

AUGUST 1, 1949

A regular meeting of the Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford, was held at the Burdick Junior High School on Monday, August 1, 1949. The meeting was called to order at 8:14 PM, EDT by the President, Samuel F. Pierson.

In answer to the Roll Call, all were present except John J. Gacher, Leon Staples, James W. Harrington, Edward Ballo, Stephen Kelly and John W. Cook.

Upon motion of Louise T. Seeley, 1st District, and seconded by David Waterbury, 8th District, the minutes of the July 11th meeting were accepted with the following correction made by Mrs. Catherine B. Cleary, 8th District; On Page 52 in the 4th paragraph the last word in the third line be "consideration" instead of "clarification".

Petition #32 was read, being a request from the Sister of Villa Maria for a bazaar on August 26th and 27th on the grounds of their retreat. It was moved, seconded and carried that this petition be granted.

Petition #33 was read, being a petition from the Salvation Army to hold a Tent Meeting from September 10th to the 25th. Subject to a check by the Fire Marshall a motion to accept this petition was made by Helen J. Bromley, 20th District, seconded by David Waterbury, and carried.

Petition #34 was read, being a request from the Board of Selectmen and the Town Clerk to reduce the voter making sessions.

Leonard DeVita, 5th District, stated he believed the citizens should be given every opportunity to become voters and wanted the present system to continue. Louise T. Seeley, 1st District, suggested that the clerical help be cut down if the cost was too great. She stated when they were held occasionally people did not remember the dates and a lot of confusion ensued and with the present system it is much easier when the people know the date and time.

Ralph J. Carroll, Selectman, stated that the reason for the requested cut in the number of times the sessions were to be held was because so few appeared at the last three sessions.

Sewell H. Corkran, 18th District brought up the question of shorter hours for the voter sessions but the matter was not acted upon by the Board. Upon motion by Daniel Miller, 16th District, seconded and carried, IT WAS VOTED that the voter making sessions remain as at present.

Petition #35 was a petition from Jeanette L. Bell, 17th District, concerning a survey of the sewer needs of Stamford, to include Glenbrook, Belltown, Springdale and the Cove and Shipton and other areas where the population is sufficient to warrant sewage disposal.

There was considerable discussion upon this matter. David Waterbury, 8th District, stated that the Engineering Department had already gone into this sewage disposal system when he was a member of the previous planning commission.

Jeanette Bell, 17th District, thought there should be an appropriation in the proper department for a technical survey so that we could arrive at some approximate cost to the tax payers for this project to be installed. She stated that no action has been taken on this for the last twenty years.

Michael Wofsey, 1st District, stated that Section 641 of the Charter provides for the procedure concerning public improvements and stated that with Mrs. Bell's permission he would formulate a resolution to cover this matter. See Resolution #167.

22 The matter was referred to new business at the end of the meeting.

Petition #36 was a petition from Mrs. Edward Scofield concerning the truck traffic on Myrtle Avenue.

Mr. Pierson, President, stated that this matter was not for the Board's action and should be referred to the Chief of Police.

Louise T. Seeley, 1st District, read her report as Chairman of the Fiscal Committee. The first group referred to the appropriations approved by the Board of Finance on July 15th.

Item 1. A total request of \$25,840.00 for the completion of Walter Dolan Junior High School.

Interior painting of all wood trim	\$11,200.00
Additional funds for class room lighting	3,300.00
Topsoil to complete grading	2,400.00
Drain in rear court	680.00
Drain at SW drive entrance	220.00
Extension of parking area	780.00
Wire fence	6,600.00
Asphalt connecting walk	<u>660.00</u>
Total	\$25,840.00

Against this total the Board of Finance applied a balance of \$11,000 in the school equipment fund making a net amount approved by the Board of Finance \$14,840. Although these items were not covered by the original appropriation, it was felt by the committee, upon investigation, that an eventual saving would result to the city if the interior paint were not postponed, if the wire work was covered and not permitted to rust, if modern fluorescent lights were put in all the class rooms. The other six items, all outside yard work, were unforeseen in the original appropriation request.

