

Town Council Meeting Summary

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December 8, 1987

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12/10/87/dbf

Town Council Meeting

December 8, 1987

7:30 p.m.

- (1) Roll call and pledge of allegiance to flag.
- (2) Public question and answer period.
- (3) Report on sale of bonds and notes which occurred on December 1, 1987 by Thomas A. Myers, Comptroller.

- (4) Presentations by Council Chairman David A. Gessert.
Waived Rule V/discussed and established task force for homeless.
- (5) Consider and approve a transfer of \$400 from Part-Time Secretarial Wage to Office Supplies, requested by Gail M. Powell, Vice Chairman, Zoning Board of Appeals.
- (6) Establish AIDS Information Mailing Account #001-1300-400-4190 and consider and approve a transfer of \$6,400 from Council Contingency to AIDS Information Mailing, requested by Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr.
- (7) Consider establishment of Potable Water Grant, requested by Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr.
Revenue \$2,843 #001-1000-001-1230
Expenditure \$2,843 #001-9000-900-8230
to reimburse Grieb Road and East Main Street residents under the Potable Water Program.
- (8) Consider an increase to the Board of Education Special Grants Budget for 1987-88 of \$14,495 for the Drug Free Schools Grant, requested by Superintendent of Schools Robert Nicoletti.
- (9) Consider and approve a transfer of \$3,000 from Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance to Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance, Food Service, requested by Mark-Anthony Wilson, Risk Manager.
- (10) RECONSIDER a transfer of \$500 from Maintenance of Vehicles to Dog Survey, requested by Councilman Albert E. Killen.
- (11) Consider abandonment of MacDonald Lane, requested by Attorney Edward P. Loughlin.
- (12) Consider a budget amendment, fiscal year 1987/88 for Water Division, \$50,000 INCREASE in New Distribution Lines and \$50,000 DECREASE in Reserved for Water Treatment Plant, requested by Raymond A. Denison, Office Manager, Water/Sewer Divisions.
- (13) Consider and approve a transfer of \$2,000 from Miscellaneous Station Labor to Miscellaneous Power Plant Equipment, requested by Charles F. Walters, Electric Division.
- (14) Consider request to retain one pick-up truck, requested by Charles F. Walters, Electric Division.
- (15) Consider a merit increase for Mary Greaney, Police Department.
- (16) Consider acceptance of Town Council Minutes of November 24, 1987.

2/2/87/dbf

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

December 8, 1987

7:30 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was held in Council Chambers, called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Chairman David A. Gessert. Answering present to the roll called by Rosemary A. Rascati, Town Clerk, were Council Members Bergamini, Holmes, Killen, Papale, Polanski, Adams, Rys and Gessert. Councilman Gouveia arrived after the roll was called. Also present were Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., and Thomas A. Myers, Comptroller. The pledge of allegiance was given to the flag.

Public question and answer period.

Mrs. Mary Fritz, 43 Grove Street, presented the Council with red ribbons and explained that the Substance Abuse Coalition (in Cheshire regularly pass out red ribbons and they tie them on the police cars to remind people to drive carefully during the holidays, and to watch their intake of alcohol, and she feels that Wallingford should also become involved in this program. Mr. Gessert thanked Mrs. Fritz for her presentation.

Mr. Edward Musso, 56 Dibble Edge Road, commented that he will be glad when they move over to the new Town Hall and get rid of the Council's recliners and sleepers and get straight back chairs and

also get rid of the goody bar.

Mr. Arthur Betts, Betts Heating & Air Conditioning Company, Inc., 110 Pent Highway, asked about the October 27th meeting where his bid was used to go out and process specifications for the bid for the Police Station, and added that they did not win the bid after their prices were published and asked to have the bid held so this can be discussed at a later meeting. Mayor Dickinson explained that it would not be awarded until they had a chance to sit down with the Police Chief, Mr. Dunleavy and Mr. Betts. Mr. Gessert added that the town has an obligation to act in fairness and the questions that Mr. Betts asked should be discussed. 799

Mr. David Doherty, 6 Reynolds Drive, read a letter from the Mayor of New Britain to the Hartford Courant which states that the issue of the homeless is becoming an urban issue, and the issue of providing shelter is not a city problem alone. If the homeless are taken care of, it will be the cities that provide shelter and the suburbs that will address this problem by a donation, rather than a commitment. Mr. Doherty added that he would like the Town of Wallingford to have a shelter of their own.

Mr. Musso added that he does not believe that Wallingford needs a shelter for the homeless, because you are going to bring up a group of people that are going to be dependent on everyone in Wallingford. I think they should go with their relatives, because a shelter will only attract the lazy people and if they want a shelter, they should go to Meriden.

Mr. John Burns, 48 Cooper Avenue, stated that he believes that the issue of a shelter for the homeless should be addressed as soon as possible.

