

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWINGTON  
February 28, 2011

The Town Council of the Town of Southington held a public hearing and a regular meeting on Monday, February 28, 2011. Edward S. Pocock, III, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:01 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.	Stephanie A. Urillo
Edward S. Pocock, III	

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  
Garry Brumback, Town Manager

**7:00 Public Hearing - Sewer Ordinance revision**

Attorney Sciota explained this is a modification of our Ordinance Section 20-71 which is unauthorized connections to the sewer system. (Ordinance attached for review Attachment 1)

This is a program to improve the sewer system and save the rate payers monetary costs as well as trying to alleviate damage to people's property. That is the goal of this ordinance modification.

The Chair noted that the education process concerning something like this is going to be very important.

The Chair then asked John DeGioia to give an overview of what the impact is and some of the frustrations faced. Mr. DeGioia agreed some people do not understand the impacts and see the sump pump as a way to get rid of groundwater. I put a few facts together:

- the average household discharges approximately 200 gallons a day of waste water
- the sanitary sewers were designed around that 200 gallons with a plus or minus factor
- a sump pump (1/3 horsepower) operating one quarter of the time discharges 16,200 gallons.

If you think about all of the houses that normally putting in 200 gallons and even one quarter of the houses putting in 16,200, the system is completely inundated. The wastewater backs up in the sewers, back into the people's houses, comes out of the manholes

and it over taxes the wastewater treatment plant. Those are all significant problems.

Mr. DeGioia discussed the effects on the system and the operations at the plant for disinfection when the system is inundated. We use bacteria for disinfection and when this high peak happens, it is very, very detrimental.

Discussion of designing a system to handle the sump pumps relative to cost. He explained every road would have to be dug up and the sewers would have to be largely increased in size to handle the flow. We have 10 pump stations and they would all have to be completely rebuilt. That would be probably around \$2 million for each pump station.

We have two siphons that would have to be expanded.

The treatment plant itself would have to be able to handle the flow. He explained options; i.e.: expansion tank or you can just expand the entire plant to handle the flow and that would be about \$100,000,000.

If a homeowner has their sump pump tapped into the sewer discharge, the first thing they need to do is call a plumber and work with the plumber to determine what is the least expensive method to get it disconnected from the sanitary sewers.

Discussion of the difference between a storm water drain and a sewer drain. The storm drains all flow to the rivers and tributaries associated with the river system. The pipes are much larger than sanitary pipes.

The plant handles about 20,000 people. For future expansion we can handle up to about 30,000. (Attachment 2)

(Public Comments)

Joe Landrie, 41 PreliCourt. I have to take exception to the Town Attorney saying this ordinance is voluntary. Mr. Landrie explained the particular paragraphs he felt relevant.

Private property is just that. You cannot pass an ordinance that says that you have access to a house. To get into a private residence you would require a warrant issued by a judge. I feel that the total concept of this ordinance is unconstitutional because it allows private access to a residence without a warrant.

It presumes a resident is guilty until proven innocent. This whole thing is unconstitutional.

I agree we should limit inflow of sump pumps into the system, but this ordinance doesn't do it. To me, it's unconstitutional. Review it and rewrite it, please.

The Chair called three times for other speakers.

Arthur Cyr, 103 Berlin Avenue. I like the ordinance and I understand the day to day circumstances that require this kind of an ordinance. If we got voluntary compliance sometimes we wouldn't have 17 million gallons a day flowing into our sewer plant.

Requiring inspections is like the census or having somebody come by and do a zoning inspection.

This is a serious enough situation to where we know it's going on. We really have no choice in this matter other than to put down some fairly stiff rules and penalties.

The majority of people are going to understand and allow the inspection. We're going to correct some of these problems. We'll all be better off for it.

Robert Ives, 12 Turnberry Court in Plantsville. He compared this to the revaluation process and it is not unconstitutional.

If we have to save \$100 million --- come and inspect my basement. I'll agree to an inspection over spending \$100 million so that we can stop rainwater from getting into the treatment plant which is an entire waste of money.

I agree with the second speaker. I don't see an unconstitutionality clause being violated here.

Benny Camusso, Meriden Avenue. Spoke about his sump pump and how it drains to the grass. Why do they even build houses in the swamp when they need a sump pump? They should prevent it before it happens.

Mr. Palmieri asked the Town Attorney to respond to Mr. Landrie's statements of unconstitutionality of the ordinance. Attorney Sciota also compared it to the revaluation process which is a voluntary system.

This is a voluntary system. If you don't want to do it, then you have to simply pay the fine.

It is not a constitutional issue. The Town is not going to force their way in. What it says is if you have a question as to whether the person is on the job and the person who is supposed to be doing this, you can call the police. They'll come out and check and even walk thru with the person.

If you choose not to let us in and you are a sewer user, then you have the penalty of \$100 a month.

Mr. Palmieri explained this was discussed in the sewer committee. We are trying to be proactive and save a lot of expense to the town, ultimately the taxpayers. At the same time we are trying to be considerate of the homeowners. This may potentially prevent them from having back up in their own homes.

The Chair commented he has struggled with this ordinance and it is not an ordinance he is thrilled about having pushed through for the sewer. We really don't have a choice. We're going to start finding ourselves in a very bad position in this town and the only way we can circumvent that is by doing exactly what we're doing.

The Chair closed the public hearing.

(Whereupon, the public hearing portion of the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 o'clock, p.m.)

#### **REGULAR MEETING**

The Town Council of the Town of Southington held a public hearing and a regular meeting on Monday, February 28, 2011. Edward S. Pocock, III, Chairman, called the regular meeting to order at 7:20 o'clock, p.m following the public hearing.