The Committee had noted that the contract for paving six school yards for which \$14,466 had been approved in the Education Budget had been let for \$9,158. The Committee felt that this \$5,000.00 difference might reasonably be applied to the outside work at the Dolan School.

Patrick Hogan, 10th District, stated that the Board had been very generous to the Board of Education in its original request in the budget.

James Mulreed, 4th District, stated that the Board of Finance had cut heavily some of the other departments but had been very lenient with the Board of Education and felt that the Board of Education could effect economies to such an extent that it will be unnecessary to grant this request.

Babette Ransohoff, 15th District, favored accepting the recommendation of the Fiscal Committee stating that since we had spent so much money on Dolan Junior High School that we should not quibble over the final amount to complete this large unit properly.

Upon motion made by Louise T. Seeley and seconded by Leonard DeVita, IT WAS VOTED that resolution #16 be adopted:

Resolution #16

BE IT RESOLVED that the total expenditures of \$25,840.00 be approved, but that only \$9,840.00 of new money be appropriated and recommend that the \$11,000.00 in the equipment fund and the \$5,000.00 saved in the school yard paving be transferred by the School Board to complete the Dolan Junior High School.

Item 2. The Fiscal Committee recommended the approval of resolution #17 requesting \$11,220.00 for operation of the Town Dump for this fiscal year. This is made up of two items: Labor and material \$5,500.00; new Bull Dozer \$5,720. The committee recommended, however, that as rapidly as possible, the garbage now delivered to this dump, be delivered to the City Incinerator, unless the distance

from the point of origin and collection is too great to make this economical. However, most of the densely populated former Town area is South of the Merritt Highway, and as near to the incinerator as to the Town dump. The committee further recommended that all garbage delivered to the City Incinerator collected from areas outside the sanitation tax district, whether in the former town or the former city third tax district, be charged per load for the service of the incinerator, this income to be applied to the net cost of sanitation service now charged to the old city 1st tax district.

Upon motion made by Louise Seeley, seconded by David Waterbury IT WAS VOTED that the resolution be adopted:

Resolution #17

BE IT RESOLVED that the expenditure of \$11,220.00 for operation of the Town Dump be approved. This expenditure to be made up of two items: Labor and material \$5,500.00; new Bull Dozer \$5,720.00.

Item 3. The Fiscal Committee recommended the approval of resolution #18 requesting \$1,900.32 for services of the Town Health Officer, April 1 through June 30, 1949. This sum is a deficiency appropriation for the former Town government for the last fiscal year. This makes a total appropriation of \$5,590 for nine months or at the rate of \$7,400 for a 12 month year, comparing with \$3,823.20 for the 1947-48 and \$5,977.03 for the year 1946-47. The committee felt there was no alternative than to recommend this deficiency appropriation.

Upon motion of Louise Seeley, seconded by Hunt Sutherland IT WAS VOTED 18 to 14 to adopt this resolution.

Resolution #18

BE IT RESOLVED that an expenditure of \$1,900.32 for services of the Town Health Officer, April 1 through June 30, 1949, be approved.

Item 4. Upon motion by Louise Seeley and duly seconded IT WAS VOTED to adopt resolution #19.

Resolution #19

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Representatives that John J. Mulkerin, a regular member of the Police Department be retired on pension.

~~The proposed lease between John Poltrack and the City was laid on the table until its terms have been approved by the Planning Board and checked by the Legislation and Rules Committee of the Board and by the Corporation Counsel.~~

