

TOWN OF DURHAM

Connecticut 06422



BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

May 17, 1979

ANNUAL JOINT MEETING OF ALL TOWN BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AGENCIES

Present:

Gregory G. Curtis, First Selectman
Lewis G. Hinman, Selectman
Betty C. Wakeman, Selectwoman
Mary Jane Jewczyn, Board of Finance
Janet Moore, Library Building Committee
Sue Nelson, Library Board of Directors
Al Nelson, Durham-Middlefield Interlocal Advisory Board
Philip Albert, Personnel Policy Board
William Moore, Town Treasurer
George Zeeb, Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Agency; Dem. Town Comm.
Ralph Moeller, Zoning Board of Appeals
Marjorie C. Hatch, Town Clerk
Harry Tiedemann, Head Constable
Leland W. Seeton, Assessor
Malcolm Pearce, Civil Preparedness Director; Building Commission
Edwin C. Higgins, Public Safety Committee; PZC; Economic Dev. Comm
Frank Magnotta, Town Engineer
Carl N. Otte, Board of Finance
Charles Mauro, Republican Town Committee
C. James Gibbons, Planning & Zoning Commission
Elmer Clark, Board of Finance
Richard Ackerman, Conservation Commission
Later arrivals:
Mark Spatuzzi, Board of Education
John Stahl, Board of Tax Review
Ona McLaughlin, Hartford Courant correspondent

Janet Moore: Library Building & Site Committee: concentrating on finding a building site. Some possible sites: Fields, Oslanders, Perryman, Reskin, Ravitch, Arrigoni. They have had a speaker - a Mrs. Tien who has made some excellent suggestions on planning. A proposal they have considered is to have a combination library, day care center, and senior citizen center. Mr. Pearce suggested extra Brewster School land which cannot be used for school expansion because of drainage.

Al Nelson, Chairman, Durham-Middlefield Interlocal Advisory Board: Current problems: severe water problem created by Middlefield Industrial Park - which the board is trying to improve. He also predicted a three year limit on use of the site. Two alternatives: 1) State program and ship refuse out of town; 2) Create a new landfill in Durham. Interlocal Board will probably not continue as a joint effort. Middlefield has indicated a desire to go on their own. Mr. Mauro asked what costs were involved with running a site. Mr. Nelson responded approx. \$50,000/yr. Mr. Gibbons asked about alternative approaches and suggested Mr. Nelson work closely with Steve Holmes of Midstate Regional Planning Agency. Mr. Nelson responded that he had some other sources, also. He reported that the site was basically inefficiently designed. Also the long range prediction on leachate problems in the future is uncertain but considered minimal. Mr. Curtis reported that the Board of Selectmen has been looking at available sites as they turned up. He also reported that a Hartford site may open up within four years. Another alternative suggested was to set up a processing station to minimize the tonnage. Mr. Magnotta said that some of the newest thinking was going toward material recovery and incineration with sale of steam to industry.

Sue Nelson, Library Board of Directors: is working closely with Janet Moore's Building and Site Committee. They are currently surveying the town.

Mary Jane Jewczyn, Board of Finance: Commented on the road problem and her feeling that road proposals should be brought to the Board of Finance before the budget season next year.

Phil Albert, Personnel Policy Board: They review and survey all salaries and report to the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen. This coming year they plan to study the organization of the town in regard to staffing level and support functions and make recommendations. Mr. Pearce asked if they touched on volunteer impact. Mr. Moore felt that we shouldn't be too influenced by other towns and warned not to use it as a basis for making decisions. Mrs. Hatch felt that the Board of Finance should be more realistic about the town's needs. Mr. Pearce felt that the town should not be as dependent on volunteering. Mr. Higgins inquired whether or not they reviewed the Board of Education's salary structure. Mr. Moore felt that it could be beneficial. Mr. Seeton felt that it would be ineffective because of state pressures. General discussion on the concept of involving ourselves with the Regional District.

