

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHLINGTON  
December 14, 2009

The Town Council of the Town of Southington held a regular meeting on Monday, December 14, 2009. Edward S. Pocock, III, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 o'clock, p.m.

The following Councilpersons were present, viz:

John N. Barry	Anthony E. D'Angelo
John C. Dobbins	Dawn A. Miceli
Albert A. Natelli, Jr.	Christopher J. Palmieri
Peter J. Romano, Jr.	Edward S. Pocock, III, Chair

Ex-officio members present were as follows, viz:

Anthony J. Tranquillo, Director of Public Works/Town Engineer  
Mark J. Sciota, Deputy Town Manager/Town Attorney  
John Weichsel, Town Manager

Absent: Stephanie A. Urillo

A prayer was recited by Councilman John Dobbins.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by everyone in attendance being led by former Board of Finance Chairman John Moise.

There were approximately 15 other persons in attendance.

**EDWARD S. POCOCK, III, Chairman, Presiding:**

**II. Minutes**

Mr. Palmieri made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented. Dr. Natelli seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**III. Councilmanic Communications**

Dr. Natelli announced the Fill a Truck Holiday, food and gift drive, which will be held on the Southington Town Green this Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. It's hosted by State Representatives Zalaski and Arsemeowicz and Quinlan Maintenance and the Pepper Pot. If you donate an item, you will receive a free cup of coffee. For more information call Sue at 860-621-9192.

Mr. Dobbins reported last Saturday he had the opportunity to head over to the Aqua Turf for the Community Services party. They service somewhere in the neighborhood of 600 families in town. It was a wonderful party to see what can be done with the donated services. We have to congratulate all that were involved: The Calvanese

Foundation, Realty III. Janet Mellon and Kathy Reinhard do a wonderful job with that program. Also I'd like to thank Donna Ayers, as well.

To the administration, I know last meeting we mentioned sending a letter over to the BOE and I wanted to follow up on that. That was about the voting machines and seeing if we could find other space for them.

Attorney Sciota stated he met with the two Registrars, first. They'll get back to me as to where they felt the machines could be secured. It may tie in with what Dr. Erardi is going to talk about tonight.

Mr. Palmieri said he spoke to Ed Malczyk, too, and part of the equipment he actually feels could potentially go in each individual building, i.e. the signs for 75 feet. Other material needs to be secured or at least they need to have access to it.

Mr. Palmieri said he had the honor and privilege of attending the Military Honor Wall Dedication along with Councilwoman Miceli, Councilmen D'Angelo, Natelli, Romano and Chairman Pocock. I'd like to acknowledge former Councilman Dave Zoni for all his work putting this together and Town Clerk Leslie Cotton for all her work coordinating everything. It was an honor to attend the event. It was well attended and it was nice to see so many of our troops home due to the holiday over Thanksgiving.

Mr. D'Angelo added he has always been proud to be a resident of Southington and that day I was especially proud to see the Wall of Honor honoring the troops that protect us. It was really a wonderful presentation. I think thanks should go to the American Legion, Steve Pintarich. I know he approached John Barry last year who pushed it forward with Dave Zoni. It was just a wonderful, honorable occasion and I was happy I was able to attend.

Mr. Barry added one other group that deserves a lot of credit is the Mother's of the Servicemen. We know about it but I think publicly they should be recognized. They spearheaded it and were a major contributor and also the assistance of town staff and other volunteers.

Mr. D'Angelo asked Mr. Tranquillo: I know you have a list of roads that are being repaired. I was wondering if in your travels or Mr. Wlodkowski's travels when you do evaluate road, if you could look at the road by Crescent Lake. It has been brought to my attention by several residents. It's in terrible condition and in bad shape. Mr. Tranquillo said he would consider that.

Mr. Romano advised that road actually is on a plan. I've been doing research as part of the Public Works Committee. A report was put out in 2006 and it fell by the wayside, but we are going to pick that up and run with that.

Mr. D'Angelo asked if there would be a workshop with the BOE, Town Council, Board of Finance like in the past regarding the budget process and what's going to happen. The Chair said he spoke with Chairman Goralski, already. We're hoping that the Committee of the Chairs will help that move forward. I don't want that to be the only focus. I plan on trying to stick to the model of the past. It tended to work. I am looking at that now.

Mr. Barry touched upon the budget issue. Obviously staff and the BOE are going to start presenting budgets in January. I am very concerned about the next budget year, but I am very concerned about this present budget year. Governor Rell has proposed \$85 million in municipal cuts. It hasn't been approved so it might not happen, but I just want to know if the town has a contingency plan to address the shortfalls that might occur.

Mr. Weichsel responded we have to watch and wait. I don't want to reinstitute the Containment Policy quite yet unless we have real knowledge that we have something very desperate on our hands. Our numbers so far are holding up. We'll report to you with anything we see happening.

The Chair asked for a motion to add to the Agenda: Appointment to the North Central Regional Mental Health Board. That would be Item E, Under Item V. Mr. Palmieri made that motion. Mr. Natelli seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

The Chair advised the photograph of the Town Council will be taken at the next meeting.

#### **IV. Report of Special Committees**

##### **A. Sewer Committee**

Mr. Dobbins, Chair of the Sewer Committee, reported they met for the first time this past Wednesday. We had a two hour meeting.

##### **a. East Summer Street Sewer Bypass**

Mr. Dobbins advised a motion was made to put this on the Agenda. This is one of the projects that has been identified as one of the two top priorities for the department to take care. We've had quite a few recent history blockages down there and a couple of overflows in residents' basements.

We made a motion to have this moved to an action item and thus the report on that.

Mr. Tranquillo added the project is designed. We're ready to go to bid when authorized by the Council.