Mr. Gouveia commented that he asked for 2 items to be placed on this agenda and he stated that he did what he thought was a proper and acceptable procedure. He added that he realized that he did not meet the 12:00 p.m. deadline and added that himself and other Council Members have done exactly the same thing that he did. Mr. Gouveia added that he does not understand why the items were put on the agenda and then removed. The 2 years that I have been on this Council, there have been 26 meetings with addendums to the agenda, covering 41 items. I am ready to discuss the landfill problem and the homeless people (2 items requested) tonight. However, in view of the fact that my report on the landfill is an extensive one, because of the Christmas spirit, I will not waive rule V to discuss this tonight if I can be guaranteed that the homeless issue will be discussed tonight and I can discuss the Meriden Landfill at the next meeting.

Mr. Gessert pointed out that Mr. Gouveia was not aware of a decision that was made Wednesday evening, that the Council would legally be required to hold an additional meeting this month, so there will certainly be ample opportunity to discuss the question on the landfill, we have the letter in writing and it will be on the next agenda, in accordance with our rules. Our rules also provide that anyone can request an item be added to the agenda by the waiver of rule V, and any Council Member has a right to make that motion at any meeting to discuss any subject.

Mr. Frank Wasilewski, 57 North Orchard Street, commented that he would like to congratulate the people responsible for the Christmas decorations in town, which he thinks are the best in his 64 years in Wallingford, and would also like to welcome all of the ex-Council Members to be, to the hard seat corp. in the back of the room. I would also like to say, with the new Council coming in, there will be new jobs for people in Wallingford and some people that are going to be unemployed. I think that one job that the Council should consider is the Town Clerk, which is a very important job for Wallingford. I think our present Town Clerk should be kept on for another 2 years. I would also like to thank all of the ex-Council Members for their dedication to Wallingford, whether you pleased people or not because deep down, you wanted to do a good job for Wallingford. Mr. Gessert thanked Mr. Wasilewski for his comments.

Mr. Killen asked Mr. Gessert if he ever named a Chairman for the Flood and Erosion Board and Mr. Gessert explained that he was named Chairman for his duration.

ITEM 3. Report on sale of bonds and notes which occurred on December 1, 1987 by Comptroller.

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Mr. Myers explained, that as the Council knows from his previous report, he issued bonds on December 1, 1987 and he also issued notes on December 1, 1987. The bonds were awarded at the low interest rate of 6.6534%. What is important to note, is that there were 5 bidders. Bonds are bid in groups of investors and I would like to read to you the group of investing syndicates that purchased Wallingford bonds at 6.65%. They were Prudential Capital Funding,

Merrill Lynch capital markets, Connecticut National Bank, E. F. Hutton, Dean Whitter, Smith Barney, Paine Webber, Advest, and the list goes on. This list was comprised of 15 bidders. I think it is important for the Council to realize that they are all national, and this is the kind of attraction that Wallingford securities have on the market place. The other important thing on the bonds is, as you know, at the last meeting, the town was upgraded by Moody's Investor Service, from A1 to Aa, and that is worth approximately 30-40 basis points. If we were still A1, our interest rate would have been 6.9%, and would cost the taxpayers an additional \$100,000 over the life of this bond. Regarding the bonds, to the best of my knowledge, this cleans up the financing for general government. I think this is important, for one reason. We are going to have to look to our future years to the utilities, because we have some major projects coming in there. I think we can very successfully maintain our financial position, our financial strength and we can finance that water plant in a series of bonds, over the next 5-8 years and do it with some professionalism and do it in a manner where there isn't a big impact to any of our rates. Regarding the Bond Anticipation Notes which were for the 1985-1986 electric capital budget, were awarded to a low bid of 5.27%. Those notes were placed for a 1 year period, from 12/15/87-12/15/88. Again, we are using our policy on rapid debt retirement. The notes were originally issued at \$1.7 million dollars and we have paid off \$425,000 of those notes with cash from the electric fund, and we anticipate that by 1990, these notes will be fully retired, and will never go to bonding.

Mr. Gessert commented that the interest rates are fantastic and in the long run, the town will save a lot of money and the taxpayers reduce their obligation, because the taxes will be lower.

ITEM 4. Presentations by Council Chairman David A. Gessert.

