that would be a good place to get you started. What we think your next step is, though, is to stage and addition because I think with the popularity of the facility and some of the comments that we heard tonight, you may end up building a kiddy pool out here. If you notice in the east lawn of this facility we have oriented the loop drive in such a way that we have kept area in reserve for you to very easily expand along the ridge line of the building and add some more locker room space and stage construction of a filter house for a kiddy pool out in this yard area.

Mr. Zandri stated, you gave me some square foot costs but you said that we fall short of the State guidelines for this pool and our bath house. If we were going to meet State requirements for this size pool, what would it cost us to put in the proper bath house?

Mr. Brewer replied, I don't know. I could spend some time on it and answer the question but I can't tell you tonight. You would end up doubling the size of your bath house; probably spend another \$150,000. - \$200,000.

Mr. Zandri stated, when you look at the overall cost of this project and as far as I am concerned, one of the most important parts to this whole project besides the pool area, is the bath house where you are going to change the rest room facilities and what have you. If that is going to be a stumbling block here, you are going to have a lot of incidents that are going to be attracted to this area complaining when you open the door the first day. For \$200,000 are being short-sighted by not doing the job right the first time. This has been my argument right along with this whole plans that take place in this community.

Mr. Brewer responded, we were not charged with that, I share your concerns and I would suggest that we left every opportunity open to respond to that need for expanded space should it develop in the community as opposed to "painting you into a corner" with this thing.

Mr. Zandri stated, that is one of my concerns and one of the reasons why I still have not made up my mind on this yet. Stuff like this turns me off, supporting a project we are doing halfway. In today's world in designing new pools, as far as I am concerned this is a new pool designed like the old one; how many pools are designed with bituminous bottoms?

Mr. Brewer responded, there are about twenty-five in operation in New England right now and those have been put into service at various points over the last fifteen to twenty years. We don't see a lot of them; it is unique.

Mr. Zandri stated, I realize there are pools that have been constructed in the past using this product and obviously would still be in service but my concern, again, is , designing something with bituminous bottom that you lead me to believe that it is kind of unique in today's design concept. Why would you steer away, why wouldn't there be another product, I think that the most common surface is concrete.

Mr. Brewer responded, that is right; it is a fairly common surface.

Zandri asked, what is the reason why you would use a concrete surface versus bituminous?

Mr. Brewer replied, cost.

Mr. Zandri asked, cost plus life?

Mr. Brewer answered, in this application, cost. This is a 42,000 square foot pool and frankly, we haven't even got the technology to build a concrete pool that big without expansion/contraction capabilities. So this is the material, if you are going to build a 42,000 square foot pool it is either this or stainless steel.

Mr. Zandri asked, there is no other way to design the pool?

Mr. Brewer answered, I am sure there are other ways, but to meet the budget and the expectations of the community and the program that we were given and the budget, this was the way to do it.

Mr. Zandri stated, obviously, I don't like the idea of having to delay this project any further but I just had to make one comment this evening where I really feel that the Town missed the boat and that was back in 1994 when we had two options presented to this Council; Option A and Option B. In Option A was introduced to the Town Council in 1994 which was basically an attractive water park concept to Community Pool which included a water slide, fifty yard swimming area for laps, kiddie area with parent peninsulas for them to observe their children, renovated bath house, sand volleyball area and shuffleboard area, included forty-seven additional parking places and the cost for that project in 1994 was \$2,183,000. The reason this thing didn't fly in 1994 was because of cost and here we are spending the same dollars today and in my opinion we are getting less than we would have gotten back in 1994 and we could have been enjoying the pool already. (Applause) Again, the big hang up I have with this is the bath house. I want to see what other comments come out here before we vote on this for I might potentially make a motion.

Mr. Dooley stated, those options that were presented in 1994 were excellent and outstanding opportunities but I must say that the price that was quoted then were estimates. Neither of those options went out to bid and just as we thought that this would come in at a lower estimate, when we finally went out to bid we got actual costs.

Ms. Papale stated, I know that we are criticized that we repeat each other up here and talk too long but I think it is our job to give our opinion even though people have heard it many times before. People have heard me forever talking about Community Pool and why I think the need for it is so important to the town. I am also going to say what my colleagues on both sides of me say; Tom (Dooley) you and I have talked about it, you know how disappointed I was with the way things were going with the pool. I did not keep it quiet; I felt that not everything was not out in the open. I did not understand why the pool had to be closed. You and I sat down and talked and I think I have a much better idea of what is going on. I want to commend the architect because I said to myself, the more questions you are asked, the better you are looking. People try to put you on the spot and the more questions they asked, they did you a favor because you answered everything much better than I would have given you credit for a few months ago. I thank you very much for all your homework. Two years ago I campaigned about Community Pool and took a picture of it without the water and used it as part of my logo for my campaign. That is how important Community Pool has been to me. There are situations that, one that Mr. Zandri brought out; I feel that it is something that we should all pay attention to. I am not going to be concerned about what colors you are going to put in there. I like trendy myself but there are important things that you did bring up. I feel that with all the work that you have done; we, up here, should not be concerned about liability and safety, your report said it all. This is not an easy task for me. I promised that I

going to make sure to the best of my ability, to get the pool going. We need it in the Town of Wallingford but I don't feel uncomfortable. Maybe with a few changes, Mr. Zandri asked; we are spending more money than I ever dreamed we would and in my bank account \$200,000 is a lot of money but I think that the Town could afford it for bath houses. What looks like a little extra may mean a lot to a lot of people. I will certainly vote for this with amendments and with some changes; whatever. It is has been a long time coming and I think we are all ready.

Mr. Renda stated, I think you did an outstanding job. Not only as a neighbor but as a Friend of Community Pool I have seen that pool deteriorate through the years. A lot of people became involved in this when we started talking about it. (the tape recorder malfunctioned at this point and the remainder of Mr. Renda's comments went unrecorded as did the start of Mr. Knight's comments).

Mr. Knight stated,.....as someone who was on the first pool committee, I want to kind of define what I see as the ultimate result. As most of you have probably heard, the definition of a giraffe is an animal designed by a committee. What we have here is a giraffe Community Pool. It has had input from four separate Town Councils; from two Parks & Recreation Directors; from two committees, one of which was established by the Town Council and the other one an ad hoc group of people interested in the pool, itself; we have been through half a dozen, at least, public hearings and have heard input from half a dozen, a dozen at least, public hearings; and really listened to the impact. We have gotten impact from two State legislators who managed to get a piece of legislation through making this a most unique project and countless other people within and without the Town. That is why you have a pool that is so non-conforming with anything and with whom nobody totally agrees; nobody. Every one of the members of the original pool committee is here, tonight. We resigned in frustration from the project several years ago but we did not lose our interest in seeing how far we could get this thing done at least with some semblance of rationality. One other thing that I have heard a lot tonight is a good deal of what I have to refer to as revisionist history, as to how we came about spending \$2 million on a pool that three years ago we were going to spend \$2.1 million on. There were two alternatives on the table that night, not one but two. One of them was a pool in the neighborhood of 30,000 square feet that was voted down. We were not spending enough money. That is important to remember. We were not spending enough money but we suggested the smaller alternative because we felt that the other parts of the project, i.e., especially the parking facilities would not accommodate a larger pool. And we are listening to the architect tonight having been asked a question about that, saying that the only way that he could foresee making the parking and the bath house size match the pool is to restrict the number of people who can go to the pool. Hello? Why are we building this so dog gone large if we can't, if the rest of the systems aren't part, won't mesh? I will vote for this pool and I am going to vote for the end of the process but if we don't have any complaints with one single entity up here, we have met the enemy and he is us. Everyone wanted to have a shot at certain aspects of this pool and everyone got some of what they wanted and this is what we have.

