

FEBRUARY 6, 1950

A regular meeting of the Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford was held at the Burdick Junior High School on Monday, February 6, 1950. The meeting was called to order by the President, Samuel F. Pierson, at 8:15 P.M.

Mr. Pierson gave the invocation.

Roll Call was taken with 38 members present and 2 absent, (see attached attendance sheet).

Mr. Pierson then presented the minutes of the January meeting for acceptance. Robert G. Shepherd, 9th District, stated that on page 125 the fourth paragraph should read, after the words "so that" - "no additional nuisance would be created by any over flow into the existing ditches which are already very objectionable." Catherine Cleary, 8th District, stated she had not been here since the December 5th meeting and that what she was credited as having said on page 122 were not her words.

Upon motion of John M. Canavan, 11th District, and seconded, the minutes of the January 9th meeting were accepted, as corrected.

James N. Mulreed, 4th District, in order to expedite the matters on the agenda made the motion, that, because of the length of the agenda that a debate by any one person on any one subject be limited to five minutes. The motion was seconded and passed.

PETITIONS

A petition was offered by Robert Shepherd, 9th District, which had been referred to Dr. Brown, Commissioner of Health, several months ago, but which did not appear in the minutes as a petition. This was accepted as Petition #54. (page 93)

A petition from the Stamford Heart Association, Inc. was then read by the president.

PETITION NO. 55

The Stamford Heart Association in conjunction with the National Heart Association will conduct a drive for funds, to further the research and treatment of heart disease, in the Stamford area, from February 7th to 28th, this year.

We are desirous of having a "Tag Day" on February 25th and herewith request the permission of your body to conduct same.

Upon motion of Patrick Hogan, 10th District, seconded by Clifford Waterbury, 4th District, the petition was granted.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A letter from the Mayor with regard to the sewer plan re resolution No. 22.

Upon motion of James N. Mulreed, 4th District, and seconded the letter was placed on file.

2. A letter from the Corporation Counsel regarding a pension for Mr. DeCarlo in which he upheld a previous decision by Corporation Counsel, Charles Wexler, who held that Mr. DeCarlo did not work as required for 25 continuous years for the City of Stamford.

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Patrick Hogan, 10th District, stated he believed that any man who had worked for 27 years - even if there was a two year break - should receive some remuneration and suggested that the Personnel Commission look into this matter and possibly get him a pension on a graduated scale.

Mr. Laureno stated he had been told about Mr. DeCarlo and that he had worked 25 years for the City but someone did the trick of putting him out of a job for a couple of years and then he continued working two more years. In all he stated Mr. DeCarlo had worked 27 years for the City and he agreed with Mr. Hogan that something should be done about this. He stated he thought the state representatives and state senator from this area should be notified and see if something can be done, and that the Personnel Commissioner, newly appointed, should be apprised of this matter.

Eugene T. Kaminski, 13th District, cited section 710 of the Charter regarding pensions and the power of the Board of Representatives to enact same.

Upon motion of James N. Mulreed, 4th District, and seconded it was unanimously passed to ask the State Representatives and State Senator to look into this question, and if it is in their power, that they expedite and provide a pension for Mr. DeCarlo.

3. A letter from the Mayor concerning the enactment of an ordinance for plumbing and electrical work done in the city of Stamford. This was referred to the Legislative and Rules Committee.

James N. Mulreed, 4th District, stated that he would make a report on this when he gave the report of the Legislative and Rules Committee.

4. Mr. Pierson then read a communication from the Mayor concerning the "Black Swamp" and also a letter from John W. Hickey of Hickey Bros. offering for sale the portion of the Black Swamp owned by them. He stated that this letter had been received after the Steering Committee meeting.

This was referred to the Fiscal Committee.

Jeanette Bell, 17th District, stated she had some figures which she wished to present to the Board. She stated that the sale price of \$8,500 is cheap since it will eliminate a flood hazard and get a park to boot. She stated her figures were arrived at by Mr. Bromfield. *3. for pipe and 400 for label (Added - see sheet)*

Sherman R. Hoyt, 19th District, asked if it wouldn't be wise to get some other appraisal of the property.

Mrs. Bell stated the Planning Board had already recommended the purchase of this property.

Mr. Pierson asked if the Planning Board had received any information on the \$8,500 offer. He stated this would have to be approved by the Planning Board at that price. He did not believe the Planning Board had been apprised of the amount and would like to refer it to the Planning Board again.

Mrs. Jeanette Bell MOVED, seconded by Michael Laureno, to ask the Mayor to request the Board of Finance to approve an appropriation to buy the "Black Swamp" property. Mr. Laureno stated the lots in his opinion were worth about \$1,000 a lot and that Mr. Hickey was at the tail end of his project and has to swerve around the swamp and this is holding him up.

James N. Mulreed, 4th District, stated he did not believe the Planning Board was interested in the cost of the property but their function was to determine the need. He thought Mrs. Bell's motion was entirely in order, and stated he thought it was up to the Mayor to make the next move to certify it to the Board of Finance.