Mr. Gessert asked Mr. William Fischer and Mr. Michael Papale to step forward and explained that there is a lot of aggravation and frustration that goes with the job of being Chairman of this Council, but once in a while, there is a little fun to it and I would like to take pleasure in expressing appreciation, not only of this Council but, of the Town of Wallingford, for the efforts that you two gentlemen have put out in the past several years. I have heard hundreds of compliments on our Police Station and I look at the dozens of dozens of meetings that Mr. Fischer went to, to hold that project under budget, to keep that project moving, to get it done on time and as Chairman of the Committee, spent a lot of additional time, approving bills and checking with contractors and coordinating meetings, just a tremendous effort. During the entire process, we didn't have a paid member of the building committee, who was supposed to be on site every day, so instead, we had Mike Papale, who has an excellent background in construction, eliminated a lot of problems before they even started and saved us a lot of money on that project by preventing problems before they were created, by spotting things that he knew would not come out right and he did a fantastic job. These two people, after finishing that project, were foolish enough to volunteer again, to work on the Robert Earley Committee. On behalf of the Town Council, I would like to recognize a former Democratic Town Chairman, that I used to argue a lot with, and say thank you very much. Mr. Gessert presented Mr. Fischer with a Certificate of Appreciation. (APPLAUSE) Mr. Gessert presented Mr. Papale with a Certificate of Appreciation. (APPLAUSE) Mr. Fischer and Mr. Papale thanked Mr. Gessert and the members of the Council.

Mr. Gessert asked Mrs. Wilma Jacunski to step forward. Mr. Gessert explained that Mrs. Jacunski has been involved in the Statewide Committee for Drug Free Youth. She was secretary for the statewide organization developing capable young people, she has been a trainer for that group. She was an early leader for the Wallingford Citizens for Drug Free Youth. She has worked on the survey for drug and alcohol use among Wallingford youth. She is a member of the Mayor's Committee to prevent drug and alcohol abuse among young people. She co-chaired two evenings with Steven Glen, she started on that project, felt that it needed to be done, kept running into brick walls but she never gave up. She never gave up, she persisted, had the first meeting, which

was very successful, came back again at Sheehan High School and had about 400-500 people there that evening, which was a very successful event and she has worked on a lot of other Wallingford projects to help the youth and not in a very high profile area. I would like to express our appreciation to Wilma. Mr. Gessert presented Mrs. Jacunski with a Certificate of Appreciation. (APPLAUSE) Mrs. Jacunski thanked Mr. Gessert and the members of the Council.

Mr. Gessert asked Mrs. Christine Bolio and Mrs. Lucille Trzcinski to step forward. Mr. Gessert explained that Mr. Wasilewski mentioned earlier in the meeting, how beautiful downtown Wallingford looked, especially the Christmas displays. Downtown Wallingford has developed an awful lot of class in the last several years. I think the downtown renovation project, the gazebo, the trees, the lights, everything has added to it. A project like that, takes an awful lot of time and work and effort, not just by government, but by other people that care about the Town of Wallingford and care enough not to stay home and criticize what the town should be doing, but to roll up their sleeves and they got involved and they have been going to meetings, providing input, getting other people involved and when Wallingford people get together and work on a project, if it is going to be successful, if you have a spark plug like Tina Bolio and Lucille Trzcinski, that project is going to fly. Mr. Gessert presented Mrs. Trzcinski with a Certificate of Appreciation. (APPLAUSE) Mrs. Trzcinski thanked Mr. Gessert and the members of the Council. Mr. Gessert presented Mrs. Christine Bolio with a Certificate of Appreciation. (APPLAUSE) Mrs. Bolio thank Mr. Gessert and the members of the Council.

Mr. Gessert turned the meeting over to Mayor Dickinson, who had some Certificates to pass out to some young people, who are soccer players.

Mayor Dickinson explained that they have a championship group of young people present. They won the State Championship of 1987, for Wallingford. Mayor Dickinson asked coaches Dennis Tosney and Mike Plourde to step forward, along with the players. Mayor Dickinson added that it takes a lot of dedication and effort and they are very talented young people. Mayor Dickinson presented each of the coaches with a pen with the seal of Wallingford, thanked them and also thanked the Youth Soccer League of Wallingford for allowing these young people this opportunity and helping to organize all of these events. (APPLAUSE)

Mayor Dickinson read the name of each player:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Casey Cahoon | Joe Matakowski |
| Ricky Warner | Scott Anderson |
| Mike Anderson | Mike Yurczyk |
| Matt Cellone | Ben Russo |
| Shamus McGowan | Brad Gallagher |
| David Pucciarello | Robby Day |
| John Zocco | John Esposito |
| Tim Plourde | |

(APPLAUSE)

Mayor Dickinson announced that each member of the team will receive a certificate at their next soccer meeting.