Mr. Zandri asked Atty. Fasi, I realize this is a funding ordinance in front of us here, is there any way an amendment could be made that would require that the bath house be renovated contingent on this vote?

Atty. Fasi stated, you are asking if the ordinance can be amended to include the bath house?

Mr. Zandri stated, yes. In other words, they are estimating a \$200,000 cost for this (bath house) and I am wondering whether or not a motion can be made and voted on separately as an amendment because I would not want to lose the whole thing because of it but I would like to be able to add to it if it is possible.

Atty. Fasi replied, the answer is yes, however, you should know that just because you add aspects to a project doesn't mean that the funding ordinance provides enough funds to do that.

Mr. Zandri stated, yes, that can be re-visited but I would like to have the opportunity to make that motion if I can. Maybe you could help me with the wording.

Atty. Fasi responded, yes, I can do that but first what we want to do is a housekeeping matter and since this is a regular Council meeting and you are entitled by two-thirds votes to amend the agenda, I would ask that you move to amend the agenda in the manner that I have provided to you to clarify what this vote is in relation to the agenda.

Mr. Rys made a motion to Amend the Agenda, the Ordinance Amending an Ordinance Appropriating \$124,000 for the Design of Renovations to Wallingford Community Pool and Authorizing the Issuance of \$124,000 Bonds of the Town to Meet Said Appropriation and Pending the Issue Thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowings for Such Purpose. The purpose of the amendment is to increase the appropriation and bond authorization by \$1,941,000. from \$124,000 to \$2,065,000 to include construction costs and to ratify, confirm and adopt all prior authorizations within respect thereto. I have also been asked to read, "To consider and Act on the following proposed..." which I just read. Seconded by Mr. Centner.

Jon Walworth, 28 Laurelwood Drive stated, it is so good that we have this house cleaning item. What does this, in fact, mean; that the agenda item was not posted correctly?

Mr. Parisi stated the dollar figures were incorrect.

Mr. Walworth asked, does that, therefore, continue to constitute a public hearing?

Mr. Parisi answered, it was published properly. We are correcting the agenda per the advice of the bond counsel.

Mr. Walworth asked, but there was an expanded agenda that was recommended but was somehow not adopted? Bond Counsel recommended an agenda item but that was not incorporated?

Mr. Parisi stated, it is on the printed agenda tonight. The total dollars are wrong, instead of \$148,000., it is \$124,000.

Mr. Walworth stated, that was one of the issues that I brought up was that the public has no idea of what the agenda item was. Was that recommendation from Bond Counsel provided to the Council? How was his recommendation missed?

Mr. Parisi responded, we told him it was on the agenda.

Mr. Walworth asked, so his recommendation just came tonight, it was not cited in the past?

Mayor Dickinson stated, I don't think that should be in the record. I believe Atty. Fasi's information was sent earlier; it was used in the publication; in the legal notice that was published in the newspaper, it was not used in placing the item on the agenda.

Atty. Fasi stated, the agenda item refers to a public hearing; we are going to have a vote; this agenda, by vote here, at this regular meeting, by two-thirds we are entitled to amend the agenda; you are entitled to do that; you just vote to do that; to put the vote on the ordinance on the agenda and that ends the matter.

VOTE TO CORRECT AGENDA: All ayes; motion duly carried.

Mr. Parisi stated, that is a two-thirds vote, that's 100%, the motion passes. Now we will vote on the ordinance.

Mr. Zandri asked Atty. Fasi to help him out with an amendment to encompass a completely renovated bath house to conform with State regulations.

Parisi asked, can that be done without being published or anything?

Atty. Fasi answered, sure. You can amend any ordinance that is before you, as long as you do not increase the bond authorization. As I said in response to Mr. Zandri's question.....

Mr. Parisi asked, aren't you increasing the ordinance?

Atty. Fasi answered, no, he is just increasing the scope of the project description and as I said in response to Mr. Zandri's question, because you increase the scope of the project description does not mean that you provide enough funds to do everything that is in the description.

Mr. Zandri explained, the purpose of my motion is the intent. The Council intends....if it fails, it fails and then we will go on.

Mr. Parisi stated, I understand your motion, I am more concerned that, how can you increase the scope without increasing the money?

Atty. Fasi stated, you may not be able to complete everything that is described in the ordinance. You may have to leave some of the things out.

Mr. Parisi asked, then what is the sense of doing that?

Atty. Fasi responded, that is for you to decide, not for me.

Parisi stated, I cannot understand how you can allow it to be done.

Mayor Dickinson explained, as a technical matter; can you add to the scope? Yes, you can, that is what Atty. Fasi is saying. Then does it completely cause major problems in what...right, it does.

Mr. Parisi stated, work on it Mr. Fasi, get it done

Atty. Fasi stated, if you look in Section 2 of the proposed ordinance; second to the last line begins with "Number 97-165", after the comma, insert "and a renovated bath house in compliance with State requirements".

Atty. Fasi stated, to summarize; we have had a public hearing on this ordinance, we have amended the agenda so that now it is clear we can act on it; I don't believe that anyone has made a motion that has been seconded to act on the ordinance in chief and that is what we need to do. The ordinance in chief does not include this amended language. I want a motion and a second on the ordinance that is before you as typed, not with the insert I just added. Move and second the ordinance that has been provided to you.

Mr. Farrell moved the ordinance as presented, seconded by Mr. Centner.

Mr. Parisi declared the public hearing closed.

Mr. Zandri amended the Motion to Include the Language, "and a renovated bath house in compliance with State requirements", seconded by Ms. Papale.

Mr. Zappala stated that the amendment brings him back a few years to when the Council tried to buy the parking lot across the street from the pool. That item jeopardized the pool expansion at the time, besides everything else that has come up at that particular time. By all means I do not want the project to be jeopardized. I want this to go through and I want the assurance from our legal attorney that the \$2,065,000 that we are going to allocate will have nothing to do with the renovation of the bath house and that we would be able to proceed without interference of any other projects.

Mr. Zandri explained, if the amendment does pass, we have an opportunity to come back and re-visit this ordinance to appropriate the dollar amount to encompass the bath house.

