

REC'D 1-29 1975 AT 12:05 P.M.
ATT: [Signature] TOWN CLERK

TOWN OF DURHAM

Office of the Selectmen - Connecticut 06422

A. Reed Hayes,
First Selectman

Carl N. Otte,
Majority Selectman

Richard C. Parmelee, Jr.
Selectman

Board of Selectmen Minutes January 23, 1975

Present: A. Reed Hayes
Carl N. Otte
Richard C. Parmelee, Jr.

1. RESOLVED, that cut wood being generated by the current Highway Department tree trimming program will be offered to the highest bidder on a wholesale basis. Bids must be received in writing in the First Selectman's Office no later than 4:00 P.M. on Wednesday, February 5, 1975. Bids must state a price per cord and the number of cords offered for. Wood will be cut fireplace length and is to be picked up at the Highway Department garage. Vote 3-0.

(Note: The Highway Department is currently engaged in a town-wide tree trimming program under the supervision of Tree Warden, Frank Behrens, Sr. The foregoing action was taken to provide for disposal of the wood at maximum income to the town.)

2. WHEREAS: The Public Utilities Commission currently has sole jurisdiction over those circumstances wherein the services of a public utility may be withheld or discontinued, and,

WHEREAS: Docket 9000 of the Regulations of the Public Utilities Commission permits a public Utility to discontinue its services for reason of non-payment of bills, and,

WHEREAS: The Public Utilities Commission, in a recent emergency regulation, permits the continuation of services in cold weather to consumers who are unable to pay bills ONLY IN VERIFIED CASES OF SERIOUS ILLNESS, and,

WHEREAS: There have been documented cases of needless tragedy in which human life has been endangered or lost due to discontinuation of a vital service to a consumer who was unable to pay utility bills.

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(continued)-

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Durham Board of Selectmen strongly urge the Connecticut General Assembly to enact a bill which would prohibit a public utility from discontinuing or withholding service in any and all cases, verified by a duly appointed authority, where human life is endangered by the absence of that service. Vote 3-0.

(Note: The foregoing action was requested by Welfare Administrator, Noel Higgins in response to incidents occurring in the Town of Durham. A certified copy of the resolution has been forwarded to Mrs. Higgins for use in her efforts to seek a change in the law. Mrs. Higgins will also testify before a Public Utilities Commission hearing scheduled for February on this same subject.)

3. ACTION DEFERRED on a revaluation of the Highway Department Wage Scale pending receipt of the approved final report of the Wage Scale Study Committee.

4. DISCUSSION ITEM.

The Selectmen agree in principle to a remodeling of the second story of the Town Hall to provide for two large meeting rooms and three smaller meeting rooms or offices. The defunct balcony will be removed, a lower ceiling installed, and sheet rock walls erected. Insulation is to be upgraded. Final approval of the project is pending an estimate of material costs, which is to be provided by Building Inspector, Ronald Bastura. Labor is scheduled to be funded through a federal jobs program. Approval of a release of funds for materials will be required from the Board of Finance from the Town Hall Improvement Fund. Office space created is planned to go to the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Durham Constables.

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5. The First Selectman reported that as a result of the recent defeat of the Resident State Trooper question at Town Meeting, he is considering a more active program for local constables in an effort to control local crime problems. Decision to be reached by February 15th.

A. Reed Hayes
First Selectman