##### **b. Home Safety Valve Program**

Mr. Dobbins reported this is a program that has been used at the Water Department. It's a warranty program. It is an optional program that allows members to sign up for insurance or warranty in case they have a problem with their sewer if it breaks or backs up. It's a company called Home Safety Valve which we will have a presentation on this evening.

Paul Roberts from Home Safety Valve Company passed around a handout and then did a presentation. (Attachment 1)

The Chair reported on the experience of the water department.

This program takes care of the blockage but the cleanup is part of your homeowner's insurance.

In the brochure provided it sets out exactly what is covered. (See handout)

Ms. Miceli stated her opposition to the proposal. She was concerned that our municipality is going to seemingly generate revenue off of the contracts that are sold within the community. Why would we as a municipality get involved with a private for profit company?

She stated in her research, a local insurance agent said you can get a sewer coverage rider on your policy which will cover the backup and other things, as well.

She stated she was concerned with our municipality putting an endorsement on this. If you read the letter that goes out, it definitely does mention the Town of Southington and it is seemingly endorsed by us as we will have voted as a Council on this.

I feel we are being used as a marketing tool for a for profit commercial industry. She said again she was against this.

Mr. Barry agreed with Ms. Miceli's comments. Another concern is that the sewer data base and customer information is going to be given to this for profit company and they are then able to contact through mail our residents four times a year.

He stated further he was not prepared to vote on this tonight. He would prefer to table this as he would like to know how much a rider costs. He suggested letting the resident know about the availability of a rider and its cost.

The premium is only guaranteed for two years based on this information.

It also says they shall not sell or share the data base or customer information without the express written consent of

Southington. Does that mean the written consent of the Town Council or administration, sewer director? It's not clear.

Mr. Barry concluded by saying he had major reservations at this time.

Mr. D'Angelo asked Mr. Tranquillo: Do you know what the extent of the problem is in Southington with sewer blockages to the houses? Is it a major problem? Mr. Tranquillo responded it is a significant problem. It can be thousands of dollars. I would estimate probably half a dozen homes a year have backups.

Mr. D'Angelo commented his concern would be that he doesn't know what the engineering's department or any town department's involvement in this would be. You are overburdened now. We don't want to overtax your department, as well. Mr. Tranquillo agreed his department would have some involvement and work to do with Aquarian.

The Chair explained the very positive experience he had with this program at the water department.

I'm glad this committee brought this forward because this is an issue that goes away until something happens. As a sitting Chairman, I have no problem entering a contract with a private company to get a cellular tower. Its income to the town and it helps the tax base. I am not a big fan of the conveyance tax, but I don't see a lot of Council people complaining about sales of houses and then collecting money on the conveyance tax which is optional. We choose to do it in this town.

We can adjust what's in here. If you're against the idea, that's fine.

I would like to see proposals back on who could offer this type of service to our customers so the people who did receive sewer service have the option to have this type of coverage.

Mr. Barry said the point on this proposal is maybe we should just send a notice out with the sewer bill saying you can obtain a rider through your private insurance for sewer backups. That might be a way to inform and educate the sewer users. Instead of giving the impression that this is the only option available.

Mr. Palmieri asked Mr. Roberts about the insurance rider. Mr. Roberts stated it says on the brochure that each homeowner should check their homeowners insurance to determine whether it covers this type of repair. That is put in the letter sent out to the customers.

The claim procedure with this program was explained by Mr. Roberts.

The average cost of a repair is \$2600.00 explained Mr. Roberts.

Mr. Romano explained he had the same concerns as Ms. Miceli does on the revenue sharing. I do want to make sure it is clear that the revenue that we will get is going into the sewer department to be used for ongoing operations, repairs funded by the sewer department. Nobody is making money. It is possible this might help to hold the line on sewer rates. The bottom line is there is no profit.

Ms. Miceli said it's all in the way you look at it. She still has a problem with it and would be voting no on something like this.

**c. WPCP- additional engineering services**

Mr. Dobbins explained this was additional engineering expenses incurred due to the problem at the denitrification plant and the soil. We have to give kudos to all involved for moving the process along and actually saving the town some money. They came in on budget, on time. The additional engineering expenses, 30 percent is paid by grant and 70 percent is a loan. It's the amount of \$110.00.

**d. Other issues presented**

Mr. Dobbins brought up the water pollution control plant sign. It's going to be moved by the highway department thus saving us \$4,000. It will be done some time in the next month or so.

A presentation was made to the committee on the Spring Street Project. It's a 178,000 sf sports complex. Steve Giudice from Harry Cole & Son made a nice presentation to us. They're looking to partner with us to extend the sewers west of the Quinnipiac River some 300 feet.

**B. Bulky Waste Transfer Station Committee (Attachment 2)**

Mr. D'Angelo reported the committee finished up. You have a copy of the report of December, 2009. Along with the Minutes. I think we should have some public input before we put our stamp of approval on this report. The committee did vote on the report.

The Chair noted Paragraph 3 is different. Mr. D'Angelo explained the oversized permit stayed the same.

The situation was with borrowed vehicles or landlord scenarios, nonresident scenarios. You will need a special pass good for one visit. This pass can be obtained at the Town Hall and it would be stamped with a date and that date would be within the month of obtaining that special permit. It is for one day. I can go there many times during that day but it would be only for that one day.

The Chair noted Paragraph 6. Type of load recorded. Are they going to do that by the bins? Mr. Tranquillo said it is hard to say. We will have a drop down menu. All brush will be brush, all demo will be all demo. Lots of customized categories.

The free year is to work the bugs out to find out exactly what's going on down there, commented Mr. D'Angelo.

Discussion of the start date, i.e.: March 1 or April 1, 2010.

Discussion about having a public hearing or meeting to get public input on this.