Mr. Knight stated, it is interesting that the bath house should be brought up at the eleventh hour and fifty-ninth minute before we are passing on this having gone through this argument seven or eight years ago. What I don't want to do is scuttle this thing at the eleventh hour and fifty-ninth minute and I think that this amendment has that potential. We have a firm, written bid for so much work for so much money and we want to throw something in there that could potentially could scuttle this whole project is you don't pass, go through another hearing and pass an increase in that ordinance. That what we risk here. I think that we should pass this ordinance as presented. I certainly support re-visiting this item as the original committee had a survey roundly criticized by the Town Council of that period that stated by an overwhelming margin that the biggest problem with the present pool back in 1991 was that the bath house was filthy. Yet that Town Council chose to ignore the findings that we produced and went along and forever

afterwards said, forget about the bath house, we will do that later. Now at the eleventh hour, fifty-ninth minute, fifty-eighth second the bath house is a big concern. I find that ironic; I think we ought to forget this amendment, pass it as...take half to three-quarters of the loaf that we have now and if we want to go for the other quarter of the loaf, we can do that in another matter.

Mr. Centner stated that he concurred with Mr. Knight and added, for some reason when this pool is designed and it is successful and the numbers increase to such that the bath house is overloaded, it will tell us a couple of things; first, that the pool is done right, the people are using it and the other item is, by logic, the bath house can be re-visited at any time anyway and it can be renovated during the off season when it is closed down so I concur with Steve, I will take the three-quarter loaf right now.

Mayor Dickinson stated, I would be concerned about us signing the contract without knowing what the price for the additional renovations would be. We are signing an ordinance that increases the scope without knowing what that would be, I have some concerns about it. It does have the potential to.....

Mr. Parisi stated, let's let the vote happen and then we will get nervous.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Zandri, aye; all others, nay. Motion failed.

Rys moved the Ordinance Amending an Ordinance Appropriating \$124,000 for the Design of Renovations to Community Pool and Authorizing the Issuance of \$124,000 Bonds of the Town to Meet Said Appropriation and Pending the Issue Thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowings for Such Purpose; a copy of which is attached hereto and to be adopted, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

Mr. Zandri stated, because I don't believe in doing a job halfway, I vote no.

VOTE: Zandri no; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

The Chair declared a five minute recess at this time.

Mr. Renda stated that he would like to have his vote for Item #13 taken off of the record and he will refrain from voting on Item #14 due to the fact that his wife is an employee of S.N.E.T. which may result in a conflict of interest.

ITEM #14 Discussion and Possible Action on Authorizing the Mayor to Execute all Agreements Dealing with S.N.E.T. Centralink and All Distance Telephone Service

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

Mr. Knight did not understand some of the aspects of the agreement, it seems to include an offer of what seems to be ne pretty competitive long distance rates intra and interstate.

Don Roe, Program Planner explained, the in-state rate is \$.075 per minute; the out of state rate is \$.10 per minute.

Mr. Knight questioned the provision for inbound service charges.

Mr. Roe explained that there are some provisions in the standard agreement that will not be applied to the Town. We do not accept toll calls but this is their standard form and if, in the event that we did, that is what the rate would be.

Mr. Knight asked if the clause which provides for 50% off interstate calls for the first three months will apply to the Town?

Mr. Roe answered, the installation charge for the conversion is to be waived. It is an either/or situation. We have accepted the \$.075 per minute/\$.10 per minute option.

VOTE: Renda abstained; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #15 Discussion and Possible Action on Authorizing the Mayor to Sign a Lease Agreement Allowing the Use of Town Property as a Road During Construction of a Subdivision as Requested by The Town Attorney

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Lease Agreement and to Append a Copy of it to the Minutes of this Meeting, seconded by Mr. Centner.

The town land involved is shown as extending from Doherty Drive to Williams Road. The developer will ultimately construct a paved roadway to Town standards over the land but in the meantime, needs legal authority to use it as a d. Under the Agreement, the developer undertakes to hold the Town harmless for injuries or damages arising from use of the land.

Mr. Farrell stated, it seems to me that we are making a road where there was no road.

Town Attorney Janis Small responded, there is going to be a road there; it is going to become a road.

Mr. Farrell stated, the map we have is unclear. It shows a road going as far as the beginning of Lot #2 and then it shows it breaking up there.

Atty. Joan Malloy, 150 S. Main Street explained, I represent the developer, Heritage Hills. The prior property owner did an initial subdivision in which he got approval for five lots. Three of the lots were along Williams Road and there were two rear lots; one of which has a residence on it and one which was eventually transferred to the Town where the pump station is. At the time the initial subdivision was approved, the two rear access ways were intended to be temporary access ways because the belief was that the remaining portion of the property would be subdivided and a road would be placed and reservations were put on the deeds indicating that at the point in time the rest of the property was developed, the rights of way would be turned over to the Town for purposes of becoming a public highway. As part of Heritage Hills Subdivision approval, they were required to change those private driveways if I can call them, that exist right now, do what ever grading and reconstruction that is necessary and paving that to town standards and that was part of the subdivision approval that Heritage Hills proposed and agreed to. Physically there is no road there but from the time the original five lot subdivision was approved, it was always planned and contemplated that there uld be a road that that would run back to the rest of the property.

Mr. Farrell stated, I guess I am a little unsure, it seems to envision, yes, access to the pumping station but here we really get the rest of Doherty Drive coming out onto Williams Road.

Atty. Malloy responded, I am not what map you were given but I am presuming it is based upon the subdivision plan that we submitted for our property and as we were not the legal owners of the initial rights of way, we showed what physically existed at the time of our application. As I said, we provided documentation to Planning & Zoning and, in fact, with the Town Attorney's Office which showed that the deeds to the Town and to the property owner of the rear lot did call for this.

Mr. Farrell asked, how aware are the adjoining property owners that this road is now going to go through to Williams Road?

Atty. Malloy responded, very aware.

Mr. Farrell asked, Mrs. Robles is very aware?

Atty. Malloy answered, I believe so because she came to the Planning & Zoning Meeting. Many members of the public were there. Our engineer verified for Mrs. Robles that the trees she had planted would not be disturbed in any way so that we were not touching here property at all. The Beaudoins who own the rear lot are also aware of what is opening, in fact, they already deeded over their right of way to the Town so that we could go through this process.

Mr. Farrell asked, is the developer going to cut down any of the trees on the Town's property?

Atty. Malloy answered, none that have not been included in the subdivision plan that has been approved.

Mr. Farrell stated, we are not the only group that has been errant in cutting other people's trees.

Mr. Zandri asked, I see there are maps one, two, three, four and five; I am not clear what is happening here.

Atty. Malloy explained, that was the subdivision that was done by the prior property owner. That was like a Phase I. He went in and did that in 1992, I think. He got approval for those five lots with three on the front and two in the rear, one of which was sold to the Town for the pump station. Heritage Hills bought the rear portion of the property with the understanding and knowledge that they would have the obligation to complete the road from the rear of the property right through to Williams Road.

Mr. Zandri asked, so right now the undeveloped portion is Town property?

Atty. Malloy responded, that is correct and there are two driveways there. When Heritage Hills is finished you will have a completed paved road to Town standards.

ty Small stated, the purposed of the agreement is, in the meantime, while all of this construction and everything is ing on, this gives them permission to be on our property. That is the purpose of this agreement.

Mr. Zandri asked, what is the length of the lease and is there going to be any insurance bond taken out for the Town?

Atty. Small stated, a certificate of insurance has been produced naming the Town as an additional insured. I will have Risk Management go over it. It appears to be adequate, \$2 million coverage.

Atty. Malloy added; There is a substantial bond that has been required by Planning & Zoning to cover the physical proof.