The Board requested that Mrs. Seeley read the findings of her committee which resulted from a letter from Sherman Hoyt enclosing a report of the Connecticut Expenditure Council on comparative costs of operating five Connecticut cities. It showed that Stamford has the highest per capita cost for operating except Greenwich. After deducting sums for services not rendered in Stamford, from Bridgeport's operating expenses, the committee found a comparable figure of \$67.36 per person in Bridgeport against \$100.50 per person in Stamford. In view of these comparisons with Bridgeport and other Connecticut cities the committee believes that the additional appropriations requested by the Mayor in a letter to the Board of Representatives, but not yet referred to the Board of Finance, could and should be met by more efficient management of the money already appropriated rather than by additional taxes levied. She showed for example the Tax Collectors and Assessors offices for this year in Stamford have had an appropriation of \$129,425 approved. The cost of these two services in Bridgeport, with a population of 165,000, for the same year is only \$81,997, a difference of \$48,000. From this difference we should deduct the \$12,000 we pay for rent for these offices, and

possibly \$5,500 for printing tax pamphlets, since Bridgeport operates its own printing department, and this service is charged to it. The committee fails to see, however, any good reason why the salaries for collecting taxes in Stamford, with a population of 65,000, should be \$55,190 and in Bridgeport, with a population of 165,000 the taxes are collected under a payroll of only \$32,073. We believe that a property re-assessment by an outside firm should be accomplished as soon as possible, but we believe that at least half of its cost could be met by savings in the departments under the Board of Taxation.

Other departments indicated further possible savings. Nearly \$8,000 more is spent on our city hall payroll for example, whereas Bridgeport operates two other municipal office buildings but their total cost does not equal the \$20,200 we pay for rent for additional office space. Therefore the Fiscal Committee recommended that additional appropriations for this fiscal year be met by the saving inherently possible in centralized purchasing, with all bids open to public inspection, and by the consolidation of municipal services still operating as two separate organizations. The Committee promised to give speedy approval to the transfer of any funds so saved during the balance of the fiscal year.

The Committee pointed out that the amounts alloted by the State for the Town roads, the unimproved roads, and the State Aid account, are not included in the estimated revenues to be deducted from appropriations in laying the tax rate.

It was moved that the Report of the Fiscal Committee be accepted, seconded by Babette Ransohoff, 15th District, and passed.

James N. Mulreed, 4th District, and Jeanette Bell, 17th District, complimented The Fiscal Committee on their report.

Samuel Pierson stated that the whole subject of economy of government would bear a lot of study with other communities as well as Bridgeport.

Babette Ransohoff stated that it is necessary to understand what services are being rendered under any municipal system and whether they are adequate or just economical.

Michael Laureno, 3rd District, agreed that Louise Seeley's report was a good report to read to this Board, but that we should investigate other towns such as Norwalk and see what their per capita tax is. He also felt that the tax burden shared by industry and commerce is an important factor in computing the per capita tax rate of a community.

Robert G. Shepherd, 9th District, said with reference to the Agenda that the rules provide that a period of not less than five days be allowed for business to be presented in order to be placed on the Agenda and acted on at the next meeting.

He suggested that the Steering Committee meet on either Tuesday or Wednesday of the preceding week of the meeting so that the representatives will receive the Agenda on Friday.

Mr. Pierson, the President, stated it was his intention in the future to have the Steering Committee meet on Wednesday nights.

Helen Bromley, 20th District, in reporting for The Public Welfare and Recreation Committee said that they had taken no action on the servicing of liquor on municipal property because the bill has now been passed setting up a five man board to govern Hubbard Heights Golf Club. She referred to Petition #15 (r 20) which recommends that this board, when appointed, confer with her Committee.

Daniel Miller, 16th District, reporting for the Appointments Committee submitted the name of Llewellyn Bromfield, Jr., for the position of Commissioner of Public Works of the City of Stamford. He stated the committee had examined the qualifications of Mr. Bromfield and felt he is qualified for the position, and recommended that the Board of Representatives approve the appointment.

In answering a question raised by George Lockwood, Mr. Miller stated that he had asked Mr. Bromfield if he intended to devote full time to this position. Mr. Bromfield stated that he did and that he had not been active for some years in his business except to sign maps and in a financial way.

The meeting then proceeded to ballot and the Chair announced the following vote:

Yes	26
No	8

Mr. Pierson at 10:25 moved that a 10 minute recess be declared. The motion was seconded by John L. Cameron, 20th District, and carried.

