

SEPTEMBER 12, 1949

A regular meeting of the Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford was held at the Burdick Junior High School on Monday, September 12, 1949. The meeting was called to order by the President, Samuel F. Pierson at 8:15 PM EDT.

Roll Call was taken. Attendance sheet is attached.

The Invocation was given by the Reverend L. C. Contos,

The Clerk presented the minutes of the August 1st meeting and the Special Meeting of July 18th for acceptance, subject to a correction on page 59, namely, Resolution #16 to read Resolution #22. Sherman R. Hoyt, 19th District, requested that on Page 63, the sentence "He reported that Petition #28 re curbs and sidewalks on Dale Street was sent to the City Engineer," be stricken from the minutes, as not having been a part of his report. Robert Shepherd, 9th District, questioned a paragraph on Page 64 wherein it states that the Pickwick Ice Cream Co. matter be referred to the Police Captain. As this reference did not appear on page 66 under "Notes", he questioned whether or not it had been referred to the Police Captain. Jeanette L. Bell, 17th District, stated she had received a copy of such a letter.

Babette Ransohoff, 15th District, moved that the minutes of the August 1st meeting be approved as corrected. The motion was seconded by Sherman Hoyt and PASSED.

PETITION NO. 38 was read as follows: "We, the undersigned occupants of the Oak Park Project, Stamford, Connecticut, request: That payment in lieu of taxes be no more than one-fourth of ten per-cent or one dollar ~~per family per month~~. At present the City of Stamford may collect ten percent or any part thereof, or may allow this property to go untaxed."

It was the belief of the Steering Committee that a reduction of the rent on this project of low cost housing would increase the load on the other taxpayers of this city, and that this committee was against any reduction. A letter from Patrick J. Hogan, 10th District, was read which stated objections to the petition similar to those of the Steering Committee.

Babette Ransohoff, 15th District, stated that she had spoken to Mr. William Ward, Chairman of the City Housing Authority, who advised her that under the new state financing, the rental of those apartments will be reduced to about \$47.00 or \$48.00 (a reduction of \$5 or \$6) for a four room apartment, still maintaining the 10% payment in lieu of taxes. James N. Mulreed, 4th District, stated that these people were asking for services received by all other taxpayers but that they did not wish to pay their share of the taxes. Mr. Pierson stated that these apartments may not always be rented to veteran families. Patrick Scarella, 3rd District, concurred with Mr. Mulreed and John L. Cameron, 20th District, made a motion that the petition be disapproved by this Board. The motion was seconded by Sherman Hoyt and PASSED.

PETITION NO. 39, being a petition regarding acceptance of roads off Newfield Avenue was referred to the Planning Board.

The President read a letter from Sam Baron, owner of the LOT next to the Central Fire House, offering for sale to the city this lot at 631 Main Street. Mr. Pierson stated that the Steering Committee had discussed this matter and believed it was properly a matter to be referred to the Planning Board and sug-

gested they consult with the Board of Public Safety on the matter. A motion to this effect was made by James Mulreed, 4th District, seconded by Patrick J. Hogan, 10th District, and PASSED.

The President then read a letter from Mayor Barrett concerning standardization of sick leaves and vacations for employees of Stamford. Michael E. Laurenno, 3rd District, made a motion that this Board recommend to the Chairman of the Personnel Commission that his commission launch an immediate study into this matter of standardization of sick leaves and vacations for employees of Stamford. The motion was seconded by James N. Mulreed and PASSED. Patrick Hogan, 10th District, moved that every department be given an opportunity to make its own suggestions or recommendations to the Personnel Commission with their reasons therefor. This motion was seconded by James W. Harrington, 9th District, and PASSED.

Mayor Barrett was requested by the President to come forward and give his annual message to the Board of Representatives at this time.

The President then said: "As you realize, we do not have an official annual report from the Mayor because it would be at the end and not at the beginning of the year."

Mr. Mulreed explained that The Board felt it important that the Mayor present his message at the beginning of the year so that the members would know about the various appropriations and how they tie into the Mayor's general plan. He stated that we have been asked to approve or disapprove recommendations by the Board of Finance without knowing the Mayor's plans.

After reading his report, The Mayor added the following comments pertaining to the auditing of the city's books: "Instead of 4 or 5 men coming in at the end of three months for several days or two or three weeks, it would be far better to have a qualified firm to consult with this Board or the Board of Finance on the city affairs. It would not cost any more in the long run. Every bill or contract would be listed and stored away and could be totalled up and it would be a matter of five or six days in getting a balance and we would consult with them and get their comments and would have a modern job done for our city."