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.	Stephanie A. Urillo
Edward S. Pocock, III	

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  
 Garry Brumback, Town Manager

A prayer was recited by Councilman Albert Natelli, Jr.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by everyone in attendance being led by Deputy Town Manager/Town Attorney Mark Sciota.

There were approximately 25 other persons in attendance.

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

**II. Minutes**

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

**III. Councilmanic Communications**

**A. Activate Southington presentation by John Myers  
(Attachment 3)**

John Myers, Executive Director gave an audio visual presentation on Activate Southington. He offered opening remarks noting that this is a community based initiative representing the various community sectors. Our overall mission is to improve the overall health and wellness of Southington and decrease childhood obesity by providing opportunities for active living, healthy living and physical activity.

We want to do that in three ways:

- increasing awareness of our community needs and challenges
- supporting healthy eating and active living initiative here in town with our time, our resources and financial support
- promoting an environment where active living and physical activity is part of everyday life.

We hope to inspire you to find ways to improve our life style in town and at the end of the day to share our vision of being the healthiest community can be.

Mr. Myers explained mini-grants the program had to offer for up to \$500 that can be applied for.

Dr. Urillo commented that the community gardens subcommittee of the open space committee did meet and Dave Lavallee has already applied for a grant to help with what we need for our community gardens. This is a very worthwhile endeavor for us. It's great that we can be a part of it.

Mr. Barry spoke about the children not meeting the requirements under the federal guidelines. Is there anything the BOE is doing in terms of providing better food choices? That should be looked at closer.

Howard Thiery, the Ass't Superintendent of Schools, said they have been working closely with the school on food choices and things like that.

A program at the high school is modeled after the healthy training tables that all athletes at the college level.

We are looking at partnering with all community groups to make our children in our school system healthier. We're looking at the community gardens on school board property.

Elementary schools have made huge strides with the breakfast offered to students. Getting kids off to a healthy start is critical.

Mr. Barry did state that parents have to take more responsibility, too, in terms of what their children eat, how they exercise, et cetera. It is important the school system provide healthy foods and good snacking and a way for young people to get that.

The Chair reported the Manager is going to provide a complete report on the bond issue later on during his report. We are very happy with the way that turned out.

Mr. Dobbins reported the medical disposal program sponsored by the Southington Water Department has a new flyer (Attachment 4). He named some of the organizations and individuals who are going to be helping out this year. The event is going to be held at the Southington Water Department, 605 West Queen Street on April 30<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM.

Take this opportunity to dispose of your unused, expired medications, vet meds, vitamins, nutritional supplements.

Last year we got close to 10,000 doses of drugs. That's a significant amount.

On Sunday February 20<sup>th</sup>, I had the privilege of attending the opening ceremonies for the Seikh Temple on West Street. He passed around a gold medallion he got celebrating their week from February 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. He donated it to the Historical Society because February 20<sup>th</sup> is also Seikh Temple Day in Southington.

Dr. Urillo confirmed the drug disposal day is for prescription as well as non prescription drugs, including veterinary medicine. Mr. Dobbins concurred.

Mr. D'Angelo brought up the action of the BOE giving 7 to 8 percent raises to a couple of nonunion administrators; I would like to add to the Agenda the following proposal for discussion and possible action:

That the Town Council will have the option to approve or reject raises that have been recommended by the BOE to nonunion administrators.

We have that option now for all union staff, including teachers and union school administrators. So it would only be fair to add the

same option to the nonunion administrators, as well. The BOE Chairman has constantly asked for increased communication with this Town Council, so this would be another form of communication as well as a nice checks and balances system for all of us.

I make a motion to put this item on the Agenda for discussion and possible action this evening. Mr. Barry seconded.

The Chair pointed out there is a process this has to follow that allows for this to be discussed, so I am not in favor of going on the Agenda. I just found out about it tonight.

Motion fails 4 to 5 with Mr. Romano, Dr. Urillo, Mr. Dobbins, Dr. Natelli and Mr. Pocock opposed.

There was a discussion of the process as stated in the Charter and the State Statutes.

Mr. Barry said under collective bargaining law, we do have the ability to reject union contracts.

Mr. Palmieri asked the Town Attorney to do some research on this and get us some information on the legalities. Attorney Sciota said he could check it out but it's a line item in the BOE budget. You do not have line item jurisdiction over the BOE budget. If the Council felt that they wanted to act on it, at the time they approved the BOE budget, they would reduce the BOE budget, the one line, by a certain amount that you feel comfortable with and then it's up to the BOE then to reduce that particular salary line item by that number. That would be the process. But I will certainly check it for you.

The Chair said the bottom line is we don't have line item control over the BOE. In theory, the BOE could cut the \$12,000 and when it comes to us the BOF cuts that because they want to and then we approve the budget and they allocate the money they want anyway. That's the reality of it. I understand the frustration.

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

##### **A. North Center School Use Committee**

Mr. Romano highlighted the subcommittee's make up and work. After a spirited discussion the recommendation is the following departments share space with the BOE at the North Center School:

- health department, building department, planning & zoning, youth counseling, engineering and economic development.

We will be voting on that under Action Item 8-B.

Mr. D'Angelo noted he did attend the meeting and there was a very spirited discussion. I wish more people were there to see the discussion. We'll see what happens later on.

**B. Economic Development Strike Committee**

The Chair advised he had no report as that meeting had been cancelled.

**C. Sewer Committee**

Mr. Dobbins reported:

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, the DEP announced its phosphorous limits for the Southington's water pollution control plan. He highlighted:

- Southington's limits came out at 0.2 mg/liter

It seems like good news at first glance. The DEP has revised their methodology in determining limits and the current limit is actually in pounds. It happens to be 7.53 pounds per day. The limits are not concentration based but actually pound per day that we can discharge from our plant currently. This does not take into consideration any future growth. To take into account future growth, we need to think about designing the plant to be 0.05 - 0.1 mg/liter just to be on the safe side.