Robert G. Shepherd, 9th District, stated he was also in favor of the general principle of the motion but that a reliable assessor told him the lots were worth about \$200. each rather than ~~\$2,000.~~ He believed the Board should recommend that steps should be taken to pay a reasonable price for the land. He felt that some lowering of the price would be in order since the developers had created some of the condition themselves, which is partly due to their developments on the adjacent property. He stated he would like to have the motion amended to leave out the figure.

Mrs. Bell stated she would just as soon leave the figure out and would make it as follows: "the acquisition of this property as quickly as possible at a fair and reasonable price."

John L. Cameron, 20th District, stated he would be in favor of the motion but disagreed with Mr. Mulreed about the Planning Board not being interested in the price, since he did not see how the Board could determine the purchase unless they weighed it in the terms of price.

Leon C. Staples, 7th District, stated he hadn't any doubt that the man who bought that land for development knew that swamp was there and is charging a rate greater than it is worth.

James N. Mulreed, 4th District, asked if Mr. Bromfield was present in the audience. He was not.

The motion was passed as follows: "The Mayor request the Board of Finance to acquire the Black Swamp property as quickly as possible at a fair and reasonable price."

Michael Laurenno, 3rd District, stated that anent to Mr. Cameron's remarks and counteracting Mr. Mulreed, he agreed that the Planning Board should set a fair price on any of the proposed projects.

Mr. Laurenno moved, and it was seconded, that "We send the Planning Board a letter asking them to give us a fair appraisal of the "Black Swamp" property and also the land in back of the High School at the stadium.

John L. Cameron, 20th District, stated he thought Mr. Laurenno carried his recommendation a little too far, and was not sure whether this was on the Agenda or not.

James N. Mulreed, 4th District, stated he was opposed to the motion because we have a Finance Board to check values and worry about the cost. The Planning Board's sole function is to check or determine the need.

Mr. Pierson stated the matter of the "Black Swamp" was on the Agenda, but since recommendations concerning general matters were not, he declared the motion not in order.

5. A letter from the Mayor concerning parking meters for the City of Stamford and the condition of the existing meters.

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Helen Bromley, 20th District, then asked if the Mayor's letter meant that he wanted 180 new meters or that all meters in the town be replaced.

Mr. Pierson said he had spoken to the Mayor and that it was for all the meters in Stamford. He stated that the City would be allowed a trade in on any works that are not used in the new meters. The plan is to replace all the insides of the meters from which we will receive a trade in.

George Connors, 10th District, wanted to know why it isn't necessary to get permission from the Board of Representatives to install these meters as per section 430 of the Charter.

Mr. Pierson explained that the Mayor does not propose to put new meters in any new locations. He believed the intent of section 430 was to install meters in any new locations.

Patrick J. Hogan, 10th District, stated we have paid for the old meters and now we would have to pay for new ones.

Mr. Pierson stated that one half of the revenue from the time of purchase comes to the City until they are paid for and then the City receives 100% of the income.

James N. Mulreed, 4th District, asked how the Board could approve of a contract without knowing the cost of it to the City.

Louise T. Seeley, 1st District, stated we still owe a considerable balance on the present meters which were bought on the basis stated by Mr. Pierson.

James N. Harrington, 9th District, stated that he remembered from the old City Council that the meter people would give at least 90 days, and if meters broke they would have a man fix them up. He asked why they can't wait for the budget.

Hunt Sutherland, 17th District, moved that the Board set this proposition aside until we have some figures and facts to work on.

Mr. Pierson stated he would request a copy of the contract from the Mayor.

Mr. Pierson was then asked to read the next to the last paragraph of the Mayor's letter again, asking for our approval of this purchase.

Upon motion made and seconded by Louise T. Seeley, 1st District, it was moved to put this matter over until the March meeting.

Robert G. Shepherd, 9th District, stated the initial question was whether an appropriation is required for this and he read section 619.1 of the charter concerning this. He stated, in every instance the budget is prepared so as to provide for an appropriation for each expenditure regardless of the incoming revenue of that department or of that revenue producing item. Taxes--Budget less Revenue. Since an opinion of the Corporation Counsel has been rendered on this matter and appears to be in conflict with this general principle and appears to apply specifically to parking meters, he moved that this Board direct the following questions to the Corporation Counsel:

1. Why is parking meter revenue not obliged to go into the general fund?
2. Why is this specifically different from
 - a. revenue from licenses and permits
 - b. fines
 - c. sewer revenue, etc.

3. Regardless of whether such money is expended from a general fund or from a special fund, why is this matter of parking meters different from all others in not requiring an appropriation for expenditures.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fiscal

1. Louise T. Seeley, Chairman, read her report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. She offered the following resolution as recommended by the Fiscal Committee.

RESOLUTION NO. 64

BE IT RESOLVED that a proposed lease of facilities at the Halloween Yacht Club, Inc. for a period of two years between the Club and the City of Stamford is approved.

Upon question by James N. Mulreed, 4th District, Mr. Pierson read a communication from the Planning Board in which they approved a ten year lease with a cancellation clause providing the termination of said lease at the end of any calendar year.