Mr. Barrett stated "that the Purchasing Agent's Office will cost the city 18 to 20 thousand dollars." Also, "The Charter has turned over to the Mayor's Office the purchasing of some of the items for the Board of Education with practically no relief to the Board of Education as they have to keep the records just the same. There is a mountain of work in the signing of checks and Okaying of invoices. All of this is done without any appropriation for same. What we need is a Charter Revision Committee to correct these and other faults of the Charter."

Mr. Barrett stated that the reason for calling in the Army Engineers on the pollution problem was that they have authority to give orders, whereas we can only request in many instances.

Mr. Barrett stated that everybody is questioning the danger of Toms Road. "We all know that plans have to come a long way before being affected. In considering the need of the community and knowing that Toms Road School was inevitable, plans were laid for a divided highway on Toms Road with an idea of economy in operation. We could put in drainage in the center, plowing all snow into the center, leaving all sidewalks and driveways clean of snow. I went into this with the Engineering Department and the School Department. No member of the Board of Finance even mentioned this subject with reference to the budget. No member even asked a question.

"We have done nothing after four years about play grounds, Vidal Park and

West Side Park, except blue prints." Concerning sewers in the Cove, he believes this to be the most important project, more so than Vidal Park, and the next in importance is pollution. He believes the sewers should be attended to before any permanent repairs on the streets are made. The Mayor talked about and recommended the purchase of property on Vine Road for a school in the not too distant future stating that this was the fastest growing section of the city and we would soon need this property as a school building site. Also that we needed it for dumping snow.

Mr. Barrett spoke about the age of some of our fire fighting apparatus and that some of it was beyond repair.

Michael E. Lauren, 3rd District, asked the Mayor if he could give us the sum and substance of the Welfare Department Report, as to trends and costs of new cases in the Town Welfare Department. When told by the Mayor that the trend in relief shows an increase in welfare cases, Mr. Lauren wanted to know if the men who get relief could be put to work on public works.

Mr. Barrett said, "We cannot force people on relief to work, but we can offer them jobs. Many do not come back when offered a job. If we can obtain employment for them that way it will cut the cost of relief. In 1939 we spent in families where there were employable persons 154 thousand dollars and got back for services rendered work valued at \$110,000."

Michael Wofsey, 1st District, asked: "I wonder, Mr. Barrett, whether you are in a position to state to this board now what you have in mind for future capital expenditures for a municipal building."

Mr. Barrett thinks that for some time there has been very much need in this community for such a building. If plans were ready this would be a good time to put it out for bids, since other bids are thirty to thirty five percent lower than 18 months ago. The contractors tell Mr. Barrett that work is slow. "There is a school being built for 67¢ per foot whereas, before it would have cost 97¢ per foot. Conditions are ripe for public improvements. I believe the Town Hall plans are in existence. Whether they would be approved today, I have no means of knowing. Right now and not a year from now is the time to start." He stated that the present Town Hall in his opinion should be used as a hall of records because it already has several storage vaults which could be used. "The Police Department should be in a separate building with the City Courts."

George V. Connors, 10th District, said to the Mayor at this point, "You spoke about a school on Vine Road, 'in the fastest growing area.' I think that over on the East Side you have a bad condition. 500 apartments at Fairlawn, 168 at Dale Street and probably 220 more in a new development. I think you ought to think of a school there."

Mr. Barrett: "I was merely giving an example of what should be done. We have a very fine Planning Board, who will take your point into consideration."

Michael E. Lauren, 3rd District, asked the Mayor about the Bond obligations. The Mayor stated our borrowing capacity is \$3,630,178.90 of the \$10,000,000 total. He stated the borrowing capacity was 5% of the Grand List.

James W. Harrington, 9th District, asked the Mayor if he contemplated any improvements or repairs to U.S. 42 Avenue and connecting streets. He stated the roads were in deplorable condition and almost injurious to people riding on buses through them.

The Mayor said his plan was to take care of the heaviest traffic roads first.

Mr. Barrett stated that he will be available and will meet with this body at any time if he can be of service.

Patrick Scarella, 3rd District, requested that a copy of the Mayor's written report be provided to each Board member.

Mr. Wofsey made a motion that we have a ten minute recess, this motion was seconded by James W. Harrington, 9th District, and called at 9:45 PM EDT.

The meeting was called to order again at 9:58 PM EDT by the President.

Louise T. Seeley, 1st District, read the report of The Fiscal Committee,

Upon motion made by Louise Seeley, seconded by James Harrington, 9th District, IT WAS VOTED that the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLUTION #23

BE IT RESOLVED that the expenditure of \$1,800 for the purchase and installation of a new heating and hot water boiler for No. 2 Fire Station be approved.