The Chair stated why delay this any further. There's been tons of public input at the committee meetings we've had. Due diligence has been done. I think we should move forward.

Mr. Barry stated he felt there should be a public hearing on this. This is a policy change. We'd be doing a disservice if we didn't have a Council public hearing.

(End of Tape #1, Side A)

(Beginning of Tape #1, Side B)

Discussion continued on having a public hearing and the delay involved.

Discussion of how long it will take to get this up and running. April 1, 2010 is a target date. The educational part is the most important part of this. We'd like to have it up and running by April or May when it gets really busy.

Mr. Romano questioned was it ever taken into consideration when people do come in for their permit/sticker that they have to sign something that they understand the rules. Mr. D'Angelo said they haven't talked about how it would be specifically implemented. We did indicate the Town Staff would come up with specific rules on that. That's something we could look at.

Mr. Palmieri discussed Paragraph 3-B and asked for some clarification.

Mr. Palmieri said his concern from the beginning with this is, no matter how much we advertise it, I can almost guarantee someone who loads up their truck with all kinds of stuff, they get to the transfer station, and they're told you can't come in because you don't have a permit. What can we do about that? Mr. Tranquillo said the suggestions were made a long time ago to have somebody at the gate who could license the vehicle. Explained it will be complicated and will have to have more thought.

Mr. Palmieri asked if this applies to the brush drop off, as well. Mr. Tranquillo explained it applies at all times.

Ms. Miceli said she thought punch cards would be better than having the permit sticker on the truck. Explained the benefits of having the person licensed and not the vehicle.

As to no cost for the first 12 months, I hope it's none for the remainder of my lifetime. I feel like we paid for that transfer station and we have a right as residents to use that transfer station. I hope it remains void of charges.

Dr. Natelli asked about the public hearing. I understand why a public hearing, but why not just do a public announcement with the local media about the changes and then get public input through public communication at Council meetings and through email rather than delay this with a public hearing.

Mr. Barry spoke in favor of a public hearing.

Mr. Romano asked if the public was able to go to the meetings that were held with Mr. D'Angelo. Mr. D'Angelo said the meetings were held at 3:30 on Thursdays. They are advertised and people can come.

The Chair said his view is he doesn't see the need for doing a public hearing. Move it along. This has been talked about on the street. More public input on this than most other subjects I've ever had.

Mr. Palmieri discussed the value of having a public hearing based on this plan.

The Chair pointed out the money that is being wasted because people are being allowed to use this place. Waste will continue to happen into the spring clean up if we delay this.

The Chair didn't see any reason to delay and wanted to take action tonight. Tony will get RFPs on the systems. It's time to move forward. After listening, it is quite clear to me that March 1<sup>st</sup> is the date where this thing needs to be implemented before spring clean up.

Mr. Tranquillo commented about tickets/punch cards. That does have certain advantages but we're against that because we felt that could lead to a black market.

### **C. Apple Harvest Committee**

Mr. Palmieri reported he was presenting for consideration the renewal of the contract for the Apple Harvest Festival Coordinator

position. Jim Champagne has done an outstanding job for the past two years. You did get a copy of the contract. Nothing has changed including his fee. It will remain the same for 2010 as it did for 2009. I highly recommend his endorsement.

Jim Champagne said it has been his pleasure to be the coordinator for the 2008 and 2009 festivals. It is not a part time job. He explained there are 18 committee chairpeople who do a wonderful job. Over 200 volunteers who man our booths and perform other duties for us. We're lucky to have a committee help us sponsor this event. There is good cooperation from the merchants.

I work at the pleasure of the supervisory committee. I'd like to single two people out: Our outstanding Chairperson, Councilman Chris Palmieri. He does a Wonderful job, has a great work ethic.

And, our Town Attorney Mark Sciota. He is a very consistent voice of reason on the committee.

I'd also like to thank the other members of the committee. And, Lt. Pocock who's wearing a different hat this evening but he made it very easy. Explained the police duties are under his direction. Job well done, thank you.

I'd be honored and proud to be the 2010 Coordinator, as well.

Mr. Palmieri noted the Apple Harvest Management Consultant will be tabled. The last management consultant was unable to attend our last supervisory committee meeting and we didn't act on that. She should be in attendance at the next meeting. I'll bring this before you at the first meeting in January, 2010.

The Chair noted Mr. Steve Pestillo will be filling Cheryl Lounsbury's vacancy.

## **V. Town Manager's Report and Communications**

### **A. Report of Board of Finance**

Mr. Weichsel noted the Report of Board of Finance. Are there any questions?

(No response)

### **B. Bids - Marion Highlands Interceptor (Attachment 3)**

Mr. Weichsel said we prequalified bidders and we got a low bid from a company known as Baltazar Contractors at a price of \$2,382,784. That bid is dramatically below our estimate of 2.9 million. The contractor did do the Meriden Avenue reconstruction, one of the toughest jobs seen around here. He has done other work in town, as well. We are recommending the award to Baltazar.

**C. Appointment: Conservation Commission Alternate 1 member, term to April 2013**

Mr. Weichsel appointed Richard Post from Winding Ridge. He is a member of the Charter Revision Commission.

**D. Bids - Methane for WPC**

A recommended award, it was not the low bidder as we are not satisfied with the low bidder's performance on a previous bid, so we recommend Coyne Chemical at \$1.41.

Mr. Romano noted staff did ask for a letter of credit to guarantee the low bidder and they did not do that. You've done your due diligence. We have to take this very seriously.

Ms. Miceli asked about the monthly rise in fee.

Mr. Tranquillo explained it is to our advantage to bid every month.

The Chair wanted to know if it had to come to the Council every month for approval. The Town Attorney pointed out the Council can delegate to the administration non Charter things. You could delegate this particular issue to the administration. And, if the administration feels they need to, they could come to the Council.

