

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 27, 1998

6:30 P.M.

AGENDA

- Blessing - Rev. Glenn Havumaki, Elim Park Baptist Home
1. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call
  2. Correspondence
  3. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD
  4. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#210-220) Totalling \$1,067.68 - Tax Collector
  5. Approve and Accept the Minutes of the Swearing-In Ceremony of January 5, 1998
  6. Consider and Approve Granting Use of the Parade Grounds to Wallingford Center, Inc. on June 13, 1998 for a Country Craft Show
  7. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$1,600.00 from Contingency Acct. to Overtime Acct. #2035-101-1400 - Fire Marshal
  8. PUBLIC HEARING on an Ordinance Amending an Ordinance Appropriating \$315,000 for the Planning and Design of West Side Tankage and Associated System Improvements and Authorizing the Issue of \$315,000 Bonds of the Town to Meet Said Appropriation and Pending the Issue Thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowings for Such Purpose - 7:15 P.M.
  9. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$17,367 Other Pay Acct. #2030-101-1700 to Replacement Pay Acct. #2030-101-1500 - Dept. of Fire Services
  10. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds Totalling \$4,000 of Which \$428 is being transferred from Personal Computer & Printer Acct. #001-5015-999-9113; \$434 from Port-A-Power Master Set Acct. #001-5015-999-9118; \$52 from Salt Spreaders Acct. #001-5015-999-9121; \$251 from Chain Saws Acct. #001-5015-999-9914; \$524 from High Pressure Hose for Scavenger Acct. #001-5015-999-9950; \$1,413 from Player Benches Acct. #001-5015-999-9984 and \$898 is transferred from Stainless Sand Spreaders Acct. #001-5015-999-9995 to Purchase Professional Services - Tree Contract Acct. #001-5015-999-9923 - Public Works Dept.

(OVER)

11. Consider and Approve Four Appointments to the Positions of Constables for a Two Year Term to Expire 1/25/2000
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Acceptance of a Street Clock as a Gift to the Town from American Legion Shaw-Sinon Post 73 as Requested by Councilor Jerry Farrell, Jr.
13. Final Report Out by the School Building Expansion Committee
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Having the Finance Dept. Supply the Town Council with a One (1) Year Total of Expenditures for Each Line Item of All Budgets Listed in the Annual Budget of the Town of Wallingford Following the Third Quarter of the Fiscal Year as Requested by Councilor Geno J. Zandri, Jr.
15. Discussion and Possible Action Pertaining to Locating Fire Equipment Known as a Tanker Truck at Central Fire Headquarters as Requested by Councilor Geno J. Zandri, Jr.
16. Consider and Approve Granting Authorization For the Execution on an Encroachment Agreement with AT&T on Behalf of the Water Division - Director of Public Utilities
17. Consider and Approve Payment of a Claim Involving the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Police Services - Corporation Counselor
18. Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-18a(e)(2) of the CT. General Statutes with Respect to Pending Litigation - Town Attorney
19. Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-18a(e)(4) of the CT. General Statutes with Respect to the Sale/Purchase of Property - Mayor's Office

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 27, 1998

6:30 P.M.

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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 27, 1998

6:30 P.M.

A regular meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was held on Tuesday, January 27, 1998 in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall and called to Order by Chairman Robert F. Parisi at 6:33 P.M. All Councilors answered present to the Roll called by Town Clerk Rosemary A. Rascati. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Corporation Counselor Adam Mantzaris and Comptroller Thomas A. Myers were also present.

Rev. Glenn Havumaki, Elim Park Baptist Home bestowed a blessing upon the Council.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the Flag.

ITEM #2 Correspondence

A letter from Jason Zandri, 12 Circle Drive, expressing his thoughts on the upcoming proposed revisions to the Town Council Meeting Procedures was read into the record at this time. (Appendix I)

ITEM #3 PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Andy Kappi, 6 Deme Road, spoke to the Council's proposed actions pertaining to the speaking procedures stating, we are operating at a little bit of a disadvantage because, although there has been a lot of comment in the paper, there has been nothing specific as to what you are actually thinking about proposing. I have done the best here to look at a couple of the areas that I think you may be looking at as a form of preventative medicine. There were some remarks that seemed to tend to make the point that the Chairman should not be left, more or less, holding the bag and be seen as being heavy-handed to make rulings on particular people speaking. In terms of a shared responsibility, you had as an alternative that perhaps everyone on the Council could jump in and contradict a speaker or urge them to continue or go on or get to the point; it seems that would be a bit of a free-for-all and don't think that would be very manageable. I did go back and read one of the articles in the paper which referred to the Meriden City Council. It was a surprise and I re-read it and there was a statement in there that if, at some point, they have a two-thirds majority vote on whether someone would be allowed to speak. I have not visited one of their meetings so I don't have a clue as to how they actually do that. I wonder if they hold their hands up and prepare to turn thumbs down when the time comes. It seems to be a bit like something out of the Roman Coliseum and I don't think that we would be looking to have democracy in Wallingford conducted like a Roman circus. The second area is the three minute time limit. I think

that everyone admits that it is somewhat arbitrarily administered; I am not saying that as a criticism, I think, in fact, that is the way that it should be. The historical role of the Chairman in handling this type of information is, in fact, one that is driven by the Chairman's force of personality...

Mr. Parisi interjected, if the Chairman was enforcing the rules as they should be (enforced), just so we put this in perspective, you would be out of order because you are not asking a question. I only raise that because that is the difficulty in this. I want you to be able to speak, too.

Mr. Kappi responded, I understand but right now Section IV says, "comments" which can be interpreted....I understand it is a complex issue but the fact is, at the last meeting we had Mr. Lubee speak for ten minutes; Reggie Knight speak for what I timed to be seven minutes and twelve seconds although someone said that he spoke for twenty minutes; clearly, there is some latitude and it is obvious that if someone is getting up and saying something fairly articulate and fairly point-driven that he is given more leeway. That is perhaps as it should be. The essential question here is, do we kill the patient to cure the disease? By that I mean the patient to be the body politic; the quality of the discussions and deliberations we have here. I am a bit concerned that most of the conversation and the remarks that I have heard seem to have a limits only mind set in terms of hearing a lot about restrictions and limits but not hearing much about looking for creative ways to accommodate speech. There have been a number of suggestions; there is the Middletown example but I do not believe that this is a situation where we need to take our lead from other towns. This is Wallingford and I would hope that we would simply arrive at a conclusion on how to do this the way that we want to do it. The Middletown example is instructive and I did call a couple of folks there. I spoke to a Deputy City Attorney and to the Common Council Clerk and they do have two things going; they have a third meeting per month which is scheduled to accommodate public comment; they have rounds of discussion which are set at first, a five minute limit, then a ten minute limit and then a ten and beyond limit. This may seem excessive but they told me that it works because it is almost as if the speaker forms a social compact. You invite people to come up to speak shortly and quickly to the point. The people who think they can be brief get up and make their point and get out. The people who, for what ever reason think they need to go on and on will hold back to the end. Just as a procedural matter you could see the benefit of some of the more talkative folks holding back to the end. You eliminate the problem of people who are tempted to get up after every other person speaks to answer with some form of response. I am not saying that is the way we should go; maybe a five minute first round. If someone wants to get up and talk on the same topic the second time, a more strictly enforced three minute limit could be applied. There are many creative ways to go at this and Middletown is not the perfect

example for us either. I timed the question and answer period from the last session, it was thirty-two minutes from start to finish. I have heard it remarked that it should be fifteen minutes in length...that is an extra seventeen minutes. Seventeen minutes twice a month is thirty-four minutes. Maybe with an extreme example or with an energetic crowd that thirty-four minutes becomes an hour per month. Is that so much to ask? I would simply like to ask this Council to go that extra mile, give us that hour and look to the fact that accommodating this type of comment is really something that we should place at a premium. The question and answer session is important, in concept, because it is the one time that we can bring issues to the table. We have referendum in our Charter. This is an extraordinary event; it comes in to play when the Council has failed to take action or has taken an extremely unpopular action and the people want to bypass the legislative process. You can look at the question and answer period as a form of effecting the Council agenda in an extraordinary way. People come here and bring their issues and concerns to the table and maybe they have failed to connect with a Councilperson to talk to them on the phone and get that placed on the agenda.

Mr. Parisi stated, I don't believe that's the case though; that's the problem. That is the greater majority of the problem.

Mr. Kappi continued, therefore, in the extraordinary freedom that we have to come during the question and answer session and offer comment and suggestions and criticisms, I don't see that that can be seen as anything other than a real bonus to the kind of discussion that we have and for the occasional time when someone comes up and makes an extremely good point that actually effects a future agenda or future Council action.

Mr. Parisi explained, I think that you want to remember that the Council is not trying to restrict the participation of the public. What the Council wants to do is maintain a business atmosphere, that is all, and conduct business. You are basically saying what we're saying which is, if you have a question, ask it. We will try and get you an answer and happily so.

Mr. Kappi responded, I would go that one step further in saying, accompanying the question with a comment or suggestion or criticism can be a productive thing and if we do it in an orderly manner.

Mr. Parisi agreed stating, it can be but they do not have to go on and on and on. They can be right to the point and be responded to or reacted to and that is fine but that is what we have been trying to do but we don't always seem to get that cooperation.

Mr. Kappi continued, Janis Small does have a memo that she submitted to you and she must have some case law that she located somewhere upon which she bases the comment, "once the Council allows somebody to speak they have to be very cautious not to shape the content of that speech." I would submit to you that limiting the question and answer session to questions only is shaping the content of the speech. You are allowing speech but you are controlling it and making it passive speech because you are taking away the power to make suggestions and eliminating the opportunity to make criticisms.

Mr. Parisi pointed out, if you have watched any of the last two years' of meetings, seldom, if at all, did that happen. People were allowed to make comments and people were allowed to ask questions. There was no problem with that but it is when people want to make a speech that it takes a lot of time away from people who might want to ask questions. That's when we have to have some understanding.

Mr. Kappi went on to say, I want to say a couple of words about what went on with Reggie Knight. I believe the point that Mr. Knight was trying to make was that tyranny begins with the slow erosion of small freedoms.

Mr. Parisi commented, we don't need to have that explained. I think that we should be able to determine what the gentleman was trying to do and what point he was trying to make.

Mr. Kappi stated, I would simply point out in the aftermath of everything that happened; I talked with this gentleman and I found him to be extremely interesting.

Mr. Parisi stated, this is the thing that we are talking about. This doesn't really have anything really to do with anything. What we are getting into now is an area that we really shouldn't be discussing. We shouldn't be into personalities. We don't want to discuss personalities.

Mr. Kappi responded, there was an exchange that happened following the meeting in the press.

Mr. Parisi stated, I don't think it involved us, we didn't do anything in the meeting.

Mr. Kappi answered, some of your folks (Councilors) were quoted extensively and I would simply point out that I am sorry that he did not convey to you his knowledge of that time and the respect he has for that time. I think it is very unfortunate because of what happened afterwards. I think when people get up here and say something that makes someone very angry and then is criticized and somewhat ridiculed in the press...there were some derogatory

terms; I think that has a chilling effect on speech. It does send the signal that people...it is a form of intimidation.

Mr. Parisi stated, we are not here to discuss that.

Mr. Kappi stated, I would say that hopefully we may disagree, you may disagree but you may think his analogies are overdrawn but to paraphrase someone who is wiser than myself, I think we, in principal, we should defend his right to say it. In closing, I would say that there is one historical reference that does apply here and I don't think this will make anyone angry. I am referring to the year 1939 and in the year 1939 a very old and famous movie was released. In that movie a group of travellers came before the great and all powerful Oz to ask for a brain, a heart and a small measure of courage. I believe that there are people in this town who have brains and there are people who have a lot of heart and people who are willing to stand up here and show courage and if you let them come here they are going to bring something to this table. They are going to bring some insight and wisdom and they will bring some good and practical suggestions and sometimes they will bring criticism; sometimes that criticism will be justified. I do ask you to go the extra mile and put procedures in place that will preserve and accommodate as much of our rights and privileges as possible with some practical controls. I ask you to preserve our right to public comment during the question and answer session and show consideration for the very real contributions and good sense of the people of this town. And like so many of them who have come here in the past and will continue to come. I do not come here asking for the right to speak, I come here knowing that I was born with it. Thank you.

Sharon Sanders, Academy Street stated, pertaining to the storm last Thursday, some things were left out of the paper. Meriden had over 16,000 people, Cheshire had 5,000 and Southington had about 6,000. On Friday evening Meriden still had over 14,000 people without power. Wallingford only had 200; by Friday evening they only had 6 people without power. Most of the people who lived in Wallingford and went without power was because their trees on their property hit the lines, it wasn't because our Public Works didn't take care of it. I felt that people should know and I also feel that Bill Cominos and the Electric Division and the Public Works Department need to be commended as well as the Mayor and the Town Council for making sure that we have the money in our budget so that our services are good and that Bill Cominos can do the job.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville stated, the way I understand it you have not formally set up any rules yet as far as the Public Question and Answer Period.