Robert G. Shepherd, 9th District, stated that in this connection a definite vote should be taken according to section 523 of the Charter requiring a two-thirds vote to over ride the Planning Board.

George Lockwood, 14th District, stated that it was his understanding that the Halloween Yacht Club, Inc. were going to use this only for the residents of Stamford, to which Michael Laureno, 3rd District, stated Mr. Ralph Shulman of the Board of Finance said that was one of the conditions on which they agreed.

George Connors, 10th District, asked how you determine who is a resident.

George Lockwood, 14th District, stated he thought it meant a resident elector.

Sherman R. Hoyt, 19th District, stated that if the city makes a lease for a period of not more than two years, the lease does not have to be renewed if the club does not properly handle the problem.

Resolution 64 was PASSED, 32 in favor, 6 opposed.

Robert G. Shepherd, 9th District, stated he would like to take a matter from the table and requested the parliamentary ruling on it. Mr. Shepherd then MOVED that Resolution No. 62 be taken from the table at this time.

James N. Mulreed, 4th District, seconded the motion stating that the next item on the Agenda was an appropriation for \$15,000 and the Board could not act on this without first disposing of Resolution #62 because the need of this appropriation is contingent on the use of the GAR room.

Upon question by James W. Harrington, 9th District, if we had to have a two-thirds majority, it was stated only a majority vote was required.

Babette S. Ransohoff, Clerk, then read Resolution No. 62.

RESOLUTION NO. 62

BE IT RESOLVED that the resolution "That the GAR Memorial Hall in the Town Hall building of the Town of Stamford be and is hereby set aside as a perpetual memorial hall to the GAR and that said Memorial Hall may be used as a meeting place for organizations whose membership is composed of former

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soldiers, sailors and/or marines who have served the United States in time of war, together with their affiliated organizations and auxiliaries and further that said Memorial Hall be used for no other purpose." passed at a special Town Meeting of the former Town of Stamford, duly warned and held on March 12, 1931, be and the same is hereby rescinded.

The motion was PASSED by a majority.

Robert Shepherd, 9th District, asked permission to read a report concerning the GAR room. The high lights of this report were as follows:

1. When his permission was granted to the veterans a second town meeting had to be called and the motion was passed by only two votes. The nature of the town meeting which we know could be packed does not indicate this was necessarily conclusive of public opinion at that time.
2. There are alternate temporary spaces available such as the City Court Room and American Legion Headquarters.
3. The arrangement and disposal of the relics in the GAR room could be worked out in consultation with the Veteran's Memorial Committee of the Board of Representatives.
4. Need of the City for the 1300 square feet. It is ideally situated for use as planned for seven rooms.
5. These changes would be serving the community a high purpose in our present government.

Mr. Shepherd then MOVED that Resolution No. 62 be adopted.

James W. Harrington, then MOVED that the resolution be tabled. This was seconded by Eugene T. Kaminski, 13th District.

The motion to table was lost and the matter was still before the Board.

John L. Cameron, 20th District, stated he thought this motion really deserved a little bit of discussion. He stated he was not in favor of going back on a motion that granted perpetuity. He stated he thought this Board or any other Board should think very hard before doing it. He did not think we should exercise our right to take it away from them. Altho, Mr. Shepherd stated that savings in rent were not available if this particular room were not taken over. Mr. Cameron said he was told the savings in rent would not be in effect even if we voted on the \$15,000.

Babette S. Ransohoff, 15th District, stated we had additional needs under the new government and if we did not have this room we might even have to pay additional rent.

William A. Adriance, 18th District, agreed with Mr. Cameron and went even further in suggesting that our municipal building include a room which would take the place of the GAR room. He suggested that some sort of committee be set up so that the veterans would be taken care of in the new Town Hall.

James N. Mulreed, 4th District, said if he wasn't mistaken a committee had been set up to confer with the various service organizations for a Memorial Hall.

James W. Harrington, 9th District, stated there was no place suggested to the veterans in place of this room. He then moved that the privilege be given to the C V A members present to explain this matter themselves.

Samuel F. Pierson stated he had a request from Mr. Frederick Blois to have someone address this body and would like to have them do so if this Board so moved.

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Mr. Blois said he would like to have Mr. Fred Robbins speak for the veterans.

Mr. Fred Robbins then came forward and thanked the board for letting him speak and stated the veterans were not a hard outfit and were very ready to listen to reason. He stated that in the past they had extended an invitation to this Board's President to consult with the CVA; that they had never met with the President or had the chance to discuss the situation with him; that the veterans were not looking for any special priveleges. He stated that the remark was made that \$4,000 in rent would be saved if this room could be used. But, he continued there are 20,000 tax payers in Stamford and that meant only 20 cents apiece to cover this amount. He stated it did not seem fair to the veterans to take away a room which was perpetuated for those who fought for this country. He went on to say that the hall was used regardless of what stories were told to the contrary, that the veterans' organizations could not afford to hire a hall. He stated the Legion has a hall but had only extended its use to the CVA and not to the other veterans organizations. He stated the city should be ashamed the way they have kept the room. He felt something could have been worked out if they had met with this Board. He felt that the Board should not take the room away from the veterans. He stated the trouble all came from the so called Good Government Association. He said they were not fighting just to keep a room but that they considered it more than just a room. He hoped the Board would not take the room from them and cause them to fight further for it.