Meriden designed their plant and recently completed their upgrade with phosphorous to 0.004 mg/liter and they got new regs and they're down to 0.1. So they spent tens of millions of dollars on this plant upgrade and they have to go and do it again. We need to be proactive on that.

- Permits are expected to be issued by the end of this year. DEP expects that the plans will be on line roughly 4 years after that.

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(Beginning of Tape #1, Side B)

(continuing) help us find funding for further design and construction. Once all the plants along the Quinnipiac River are up and running, the water ways are going to be monitored for phosphorous and the regulations will be adjusted as necessary. It is important we stay on top of this.

- Denitrification Plant surge issue. Due to the weather conditions, we were not able to do any testing. Hopefully, sometime this week or next week they'll be able to get that item up and running.

- Opening bids for Farmstead Interceptor contract on February 25<sup>th</sup>. You can see the bid results in your packet. At the next sewer committee meeting, the bids will be reviewed and we will come back to

Council and make a recommendation for what we feel is the best. You can see multiple bids that were under the bond amount which is good news for us.

- SSES (Sewer System Evaluation Study) for Stonegate Shed. We are looking to have an outside firm develop a scope for this and we expect it will be four to six weeks before a study can be started.

Next sewer committee meeting is March 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### **D. Rails to Trails Committee**

Dr. Natelli reported the trail is about 90% complete. Weather permitting; they're looking to finish the project now between May 10 and 31. He reviewed the financials.

There continues to be drainage issues especially down by the Clark Bolt Building. The building owner is aware of the issues and he has worked with the PZC and hopefully this spring will start to fix those problems at his own expense.

Our engineering sat down with the project representatives regarding extra charges and the continued drainage issues that occur on the trail.

The train station has been painted by the Boy Scouts led by John Leary and his troop. It's ready for the display case to be filled.

Mr. Dobbins asked us to re-evaluate the foundation and there are a couple of minor problems with it but structurally it's very sound and can be used.

There are ten benches that are available for sale. Four have been purchased and two have been spoken for. There are four left. If anybody is interested in purchasing a bench, kindly contact Attorney Sciota's office.

Regarding the restoration of the bridge over 322, the fee for this is \$18,950 that'll come out of the project contingency. We'll be putting a façade over that bridge so you'll see the vertical wood slats and not the rusted metal. The slats will be painted with an anti-graffiti paint.

Maintenance costs for Phase I run about \$9,000/yearly to the taxpayers. We don't know about the costs for Phase II, but we do know this - we are not going to do Adopt a Trail.

Phase III and IV discussion occurred and Solvents Recovery continues to clean up the property at Lazy Lane. And, DEP is moving forward with the purchase of the Rails in Plainville/Southington town line border thus allowing development in the future. DEP believes they will have the resources in the future to purchase.

The Grand Opening is planned for Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in Plantsville at the connection of Phase I and II. This happens to be National Rails to Trails Day and he listed the invited dignitaries. Mr. Sciota and Mr. Secondo will be spearheading this for us.

Dr. Urillo asked about the maintenance used for on the Rails to Trails. Dr. Natelli said that would include mowing, spring clean up, snowplowing. People use the Rails to Trails all year round.

#### **E. Public Works Committee**

Mr. Romano spoke about the snow removal efforts. Steve Wlodkowski and his staff have enjoyed the respite of the past week and have an opportunity to repair most of their broken equipment with the exception of a blown mower in one of their trucks. Dowling Ford is working with Ford Motor Company to get this replaced at no cost to the town. A nice surprise and I appreciate Steve's efforts along with Dowling Ford.

Mr. Romano called upon Mr. Tranquillo to discuss the snow removal costs report. Mr. Tranquillo explained he called his counterparts in three other towns (Cheshire, Meriden, Wallingford) and asked them for some basic information. He went through the numbers. (Report on file in the Town Engineer's Office) (Attachment 5)

The level of service importance and the expectations of the Council and taxpayers was also discussed.

Mr. Palmieri noted he asked for the report two weeks ago and it would have been nice to have it before tonight so we could digest it a little bit and have questions prepared for this evening. Mr. Tranquillo commented the responses from the other towns were very poor.

Mr. Palmieri publicly commended the public works department for the extraordinary job they've done. The reason for my inquiry is to see what we can do going forward and not looking backwards. Mr. Palmieri pointed out discrepancies in the numbers in the report to the numbers reported in the paper on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Palmieri wondered if it were possible to add an additional employee in the public works department and save money on the contracting costs.

Mr. Brumback said we are happy to look at stuff like that. The real challenge is that this has been an extraordinary year. I would submit for your consideration, that Southington is actually doing it very, very well. That's the definition of what you hire contractors for --- to handle surges that are outside the norm. Hiring additional staff is a perpetual issue not only now but in perpetuity for retirement and the rest of the benefits associated with that. We're happy to do the analysis and we will.

I ask you to consider managing your staff and augmenting them with contractors is the way to keep a lean staff and still handle surges.

We do need to discuss standards. We could slow down the snow removal. When you transitioned out of Southington into our neighboring communities you could see clearly the difference.

The Town Manager reminded everyone the staff went proactively before the BOF and asked for headway anticipating there were a few more storms that we need to be paying for.

Mr. Barry commented on the amount we are budgeting for snow removal.

Mr. Palmieri again asked for a little more research to be done to get us the exact figures: what was the original budgeted amount, how much was appropriated the first time there was an appropriation and how much was given to the account the second time there was an appropriation. How much is remaining as a balance in the snow line now?

And, maybe it is not financially lucrative, but if it is, I'd like to benefit our guys by giving them additional help while still saving money for the town. I'm not in no way criticizing any who work at the highway department or asking to explain anything this year. I'm just looking to go forward.

