

Durham Board of Selectmen Minutes
of Meeting on March 23, 1972, Town Hall, 8:00 P.M.

Board Members met with and discussed a motion by William Cicchese, Chairman of the Recreation Committee, calling for the Recreation Committee to absorb the Durham Youth Center in the Town's recreation program. Vote was 3-0 against granting such authority to the Recreation Committee.

A letter to the First Selectman and Finance Board Chairman of Middlefield from the First Selectman and Finance Board Chairman of Durham was read into the record. The letter advised Middlefield Officials that members of both Durham Boards were unanimously opposed to the 1972-1973 budget request of the Inter-local Advisory Board on grounds it was "totally unacceptable."

Board Members discussed the potential threat of the Gypsy Moth and Elm Span Worm in Durham this Spring, and the following actions were taken:

A letter will be sent to Environmental Commissioner, Lufkin, indicating that the Durham Board of Selectmen is strongly opposed to his prohibition of aerial spraying on the grounds that under "home rule" this decision should be made at the town government level. The letter will include a request that:

- a. the town be permitted to contact for aerial spraying using its own funds, and/or
- b. that state funds be made available to support ground spraying of town owned properties and roadsides in the town.

The vote was 3-0 in favor of items a. and b.

The Board endorses the efforts which have been made by Selectman A. Reed Hayes, to assist townspeople by establishing a ground spraying buying-cooperative, and formally grant him the authority to act in the name of the town in pursuing this effort. Further, the Board appoints Tree Warden, Frank Behrens to supervise the spraying to insure proper application. The vote was 3-0 in favor of this.

Board Members discussed certain problems and formal communications resulting from drainage problems in the town. The following actions were taken:

- a. Any written response from the Selectman's Office to a complaint or other communication from a landowner will be cleared through the Town Attorney.
- b.. Confirming past action, no certificate of occupancy will be issued to any builders in the Town unless and until drainage problems have been corrected to the satisfaction of the First Selectman, and that the Building Inspector be advised accordingly.
- c. Correction of drainage problems is the responsibility of each individual landowner and the Town of Durham will not be responsible for any expenses resulting there from.
- d. In certain cases, particularly severe, the First Selectman may offer the assistance of Town workman to provide labor. The vote was 3-0 in favor of items a. through d.

Considerable discussion centered on determining a proper salary for the First Selectman in advance of establishing a formal budget request for 1972-1973. It was pointed out that the responsibilities and duties of the town's chief officer were growing geometrically with both the rapid growth of the town and the rather substantial reporting requirements of state and federal governments. It was the clear feeling of Board Members that a full-time First Selectman was desirable and the major question was how long we should take in terms of salary advances to accomplish this. A motion was made by A. Reed Hayes, seconded by Davis: that the budget request for the First Selectman's salary be established at \$8,000. for 1972-73 with a formal view to establishing a full-time salary for 1973-1974, with additional salary over \$8,000. to be effective after the 1973 local elections. The vote was 2-1 in favor.

(cont'd.)

The majority view was that a Town Officer who is required to serve full-time by the nature of his duties should be compensated at a reasonable level, that to delay a more reasonable salary as a result of past practices was not a satisfactory reason and that having a full-time First Selectman who is responsible in all areas is preferable to having a better-paid specialist (i.e. working road foreman) who is responsible only in one area.

The minority view was that a full time salary should be achieved more gradually regardless of the time involved and the job responsibility and that salary funds would be better used by employing more skilled specialists (i.e. working road foreman).

As a result of the difficulty in establishing exact amounts expended against each line of the budget prior to November 1, 1971, the following action was taken:

The First Selectman will request the Board of Finance to instruct the Town Auditor to establish the amounts expended by budget line item as of November 1, 1971. This action is taken in anticipation of the Town Auditor's annual review and should be considered by the Town Auditor as part thereof.

Acting Secretary
A. Reed Hayes

REC'D 3-30 1972 AT 10:45 A.M.
ATT: *McIntosh* TOWN CLERK