Mr. Zandri explained, I am more concerned about the liability right now when you have workers on Town property and I want to make sure we are covered. If you feel there is adequate coverage, Atty. Small....

Atty. Small replied, yes and until Risk Management looks at it, it will not be signed. It appeared to be all in order.

Atty. Malloy stated, there is no specific term in a license agreement; technically speaking a license agreement is revocable by the Town at some time in the future. It will terminate when the road is accepted by the Town.

Mr. Zandri stated, the problem I have is, obviously, I would not want this to be, and I will exaggerate, a ten year project. If we have some sort of an estimate on the amount of time it would take to do the construction, we could get a better handle on how long this is going to take place.

Atty. Malloy explained, with subdivisions you only have five years and I can assure you that my client would be very happy to be out of this project, totally completed in two years.

Robert Sheehan, 11 Cooper Avenue asked, if this action has been approved by Planning and Zoning and if so, the problem he has with this is that it sounds as if the only access to the property is over Town-owned land. He asked, has there ever been any other subdivision that required a lease from the Town?

Atty. Small replied, the subdivision approval (from Planning & Zoning). The Town property is going to be turned into a Town road. Prior to the road being constructed they need our permission to be on the property and this grants them the permission to be on the property.

Mr. Sheehan asked, why don't they start the road where it comes out on Williams Road rather than on Town property? If they want to buy the property, we will sell them the property, get an easement to get to the pump station. Can you name me another subdivision that required this extreme to go through....that we had to sign a license agreement with a contractor over Town property?

Mr. Zandri stated, this parcel was always intended to be a road.

Atty. Small added, it is approved by Planning & Zoning to become a road.

Andrew Kapi, 6 Deme Road asked, the offer is that the Town will be held blameless or harmless?

Atty. Small answered, the license calls for the Town to be held harmless however we do require in addition to that an insurance policy where we are named an additional insured and they have also posted a bond with Planning & Zoning on the subdivision approval.

Mr. Kappi stated, anyone can sue anyone. What language they offer against our possible liability you may estimate to be ironclad but someone can still sue us because you (Town) has deeper pockets.

Atty. Small stated, we are named as an additional insured under their policy so it becomes their insurance company's obligation to defend us under their policy.

VOTE: All ayes, motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Move Agenda Item #17 Up to the Next Order of Business, seconded by Mr. Knight.

VOTE: Zandri, no; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Item #17 Consider and Approve an Amendment to the Budget to Reflect the Deletion of One Full Time Assistant Animal Control Officer Position and the Addition of Two Part Time Assistant Animal Control Officer Positions to Work No More than 19.5 Hours Each Per Week - Mayor's Office

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

Animal Control Officer Kathryn Lindemann explained, this action would better serve the Town by providing adequate coverage at the Dog Pound. We currently have a full time assistant position being filled by a temporary employee and we have another employee out on workmen's compensation.

Ms. Papale asked, what happened to your assistant?

Mrs. Lindemann replied, she is now the Cheshire Dog Warden.

Reginald Knight, 21 Audette Drive asked, who is requesting that the full time position be replaced by two part time positions?

Mrs. Lindemann responded, I am.

Reginald Knight asked, why?

Mrs. Lindemann responded, this would give us more manpower down at the Dog Pound. Although the hours would be cut there will be two people.

Reginald Knight stated that it is all too common nowadays where employers are letting full time people go and replacing them with part time workers to avoid paying benefits. Part time help does not bring to the job what a full time person does. We are better off with a full time person; they have dedication to their job more than someone who works only a couple of hours a day. Is it a motive to cut costs?

Mrs. Lindemann responded, no, sir. It would be to decrease the need for overtime and compensatory time and increasing the amount of people that can serve the community.

TE All ayes, motion duly carried.

Item #16 Consider and Approve Retaining Staff of the Welfare Department on an Interim Basis to Help Facilitate a Smooth Transition of Welfare Services from the Local Level to the State Level as Requested by Councilor Geno J Zandri, Jr.

Motion was made by Mr. Zandri that the Council Recommend to the Mayor that the Town Retain Staff in the Welfare Department on an Interim Basis to Help Facilitate a Smooth Transition of Welfare Services from the Local Level to the State Level, seconded by Ms. Papale

Mr. Zandri explained, the reason I put this item on the agenda this evening was to make everyone aware that the State will be taking over the General Assistance program as of July 1, 1998. So that the residents of Wallingford will have a better understanding of what to expect from this transition I would like to ask the department head, Mary Alice Petrucelli-Timek a series of questions on this issue.

Mr. Zandri asked, how long have you been working as the Welfare Administrator?

Mrs. Petrucelli-Timek responded, for the Town of Wallingford, six and one-half years.

Mr. Zandri asked, have you had any other experience outside of the Town prior to that?

Petrucelli-Timek responded, since 1980 I started my career in the City of Meriden, I started as the Medical Investigator. I was a Caseworker, Caseworker Supervisor, the Administrative Aide, then I was promoted to the Director of Social Services for the City of Meriden.

Mr. Zandri asked, can you summarize for us what services the State will be taking over as of July 1, 1998?

Mrs. Petrucelli-Timek answered, the general assistance program will be taken over. It is commonly referred to as S.A.G.A. (State Administration of General Assistance) What the State has told us is that they are going to do eligibility. If a person is eligible then they will distribute the money. They will not do any type of social services for that person. I was hoping that people here had a copy of the policy transmittal General Assistance 98-2. I gave a copy to the Mayor, Town Council Chairman, Rich Centner and Mr. Zandri received one after asking for a copy. Would anyone else like a copy, I did make extra copies. It breaks down what the State intends to do and what the Town responsibilities are.

(Copies were distributed to the entire Council at this time.) The Town will most likely incur some costs; one of the things we have to remember is that funeral directors have a year from the date of death to submit bills. That means that a person can die June 30, 1998 and the funeral director does not have to make application nor apply until up to one year later. During the year you may have funeral bills that you will have to process.

Mr. Parisi asked, if this office is closed, where would the funeral director apply for funding and will the State designate somewhere?

Petrucelli-Timek responded, absolutely not. That is the Town's responsibility. If the person dies July 1st or after, would apply to the State. It depends on the date of death.

Mr. Parisi asked, will there be a mechanism to deal with deaths after July 1st?

Mrs. Petrucelli-Timek responded, yes. It is the S.A.G.A. program. Medical providers have sixty (60) days to present a bill. That means that you can approve a bill and they have sixty (60) days to present it. If we close on June 30th and one of our recipients sees a doctor, that medical provider has sixty (60) days to present that bill to the Town so there is going to be clerical work that has to be done. Also, one of the things we do is quarterly reports. Just because our quarter ends June 30th, with finance as you know, you cannot do that report on June 30th. It takes finance, the Comptroller's Office, about three to four weeks to present us with our printout. The last quarter prior to State takeover, the Town is responsible for thirty-three (33) percent of the medical bills incurred in the last quarter. Normally, we run about \$93,000 per quarter so that is about \$30,000 that the Town is going to be responsible for. There is other clean up costs that that Town is going to have to take of.

Mr. Zandri asked, what services the office offers the public now that will not be handled by the new transition?