George Zeeb, Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Agency: dealing primarily with individual homeowners. Tried to save some wetlands on James Road but lost control due to a legal technicality. Mr. Curtis reminded the group that we only owned about half of the three

reservoir sites. The policy of the Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Agency is not to allow construction on the wetlands.

Richard Ackerman, Conservation Commission: They are about to catalogue their open spaces responsibilities and they are reviewing all their leases. Mr. Pearce wondered whether the sledding area could be improved and whether the White Grove gathering area could be better controlled. Mr. Ackerman said they wanted to control car accessibility as a way to improve the grove area. Mr. Pearce said the town nursery used to be one of the best sliding areas in town. Mr. Curtis said the town moved the nursery to take advantage of the better soil. Mr. Ackerman said that without CETA people the nursery and tree planting program would be severely restricted.

C. James Gibbons, County Agent: has been working with Jake Reskin as a possible "development right" sale to the state to hold the land permanently open.

C. James Gibbons, Planning and Zoning Commission: They hope to bring the town's master plan before the town. It will be more a guide to slow growth than a "grand plan." They are supporting the Sewer Avoidance Program. He was very pleased and happy with the current levels of expertise in planning, engineering, and legal available to the PZC. Mr. Mauro asked Mr. Gibbons to expand on the septic plan. Mr. Gibbons described the state programs for Sewer Avoidance. Mr. Gibbons also talked about the need for septic lagoons and the town's responsibilities. Mr. Curtis and Mr. Magnotta reviewed the considerations involved in the Seward Road site. The goal for construction would be sometime next year and would be restricted to local vendors and to only Durham residents. The new systems crust over and do not have odor problems. In answer to questions, Mr. Curtis stated that the state law requires the town to maintain the facility. Mrs. Hatch questioned the State's Land Use Plan which is in conflict with the town's plans. Mr. Gibbons said that this pertained to putting part of our industrial land on Route 68 in the Conservation Zone. This is being corrected.

William Moore, Town Treasurer: explained how the treasurer invested excess funds in C.D.'s and reported that these had returned over \$20,000 in earnings. He reported we also benefited from the arrangement with CBC in interest on the general fund.

Ralph Moeller, Zoning Board of Appeals: main goal is to stay out of court. One item of interest: he is currently holding both the chairman and secretary positions and wondered whether anyone felt that was improper. He felt it worked well for their board and talked about some of the pleasures he has had from volunteering his services. Mr. Curtis felt that a budget request for secretarial help would be well received. Mr. Moeller also commented on the legal technicalities

involved. Mr. Mauro made some comments on how much value the town got from having so many people who were willing to volunteer.

Marjorie C. Hatch, Town Clerk: Requested that all boards be more aware of the Freedom of Information requirements to file meeting motions and to get minutes in promptly.

Harry Tiedemann, Head Constable: Regarding the constables:- really felt that the constables needed a budget item to support uniform and supply purchases in order to attract new volunteers. Mr. Curtis clarified the budget restrictions on the constable budget. If uniforms were a budget item either the hourly charge would be increased or the town would have to bear the costs. Mr. Pearce talked about some of the odd requests handled by constables. Edwin Higgins, former chairman of the Public Safety Committee, commented on the need for additional police protection in town. Mrs. Hatch supported the need for the town to keep the police protection issue before the public. Mr. Gibbons asked about the use of the old firehouse as a public safety facility. Mr. Curtis responded that the basement was being held in reserve for just that purpose. Questioned on the town's paying the constables to patrol school functions, Mr. Curtis answered that we had done some during the basketball season with some extra funds but that this would not be possible in next year's budget.

Leland W. Seeton, Assessor: He will be ending his term this November. He reported that the applicants for a new assessor are excellent people. He said that the Board of Finance's salary cut was inappropriate for the change over and was a discouragement for the new man. Mr. Gibbons said that the Assessor's office has a big impact on the town and it is more important than most people realize.