Dr. Natelli asked what does our fleet look like in the interim. One guy in a truck, two guys in a truck? Do you have enough trucks in our fleet to do this? Do we have to look at this if we add someone? The whole picture, please.

Mr. Barry said he felt it would be much more expensive to hire more government workers on the payroll. For clarification, we are obviously way over our initial budget that was approved last year. Understandable based on the winter we've had.

Ms. Miceli asked about the receipt of relief funding. Mr. Brumback said he has heard it looks favorable for the major storm in January. We're hopeful.

Mr. Romano commented Tom West from the Water Department has acknowledged that they have been having problems with the bituminous patch at West and West Center Street. They are continually repairing it but they cannot make a permanent patch until the asphalt plants reopen.

Mr. West asks for help from the Town. They need help in shoveling out fire hydrants. Any help would be appreciated there.

Potholes. Steve Wlodkowski said they have 3 or 4 crew members that are patching potholes on a daily basis, as well. Until they can get the asphalt plants open, he can't do hot patching. They're doing what they can to maintain. Please do not hesitate to call down at the highway department with any potholes that you may see so they can get out and repair those, as well.

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

### **A. Water/Sewer System Review**

Mr. Brumback said the water system and the water department are about to undertake a systemwide review. Something that the sewer committee has talked about as a need, along with the SSES kind of approach. Our sewer system is in need of a similar review. I've asked Tom West if he would be willing to allow us to partner in the hopes that we could do this substantially cheaper and he has agreed to consider that.

One thing we are looking at is we are eligible for grant monies to help support this study. We've asked the water department to modify their process so that we won't put our opportunity to remain eligible for those grants at risk.

More to follow on that. It's an opportunity. There is synergy in working with those kinds of departments and we are hoping to take advantage of that.

### **B. Bond Issue**

We are very, very proud of the financial strength of the Town of Southington. It has resulted in extraordinary rates for our most recent bond issue. We were expecting to get into the 3.65 to 3.75 range. We in fact came in at 3.17. It goes to the strength of the oversight we have with the BOF, the Town Council and our administrative staff. That is great news to us.

After comments, Mr. Barry said that if there is anything we need to bond immediately, we should look at it aggressively as a Town Council because now is the time for us to do the investments necessary for the future of our community. It's a great bond rate.

### **C. Request for Easement and Flow Rights - Format LLC**

Mat Florian is asking for an easement and flow rights. It's the property adjacent to the library. We think that that is beneficial to all concerned and an opportunity for us to support Mr. Florian and at the same time do nothing but good things for our own drainage system. So, we are going to recommend you support that.

Mr. Tranquillo explained the details. In the past we've approved this and the proviso is we pay about \$1 sf for drainage easements. We

are recommending we charge the applicant \$1 per sf for the actual easement that the town will give.

The temporary right to grade being asked for was discussed by Mr. Tranquillo. That is to make sure that his site blends seamlessly with our site.

This will not have any effect on the cost of the library parking lot.

There will be no entrances or anything from his lot to the library lot. No access rights are being asked for.

## **VI. Town Attorney's Report**

### **A. 8-24 for Lazy Lane**

Attorney Sciota explained A T & T currently has an easement along the Rails to Trails. Because SRS is doing remediation on the property, A T & T is concerned that their resources, underground cables, may be damaged during that process. So they want to relocate the trunk line to the west. They'll abandon this part of the easement (indicating) and they're looking for an easement over the Town's Rails to Trails. That's an 8-24 to the PZC for their approval assuming you wish to go forward with it.

### **B. 8-24 for Meriden Waterbury Road**

This is an economic development situation which I think the Town can certainly help out this particular property owner. This access strip (indicating) is the access strip to the drive in. This is Baby's World (indicating). They wish to put a restaurant in there and currently there is not enough parking.

They proposed to the Town and the administration as well as the planning staff has felt it was a good idea that they would put parking along this grass strip to the right of the drive-in entranceway. It would give them the ability to have a restaurant there --- increase their parking. But more importantly, it would also help the Town because we certainly need parking in that area. The drive-in has become a great success and this would become non-exclusive parking meaning they would put the parking in but it is not exclusively just for them. We're hoping the Council moves this forward to 8-24. It has the recommendation of the planning staff, legal staff and the administration.

Dr. Urillo asked who owns the grassy area to which Attorney Sciota replied the Town of Southington. The property owner is requesting a non-exclusive lease to produce parking there.

The property owner is the primary insurer and the Town insurance company is always involved.

The property owner will do the maintenance.

Extensive discussion regarding the legal obligations to the Town if someone were injured/killed on that strip of land parking. Several scenarios were discussed.

The Chair commented this is close to Well #2 and the water commission and water department should check it out. The Town Attorney said he would ask the Town Planner to double check with the water department during the process.

#### **VII. Public Communications**

George Robarge, 11 Fox Run Drive, Southington, CT. He spoke about the great job the public works department has done on the roads this year. He commented on the snowdrifts along the walks to the middle schools and the high school. Spoke about the costs.

He did indicate that as far as protocol, the financial questions should go to the Town Manager who should route them to the finance department.

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(Beginning of Tape #2, Side A)

Mr. Robarge made the suggestion that all storm drainage off houses and sump pumps be routed to the storm sewers.

Arthur Cyr, 103 Berlin Avenue. Mr. Cyr commented on the accuracy of the Record Journal reporting.

He reported this year we budgeted \$705,000 for snow. Anticipated expenditures are somewhere between 830 and 843,000. They've gone back to the BOF and they've gotten about 300,000. The revised budget is \$1,000,005.

The bonding is great at 3.17. Do you have the numbers for the \$3 million worth of bonds for the water department? That came in lower? The Town Manager he did not have that information. Mr. Cyr said he would like to have that information before going to the Board of Water Commissioners on Thursday.