Mrs. Petrucelli-Timek responded, I wish I could answer that because I am reading in the newspaper that the new director is going to determine what social services is going to be handled by the Town. I can tell you what we offer now but I have no idea what the Town will offer after July 1st.

Mr. Zandri asked, what services are offered now that, for what ever the reason may be, potentially will not be offered will not be covered under the new program?

Mrs. Petrucelli-Timek responded, I can tell you what we offer now; it will be up to the Town and up to the new director of this new department what services they are going to offer to the public. We offer about seventeen other programs at this point and those programs we run, I do fund raise for. Those are not Town-funded. The administration part, my time and my staff's time in doing these programs are funded by the Town but I do a tremendous amount of fund raising as you all know and all participate in. One of the major programs we run is called Holiday for Giving. This program, our office coordinates and it takes us at least six months to coordinate the whole effort. We provide over 1,000 people in this town with food baskets, gift certificates, toys for their children, personal hygiene items during the holidays. How we do that is, we coordinate businesses, school system, non-profits and a group of volunteers. It is a major undertaking. We are also the agency that keeps the confidentiality of all the families and individuals that apply. As part of this Holiday for Giving program we run the Giving Trees; if you go to different businesses in town you see the ornaments on the trees and all those toys go to the Holiday for Giving program. We run the Adopt-a-Family where we service over thirty (30) families which is done, again, with confidentiality. Individuals and businesses in town work through my office to assist different families. The fuel assistance program that we run, Operation Fuel, my office takes the applications, I am the one that does the reports and gets the funding for the program. The W.E.A.P. (Wallingford Energy Assistance Program) program came into being about three years ago when Bill Cominos (Gen. Mgr. Elec. Div.) and I sat down and I got the Electric Division to donate what is now \$20,000 per year to help service eighty-two (82) residents currently with a waiting list of approximately fifteen (15) people. This program is very different than the CT. Energy Assistance Program because we re-determine people on a monthly basis. That means that the eighty-two people see us or call us or talk to us at least once a month. Every program is different but incorporates two things; responsibility of the client and a community service that the people have to give back and that is what the W.E.A.P. program does. It pays for part of the recipient's energy costs for the month. Their responsibility is that they have to pay the remaining costs of their bill and if they are mentally and physically able to do community service work, they do

it. This is done on a monthly basis so that every month we check to make sure that they are making payment to the Electric Division. This prevents the crises intervention that I have to do a lot at the Electric Division because we have less shut-offs. When one of the people on the W.E.A.P. program is faced with a shut-off, they have to come in and see me and I give them a real tough talking to because that defeats my whole purpose of why I am running that program. I run the Boots and Shoes Program which services about sixty-five to seventy (65-70) children with a new pair of shoes or boots. I have Keers and Sprafke's as my vendors. We work it out so that the children go in with vouchers and pick out a pair of shoes or boots that they want. We pay up to forty dollars with the understanding on the part of the parents that if there is something that they want over \$40.00 they will have to pay the difference. The program not only helps those in need but is also supporting the downtown merchants. By doing business with these two entities we know that the children are getting an excellent pair of shoes with an excellent fit. Packet Back to School is another children's program that provides back packs and limited school supplies to two hundred (200) children in the Wallingford school system. I coordinate the Serve program formerly known as the Share program. For fifteen (\$15.00) dollars participants can get fresh meat and vegetable products in exchange for two hours of community service. We also do an Earned Income Credit program. We have had the I.R.S. (Internal Revenue Service) facilitate a presentation at the Wallingford Public Library. One of the major things we do that people do not understand is, there is no social service agency in this town. What we do is information referral, short term counseling and follow-up. A woman came to the Town Hall last week wandering aimlessly about not knowing what to do about her gas bill. We were able to assist her by informing her of Yankee Gas' matching funds program. Another incident in which our office is involved, the hospital calls, they are discharging a resident to his home and he has no means to pay for his prescriptions and no food in his house. That is where we come in, we coordinate it and make sure to go to the food pantry where we get him food; we make sure he gets his prescriptions and we do what ever we can to help him. It is a networking of all the services in town. I have gone on a lot of home visits with a social worker from the Senior Center because they may be able to do the application for the S.E.A.P. but I am the one that has the money for Salvation Army and the W.E.A.P. program. I handle the Salvation Army program as well, residents come in, I take the application and we assist residents in any way that we can. You would be amazed at how many residents call us with different problems and how many people we assist.

Mr. Zandri asked, can you give me some ideas why you think staffing your office on an interim basis during the transition period would be necessary?

Mrs. Petrucelli-Timek replied, the eleven towns that were taken over in 1997 were taken over in April. The fiscal year did not end until June of 1997 so the eleven towns had a good three months to figure out what they needed and what went wrong. Here, June 30th will be the last day for nearly everyone in the Welfare Office, including myself.

Mr. Zandri asked, does the Town have any obligations as far as finalizing the paperwork?

Mrs. Petrucelli-Timek stated, the Town is responsible for hospital administrative hearings, court cases prior to June 30th, the quarterly reports and all the recoveries that come in. Welfare is not a gift and when you sign the Welfare application, you are basically stating that you are going to be paying it back, we have liens on homes, assignment of interest and people have to sometimes pay back through the court system or sometimes people just feel obligated to pay back. Yes, we get money all the time and what has to happen with that money is that the State has to get their share, we have to fill out reports for the State; June 30th is not the day that everything is going to end.

s. Papale asked, how long do you think you will need to staff the office to facilitate a smooth transition?

Mrs. Petrucelli-Timek replied, from what I am hearing from the other towns that were taken over is that there is major confusion not only with clients but the medical providers and vendors that you deal with. They are confused in regards to who they should talk to, what they should do about a bill, etc. Different towns have said it has taken them six months, others, nine months, I think it would depend upon what this town wants to do. I really don't know what other social services are going to be offered.

Ms. Papale asked, who did the transition for the other towns or did the Welfare Department stay?

Mrs. Petrucelli-Timek responded, the Welfare Department stayed.

Ms. Papale asked, did you talk to anyone in our administration about your office remaining?

Mrs. Petrucelli-Timek responded, I think it was decided by this Council in November when you consolidated the Youth Service Director's job and a Social Services Director's job. At that time I was in the audience and I was not asked a question. This Council made that decision.

Ms. Papale stated, if I remember correctly, it was in front of the Council and we were told that the Welfare Department is going to be leaving every community and going to the State level.

s. Petrucelli-Timek responded, the financial aspect of the general assistance program is mandated by the State. The State says that they do not do social services and they do not intend to do them.

Ms. Papale asked, will all the social services be done through the Youth Bureau office now? Are they combining the two offices together? Everything they talked about, your supervisor thinks that it all can be done through the Youth Service department?

Mrs. Petrucelli-Timek answered, to be honest with you, I am telling you what I read in the newspaper. The newspaper said that the new director will determine what social services will be offered to this community.

Ms. Papale stated, but the bills have to be paid; it has to be taken care of. Other towns that you know have decided to keep their office open for six months; nine months, what ever.