Mr. Killen: Dave, over the past 4 years, you have made many presentations, given out citations, etc. and it is about time that you became the recipient yourself. Speaking on behalf of the people on this half of the table (Democrats), if you had bowed out a few years ago, we would have been more than glad to give you something. You hung on and we appreciate that. The last 4 years, Dave, have been the epitome of your years in government, but I know they haven't been your happiest. I know that because you are a free spirit like myself and I've been lucky, almost like the free safety man in football, you are free to roam all over the place and take shots where you want and then bow back and no one gets a shot at you, one way or the other. Your fellow Council people have recognized your efforts and they have asked me to make this presentation to you. I hope Dave, that when you look at this particular gavel, you will not think of the last 4 years, because they have been too much, but think of all the years that we have been together, because we have had our good times and our bad, but we have enjoyed working with one another and I myself have become your personal friend, simply through the vehicle of politics. Politics usually ends up with people being mad at one another. You became a friend of mine and I am very proud of that. I will present this on behalf of your fellow Council people and I hope you will enjoy it for many more.

years and that you will not forget us. Mr. Killen presented Mr. Gessert with a pewter gavel. (APPLAUSE AND STANDING OVATION)

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Mr. Gessert thanked Mr. Killen and all of the Council Members and stated that he appreciates it and he will remember all of his 14 years, because they were all fun, never dull, all exciting and I have enjoyed all of them, with the addition of some gray hairs. I am looking forward to doing some other things and I certainly think I speak for myself and all of the out going members of this Council, when I say, if there is anything we can do in the future or any way that we can help the Town of Wallingford, even though we may not be elected officials anymore, I think we are all very much interested in Wallingford, and if we can be of service to the Council or the Town of Wallingford, I am sure everybody here would be most willing. Thank you very much.

Speaking to Marie, Ray, Ed and Peter, Mr. Killen stated that he has enjoyed working with them. We have had our differences, which is what this board is all about, but I hope that you will not be strangers here, because people with expertise, like yourselves, should serve on other boards and commissions.

A motion was made by Mrs. Bergamini to table the remainder of item 4, seconded by Mr. Polanski.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Gouveia to Waive Rule V for the purpose of discussion and possible action regarding the homeless people in Wallingford, for a homeless shelter, seconded by Mrs. Papale.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

Mr. Gouveia explained that one of the right things about Wallingford, is the type of people that we have, that we are willing to open our doors and roll up our sleeves, when we see someone in need and take them into our own houses and do everything that we can do for them. The bottom line is, I don't think we have done enough for the homeless in Wallingford. At the last meeting, our Comptroller told us that we spent \$60,000-\$70,000 a year to shelter the homeless dogs in Wallingford. I think we could do better than that for the homeless people in Wallingford. We were very fortunate to have some very unselfish people in Wallingford that have, against many obstacles, tried to provide a shelter for the homeless people. Last year, they were able to succeed and this year, they were not able to succeed. Religious groups have not met the challenge. The Red Cross in Wallingford are having their own problems, and I don't think local government has done enough. I did not do as much as I should have done. When I should have lobbied at this Council meeting, I didn't. When I should have made sacrifices, I didn't. I did not do anything, I stood still, sought the easy way out and looked the other way. I beg all of you not to look the other way any longer. Too often, while on this Council, I used a quote, which is: "The time to fix the roof is when the sun is shining." I use that quote because it has great implications for providing, great implications for planning, and great implications for acting. The sun is not shining on the homeless people in Wallingford.

A motion was made by Mr. Gouveia to establish a Task Force to look into the plight of the homeless people in Wallingford and if it is necessary, to establish a shelter, seconded by Mr. Killen.

Mr. Gessert asked where they would be if that motion was approved, just to clarify matters and Mr. Gouveia explained that at the very least, they would have put the problem at the very front. These people have tried to provide a shelter. They have gone to every place that they could have gone. Mr. Gessert pointed out that Mr. Gouveia's motion does not specify any specific action.

Mrs. Bergamini pointed out that if the Council appoints a task force, it will end December 31st, and will have to be reappointed by the next Council.

Mrs. Papale asked what the scope of the task force would be and Mr. Gouveia explained that this task force would put together all of the figures that they have available and come up with a feasibility as to whether we really do need a shelter. If it is deemed necessary, we should move to get the help from the private sector or whatever, to establish a shelter.

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Mrs. Papale asked if this Committee would also check into whatever buildings are available in the Town of Wallingford and Mr. Gouveia said he believed so. Mrs. Papale added that in her opinion, to say yes to this before you have all of the information, is ridiculous. Mr. Gouveia added that this is why he added in his motion "if it is necessary".

Mr. Killen asked how many members Mr. Gouveia would need for this Committee and Mr. Gouveia said 5 names should be enough.

Mr. Adams added that he would hope it would include people other than from the private sector, such as people from the churches, etc., so they could take an active part.

Mr. Gouveia named the 5 people (including himself) who would be interested in working on this Committee:

David Doherty
Thomas Zappala
John Powers
Mary Lou Krawczyk

Mr. Holmes added that he thinks that it should be defined when the task force should be completed, rather than dragging it on.

Mr. Gouveia pointed out that it is too late to start for this year, but their goal is to start now and plan for next winter.

Mr. Musso stated that he does not think the Town of Wallingford needs a home for the homeless, because there are people that will take in friends that need to be put up. If they don't have friends, they should be put up in the Police Station because they have plenty of room.