Mr. Pierson stated that in view of Mr. Robbins remarks he would like to get down from the rostrum and speak. He stated he resented the implication made by Mr. Robbins. Mr. Pierson stated the only communication he had from the organization was the one he had in front of him. He then read the communication and said it was the sole communication he had received and stated he resented the allegation that he was asked to appear at a meeting. Mr. Pierson then asked the Board if they wished to hear any one else on this subject.

Resolution No. 62 was then read again and the members were asked to vote on it.

James W. Harrington, 9th District, moved for a roll call vote and this was seconded by George Connors, 10th District, and a standing vote for a roll call vote was then taken. The vote was in favor 22, opposed 16.

James N. Mulreed, 4th District, then moved that this Board request the Mayor to use his office in an attempt to provide a suitable meeting place at no cost to the various veterans associations.

This was offered as an amendment to the resolution and Jeanette Bell, 17th District, stated she thought it would make it clearer if this was made a separate motion.

Catherine Cleary, 8th District, wanted to know exactly how the room would be used in the proposed renovation.

Robert Shepherd, 9th District, stated it would be renovated into seven rooms.

Mrs. Cleary stated she did not see how that could possibly be. She asked how much would it cost to convert this into these seven rooms. She questioned if the bulk of the amount asked was going to be spent in this room and if they wouldn't be coming back for more money to finish the job. "I really think it is a very unnecessary step in view of the fact that we are going to have a new Town Hall. At that time is the time to make these necessary changes."

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The President then asked those in favor of Resolution No. 62 to rise. The vote was in favor 23, opposed 12, 3 abstaining.

The vote was then retaken as no one had the right to abstain. The vote was then 23 for, 15 against.

2. Louise T. Seeley, 1st District, then read a request from the Board of Finance for \$15,000 for renovating the Town Hall.

James W. Harrington, 9th District, moved and it was seconded that this amount be denied. Mrs. Seeley then read her report a copy of which is included with these minutes.

John L. Cameron, 20th District, stated the report of the Fiscal Committee did not point out that \$4,000 would be saved in rent so that, even if we did get a new Town Hall in four years, we would be ahead of the game.

Mrs. Seeley stated the expenditure would pay for itself not only in rent but in increased efficiency. She stated that particularly on the first floor one big room and two little rooms will be given to the court for the use of two probation officers who have needed them for a long time. On the third floor this appropriation will make added space for archives and will provide ample storage for which we now pay for outside storage. Even if they did not use the veterans room we would get more efficient government, and everything would be under the same roof. She thought we would get our money's worth out of this and improve the use of the waste space.

James W. Harrington, 9th District, stated that in regard to Mrs. Seeley's speaking about making room he understood that The Stamford Good Government and the Citizen's Committee, which are one and the same, suggested that we do away with the Registrar of Voters. First they want to throw the veterans out and then the registrar.

Mr. Pierson stated Mr. Harrington was out of order in his remarks and Mr. Harrington stated he was not out of order. Mr. Harrington then asked if the Fire Department would allow storage up on the top floor.

James N. Mulreed, 4th District, stated he had gone over the blue prints which were submitted by the SGGGA and Citizens Committee to the Steering Committee, and the main purpose which this \$15,000 appropriation will be to make the Town Hall a suitable place for records. They propose to make available the waste space on the third floor for records and then if we should have a municipal building the recommendation of this group is that we have this Town Hall as a hall of records.

Catherine Cleary, 8th District, stated she thought this was an absolutely unnecessary expenditure at this time.

George Connors, 10th District, agreed.

Joseph Zdanowicz, 13th District, stated he had attended the Planning Board meeting when this subject came up of renovation of the Town Hall. It was the feeling of the Planning Board that this was a minimum and final amount and the Planning Board will not approve a later request for renovating the Town Hall. The Planning Board said this was all they were going to get. But he thought the Planning Board in approving this had in mind the general efficiency.

Sherman R. Hoyt, 19th District, stated that he was also present at the Planning Commission meeting when they went over the plans and thought all those who were there would bear him out in two statements that were made. One was

*will fit in with
suggested plan*

See March 6 Minutes

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that if the present plans cannot be accomplished for \$15,000, we will do as much as we can for that amount; and the other remark was that any building changes that they were now considering could be ~~made to the building~~ to make the Town Hall a Hall of Records at a minimum expense.

Leslie Lockwood
~~Michael~~, 3rd District, stated we should take into consideration how fast the city is growing and that we need a new building rather than to try to get by with \$15,000 now and then another appropriation sometime later.

Leonard DeVita, 5th District, stated this would only delay us in getting a municipal building and stated he would not vote for spending \$15,000 on that "old rat hole".