Mrs. Petrucelli-Timek stated, other towns have also opted to merge these departments but they have done it in a different way. Hartford has a staff reduction but they are still there; Danbury looked to do more outreach and used community policing and used their social workers to go out and do that; Manchester became family services but they kept their staff and merged with others. Wallingford is a bit different than other communities. When I worked in Meriden the Human Services worked under an umbrella agency. There was a Human Services director and the sister agencies were the Health Department; Youth Services; Senior Center; Environmental Protection and everyone worked together. Here, it is very different.

s. Papale stated, maybe I missed the point when the Council was approached and we were told that the assistance program was being taken over by the State. I thought it was cut and dry, the Welfare Department was out of all the

towns. That is maybe where a mistake was made. I am really surprised that if you were here that you did not help us out a little bit at that time.

Mrs. Petrucelli-Timek responded, I understand but other people were speaking.

Mr. Centner stated, I agree with Ms. Papale; I clearly recall the discussion that evening when Don Roe (Program Planner) was seated at the desk here. My big concern was the remaining work load and how that would be accepted and carried by the new director. It was something like thirty-five (35%) percent of the current work load is what will be retained within. It would become more of a Youth Services and the remaining social service programs would be absorbed. Based on your earlier response to Iris (Papale) and this was your opinion because Iris asked verbatim, the very question I was going to ask; for you to give your opinion on how many months you would see a smooth transition but I am kind of at a loss to understand why it would need to be full staff. You would have the new position involved in some way unless you are saying that the new position would do "zero".

Mrs. Petrucelli-Timek replied, the only concern this town should have is if the new director has general assistance background. If the individual does not then you will have problems with that person defending the town on audits or that person doing general assistance quarterly reporting.

Mr. Centner stated, I fail to see what the transition period would be. They will stay with their primary function of Youth Service but there is still some remaining programs from my understanding, some percentage of the work load; significantly reduced percentage of the current work load would remain in that office. Then this would not even be a transition period, you are making a claim that you would require some sort of capacity in this area all the time.

Mrs. Petrucelli-Timek replied, all I am saying is, that the general assistance program, as I stated before, you have to continue to fill out reports to the State, defend the Town in audits, defend the Town in court cases and hospital administrations. That is up to the Town if they choose to have someone who has general assistance background and is able to do that.

Mr. Centner asked, after July 1, the State pulls out; certain aspects of this operation; that is a fact.

Mrs. Petrucelli-Timek responded, the State will start seeing clients July 1st and pay them their benefits. The Town will no longer determine eligibility for benefits.

Mr. Centner asked, is the remaining work load that is in that office, is definitely going to be less than the current work load in that capacity?

Mrs. Petrucelli-Timek responded, you will not be determining eligibility but what I am saying is, you are still going to be getting the same amount of medical bills because medical bills run sixty days after they are incurred.

Mr. Centner asked, what percentage of the overall work load of the office is these remaining functions? Your statement was, approximately six to nine months retaining full staff after the event and the State has already absorbed something out of the normal work load.

s. Petrucelli-Timek responded, they have absorbed the clients. I am just telling you what the other towns have told me. Their feeling is that the confusion, medical providers, E.D.S., you still have to post payments, you still have to notify clients of payments, you are still getting recoveries, etc. One thing you have to understand, especially about the State and the general assistance program, say we get one pharmacy bill, we certify that and send it to E.D.S. Now E.D.S. is the electronic data systems who is the private contractor of the State who pays medical bills. They can kick that payment out or kick the claim out for a reason as simple as the provider wrote down the wrong number or the wrong code and they kick it back. A "clean" bill takes thirty days to go through the system. Once you certify that, E.D.S. can kick that bill out and send you a denial, the provider a denial, and then the provider has to start from square one and send you a new bill. Once the payment is finally made we have to put that in the client's folder, ledger and then notify the medical provider that we have acknowledged payment and we then have to send what is called a "1255" to the client to say that this bill has been paid on your behalf. That is just on one pharmacy bill. There is a tremendous amount of paperwork. We average between 200-300 bills per month. There is a piece of paper for every piece of paper that happens. I want to make people aware of the fact, and I have made legislators aware of it as well, E.D.S., the contractor for the State, they get paid on claims that are processed, not claims that are paid so therefore their rejection rate is very high.

Mr. Centner stated, I tried to do a little analysis in terms of the time cycle on the number of activities in here and I am still having a hard time understanding that with a new classified position, with a person in it, requiring full staff for some six to nine months. For me those numbers do not add up. I am not saying I am not in favor of looking at extending some of the capacity but I would have difficult saying that it would require full staff for a six or nine month period. I won't agree with that in terms of principle. I would figure that in a three month period you may need 33% of office or 66% for up to three months but in looking at nine months, even if it is a single bill from a funeral home, someone will find that in a nine month period and take care of it.

Mrs. Petrucelli-Timek repeated, this is what I have been told by the other towns. I have also stated that they have been in the process of re-figuring their departments and, yes, there was staff reduction and what I have tried to make you aware of, when they were taken over in April, the three months of that budget year there were no reductions until July 1st. July 1st they were not at full staff. It is the Town's choice if they want to lay me off as of June 30th but to make sure that the Town is aware that they have someone with the expertise to handle general assistance items.

Mr. Centner replied, I don't argue that point at all. If there is work remaining and it needs to be done by a qualified person, I am very interested in seeing an end to that. However, the way it is coming out right now....there is a motion around here for some period of time and I don't know what I am going to be able to agree with. I would like to hear more.

Mr. Zappala stated, I know Mary Alice's position; I know the work that she has done; I was commissioner of the Wallingford Emergency Shelter for eight years during which time I had contact with Mary Alice and am very grateful for the help that she was able to give those unfortunate few we presented to her, with great dedication. I think we are going to be missing a good person and I hope that if we are going to be hiring someone else that they have general assistance background because it is very important to the people of Wallingford who are in need. We cannot turn our back to those individuals who are unable to have what we enjoy having. I feel bad about what is happening; the State is turning over the responsibility to a certain extent. As a town we cannot forget that there are people out there in need and we cannot turn our back to them.

Zandri asked the Mayor to explain to the Council what his game plan is for the Welfare Department and the transition to the State takeover.

Mayor Dickinson responded, the department will have the responsibility of handling the transition as well as continuing the programs that are currently in operation.

Mr. Zandri asked, are you planning on retaining staff beyond July for this department?

Mayor Dickinson answered, at this point there is not a plan to deal with any temporary positions given that I would expect anyone who would not have a permanent position would be looking for full time employment and if we are going to continue the programs and deal with any transition period we need to be sure that people will be here so we will be dealing with fully funded positions, part time or full time in order to encourage the longevity of those who are doing the tasks.

Mr. Zandri asked, what is the existing staff level in the Welfare Department?

Mrs. Petrucelli-Timek responded, two full time, one part time and myself, a caseworker, a clerk II and a part time clerk.

Mr. Zandri asked the Mayor, is there any plans for these employees as far as accommodating them for other positions in the community, work training or anything of that sort?

Mayor Dickinson answered, there are other positions that can be applied for that are open. Regarding work training, I would have to defer to the Personnel Director, I believe he has had some contact on this issue.

Terence Sullivan, Personnel Director stated, not specifically work training but we do offer out placement services and resume building and networking. We have an employee assistance program that has already been and Mary Alice led the charge on that, but we do have access to consultants that come in and help the employees who may be laid off.