Mary Beth Applegate stated that the Wallingford League of Woman Voters has discussed the problem of the homeless in Wallingford and back in January of this year, we drafted a letter, which was sent to the Mayor, addressing the need for a homeless shelter.

Mr. Gessert pointed out that the problem with having a task force, is that you are not going to get a balance of opinions, and you won't get two sides because you don't have a devil's advocate in there.

Mr. Zappala told the Council that he thinks everybody's aware of the problem of the homeless in Wallingford and added that it is very easy to turn your back on it and let someone else take care of the problem, like Meriden is doing now. I think it is a shame that someone else has to take care of our problem.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Gouveia to have the following people be on the Committee for the Task Force for the homeless:

Peter Gouveia
David Doherty (temporary Chairman)
Thomas Zappala
John Powers
Mary Lou Krawczyk

Mr. Gouveia's motion was seconded by Mr. Killen.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM 5. Consider and approve a transfer of \$400 from Part-Time Secretarial Wage to Office Supplies, Zoning Board of Appeals, moved by Mrs. Bergamini and seconded by Mr. Rys.

Mrs. Bergamini asked Ms. Powell how old their transcriber was and Ms. Powell replied, about 10 years old.

Mr. Gouveia asked what the total price was for the transcriber and Ms. Powell explained that the total price was \$400.00 which includes a pedal, so the secretary can keep her hands free and it can also record.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM 6. Establish AIDS Information Mailing Account #001-1300-400-4190

Mr. Gessert asked if they will be able to carry over those funds and Mr. Lorch replied yes. Mr. Lorch added that the money will go towards improving and expanding the present health program.

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Mr. Musso suggested that the teachers contribute \$10.00 a piece or \$20.00 a piece.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM 9. Consider and approve a transfer of \$3,000 from Workers' compensation Self-Insurance to Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance, Food Service, requested by Risk Manager, moved by Mr. Rys and seconded by Mr. Holmes.

Mr. Polanski asked Mr. Wilson how much money they have left in that account and Mr. Wilson replied, between \$75,000 and \$77,000.

Mr. Killen commented that five out of the six injuries have occurred in the last fiscal year and asked Mr. Wilson if they short-changed themselves by only putting that amount of money in, and Mr. Wilson explained that historically, they don't have that much activity, as far as injuries in the food service department. But, it seems as though this year, it just ballooned.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM 10. RECONSIDER a transfer of \$500 from Maintenance of Vehicles to Dog Survey, requested by Councilman Killen, moved by Mr. Rys and seconded by Mr. Adams.

Mr. Killen explained that he went through the state statute and talked with Ms. Gianotti and everything is in order as it should be. I also checked with the Comptroller's Office and the amounts of money have been unencumbered, so that money is available and it is something that we have no control over.

VOTE: Holmes voted no; Bergamini and Gessert passed; Adams, Gouveia, Killen, Papale, Polanski and Rys voted yes; motion duly carried.

ITEM 11. Consider abandonment of MacDonald Lane. Mayor Dickinson did not have a recommendation on this item.

Mr. Rys moved to consider abandonment of MacDonald Lane, for discussion, seconded by Mrs. Papale.

Attorney Edward Loughlin represents Midwood Development Corporation and he introduced Kevin Cornell and he explained that MacDonald Lane is north of Route 68, running east and west from Northrup Road and it once connected Northrup Road to Slater Lane, on the other side of I-91 and through to Thorpe Avenue. Since I-91 went through, it has been in utter disuse. Attorney Loughlin respects Mayor Dickinson's position; however, Midwood Development Corporation with which Mr. Cornell is associated, has been attempting since early autumn to commence construction on a 62,000 square foot executive office building on Northrup Road. At that time, it was ascertained that being in an I-5 zone, it is a nonconforming, undersized lot containing 4.8 acres and it was learned at the last minute, this building was too close to the road and because it fronts on two roads, it needs double setbacks, etc. and suffice to say, due to zoning considerations, with absolutely no representation by Linda Bush that anything would be approved, disapproved, or otherwise, it was suggested as a possible alternative that this road that isn't used any more might be abandoned, thus eliminating a problem, allowing conformance with the zoning requirements of the area. Attorney Loughlin explained that the procedural necessity of submitting this to the Planning and Zoning Commission for recommendation was never accomplished and it finally got on the P & Z agenda November 9, 1987 and the Planning and Zoning Commission has considered it, the matter has been considered by all departments and it has been recommended for abandonment. Mayor Dickinson indicated that the Mayor's Office was an administrative office and he does not recommend anything, nor can he recommend that the Council take action tonight since there are some disagreements among departments from what he can gather and he is not prepared at this point to take a position for the Town of Wallingford, regardless of what one or two departments might say.