John M. Canavan, 11th District, spoke for the appropriation.

William A. Adriance, 18th District, asked if we will save the \$20,000 we are now paying in rent outside.

Louise T. Seeley, 1st District, said it was calculated we would save \$4,000 a year namely the building inspectors office for which we now pay rent. The policemen's dressing room would be put into the Town Hall as they now have to leave their clothes on Bank Street. She said very little is to be used from this amount to renovate the police department since the Police Department and City Court will be the first wing in the new building. She repeated that the fiscal committee felt this would not be a waste of money and did not think it will postpone the building of this new town hall. She added it was a great disappointment that we did not have anything in the capital budget this year for the new building.

Robert G. Shepherd, 9th District, speaking for the appropriation, stated the Tax Department is \$12,000 of the outside rent which will not be saved. The new building, if it was started immediately, would not take these departments for five years.

The President stated he had a request from J. J. Hogan in the audience to speak on the subject. The Board voted, 23 to 15, to permit Mr. Hogan the floor for five minutes.

John J. Hogan, former building inspector of the City of Stamford, read several sections of the building code. He cited the many violations now in existence in the present Town Hall and said it was the purpose of the code to demolish these old buildings and did not think the building could be legally renovated at any cost.

James N. Mulreed, 4th District, stated that he had been assured by the engineer that provisions of the building code would be observed.

A VOTE was then taken on the appropriation of \$15,000 for the renovation of the Town Hall, as recommended by the Board of Finance.

The vote was in favor 23, opposed 15. The motion was declared LOST as there was not the necessary two-thirds majority.

A recess was called at 10:40, the meeting was called to order again at 10:55.

The President quoted from Roberts Laws and stated it took a two-thirds vote to recall a matter acted upon.

It was moved, and seconded, that the Board reconsider the rescinding action of Resolution No. 62.

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Michael Laureno, 3rd District citing Sections 619 and 202.2 of the Charter stated the Board should not vote on the rescinding action pending a legal expression from the Corporation Counsel as to whether a two-thirds vote was necessary on resolution 62.

A motion to table until a decision is reached on the previous motion was moved, seconded and passed.

3. Fiscal Committee Report Cont.

RESOLUTION No. 66

BE IT RESOLVED that an appropriation in the sum of \$2,000 in accordance with the request of Samuel F. Pierson, Acting Mayor, certified to by him as an unforeseen emergency, to the Custodians Retirement Fund is approved.

Upon motion of Louise T. Seeley, seconded by Michael Laureno, this resolution was unanimously adopted.

4. RESOLUTION No. 67

BE IT RESOLVED that the request of the Mayor for an appropriation in the amount of \$65,000, certified to him by him as an unforeseen emergency, for the purpose of making a complete reappraisal of all of the property in Stamford for the purpose of taxation in accordance with the specifications as prepared by the Taxation Board and submitted by it to this Board is approved, provided a firm contract is obtained from a reputable firm of appraisers, providing that said work will be completed in sufficient time for the establishing of the Grand List as of September 1, 1950 be approved.

Louise T. Seeley moved, seconded by Daniel Miller 16th District that this resolution be adopted.

John L. Cameron, 20th District, questioned that this was an "unforeseen emergency." Mrs. Seeley explained that this particular request was made at the time the budget was made.

Leon C. Staples and Patrick Hogan spoke in favor of the resolution.

William A. Adriance, 18th District, said he understood we had a grace of two years for this assessment. He wondered if that point could be cleared up.

The Board requested that Mr. Dawless, The Assessor, come forward.

Mr. Dawless stated, in answer to the question about the extension of the time, that any cities who could not comply with the state statutes had until 1952 in which to complete the same.

Edward J. Wojciechowski, 2nd District, asked what kind of an assessment we would get for \$65,000.

Mr. Dawless said it would be done by an unbiased group of professionals. He stated three companies had given him estimates of approximately that amount.

George Connors wanted to know if that price was to be the final amount.

Mr. Pierson stated that was the limit on the revaluation.

Babette S. Ransohoff, 15th District, asked if the time limit of September 1st was going to effect the way the job was done.

Mr. Dawless stated that they had enough experts to do the job within the specified time, altho they usually take about a year. They will have to have the rest of this month to study the situation and give us a bonafide contract figure. They would have to get started about the 15th of March.

James N. Mulreed, 4th District, asked Mr. Dawless if he thought it was an emergency.

Mr. Dawless stated he thought it an emergency and necessary.

Leonard DeVita, 5th District, asked Mr. Dawless if he recommended it now.

Mr. Dawless stated he did. Upon question by Leon Staples, Mr. Dawless said the appraisal men would be experts.

George Connors, 10th District, asked if they were making any provisions to keep the reassessment up to date.

Mr. Dawless stated this reassessment can be carried on by a systematic system.

RESOLUTION No. 67 was voted PASSED as follows: in favor 35, opposed 3.

5. Louise T. Seeley next stated that the Welfare Fund would be gone by February 20th and would like to discuss this \$40,770 appropriation and the Parking Lot at Bell and South Streets.