The Chair advised he would like to be kept informed as to the price, but he did not see a reason for it to be on the Agenda every month. If there is a consensus to keep it here, fine. But if not, I'd like to move to give it to the administration to keep track of and when it's about \$2.50 a gallon or something, they could come back to us to let us know.

Attorney Sciota noted in Old Business H, when you award this bid, you could have a motion to assign all future bidding decisions to the administration until a certain amount is reached.

The Chair suggested \$2.50 when we get to that item.

**E. Appointment to North Central Regional Mental Health Board (Attachment 5)**

Mr. Weichsel appointed Elizabeth Lazario as the representative to the North Central Regional Mental Health Board, if there is no objection.

**VI. Town Attorney's Report**

**A. Request of Charter Revision Commission for extension**

Attorney Sciota gave history on the Charter Revision Commission which was appointed a year ago. A report was due back in a time period up to 16 month. The then Council asked for them to report in 12 months, which is this meeting. The Charter Revision is not prepared to do that at this time.

Dave Zoni, Chairman of the Charter Revision Commission stated they have not finished their work yet and would like a four month extension. We are pretty close to wrapping it up now. We are going to have a public hearing on January 6<sup>th</sup> then we will make our final vote on all the revisions we have moved for Charter Changes and then after the final vote, we will present our report to you.

## **B. Tax Abatement Requests**

### **1. 170 Canal Street (Attachment 6)**

Attorney Sciota explained this is Mohawk Northeast. Mr. Perillo came to you about 8 months ago with some modifications to the Tax Partnership Program. Specifically the industrial part of the program.

One of the major reasons Mohawk came into town was because of this program. They're asking for the abatement which is 40 percent of personal property and real estate for a period of five years.

The Economic Development Coordinator is in favor of this and so is the administration.

### **2. Mt. Southington Ski Area (Attachment 7)**

Mr. D'Angelo explained he had a conflict on this one. A family member is the Manager at Mount Southington. Mr. D'Angelo left the room.

Attorney Sciota explained this is the second part of the Tax Partnership Program. This covers only personal property. They put a new ski lift in at a cost of \$623,000, estimated in value. This is spread over five years: 50%/50%/50%/40%/30%.

The Economic Development Coordinator is very much in favor of this and so is the administration.

Mr. D'Angelo returned.

Attorney Sciota reported no executive session this evening.

## **VII. Public Communications**

Dr. Joseph Erardi, Superintendent of Schools addressed the 2009 and 2010 budget. The finance sub-committee of the BOE will be meeting with Sherri DiNello our Business Director and my office and we will be forecasting the second six months of our fiscal year. We will have an

update for the school board and we'll be sharing that information through the Town Manager's office.

I felt it was important to share with you an action that took place last Thursday on December 12<sup>th</sup>. The BOE moved forward with a facility committee, ad hoc, for the next five months to address the immediate concerns that will overlap with town concerns. We have a meeting put together after the holidays. Our North Center temporary housing for the last year and a half will be vacant. We moved our Alternative High School out of the building because of the renovation. Presently we house the BOE offices in a building that will be 100 in 2011. We have immediate concerns we have to sort out as a school board.

We also have the middle school project and elementary schools yet to be looked at.

With our facility committee, we are hoping that there'll be representation from the Town Council and the Board of Finance. We have communication. We have copies of the model for the Chair of the Council. Mr. Weichsel and Mr. Sciota have a copy, already.

We'd like to extend an invitation through the Chair to bring a member to the committee. I don't know if there is an immediate need to have a Council person attend because the school board does have to get their own house in order before we begin to look at the community at large.

In regards to the upcoming budget season, the school board remains open to any and all communication and we are hoping to be easily available and accessible to all Council members over the next couple of months.

In closing, to our new Council members, if at any point you'd like to come in to try to better understand the work of the school board, the partnership we have in place and I think the economic and fiscal crisis we are trying to resolve, that's an open invitation to all.

The interaction last year in town served as a model for the State of Connecticut. I'm hoping we maintain our best practice and keep open communication and we never lose sight of the community and the children we are obligated to educate.

Thank you very much.

The Chair noted Mr. Romano will be the representative from the Council.

Dave Zoni, 340 Annelise Avenue. I'd like to speak to one of the topics concerning the insurance program for the sewer lines. Something is bothering me about it. I'm worried, concerned.

The list of people who have city sewers is a matter of public record. The street cards are posted on the website. A sewer map is readily available from the engineering department.

It begs the question as to why this company needs the Town of Southington. Why can't they just formulate that list, send out their mailer and take on customers.

They need us because they want our Town Seal on their mailers. They want the Town of Southington to give them credibility. I'm concerned our town is being used for this venture to give them justification and credibility.

The concept of insurance that was brought up is true. A letter was passed around showing what homeowners overlook and insurance companies do provide this in a rider at a reasonable cost.

I'd like you to consider a public action where each ratepayer pays a small amount of money each year and you use that as a pool to fix breakages from time to time. Or you can have people opt into it at a large fee --- not \$90.

Consider the public option and I'll leave it at that.

Arthur Cyr, 103 Berlin Avenue. Spoke about the Sewer Committee meeting. If I'm not mistaken the water department has been sending out flyers for their valve safety program for 2 or 3 or 4 years. I throw them away. This is no different. I'm amazed at the hullabaloo over it.

We're into December and we've had snow and I was hoping someone would give us a report on the leaf program. I assume they finished on time. And, I hope they finished under budget.

Mr. Weichsel said it was finished on time, not under budget, but on budget.

Mr. Cyr continued when we finish on time, it's nice to hear some good news.