Mr. Zandri asked, so there is no training to potentially fill open positions that might be within the community?

Mr. Sullivan responded, the positions in the classified service have to follow a set of guidelines and there are quite a few vacancies right now and they are entitled to apply if they are qualified to fill those jobs.

Mr. Zandri asked, does the town make any exceptions from the normal protocol when they have a situation where it is not the normal such as when someone leaves willingly versus what we are facing here where the employees are being displaced?

Mr. Sullivan replied, we have labor contracts to consider and past practices we want to stay away from but where we can accommodate an employee and where there is a vacancy and where there is modest training that we can accommodate them and the person is willing to do that, we have worked those things through. But because of the contracts and the personnel rules, we try to follow those to the letter because that is the law.

Mr. Zandri asked, does your office make these employees totally aware of any potential openings in the community?

Mr. Sullivan answered, every opening is posted in the Town Hall and I believe the employees are aware of every vacancy that has come up.

Mr. Farrell commented, in the future, if a department head is going to be coming before the Council and is going to start referring to a document that the document should have gone to all of the Councilors, I don't think it is fair that some of the Councilors got that document and others did not.

Mrs. Petrucelli-Timek responded, I apologize, I gave the document to the people who asked for it.

Mr. Parisi stated, you did give me one but I did not know whether you sent them to everyone or you didn't so I did not. I did not know what the disposition of that was; for me to read it at home or what.

Mrs. Petrucelli-Timek stated, I am not making excuses but I have always told the Council that if they had any questions about the social service programs that I run or anything else, please contact me.

Mr. Parisi stated, it is a good generalization right now that anyone who does come before the Council, it would be very wise to distribute information either through the office or individually to everyone. I know it was not done on purpose.

Mr. Knight asked, several programs were mentioned such as Holiday for Giving and Adopt-a-Family, etc., I am sure you are aware of every single one of them; are you confident that these will transition over to the Youth Service Bureau successfully?

Mayor Dickinson answered, yes, I believe that the mission for the department will be to continue social service programs. Whether they will all be the exact same ones? I can't be absolutely certain that every single one of the programs mentioned could be part of the transition. I would expect the vast majority will be. I know that the Holiday for Giving and the Salvation Army are integrally related; at least their administration and organization with municipal employees. I know that will have to continue in one form or another and that will be a mission of the Youth Service and Social Service department.

Mr. Knight asked about the energy assistance and operation fuel programs?

Mayor Dickinson stated, I don't think that there will be any problem there. Joan Stave in my office is involved with the fuel assistance program as well. I don't see any reason why the programs won't continue.

Mr. Knight asked, what about the Boots and Shoes and Packet Back to School programs?

Mayor Dickinson answered, I can't be certain that every single one just as it is set up would continue. I don't know; there is a lot of confidentiality about who is involved. We won't have the lists from the State as far as the general assistance recipients. It is unclear to me at this point as to how those names are developed and retained and what kind of outreach is necessary but the social service department will have to have contact with the churches and other organizations and be dealing with needs as they arise.

Zandri asked, is there a time frame on that announcement?

Mr. Sullivan answered, in approximately 3-4 weeks.

Mr. Parisi asked, this item is to consider and approve but it is more like a recommendation on the part of the Council.

Mr. Zandri replied, my motion was exactly that. If you want I can read it again.

Mr. Parisi stated, even if we voted in favor of this it is a recommendation. In no way is it binding. If we funded this position, that still does not create any situation. This is an administrative judgment, not the financial legislative body's judgment per say. Is that perception correct?

Mayor Dickinson answered, that is correct.

Mr. Centner stated, for me to be able to vote on this at all I need more specificity in terms of whether it is full staff and some definition of interim basis. I am not comfortable with the definition of interim at this point.

Mr. Zandri stated, I made the motion the way that I did because it, obviously, is an administrative choice and it we are only recommending it. I feel strongly that I would want to recommend this to the Mayor but I don't think that this Council can dictate this to the Mayor, that is why it is a recommendation for staffing. It would be his (Mayor's) call and so would the time frame.

Mr. Parisi explained, no matter how we word it....

Mr. Centner stated, I understand that. I would feel a little more comfortable with more specifics and I understand it is a recommendation; we could fund the money and put it right in the Mayor's hand and he does not have to do anything with it.

Charles Johnson, 10 Holly Lane, Co-Chairman of Holiday for Giving stated, I have talked to the other two Co-Chairman and, as Co-Chairmen, all we do is recruit volunteers, do the separating of the cans and making up the food boxes. All the hard work is done by Mary Alice and her crew. We don't know where we stand on Holiday for Giving if Mary Alice and her crew are gone.

Andy Kapi, 6 Deme Road stated, this is a really sad occasion when someone is being asked to leave, not because they did not execute their position well because someone, somewhere envisions a transition program probably driven by some sort of economies in savings. We have been through a lot of those. We got rid of toll booths some years ago and the gas tax went up. Maybe in the long run this is a good idea, maybe it is not but in this particular case we are talking about the people in the Welfare office but we are not talking enough about the people who need the programs and make use of them. Maybe acquainting the new person; maybe introducing the people who are taking part in the programs; maybe there is a transition process which is a hand off which is an introduction. I expect that a lot of the people who need the programs aren't probably adept at making their best case for themselves and they may need someone to help them through that transition process. As to the Mayor's point that we need people who are going to there, if we were going to fund the position for twenty weeks at full staff; maybe somebody leaves; guess what? We won't need to spend the money or maybe the same amount of money is expended over twenty-six weeks; maybe the

ole thing runs out after thirteen weeks. The point is that they can make use of their time and take folks through this isition process, introduce them, help them make their case for eligibility. We paid \$2 million tonight to have people get wet for three months I think that we can do something to help people get help for three months, maybe a little more; maybe a little less; however you work out the math but they can definitely do something with their time. Part of that can be training for the new people who are not familiar with these programs and who need to be introduced to people. The baton needs to be passed.

Philip Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street asked, who established the criteria for the new position?

Mayor Dickinson replied, it is contained in the job description which was prepared administratively and approved by the Council.

Mr. Wright asked, is this a melding of the two functions or is it strictly Youth Services?

Mayor Dickinson answered, it is a creation of responsibilities involving youth as well as social services.

Mr. Wright asked, has it been established that we have a person to fill this job? Have we sought people to fill this job?

Mayor Dickinson responded, the position was posted and applications received.

Mr. Wright asked, from within and without the town?

Mayor Dickinson answered, from within and without, that is right.

Mr. Wright asked, is it safe to assume that the lady sitting here (Mary Alice Petrucelli-Timek) is not going to fill that job?

Mayor Dickinson replied, I don't think that there has been a determination as to the choice of applicant and until that has been determined I am not going to reflect on who the individual would be who receives the position.

Mr. Wright stated, that is a lawyerly answer. You can ask anyone in the town and today they would tell you that Mary Alice is not going to fill that job, is that a fact or not?

Mayor Dickinson answered, people have many different opinions but until there is a factual announcement of a selected candidate, it is only conjecture.

Mr. Wright asked Mary Alice, have you been offered the job?