Mr. Parisi responded, we have existing rules that say fifteen minutes.

Mr. Melillo stated, the way you reacted now, that nobody could speak after me, why is that?

Mr. Parisi answered, because the time is actually up as we are talking.

Mr. Melillo responded, that is a violation of the First Amendment of the Constitution, Bob.

Mr. Parisi disagreed.

Mr. Melillo went on to say, it seems that there is some kind of a dispute between the Fire Department and Police Department with the 9-1-1 number. The way I understand it, the Fire Department wants to have their own number themselves instead of having just one number at the Police Department. I think they are right; why should each of them have their own 9-1-1 number? That is the way it should be, it seems to make sense. The Police Department knows their business much more than the Fire Department and the Fire Department, the same way; they know their business much more than they know the Police Department.

Mr. Parisi stated, I think they are each going to have their own telephone number. We are looking into consolidating the 9-1-1 aspect of it. I am sure they are going to have their individual phone numbers.

Mr. Melillo asked, their own 9-1-1 number?

Mr. Parisi answered, no. You are entitled to your opinion but right now it is being studied.

Mr. Melillo stated, if something should come up and a fire breaks out; if there is any one number that should be involved and controlled it should be by the Fire Department. They are in the business of fighting fires.

Mr. Parisi stated, I took one trip to Hamden to look at a system. I know there have been several other trips to look at other towns and how they do it. What I would say right now is, why don't we see what they come up with for a plan and then decide whether we like it or not. Right now there is nothing really concrete as to how they are going to structure the program. Hamden has people that are trained as both police and fire but they work in the same area together. They rotate around a big console. There are a lot of ways of doing this and I am not going to get really uptight about it until I hear the final plan and then we will make a decision.

Mr. Melillo asked, do they each have their own 9-1-1 number now?

Mr. Parisi answered, it goes through the switchboard at the Fire Department now.

Mr. Melillo stated, they (Police and Fire) should both have one.

Mr. Parisi responded, you cannot have two; the object of the system is to have one place to call.

On a separate matter Mr. Melillo asked for an update on the issue he raised at the last meeting pertaining to the deed restrictions as they apply to the dam requirements at Community Lake.

Mr. Farrell and Corporation Counselor Adam Mantzaris confirmed that the Assistant Town Attorney Gerald Farrell, Sr. is researching the matter.

Mr. Melillo next stated, I find it very difficult to find anyone nowadays who is willing to look at the other guy's side of the story and to admit when he or she is wrong. In the olden days what was important is whether something was right or wrong; today it is whether it is legal. The Councilors are servants of the people. We are not your servants, remember that. Let he or she who is perfect cast the first stone.

Mr. Parisi called the Public Question and Answer Period closed at this time.

Motion was made by Mr. Farrell to Move Agenda Item #12 Up to the Next Order of Business, seconded by Mr. Knight.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #12 Discussion and Possible Action on Acceptance of a Street Clock as a Gift to the Town from the American Legion Shaw-Sinon Post 73 as Requested by Councilor Jerry Farrell, Jr.

Robert DeVaney, Commander, Glenn Middlesworth, Otello Massoni, Peter Fresina, William Holroyd, George Farkas and Al Massi were in attendance to present an electric, two-faced street clock from the American Legion Shaw-Sinon Post 73.

Mr. DeVaney stated, we chose a reproduction from a victorian 1890 patterned post clock which is cast aluminum, dark green in color, stands about 15.3 feet tall and has a 3.9 foot face area with 3" raised lettering stating "Wallingford" on the top of the clock and on the bottom in 2.5" raised lettering it will state, "Est. 1670". It will be back-lighted to be readable at night; the weight of the clock is about 550 lbs. It is a self-adjusting time unit for power outage and has a three year guarantee. We chose the Electric Time Company of Medfield, MA. after checking with companies from other areas. We found that this company was well-established; started

back in 1928 and has built clocks for Disney MGM Studios in Orlando, Bloomingdales in the Mall of America and Ripley's Believe It or Not in Hollywood, CA. Casting will start for this clock upon the Council's approval with a sixty to ninety day turnaround. We have three requests; we would like the street clock placed in front of the Town Hall directly behind the existing bench readable from both north and south; that you accept the face of the street clock to bear the American Legion Emblem and the wording "Shaw-Simon Post 73" as a remembrance to our legionnaires; upon arrival, the Town of Wallingford will assist in the installation. The legionnaires would like to express their sincere thanks to Councilman Jerry Farrell, Jr. for his assistance in this venture. At this point we seek the Council's approval.

Mr. Centner asked, is the glass made of a shatter-proof, vandal-proof material? I would like it to last.

Mr. DeVaney responded, it is not glass, it is non-breakable.

Mr. Farrell commended the Legion for stepping forward with this gift. A clock of this dollar amount is not something that the Town can easily come by. We should be grateful that a civic organization is willing to donate this for the benefit of the entire town. I am very pleased.

Ms. Papale stated, I think it is a wonderful gesture. I miss the clock that was across the street and I think the town would be very grateful; thank you very much.

Glenn Middlesworth, Chaplain of the American Legion Post 73 stated, I have been a member for fifty-three years and I, personally, would consider it a privilege and an honor if the Town Council would accept this (gift).

VOTE: All ayes.

ITEM #4 Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#210-220) Totalling \$1,067.68 - Tax Collector

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

Frank Wasilewski, 57 N. Orchard Street stated that he has not seen the notice in the newspaper reminding everyone that their taxes must be paid by February 2nd (Feb. 1st is a Sunday). Is it going to appear in the newspaper?

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville asked, what are the tax refunds for?

Mr. Parisi explained, it is a refund to people who have overpaid their taxes.

Mr. Melillo asked, is it one individual or a number of people?

Mr. Parisi answered, it is approximately ten people.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #5 Approve and Accept the Minutes of the Swearing-In Ceremony of January 5, 1998

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

Mr. Farrell asked that a correction be made to Page 7, the vote on electing Town Council Vice Chairman. Mr. Farrell's name failed to appear in the roster of Councilors voting for Mr. Rys. The vote was recorded correctly (7-2) however, Mr. Farrell's name was inadvertently omitted.

VOTE ON MINUTES WITH CORRECTION: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #6 Consider and Approve Granting Use of the Parade Grounds to Wallingford Center, Inc. on June 13, 1998 for a Country Craft Show

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

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #7 Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$1,600.00 from Contingency Acct. to Overtime Acct. #2035-101-1400 - Fire Marshal

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

The request is being made to cover the expenses associated with Emergency Medical Technician re-certification training for the Deputy Fire Marshal. Training courses over the past six months have involved evening and weekend class attendance. Weekday courses have not been available and are not anticipated in the foreseeable future. Fire Department and Fire Prevention personnel in need of re-certification are paid at time and one-half their wages per collective bargaining agreement. The re-certification training entails a minimum of 36 classroom hours and is State-mandated every three (3) years to maintain certification.

Mr. Centner asked, have the training classes been previously held during a weekday, daytime operation kind of arrangement?

Michael Lamy, Fire Marshal responded, to my knowledge they were done maybe a year and one-half to two years ago. The trend nowadays is to cater to the volunteer forces as well as the career people which primarily entails Friday night, Saturday, Sunday, two

week ends in a row-type setup. We have canvassed six providers in our area from Hartford down to our New Haven area to see if there was anything available. There hasn't been for six months and we were hoping we would get lucky and find something during normal duty hours. We were not lucky and I asked for a forecast and nothing has been scheduled for the next foreseeable six month period that would allow us to train him during his normal duty hours that is why I am seeking the overtime money that we did not anticipate originally.

Mr. Centner stated, so then the trend has definitely shifted towards this arrangement and away from the weekday?

Mr. Lamy responded, that is correct.

Mr. Parisi stated, in my discussions with the Fire Marshal I have urged him to make every attempt to find things that would not involve any overtime. I have every confidence that he made that effort.

Mr. Knight asked, is there other training that your department is going to need that may possibly result in a similar type of transfer next year? Something that you may anticipate when we go to write the budget?

Mr. Lamy stated, I don't foresee anything for the next fiscal year. The only other union member of the department, which is the fire inspector, is not due to recycle on his EMS training until the year 2000.

Mr. Knight asked, is the EMS training the re-certification that you need, is that only...

Mr. Lamy answered, yes, to carry the card. The State is now going to D.O.T. curriculum and instead of being every year they have spread it out a little bit so it is a little bit more palatable cost-wise.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville urged the Council to approve the transfer.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #9 Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$17,367 Other Pay Acct. #2030-101-1700 to Replacement Pay Acct. #2030-101-1500 - Dept. of Fire Services

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

A clerical error was discovered in the Fire Department contingency transfers for Fiscal Year 1997-98. Two account numbers were inverted resulting in \$17,367 being transferred into Acct. #001-

2030-101-1700, Other Pay. This transfer should have been to Acct. #001-2030-101-1500, Replacement Pay. The transfer is necessary because of contractual increases as a result of a labor contract being settled. The transfer will also allow the accounts to accurately reflect the 1997-98 budget for the department.

Mr. Centner asked, approximately when did the error occur?

Chief Wayne Lefebvre responded, when the Personnel Department sent the figures over to Finance.

Mr. Centner asked, was it discovered at that time?

Chief Lefebvre responded, no, it was discovered about two months later.

Chief Lefebvre stated, all of our payroll accounts are in a group of five accounts and we watch the bottom line; you can see them in your reports. At our mid-year review we discovered and decided that we had better handle it now. We are not in any jeopardy in any one of the accounts but for accounting purposes, it should be corrected.

Mr. Centner asked, do you see this as an isolated incident?

Chief Lefebvre responded, mistakes can happen. It wasn't made in my division.

Mr. Centner asked, do you foresee any new check and balance on it though?

Chief Lefebvre responded, we are watching it. If such a transfer, after the budget has been passed, occurs again in the future we will take a closer look at it.

Frank Wasilewski, 57 N. Orchard Street stated, in looking at the F.Y. 1996-97 budget you will see that you budgeted the same amount of money in both these accounts as you did in F.Y. 1997-98. You must have had a mistake in the F.Y. 1996-97 budget as well.

Chief Lefebvre responded, the numbers appear alike and we did not increase our budget.

Mr. Wasilewski pointed out, it is not an increase; it is the same amount for two years.

Chief Lefebvre answered, the increase was made through the labor negotiations and that is automatically added to our accounts after the budget is printed so you would not see it.

Mr. Wasilewski asked, when you budget your salaries don't you anticipate union raises in those salaries?

Chief Lefebvre responded, no, we do not reflect anything in the budget until it is negotiated. The increase in pay is anticipated by the Mayor and Finance Department. It is not budgeted for in my budget.

Philip A. Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street stated, I thought you were pretty creative when I read the account "Other Pay". What does that really mean? I have never seen that kind of account before.

Chief Lefebvre responded, that is something that is titled by the Finance Department and it includes several other accounts such as, Acting Officer's Pay, Holiday Pay, etc. We grouped some of the accounts. A couple of years ago we condensed our budget and we still keep track of individual lines but it has been subtitled, other pay.

Mr. Wright responded, that is creative. It is better than all the tires and tubes accounts.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #10 Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds Totalling \$4,000 of Which \$428 is being transferred from Personal Computer & Printer Acct. #001-5015-999-9113; \$434 from Port-A-Power Master Set Acct. #001-5015-999-9118; \$52 from Salt Spreaders Acct. #001-5015-999-9121; \$251 from Chain Saws Acct. #001-5015-999-9914; \$524 from High Pressure Hose for Scavenger Acct. #001-5015-999-9950; \$1,413 from Player Benches Acct. #001-5015-999-9984 and \$898 is transferred from Stainless Sand Spreaders Acct. #001-5015-999-9995 to Purchase Professional Services - Tree Contract Acct. #001-5015-999-9923 - Public Works Department

Henry McCully, Director of Public Works explained, my account was down prior to the last two ice storms. It is just that you budget and as hazardous trees are made known to you or if I see them they have to be removed to avoid a safety problem. From year to year sometimes we get through with the budgeted amount and from time to time we do need a transfer into this account.

Mr. Farrell noted that there was no motion on the floor at this time.

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

Mr. Rys asked, when it comes to trees on private property; I had someone who called me concerned about a tree that was hanging over a sidewalk and roadway but the tree is on private property. Do we have any recourse to that?

Mr. McCully responded, I know that it can be a legal question also but I think that the practice is, if the tree is on private property and it is hanging onto Town property and is a hazard, we can trim that tree. We normally would not do that without discussing it with the homeowner. You don't want to be aggressive or reckless about it. Usually it is not really a problem.

Mr. Rys stated, I will give the gentleman who called me his answer and I will call you tomorrow and tell you where it is, o.k.?