Mrs. Seeley moved and it was seconded by Babette S. Ransohoff that these two items be discussed as emergencies.

James N. Mulreed, 4th District, stated he was afraid that we were not going to get through our agenda as it was, that the matter of the parking lot was a very debatable one, and suggested the motion be defeated and that we call a special meeting between now and the 15th for the consideration of those two items only.

Leonard DeVita, 5th District, spoke against the motion, since the items weren't covered by the Agenda.

Louise Seeley, 1st District, asked if she might have the privilege of withdrawing her motion.

She then moved that the Board just consider the Welfare Department request of \$40,770 at this time.

Louise T. Seeley said that the last \$12,000 of the Welfare monies will be exhausted on the 20th of this month, that they must get those relief checks or they do not eat.

Sewell Corkran, 18th District, favored consideration of this item.

John Cameron, 20th District, felt this was a real emergency and should be taken care of.

The MOTION was made and seconded to consider as an emergency the fund for the Welfare Department.

John Canavan, 11th District, said he was against emergency appropriations and thought we ought to do something about them and wondered what would happen if we did not act on this item.

Mrs. Seeley said that the reason it was an emergency was that the Welfare

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Department had requested \$180,000 in its home relief budget and it was reduced to \$100,000 and that it wasn't because they did not ask for enough money. Now they have asked for \$60,000 and furnished us with complete figures and upon recommendation by the Board of Finance we are offering \$40,770.

RESOLUTION No. 68

BE IT RESOLVED that the appropriation of the following sums to the Welfare Department be approved:

Cash Relief	\$40,000
Telephone	270
Shoes, Shoe Repair and Clothing	500
making a total of \$40,770.00	

Upon motion of Louise T. Seeley, seconded by Clifford Waterbury
RESOLUTION No. 68 was UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

Louise T. Seeley moved that the action on the parking lot question be postponed to the end of this meeting or an adjourned meeting. The MOTION was seconded and carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

From the Corporation Counsel

A decision stating all Board of Representative members had the right to vote on the 56 hour week for the paid firemen.

Patrick J. Hogan, 10th District, stated he would like to make a remark that he admired the change of pace in the Counsel's decisions.

Michael Laureno, 3rd District, pointed out that the board had asked for a condition in the original 56 hour ordinance and in that opinion the Corporation Counsel stated that we could not approve the 56 hour ordinance with a condition such as was proposed; yet the \$15,000 appropriation for the Town Hall renovation contains a condition that it could not exceed \$15,000. Our proposed condition was that this ordinance not to be made effective July 1st unless the money is appropriated for additional men. He had in mind the condition that if the money were not appropriated and the men go on a 56 hour week, we would be under-manned. He believed the charter should be read in detail by the men who are passing off opinions.

ORDINANCE

Mr. Pierson then read ORDINANCE No. 3, as follows:

BE IT ORDAINED BY STAMFORD that the average work week for permanent paid firemen shall be fifty-six (56) hours as provided in Public Act No. 212 of the Public Acts of the State of Connecticut, January Session, 1949. This ordinance shall take effect on July 1, 1950.

James W. Harrington moved and it was seconded by Clifford Waterbury that the ordinance be adopted.

Leon Staples, 7th District, spoke against the motion stating the Fire Chief is calling for 11 more men including 2 more officers to fill those platoons. No appropriation has been made for those men. We have to have one-third more men than we have now. Chief Veit says it will mean more officers also. It will cost around \$80,000.

James N. Mulreed, 4th District, stated there will be ample time for the Mayor to include in his budget an appropriation which will make possible a 56 hour week. This 56 hour work week is not something unique. It has already been approved in nearly all the cities in the state where paid departments are used.

Leonard DeVita, 5th District, spoke in favor of the 56 hour work week. He stated the vast majority of people today are on a 40 hour week. In the event of their working over that they get additional pay. The vast majority of municipal employees are on a 56 hour work week.

Patrick J. Hogan, 10th District, stated that in every city where a referendum was conducted it won easily. He did not think that Stamford should fall behind the times.

Ralph Nau, 19th District, spoke in favor of the motion.

Walter F. Seely, 6th District, stated that during the winter months when they have a heavy snow the men are working 24 and 36 hours at a stretch.

Stephen Kelly, 12th District, stated for years they have worked 67-72 hours and have been working for \$45-50. The difference now in time will compensate and they will get nearly the pay of other municipal employees.

ORDINANCE NO. 3 was UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

PLANNING BOARD

1. Mr. Pierson read recommendations from the Planning Board for the acceptance of Ursula Place, Severance Drive, and John's Road as public highways of the City of Stamford, with the recommendation that the name of John's Road be changed so as not to conflict with John's Street.

RESOLUTION NO. 69

BE IT RESOLVED that Ursula Place, Severance Drive, and John's Road be approved as Public Highways of the City of Stamford.

Upon motion of James W. Harrington, seconded by Clifford Waterbury, this resolution was unanimously ADOPTED.