Upon review of the list of new committees, I'm impressed with the way we'll get things done in a more timely manner.

For the town building maintenance committee, I have a request, I ask that committee start at 75 Main Street and stand in front of the building and look up and read where it says: Town of Southington. Hopefully your committee can have that fixed as early as possible in the spring.

I hope the committees continue to be open to suggestions from people at this podium or send you emails.

(End of Tape #1, Side B)  
(Beginning of Tape #2, Side A)

Mr.Cyr concluded.

Warren (Inaudible), it's my first time. He asked about a gentleman who worked for the Town of Southington who helped himself to \$18 worth of pavers making \$70,000 a year. What was this guy thinking?

The Town Attorney advised that his office is downstairs in this building, come by anytime and I can explain to you the process. You're talking about a personnel issue which is not normally handled in this kind of situation. I'd be happy to discuss generic things with you on how these things take place in my office any time you wish. Just give me a call.

The speaker responded this is not right. Everybody knows that. As a taxpayer and resident of Southington I have a very serious problem with people who take things that are not theirs.

Thank you.

Ilio Fusciello, 82 Autran Avenue. Spoke about his issue and indicated he wanted to be paid.

Benny Camuso, Meriden Avenue, Southington. You all do a good job. He spoke about the budget and if the taxes go up, a lot of people are not working. The economy is going to get worse, not better.

Also for the bulky waste, why don't we charge \$5 or \$10 to get a permit? If you come from out of town, charge \$15 or \$25. I don't feel we should increase the tax for the bulky waste. If you want to use it, charge them. That's my opinion. A lot of senior citizens don't use the bulky waste, but if you go up on the tax, it's for every single one.

On the sewer, what are you charged for? Mr. Tranquillo explained when we install sewers in the street; the assessment pays for the 8-inch main itself and the street lateral, that's \$750.

Mr. Camuso said thank you and have a good holiday! Good job!

Attorney Sciota explained that many times people ask for something to be put on the Agenda. I have to stress back in March of 2001 this item was put on the Agenda for Mr. Fusciello by the late Chairman DePaolo. He had a full presentation. The Council listened to his presentation and concluded based upon their information as well as advise from not only this Town Attorney but prior Town Attorneys, that they were nonconforming lots that were merged at the time of

subdivision. This is the situation that existed all over town and still technically exists all over town because those old maps are on the land records.

They voted 9 to 0 after hearing the full presentation by Mr. Fusciello. This is not something that has never come before the Council and that the Council has never heard it. If you want to see the Minutes, it's March 26, 2001.

#### **VIII. Old Business**

##### **A. Action on report of Board of Finance**

Dr. Natelli made a motion to accept the Board of Finance report. Mr. Palmieri seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

##### **B. Award of Bid - Marion Highlands Interceptor**

Mr. D'Angelo made a motion to approve the bid to Baltazar Contractors in the amount of \$2,385,784.56. Mr. Dobbins seconded. Motion passed 8 to 0 on a roll call vote.

##### **C. Action on items from Sewer Committee**

###### **1. East Summer Street Bypass**

Mr. Palmieri made a motion to have the East Summer Street Project go out to bid. Dr. Natelli seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

###### **2. Home Safety Valve Program**

Mr. Dobbins made a motion to table to January 11th. Mr. Palmieri seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

###### **3. WPCP- Approval engineering services**

Mr. Dobbins made a motion to approve the engineering services for the denite plant in the amount of \$110,000. Mr. Romano seconded. Motion passed 8 to 0 on a roll call vote.

##### **D. Action on report of Bulky Waste Transfer Station Committee**

The Chair would like to have a motion to move this along with a few small minor changes to it that were talked about earlier. I'd like Paragraph 9 to read that the public works committee will get this in the future as opposed to the town staff so that the committee can look at them. The bulky waste transfer station working group is all done.

Mr. Romano made a motion to approve. Dr. Natelli seconded.

Clarification on Paragraph 9 discussed in response to a question by Mr. Barry. The Chair said in the future, the last paragraph will

read, as part of the permit system, the public works committee will recommend formal rules and regulations to better define use of the facility to the Town Council for their approval.

Mr. Romano also asked to add that people will be signing to acknowledge the rules and regulations when they get their permit.

Discussion of 3-B. Mr. Palmieri did not want that interpreted "or vehicles must have a special pass for one visit". Mr. Tranquillo explained a town vehicle has a sticker, but an out of town vehicle would have to get the special one day pass. Attorney Sciota pointed out: non permitted.

Mr. Romano and Dr. Natelli were fine with the amendments.

Mr. Barry said he was confused about changing the document wording.

It is changed to: Non permitted borrowed vehicles/landlord scenario/non resident scenario. That would be the language.

Further discussion of the permit and special pass procedure. You can't show up at the transfer station and get in. You have to plan this ahead of time and go to the Town Clerk during her normal hours of operation.

The Chair said something has to be included in there that says they can't get it on site. It's not going to become the DMV.

Extensive discussion took place on the procedure for obtaining the stickers and passes.

The motion is to approve with the amendments that it goes to the public works committee in Paragraph 9, rewording of 3-B, non permitted, and the signature when they apply. Dr. Natelli agreed.

Mr. Barry noted Paragraph 8. No exception after March 1<sup>st</sup>? Are we giving a grace period in January and February to get people acquainted with it? Attorney Sciota said the way this is worded is we'll be up and running with our technical stuff at the station by March 1<sup>st</sup>. If a one month grace period is suggested, April 1<sup>st</sup> won't make that big of a difference on our database.

The March 1<sup>st</sup> date is due to the spring clean up.

Attorney Sciota suggested on the administration and the Town Clerk's part, assuming we pass this tonight, we immediately start the media blitz we'll have and possibly have flyers handed out at the transfer station. We'll talk with Steve and Tony about that. We could start that immediately.