Mr. Centner asked, can you tell me what the current balance is in the account?

Mr. McCully answered, I believe there is \$400 in it.

Mr. Centner asked, what was the budget last year for that?

Mr. McCully answered, I believe the total budget was \$25,000 for tree planting and \$35,000 for tree removal...I don't have the information in front of me.

Mr. Centner asked, do you feel that it is an account that needs to be increased?

Mr. McCully answered, I don't think so. I have not always had to transfer money to this account. From time to time, over different years as we experience dead trees, dangerous trees, it (the account) goes up and down. I think I did increase the account a couple of years ago by \$5,000. I don't really think it is necessary again.

Mr. Centner asked, do you do this in conjunction with the public utilities and what they are doing with trees?

Mr. McCully answered, I work with the public utilities as far as trimming goes, they help us out there. There are a lot of times, like in the ice storm, when there are limbs that are on wires and Public Works does have a bucket truck and we are able to do some trimming but we don't want our people going near any of the electrical wires. Anything we can deal with we do; the public utilities do help us out.

Mr. Centner stated, overall, I think it is money well-spent and I think the program is proving itself. You are doing a good job with it.

Mr. Parisi pointed out to the Comptroller that the account numbers on the transfer don't match up. On the front of the transfer the last four numbers of the account # is 9023 and on the transfer, itself, it is #9923. We want to be sure we don't compound the

mistake.

Mr. Zappala asked, do we have chainsaws and do we contract everything out?

Mr. McCully responded, yes, we do have chainsaws and we contract out the removal of trees as a three year bid. We will take down smaller trees but we don't have the experience or expertise to remove thirty-six inch, forty-eight inch trees; larger trees. The bucket truck is used a lot for trimming and for doing the Christmas wreaths and things of that nature. Although many of my people are very skilled, this is not something that we do on a regular basis. We have contracted tree removal out for many, many years.

Mr. Zandri asked, is the transfer for work that you have identified and is still yet to be done?

Mr. McCully responded, not all of the monies but there are some...in fact I tagged a thirty-six inch tree today and this recent storm drove me to increase the amount a little more because it will force some work on us. Ice storms tend to expose a lot of weak trees. It is an assumption to take us to the end of the year.

Mr. Knight commented, I have had occasion to have one removed out of my yard this past summer and it cost me over \$1,000. I watched them and now know why. This was a huge tree which takes a great deal of skill and a tremendous amount of experience to do it right or you can kill somebody. It is a program that is well worth outsourcing to people who are experts in their field.

Mr. Parisi asked, how did you save \$1,400 on player benches?

Mr. McCully explained, we got a quotation for budget purposes and then when we put it out to bid there was a lot of savings. We base our request on need. We requested ten player benches and, although we could have afforded to buy more player benches, you cannot increase that amount in the budget. The money is only for ten player benches and that is all you can purchase.

Mr. Parisi noted that Mr. McCully did well with regards to the Stainless Sand Spreaders as well.

Albert Killen, 150 Cedar Street stated, it was great to hear some questioning this evening. It has been a couple of years since I have heard someone raise an issue such as, is that the right account, or, do you have the wrong number there, or, why do you need the money? There were at least three errors brought out this evening committed by human beings. It is part of your job to make sure these errors are caught before they go any further. I commend you.

Mr. Parisi pointed out that the Council secretary found the error.

Kathryn Zandri, Council Secretary, admitted that it was Mr. Frank Wasilewski who noticed the error and brought it to her attention.

Jason Zandri, 12 Circle Drive asked, is this Town-owned property that you are taking trees from or that any work is being done on, or in the case where it is private property where it would endanger the public by hanging over a public sidewalk?

Mr. McCully answered, if there were a limb hanging over a public sidewalk that was dangerous, we would have the right to remove it. It could only be vertical, straight up, from the Town's property.

Jason Zandri asked, the out-sourcing comes from tasks that your own men cannot do?

Mr. McCully answered, that is correct.

Jason Zandri asked, does this have to do in conjunction with the tree trimming for the utilities or does it work along side of it?

Mr. McCully responded, it is a separate contract. The public utilities uses Asplundh while I use Lutz Tree Removal.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #11 Consider and Approve Four Appointments to the Positions of Constables for a Two Year Term to Expire 1/25/2000

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Appoint William M. Choti, Robert A. Jacques, Sr., Anthony Pragano and Michael W. Mangini to the positions, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

Mr. Farrell stated, I know the four individuals and I know that they are out there serving papers and living up to the job and they have done a great job with it. It is nice to see that office revived somewhat. I concur on their appointment.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

Town Clerk, Rosemary Rascati, performed the Swearing-In Ceremony for Mr. Choti and Mr. Mangini.

(applause)

ITEM #16 Motion was made by Mr. Knight to Move Agenda Item #16 Up to the Next Order of Business, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #16 Consider and Approve Granting Authorization for the Execution of an Encroachment Agreement with AT&T on Behalf of the Water Division - Director of Public Utilities

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

David Gessert, Public Utilities Commissioner explained, some of the water lines that go with the Gaylord tanking project will cross some property that AT&T has; there are some direct intersections. We have negotiated an agreement with AT&T to cross their easements. The Council's stamp of approval is needed so that the lines could be built.

Mr. Centner asked, is this a typical arrangement?

Mr. Gessert responded, it is fairly typical; Roger (Dann) has gone over it, the Town Attorney has and the folks from AT&T have all gone over it. It is pretty standard from my understanding.

Mr. Centner stated, my concern is, when we do hit that point in construction and I don't know if AT&T would want to send out supervisory personnel to watch over their lines, would we incur costs for that portion?

Mr. Gessert responded, we will definitely have people there watching to mark the lines and make sure that no one rips anything up that is underground.

Mr. Centner asked, on both sides, us and AT&T, or do you expect that we would just supervise it and ensure that there would not be any difficulty?

Roger Dann, General Manager of the Water & Sewer Divisions responded, I would anticipate that AT&T would also have people on site at that time. The period of time should be relatively short; less than a day's time in that area.

Mr. Centner pointed out that AT&T has specified a two foot separation between services. I don't know if they wanted to have paid personnel from their company there that the Town would be paying the labor costs for?

Mr. Dann asked, is there a particular section in this that you are referring to? I don't recall specific language which indicates that we would pay for their on-site personnel.

Mr. Centner responded that there was no specific language, he wanted to know if there was a possibility that the Town may incur the cost for their personnel.

Mr. Dann did not believe that AT&T would back-charge the Town for such services.

Mr. Parisi asked, the items referred to in the agreement that the Town could be held responsible for, are they standard in this type of an agreement?

Mr. Dann answered, this is AT&T's standard agreement which has been modified in response to some concerns that we raised as a result of a review by the Town Attorney's Office. It has received a complete review by the Town Attorney and has also been forwarded to the Risk Manager for his review to make sure that any liability that we might incur would be consistent with our coverage.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #8 PUBLIC HEARING on an Ordinance Amending an Ordinance Appropriating \$315,000 for the Planning & Design of West Side Tankage and Associated System Improvements and Authorizing the Issue of \$315,000 Bonds of the Town to Meet Said Appropriation and Pending the Issue Thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowings for Such Purpose - 7:45 P.M.

Mr. Rys read the Title and Section 1 of the Ordinance into the Record as follows:

"Ordinance Amending an Ordinance Appropriating \$315,000 for the Planning & Design of West Side Tankage and Associated System Improvements and Authorizing the Issue of \$315,000 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 \$315,000 for the Planning and Design of West Side Tankage and Associated System Improvements and Authorizing the Issue of \$315,000 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 August 27, 1996 and approved by the Mayor on August 29, 1996, which Ordinance is hereby ratified, confirmed and adopted, is amended to increase the appropriation and bond authorization therein by \$4,355,000 from \$315,000 to \$4,670,000, to provide for project construction and authorize participation in the State Clean Water Fund, thereby making the title of the ordinance read as follows:

An Ordinance Appropriating \$4,670,000 for the Planning, Acquisition and Construction of West Side Tankage and Associated Water System Improvements and Authorizing the Issue of \$4,670,000 Bonds of the Town to Meet Said Appropriation and Pending the Issue Thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowings for Such Purpose".

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

Motion was also made by Mr. Rys to Waive the Reading of the Remainder of the Ordinance and Append a Copy of It to the Minutes of This Meeting, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

Albert Killen, 150 Cedar Street pointed out that the Council cannot have two motions on the floor at one time.

Attorney Joseph Fasi, Bond Counsel, suggested that the Council move and second a motion to Waive the Reading of the Balance of the Ordinance and to vote on it. Why don't we just make that motion and start from scratch. Make a motion to waive the reading of the balance of the ordinance.

Moved by Mr. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Centner.

VOTE TO WAIVE THE READING: Parisi abstained; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Parisi abstained due to the fact that he is an employee of Gaylord Hospital

Atty. Fasi suggested that someone move and second the ordinance in chief.

Moved by Mr. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Centner.

Mayor Dickinson suggested that the Council amend the ordinance to the lower figure.

Atty. Fasi stated, if that is what you want to do prior to discussion which is fine, there would be a motion to amend the ordinance to change the total appropriation and bond authorization to \$3,800,000 and thereby change the figure of \$4,670,000 each place it appears to \$3,800,000 and to change the amount of the increase in the ordinance from \$4,355,000 to \$3,485,000.

Moved by Mr. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Rys.

David Gessert, Public Utilities Commissioner explained, we go out for preliminary engineering on this project and we are pleased that this project, with the Council's support, has been going forward and we can increase the water supply on the west side of town; increase the pressure and improve the fire protection in that whole area. Mr. Dann has done an excellent job with moving the process with this whole project, however, when we created this ordinance our initial anticipated amount of construction was the \$4,670,000 figure. It was up around there that we expected the cost to be. When we put it out to bid the prices came in significantly lower therefore there is no purpose in appropriating the higher amount if you don't have to spend it. We had to put the ordinance

together and get it out there at the higher amount so that we could move the process otherwise we would be starting this process a month to a month and a half from now. Now that we have a firm price and it is lower, we can amend the ordinance downward.

Mr. Parisi commented, I think it is nice that we came in with the lower price, I don't think anyone would have a problem with that, but I don't think that we should be coming in with a figure and then going out to bid. I would rather that we, when we come in with the figure, it is the figure. It leads to an awful lot of confusion.

Roger Dann, General Manager of the Water & Sewer Divisions explained, this project is one that proceeds on a very tight timeline from the perspective of seasonal impacts to the construction phase. In order to get the ordinance for public hearing as early as possible after receipt of the bids, we initially forwarded an amount which was based upon the third-lowest of the bids received. In fact, the \$4,670,000 amount that was initially published as part of this ordinance was not provided until after the bids had been received. In the interim we have proceeded with a review of the bids such that we can now recommend that, based upon award to the low bidder, that we can reduce that amount to reflect the low bids received.

Mr. Parisi stated, again, all I am saying is that I would prefer that we have a complete package when we receive it. I would like everything to be there so the motions and everything can be set and I would like the figures to be there, too, so that we don't have to sit here and try to do the mathematics the night of the meeting. That should be able to be worked out. I don't think that this Council should have to try to come up with solutions on the spot, it is not our job. We are supposed to get that information all packaged and then we decide whether it is good or not. I would like to clear that up so it does not happen again. I think it is unfair to the Vice Chairman to try to put this stuff together.

Mr. Gessert responded, we appreciate your comments; I understand.

Mr. Rys opened the hearing to the public at this time.

Robert Sheehan, 11 Cooper Avenue asked, are you not appropriating \$315,000 tonight? Are you amending that?

Mr. Dann explained, there is an existing authorization for \$315,000. That was originally provided for the engineering services component of the project. The action before the Council this evening is to amend that amount upwards to reflect the total project cost inclusive of construction costs such that the total amount requested is \$3,800,000.

Mr. Sheehan stated, you also have in this amendment \$4.6 million, so you are amending both figures?

Mr. Dann explained, the original request was for \$4,670,000. That request is being recommended to be amended downwards to the \$3,800,000. figure.

Mr. Sheehan asked, you are going to appropriate more than \$315,000.?

Mr. Dann answered, yes.

Mr. Sheehan stated, I am a little confused. The \$315,000. you were going to appropriate tonight, that was going to bring the total of the amendment of the ordinance to \$4.6 million?

Mr. Gessert explained, the \$315,000. was appropriated a while back and used to do the engineering and design of the project. Now that that has been done we are moving from the engineering/design phase to the construction phase so we are changing the cost of the project from \$315,000. to \$3.8 million.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville asked, has everything concerning this project been sent out to bid?

Mr. Dann answered, the major elements of the project, including the engineering services, construction of the tank and construction of a pump station and pipe lines, all three of those elements were placed out to bid. There are some remaining elements of the work which will either be performed utilizing in-house staff and resources or which may result in some additional bids at some later time.