As to Mat Florian's right to flow, I only have one thing to say about Mat Florian: 98 Main Street and One Center Street, if he hadn't dumped a couple of million into this downtown and bought buildings on Center Street, we wouldn't have a renaissance. This is the guy who basically ran the renaissance down your throat and made it work.

The economic development department sign that hangs in the hallway, it was on the front page of AOL, because they are associated with Patch.com. It's an online newspaper and they have shots of all the different businesses and town departments.

I object to the BOE telling us that they are only giving a core group of people a 2 percent raise. People don't get a percentage raise. They get dollars and cents. Give someone who is already making \$107,000 a \$7,000 raise is obscene when you group that person into the same group of our substitute teachers who make \$70/day and got zero raise. What they're trying to do is wrong. The way they're trying to hide it is wrong. For them to tell us it's immaterial or it doesn't matter and we're not looking at the big picture, \$7,000 is the big picture for me.

Sandra Feld, 821 Glacier Way. The picture is bigger than Art presents it. I support realistic payments to the BOE for the students. A lot of people do and feel that way.

The contracts for non union employees on the BOE are appalling. They get annuities. Why? The business director gets a \$5,000 per year annuity. The Superintendent of Schools gets a \$7,000 a year annuity. The Ass't Superintendent gets a \$1,000/year annuity. The director of technology, \$1,000/year. And, the director of operations gets \$2,000. And, I don't have a complete list. That's \$16,000/year. It's a three year contract that started in July of 2009 and is over in June of 2012. It's \$48,000 just for those three years.

I'm a taxpayer and I want my money to go to the students. I want my money to go to things that will benefit the students.

And, the annuities are not the only perks these people are getting.

They're not union. No reason for this to be done. This was approved by the BOE and I find it absolutely appalling.

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

John Carmody, 57 Macintosh Way. Spoke about the North Center School project. I'm not here to say the decision of the subcommittee was wrong, let's be clear on that.

I'm concerned that I don't know if we did enough due diligence for a complete and comprehensive examination of possible impacts of this move and which departments should go.

Maybe we could ask a panel of experts, hey; this is what we're planning on doing. These are the departments we're going to move about 3/10 of a mile down the road. Do you see any potential negative impacts on our downtown, our renaissance program? I would love it if you would entertain the notion of putting together a panel to look at this. I mean planning experts who understand the dynamics of development and what a town hall does to the center of the town.

I appreciate your time.

Benny Cammuso, Meriden Avenue. Welcome to the new Town Manager and I hope you do a good job like the other one.

Spoke about increasing taxes. You give to the top guys and not the little people. We should look into the little people now. If you cut the top guys and lower the tax for the little people.

Look and see where you can save in the budget.

## **VIII. Old Business**

### **A. Action on Sewer Ordinance revision**

Mr. Dobbins made a motion in favor of changing the sewer ordinance 20-71 as presented at the public hearing. Dr. Urillo seconded.

Mr. Palmieri wanted to be sure included were the one year trial, the 12-month education period, no penalty for one year. Attorney Sciota read the pertinent section in the ordinance addressing these concerns.

Ms. Miceli asked about the 30-day period if the homeowner doesn't reschedule --- they have 30 days after the original inspection attempt. What about people who travel, snowbirds, that sort of thing?

After discussion, it was decided to add wording to the ordinance which would add words: upon receipt or upon confirmation - so that we know if they are away and you haven't been able to confirm anything.

The motioner and the seconder agreed with the wording being added.

Motion passed 9 to 0 on a roll call vote.

### **B. Action on Recommendation from North Center School Use Committee**

Mr. Romano made a motion to approve the recommendation of the North Center School Use Committee. Ms. Miceli seconded.

Mr. D'Angelo indicated he would be voting no on this for several reasons.

(1) I was at the meeting and the founders of our renaissance spoke and they wanted more time and more research done. That appeared to be overlooked by the committee.

(2) I also thought that the bids coming in on all town projects were very low. I think the numbers and the anticipated savings are very inaccurate.

(End of Tape #2, Side A)

(Beginning of Tape #2, Side B)

I like the project. I just don't feel that we should be selling that building for \$1 but we should be keeping it and renovating it ourselves.

Dr. Natelli explained why he liked the project. We tried to do this town hall over several times and it hasn't passed. I spoke to several developers and engineers. They've all said the same thing. This is good for them in doing business in the community and doing business in Southington. It puts everybody in one spot short of Town Clerk --- not a big issue going from point A to B to take care of that.

In addition, they feel the new space, new technology, clean space, conference rooms without pipes hanging down overhead, really lends itself to what we're trying to do.

I think it's important to realize that while we are selling the building for \$1, what we are really doing is using equity within the building to do our build out, subsequently leasing it, with an option to buy. The point is we are leasing it at \$12/sf vs the going rate in town of between \$18 and \$20-some/sf, double net. It does save money for the taxpayers.

It does go out to referendum and it does ask the taxpayers for the opportunity to purchase this back.

If we didn't do it, we would just be leasing space ourselves. Discussion of the procedure for going out to lease space.

In the end truthfully, this is good for the town. It plans the town out for the next 20 to 50 years. It's what we need to do for our community to be progressive and forward thinking.

The Town Attorney explained the time constraints associated with this project in response to a request by Ms. Miceli. He finished by saying our backs are against the wall.

Motion passed 6 to 3 with Mr. Palmieri, Mr. Barry and Mr. D'Angelo opposed.

**C. Referral of 8-24 for Lazy Lane to the Planning & Zoning Commission**

Dr. Natelli moved the motion to send this to the PZC. Mr. Dobbins seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**D. Referral of 8-24 for Meriden Waterbury Road to the Planning & Zoning Commission**

Mr. Dobbins made a motion to approve the 8-24 for the Meriden Waterbury Road referral to the PZC. Mr. D'Angelo seconded.