Mr. Mulreed, 4th District, wanted to know why the boiler of this building had not been inspected and who was responsible for the inspection of this boiler.

Leon Staples, 7th District, asked if the boilers were insured and inspected annually by the Insurance Company. He felt that all municipal buildings should have insured boilers that would be properly inspected.

The President asked for action on the motion.

George V. Connors, 10th District, said that section 619 of the Charter called for a vote on each item. A rising vote was taken and the vote was 32 for, 0 against the purchase.

The next item of Mrs. Seeley's report was a request, previously approved by the Board of Representatives, for \$5,500 for labor and materials and \$5,720 for the purchase of a bulldozer for operation of the Town Dump. Mrs. Seeley stated that there was no record of the Board of Finance's approval of this item and that was the reason for the repeated request. Mrs. Seeley stated this item had been approved by her committee and requested that a repeat resolution be approved by the Board of Representatives.

Upon motion made by Louise Seeley, seconded by Helen J. Peatt, 16th District, IT WAS VOTED 32 for, 0 against, that the resolution be adopted:

RESOLUTION #24

BE IT RESOLVED that the expenditure of \$5,500 for labor and materials at the Town Dump and \$5,720 for the purchase of a bulldozer for operation of the Town Dump be approved, making a total expenditure of \$11,220.00.

Helen J. Peatt, 16th District, stated that it seems a long trip for the garbage men to make to the incenerator when their route winds up nearer the Town Dump and that this should be continued in operation. She stated the men up there seem to be doing a very good job, and it would save a good deal of time.

Mrs. Seeley said the matter warranted study, but stated the City incinerator was big enough to handle the garbage of both divisions of the city; the city and the former town.

Mrs. Seeley's next request was for the appropriation of \$300 additional for clerical help for the Board of Finance for the balance of the year. She stated her committee recommended the approval of this appropriation, realizing the

importance of proper records of the action of the Board of Finance.

Michael Wofsey, 1st District, stated the clerical work must be performed satisfactorily and the Board of Finance needs a clerk because the work and records of this board have been lacking in some legal aspects.

Upon motion made by David Waterbury, 8th District, and seconded by Clifford Waterbury, 4th District, IT WAS VOTED 32 for, 0 against, the resolution be adopted as follows:

RESOLUTION #25

BE IT RESOLVED that the expenditure of \$300.00 for additional clerical help for the Board of Finance for the balance of the year be approved.

Mrs. Seeley's fourth request for appropriation was a request for \$4,900 additional for the taking of the annual census, this in addition to the \$5,100 previously appropriated for this purpose.

Michael Lauren, 3rd District, wanted to know how the committee arrived at \$10,000 if they based the figure on a population of 72,000 at 10 cents a name and if the balance was for clerical work. If that is the explanation he stated he was in favor of it.

James N. Mulreed, 4th District, speaking in favor of the appropriation said that Mr. Neuwien explained in detail how they arrived at this figure. They intend to incorporate the City and school census and due to the cost of additional information the requested increase is necessary.

Helen J. Bromley, 20th District, raised the question as to whether we need the additional information which would increase the cost. She stated she believed we should try and keep some of the costs at what they were originally.

Michael Wofsey, 1st District, explained that ~~Mr. Neuwien~~ told him this tabulation will be made up in duplicate, one set available to the Board of Education for their analysis and the other for the Registrar of Voters, and Planning Commission and therefore, it will not be necessary to hire extra help. "We have already voted for the 7 1/2 cents for the Board of Education census and those questionnaires will be available to the other bodies," he said and was in favor of approval of the \$4,000 additional.

Upon motion duly made and seconded IT WAS VOTED that the resolution be adopted, 31 for, 1 opposed.

RESOLUTION #26

BE IT RESOLVED that the expenditure of \$4,900 additional for the taking of the annual census be approved.

Mr. Pierson then asked Mr. Weldon P. Monson, Chairman of the Personnel Commission who was in the audience to come forward and explain their request for an additional \$5,997.50 for this commission.

Mr. Monson had with him a prepared report which he read to the Board of Representatives, showing the need for the requested funds.

William A. Adriance, 18th District, pointed out that the appropriation asked was for 10/12ths of a year.

Mr. Mulreed asked how many city employees would come under the merit system. Mr. Monson stated 721, in the classified but that unclassified personnel brought this figure close to 1200.

Upon motion made by Samuel F. Pierson, 5th District, seconded by James W.