Mr. Melillo stated, if the Town cannot do the work, itself, it will be put out to bid?

Mr. Dann answered, yes. The major cost of the project has been placed out to bid.

Mr. Melillo asked for an explanation of the term "temporary borrowings" which appears in the language of the ordinance.

Atty. Fasi explained, it means the Town has the flexibility of issuing long term bonds or, prior to issuing long term bonds, issue short term notes which can be issued, mature and re-financed and then ultimately turned into long term debt that is amortized over a long period of time.

Mr. Melillo stated, in other words it gives you more flexibility relative to getting a better bid for your money right?

Atty. Fasi answered, that is correct.

Frank Wasilewski, 57 N. Orchard Street asked, did you already borrow \$315,000 on this project?

Mr. Dann answered, no, and explained, we did not borrow any funds to finance the initial engineer costs. Of the \$315,000. approximately \$170,000. have been spent to date and we have advanced those funds from cash of the division, pending at a later time the issuance of the bonds at which time that will then be paid back to the Water Division.

Mr. Wasilewski asked, how much money do you have in reserves of the Water Division? How many billions of dollars do you have in the Water Division as a reserve or surplus, call it what ever you want?

Mr. Dann answered, there are a number of reserves that we have in the Water Division. The cash balance, to my recollection, at the close of the previous fiscal year, June 30, 1997, was in the range of about \$3.5 million.

Mr. Wasilewski asked, has it gone up for this year?

Mr. Dann answered, I could not tell you at this point in time what that balance is. It does tend to fluctuate around billing dates, for example, immediately after bills are issued the cash balance will rise as receipts come in then fall somewhat there after as we continue to fund our operations until the next billing. It does fluctuate and I could not tell you, as of today, what that balance would be.

Mr. Wasilewski asked, you don't know whether you are going to go in for twenty year bonding or thirty year bonding on this project?

Mr. Dann answered, at this point in time we don't. Typically we have looked at twenty years or less. Once the ordinance is approved we would then be sitting down with the Comptroller and looking to discuss the options and the timing of any bond sales that would take place; looking, obviously, to take advantage of favorable market conditions as well as complying with various requirements that revolve around the utilization of funds from a bond sale.

Mr. Wasilewski asked Atty. Fasi, if we went to a twenty-five year bonding, what would our monthly installments be on this project? Do we pay by the month or by the year?

Atty. Fasi answered, if anyone, Mr. Myers would be in a better position to tell you. First of all the Town could not issue bonds for twenty-five years.

Mr. Wasilewski asked, if we bonded between twenty and thirty years, what would this whole project cost in terms of the life of the bonding period? Should we pay for it in cash and put the money back in every month so at the end of twenty years we have more money than what we have right now? These are the things you people should know.

Comptroller Thomas Myers stated that he did not want to answer Mr. Wasilewski's questions for he did not believe the answer is a simple answer. He stated, the point I want to make is that, the Town, because it is in excellent financial position, has flexibility to decide when it will approach the bond market. You don't want to look to issue bonds when the market rates are against you. You want to look to issue bonds if rates are favorable. There are other aspects of issuing bonds such as arbitrage rules and regulations on interest earned on bond proceeds and other issuance costs such as legal, financial, cost of ratings for the bonds, etc. Once a project for Wallingford reaches the point of inception and receives funding through a bond ordinance, we use the Town's financial position to move the project forward during construction and then we look to either finance that project through cash reserves and bonding, the combination, in conjunction with what financial market conditions are and what other projects are also in the construction phase. I don't want people to think that when an ordinance is approved such as this one before the Council tonight, immediately bonds are issued; that is not the case. The issuance of bonds is a long term planning process that evolves over a period of time that the project is under construction.

Mr. Zappala asked, what are we paying at the end of the twenty years for this \$4 million?

Mr. Myers responded, as a rule of thumb you can say that you are going to pay approximately \$2 million in interest over the twenty years.

Mr. Zappala stated, we have to ask ourselves, since the Water Division does have \$3 million somewhere, why can't we pay for this without going out to bond?

Mr. Dann answered, first, what you need to look at is, what have the uses previously identified for that cash been? There have been other projects that we see lined up in the future for which some of that cash balance has been, at least internally, intended and reserved. You also need to look at what cash is necessary to fund your operation. You need to evaluate what utilization of cash you may want to make for the purposes of rate stabilization in future years and another component of this decision relative to this project is, what are the market conditions as far as bond interest rates vs. the interest that can be earned at this point in time on that same amount of money retained in the bank. We have recently

seen a bond sale for the Durham Road Pump Station project and to my recollection the interest rate that we obtained on that bond sale was about 4.7% which is less than what the current rate of return has been on our cash investments. Under those conditions it is probably prudent to bond more on the project and to retain the cash to be utilized on subsequent projects wherein those market conditions are somewhat different and less favorable.

Mr. Zappala asked, are you telling us to keep the money in the bank, borrow the money and we will make money? Is that what you are saying?

Mr. Dann answered, under the current conditions, at least based on the most recent bond sale, that would be the case, yes.

Mr. Myers disagreed with Mr. Dann stating, you can't just look at the Water Division, you have to look at the Town of Wallingford as a whole. They are only one division; they are a member of the Department of Public Utilities. The Town has to issue bonds for other departments such as education, sewer, roads and streets, Community Pool; you have to look at the bonding program of the Town in its entirety, not department by department. There are also federal Internal Revenue Service regulations as to how much interest and when you can earn interest on bond proceeds. If you do not comply with those regulations you will be paying penalties and the interest over to the Internal Revenue Service.

Mr. Dann stated, let me clarify for the record, I am not suggesting that the proceeds from the bond sales are where the interest earnings would come from. I am suggesting that this is a comparison of the interest payable on bonding in comparison to the utilization of existing cash of the division.

Mr. Myers responded, I understood your comment exactly but if you sell the bonds and the proceeds are not expended you could, and probably would be, in an arbitrage situation.

Mr. Gessert stated, the division keeps cash in reserve for other capital projects that we know are coming, for operational costs and it is wise to keep some on hand. If you have to borrow, so be it; if you are getting a good return on what you have and you get a good rate through Mr. Myers' efforts then the interest you are paying does not hurt you too much.

Mr. Zappala stated, I, personally, feel that the Town should run pretty much at a zero budget at the end of the year. If we do have extra money and we have to go out and borrow, I don't think it is in the best interest of the taxpayers that we do that. I think that if you have the money to pay for any of the projects and you don't have that money kept in escrow I think we are better off in the end. That is the way I see it.

Mr. Centner stated, I appreciate the fact that the cost of the project was reduced by the bids received. My concern is with the low bidder; you set up a structure to determine the responsible bidder and the low bidder was well within the guidelines of responsible bidder?

Mr. Dann answered, that is correct. The review of the bids would address the term "responsible".

Mr. Centner asked, do we have experience with the particular firm chosen? Have you witnessed a project that they have done, something to help you make the decision?

Mr. Dann answered, no, we have not had any direct experience with the firm which is the low bidder. One of the processes we go through is to request references and contacts with both project owners, engineers, vendors that deal with the bidder, bank references, bond company references, etc., and so the engineer, as part of their review process, makes those contacts for the purposes of trying to verify the capabilities and experience with the bidder.

Mr. Centner asked, I expect that we would ask that they post some kind of performance bond or something?

Mr. Dann stated, they would be required to post a performance bond for the project.

Mr. Centner asked, did we also include in the contract any penalty clause for time lapse? I know that you said you have a strict timetable as far as seasons and things.

Mr. Dann answered, there is a liquidated damages clause and, in addition to that, in the event that.....these are two separate projects. The tank is one bid, one contractor; the pump station and pipe lines are separate under a different contract. Obviously the two pieces have to come together at the right time. In addition to liquidated damages we have also advised the bidders that should they delay the other project and subject the Town to damages as a result then we would also expect to be passing that liability on to the responsible party.

Mr. Centner asked, will we be utilizing public utilities' services, our own divisions, in any of this project outside of those bidders?

Mr. Dann answered, there are some elements of the project that we expect to do ourselves. For example, in conjunction with creating the upper west side zone that this tank will allow for, we need to delineate new zone boundaries which is based upon operation of valves but in conjunction with that there may be some system modifications. To the extent that we can do the work in-house we

will. Some components of that work will probably be beyond our capability and will go out to subsequent bid.

Mr. Centner stated, my concern then would be, the part the Town contributes; could that in any way cause a delay in the projects that will tangle the whole thing up.

Mr. Zandri asked for a timeline of the project.

Mr. Dann explained, the target is to be able to sign a contract about the beginning of March, as soon as the ordinance is effective. The target is an eighteen month construction period in total, however, that involves, at least on the tankage project, a shut down period during the winter. As I indicated early on there are some seasonal construction activities such as welding and painting activities.

Mr. Zandri asked, as far as the Water & Sewer Division is concerned, have you established a minimum number as far as what you need for your reserves to operate your division?

Mr. Dann answered, we annually go through a cash analysis process. As part of that process we evaluate what the minimum cash requirement to operate over a three month period would be. That then is factored into the analysis we perform both at budget time but also as we go through rate review.

Mr. Zandri asked, do you have a minimum number? You said that there is approximately \$3.5 million available now?

Mr. Dann answered, that is my recollection of the number at the close of business June 30, 1997.

Mr. Zandri asked, where does that fall into what you need as a comfort level for the operation of the division?

Mr. Dann answered, that is higher than the minimum operating amount. I did not bring the information with me and I hesitate to throw numbers around. There is a major capital replacement that has been accumulating for a number of years but that is also targeted. If you look at our budget our long term projected projects, you will see that the accumulation of funds has been targeted specifically to deal with some upgrades at well #1. By intent, those funds are being allowed to grow but at a point in time they will be expended and then that will drain that accumulated reserve back down again. That is by intent so that we can build the funding on an annualized basis and avoid having to go out and bond to do some of the capital projects that we foresee in the future.

Mr. Zandri asked, so there is a potential to have some dollars in cash available for this project once you get going with the

project?

Mr. Dann answered, there is a possibility of that. I think that discussion will take place as part of our budget discussion with the P.U.C. Commission; as part of our discussion with Mr. Myers as to the bonding scenario for the project; we need to look at it in the context of our budgetary needs next year but also our long term rate requirements to make sure that we don't over-commit funds in one area that then compromises our ability to operate in some other area.

Mr. Zandri asked, am I to assume that this entire project is being funded through the Water & Sewer Division?

Mr. Dann answered, it would be funded entirely through the Water Division.

Mr. Zandri asked, if it was going to affect anything it would not affect property taxes, it would only potentially affect water rates?

Mr. Dann answered, that is correct.

Mr. Zandri stated, I just want to make sure that everyone was clear on that because there was some mention of taxes here and I wanted to make it clear that this is reflected only through water and sewer rates and that is why I asked the question, is it being funded by the Water & Sewer Division.

Mr. Gessert responded, you are one hundred percent correct.

Mr. Rys stated for the record that the reason that Mr. Parisi has not participated in this issue is due to the fact that he is an employee of Gaylord Hospital which is where the tanks are being placed.

VOTE TO AMEND: Parisi abstained; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #13 Final Report Out by the School Building Expansion Committee

Mr. Parisi asked that it be clarified for the record at the end of this item whether or not this is the final report out by the committee.

Don Harwood, Chairman of the School Building Expansion Committee (SBEC) and members Dave Routhier, Financial Liaison to Comptroller's Office, Jon Walworth and Bill Choti were present for the report. In the audience were, Ed Mik, Secretary to the SBEC and Philip Wright, Sr. committee member.

Mr. Harwood stated that the committee does not intend to come back before the Council with a real "final" presentation. The only thing that they anticipate would occur here in very short order would be a request to disband the committee. The committee has a few invoices and some paperwork to complete to actually close out their mission. If asked, in December of 1992 if the committee would be here in January 1998 still talking about this expansion project, Mr. Harwood stated that he would have told the Council that they should see psychiatrists. Five years has come and gone and although it has been very rewarding it was a significant commitment. He felt that he was fortunate to have had the opportunity to have some real good players on his committee which the Town benefited greatly from.

#### FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Yalesville Elementary School had appropriated to it, \$8,265,000; the committee's final projected amount on that school was \$8,204,000 leaving a favorable balance.

Dag Hammarskjold Middle School had \$6,366,000 appropriated for the project; the anticipated close-out will be \$6,334,000. Again, another favorable balance.

Moran Middle School had \$6,796,000 appropriated; the final close-out will approximate \$6,600,000. A few outstanding items remain to be done.