2. A letter recommending the acceptance of Van Buren Circle by the City as a public highway only in the event that the property owners on this road build it according to the basic specifications, was referred to the petitioners.

3. A letter recommending that Unity Road not be accepted by the City as a public highway, was referred to the developer.

James W. Harrington stated that streets should also be referred to the Planning and Zoning Committee and the Public Works Committee.

City Engineer

A letter explaining that the lights in St. John's Park were still on summer time-clock, but had been changed to winter schedule. This was placed on file.

Board of Public Safety

A letter stating they had checked the situation at Southfield Point and that the arrangement for the city to provide a special policeman on Saturday and Sun-

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day was for the summer months and that the arrangement will not be continued. This letter was placed on file. A letter from Mr. Harold Camp, President of the Southfield Point Association, Inc., was read and placed on file.

Board of Recreation

A letter concerning the jurisdiction over Hubbard Heights Golf Club House was read and then a similar one from the Hubbard Heights Golf Club Committee in which they agree to turn over the Club House to the Board of Recreation. Mr. Pierson stated that the Hubbard Heights Board agree with the Board of Recreation in the jurisdiction of the Club House.

Helen Bromley, 20th District, stated she would like to make a motion that we follow the resolution worded in the Board of Recreation letter that we ask the Hubbard Heights Commission to turn over the Hubbard Heights Golf Club House for Recreation facilities with the provision stated in the Hubbard Heights report.

William A. Adriance, 18th District, stated that Mrs. Bromley's committee unanimously agreed it should be turned over to the Board of Recreation, that it was more important that the building be turned over to recreation than to a commercial enterprise.

RESOLUTION NO. 70

BE IT RESOLVED that the Hubbard Heights Board turn the jurisdiction of the Hubbard Heights clubhouse over to the Board of Recreation for recreation purposes with the following conditions:

- (a) That all winter activity to be conducted upon the golf course premises, such as skating, sleigh riding and skiing, would be supervised in a manner so as to avoid any damage to our greens and fairways.
- (b) That the use of the clubhouse by the Board of Recreation for recreation activity be limited to the clubhouse building and not be permitted to spread to the adjoining golf course premises so as to avoid any conflict of activity.
- (c) In view of inadequate parking facilities, the use of the parking area is to be specifically reserved for the benefit of the golf course and the patrons thereof excepting during the periods of the year when the golf course is closed down for the winter and at other times only after dark when the golf course is not in use.
- (d) The Hubbard Heights Board to retain the use of the ladies locker room and toilet facilities located within the main clubhouse until such time as such facilities can be installed in the present locker house.
- (e) All expenditures for clubhouse alteration, maintenance or repairs to be taken care of out of the Board of Recreation Budget.

Upon MOTION of Mrs. Bromley and seconded, the vote on Resolution No. 70 was PASSED in favor 37, 1 opposed.

The President then read a letter from George Lockwood, 14th District Representative, regarding an investigation of the Purchasing Bureau.

Mr. Pierson continued that the Steering Committee recommends by a majority vote that alleged violations of the Charter in the Bureau of Purchases should be investigated by a committee of this Board. The Steering Committee recommends that a committee of four members of the Board of Representatives be named for this investigation.

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He stated that any investigation of any branch of the government must be approved by two-thirds of the members of the Board.

It was MOVED and seconded that we follow the recommendations of the Steering Committee and investigate the bureau.

The motion was to appoint a committee to investigate the alleged violations of the Charter in the Bureau of Purchases.

Patrick J. Hogan, 10th District, stated he hated the word investigation and all it implies, but an investigation has been forced upon us by the auditors report. He criticized the Advocate for failing to publish that report.

Louise T. Seeley, 1st District, wanted to know if the Board cared to hear what the auditors report said, pertinent to this resolution. She stated a copy was given to the Fiscal Committee, that this ~~investigation~~ investigation is being forced upon us because of the serious charges brought by the auditors on the City's purchasing procedures. She stated it is our responsibility to the people who elected us and that we are not interested in blaming any individuals.

Sherman R. Hoyt, 19th District, stated he agreed with the motion but thought it would be better to use the words "non-conformance with the charter" instead of "investigation". He moved that the word be changed to "non-conformance".

Mrs. Seeley asked if the word was changed, did the section of the Charter apply?

The suggestion was to change the motion to read "to investigate the alledged non-conformance with the provisions of the charter".

Babette S. Ransohoff, 15th District, asked if the members of the Board could have copies of the report.

Mr. Pierson said he did not think it was out of order.

John Cameron, 20th District, stated they had discussed this in the Fiscal Committee and it seemed to them that since the auditors report was to the Board of Finance they did not think it should be part of our minutes.

Mr. Pierson stated that it was in order because if the motion was approved the committee will have access to it.

George Lockwood stated that he had questioned Mr. Pierson about it at the last meeting and was told that Mr. Pierson would get a copy of the report for the Board.

Mr. Pierson stated at that time he was acting Mayor and expected to get one but since he no longer was in that position they did not furnish it to him.