Mr. Gessert suggested that the Council will meet on December 29, 1987 which will allow the Mayor time to review the matter. Mrs. Bergamini

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questioned this as a need to conform to P & Z regulations since the property is only 4.8 acres and Attorney Loughlin said there is also a side line, fronting on two streets, and therefore there are two front line setback requirements which would be eliminated if in fact the road was abandoned. Attorney Loughlin suggested that if the Town Council does not want to abandon the road, at least they will know how to proceed. Mr. Cornell explained that the sewer moratorium will expire next fall and taking into account lead times for various construction activities, he would like to be heard before the P & Z Board for site plan approval to start the operation. Mr. Cornell said that in the early stages of planning, the zone called for a 60,000 square foot building and a five acre minimum lot and he told the architect he wanted a 60,000 square foot building and Miss Bush pointed that MacDonald Lane was a town road and the architect messed up the setback and Mr. Cornell felt he would have to make the building smaller and proceed with a variance for a smaller building and Miss Bush said he could try getting the road abandoned and that is the genesis. Mrs. Bergamini felt that the Town of Wallingford could sell this property and Mr. Loughlin emphatically stated that the town has no right to do that and if they wanted to sell it, it should be put out to bid to see who will buy it and he felt it is to the benefit of the town to abandon roads and we are not discussing the cost of a 50 foot strip of property--Midwood does not need this strip to develop the property because it is a nonconforming lot and can be built upon tomorrow.

Mr. Rys asked about the property on the opposite side of MacDonald Lane and Attorney Loughlin said it is also owned by Midwood. Mr. Polanski questioned an abandoned road being town property; Attorney Loughlin explained that if it is officially abandoned, the line is drawn down the middle and the owners on either side are the property owners. Mrs. Papale suggested that Mr. Cornell come back on December 29 when the Council meets again. Mr. Gessert recommended submission of a variance to P & Z which can be cancelled if action by the Council is positive. Attorney Loughlin asked if the Council would indeed take action on December 29, either pro or con and Mr. Gessert felt they would.

Mr. Killen moved to table action of the subject of abandonment of MacDonald Lane until December 29, 1987, seconded by Mrs. Bergamini.

VOTE: Unanimous ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM 12. Mr. Rys moved approval of a budget amendment, F.Y. 1987/88, Water Division: \$50,000 increase in New Distribution Lines and a \$50,000 decrease in Reserved for Water Treatment Plant, seconded by Mrs. Bergamini.

Mr. Smith explained Mr. Denison's November 24, 1987 letter and the fact that Ravenswood and Town Line Shopping Plaza have received approval and are now to be reimbursed. Mr. Killen felt that the October budget report showed \$177,000 left in that account #343-088. Mr. Smith was assured by Mr. Denison that there was a need for this action.

Mr. Killen is bothered by the fact that the Council has to make the transfer. Mr. Smith said the point was argued during budget preparation and asked that the amount be left in because of projects in process and the Mayor's rationale behind it was that there were prior year's funds unexpended and since then, paperwork has been caught up and contractors have been reimbursed and the prior year's funds have been expended and there is an immediate need for \$39,000 and it is expected that the remainder will be used before the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Killen does not recall being given that explanation at budget time. Mr. Smith said this issue was discussed during their budget presentation to the Mayor and it was made known at that time that there would be an attempt made to get that from the Council, even at budget preparation time. Mayor Dickinson said that Mr. Smith is reporting accurate information and the Mayor did not agree with the additional \$100,000 requested for the New Distribution Lines account and the Mayor could not see adding more funds until some of the past year's funds were spent and \$100,000 was taken out and put into an account to build up funds for payment of the water treatment plant, to begin financing for it. Mayor Dickinson felt that it was explained to the Council when the budget was presented by the PUC Commissioners and Ray Denison and the Mayor repeated his position at that time--he was not opposed to the funds being used to pay for outside contractors as they had budgeted but only at such time that all of the past funds were used up and now, they have used up the past funds and the additional

\$50,000 is needed since a large amount of money has been spent in the past 6 to 8 months in paying for these distribution lines that may go back years. Mayor Dickinson is not opposed to it coming out of this account for lack of another one to pay the dollars from and Mr. Smith is correct that it was never the Mayor's position that this was not proper use of funds to pay for this outside work, or contribution, since we are obligated to do it. Mr. Killen has no problem with that but the problem is in making sure that a commitment is obtained from the proper body; Mr. Killen has no intention of usurping the Mayor's authority and does not think the Mayor intends to usurp the Council's authority. Mayor Dickinson wants everyone to understand that this is not a discretionary type of action and the budget is based upon an estimate of what will be paid out during the year and this has gone over what was budgeted and new money must be transferred to pay it.

VOTE: Unanimous ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM 13. Mr. Rys moved a transfer of \$2,000 from Miscellaneous Station Labor to Miscellaneous Power Plant Equipment, Electric Division, seconded by Mrs. Papale.