See Page 77. Next to last paragraph for addition

Harrington, 9th District, IT WAS VOTED 29 for, 3 opposed that the resolution be adopted.

RESOLUTION #27

BE IT RESOLVED THAT an expenditure of \$5,997.50 additional for the Personnel Commission be approved.

Mrs. Seeley then presented a request for \$600 for Band Concerts, and stated that the Fiscal Committee recommended approval of this appropriation.

Upon motion made by Clifford Waterbury, 4th District, and seconded by Michael Laureno, 3rd District, IT WAS VOTED 28 for, 4 opposed that the resolution be adopted.

RESOLUTION #28

BE IT RESOLVED that an expenditure of \$600.00 for the Stamford Musicians Local 626 for supplementing Union funds for free band concerts during the summer and at Community affairs during the winter be approved.

The Fiscal Committee recommended an additional appropriation of \$455 for the printing of the annual budget in the Advocate.

Mr. Mulreed stated he was in favor of paying the City's bill but questioned its legality. He stated that the bill should have been paid out of existing funds and that no one had any right to contract that bill.

Upon motion made by Louise Seeley, and duly seconded, IT WAS VOTED 32 for, 0 opposed, that the resolution be adopted.

RESOLUTION #29

BE IT RESOLVED that an expenditure of \$455 additional be approved for advertising by the Board of Finance.

Mrs. Seeley then stated that the Board of Finance had voted to appropriate an additional \$12,207 to the Planning Board, but they had not sent the request to the Board of Representatives for action by the Steering Committee, although it had been brought to their attention in time.

Michael Wofsey, 1st District, moved and it was duly seconded, that this Board consider to add this matter to the Agenda.

Mr. Mulreed stated he was not opposed to considering it at this meeting, but matters to come before the board must be presented to the Board in time to be placed on the Agenda so that proper consideration can be given to the matter. The Steering Committee meetings are held the Wednesday prior to the meeting. That gives the members a little time to consider the various items on the agenda, and they had not had the opportunity to consider this item.

Sherman R. Hoyt, 19th District, said he agreed with Mr. Mulreed in general but was in favor of considering the matter at this time.

A standing vote was taken to add this item to the Agenda. The vote was 20 for, 11 opposed, 1 abstaining, and since the necessary 2/3 was lacking, THE MOTION WAS DEFEATED. Mr. Pierson then stated the matter would be considered under new business.

The President then read a letter from Town Clerk George Close regarding making voters. The letter stated that since the cost of a session for making

voters was \$37.50, fewer sessions should be held. The Steering Committee thought this was reasonable for making voters and it was the opinion of the Committee to deny this request for changing the number of meetings. Mr. Close when informed by Mr. Pierson of the Steering Committee's opinion said he would withdraw his letter.

Samuel F. Pierson, then read a copy of a letter from the Board of Tax Relief to the Board of Taxation in which they requested financial reimbursement for their services for several sessions in January of each year. Mr. Pierson's letter to the Board of Tax Relief written at the request of the Steering Committee, was also read.

Patrick Hogan, 10th District, stated with reference to Mr. Pierson's letter that he would go even further and ask the Board to resign.

George V. Connors, 10th District, stated they knew they were not to be paid when the Appointments Committee interviewed them. He also favored asking for their resignations.

Michael Wofsey, 1st District, said he did not think the opportunity should be passed by without pointing out that their services should not be compensated any more than any others. "I think it is perfectly outrageous and we should denounce them. It is a shameful thing that such a request should be made. There are forty people here who devote much more time without pay. No where else has that kind of a question been raised by any one board. The Board of Representatives, Planning Board, Board of Finance and others devote much more time than the Board of Tax Relief and without compensation."

Patrick Scarella, 3rd District, moved that this Board recommend to the Mayor that he request the resignations of these four men.

The motion was seconded and IT WAS VOTED 20 for, 11 opposed, 1 abstaining, that the resolution be adopted.

RESOLUTION #30

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor of The City of Stamford request ~~the resignation~~ of the four members of the Board of Tax Relief to become effective immediately.

Samuel F. Pierson read two reports from the Commissioner of Health which will be placed on file. These were concerning the Pickwick Ice Cream Co. and the Stream West of Hope Street.

Mr. Pierson expressed his opinion that they were excellent reports and was pleased to see an official of the city doing such a good job, and thanked Dr. Brown who was in the audience.

Michael Laureno, 3rd District, stated that Mrs. Ginsberg had called him and stated that the removal tank at the ice cream plant had been allowed to overflow and if that is so there is a possibility that the letter from Dr. Brown is lacking. In other words, a nuisance still exists.

