

SPECIAL MEETING OF BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES  
HELD MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 1963 CONCERNING  
DISCONTINUANCE OF BUS SERVICE ON HIGH RIDGE  
AND LONG RIDGE ROADS.

3565

A Special Meeting of the Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford was held Monday, January 28, 1963 at 8:00 P.M. in the Office of the Mayor, City Hall, in response to a "Call" by the President, Paul D. Shapero.

The President called the meeting to order at 8:10 P.M. (Note: This meeting was not broadcast over the radio.)

ROLL CALL was taken by the Clerk. There were 31 present and 9 absent. The absent members were: Benjamin Kozlowski, Vincent Caporizzo, Patsy Arruzza, Richard O'Neill, Paul Kuczo, Stephen Kelly, Stanley Kulowiec, Carmine Longo and George Russell.

The President read the following "Call" of the meeting and said it had been delivered by Police Messenger to all members of the Board on Sunday, January 27, 1963:

BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES  
CITY OF STAMFORD

January 27, 1963

I, PAUL D. SHAPERO, President of the Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford, pursuant to Section 202 of the Stamford Charter, hereby call a SPECIAL MEETING of said BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES, for

MONDAY, JANUARY 28TH, 1963

At the Office of the Mayor,  
Town Hall, Stamford, Connecticut

at 8:00 P.M.

for the following purposes:

1. To consider the adoption of an appropriate resolution stating the position of the Board of Representatives concerning the proposed abandonment of the franchise covering the bus service on Long Ridge and High Ridge Roads in this City, and requesting the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Connecticut, to take all necessary steps to insure the continuance of such service.

2. To appoint a Special Committee to investigate methods of continuing such service.

(signed) PAUL D. SHAPERO,  
President  
Board of Representatives

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THE PRESIDENT explained the reasons why this meeting was called. He said he had received a telephone call on Saturday morning, January 26th at 10 o'clock, from Mr. Johnson, the Minority Leader of the Board, who called to his attention the fact that he and Mr. DeForest, who are representatives from the northern district of this City, were concerned by a petition which had been filed with the PUC by the owner of the High Ridge and Long Ridge bus lines to discontinue service on those lines.

MR. SHAPERO said he agreed with the Minority Leader that this was an unfortunate situation and Mr. Johnson had asked him to call a special meeting of the Board, or it would be necessary for him to obtain ten signatures of members of the Board in order to call this meeting. Mr. Shapero said he realized that this was not a political issue, but was one that concerned many of the citizens of this City, and that he would be quite willing to issue a "Call" of such a meeting.

Mr. Shapero said that directly afterward he telephoned the Majority Leader to inform him of what had transpired and also called the Stamford Advocate, as well as the Radio Station.

Mr. Shapero said he met Sunday afternoon with Mr. Johnson and Mr. Schwartz in his office, during which time they drafted the "Call" of the meeting as well as a draft of a proposed resolution which the members will be called to vote upon tonight and duplicated the calls of the meeting which each member of the Board has received.

THE PRESIDENT read the following letters which were received by him from the Mayor:

CITY OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

January 28, 1963

Mr. Paul Shapero, President  
Board of Representatives  
City Hall  
Stamford, Connecticut

Dear Paul:

As you will note from the attached correspondence, I concluded a series of negotiations with the PUC on the Mazzola bus situation late last Friday, at which time I took proper steps to insure that there would be basic, minimal emergency bus service provided to the Long Ridge - High Ridge areas beginning February 1, 1963, in case the PUC upholds Mr. Mazzola's request to terminate his company's bus service on that date.

I was greatly surprised to read in the Stamford Advocate on Saturday, while a patient at St. Joseph's Hospital, that there were those who felt it politically expedient to project themselves into this picture without first determining that the City administration had already taken proper steps to insure continuance of bus transportation into the affected areas.