VOTE: Unanimous ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM 14. Mrs. Bergamini moved for discussion the request of the Electric Division to retain one pick-up truck, not to be taken home at night, seconded by Mrs. Papale.

Mr. Walters explained his November 6, 1987 letter and the need for this vehicle at Pierce Plant. Mrs. Bergamini wanted assurance that this truck stays in the yard and is not taken home. Mr. Killen would like to know what this truck is costing for repairs until the next budget workshop.

VOTE: Mr. Rys voted no; all other Council Members voted aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM 15. Mr. Rys moved approval of a merit increase for Mary Greaney, Police Department, seconded by Mrs. Bergamini.

VOTE: Mr. Killen was not present for the vote; all other Council Members voted aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM 16. Mr. Rys moved acceptance of the Town Council Minutes of November 24, 1987, seconded by Mrs. Bergamini.

VOTE: Mr. Killen and Mrs. Papale passed; all other Council Members voted aye; motion duly carried.

Mayor Dickinson indicated that a request to waive Rule V is needed for two items, the first a report of borings obtained at the Sewer Plant and the second is a discussion regarding Water/Sewer Manager, moved by Mrs. Bergamini and seconded by Mr. Rys.

VOTE: Unanimous ayes; motion duly carried.

Mr. Killen added that he did not think these items should come up under rule V and he voted aye reluctantly. Mr. Smith explained that he just received a directive as of Friday and this was not available as of noon on agenda preparation day.

Mr. Smith explained that in the course of constructing the Sewer Treatment Plant, there is a new section of the main trunk line that comes into the plant that is being replaced; originally, it was not a part of the scope of the project and state agreement was obtained to incorporate it after it collapsed. Design work has been done on it and the line will extend past the rear of the Pierce Station and back toward the Allegheny Ludlum property. In this design phase, soil borings were taken and 25 feet down in one area, a priority pollutant was found. The DEP was contacted and this item has been laboratory analyzed. In the meantime, Mr. Smith asked the people working for Bienstock and Lucchesi to present a proposal on this and the state requested another soil boring and there was a three way conversation between Mr. Smith, the DEP and the soil engineer and it was determined that the laboratory analysis was accurate and it was to be taken back to the Hazardous Waste Division, the enforcement arm of the DEP. Last Friday, Mr. Smith was notified to forget the extra soil borings and to have this area analyzed to determine if the source of the pollutant could be found and a report prepared so that remedial action, if necessary, could be taken. Mr. Smith understands that one of the remedial actions

may just be to bury it and another is to dig up the area and cart it out. Mr. Smith is told that the material is a plasticizer or lubricant, used in compressors or motors and the source is unknown but it could have been buried years ago. Mr. Smith contacted John Costello to see if he knew of some other soil engineers and John said today that nobody is in a position to offer any other proposals at this point. There is an expenditure of \$18,000 which includes \$9,000 of engineering services, \$4,500 for soil borings and laboratory analysis for samples. An order directing the town to take care of this matter will be received.

Mayor Dickinson did not feel that we should try to develop specs on this; it's difficult to tell what must be done until the extent of the problem is known and he suggested waiving the bid to have the initial work authorized and proceed from there.

Mr. Gessert felt that the Council and town would be remiss not to take immediate steps to correct this problem and meet state orders to comply. Mr. Gessert felt that it was necessary to waive the bid and allow expenditures not to exceed \$20,000 to develop a strategy to address this issue.

Mr. Holmes moved to waive the bidding procedure and allow an expenditure not to exceed \$20,000 to develop a plan to correct pollutant in soil at Sewer Treatment Plant, seconded by Mrs. Bergamini.

Mr. Killen asked what account this would be taken from and Mr. Smith said that since it's a part of the effluent line, it would be taken from the Sewer Treatment Plant. Mr. Smith said that once the plan is obtained, he will report back to the Council. Mayor Dickinson felt that the issue is not where the money will come from and right now, the money would come from the ordinance for the Sewer Plant Construction but the issue is how to apply for contracts for the work to be done and the first contract is exploratory work; after that, if someone is needed to truck the material, that will be a completely separate issue that could again require a bid waiver or put out specs.

VOTE: Unanimous ayes; motion duly carried.