Mr. Harwood stated, as of today, these numbers are very good. As you can see, if you jump down to the bottom line you will see that there was a \$26,713,000 allocation for the project. We are projecting a final cost of \$25,940,000 or about a \$750,000 favorable balance on the overall balance which includes the debt administration bonding costs. We are really pleased that through a lot of efforts we were able to hit the targets; at no time were the schools delayed. We had some real challenges when we got into asbestos abatement hazardous materials. It was a significant dollar value for the schools. Hazardous materials alone approximate \$187,000 at Yalesville; roughly \$90,000 at Dag and \$109,000 at Moran. As you can see there is a lot of money put into just hazardous material abatement.

#### CONSTRUCTION OVERVIEW

Jon Walworth explained, you should understand that the projects were completed many months ago. We are working on some warranty and punchlist items; 99.97% of the projects are done. You can see by the small amount of money that has been held for the minor completion items, we are well under way occupied, operational and

all the related functions.

In development of this program \$26 million with \$22-23 million of construction is a complex project; multi-phase, multi-location, environmental issues, architectural treatments, etc., a lot of selections had to be made. We wanted to add something when we started the project and that was to bring value to the community above and beyond the delivery of a school improvement program. We set about trying to be creative, making selections with the architects and continuing to push for new alternatives that used materials creatively. We think we added a lot to the schools above where they might have been in a different community. The additions to the middle schools were creatively linked so that as you traverse through the older parts of the schools it is seamless to a large extent. This results in higher morale, better operating facility and to avoid these items having to be done two or three years down the road causing further disruption to the school. We think that was very important when you visited the open houses at the middle schools you might have seen some of those. Those cost a very small amount of money but, in fact, will save the Town substantial dollars in the next few years. We have worked very hard to keep the consultant's dollars at a very efficient value which means keeping a very tight rein on the numbers which is what Mr. Routhier's job was and to also look for potential savings by very intense negotiations in establishing those fees. By tracking all of the accounting of \$26 million, hundreds and hundreds of invoices; invoices \$3 million and \$4 million at a shot; Mr. Routhier has saved the community tens of thousands in dollars and otherwise services that we would have had to pay for to have someone track those numbers. We looked to improve circulation in the school's parking lots to keep pedestrians away from automobile traffic to keep the buses segregated. We look to have a very creative campus at Yalesville School. When you drive by there today it looks so different from what you may imagine that school to have looked like five years ago. That again, was through the Council's efforts and some property acquisition and looking at long term value of the property. We took a very hard look at concentrating the improvements at Yalesville instead of five elementary schools. That, alone, may have saved the Town some \$5 million in not renovating those other five schools. You will still need to renovate those five schools, however, that is another project that the Board of Education will be discussing with you sometime in the future. Value-added services included a lot of improvements to the infrastructure. As we got into renovations we found it necessary to improve the infrastructure, i.e., the t.v. system; electrical network; telephone system wiring and alike, in the middle schools. All of those items will save the community many thousands of dollars down the road. We are proud to think that we improved the overall aesthetics of the middle schools to the point that the lighting levels are much brighter. We are talking about areas above and beyond the \$26 million when we point

out these value-added services.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Walworth stated, as you approach your next school projects we would like to sit down and make some suggestions on areas of where you will be able to save an equal amount of money and time. We spent a considerable amount of time to make sure that we were always on track with the money. There were times when the invoices were coming in so quickly that we weren't sure within \$15,000 - \$20,000 where we stood and we might have approved some other invoices if we really knew exactly where we stood. The building committee could really use a part-time clerk of the works or an individual that is tracking and writing letters and alike. It is almost physically impossible even with the extent of this committee to keep up with that size of a project without some additional support/help. We are doing this at night; we are trying to run a major project in the evening and on weekends. We ask that the initial project budget for your school not be set until someone has had some time to study what the schools look like and get into the nitty gritty of the schools, themselves. The problem with this project from the onset was that, through a cost-cutting effort a fee was reduced, a consultant was hired by others long before this building committee came on board and somebody came up with a budget of \$14 million. If you all think back and remember all of the obstacles we had to overcome in walking on board and realizing that the project was probably \$10 or \$8 million under-budgeted for what the project would really cost. We are asking that in the future you really work very hard to make sure that no one comes out with a premature number that sets everybody off on a tither but really study it well in the conceptual design phase before that is completed.

Lastly, it was recommended that when adding classrooms to schools, its sounds so simple to say that we are going to add three rooms to a school, that changes the center of gravity of that school substantially. You have to find ways of appropriately evaluating the larger cafeteria, larger academic staff, larger infrastructure, to support those six rooms and you find out that you effect a lot of what is in that school and the school has to be totally re-done. With EPA and other building code requirements, it is not just adding four or five rooms but it is a multi-million dollar facility as soon as you touch it.

Mr. Harwood paused to allow questions from the Council on the presentation.

Mr. Zandri stated that he had questions but they did not pertain to the presentation.

Mr. Harwood stated, as we went through the process the past five years, especially on the front end of it when we had a seven school project, and we looked at the overall physical plant; when looking at concentrated growth in the Town during the '50s and '60s, they all got old at the same time. We are happy that we were able to get three schools up to speed to make a significant difference but it was painfully apparent that some of the other schools need some serious attention. It is a serious commitment on the part of the Town but certainly one in which once you get in and start making renovations and bringing them up as we approach the year 2000 and technology changes and so on, it is a commitment that we saw as a committee and we are unified on that position; the schools need some additional attention. We want to emphasize that because it is so important. One of the biggest rewards was to go into the schools and see the children actually working in the areas that had been renovated or in the new additions now. That is the benefit of the whole project.

#### COMMITTEE RECOGNITION

Mr. Harwood stated, the project's success would not have been cohesive; it would not have been such a good project without some real dedication. There are four people that, fortunately, are here tonight and, as Chairman, I would like to recognize them publicly.

The Chairman is supposed to be the coordinator, making the things happen. This project was so extensive; this was not a one person show by any stretch of the imagination. It is successful because we had a team; a darn good team. There are four people I would like to recognize and I thought tonight would be a fabulous time to do it because I, as Chairman, want to recognize them in front of the public because they deserve all the recognition and my personal thanks for all the support they gave me as Chairman in getting this project through.

Mr. Harwood stated, I would first like to recognize Ed Mik, SBEC Secretary+; a significant, significant effort. Ed was the school system liaison person for the committee; the construction detail interaction person; worked closely with construction management and also, on many respects I will call him our quality assurance person. Sometimes I didn't want to hear it because it was just another item you would have to wrap your arms around but Ed was very detailed and, as a result, the community has done very well.

Mr. Harwood next recognized Jon Walworth stating, Jon has added so much value to this project, I can't measure it; I mean that sincerely. Jon's professional background has been a fabulous asset to this project. His work in the architectural and construction management R.F.P. (request for proposal) development; specification development; design; bidding; interviewing; analysis; contract

development and negotiations. We have had some very serious negotiations with our construction manager and our architect that the Town benefited greatly from. Jon was a real key player in that.

Bill Choti was the next in line for recognition with Mr. Harwood stating, Bill is quiet; didn't say anything here tonight but if there is a guy that gets down in the trenches and makes things happen, Bill does that. Bill was, what I would call, almost our job superintendent for the committee. There was not one day that did not go by that Bill was not at the project. He managed our hazardous material and asbestos abatement; got a lot of aggrita over that because we tried to do that during vacations and you only have a window of time, there is no slack time, so if you don't get it accomplished and you don't get the air quality taken care of you are concerned. Bill was a phenomenal asset to the committee.

Dave Routhier was the behind the scenes person; spent a lot of time with Bertha Oliano and Bob Ronstrom in Tom Myers' office. A lot of times we didn't see what Dave was doing and probably didn't want to see what Dave was doing. He was our budget man and very, very critical. To manage a \$26 million project and to look at the numbers tonight you can see that we have a tracking difference of about \$2,000 on a \$26 million project; that is infinitesimal; significant, significant contributors.

Mr. Harwood asked that Ed Mik approach the table so that he could present him with a recognition clock which has thirty-six (36) hours on it to reflect how many hours each day the committee put in. He then presented each committee member with a similar gift to show the Chairman's recognition and appreciation for their outstanding contributions and tireless efforts.

(applause)

Mr. Harwood's closing comments were that the committee anticipates returning before the Council just to ask for a disbanding of the committee; they look forward to the next challenge.

(applause)

Mr. Parisi called for questions from the Council at this time.

Mr. Zandri stated, I want to personally commend the committee for the excellent job that you did; it took a lot of time and a lot of effort, however, last evening I received a phone call from a Wallingford resident who worked as an electrician on this project. He has a son in the school system and he also had raised some concerns during the course of working on the project and wanted me to ask to make sure those concerns were addressed. He explained that while working on the project that he witnessed several code violations and the installation of equipment that did not follow

the plans and specifications. He cited some examples to me and one of them was the wiring of the fire alarm system; he said they used #16 wire instead of #14 wire; he also said the computer and phone wires were run free-air instead in conduit as the specifications called for. He stated that what he did was, during the time of working on the project, he sent a letter to the architect listing all of his concerns. The question he wanted me to raise here this evening was, to your knowledge, as a committee were you aware of the letter being sent to the architect and, if so, were his concerns addressed?

Mr. Harwood responded, this specific letter; I guess I don't know who this individual is; I will speak to some issues related to electrical wiring and work that was done. Some of those seem to be areas that we have focused on. When you talk about running wire we've talked about plen-rated cable and riser-rated cable; I am pretty familiar with the codes related to that. Our architect has reviewed that specific item and came back with an opinion that we were in compliance with the code with what was run in the building; that specific question that there was a reference to. For all of the work that was done the architect, specifically, John Olivetto; John is the construction manager that came out for all the inspections along with all of their specific engineers and inspected all of the facilities, Geno. I am comfortable based on the time expended; the items that were brought to our attention over the past, say, six to eight months which was the close-out and inspection period where the architect went through every school to sign off on all of the systems; HVAC, mechanical, plumbing, electrical; we were very comfortable with that. An exhaustive list was generated as a result of those inspections of which Gilbane had significant work in order to resolve those. We held them to the fire on everyone that came up that was either a result of committee member's identifying, subs (sub contractors) that identified and as the architect identified them. If there is a specific item or correspondence, if it was sent to the architect, I would like to get a hand on it and be able to make sure that those issues are addressed. It certainly would not be our intent to avoid anything if somebody spotted something. I am comfortable with the amount of effort that has gone into the final inspections and the sign-offs by the architect and that is who we have to rely on along with the construction manager to inspect those areas.

Jon Walworth stated, we were alerted; I thought it was a letter to Gilbane (construction manager) as opposed to Fletcher-Thompson (architect); we were alerted that during the massive crush in order to get the projects ready for occupancy in September that a couple of items may have slipped through one of the subcontractor's effort and may have been missed. We did a complete re-inspection of all the electrical systems; very thorough with the subcontractor there, the architect there, Gilbane and our own people as well as well as the facilities people from the Board of Education to make sure that

every one of those items were covered.

Mr. Zandri stated, I just want to clarify. The reason I bring this up is because he had a concern and his concern; he has a son in the school system and he wanted to make sure that all of this was addressed and I am sure that he is going to rest a lot more comfortable now knowing that this was brought up this evening and you have re-assured us that everything is according to code and everything has been inspected properly, so I thank you.

Mr. Knight stated, I am speaking not just as a Town Councilor but as the Chairman of the Board of Education Town Council Liaison Committee. I am speechless that at this late date and at this very moment we would take this opportunity to raise issues of shoddy construction and oversight in front of a committee that has done what I consider an unbelievable service to this community. I am personal friends with all of the members that are sitting in front of you now and very close friends with a couple of them. They have spent literally thousands of hours and I don't think that they would ever be able to tell you how many thousands and thousands of hours they have put in to this community in providing nothing but the finest most up to date, most professionally-built facilities that this town has ever purchased. There is no one that can take one single bit away from them and there is no one in this room, myself included, that could ever, ever heap enough praise on these selfless five individuals. I marvel at how much expertise went into every decision that was made by these five people and they did it for nothing; not one dime; not one single dime; they spent thousands and thousands and thousands of hours giving and giving and giving and fighting for every nickel and giving and giving some more to this community. I want to take one minute to make sure that everybody that sees these individuals here tonight understands just what a tremendous accomplishment they have made and what a tremendous asset these five people are to this community.

Mr. Farrell stated, I know we are not supposed to repeat what one another has said but I couldn't agree with Steve more; what a tremendous job you've done; not just tremendous, stupendous. Particularly, I would start with Ed Mik. The minutes that you have sent us, the communications that the Council has gotten; you have really kept us in the loop and that is very important and I just felt extremely confident that the project has been in your hands and not something that we have had to sit back and worry about. Knowing you guys and having already seen so much of the project get done, it was not something that we had to nit pick or worry about; it was shown in the final result. We got a great job at a good price. Someone should say it over and over again.

