

MONDAY, JUNE 27th, 1949
SPECIAL MEETING

A Special Meeting of the Board of Representatives of Stamford, was held at the Burdick Junior High School, Stamford, Monday night, June 27th, 1949, and was called to order at 8:10 P.M. by the President of the Board, Samuel F. Pierson.

There was a Roll Call of members with the following being absent: Louise T. Seeley, Edward Wojciechowski, Patrick Scarella, Catherine B. Cleary, Robert Shepherd, Edward Ballo, George W. Lockwood, and Sherman R. Hoyt.

James N. Mulreed, 4th District, moved that the Call which was properly issued for the meeting be read into the Minutes, duly seconded and carried, the same being as follows:

"You are hereby notified to attend a special meeting of the Board of Representatives in the auditorium of the Burdick Junior High School at 8:00 P.M., D.S.T., Monday, June 27, 1949, for the purpose of authorizing the Mayor to borrow in behalf of the City of Stamford the sum of \$202,000 which sum is necessary to meet the temporary financial requirements of the municipality and to issue promissory notes therefor.

This meeting has been called by order of the President."

The following Resolution was read by the President of the Board:

"RESOLVED, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to borrow in behalf of the City of Stamford the sum of \$202,000.00, which sum is necessary to meet the temporary financial requirements of the City, and for the purpose of borrowing said sum to issue promissory notes of said City from time to time in such amounts and payable at such times within not more than one year from date of issue, as they shall determine; said notes to be signed by the Mayor and counter-signed by the Controller, and to be payable to the order of the City of Stamford or such other person, persons or corporation as they shall determine and the Mayor and Controller are hereby authorized to endorse in the name of the City of Stamford such of said notes as shall be made payable to the order of the City of Stamford; said notes shall be payable at such place or places and bear such rate of interest, not exceeding five per cent (5%) per annum, as they shall determine, and the interest thereon may be payable in advance or otherwise as they shall determine, and the Controller shall keep a record of said notes.

"Upon the maturity of any notes issued under authority of this vote, the Mayor and Controller are authorized to issue new promissory notes in renewal, in such amounts and payable at such times within not more than one year from the date of issue of such new notes, as they shall determine; said notes to be signed by the Mayor and counter-signed by the Controller, and to be payable to the order of the City of Stamford or such other person, persons or corporation as they shall determine, and the Mayor and Controller are hereby authorized to endorse in the name of the City of Stamford such said notes as shall be made payable to the order of the City of Stamford; said notes shall be payable at such place or places and bear such rate of interest not exceeding five per cent (5%) per annum, as they shall determine, and the interest thereon may be payable in advance or otherwise as they shall determine, and the Controller shall keep a record of said notes."

The Chair invited Mayor George T. Barrett to give an explanation of the Resolution, and he said, in part, that "the necessity for this is simply that you don't make your people pay their taxes in advance. We have half a million or close to three-quarters of a million dollars laying around that we cannot use, because State laws require us to keep that much money in reserve in the Treasury that can't be spent until next January or April to pay interest on bonds and notes. That is what has caused the so-called shortage. We are asking you tonight to go through the motions to borrow money on Tax Anticipation Notes in order to

meet the money already incurred; that is about as simple as I can make it."

James N. Mulreed, 4th District, raised the following question: "On June 27th, four days before the July date on which the fiscal year begins, it becomes necessary for this action. I would like to know why an approval was needed for a temporary loan. Still I do not get it clear in my mind why a temporary loan is needed. This might seem a simple question to the Mayor but I am sure it is not simple to the members of this Board."

Mayor Barrett answered by saying, in part, "I could go ahead and draw the money out of what we have and pay these temporary notes, but then the balance which we are supposed to keep on hand would fall below what it should be, and the auditors would say we had violated the law. It is a technical violation of the law for us to touch the money which is now in the Treasury." He further stated that petitions came in from the different areas for Playgrounds in the Springdale and Stark Schools and for the purchase of the Hubbard Heights Golf Course and that these petitions were approved by the Board of Finance and the Town Meeting and that this meant a Capital Expenditure, and they voted to recommend bond issues to pay for this.