Mr. Smith said he would like to discuss the Water/Sewer Manager with the Town Council. Progress has been made and Mr. Smith wondered if this should be discussed in Executive Session but Mr. Gessert felt that performance of an employee should be discussed in Executive Session but the hiring of an employee need not be. Mr. Smith explained that over the past several months, they have been working with a consultant and they are at the point of negotiating with a potential candidate to accept employment but the biggest problem has been relocation expenses. The third candidate is very interested and before any commitments are made, Mr. Smith knew that the Council would be interested in any offerings made. Mr. Smith further explained that the present position is Salary Grade 17, inadequate to attract the individual being sought. They are currently in Salary Grade 19 which would need a budget amendment but he is not asking for that tonight but is asking for guidance if there is a strong objection and this would be a starting salary of \$47,000 (1987 dollars) and 1988 dollars would be \$50,315. In addition, all the candidates asked basically the same thing--moving expenses, in the area of \$5,000. Temporary living expenses are being discussed and Mr. Smith thinks it's reasonable to allow eight weeks in a local motel to allow time to seek a home, etc. Advance on sick days was discussed--starting with 20 and they would have to be earned. Mr. Smith explained that these are the basic parameters of the offer.

Mr. Gessert felt that we have been without a manager for far too long and with the sewer plant construction and water treatment plant on the horizon, he questions how much longer we can go without a competent manager in a division that size. Mr. Gessert feels that it's a seller's market and if concessions must be made to get a good, qualified candidate to provide leadership for that department, then you have Mr. Gessert's support for that kind of sacrifice.

Mrs. Bergamini asked if the candidate knows what his house will sell for and what housing costs in Wallingford and Mr. Smith said he took the candidate around for a full day, to make him fully aware. Mrs. Bergamini asked if an employee would contract for a specified period of time and Mr. Smith said they could not contract classified service employees but he would not want to get dropped either but in Mr. Smith's opinion, he is the best available candidate we can get at this time

although he does not have all the background Mr. Smith would prefer.

Mr. Holmes asked what managers in town were on Grade 19 scale and Mr. Smith believed the Assistant General Manager in the Utilities. Mr. Killen realizes that the cost of housing is a problem but it is also a bonus if you have a head on your shoulders because it works both ways. 809

Mr. Killen asked if all the candidates turned the job down strictly on the basis of salary. Mr. Beaumont said that in one case it was salary and in one case it was also retirement since the gentleman would lose a significant amount of money by not staying another two years in his current position and in one case, starting at \$47,000 would have been a lateral move. Mr. Beaumont felt that the problem is in very large part the housing.

Mr. Killen asked what it would cost to get someone who had more potential and Mr. Smith said one fellow would have come for the same price that had the background and experience but he had other problems and decided not to come even for another \$5,000. Mr. Smith had hoped for more experience but feels that this individual is the best available candidate. Mr. Beaumont said all the candidates have been interviewed but there will be some aspects where he is not as strong as the Commission would like and the individual comes across as the type of individual who will learn very quickly and will do a very good job.

David Doherty felt that with the amount of water problems the town has had, it is important to fill this position right now.

Mr. Killen moved to remove Item 4 from the table, seconded by Mrs. Papale.

VOTE: Unanimous ayes; motion duly carried.

Mr. Gessert commented that Mr. Polanski served on the Education Liaison and attended as many meetings as Board Members, has done a commendable job here and is always here and smiling and he thanked him for his contribution and his efforts. APPLAUSE!

Mr. Gessert said Ray Rys has also served on the Education Liaison, along with Merit Review, as a member of the Auxiliary Police for the Town of Wallingford, in addition to serving on the Council for the past four years, along with the Hazardous Waste Committee and he thinks Ray has been an outstanding member of the Council who does his homework and comes prepared and he hopes to see him back in the future. APPLAUSE!

Mr. Gessert said Peter Gouveia has been with us for several years and did not believe in being a wallflower on the Council and he admired that. Peter served on the Ordinance Committee, Education Liaison, was active on the Hazardous Waste Group and has been a vocal member who has made his views known.

Mr. Gessert felt that Mr. Gouveia is respected by his peers and by the community and he extended appreciation for his efforts. APPLAUSE!

Mr. Gessert said Mrs. Bergamini has the best grapevine in the business and she has been watchdog of Planning and Zoning Commission for a number of years, has served as Council Liaison to the PUC and has served as Vice Chairwoman and his right hand many times. Mr. Gessert has a bruised left leg from kicks under the table and he will miss her on the Council. APPLAUSE!

Mr. Gessert mentioned that this is the last regularly scheduled meeting of the Council but a special meeting will be held on December 29 and everyone is invited for refreshments. Mrs. Papale said she has been on the Council 12 years and the last few years have been really great. Mrs. Papale said you make many political friends but you also make friends who will stay with you when your political life is over.

Mr. Gessert said Certificates of Appreciation were prepared for those leaving the Council but those staying are certainly equally deserving and he wishes them all well and a Merry Christmas to all.

A motion to adjourn was duly made, seconded and carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

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Meeting recorded by:
Susan M. Baron, Council Secretary
Meeting transcribed by:
Susan M. Baron and Delores B. Fetta

Approved *David A. Gessert*
David A. Gessert, Chairman

12-29-87
Date

Rosemary A. Rascati
Rosemary A. Rascati, Town Clerk

12-29-87
Date