Mr. Zappala stated, I, too, want to congratulate you on a job well done. I think that the results reflect the type of committee that you had and we are proud of having you. You have done a fantastic

job. I did visit the schools and I think that Wallingford is very proud to have schools as we finally have. I talked to Dr. Cirasuolo a few times to express my disappointment with the Dag Hammarskjold entrance where the children are dropped off. It is a problem that has not been resolved and looks as though it will not be resolved. I am disappointed; not with the committee because you did a fantastic job. I think the Engineering Department did not allow enough room to have the children dropped off. It creates a problem when it rains and parents come to the school. The Engineering Department made a mistake and probably don't want to admit it. I would like to thank you for your effort; your team did a beautiful job; let's hope we will use you again. Thank you.

Mr. Renda stated, I think that Steve Knight said it all. I would like to echo his words and commend the committee for doing such a good job.

Mr. Rys stated, I will echo everyone else here who has commented on your wonderful project. A couple of people that I work with but do not live in this town, watched the Yalesville school project and have stated that the job was fantastic. One of them toured the schools and will bring suggestions to their town. I toured Yalesville, Dag, and Moran and they are fantastic. You guys did a wonderful job; you deserve to pat yourself on the back. Hopefully, if there is anything in the future you will be available.

Mr. Zandri stated, In reference to Steve's (Mr. Knight's) comments; I have nothing but praise for this committee and I don't think that there is anything wrong with bringing forward a concern of a resident in town and what better group to ask it to but the people who were directly involved. They set the record straight and this is the forum for that. My comments were not meant to be critical of this committee at all.

Ms. Papale stated, everyone has said it all but I could not sit here and not say thank you very much for the entire community; the children who attend the schools; they are thrilled. How many years has this committee been in existence, six? I have sat on building committees for two years and I have said, that is enough. I commend you just for the time and the children are benefitting entirely from it all. Thank you very much.

Mr. Parisi stated, you don't look bad for six years. I agree with what everyone has said. In my memory this is probably one of the nicest returns the Town has ever gotten from a building committee; again, I said in my memory. You're all professionals in your own right so, quite frankly, I expected nothing less. I mean that as a compliment to your abilities and the work that you all do individually. You are all good at what you do and you just proved it, and fortunately your town benefited from it. We thank you for

a fine job.

(applause and standing ovation)

Mr. Harwood stated, in closing, the Yalesville project, as you know, won the CT. Building Congress Team Award and the Yalesville project has now been submitted for a national award.

ITEM #14 Discussion and Possible Action on Having the Finance Department Supply the Town Council with a One Year Total of Expenditures for Each Line Item of All Budgets Listed in the Annual Budget of the Town of Wallingford Following the Completion of the Third Quarter of This Fiscal Year as Requested by Councilor Geno J. Zandri, Jr.

Motion was made by Mr. Zandri to Have the Finance Department Supply the Council with a One Year Total of Expenditures for Each Line Item of All Department Budgets Listed in the Annual Budget of the Town Following the Completion of the Third Quarter of This Fiscal Year, seconded by Ms. Papale.

Mr. Zandri explained, the reason for bringing this item forward was, when serving on the Council in the past I have found this information very helpful to me in analyzing the upcoming budget because what it gave us was the closest one year figure of each line item in the budget and was a very helpful tool for analyzing the proposed budget and I recommend that the Council pass this motion.

Mr. Farrell stated, unless there is some substantial cost to this, I can't see that it would hurt.

Mr. Zandri did not anticipate the request resulting in a substantial cost to the town with the computers we have today.

Mr. Parisi stated that it, too, was my concern, if they had the capability to do it. I can't see any problem. Until we speak to the Comptroller we won't know.

Since the Comptroller was temporarily absent from the meeting it was suggested that the item be tabled until the Comptroller returned to discuss the matter.

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Table the Item, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

VOTE TO TABLE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

ITEM #15 Discussion and Possible Action Pertaining to Locating Fire Equipment Known as a Tanker Truck at Central Fire Headquarters as Requested by Councilor Geno J. Zandri, Jr.

Motion was made by Mr. Zandri for this Council to Recommend to the Mayor that he Equip the Central Fire Headquarters with a Tanker Truck, seconded by Mr. Centner for the purpose of discussion.

Mr. Zandri stated, before we get started with this issue I have the following statement to make to clear the air as to why I put this item on the agenda:

"First of all I want to say that I do not have any problems with any of the volunteer fire companies, I think that they do an excellent job and that Wallingford is well-served by them. I also would like to say that quotes in the newspaper by Chief DaCunto saying that I said the volunteers were not responding to calls is false. I never made those accusations. There's only one reason why I put this item on the agenda; a resident of Wallingford has a concern and asked me to put the item on. I think he has a legitimate concern and the item should be discussed. The issue is, will Wallingford be better served if the Central Fire Headquarters had a tanker truck? That is basically the issue here. It has nothing to do with taking anything away from any volunteer department."

Mr. Centner asked, is this a relocating of a machine or a brand new one?

Mr. Zandri responded, this would be adding a vehicle.

Mr. Zappala asked the Fire Chief to explain the procedures so as to clear the questions the Council may have in mind.

Chief Wayne Lefebvre and Deputy Chief Peter Struble were seated before the Council on this matter.

Mr. Zappala asked, would you like to elaborate on this proposal or would you like me to ask questions with regards to the proposal? Do we have any problems with the existing procedures?

Chief Lefebvre responded, we are not having any problems with our responses at the present time.

Mr. Zappala asked, do you foresee any need to add equipment?

Chief Lefebvre responded, not at the present time.

Emil Lawrence, 1149 South Curtis Street, Wallingford stated, I have reason for a tanker truck in a paid house. We have had several occasions where we have no response at all. Several years ago we had a fire in a garage near the Meriden line. The fire trucks came up after 11:00, the fire was fully involved because it was reported late; they could not put the fire out with the water they carried in their tanks. No tanker truck was called because the supposed

chief did not put S. Curtis Street on the list for no hydrants.

Mr. Parisi asked, when was this, sir? .

Mr. Lawrence responded, several years ago when Chief Romanski; he was the one who was supposed to....they said that he was the one who was at fault for that. You have to agree with that; the garage burnt down contents and all right to the ground and nothing was salvaged. If it was attached to the house we would have lost the house with it. I can't fault the fire department. As Geno says, I have nothing but praise for them, the volunteers and the regular fire department. I have a scanner at home, I hear them chasing fires up and down I-91 some exist, some don't. A car has caught fire, they look for it; a half an hour is spent looking for a car that doesn't exist. Fifteen (Route 15) same thing; a car hit a guardrail. They spent twenty minutes to one-half hour looking for a car that hit a guardrail; there is none. Some of these calls that come into the fire department are useless and just pranks; that is one of the reasons. Secondly, we have a group home on Curtis Street. The residents of the home are all handicapped. It is State-built and operated. Why they put it there without the proper fire protection of a hydrant in front? I don't know to this day why they did but we don't question these things. Recently, that group home has been served several times with emergency medical calls, the response is terrific. I cannot say the response was not good on that. Now, here we have a call for a fire. At 7:00 a.m. one morning I hear a call for the group home, 1162 S. Curtis Street on my scanner. Engine 1, Truck 1, Engine 5, Tanker 7, Tanker 8 were all called. All signed on with the exception of Tanker 7 and Tanker 8. There was a new man that I have never heard before on the dispatch; if the tones are different or if they did not get the message through a tone, I don't know but he did announce Tanker 7 and Tanker 8. It was lucky that it was nothing but a fire drill after the fire department got there. Those were the only two vehicles that were needed, if we did have a fire, that did not sign on. I don't say that they don't respond to fires, they do and they do a good job. But these two tankers did not sign on. A week and one-half later don't we get another call from there. We have Tanker 7 out of service and we have to get Tanker 8 from the other side of town. Tanker 8 showed up; he got there but every second counts on a fire and that is what I mean. We need someone who follows the engines out of that house that goes; our area is not the only one that needs a tanker truck. There are many people in this town with wells that don't have any hydrants in their place and they need to have a tanker truck there to put a fire out. So far we have had a lot of burnt toast and such that do not amount to anything and these men are out there; in the middle of the night; football game on; what ever it is, they are there. As far as the chief saying that they have no trouble responding, it came from their headquarters that the excuse why they did not get out that morning was that they went to work at

7:00 or were going to work at 7:00 and could not make the response. That was from headquarters. Don't laugh (Chief), it is a serious matter. I think it is; you laugh at these things? You get comfortable with too many things. I don't want to chastise you but I called down there at the fire emergency number and I wanted to know who we had to see to do something and what was the problem? I was given an Assistant Chief; we start at the bottom and work our way up. I have yet to have to talk to the Chief, he has never called me. The Assistant Chief told me to put this in the form of a letter, which I did. The Assistant Chief told me he would send it in and get it to the Mayor's Office. As yet, I have not had a response from the Mayor and this was a couple of months ago. The letter must have went to the dead letter office. I called back to the Assistant Chief again asking, what happened?; haven't heard from the Mayor, etc., etc. Mr. Zandri put in a letter to the editor stating, if you have a problem, call him, he will see what he can do. I went through all the steps, I started at the bottom. I don't want to create a problem with the volunteers, they do one heck of a job, they should be commended and given pay raises. I am happy to hear that at age 62 they are going to have something to retire with. This is the second time on that one street we have had that problem; no response from a tanker. I don't want a tanker truck immediately put in there but I think it could be fit into the budget. I don't have a hydrant up there, I want a tanker truck. That is all, thank you.

Chief Lefebvre stated, I don't know of any letter, I have never heard of it.

Mayor Dickinson stated, I am not aware of any letter to my office. I will check but I haven't seen one.

Mr. Lawrence stated, I talked to Assistant Chief Casanova. He was the one who told me to write the letter and everything. When I called that morning at 9:00 he said he will get back to me, he did not know the reason why the tanker did not get out. Again, he said that he would get back to me. At 11:00 a.m. he called back and stated that they could not get out because they were either at work or on their way to work. I find that hard to believe but that was the explanation, so help me God, that is the truth.

Mr. Parisi asked Chief Lefebvre to make a note and check on the situation to get an answer.

Mr. Rys stated, on this blue sheet that we received this evening on water tankers, you have some statistics here. It indicates that on October 30, 1997 at 1162 South Curtis Street there was a vehicle on the scene at 6:00?

Asst. Chief Struble explained, no, the first unit arrived within six minutes from the call.

Mr. Rys asked, it was a false alarm and was cancelled?

Asst. Chief Struble explained, the first unit arrived on the scene within six minutes to confirm that there was no fire and cancelled the remaining units.

Mr. Rys asked, then the tanker would have been cancelled, right?

Chief Lefebvre answered, that is correct. One factor that people who monitor calls don't realize, they do not here our fire ground frequency nor do they know when we send units back.

Mr. Parisi asked the Chief to elaborate more on their process.

Chief Lefebvre explained, there are two frequencies used; the dispatch channel and the fire ground channel and when they get to the scene they switch to the fire ground channel. There is no way of someone monitoring with a scanner at home to hear these transmissions. What is assumed by people to be fact just isn't. There is no way that a person, without the statistical information, could make a positive claim that they did not sign on the air. We keep the records; people who listen to scanners do not keep records, I do, and these are the facts.

Emil Lawrence, 1149 South Curtis Street stated, I heard all the calls for every engine called and I even heard Engine 5 which is based in Yalesville, sign on. When they are all done they sign off, they go back to their stations and come in with a 1093; I hear that on my scanner. I hear everything that goes on; I hear them chasing cars that do not exist....

Mr. Parisi explained, what the chief is saying is that there are two frequencies.

Mr. Lawrence stated, I understand that but he said that I don't hear when they sign on and off.

Mr. Parisi stated, you cannot hear the second frequency.

Mr. Lawrence stated, I hear when they sign on, do you understand what I am saying? The chief knows what I am talking about, too. I hear when they sign on and I hear when they sign off. They get up there, in fact it was car 4 that got there first. He got there, he examined, he said no one was out of the building and they looked around to see where the fire was; there was no fire. It was a fire drill but they failed to notify the Wallingford fire department. In the meantime all of these other vehicles signed on including the one in Yalesville, Engine 5. Is that right, Chief? Did Engine 5 sign on for that morning? You keep the records.

Chief Lefebvre responded, I haven't gotten that response record.

Mr. Lawrence went on to say, Tanker 7 and Tanker 8 were called, they never signed on and never signed off when they got back to their stations again. When they are called I hear them.

Mr. Parisi stated, on October 30th, just so you know because we do have a record, there was a cancellation.

Mr. Lawrence stated, yes, that is when they cancelled all the engines that they called but they also give a call when they go back to their station; they call it a 1093. Am I right or am I wrong?

Chief Lefebvre responded, it is not 1093. They respond "93" when they are back in quarters.

Mr. Lawrence stated, yes, and that is when I never heard either one of the tankers respond. I heard it from Engine 5, Engine 1, Truck 1 and the rest of them. I don't think Tanker 7 and Tanker 8 got the call that day because there was a different tone on that radio that morning. There was also a different dispatcher.