Michael Wofsey, 1st District, moved the report be placed on file. It was seconded by Clifford Waterbury, 4th District, and PASSED.

Jeanette L. Bell presented a copy of a survey of the Noroton River, taken from the issue of the Stamford Advocate, February 24, 1939, containing the drains, kind of pipe, diameter of pipe, etc. She asked permission to turn it over to the Steering Committee saying it would save money in taking a re-check by reason of the fact that only new drains of houses and factories that have been added would have to be made.

A letter was read from the Assessor concerning the comparison of the expenses of Stamford's Tax Assessor's Office with that of Bridgeport.

Mr. Pierson pointed out that Mrs. Seeley's previous report on this matter was not completely reported by the Press and that Mr. Dawless had made a thorough analysis and had gone further into the matter than the Fiscal Committee and stated that Mr. Dawless' letter will be referred to the Fiscal Committee for their consideration.

Mr. Seeley then suggested that the Assessor's Office attempt to make the savings shown up by the Bridgeport Office.

The request of the Personnel Commission for a waiver to permit them to test applicants for Personnel Director from a greater area than Stamford was then presented. This matter had been explained to the Board by Mr. Monson in his report.

It was pointed out that Section 706 made provision for the Board to permit this waiver if it so desired. It was the opinion of Mr. Wofsey, Mr. Shepherd, Mrs. Ransohoff, Mr. Staples and Mrs. Seeley that the best qualified person should receive the position. Mrs. Ransohoff recalled Mr. Monson's statement that in the final choice residence in Stamford would be given weight.

George Lockwood questioned to what extent the Personnel Commission attempted to find out how many are qualified for that position in Stamford.

Patrick Scarella, 3rd District, said he would like the best man but thought that it was pretty poor if we could not get a good man out of a population of 70,000 people.

IT WAS VOTED THAT THE WAIVER BE GRANTED.

The report of the Appointments Committee was presented by Daniel Miller, 16th District, and the names of Dr. Paul H. Brown for Commissioner of Public Health and H. Sherman Blake to serve on the Board of Taxation for a period of two years were presented to the Board for their approval.

Mr. Miller stated that his committee had examined the qualifications of the men and recommends that the Board of Representatives approve these appointments.

The chair announced the following vote:

BOARD OF HEALTH - Dr. Paul H. Brown - Unanimous

BOARD OF TAXATION - H. Sherman Blake - Unanimous

David Waterbury, 8th District, presented to the President a report of the Public Works Committee which he had been asked to deliver by the Chairman of that committee,

This report was read by Mr. Pierson, James W. Harrington, 9th District, raised an objection, saying that some members of the committee knew nothing about the report and that it was signed only by the Chairman, Stearns Woodman. The President was asked to return this report to Mr. Woodman to be resubmitted.

The President stated that the suggestion was made at the Steering Committee meeting that the method of balloting be revised. The Clerk is to call up five members of the Board in alphabetical order, until all present have voted.

Mrs. Seeley presented the balance of the Fiscal Committee report. Jeanette Bell, 17th District, moved that a copy of the Fiscal Committee report be mailed

with the minutes to each member of the Board. This motion was seconded and carried.

Sherman R. Hoyt, 19th District, reported for the Planning and Zoning Committee, concerning the revision of his previous report. This report was accepted by the Board.

Leon C. Stayles, 7th District, presented the report of the Committee of Health and Protection concerning the matter of better lighting on Elm Street, recommending that the Administrative Dept. make a thorough study of street lighting and after adopting a plan, that they try out the lighting on that part of Elm Street between the K of C and St. Mary's Church.

It was moved seconded and carried that this report be accepted.

Edward J. Wojciechowski, 2nd District, moved that a vote of thanks be given Mr. Waterbury for his efforts in making the outing on August 28th a success.

Babette S. Ransohoff, 15th District, read the Ordinance on Sanitation - Ordinance No. 1 under the new Charter.

Leonard DeVita, 5th District, raised the question as to specific meanings as to size etc., of septic tanks being included in the ordinance but Mr. Wofsey and Mr. Pierson explained that this was taken care of under the City and State Sanitary Codes. It was suggested that if the code is up-to-date it should be publicized by the Department of Health. If revision is necessary, that should be accomplished. The Clerk was requested to communicate with Dr. Brown.

Upon motion by Patrick J. Hogan, 10th District, and seconded

IT WAS VOTED TO ADOPT THIS ORDINANCE.