Malcolm Pearce, Civil Preparedness Director: Mentioned unique location bordered by nine towns. His report included potential risk report by type and by season and analyzed our vulnerability. Hurricanes, ice storms, nuclear peace time accident - low risk but vulnerable because of locale, nuclear war. Mr. Pearce talked of advantages of keeping school buses in town as a safety precaution for getting students home quickly. Available nuclear war shelters would only accommodate 2,000 people. There is no food, water or medical supplies in any shelter. He continued his report to include communications and medical facilities. Our needs are for an Emergency Operations Center. This is to be located in the new firehouse and for updated communications network. He suggested a committee be formed to look into it. Mrs. Hatch reminded us of the existence of our emergency master plan which was never adopted in Town Meeting. She suggested that this be reviewed.

Edwin C. Higgins, Police Protection: requested continued input from everyone and hopes to bring the problem to the town again.

Frank Magnotta, Town Engineer: felt his positions in various functions gave him a good overall view.

Mark Spatuzzi, Chairman of Regional School Dist. 13: No building programs in the future; Beautification of Strong School dilemma and a new location for the buses including protection and repair facilities. Support and impetus for this is coming from the Historic District Commission. Mr. Spatuzzi discussed the state financial aid changes this year and the impact on the town. Mr. Gibbons asked about enrollment - answered that it is expected to continue to decline. Mr. Pearce inquired about the Region looking to solar energy state and federal funding.

John Stahl, Board of Tax Review: Job is quasi-judicial function to resolve gripes about assessment questions. Appreciates the support of other town officials. He pointed out that this next year may be very difficult.

Mrs. Wakeman spoke briefly on the value of this annual joint meeting.

Mr. Curtis made a few comments: Mr. Bastura has resigned as Building Inspector and the board appointed Mr. Robert Frank. The Assessor Selection Committee appointment is expected to be made very soon. Mr. Curtis warned all committees that there may have to be a freeze put on all budgets - this is primarily caused by the highway overage created by the severe rains. He announced the town meeting this coming Monday to reconsider the town garage question. He also suggested that all terms of office be extended to four years and is considering a new Charter Revision Committee.

Questions:

Mr. Moeller: How are legal expenses handled? Mr. Curtis answered that Mr. White's budget covers all routine work for the town but no case work - inquiries to Mr. White should be funneled through the Board of Selectmen or at least reported.

Mr. Pearce: asked if the constable policy on loss of life was still in force. Mr. Curtis would check with Dr. Mather.

Mr. Moeller: came back to the attorney question - and questioned in particular the Gulielmetti/Inland Wetlands opinion. Mr. Zeeb commented that the opinion was directed to the individual case and not to the general situation.

Carl Otte: announced the dedication to the Town Report to the volunteers of the various organizations; will recommend that the town join the municipal insurance pool.

Mr. Clark: requested that town reports be sent in on a timely basis.

Mr. Mauro: Recommended an overview and long range plan complete with a bonding proposal to meet the town's needs and a \$ for \$ com-

parison with piecework approach.

Mr. Moeller: said that in some cases it's better not to ask for a legal opinion - that it sometimes complicates issues.

Mr. Zeeb: clarified the history of the Gulielmetti issue.

Mr. Gibbons: mentioned that PZC's attorney costs were within their own budget.

Mr. Pearce moved adjournment at 10:05 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: 10:12 P.M.

Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting and the financial report. 3-0

Brief executive session: regarding Stanley Bower's retroactive pay - denied. 3-0

10:15 P.M.

Voted to close Cream Pot Road when the road crew is ready to install the culvert. 3-0

Voted that the First Selectman send a letter of appreciation to Mrs. Whited for doing the scroll. 3-0

Voted to send a complimentary letter to the Durham Garden Club.

Received a letter from Bruce Benson thanking the town for use of the payloader for the Wheeler Hill Association project.

A meeting of the Town Garage Committee will be here at the town hall at 7:00 P.M. on Friday, May 18th.

Mrs. Wakeman asked about the question of authorization of school monies left unsettled on May 14th (Annual Budget Meeting). Mr. Curtis responded that it was not resolved yet.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty C. Wakeman / *ld*
Betty C. Wakeman
Selectwoman

BCW:ddw

Rrd. / 5-18-79. Mest