Mr. Rys asked, do all the volunteers have beepers?

Chief Lefebvre responded, yes.

Mr. Rys asked, when the call goes off does it go out to the beepers belonging to the volunteers?

Chief Lefebvre answered, right.

Mr. Rys asked, hypothetically speaking, could it have been that an emergency vehicle got to the scene, determined that it was not needed and the call was cancelled on the beepers so the volunteers did not respond?

Chief Lefebvre answered, this happens. If they are in the station and they are waiting for a second person on the truck and someone gets there and says there is no fire, they don't sign on, what is the purpose?

Mr. Rys stated, I hear this on my scanner on occasion and I have also seen the volunteers operate. They would get to the station but they wouldn't sign on because they were cancelled before they even got into the vehicle.

Mr. Lawrence stated, Tanker 7 is right up the street from South Curtis Street. I don't think they got the proper signal, myself. That morning there was a different voice on that dispatch that I never heard before. If he knew how to dispatch?, I don't know, that is their problem. They didn't sign on and they didn't sign off, those two tankers. I think their chief is here tonight,

maybe he could elaborate on that, I don't know.

Ms. Papale stated, I think it would be very helpful for all of us, Council and public, to get an idea of what the procedure is when the tankers are called. A comment was made that the volunteers were not there because they were going to work or coming home from work; unless I have it all wrong, I thought there were volunteers available at all times. Did we ever have tankers in the paid fire houses?

Chief Lefebvre answered, years ago, probably twenty years ago, we had one tanker in the paid house. It was an old oil tanker.

Ms. Papale stated, I visited North Farms Volunteer Company to get an idea of how the tanker truck works. Looking at it I thought the tankers we currently have would not be able to fit in a paid fire house.

Chief Lefebvre answered, I don't have a bay open for one.

Ms. Papale asked for an explanation of the procedure for calling tankers out to a fire.

Deputy Chief Struble, Training Officer explained, we run a combination system. I will use S. Curtis Street as an example; when a fire call is received for S. Curtis Street we have a set of run or dispatch cards in our dispatch area. There is a pre-designated response to that area. To address the question of, are the tankers on that area?, yes they are. We have looked at all the areas where there are no hydrants and we ensure that the tankers are on those responses. A call is received, processed and sent out. If it is an area where both career and volunteer personnel are responding to, a set of tones goes out over the radio waves and it activates pagers on the volunteer's hips that they are carrying all the time. There are definitely more people to respond in the evening but there are people during the day that are available to respond. The career units respond immediately from the stations; the staffed people; the volunteers then would respond to their stations to pick up their trucks. In a South Curtis Street response there would be a primary engine, the water supply engine and a third engine to fill tankers because of the lack of hydrants in the area. There would be two tankers responding; there would be an aerial truck responding; there would be the rescue company from North Farms Co. on Barnes Road responding and if our medic unit is available then it is responding along with our shift commander. Once our first unit is on the scene their job is to make entry into the house to make sure everyone is out of the house and make an attack on the fire, if they actually find a fire. The second unit's job is to come in and supply water to the first unit. The first unit is carrying 750 gals. of water; the second unit arrives on the scene with another 750 gals. of water. That unit's job is to give their

water to the first unit so that the first unit has enough water. Up until this point, this is the same procedure we use when we have hydrants in the area. At this point it changes when we don't have hydrants; now we bring our tankers in and if we want to sustain a water supply. In most cases we just assume we are going to have to sustain a water supply but a lot of the times what we end up with is water sitting on the ground and not actually using it because the first unit has put the fire out. If we want to sustain a water supply, we have tanks that we put in the street, the tankers dump their water into the street and then they drive to the site where the third engine has gone and he is hooked up to a hydrant and fills those tankers and now they create a shuttle and they continue to shuttle water to that site. As far as the timeframes we talked about; on South Curtis Street, the first truck to leave the North Farms Station would be the engine. It makes the most sense to get the second engine there. The truck out of Yalesville would be the truck that would go to the hydrant to fill the tankers. Either the truck from North Farms Co. or from North Main Street would be one of the first engines to arrive on South Curtis Street. What ever engine is first, whether volunteer or career, initiates the fire attack and the second engine moves up to supply the water. The tanker would be the most likely apparatus to leave the North Farms Station second because of the water supply issue and then the rescue truck would leave that station third. As to the volunteers, you can imagine that wherever you live, think about the closest volunteer station; the pager goes off, they must get in their car, drive to the fire station, open the door, start the apparatus, get a crew on the apparatus, leave the station and drive to the scene. Many of the calls that you look at on the statistics for 1997, you will see that units were arriving on the scene in six minutes, seven, eight minutes, some are a little longer because they are outlying areas. With regards to the South Curtis Street calls, one in October and one in November; a six minute response, a seven minute response, both of which were false alarms. Six minutes, that is about the time it takes the volunteers to get to the station, get one truck out, the second truck manned, by the time they are getting on the apparatus, the unit on the scene is calling back and saying, it's burnt toast or a malfunctioning smoke detector. His job is to immediately try and get the word out over the radio that there is no fire because the concern is to get all of the units dropped down to a non-emergency response or turned around to make them available for another response. As early as possible the arriving officer on the scene has to turn those around. In the cases where we actually have used the tankers, in the last couple of years, they have been very effective. We have had both of our tankers running and we have also called in tankers from other towns. You may be familiar with the house on Cook Hill Road and Tuttle Avenue; very large, beautiful 1700s house. The garage was on fire one night and this is a package, this is not just to get a bunch of water there and not know what to do with it. This is a package, we would not have

saved that house had the package not been there. The first in officer makes decisions about water conservation, cutting the fire off, buying a little time until the water supply can get set up and when the water supply is set up the fire is attacked. This is a complete package from beginning to end. It is not about one truck being there with a lot of water or not. It is the decision that is made within the first five minutes of the fire and that is where we have quality people that make quality decisions. That is what puts fires out.

Ms. Papale asked, is the Wallingford Fire Department concerned or do you really feel that the tankers are sufficient to take care of the needs of the places that don't have hydrants? Do you have any problem continuing with just having two tankers, each in the volunteer companies?

Chief Lefebvre responded, not at the current time I don't. We do not have any documented failures of our system. There is no reason to change it as it stands today.

Mr. Farrell stated, it is good to answer the resident's concern, it has been very helpful about what you have told us. In general, just to comment, I always tell you in private but it is good on occasion to tell you in public, that I have always thought that your department is one of the best run departments from you (Chief Lefebvre) down to the volunteers. Should you walk away a little bruised this evening, I will add that comment.

Mr. Centner stated, my question has been satisfied by Iris; I also concur with Jerry (Mr. Farrell).

Mr. Zandri asked, is there anything detrimental to having a tanker at the paid house?

Chief Lefebvre answered, certainly not. What you are talking about is an increase of \$235,000 per year in salaries, minimum. But detrimental, I wouldn't say detrimental, no.

Mr. Zandri asked, why do you say there would be a salary increase?

Chief Lefebvre responded, someone has to drive it to the scene.

Mr. Zandri asked, how do you dispatch the ladder trucks to the scene now?

Chief Lefebvre answered, there are crews assigned to each individual piece of apparatus.

Mr. Zandri asked, how many individuals are on a truck?

Chief Lefebvre answered, we have three people on engine companies

and two on the ladder company. If I am going to hire anybody I am going to put them on the ladder company because that is where they are needed.

Mr. Zandri asked, is there a reason why you have to have three individuals on a truck to dispatch it to the scene?

Chief Lefebvre answered, yes, absolutely, we are working under O.S.H.A. and N.F.P.A. standards.

Mr. Zandri asked, what does that mean? Do they have to have three individuals on the truck at the time it is dispatched from the house?

Chief Lefebvre answered, absolutely.

Mr. Zandri asked, there is no way you could have two individuals on a truck and one person driving a tanker?

Chief Lefebvre responded, no.

Mr. Zandri asked, what is detrimental about that?

Chief Lefebvre answered, the safety of the individuals and their ability to perform the job when they arrive.

Mr. Zandri asked, if three individuals were to take a ladder truck, I am assuming that they would be able to perform the function of that truck at the scene?

Chief Lefebvre answered, one thing you have got to understand is, when a crew gets there on a scene they all have individual tasks to perform assigned to the various apparatus. It is going to place my people in jeopardy to try and take people from one task and put them in another and I am not going to go along with that.

Mr. Zandri stated, wait a minute, I am just trying to understand it, don't misinterpret my questioning. I am not trying to put anyone in jeopardy. I am just trying to understand if it would be helpful to have the water supply at the scene if a water supply is needed. That is the reason I am going along with this line of questioning.

Chief Lefebvre responded, yes, but your line of questioning is, am I going to take a person off of another piece of apparatus to drive the water tanker and no is the answer.

Mr. Zandri asked, it's not advantageous to have the water at the scene?

Chief Lefebvre answered, no, because the water supply person

performs the water supply task and he doesn't perform the engine tasks or the ladder company tasks. It is important that they perform their own tasks that they are assigned to and by taking them from those assigned tasks, we put them at risk and we violate the standards and regulations.

Mr. Zandri repeated, I am just trying to understand the logic behind it, that is all.

Chief Lefebvre stated, I invite anybody, anytime to come down to the fire station and talk to us and see how we operate.

Mr. Parisi stated, I have seen the process. It seems to me presently you are satisfied with the water supply that you have with the existing procedure that you have established.

Chief Lefebvre stated, that is correct.

Mr. Parisi explained, that is the point. The Fire Department does not feel they need additional equipment. What they have at the scene of the fire is enough. If they are satisfied then that's that.

Mr. Zandri commented, I brought this up for the same reason that I put other items on the agenda. We have residents that are concerned, they have concerns and they have a right to be heard and they have a right to get an explanation as to the whole thought process behind what happens here. That is the reason why I put an item on and I don't think any Councilor should be criticized by anybody for bringing a concern forward. That is my personal opinion.

Mr. Parisi stated, no one is criticizing you here.

Mr. Renda stated, there were some major fires we had in this town and I was there. Our town fire department and volunteer fire departments get in there and know how to attack the fire. They know what they are doing. They go to fire structures, homes, businesses; does anyone ever thank them? I don't think so. I think it is about time people start giving them some kind of recognition and let's not make waves where there is no water. We don't have any problems there with the tankers so let business go on as usual.

Mr. Lawrence stated, the Chief (Dacunto) said he was going to be here with thirty of his volunteers. If he is here, have him step down and say if they got that call for the tanker. On a second call in November tanker 8 went by my house after it was cancelled. He turned around and went back to the station. The first call, not one tanker came up. The Chief is here, ask him if they got the call, if the tone was right to get into their beepers. I don't

think it was, I listen to a lot of those calls.

Off microphone Chief Joseph DaCunto stated that the call was cancelled before the equipment left the fire station.

Mr. Parisi pointed out that the November incident was a false alarm.

Deputy Chief Struble explained, sometimes the tanker truck is already on the road and it is cancelled and sometimes it never gets out of the station and it is cancelled.

Mr. Lawrence asked Chief DaCunto, did you get the beeper sound on the October date?

Chief DaCunto, responded, yes we did. (off microphone)

Mr. Lawrence stated, it was a strange signal and strange voice on the radio. All I know is that we are not going to get a tanker. When the house is burnt to the ground, wonderful. Mayor, did you get that letter?

Mayor Dickinson responded, I have not seen a letter. I will have to check with the office. I am not aware of a letter, no.

Mr. Lawrence stated, the letter was hand-delivered to your office.

Mr. Parisi stated, the Mayor will check with his office and will get back to you. If he does not within a couple of weeks call one of us (Councilors) and we will check it out.

Chief Lefebvre extended an invitation to Mr. Lawrence to come down to the Central Fire Headquarters to talk with staff, review the records and go over operations with him.

Dianna Hotchkiss, 38 Clifton Street stated, I am not here to attack anyone; all of you do a great job. I have lived in Wallingford for twenty years and I have seen parts of Wallingford that has grown. We have homes where there were no homes before and I don't think this question has anything to do with whether or not someone is doing their job or someone is answering calls. Do we need the tankers because we have all of the construction and homes built on the outskirts of Wallingford where we never had homes before? I think that is the question. Is it a need? Is that tanker going to be able to come from one end of Wallingford to the other to be able to be of assistance? I look up at Pond Hill Road and see all kinds of houses up there that were never there before. Every place you look in Wallingford; are there hydrants, do we need a tanker? It is not a case of, did somebody answer the call. It is the question of, is there water trucks available for these new developments, not if someone is doing their job or is someone not

answering a call. I placed a 9-1-1 call two weeks ago, nobody answered the call. I went out and flagged a cop down on the street to get someone to respond. The question is, do we need the truck for the safety of the Town?

Mr. Parisi asked, no one answered the call?

Mrs. Hotchkiss, no.