Mrs. Petrucelli-Timek answered, no I have not.

Mr. Wright asked, can anyone tell me why not? Is there someone more qualified?

Mayor Dickinson answered, we are in the midst of a selection process; it is inappropriate to discuss any applicant, or their merits or demerits and until a decision is made, it is not appropriate discussion.

Mr. Zappala stated, as a Past Chairman of the Salvation Army I wish I was able to raise thousands of dollars for fuel assistance for the people of Wallingford the way that Mary Alice's organization did it. I am sure she is still doing it. She is a caring type of person.

Mr. Knight stated that he still had a great deal of questions that he would like to ask that could not be answered right now. No decision has been made on a successor and I am interested that when that person is chosen to see that they can, indeed, fulfill the jobs left over when the State takes over the general assistance. I would hope that provision has been accounted for. I still have not had a chance to read the document from the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services as to what is left and what is not left. I have heard from one person from one organization having to do with their interfacing with the Welfare Department. I think there is a lot of information that needs to be gathered in order to make an intelligent recommendation even though the recommendation would not be binding. For that reason I am going to request that we table this.

Motion was made by Mr. Knight to Table this Item, seconded by Mr. Centner.

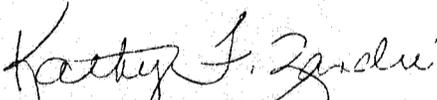
VOTE: Papale, Parisi, Zappala and Zandri, no; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

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

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

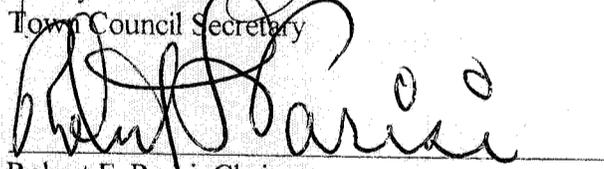
There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:18 A.M.

Meeting recorded and transcribed by:



Kathryn F. Zandri
Town Council Secretary

Approved by:



Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

4-14-98

Date

wn Council Meeting

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March 24, 1998

Rosemary A. Rascati
Rosemary A. Rascati, Town Clerk

4-14-98

Date

Appendix I



Town of Wallingford, Connecticut

HENRY MCCULLY
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

EDWARD J. NILAND
SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
29 TOWN FARM ROAD
WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT 06492
TELEPHONE (203) 294-2105
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**TOWN OF WALLINGFORD
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Phone: (203) 294-2105

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable William W. Dickinson, Jr., Mayor

FROM: Mr. Henry McCully, Director of Public Works

SUBJECT: Report for 6 Fairfield Boulevard-Recreation Project

DATE: October 8, 1997

Dear Mayor Dickinson:

In reference to your letter dated September 11, 1997, listed below find the final costs for the Recreation Building Project:

Contractor	\$1,333,981.00
Architect	95,380.00
Miscellaneous	129.96
Mosaic Logo	1,999.00
Sidewalk Repairs	9,971.00
Special Testing	3,402.50
Moving	3,475.00
Alarm System	1,998.00
Voice E Vac System	<u>2,316.52</u>
Total Fairfield Blvd. Account	\$1,452,652.98

Public Works:

Miscellaneous 2,205.00

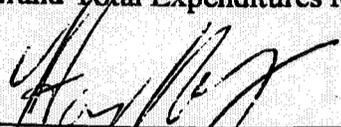
Vertical Blinds 2,688.00

Connect Roof Drains 600.00

Curb & Trench Repair 500.00

Total Public Works 5,993.00

Grand Total Expenditures for Project..... \$1,458,645.98



Henry McCully, Director
Public Works Department

HMC:atf
File-6 Fairfield Boulevard

ORDINANCE NO. _____

PUBLIC CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL IN SESSION:

That Ordinance No. 182 and Ordinance No. 288 are hereby repealed and the following ordinance is substituted in lieu thereof.

I.

There is hereby established a Public Celebrations Committee for the Town of Wallingford pursuant to the authority of Section 7-148 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

II.

The Public Celebrations Committee shall consist of up to twenty-one (21) members appointed by the Town Council. The number of members of the Public Celebrations Committee shall hereafter be determined by resolution of the Town Council. The Mayor shall be a member, ex officio.

III.

Each member shall serve without compensation for a term of two (2) years commencing on the first day of February of the year of his or her appointment. Members may continue in office until a successor has been appointed.

IV.

The Public Celebrations Committee may organize itself from its membership by the selection of a chairman and such officers as may be necessary to perform its function. It may prescribe the duties of such officers and may adopt by-laws or other procedures for the conduct of its meetings.

V.

The Public Celebrations Committee may arrange for and supervise such municipal celebrations and public celebrations as it shall determine to be appropriate. In the performance of its functions, the Public Celebrations Committee may expend only such sums of money as shall have been appropriated in any annual or special appropriation. Upon request, it shall submit a report of its doings to the Town Council.

ORDINANCE NO. _____

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Ordinance was enacted by the Town Council of the Town of Wallingford this _____ day of _____, 1998, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the Town of Wallingford.

Rosemary A. Rascati
Town Clerk

APPROVED: _____
William W. Dickinson, Jr., Mayor

DATE: _____

ALL TOWN RECORDS
ARE KEPT AT THE
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
100 W. MAIN ST.
WALLINGFORD, CT 06495

ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$124,000 FOR THE DESIGN OF RENOVATIONS TO THE WALLINGFORD COMMUNITY POOL AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$124,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE

Section 1. An Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Appropriating \$124,000 For The Design Of Renovations To The Wallingford Community Pool And Authorizing The Issue Of \$124,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issue Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose", enacted by the Town Council on November 26, 1996 and approved by the Mayor on November 27, 1996, which Ordinance is hereby ratified, confirmed and adopted, is amended to increase the appropriation and bond authorization therein by \$1,941,000, from \$124,000 to \$2,065,000, and to provide for project construction, thereby making the title of the ordinance read as follows:

"AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$2,065,000 FOR THE PLANNING, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF RENOVATIONS TO THE WALLINGFORD COMMUNITY POOL AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$2,065,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE"

Section 2. Section 1 of the Ordinance is amended to read as follows:

"The sum of \$2,065,000 is appropriated for the planning, acquisition and construction of renovations and repairs to the Wallingford Community Pool, including, but not limited to, demolition of the existing pool pavement, recirculation and filtration systems, and construction of new concrete and bituminous pool structures and decks, utility connections, drainage and grading, installation of new pool recirculation systems, filtration systems, chemical control systems, new pool deck, safety equipment, handicap accessibility, a water play feature, and related appurtenances, or so much thereof as may be accomplished within said appropriation. Such services to be provided approximately in accordance with the "Project Manual and Technical Specifications, Town of Wallingford, Renovations to Community Pool, Public-Bid Number 97-165", and including administrative, printing, legal and financing costs related thereto."

Section 3. The first sentence of Section 2 of the Ordinance is amended by substituting the amount of \$2,065,000 for \$124,000, thereby making the first sentence of Section 2 read as follows:

"To meet said appropriation \$2,065,000 bonds of the Town or so much thereof as shall be necessary for such purpose, shall be issued, maturing not later than the twentieth year after their date."