

TOWN OF DURHAM

Office of the Selectmen · Connecticut 06422

Carl N. Otte
First Selectman

Betty Wakeman
Selectwoman

Joel N. Davis
Selectman

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

December 2, 1976

The Board of Selectmen's Meeting was called to order at 7:21 P.M. with the following members of the Board present: Carl N. Otte, Betty C. Wakeman, and Joel N. Davis.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as corrected: it was voted to delete the word "situation" in reference to the Kismat letter. Vote 3-0

The board voted to pay the bills for the week.

Vote 3-0

The Board voted to permanently place the Bicentennial Bell six feet in front of the Charter Oak seedling. Vote 3-0

The First Selectman reported that the EDA application for \$551,200 to reconstruct and improve five portions of road in town has been submitted and received by the Economic Development Administration in Philadelphia. and bids

Specs/for the emergency snow plowing (to be used in case our trucks can't handle the regular plowing) were discussed. Specs will include the size of the truck and price per hour. Special conditions such as time of day rates, etc. should be included.

The Governing Body of the Town of Durham declares there is a shortage of safe or sanitary dwellings in this Municipality available to low income families at rentals they can afford; and, there is a need for, and it is desirable and in the public interest for the Commissioner of Community Affairs to administer a program of rental housing assistance under Section 8 of Title II of the United States Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-383) and in accordance with Section 8-120, and chapters 128, 129, and 133, of the Connecticut General Statutes as amended. We, hereby, approve the operation of the said rental assistance program in this municipality by the said Commissioner. This resolution is passed at the request of the Hartford area office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Vote 3-0

The Board will meet with the involved parties on December 9,

1976, at 8:30 P.M. regarding the District Nurse Ass'n merger. Foster Mather, Chairman of the Board of Finance, will be present.

Vote 3-0

Relocation of the 8' X 18' dog pound was discussed. No new location has been selected or new dog warden appointed. Bruce Rau will continue to cover the position until a new appointment is made.

The Board of Selectmen met with the Chairmen or representatives of certain town boards and commissions as will be listed below. In his opening remarks, Mr. Otte stressed the need to correct the lack of coordination and communication that exists in the various segments of town government.

Adam Mitchell, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission, cited the tax base as the major problem in encouraging new industry to Durham and stressed that anything we can do to increase the tax base of the town we should do. The new Houston Mfg. Co, makers of hydraulic filler valves for filling diesel engines, will reportedly open its doors in February.

Mr. Davis questioned the legality of giving a tax break to anyone.

The Economic Development Commission is also hoping to get a package together that Durham can offer to prospective companies. Two detriments are lack of paid police force and volunteer fire protection. Although our fire company is excellent, the volunteer status causes a high impact on insurance rates. High priorities in the "package" would be 1) tax base 2) plant or town security.

Warren Herzig, a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, spoke of the efforts of the Planning and Zoning Commission in this vein also. He stated that the PZC is trying to update its master plan by reinstituting P & Z workshops, investigating home occupations, (those bordering on commercial ventures, especially in out buildings) regulating and controlling tag sales, possible use of interior lots. With the reinstitution of workshops, more time will be spent toward long-range planning. Multiple dwellings were discussed (for elderly, etc.) as present P & Z regulations discourage such dwellings.

Jack Gifford, Chairman of the Historic District Commission, said that the HDC is working with an attorney to alter the ordinance relating to it except where, in a couple cases, Durham wants to be more strict. Spot zoning for historical purposes was mentioned and there is a mechanism within the law to preserve single dwellings.

George Zeeb, Chairman of the Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Agency, stated that the major problem his agency has is one of communication (expecially with P & Z) and enforcement; however, an enforcement officer will soon be appointed. He noted that the Soil Conservation Commission has remapped our soil and wetland areas.

Joe Venuti, Chairman of the Recreation Committee, enumerated various activities sponsored by the Recreation Committee. Their

goals are to institute a youth soccer program, neighborhood playgrounds and a paid Recreation Director and perhaps for the elderly a shuffleboard court near the pavilion.

Foster Mather, Chairman of the Board of Finance, said their main problem arises during the spring in trying to find the money. The Board of Finance has actively been stimulating new ideas in this area. Various members of the Board have been meeting with other Boards and Commissions to keep abreast of the financial operations.

He felt another problem is the lack of communication between the Selectmen, bookkeeper, and treasurer. The status of the appropriations is usually not current. He reported on the rash of end-of-fiscal-year spending. He personally favors tax exemption program for incoming industry.

Carl Otte, First Selectman, said that the town is going to continue to grow and people will demand more services. He recommended a merit system for town employees. Notes that each Board and Commission has part-time employees and feels this job and enforcement positions should be consolidated, i.e., one secretary and one enforcement officer.

Mr. Davis questioned development upon those roads of questionable status.

Mr. Venuti suggested continual review of commissions' activities that would perhaps avoid lengthy court battles.

It was mutually agreed to call another such meeting in 2-3 months.

The Board of Selectmen reappointed George A. Schaefer to a five-year term on the Building Board of Appeals, effective date Dec. 1, 1976.

Vote 3-0

The Board reviewed pertinent material for the meeting with the Firehouse Building Committee on Monday, December 6, 1976.

The meeting adjourned at 10:29 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna D. White
Secretary to the Selectmen

REC'D December 3, 1976 AT A.M.
ATT: TOWN CLERK P.M.