Mr. Barry wanted to be sure the Planning & Zoning Commission was aware there was discussion on this and he wanted them to take a closer look at the issue. He wanted to reserve a future vote on this issue. There are a lot of unanswered questions I have as to liability issues, is it really in the best interest of our community to do this.

Dr. Urillo asked if there was a precedent in town for other areas where the town owns it and leases it back to businesses for the purposes of parking. Attorney Sciota said we do it the opposite way. There is town property with municipal parking and we have private property that we lease for municipal parking.

Mr. Barry pointed out this is unique because of the location. When you look at public parking in the downtown area, it certainly makes sense for the good of the community, for a lot of outside interests. Vast other reasons why we do that type of parking. This is out on the other side of town. Is there really going to be a big municipal use of it? Does it make our town better? This is very unusual based on the location.

Attorney Sciota said they either get a waiver for it or they establish parking on this lot. The planning division felt it was much more beneficial to everybody, including the town, to establish the parking instead of getting a waiver. That's why it's in front of you. We felt it would also benefit the parks and recreation department and the drive-in committee.

Dr. Urillo continued saying her big issue was the liability. She referenced the businesses down there and where they park if they have an overflow.

Mr. Romano said he was in full support of economic development. The concern that I have is that I am questioning whether the \$2 million policy limit is adequate. Should we revisit that? Attorney Sciota said we just got a new sheet from our insurance company and it used to be \$1 million and they bumped to \$2 million.

Mr. Barry reminded everyone the issue, too, is the location. Safety issues with people coming out of the movies and crossing.

Attorney Sciota said the 8-24 process to the PZC roots all that stuff.

Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

#### **E. Action on Easement Request**

Mr. Palmieri made a motion to approve the request to go for an 8-24 referral. Mr. Romano seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**IX. New Business****A. Tax Refunds (Attachment 6)**

Ms. Miceli made a motion to accept the tax refunds as listed in our packet. Mr. D'Angelo seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**X. Adjournment -**

Ms. Miceli made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Palmieri seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.)

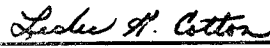
ATTEST:

  
Leslie G. Cotton, Town Clerk

RECEIVED & FILED  
TOWN OF SOUTHTON

MAR 07 2011

2:45 P M

By   
Town Clerk

## SEWER ORDINANCE

### Sec. 20-71 Unauthorized connections

No person shall make connection of roof downspouts, exterior foundation drains, lawn drains, areaway drains, sump pump discharge or other sources of surface runoff or groundwater to a building sewer or building drain which in turn is connected directly or indirectly to a public sanitary sewer.

To confirm that any property using Town of Southington public sanitary sewer is in conformance with this section, the Town shall conduct inspections using town personnel from various departments and/or subcontractors. Inspections shall be performed on a street-by-street approach in which inspectors shall knock on doors and attempt to inspect as many properties as possible. For properties that could not be inspected because the owner was not available, a notice shall be left at the door stating that the inspectors were there and would attempt a second time in approximately one to two weeks.

When the owner is available, the inspectors will introduce themselves and explain briefly that the Town is conducting house-to-house inspections in an attempt to reduce the amount of clean water that enters the public sanitary sewer system. If the owner or tenant does not feel comfortable with allowing the inspectors in to or on the property, the owner or tenant shall have the option of deferring to a specific date, or calling the police department to verify the inspector's identity or requesting a time when a police officer can escort the inspectors on to the property.

The owner will be notified in a form that confirms receipt that failure to allow the inspectors into the home as set forth above will result in a sewer inflow penalty of \$100.00 dollars per month, billed on a monthly basis. Inspections shall only be conducted if the owner, tenant or adult representative of the property is present at the time. If the owner wishes to defer an inspection for any reason, it is the owner's responsibility to reschedule the inspection. If the owner does not reschedule a deferred inspection within thirty days of the original inspection attempt, then a written notice will be sent to the owner. If the owner still is unavailable or refuses to admit the inspector, then the sewer inflow penalty as set forth above shall be applied.

There will also be a penalty charge of \$500.00 for reconnection. If there is a reconnect at the property after bringing the property into conformity, a \$500.00 reconnect penalty shall be applied in addition to the \$100.00 a month sewer inflow penalty.

In the twelve month period following the passage of this ordinance, the Town will send out educational materials and have educational forums. No penalties or fines shall be applied during said twelve month period.

Inspectors will be trained by the Department of Public Works on how to conduct the inspection and how to correctly complete the inspection documentation. Inspectors will be required to carry and display Town issued photo ID badges and shall drive in clearly marked cars or vehicles designating that they are on official Town business.

Town of Southington  
Water Pollution Control  
999 Meriden Waterbury Turnpike  
Plantsville, CT 06479

28 February 2011

Town Manager  
75 Main Street  
Southington, CT 06489  
Re: Sump pumps

Dear Garry:

It has come to my attention that a question has been raised regarding enlarging the sanitary sewer system to accommodate sump pumps. Here are some facts to consider:

- The average sanitary sewer usage per capita is between 60-100 gallons per day. We will use 80 gallons per day as an average.
- Southington, by last census, has 2.59 persons per dwelling average.
- Consequently, the average household discharges an average of 207.2 gallons per day.
- An average sump pump is 1/3 horsepower, which equates to 45 gallons per minute.
- Consequently, on the average, a sump pump running all day will pump 64,800 gallons per day.
- A sump pump running 1/4 of the time will pump 16,200 gallons per day. This is over 78 times the volume of the designed sanitary sewers. This is why storm sewers are so much bigger than sanitary sewers.
- To accommodate the flow, every street with sanitary sewers will need to be dug up, and the sewers replaced with much bigger ones, at a cost of many millions of dollars.
- All 10 pump stations will need to be greatly enlarged to accommodate the increase in flow, costing a few million dollars each. Both siphons would also have to be enlarged.
- The treatment plant, as currently designed, could not come close to handling the extra flow created by the sump pumps. The hydraulic overload would be too much for the plant to take. Flow would back up in the sewers, and the bacteria used in the plant to treat the wastewater would be washed away. Also, the force of the water would cause structural damage to tanks and equipment.
- Three things can be done to have the plant accommodate the flow. First, we could discharge all excess raw sewage flow directly to the river, bypassing the plant. This is environmentally unacceptable to us. Second, equalization tanks could be built to intercept the extra water and slowly feed it back into the system. This would require huge multi-million gallon tanks, at a cost of millions of dollars. Lastly, we can expand the plant to treat the entire flow, at a cost possibly near \$100,000,000.
- Discharging clean water to sanitary sewers, such as from sump pumps, is illegal in every Town in Connecticut, including Southington. The DEP has a "model" sewer ordinance, which all Towns must adhere to. This model ordinance prohibits the discharge of sump pumps or other clean waters into a sanitary sewer system. Also, the DEP requires a Sewer System Evaluation Study to determine if there is inflow or infiltration any time a plant wants to expand. They require these excess clean water flows be eliminated, so that an upgraded treatment plant can be designed for a lower flow. Their funding is dependent on this.
- Many more Towns than we first realized have solved or are now grappling with this same issue.
- Clean water is a detriment to wastewater treatment. High flows dilute and wash out our bacteria, which we use to treat the wastewater. Unlike chemicals, bacteria can't be just ramped up when flows significantly increase. Consequently, the wastewater would be only partially treated,

violating our NPDES Permit requirements. Fines of \$20,000 per day per violation can be assessed.

Hopefully, I have shed some light on the ramifications of accepting sump pump discharges into our sanitary sewer system.

Respectfully submitted,

John De Gioia  
Superintendent



1712 Main Street  
Coventry, Connecticut  
Ph: (860) 742-4064  
Fax: (860) 742-8911

# *Town of Coventry*

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## *Water Pollution Control Authority*

DATE: May 10, 2010  
TO: Homeowners in Sewer District  
FROM: Coventry Water Pollution Control Authority  
RE: Illegal Connections/Discharges into Sewers

It has come to our attention that some homeowners are making illegal non-sewage discharges into sewers. **Illegal discharges include**, but are not limited to:

Groundwater	Stormwater/Surface Water
Sump Pumps Footing Drains Curtain Drains French Drains	Yard Drains Roof Leaders Downspouts

During recent rain events we have experienced excessively high (2-3 X normal) flows into the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Treatment Plant is not designed to handle this amount of water. As a result we have been forced to replace expensive equipment and work a significant amount of overtime. If we cannot reduce the amount of illegal discharges into sewers we will have no choice but to increase everyone's sewer user fee.

Guidance for acceptable methods for management of groundwater/stormwater can be found in the Connecticut Stormwater Quality Manual (per Section 5.12.05 of the Town Zoning Regulations) which can be found on the DEP website ([www.ct.gov/dep](http://www.ct.gov/dep)) by searching for 'stormwater manual'.

During the upcoming months the WPCA will be inspecting sewer lines for evidence of these types of illegal connections through the use of smoke bombs and sewer cameras. Notification will be made prior to smoke bomb testing but not before camera use. Violators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

We strongly urge those of you with illegal connections into sewers to discontinue them before we catch you. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in helping to keep everyone's sewer use fees down.

Town of Coventry Water Pollution Control Authority

cc: Tim Webb; WPCA Administrator, Director of Public Works  
cc: Matt Twerdy; WPCA Chairman  
cc: Mike Ruef; WPCA Technician



Dear Community Members:

Activate Southington is offering grants, up to \$500.00 each, to Southington citizens or groups interested in promoting overall health and wellness for our community. Enclosed is a copy of the grant application which is also available on our website [www.activatesouthington.org](http://www.activatesouthington.org).

Activate Southington's objective is to create a sustainable environment to promote an awareness of better health and wellness. Through policy, system and environmental changes long-term benefits will be realized for all Southington residents. Examples of grants that may target these objectives can include: purchasing a bike rack, developing a community garden, reprinting menus to identify healthy choices or purchasing pedometers to promote exercise. We welcome your creative ideas.

Please visit our website to learn more about our goals for the Southington Community. If you have any questions, contact any member of our leadership team listed on our website.

Completed applications must be postmarked by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Grants will be awarded on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

We look forward to working with our community to improve health and wellness in Southington.

Sincerely,

***Activate Southington***

Grant Committee



## GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION

Activate Southington is offering grants up to \$500 to the Southington Community. Funding will be provided to organizations/groups to facilitate and motivate changes in promoting a healthy lifestyle in our community. The identified project/program should create a sustained improvement of healthy living through nurturing and expanding individuals understanding of better health and increasing opportunities for physical activity and making healthy eating choices.

The first grant applications will be open on January 15<sup>th</sup>. Completed applications must be postmarked by April 1, 2011 to be included for consideration with the first round of awards. The first round of awards will be made by April 15, 2011.

Applications may be obtained at the YMCA and the Southington Board of Education offices, or downloaded from Activate Southington's website at [www.activatesouthington.org](http://www.activatesouthington.org).

All applications will be reviewed by the Activate Southington Grant Committee. Grants will be awarded based on their direct connection in promoting sustainability for a healthy lifestyle. Groups who apply may be asked to explain their project/program to the committee members prior to the awarding of the grant.

Grant moneys will be distributed and coordinated by the Activate Southington Committee.