Mr. Tranquillo is estimating six to eight weeks before getting the stickers and passes.

Discussion of the specific date when this will start if we don't know when we'll get the stickers was started by Mr. Palmieri.

Ms. Cotton said: Would it be reasonable to say we'd like to begin issuing the tickets on March 1<sup>st</sup> and the transfer station program would begin April 1<sup>st</sup>?

Mr. D'Angelo emphasized he would like the stickers to start for the spring clean up. That's the very important time and the numbers do get high.

Mr. Tranquillo said he understood the Council's intent and will move as quickly as possible to be able to issue stickers.

Mr. Weichsel said a public announcement would be made when the stickers are available.

Administration could always request a modification on the start date if need be.

Mr. Barry said this is a policy change. If you don't get it clear and have direct instructions to staff, it could become problematic. This document has to be clear and concise and the staff has to understand what their responsibility is.

Mr. D'Angelo said the pass is valid for one day. You can go as many times as you want on that one day.

Motion passed 8 to 0 on a roll call vote.

#### **E. Action on Apple Harvest Committee Recommendations**

Mr. D'Angelo made a motion to approve Jim Champagne as the coordinator for the 2010 Apple Harvest Festival. Ms. Miceli seconded. Motion passed 8 to 0 on a roll call vote.

Mr. Palmieri made a motion to table the consultant contract. Ms. Miceli seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

#### **F. Action on Charter Revision Commission request for extension**

Mr. Romano made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Natelli to extend it four months to the statutory limit. Motion passed 8 to 0 on a roll call vote.

#### **G. Action on Tax Abatement requests**

Dr. Natelli mad a motion to approve the tax abatement put forward for Mohawk. Mr. Dobbins seconded. Motion passed 8 to 0 on a roll call vote.

Mr. Palmieri made a motion to approve the tax abatement as presented by Mount Southington. Dr. Natelli seconded.

(Mr. D'Angelo has left the room.)

Motion passed 7 to 0 on a roll call vote.

(Mr. D'Angelo re-entered the room.)

**H. Award of Methanol Bid for WPC**

The Chair requested an approval on this and have it where the administration handles this.

Dr. Natelli made a motion to approve Coyne at a bid of \$1.41 for methanol and additionally assign the acceptance of the future bids by the administration until it reaches the amount of \$2.50. Mr. Dobbins seconded. Motion passed 8 to 0 on a roll call vote.

**IX. New Business**

**A. Tax Refunds (Attachment 8)**

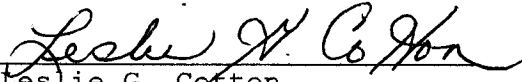
Ms. Miceli made a motion to approve tax refunds this evening. Mr. D'Angelo seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Before adjourning, the Chair wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukah and have a safe and Happy New Year.

Dr. Natelli made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Ms. Miceli. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

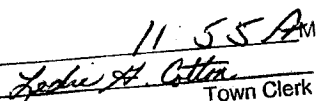
(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 o'clock, p.m.)

Attest:

  
Leslie G. Cotton  
Town Clerk

**RECEIVED & FILED**  
TOWN OF SOUTHWINGTON

DEC 18 2009

11:55 AM  
By   
Town Clerk



835 Main Street  
 Bridgeport, CT 06604-4995  
 888.537.5006 toll-free



## Homeowner Safety Valve Company Overview to Town of Southington December 9, 2009

### What is Safety Valve®?

Problem-solving consumer protection plan(s) that benefit both community sewer department and their customers.

Launched our Sewer program in 2002 to address fundamental homeowner problem(s) -- the homeowner owns and is responsible for the Sewer lines on their property and to the sewer main in the street also.

Provides a Voluntary Annual Low Cost Repair Solution for Customer Owned Equipment, as Customers Often:

- Do Not Know Their Responsibility
- Do Not Know Who to Call for a Repair
- Unprepared to Cover Repair Cost
- Homeowners are left on their own to repair and/or replace their faulty sewer lines (laterals)

Safety Valve Company partners with municipalities in offering a customer service solution to a homeowner's problem.

Plan Tailored to Specifics of Southington Sewer Department Customer Responsibilities

Safety Valve has a demonstrated capability and successful track record in introducing this type of service to first-time communities.

Safety Valve utilizes both its current Sewer First Responder network and local excavation contractors.

### Benefits for the Town of Southington Sewer Department:

- No (\$0) Cost to Implement Program
- No (\$0) Cost to Operate Program
- Revenue share of 15% for each new and subsequent renewal sold – revenue share distributed every quarter
- Municipality Reimbursed for Response Time to a Safety Valve customer's home
  - Southington reimbursed for any regular/overtime blockage/back-up investigation
- Provides Goodwill Between the Municipality and the Customer
  - Customers view service offered through a town relationship as Enhanced/Exceptional
- Homeowner Safety Valve Company Fully Insured to Prevent any Liability Issues/all contractors are insured

### Next Steps

- Meet to clarify Sewer and Customer Ownership Responsibilities
- Review a Draft Contract Specific to Your Needs
- Finalize a Contract
- Establish Launch Date/Commence Marketing

Homeowner Safety Valve Company is an affiliate of Aquarion Water Company of Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire

BULKY WASTE STATION PERMIT SYSTEM  
PROPOSAL  
December, 2009

The Committee consisted of:

Anthony D'Angelo, Chairman  
David Zoni  
Michael Riccio  
Arthur Cyr

George Cole, Highway Department  
Mark Sciota  
John Weichsel

The following proposal is a compilation of discussions with town staff and with the Bulky Waste Committee as well as limited public input:

1. Permit/sticker to be issued at Town Clerk's office at the Town Hall.  
Cost: None for the first twelve months.  
Stickers to be permanently affixed to the inside of the driver's side front window, with date of permit, vehicle registration number and bar code.
2. Residents must show Driver's license and registration as identification to obtain a permit; only vehicle to be used will be licensed. For special cases see provisions below for SPECIAL PASS.
3. (a) Oversized Permit: Oversized trailers and trucks will need a ticket with bar code. The resident will receive six oversized permits for six visits.  
  