James Mulreed, 4th District, said further, "As I understand it, authority was vested in the Board of Selectmen to purchase the Hubbard Heights Golf Club and to have a bond issue floated, which would cover the cost all we have is a contract to purchase," to which Mr. Barrett said, "We have purchased this property and we have started building the playgrounds on current funds until the Bond issue is arrived at." Mr. Mulreed then said "Then money in the General Fund was used to finish negotiations with the Hubbard Heights people, although Bond issue was in order. That would account for the fact that there was a shortage in the General Fund, preventing payment to the School people?" Mayor Barret said that "We are now asking for the right to borrow on short term notes to keep in the Treasury that one-half million to pay bonds and interest on bonds."

Asked what the rate of interest would be, Comptroller Downey stated 1% per year, pro-rated.

Michael Laureno, 3rd District, inquired why this matter could not have been brought up last Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday when this Board was meeting, and Mayor Barrett, said, in part, "As happens frequently, something slipped. It was a human error. The school payroll was bigger than the regular monthly payroll, it being for three months in many cases. They had asked the Clearing House to prepare a resolution which was acceptable to them. The party contacted had forgotten to speak to the legal adviser and the legal adviser was out of town. I mentioned the fact that this should be prepared the latter part of April and Mr. Downey assumed that the Banks were having a Resolution prepared and when we found out this had not been done, we had to have it done, and in a hurry." He further stated that the Bond issue, when floated, will pay off the money we are owing, to keep that balance in the Treasury.

Michael Wofsey, 1st District, asked, "If we approve this Resolution, can you state when the salaries will be available?" and Mayor Barrett said, "They will be available tomorrow morning. There is no shortage. We sent word that wherever anybody wanted to go out of Town their checks would be ready. Those who came in with any real reason got their money."

Michael Laureno, 3rd District, then said "On the technical side, we are not allowed to touch money for teachers salaries because it is earmarked?" and Mayor Barret stated "It is not earmarked but a part of the General Fund; it would save Stamford money if we were allowed to draw money which will not be needed until next April."

When asked by John L. Cameron, 20th District, "Specifically, how is this \$200,000. to be spent?" Mr. Barrett said it was the exact amount recommended by

the Board of Finance to buy the Hubbard Heights Golf Club and to pay for the Springdale and Glenbrook playgrounds. Mr. Cameron then asked if we had put the interest figure in the Budget down too low, not knowing that this was coming along and the Mayor said he thought we should have the Finance Commissioner at a meeting where such matters were under discussion, "which would save you people from coming into special meetings to appropriate money for that purpose."

William Adriance, 18th District, stated to the Mayor, "You said we should have the head of a certain Department here. I think that I look at it differently. I feel that if anyone increased his Budget he should come in and see us. We are trying to save as much taxation as possible and it seems reasonable that they should come to us and see why we cannot raise it. The Mayor said that "any time you want any information from any branch of the Administration let me know and there will be somebody here."

Leon C. Staples, 7th District, made a motion that the Resolution be adopted, seconded by Daniel Miller, 16th District, and carried.

James N. Mulreed moved to adjourn, seconded by Leonard J. DeVita, 5th District, but the Chair asked for an opportunity to read a letter from Hickey Brothers concerning the acceptance of a public Highway of Lawton Avenue in Springdale, stating that it was an emergency and would require suspension of the rules, following which John W. Hickey was introduced to explain the map. He said that no one can tell him who will put oil on the road and that it needs oil badly so it will not washed out by a heavy rain.

John L. Cameron, 20th District, quoted from Section 202 of the Charter, "No business shall be transacted at a special meeting which is not within the purposes of the call," saying that we should not act upon this matter at a special meeting called for another purpose, and that if we could suspend our rules we couldn't suspend the provisions in the Charter. Michael Wofsey then suggested that we receive this as a communication and refer it immediately to committee, and moved that the matter be referred now to our committee to report back to the next meeting.

James N. Mulreed reminded the chair that he had moved to adjourn, and upon vote, his motion was defeated.

Discussion continued, Leon Staples, 7th District, remarking that he wanted to see the road oiled and that he was willing to come back to another special meeting to make it possible, but if we start now in violating our Charter and our own rules there will be no end to it. "Let us live within our own regulations."

Eugene Kaminski, 13th District, seconded Mr. Wofsey's motion.

John L. Cameron pointed out that if the motion made by Michael Wofsey is acted upon we will still be violating our Charter, whereupon the Chair stated that under the provision of the Resolution presented at the last regular meeting that any matter could be referred to a committee by the President of his own accord he would now refer this communication to the proper committee.

Upon motion made by Michael Wofsey, 1st District, seconded by Clifford Waterbury, 4th District, and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Babette S. Ransohoff

Clerk.