Catherine Cleary, 8th District, agreed we all should have copies of that report so that we may judge how serious it is.

Louise T. Seeley, 1st District, asked permission to read sections of that report, pertaining to the motion. It was granted.

Mr. Pierson stated that the Steering Committee felt they should investigate accusations already made and find out what the story is. The allegations have already been made by the auditors, and we should look into the matter to discover whether they are true.

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John L. Cameron, 20th District, stated he felt Mrs. Seeley should read the last two paragraphs on the Department of Education which she did.

Leon Staples, 7th District, remarked on the paragraphs concerning the School System, stating there were some places in the purchasing where fine decisions had to be made and that was in buying the text books. He stated they were sold to schools at a discount, and that if you buy them from agencies, as a rule you get old books. He went on to praise the purchasing done by the Superintendent of Schools.

John L. Cameron, 20th District, stated the reason he asked Mrs. Seeley to read the last two paragraphs was to show that the auditors did not criticize the handling by the Board of Education.

Michael Laureno, 3rd District, said that the auditors had in fact commended the Board of Education. They stated the Board of Education were taking all discounts.

A VOTE was then taken on the motion. The VOTE was 36 in favor, 2 against. The MOTION was CARRIED.

Mr. Pierson then requested Michael Laureno and Daniel Miller to nominate two members from their parties to serve on this committee.

Daniel Miller, Majority leader, nominated Louise T. Seeley and Hunt Sutherland.

Michael Laureno, minority leader, nominated James N. Mulreed, and Patrick J. Hogan.

Upon motion of Clifford Waterbury and seconded by Babette Ransohoff the nominations be closed.

It was then MOVED and seconded that the four members nominated be named to the committee. The motion was PASSED.

The President then read a letter from Robert G. Shepherd, 9th District, regarding a clarification of the Corporation Counsel's opinion on Personnel Appointments.

Mr. Pierson said he would check on this with the Corporation Counsel.

Upon motion of James N. Mulreed, 4th District, and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM until Wednesday night, February 8, 1950, at the Burdick Junior High School.

FEBRUARY 8, 1950

The adjourned meeting of the Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford was called to order by the President, Samuel F. Pierson, at 8:15 PM, EST, on February 8, 1950, at Burdick Jr. High School.

Roll call was taken with 34 present and 6 absent. See attached attendance sheet.

Mr. Pierson continued the Steering Committee Report. He referred to a letter from the Board of Public Safety concerning the notification to all applicants of the results of their examinations.

Report of the Fiscal Committee

of the Board of Representatives -

February 6, 1950

The Fiscal Committee of the Board of Representatives held a meeting on February 5, 1950. Messrs. Cameron, Hogan, Sutherland, and Mrs. Seeley were present. Mr. Laurenno was not present but later agreed with the recommendations of the Committee.

(1) It is recommended that \$15,000 be appropriated for the renovation of the Town Hall.

(2) It is recommended that the building of the Halloween Yacht Club building be leased to the Club for a period of two years.

(3) It is recommended that the sum of \$2,000 be appropriated for the deficit in the pension fund of the school custodians, according to the special act of the Legislature as amended in 1947.

(4) It is recommended that \$65,000 be appropriated for a reappraisal of all property in Stamford provided that the work to be completed in time to establish the new Grand List as of September 1950. One member of the Committee, while approving of this appropriation in principle, does not agree with adding this item to this year's appropriations.

(5) It is recommended that the following appropriations be added to the original appropriations for the Welfare Department:

For Home Relief to June 30, 1950....	\$40,000.00
For Telephone.....	270.00
For Shoes and Clothing.....	<u>500.00</u>
Total.....	\$40,770.00

(6) The final approval of the Board of Finance on the purchase of the parking lot on the corner of Bell and South Streets with the details of the proposal was not in the hands of the Committee. We therefor took no action on this proposal.

(7) The City of Stamford in January sold the following bonds approved at the meeting of the Board of Representatives on October 3rd:

For the purchase of the Hubbard Heights Golf Club and the Glenbrook and Spring- dale Playgrounds.....	\$202,000.00
For the Dolan School Equipment.....	<u>219,000.00</u>
	\$421,000.00

(over)

(2) Report of the Fiscal Committee of the Board of
Representatives - February 6, 1950 Continued

These bonds were bought by the Bankers Trust Co. of New York, and will carry an interest of 1.20%. The Glenbrook etc. bonds paid us a premium of \$177.36, and the Dolan School Bonds a premium of \$201.04. Interest totaling \$1,206.88 was paid to the City by the Bank for the period between the date of issue on the bonds and the final date of completion of the transaction.

(8) There were no outstanding Tax Anticipation Notes on February 1st.

(9) The borrowing capacity of the City as of February 1st was approximately five million dollars.

(10) The Fiscal Committee has on hand for your inspection a copy of the interim report of the auditors to the Board of Finance, a copy of which is also on file in the office of the Town Clerk for public inspection.

Respectfully submitted,

John Cameron
Patrick Hogan
Michael Laureno
Hunt Sutherland
Louise T. Seeley, Chairman