(b) Non Permit - Borrowed vehicles/landlord scenarios/non-resident scenarios must have a special pass valid for one day. This special pass will be stamped with a date within one month.
4. If resident is a recent move-in, they must present license and registration as above and also one copy of current utility bill to prove residency.
5. For mid-term transfer to a different vehicle, current permit holder must produce recognizable remains of old sticker and new vehicle registration.
6. At station, permit sticker will be checked with scan gun and type of load recorded.
7. Software system must have capability to track, sort and query to develop reports by name, address, vehicle registration, special passes as well as waste type, number of loads per day/month/year.
8. First two months will be a training period for residents including public hearings, newspaper stories and ads, cable television notice and announcements, flyer handouts at Bulky Waste to educate the public preceding training period for residents. Formal permit enforcement will begin March 1, 2010.
9. As part of the permit system, the public works committee will develop formal rules and regulations to better define use of the facility. All residents prior to receiving a permit pass or sticker will be required to sign a copy of the rules and regulations setting forth their understanding and acknowledgement of the rules. The Town Council will review these for approval.

Motion to approve by Michael Riccio which was seconded by David Zoni. Motion passed unanimously.

# Town of Southington

Attachment 3

## Engineering Department

ANTHONY J. TRANQUILLO, P.E.  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS/TOWN ENGINEER



75 MAIN STREET  
SOUTHINGTON, CT 06489  
TEL. (860) 276-6231  
FAX (860) 628-8669

December 11, 2009

John Weichsel, Town Manager  
Town Hall  
75 Main Street  
Southington, CT 06489

Re: **Marion Highlands Sanitary Sewer Project**

Dear Mr. Weichsel:

On Tuesday, December 8, 2009, the Town of Southington received six bids for the Marion Highlands Sanitary Sewer project. Of the six bids received, Baltazar Contractors, Inc. of Ludlow, MA, was low bidder at \$2,382,784.56. A prequalification process was used and the bidders are all prequalified to do this project. We have also worked with Baltazar on two very large projects in the past ten years and find them to be very competent, qualified, and professional.

We recommend that the bid be awarded to Baltazar Contractors, Inc. of Ludlow, MA, at a bid price of \$2,382,784.56.

If you need any additional information, please advise.

Very truly yours,

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony J. Tranquillo", is written over a horizontal line.

Anthony J. Tranquillo, P.E.  
Director of Public Works/Town Engineer

AJT:smm

cc: James A. Grappone, Annette S. Turnquist, Emilia Portelinha, Mark Sciota

**Bid Opening**

**TOWN OF SOUTHLINGTON  
Marion Highlands 10" Interceptor Sewer Construction  
including 8" Lateral Sewer Construction & Mt. Vernon Rd. Reconstruction  
Contract 2009-6**

**Office of Town Manager, Town Hall, Southington, CT  
December 8, 2009 – 10:00 A.M.**

Present: Anthony J. Tranquillo, DPW/Town Engineer; Mark J. Sciota, Deputy Town Manager/Town Attorney; James Grappone & Annette Turnquist, Asst. Town Engineers; company representatives.

<u>Prequalified Bidders</u>	<u>Bid Bond</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
Baltazar Contractors, Inc.	X	\$2,382,784.56 *
Spazzarini Construction Co. Inc.	X	\$2,443,410.20
Quality Associates	X	\$2,495,267.00
Guerrera Construction Co. Inc.	X	\$2,656,103.00
VMS Construction Company	X	\$2,975,481.00
CFL, Inc.	X	\$3,529,362.00

\*apparent low bidder

# Town of Southington

## Engineering Department

ANTHONY J. TRANQUILLO, P.E.  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS/TOWN ENGINEER



75 MAIN STREET  
SOUTHTON, CT 06489  
TEL. (860) 276-6231  
FAX (860) 628-8669

December 11, 2009

John Weichsel, Town Manager  
Town Hall  
75 Main Street  
Southington, CT 06489

Re: **Methanol Bids**

Dear Mr. Weichsel:

On Friday, December 11, 2009, the Town received two bids for the January delivery for Methanol for the treatment plant, Contract 2009-13. Of the two bids, Slack Chemical Co. of Carthage, N.Y., was low at \$1.31349/gallon. Coyne Chemical was second at \$1.41/gallon.

The apparent low bidder, Slack Chemical Co., was the successful bidder for the November delivery but failed to provide the chemical requested by the sewer plant superintendent. Instead of 7,000 gallons, 5,500 were delivered and no further methanol was available in November which caused a near problem with running out of the material at the end of the month.

We consider the failure to deliver at the end of November as a breach of contract for Slack Chemical, and we are very concerned that the same thing may occur with future deliveries from Slack Chemical. On Friday, December 11, 2009, I made a call to Derek Davis of Slack Chemical and informed him that in order for us to accept his bid, a security bond or letter of credit would have to be posted in the amount of \$20,698 to guarantee delivery for the month of January. Derek Davis indicated that his company was not interested in providing this security.

In light of the default in November and the conditions as I have highlighted above, I recommend that the bid be awarded to Coyne Chemical Co. of Croydon, PA., at a bid price of \$1.41/gallon.

If you have any further questions, please advise.

Very truly yours,

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony J. Tranquillo', is written over a horizontal line.