The meeting was called to order again by the President at 10:35.

Leon Staples, 7th District, Chairman of the Health and Protection Committee, was not present and there was no report from his committee.

Michael Wofsey, 1st District, submitted his report as Chairman of the Legislation and Rules Committee. He reported that a card index system will be set up by Clerk Babette Ransohoff for the Board of Representative minutes and filed in the Town Clerk's Office. Mr. Wofsey read a letter from Corporation Counsel, George Wise, concerning his opinion in the case of a possible additional pension for Mr. Joseph F. Lonergan, a former member of the Fire Department. Mr. Wise's opinion was that the Board does not have the power to increase the amount of a pension and the remedy lies in a special act of the Legislature specifically granting an additional sum to Mr. Lonergan.

Michael Wofsey introduced Ordinance #1 concerning sewage disposal facilities asking, since it did not appear on the Agenda, that the Board consider this an emergency and act upon it at this meeting. This was not considered an emergency by the Board and will follow Charter procedure (204.1).

Mr. Wofsey reporting on a letter from Mayor George T. Barrett referring to fees owed to the City Court by Stamford Attorneys, stated that this was not within the jurisdiction of the Board of Representatives but rather within the jurisdiction of the judges and clerk of the City Court.

At the recommendation of the Legislature and Rules Committee it was moved by Mr. Wofsey, seconded by Babette Ransohoff and IT WAS VOTED that the board create a committee on fairs, bazaars and carnivals and suggest that all such applications be referred to this committee and should be published by the applicants, in the legal column in the form suggested in the committee report.

Mr. Pierson appointed as a committee for this purpose Daniel Miller and Michael Laureno.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the report of the Legislation and Rules Committee. Motion was approved.

Sherman R. Hoyt, 19th District, then read his report from the Planning and Zoning Committee. ~~He reported that Petition #28 re curbs and sidewalks on Dale Street was sent to the City Engineer.~~

A discussion followed Mr. Hoyt's report concerning the acceptance of streets by the city, when the cost to the city and upkeep begins, etc. Mr. Hoyt explained that his committee did not want to accept a street if it was to be a burden to taxpayers not in the vicinity or section in which the street was located.

Upon the request of Mr. Wofsey, Mr. Hoyt accepted an amendment to his report to read as follows: "This committee further feels that a condition for acceptance also be that the acceptance of any new street will not constitute an additional tax burden upon the citizens of other parts of Stamford."

The motion was made that the report be accepted and that the last paragraph be recommended to the Planning and Zoning Commission for rewriting.

The motion was seconded and carried.

As a second part to his committee's report Mr. Hoyt read a letter from the Plan Commission with reference to the building line on Elm Street on the southerly side. It was unanimously voted by the Planning Board to revise the line to a 10 foot set-back for the entire distance.

Michael Wofsey, 1st District, submitted resolution #20.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Representatives hereby declares its opinion that the public safety, welfare and necessity require that the building line on the southerly side of Elm Street be changed to a uniform 10' setback and we declare our intention to make such a building line, and approve such proposal as previously approved by the Planning Board, subject to the pursuance of all steps required by the provisions of Chapter 64 of the City Charter.

It was moved, seconded and carried that this resolution be adopted.

Samuel F. Pierson, 5th District, Chairman of the Steering Committee read his report of the committee with regard to Petition #37 from Jeanette Bell, 17th District, regarding pollution of a stream in Springdale.

Mrs. Bell asked that she be heard on this matter. She stated that the residents thought the Springdale Laundry had something to do with this situation and so she investigated. Her findings were that all water was purified before being released into this stream. It is the general consensus of opinion that the trouble is from cess pools.

James Mulreed, 4th District, stated that this was a case of enforcing the law with regard to a nuisance and recommended that it be referred to the Health Department.

Mr. Pierson read a letter from the Oaklawn and Newfield Aves. Committee concerning the Pickwick Ice Cream Co. The President pointed out that this board is not a law enforcement body and that the matter be referred to the Health Commissioner and Police Captain.