ORDINANCE NO. 1

BE IT ORDAINED by Stamford that no apartment, boarding house dwelling, hotel, commercial or mercantile establishment, or any other building wherein there shall be installed any toilet, bathing or sewage disposal facilities shall hereafter be constructed in areas not serviced by public sewers in Stamford, unless, prior to the issuance of a building permit, the plans for the sewage disposal facilities are approved by the Health Commissioner or his agent. No such installation may be covered or concealed until the final installation has been approved by such Health Commissioner or his agent.

The owner, agent, lessee or tenant of any part of the building or premises in which such facilities shall have been installed without such approval by the Health Commissioner shall be fined not less than \$10 nor more than \$100 for each day that such violation shall continue.

The VOTE WAS - YEAS 30 - ABSTAINED 2

Michael Wofsey suggested that we pass a resolution of our condolence and send it to the family of the late Horace L. Woodbury. IT WAS SO VOTED.

Upon motion by Daniel Miller, 16th District, and seconded by James Harrington 9th District, and passed, the meeting adjourned at 12:50 AM EDT.

NOTES SEPTEMBER 12, 1949 MEETING

Petition No. 39 - Acceptance of roads off Newfield Ave. referred to Planning Board.

Sale of LOT - 631 Main St., referred to Planning Board.

Sick Leaves and Vacations - Referred to Personnel Commission.

Resolutions 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 - Copies to Mayor,
Commissioner of Finance
Board of Finance
Controller

Letter from Mrs. Mary Rich - Referred to Zoning Enforcement Officer,
Health Office,
Capt. Precint II

Report of Public Works Committee - Returned to Mr. Woodman.

Ordinance No. 1 - Signed by Mayor, President and Clerk and Published.

Letters to Mayor re: Resolution #30
Appointments
Report of Health and Protection Committee

Report of the Fiscal Committee of the Board of
Representatives - Stamford, Conn.

September 12, 1949

The Fiscal Committee of the Board of Representatives held a meeting Saturday evening, September 10, 1949, at the home of the Chairman- The following were present: Mrs. Louise T. Seeley, Chairman, John Cameron, Patrick Hogan, Hunt Sutherland.

The following recommendations of the Board of Finance were considered:

- (1) The request of the Mayor, certified by him as an unforeseen emergency, for an appropriation of \$1800 for the purchase and installation of a new heating and hot water boiler for No. 2 Fire Station. This request was approved unanimously by those present, and by Mr. Michael Laureno later.
- (2) The request of the Mayor, previously approved, for \$5,500 for labor and materials, and \$5720 for the purchase of a bulldozer for operation of the Town Dump. The Committee recommends approval of this item, repeating its recommendation of August 1 that as rapidly as is practical, this material be delivered to the incinerator, and that all garbage serviced by the incinerator which originates outside the special sanitation tax area, be charged therefor, since the entire cost of this service is now charged to the taxpayers of the special sanitation tax area.
- (3) The appropriation of \$300 additional for clerical help for the Board of Finance for the balance of the year. Your Committee recommends approval of this appropriation, realizing the importance of proper records of the action of the Board.
- (4) The Appropriation of \$4900 additional for the taking of the annual census. This is in addition to the \$5100 previously appropriated for this purpose. Your committee recommends approval of this item, but requests a breakdown of the sum, for your consideration.
- (5) The appropriation of \$5997.50 additional for the Personnel Commission. Your Committee recommends approval of this item.
- (6) The appropriation of \$600 for the Stamford Musicians, Local 626, for the purpose of supplementing Union funds for free band concerts during the Summer in Woodside Park. The President of the local reports that the Union is holding these concerts throughout the Summer, that the Union has given \$1600 to date. The President further reports that \$350 will be held for concerts during the winter at community affairs, and that the appropriation belongs next year in the recreation budget for consideration. Your Committee recommends approval of this appropriation.

(7) The appropriation of \$455 additional for the printing of the annual budget of in the Advocate, the cost of which was \$1055, with \$600 previously appropriated for advertising. Your Committee recommends approval of this request.

The appropriations 2 through 7 were certified by the Mayor as unforeseen at the time the budget was made up, his certification being on file with the Board of Finance.

The first of these appropriations, \$1800 for the Fire House heating plant is chargeable to the former ~~City tax district~~. The other items, totaling \$23,472.50 are chargeable to the base tax.

The Chairman of the Board on August 16 referred to this Committee, with a request for a report at this meeting, the attached statement of the City auditor, dated August 13, concerning the so-called deficit in the former City account.

