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TOWN OF DURHAM

Connecticut 06422



THE SEMI-ANNUAL 1980 JOINT MEETING
WITH OTHER TOWN AGENCIES
October 28, 1980

The Semi-Annual 1980 Joint Meeting with other Town Agencies was called to order at 7:39 p.m. by the First Selectman M. Foster Mather. Others present:

Maryann P. Boord; Selectwoman
Ona McLayghlin, Hartford Courant correspondent
Linda Dean, Middletown Press correspondent
James Clifford, Board of Finance
Jack Tinkel, Board of Library Directors
Robert Bascom, DMIAB
Mark Spatuzzi, Board of Education
Ralph Moeller, Zoning Board of Appeals
Frank Behrens, Jr., Fire Company
William Moore, Treasurer
Marjorie C. Hatch, Town Clerk
Philip Albert, Personnel Policy Board
George Zeeb, Historic District Commission and Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency

In his opening remarks the First Selectman encouraged the assembled representatives as key people of the town to discuss their department's recent accomplishments and future plans, especially in areas which will affect the budget. He also asked the department chairmen to consider positions within their respective departments where workfare participants could be put to work.

Jack Tinkel, Library Board of Directors: they have an on-going problem of very limited space in the present facility. Budgetary problem: uncertainty of heating costs - has cut into the book purchase line item in the past. Will ask his board about workfare; surely could use a carpenter.

James Clifford, Board of Finance: main task is to prepare a viable budget which has become a real problem due to high rate of inflation. Town report due in three weeks. Requested all departments to really try to stay within their budgets, to submit annual reports on time and to present budgetary requests as scheduled in February.

Marjorie C. Hatch, Town Clerk: the continual program of rebinding and re-jacketing the town record books will again be proposed in the next budget. Additionally, budgetary and union demands have caused serious tightness in available funds for hiring clerical assistance. This too will appear as an increased request allotment for fiscal year 1981-2.

Philip Albert, Personnel Policy Board: Ongoing responsibility to review salaries and make salary recommendations. Presently involved in salary survey.

Discussion: Town Clerk requested a study of a town clerk's salary instead of fees; the Personnel Policy Board did extensive work to prepare "personnel policies" for the town. Library Board requested review of any new policies and surveys due to their different working hours, etc.

Frank Behrens, Jr., representing the fire company: they recently purchased a boat and trailer for \$2,000 from family day monies; they wish to get rid of the old tank truck. The fire company and fire marshal's office have presented programs to the school children. Could use a person for lawn maintenance and janitorial services.

Discussion: R. Moeller questioned the use of the flashing yellow light which apparently does not change to red with emerging fire trucks. F. Behrens said he would remind the men to hit the button.

William Moore, Treasurer: complained about doing time consuming reports. Further stated he disagrees with the auditor and the report. He has been investing money regularly with interest rates being high . . . earning better than half of what was expected by the end of the calendar year.

George Zeeb, Historic District Commission: commission has given books to the library about old homes; a town ordinance would have to be set up if a fee was to be charged for certificates of appropriateness.

George Zeeb, Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency: only consideration before the agency is the fair access road but so far no formal application has been received. Fee application: \$5.00.

Mark Spatuzzi, Board of Education: 1) Center School closing committee: Middlefield would like this building for a town office building; 2) alterations to Memorial School: November 12 is a district hearing; December 16 district referendum to expend about \$550,000 (15 years @ \$15,000/yr). The regular mortgage will be paid this year; Korn School mortgage will be paid off in 2 years.

The Semi-Annual
October 28, 1980

-3-

Problems in Special Education: over \$20,000 deficit due to high cost of placements. If proposed federal statutes are passed the district could become responsible for preparing 0-3 yr. old children for school.

Another staff reduction is being proposed but will not have much impact on the budget. Other areas of the budget are holding up well.

The Board has spent many hours on equalizing the school bus stops in both towns. Pick ups on cul-de-sac roads have been eliminated in Durham and this has created problems with the residents.

The children in Regional School District #13 are scoring very well on the standardized tests.

Robert Bascom; DMIAB: they have made financial gains: ahead \$4,000 this year. A new contractor has been hired. Reviewed proposed plans for public water system. Attn fire company: new locks on the gates; also request fire company to note and for press release: wood stove or coal ashes should not be brought to the landfill - should be recycled in home gardens.

Newly proposed projects: planting of trees and school programs to educate children to recycle. Would like to buy a compaction unit.

The five year closing plan approved by the state may be extended. Snow fencing is needed. No space available to compost leaves.

Alternative methods of garbage disposal were presented for the future when the present site must be closed: Hartford or Bridgeport incinerators could cost \$75,000-\$90,000/yr. without transportation costs. Additionally, a town transfer station would cost in the area of \$200,000 and a site for brush, etc., will also have to be locally maintained.

Many questions and problems facing the DMIAB will be settled in the next six months.

Ralph Moeller; Zoning Board of Appeals: main goal is to stay out of court. Still waiting for legal opinion on the 6 member zoning board of appeals as set up by the newly revised charter. Half of the Bastura suit is still pending. This is his last year as a member of the ZBA. They need a secretarial system which will likely involve some costs.

Discussion: The status of the old state road which runs parallel to and between route 17 and the old cemetery was discussed. The fire company is concerned that a newly erected stone wall flanking this "road" strickly limits the accessibility for fire trucks and for the ambulance. G. Zeeb will speak to the Historic District Commission about the wall. F. Behrens noted that the official entrance to the cemetery is the north end of that road or driveway. The First Selectman stated it is up to the residents to maintain it.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

dmw