Mr. Pierson stated that the matter of a study of a Pension Fund had been covered in the report of the Fiscal Committee.

Under New Business it was brought to the attention of the Board of Representatives that with regard to the bridge over the Riprowan River on Pulaski Street, the supports do not appear to be strong enough and this was referred to the Public Works Committee.

The President then related that he and Michael Wofsey, 1st District, had gone on a tour of several of our public beaches. He said that around Cummings Park the conditions were found to be deplorable. The beaches are filthy, beach line is terrible, only one shower head working and very bad conditions in the ladies' and men's toilets. There is crying need for improvement.

There was a lengthy discussion concerning the beaches at the ends of streets in Shijjan. Mrs. Seeley clearly explained these conditions and Mrs. Bromley suggested that immediate action be taken to get the whole beach situation corrected.

IT WAS VOTED by a standing vote of 23 Yes and 11 No to use emergency measures in regard to resolution 21 which reads as follows:

RESOLVED by the Board of Representatives that an immediate investigation be made by the proper authorities as to all available bathing facilities in the City of Stamford and that such investigation determine:

1. What facilities are now owned by the City;
2. What facilities are owned but are not in full use;
3. What work is required to make all such facilities available to the public as speedily as possible;
4. The cost of such work;
5. What plans, if any, have been made for the acquisition of additional facilities commensurate with the present needs of the community and its probable growth;
6. As speedily as possible management of beaches be turned over to the Board of Recreation in accordance with The Charter.
7. Appoint a Board of Recreation,

Motion to accept this resolution was made, seconded and carried.

James N. Mulreed, 4th District and Patrick Hogan, 10th District, asked that the Mayor be requested to deliver his message to this Board.

Michael Wofsey, 1st District, moved the Board of Representatives invite the Mayor to give the Annual Report to us at our next regular meeting.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Resolution #22, presented by Jeanette S. Bell, 17th District, concerning a program of sewage disposal was seconded by Mr. Wofsey and carried.

It reads as follows:

RESOLVED that the Board of Representatives does hereby declare its opinion that the public health, safety, welfare and necessity require that we immediately embark upon a full program of sewers and sewage disposal plants. This Board does hereby further declare its intention to lay out and build all necessary sanitary sewers and sanitation disposal plants required in the entire City of Stamford. We request the Mayor to report the present status of the City's sewage plans and institute the necessary procedures to expedite and accelerate the completion of a full sewerage system.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 AM August 2, 1949, DST

Respectfully submitted,

BABETTE S. RANSOHOFF
Clerk

Notes on next page.

NOTES:

Petition #32 to Sisters of Villa Maria, copy to Mayor
Petition #33 Salvation Army, copy to Capt. Raymond, Chief of Fire Dept.
Petition #34 Board of Selectmen
Petition #35 Petition from Jeanette Bell, See resolution #16
Petition #36 Letter to Mrs. E.C. Scofield with copies to Mr. Canavan and Mr. Cook. Also letter to Chief Brennan, copy to Board of Public Safety
Appointment of Llewelyn Bromfield, letter to Mayor
Copy of Ordinance #1 concerning sewage disposal facilities - to Health Office and Corporation Counsel
Report of Legislation and Rules Committee; letter to Mr. Barrett re fees owed City Court. Letter to Planning Board, copy to Sherman Hoyt re acceptance of streets.
Copy of letter from Planning Board re Building line northerly side Elm Street to Sherman Hoyt
Resolution #20 copies to Mr. Wofsey, Mr. Buckley, Mr. Hoyt
Petition #37 Referred to Health Officer; cc to Jeanette Bell
Letter from Oaklawn and Newfield Aves. Committee re traffic conditions; copies to Mayor, Health Officer
Letter re Bridge over Pulaski St. to Public Works Committee, Stearns Woodman
Resolution #21 Copies to Mayor and Board of Recreation
Resolution #22 Copies to Mayor, Planning Board and Jeanette Bell