Upon completion of the project/program, an evaluation will be completed by the recipients involved.

# Free Disposal of Your Unwanted Medication

Keep dangerous medications from entering our water supply AND out of the hands of our children.

- Expired or unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medicines, including vitamins and veterinary medications
- Medications that don't work for you, a family member or pet
- Medications that are no longer used
- Medications from deceased family member
- Unknown tablets or capsules

**Do NOT** bring thermometers, needles or medical waste of any type!

### Location

Date: Saturday, April 30

Time: 10:00am to 2:00pm

Location: Southington Water Dept.  
605 West Queen St., Southington

### Form more information contact:

Tom West at (860) 628-5593

Rob Longo at (860) 482-7431



## MEDICATION RETURN PROGRAM



2/28/2011

## SNOW REMOVAL COSTS

Town	Contact	Road Mi.	Cul-de-Sacs*	Adjusted Mi.*	Clear SW's	Use Contractors	Cost to date	Comments	Cost per mile
Cheshire	Joe Michelangelo	151.5	150	225	NO	NO	300,000	TOLSW by Parks	13.33
Meriden	Bob Bass	189	315	346.5	YES(Along TOL**)	NO	561,275		16.20
Southington	Staff	197.5	277	336	YES(Access SW!)	YES	687,250	TOLSW by Parks	2,045
Wallingford	Henry McCully	211.4	194	308.4	YES (Along TOL**)	NO	774,356		2,511

\* time to clear a Cul-de sac is approx. equivalent to .5 miles of road

\*\* Clearing of sidewalks adjoining Town Owned Land(TOL) is included in cost

! Southington clears approx. 11 miles of school access sidewalks

**List of Requests for Abatement or Refunds of Taxes - Town Council Meeting of February 28, 2011**

<u>Taxpayer's Name</u>	<u>Reason for Refund</u>	<u>Amount of Refund</u>
Agosta, Vincent J II & Rebecca	Assessor C/C List #2889 R 2009	\$400.18
Applegate Estates LLC	Overpayment List #18614 R 2009	\$282.48
BAC Tax Services Corporation	Duplicate Payment List #12378 R 2009	\$2,210.20 *
BAC Tax Services Corporation	Duplicate Payment List #3918 R 2009	\$1,184.55 *
Barbato, Luigi	Duplicate Payment List #20443 M 2009	\$137.87
Beal, Sandra B	Assessor C/C List #20138 S 2009	\$58.29
Benson, Bruce E & Annise	Overpayment List #744 R 2009	\$231.63
Coil Pro Machinery Inc	Overpayment List #16751 P 2009	\$255.14
CoreLogic	Overpayment List #5196 R 2009 (Piazza)	\$2,348.08 *
CoreLogic	Overpayment List #19275 X 2009	\$457.54
Curtis, Mary Lynn	Duplicate Payment List #18536 X 2009	\$728.58
DCFS Trust	Assessor C/C List #40601 & 40643 M 2009	\$89.29
Giant Grinder & Pizza of Southington	Overpayment List #19257 P 2009	\$94.97
GMAC Mortgage	Duplicate Payment List #1149 R 2009 (Lobb)	\$2,487.63 *
Gruner, Peter A or Suzette	Assessor C/C List #72143 M 2009	\$142.82
Guarino, Susan E & Michael J	Duplicate Payment List #1860 R 2009	\$2,185.82 *
Honda Lease Trust	Overpayment List #81404 M 2009	\$55.72
IML Holding LLC	Assessor C/C List #3443 R 2009	\$2,352.28 *
Kohlberg, Charles & Pamela	Duplicate Payment List #10069 R 2009	\$2,388.43 *
Kryszak, James or Sandi	Overpayment List #110174 S 2009	\$209.69
Liberty Bank	Duplicate Payment List #3862 X 2009 (Dipaola); #8184 R 2009 (Sponauer); #19372 R 2009 (Orourke)	\$2,607.84 *

\*explanation attached

**List of Requests for Abatement or Refunds of Taxes - Town Council Meeting of February 28, 2011**

<u>Taxpayer's Name</u>	<u>Reason for Refund</u>	<u>Amount of Refund</u>
Meacham, Jacqueline H	Duplicate Payment List #5997 R 2009	\$2,158.20 *
Ouellette, Douglas & Jeanne	Duplicate Payment List #9612 R 2009	\$1,647.77 *
Paragon Fence LLC	Overpayment List #19098 P 2009	\$54.04
Paszkowski, Monika	Assessor C/C List #160103 S 2009	\$100.47
Pierry, Michael A	Overpayment List #160287 S 2009	\$64.37
Saucier, Steve or Kelly	Overpayment List #190479 M 2009	\$84.04
Sun Trust Mortgage	Duplicate Payment List #15658 R 2009	\$1,680.56 *
Swider, Janusz E & Beata D	Assessor C/C List #15876 R 2007, 2008 & 2009	\$1,136.92 *
Tassis, Timothy & Nicole	Duplicate Payment List #17734 R 2009	\$3,407.36 *
theriault, Steven E & Lynn L	Duplicate Payment List #5218 R 2009	\$3,725.98 *
Tri Ayer LLC	Overpayment List #19839 P 2008	\$102.58
Vemareddy, Kamakshi	Overpayment List #19092 X 2009	\$51.18
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage	Duplicate Payment List #10488 R 2009 (Kelly)	\$2,209.36 *
Welton, Christina	Overpayment List #6730 R 2009	\$215.29
Witkoski, Denise & Robert	Duplicate Payment List #972 R 2009	\$2,132.02 *
Witt, Richard A LLC	Duplicate Payment List #5870 R 2009	\$2,333.78 *
Zommer, Michael & Linda	Duplicate Payment List #13848 R 2009	\$3,567.93 *

**\*explanation attached**