The auditors are entirely correct in their statement that under the former City charter in any fiscal year, the tax rate laid must be sufficient, with other funds available for the purpose to cover all appropriations for that year, and that any additional appropriations after the tax rate is laid must be included in the next year's tax rate. This is the summary of the auditor's position. This is a sound municipal financial practice, in order to prevent accumulating operating deficits, and it is not only required in the former City charter, but is provided in section 619 of the consolidated charter for the present government, and in the General Statutes (Sec. 616 rev. 1933) controlling the former Town government.

But Chapter 91 of the Consolidated Charter was written to control the transition period from April 15, when the two former governments ceased to function, until July 1, when the first fiscal year of the new government was to begin. The charter provided that each of the former governments should transmit to the new government a sum sufficient to meet the appropriations of each of the old governments through June 30, Section 913 provides that should insufficient funds be left, either by the outgoing Town or City governments, temporary Tax Anticipation Notes may be borrowed to cover this deficit, and these notes must be included in the budget appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1950. This is the section of the charter quoted by the Corporation Counsel in his opinion of August 4, 1949. The financial transactions of the former City government show no such borrowing to be included in the appropriation for this year.

The \$125,164.00 referred to by the auditor is an accounting deficiency of total appropriations over the tax levy for 1948-49. This deficiency was more than covered by the cash surplus of the former City government at the beginning of the 15 month fiscal period. The auditors' report of the City's finances as of June 30, 1949, shows therefor, a cash balance of \$101,969.00 in the General Fund. Against this sum there are encumbered appropriation

balances and other current obligations to be met totaling \$63,977.16. This left a cash balance of \$37,992.78, of which \$29,708 is earmarked for special bond purposes, and \$8,284 is unencumbered cash balance to be included in the retirement fund for outstanding former City bond payments. The Town audit for the fiscal period ending June 30, 1949, shows an exactly similar situation. Disbursements exceeded receipts by \$147,817.00, which deficiency was met by \$100,480.00, which the auditor says, "was appropriated from prior surplus to balance the budget", and by \$47,336.00 which was transferred from other town funds, such as the Town Housing Authority.

If the \$125,164.00 had been included as a deficiency appropriation for the former City government, it would have had to be added to the surplus of the City fund, and deducted from the bond payments in the former City tax levy, and would have had no effect on the tax rate laid.

Your Committee had hoped to be able at this time to begin its monthly report of the financial condition of the consolidated government, with its position as of July 1, and appropriation balances as of August 1, and September 1. But the Department of Finance does not yet have its consolidated balance sheets ready. We expect by October to be able to have a clear, concise report of the fiscal condition of our government.

Among the 23 excellent recommendations of the City auditor in his report is number 19, that the boards and officials concerned meet in joint session for a frank discussion. We are heartily in favor of such a procedure, so that the whole fiscal machinery of our government may begin to function efficiently and harmoniously so that the people of Stamford, who are paying the bill and receiving the services, can easily understand their common business enterprise of City government.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Talbot Seeley, Chairman

September 12, 1949

Mr. President and
Members of the
Board of Representatives:

Agreeable to the request of the President, I am here this evening to make a statement relating to the conduct of the city's affairs and the condition of its finances.

There is no intention on my part to make any report that can be considered as an ANNUAL REPORT. After all, an annual report comes at the end of a fiscal year and not at the beginning.

Even next year, it will be a physical and human impossibility to prepare an ANNUAL REPORT for the Board of Representatives at the time and in the manner stipulated in the Charter.

All through the Charter, the allocation of time for the performance of certain specified functions, reports, and/or hearings is fantastically insufficient.

There is an imperative need for the immediate formation of a Charter Revision Committee, in order that time may be allowed for all public officials and employees to perform their duties in an orderly and efficient manner.

Eight days for the Board of Finance to examine and pass upon the many items in a budget of several millions of dollars is pitifully inadequate. It is even more fantastic to expect your Board of forty members to give proper consideration to such a budget in the limited time stipulated in the Charter.

Worst of all is the requirement that the Mayor make an ANNUAL REPORT at the July meeting of your Board. This year, the impossibility of making such an annual report is so even more apparent.

An ANNUAL REPORT must contain the substance of the auditors' report, as well as his conclusion and his recommendations as to the operation of the City's fiscal affairs.

It usually takes several weeks after the close of a fiscal year for the auditors to make their report. After that, it must be assembled, with other reports.

Tonight, I have with me a part of the voluminous information which would have to be condensed and re-written, then edited, before it could be sent to a printer and put out as an ANNUAL REPORT. Right here is two or three weeks of work. Then, the printing must be advertised for bids. With that and the actual printing, more time is consumed.