Mr. Parisi asked, are you sure you dialed it right?

Mrs. Hotchkiss responded, I called it in from Boylan's at 5:00 a.m. and that is not my question. The question is, do we need the tanker?

Mr. Parisi responded, we have the Chief of the Fire Department who is a professional and he has a staff that consists of professionals. Personally, if they tell me they are satisfied with the structure of our fire department then I am satisfied.

Mrs. Hotchkiss stated, I am sitting on this side and all I am hearing is they did not answer with a tanker.

Mr. Parisi stated, when I leave here I am just a member of the town like you are and I share the concerns and over the years my family has had to call on the services of the fire department and thankfully, they were very, very nicely and effectively given to us. I don't know that we can try and micro-manage every department in this town. I think we have to rely on the people that we are paying. If we get a report from the chief and his staff that we are properly covered then I have to go along with that.

Mrs. Hotchkiss answered, that is my question, are we properly covered with all the new development in Wallingford.

Mr. Parisi stated, in their professional opinion they are. He asked the chief once more, are we properly covered?

Chief Lefebvre stated, yes we are. As we grow we may have to reconsider. With regards to the development off of Pond Hill Road, I live in that development and most of it is hydranted. There are a lot of those outlying areas that are being hydranted. He invited Mrs. Hotchkiss to bring her concerns forward regarding the lack of response to a 9-1-1 call. Any call that is received in headquarters is trapped by a computer and recorded. If she would tell me the number from which she called I would be very happy to check the information.

Mrs. Hotchkiss shared the information with the chief in the audience.

Mr. Zandri commented, it seems the consensus is that everyone is content with status quo and I thought it was a healthy discussion that we had. I will withdraw my motion for the sake of not having to vote on it.

Mr. Centner withdrew his second.

ITEM #14 Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Remove Item #14 From the Table, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

VOTE TO REMOVE FROM THE TABLE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

Discussion and Possible Action on Having the Finance Department Supply the Town Council with a One (1) Year Total of Expenditures for Each Line Item of All Budgets Listed in the Annual Budget of the Town of Wallingford Following the Third Quarter of the Fiscal Year

The original motion was on the floor for discussion and possible action.

Mr. Zandri reminded everyone that the motion was to Have the Finance Department Supply the Town Council with a One (1) Year Total of Expenditures for Each Line Item of All Department Budgets Listed in the Annual Budget of the Town Following the Completion of the Third Quarter of this Fiscal Year.

He explained how this action would help the Council during the budget workshop process.

Comptroller Thomas Myers stated that he understood Mr. Zandri's request and that he was accustomed to it for Mr. Zandri had made the request in the past. The information could be supplied in the same way it has been supplied in the past years. Did Mr. Zandri want the utility budgets also?

Mr. Zandri responded, yes, everything. The way it was supplied in the past was in the form of a three quarter total for the present year along with the last quarter of the previous year and the Council had to do the calculating themselves. It would be helpful if the Council could get one figure for each line. It would be a lot less work for the Council.

Mr. Myers explained, I could try it. The reason it was supplied that way was due to the limitations on the software packages that we are using. If we had to combine it we would have to do it manually. The reason the software has that limitation is, normally we would not span two fiscal periods to look at information that way. Certain expenditures could be cyclical and there could be reasons why expenditures run contra to budget numbers. If I think we have the time to combine it to get that information to you, we

will. The third quarter of this fiscal year ends March 31st. It takes the Finance Department staff approximately four to five days to prepare financial statements so you are in to April. Then you want the last three months of last year with the nine months of this year. We would be looking at mid-April before we got you that information. You would be into the budget already. I could get you the last three months of the fiscal year immediately.

Mr. Zandri stated, we went through the same conversation last time I was on the Council and with the computers we have today, I find it hard to believe that we cannot do this.

Mr. Myers explained, we are still on the same system we had the last time you were on the Council.

Mr. Zandri asked, we are still on the same obsolete system we had before?

Mr. Myers answered, that is right.

Mr. Zandri stated, I went through the process last time and I did all the work myself of totalling up the figures. Get me the information and I will go through the cumbersome task of doing it myself again. What else can I tell you?

Mr. Parisi stated, I hope you will share it with us.

Mr. Zandri responded, I don't mind. As far as I am concerned this is our responsibility to review the budgets, we should have the proper tools in front of us to do the job right.

Mr. Myers stated, I will get you the information and if I can envision a plan or way to get it to you combined, I will but I don't want to delay getting it to you either.

Mr. Centner asked, will this motion then require a vote if the Comptroller is in agreement?

Mr. Parisi responded, no.

ITEM #17 Consider and Approve a Payment of a Claim Involving the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Police Services - Corporation Counselor

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

Correspondence from Traffic Maintenance Officer Richard Doll, Department of Police Services explains how, on November 18, 1997 a representative from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State Department of Environmental Protection Agency came to the

Wallingford Police Department to examine their records for the 10,000 gallon underground fuel storage tank located on the south side of Police Headquarters.

The Police Department was in the process of writing specifications for the replacement of the tank which is required by Federal Law by December 22, 1998. One week prior to the unannounced visit Officer Doll called the CT. D.E.P. seeking information regarding underground storage tanks to ensure that the department was in compliance with the specifications being written for the replacement. After a lengthy meeting the department was found to be in violation of D.E.P. regulations pertaining to annual tightness and inventory control. Historically, the department has checked its storage tank by the customary practice of a measurement stick once or twice a week as well as before and after a gasoline delivery. According to the D.E.P.'s obscure regulations, inventory control must be done on a daily basis. A test on the tank was performed by Northeast Tank Services on December 22, 1997 which showed that the tank is tight and well within D.E.P. guidelines. At the end of the meeting with CT. D.E.P. and the U.S. E.P.A. the department was given a compliance order and settlement agreement for failure to conduct annual tightness testing in the amount of \$300.00, hence the request to approve payment of a claim for this matter.

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

ITEM #18 Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-18a(e)(2) of the CT. General Statutes with Respect to Pending Litigation - Town Attorney

ITEM #19 Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-18a(e)(4) of the CT. General Statutes with Respect to the Sale/Purchase of Property - Mayor's Office

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

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

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

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

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

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:43 P.M.

Meeting recorded and transcribed by:

*Kathryn F. Zandri*  
Kathryn F. Zandri  
Town Council Secretary

Approved:

*Robert F. Parisi*  
Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

3-10-98

Date

*Rosemary A. Rascati*  
Rosemary A. Rascati, Town Clerk

3-10-98

Date

January 16th 1998

Town Council  
45 South Main Street  
Wallingford, CT 06492

Dear Councilors,

I am writing this letter to the council in order to express my concerns and opinions concerning the council rules that are currently being worked on for this current session.

I realize that these new rules are in the works and that is why I wanted to make my input now, for consideration, rather than after the fact when there is nothing left but for the council to vote on the new rules. Perhaps if more people did this to make their point to the council, less time would be spent in front of the auditorium microphones. Perhaps, if letters like this one were always read into the minutes and/or attached to the agenda, people would be more likely to write rather than speak because they would feel that they were heard by the council because the correspondence was attached, read aloud by a professional speaker, like all the councilors, who may be able to do it more clearly than someone who is not a good speaker, and entered into the minutes. Also it would be there for the general public to see and read if they wished. And if they wished, they could simply pass over someone's entry if they wished not to hear the person's opinion. Most folks don't mind personal censorship if they do it to themselves. If someone does it for them, that's hard to swallow.

There is always a need for commentary, such as when an agenda item is being discussed and something isn't clear or if a question is brought up, but I believe that the root of the problem is the general question and answer period being "creatively overused" by a certain few.

I sympathize with you concerning the lengthy "speeches" that it seems certain individuals make. Perhaps what seems long to you isn't long to them. One person's ramblings are another person's point. When you think about it, if every person that attended the meetings got up and spoke just as much time would be spent during the Q&A period if only some of them spoke and a certain few took longer than others. I have attended more than one meeting where I was going to comment on something, someone ahead of me made my very point at least as well as I felt I was going to, and got the answer I wanted, leaving me the entire time in my seat. I never had a reason to get up, yet it would have been my right to if I wanted to, I now had no reason to. So if you look at it that way, one person taking six minutes making a point and clearing an issue up for four people ends up saving the council time. I know it seems like a stretch of reason but I believe that is the case a lot of times.

I also don't want my ability to speak at a meeting restricted due to someone else's problems with following guidelines. I believe I am in the majority on this issue. If a 3 minute rule is there, use it. I think that 3 minutes is a little restrictive, it may need to be a couple minutes longer. It is currently set at 3 minutes. Nail the people who abuse the speaking privilege, not those of us who will try to follow it. Speed limits are posted and generally people follow them, those who don't, eventually get ticketed. You don't see the state police getting aggravated with 60% of the people speeding and then lobbying the governor to outlaw driving privileges for everyone. That's not fair to the 40% of the people who drive within the speed limit.

I am asking for consideration for all of those people who are obeying the speed limit. If you feel the need to police, then police the "lawbreakers", not the people in general.

I am asking you, respectfully, to consider my words, and the words of others on this issue, before you make a decision, keeping in mind that you are here to represent the townspeople who are asking the questions, all of them, and then vote the way you feel accordingly.

I personally, as well as many others, fully support government when the right thing is done.

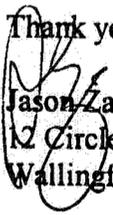
I do not believe the needs of the few should outweigh the needs of the many.

I do not believe the actions of a few should dictate action for the masses.

I do not believe the general public is in error here, only a few may be, and I do not believe that the majority should suffer due to the minority, if the council should see fit to make restrictive changes.

I am not alone in my opinion.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

  
Jason Zandri  
12 Circle Drive  
Wallingford

cc: Mayor William Dickinson

Appendix II

MAYOR'S APPROVAL

I hereby certify that the following ordinance was enacted by the Town Council of the Town of Wallingford, on the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1998, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the Town of Wallingford.

Rosemary A. Rascati  
Town Clerk

ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$315,000 FOR THE PLANNING AND DESIGN OF WEST SIDE TANKAGE AND ASSOCIATED SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$315,000 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 \$315,000 For The Planning And Design Of West Side Tankage And Associated System Improvements And Authorizing The Issue Of \$315,000 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 August 27, 1996 and approved by the Mayor on August 29, 1996, which Ordinance is hereby ratified, confirmed and adopted, is amended to increase the appropriation and bond authorization therein by \$4,355,000, from \$315,000 to \$4,670,000, to provide for project construction and authorize participation in the State Clean Water Fund, thereby making the title of the ordinance read as follows:

"AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$4,670,000 FOR THE PLANNING, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF WEST SIDE TANKAGE AND ASSOCIATED WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$4,670,000 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 \$4,670,000 is appropriated for the planning, acquisition and construction of West Side Tankage and Associated Water System Improvements including tanks, pump stations, piping and appurtenances and improvements related thereto, and for administrative, printing, legal and financing costs related thereto, or so much thereof as may be accomplished within said appropriation, said appropriation to be inclusive of any and all State and Federal grants-in-aid thereof."

Section 3. The first sentence of Section 2 of the Ordinance is amended by substituting the amount of \$4,670,000 for \$315,000, thereby making the first sentence of Section 2 read as follows:

"To meet said appropriation \$4,670,000 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."

Section 7. The Ordinance is amended by adding Section 7 as follows:

"The Mayor is authorized in the name and on behalf of the Town to apply for and accept any and all Federal and State loans and/or grants-in-aid of the project. To meet any portion of the costs of the project determined by the State of Connecticut to be eligible for funding under section 22a-475 et seq. of the Connecticut General Statutes as the same may be amended from time to time ( the "Clean Water Fund"), the Town may issue bonds, notes or other obligations in such denominations and series, bearing such interest, and in accordance with such terms, conditions, and details as authorized by the Clean Water Fund and as determined by the Mayor, Comptroller, and Town Treasurer, or any two of them, who are also authorized to execute and deliver the same. Said obligations shall be general obligations of the Town and each of such obligations shall recite that every requirement of law relating to its issue has been duly complied with, that such obligation is within every debt and other limit prescribed by law, and that the full faith and credit of the Town are pledged to the payment of the principal thereof and the interest thereon. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute and deliver to the State in the name of and on behalf of the Town a project funding agreement under the Clean Water Fund."

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I, WILLIAM W. DICKINSON, JR., Mayor of the Town of Wallingford, hereby certify that within ten days after the \_\_\_\_\_, 1998, Town Council adoption of the foregoing ordinance, I hereby approve such ordinance.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_, 1998.

\_\_\_\_\_  
William W. Dickinson, Jr.  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_ ,19\_\_\_\_\_

This is to certify that all of the copies of instruments in  
volume \_\_\_\_\_, pages \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_, of the land  
records of the town of \_\_\_\_\_, covering the period  
from \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_  
are true copies of the original instruments received for record.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk

(seal)