Anthony J. Tranquillo, P.E.  
Director of Public Works/Town Engineer  
AJT:mmm

cc: Mark Sciota, Emilia Portelinha, John DeGioia, James A. Grappone



October 16, 2009

John Weichsel, Town Manager  
Southington Town Hall  
75 Main Street  
Southington, CT 06489

Dear Mr. Weichsel,

The North Central Regional Mental Health Board (NCRMHB) is seeking representation from your town on our local Catchment Area Council (CAC).

Created in 1974 by Connecticut General Statutes (17a-483), NCRMHB is a non-profit agency with volunteer members from 37 towns in Region IV of the state. By working through their local CACs, representatives of these 37 towns have helped determine and monitor local mental health services funded by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) for the last 34 years. The unique structure of Regional Boards and their local CACs permits local town residents to evaluate the state services provided to your town's residents and recommend how state and federal mental health funds are to be spent. This work at the grass roots level has led to significant improvements in the service system. NCRMHB is your town's quality assurance unit for local DMHAS funded services.

The council for your catchment area includes the towns of Southington, Berlin, Bristol, Burlington, New Britain, Plainville, and Plymouth. **By statute the local CAC must be represented by one consumer, family member, or concerned citizen from each town in its catchment area. The representative must be appointed by the governing official of that town. Currently there is a vacancy on the council for your catchment area, therefore we writing to you with a request that you appoint a volunteer representative at your earliest convenience.** The representative should be someone has experience with or is knowledgeable about the mental health needs of persons in your community. They attend regular monthly meetings; serve on panels evaluating state-funded services, and gather information from (and disseminate information to) consumers, family members, town officials, and legislators about local needs and the effectiveness of services.

The council meetings for your catchment area are held at Community Mental Health Affiliates at 12:00 noon on the second Thursday of the month.

I have attached an application from Elizabeth Lazariel. She is a resident of your town and has been attending CAC meetings since May 2009 as an interested guest. She is a retired Clinical Social Worker with 30 years of experience in the Mental Health Field and an active volunteer in your community. She has met with the social services staff in Southington and has secured their blessing to seek this appointment. Elizabeth desires to represent your town and, in our opinion, is very qualified to represent the citizens of Southington our council.

I will be calling you within the next several weeks to further discuss the purposes of the local CAC and assist you as needed with appointing Elizabeth or another representative of your choosing. We are able to provide some documents that may be helpful to you if you decide to search for a town representative: 1) a summary of the state statutes governing mental health regional boards and catchment area councils, 2) press releases that have been used by other towns to recruit new CAC representatives in their local newspapers, and 3) an application form for CAC membership, and 4) a brochure "Fact about CACs."

I look forward to talking with you, and thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Marcia DuFore  
CAC Support Specialist

# **MOHAWK**

**NORTHEAST, INC.**

170 CANAL STREET • P.O. BOX 37 • PLANTSVILLE, CT 06479-0037  
TEL. 860-621-1451 • FAX 860-620-9974

December 03, 2009

Mark Sciota – Town Attorney  
Town of Southington  
P.O. Box 610  
Southington, CT 06489

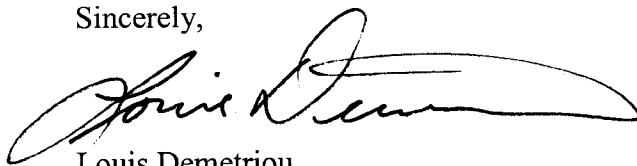
Dear Mr. Sciota,

After speaking with Brian Lastra (Southington Tax Assessor), he indicated to me that I needed to write to you regarding our upcoming tax abatement.

I am formally requesting that Mohawk Northeast receives the Tax Abatement under the Tax Partnership Program. I understand that this is a 40% abatement for 5 years.

Thank you for your assistance and if anything else is needed to process this request, feel free to contact me at 860-621-1451 ext 606 .

Sincerely,



Louis Demetriou  
Accounting Manager – Mohawk Northeast, Inc.

# Ski Mount Southington

December 9, 2009

Mark Scotia, Town Attorney  
75 Main St.  
PO Box 610  
Southington, CT 06489

Re: Tax Abatement

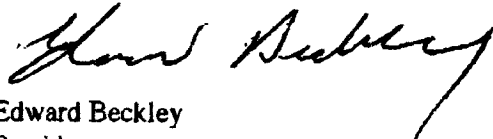
Dear Mr. Scotia,

Mount Southington Ski Area, Inc. completed the construction of a new triple chair lift and received our Certificate of Occupancy from Southington's Building Department on November 19, 09. With respect to the October 1, 2010 Grand List, Mount Southington is eligible and would like to receive a tax abatement pursuant to the Town's Tax Partnership Program. We understand that the abatement would run for five (5) years at the following percentages based upon the value of the triple chair lift project. The cost of the Chair was 623,000.00.

Year 1	50%
Year 2	50%
Year 3	50%
Year 4	40%
Year 5	30%

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Yours truly,



Edward Beckley  
President



**List of Requests for Abatement or Refund of Taxes for Town Council Meeting December 14, 2009:**

<u>Taxpayer's Name</u>	<u>Reason for Refund</u>	<u>Amount of Refund</u>
Belury, Cynthia J	Assessor C/C List #20211 S 2004	274.81
Cab East LLC	Assessor C/C List #30120 M 2008	80.23
Collins Medical Associates	Assessor C/C List #19180 P 2007	73.81
Ouellette, Daniel P	Assessor C/C List #150577 M 2008	172.89
VW Credit Leasing LTD	Assessor C/C List #220600 M 2008	220.01
Whelan, Lisa or Charles	Overpayment List #8055 R 2008	1668.81 *

**\*explanation attached**