The most important document needed to go into a report for the period ending June 30th, 1949, are the auditors' reports. The reports of the auditors for the former City of Stamford were delivered to me at 2 P.M., September 2nd. The report of the auditor for the former Town of Stamford, was delivered to my office September 1st.

It should be quite obvious that this information could not have been incorporated in a report at your July meeting, as some people seem to think should have been done.

The Charter is contradictory. It is confusing. It stipulates certain procedures to be consummated within certain time limits, which it is not humanly possible to do.

Among the data which I have with me, are a few completed, condensed reports from different departments, which would also have to be included in an all inclusive ANNUAL REPORT.

The job of making a full report for the period ending June 30th, 1949, is further complicated by the lack of systematic records and of index information in the records of the former City of Stamford.

Another handicap is that no annual reports are available for the former City of Stamford, since 1945.

If I had attempted to make a report to you at your July meeting, the report would have been that things were mostly in a sorry mess.

The main obstacle was that no provision was made in either the budget of the former Town or the former City of Stamford for an outside firm of accountants to assist in the merging of the many activities and the records of the two governments.

This work was of such nature and magnitude that it could easily have justified an expenditure of \$15,000 to \$20,000. Not having such an appropriation, and trying to economize, your Commissioner of Finance, your Controller and your Mayor, worked midnight hours for over a month to set up the framework of your new government.

To assist them, they asked for an appropriation of \$4,000. This was kicked around and delayed until finally, on June 27th, \$2,500. was made available. On this date, the work should have finished instead of just being started.

As a result, our departments have, until a few days ago, been operating THREE sets of books. This was no fault of ours but caused a tremendous amount of delay and unnecessary work in all departments.

I can report that quite some satisfactory progress has been made in some departments, but not on anywhere near the scale that could have been accomplished if proper vision, understanding and cooperation had been forthcoming from quarters where it was necessary, and where we had a right to expect it.

Auditor Michael Cantore, in his report, refers to delays caused by the difficulty in getting quick and accurate information from all departments. These delays cannot be charged to our fiscal executive or service officials. They were due to conditions which we inherited or were caused by delay, lack of vision and of understanding on the part of others.

Your new government found a major part of all the equipment of the former City of Stamford in deplorable condition. The best of this equipment is being systematically overhauled, painted, and made ready for the exacting services needed during the winter months.

Several miles of streets, in the former City area, have been oiled and repaired for the first time in several years. If the weather permits, other streets will be improved.

Steady progress is being made in coordinating the different departments both as to accounting records and the actual operation of departmental functions.

The two engineering departments are completely consolidated and installed in the old City Council Room. Progress has been made in other departments and they are really beginning to operate as units.

Contrary to the thinking of many people, actual consolidation DID NOT and COULD NOT make any headway until after July 1st, 1949.

It is and will be a rather slow and painstaking process if it is to be done thoroughly. That is the way that we are doing it and we know that our methods are sound.

We are constantly reminded of the criticisms and the public statements of people who seem to think that they know more than we do about running the departments of this City.

If you could have the benefit of real knowledge and understanding of the functions of the different departments, these self-appointed judges of your officials would, not only look foolish to you, but I think they would actually look foolish to themselves.

There are so many things that are needed to correct the accumulated undesirable conditions in our community, that we cannot deal with all of them at once.

We have, however, taken real steps to study and stop pollution and to put an end to the nuisance and the fire hazards of rubbish, etc. in our city area. Army engineers will help us with POLLUTION. Our own departments will take care of FIRE and HEALTH hazards.

Our city, like many others, need a thorough survey, by a competent group of citizens. Such a survey is in the works and we will have the assistance of able local people as well as expert assistance from the Connecticut Expenditure Council. The expense of this survey is being borne by citizens interested in good government.

If it is possible to improve the work of any department, we hope to find out how to do it. If the same work can be done cheaper, we hope to find that out too.

If I am wrong or deficient in my work, that will be noted and corrected, as will the work of all departments and all employees.

If the public can be given a better understanding of the problems and functions of their government, it is our duty to see to it that information which will contribute to that better understanding, is made available -- and we intend to do just that.

We are planning improved methods of doing work in all departments and hope to effect enough improvement so that it will be noticeable.

We are at a loss to understand the crippling cuts in certain important items. In spite of an operating budget which is about \$100,000. less than was available for the same work last year, we will try to do a good job.

We appreciate the fair-minded approach of the Board of Representatives to the problems of our new government. We will be ready, at all times, to answer any questions or to furnish any information which you, through your president, may request.

With mutual cooperation, I think we can give the people of Stamford an administration and services which will be, at least, satisfactory to them.

Here are some of the departmental reports which I will be glad to discuss with you.