It is unfortunate that a special meeting of the Board of Representatives, inconveniencing a number of our District Representatives, had to be called



on this matter. Therefore, I am sending a copy of my letter of Friday, January 25, to you, in order that you and the Board members who attend the special meeting will know that this unfortunate situation has been fully discussed by me with the PUC and with a bus company, with whom arrangements have been made to provide proper service on a temporary, emergency minimal basis, if the occasion should arise.

At the proper time, a formal and detailed announcement of these arrangements will be made.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) J. Walter Kennedy, Mayor

JWK/gch  
Attachment

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January 25th, 1963

Mr. Eugene Loughlin, Chairman  
Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol  
Hartford, Connecticut

Dear Gene:

In line with our telephone conversation, I will be most appreciative if you can make arrangements for a temporary or emergency certificate to be issued without delay to a bus company with whom I have arranged to provide emergency transportation in case the PUC upholds John Mazzola's request to terminate bus service in the High Ridge - Long Ridge areas of Stamford on February 1st, for which a public hearing will be held in Hartford on Wednesday, January 30th.

I fully understand the prevailing situation whereby Mr. Mazzola's request is based primarily on the fact that he can no longer be fully covered by insurance after February 1st, his coverage terminating on that date. However, as noted during our conversation, it is imperative that basic minimal bus transportation be provided for the area in question.

Therefore, I sincerely hope that the PUC will be in a position to waive or modify any requirements pertaining to the issuance of certificates, because I consider this an emergency situation.

Anything that you or your colleagues can do in this matter will be greatly appreciated by me and by the people of Stamford.

I will not personally appear at the public hearing, inasmuch as I have conveyed the thoughts of the City of Stamford to your Commission formally, and they are a matter of record. However, I will constantly keep in very close touch with you on the telephone.

With warm personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

JWK:M

(signed) J. Walter Kennedy, Mayor

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THE PRESIDENT recognized Mr. Johnson, the Minority Leader, at this time, in order that he might present the proposed resolution. Copies of this resolution were handed to all members present at the meeting.

MR. JOHNSON asked for permission to explain the reasons why he had asked to have this special meeting called. He said he lives in the area served by the bus line; that Mr. DeForest also lives in this area; also Mr. Ketcham - that there are many "of us who are in the area serviced by the bus line" and as such, have an interest in the curtailment or abandonment of bus service. He said he believed that, as residents of this area they have every right and every obligation to look into the matter, which he did personally after having talked with residents of the area. He said there were many telephone calls received and that knowing the Mayor was in the hospital and not wishing to disturb him, they decided to do something about the threatened end of bus service as representatives of the people living in the area.

He said that even as late as yesterday (Sunday) "we were of the opinion that something might be done along the line to correct an evil which might come about if this bus line were discontinued on February 1st", and the resolution was prepared as a bi-partisan effort and it is hoped that it will continue to receive bi-partisan support.

MR. JOHNSON read the following draft resolution and MOVED for its adoption.  
Seconded by John Nolan:

DRAFT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the public necessity and convenience require that immediate action be taken to prevent a disruption in the bus transportation presently being provided by the bus companies operated by John Mazzola, and

WHEREAS, the possible discontinuance of the franchise held by Mr. Mazzola seems imminent, to the detriment of the citizens, taxpayers, and property owners of the area served by said bus companies, and

WHEREAS, it would be in the public interest to take steps necessary to avoid these ends,

BE AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:

(a) The Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford, at a special meeting called, pursuant to the Charter of said City on January 28, 1963, voted, under the provisions of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, to request the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Connecticut to hold a public hearing to consider the advisability



of establishing a Transit District within said area, as well as any other method to achieve the end of continuing such service.

(b) The said Board of Representatives further voted to request the Public Utilities Commission to halt and forebear from taking any action which would cause any interruption in the service being provided by said bus companies until action is taken on the request provided for in (a) above.

MR. SCARELLA said in paragraph (a) where a "Transit District" is established, that he believed it should be called "Transit Authority".

THE PRESIDENT agreed with Mr. Scarella and said it should be "Authority" and not "District".

MR. SCARELLA said he does not believe in subsidizing bus service. He questioned whether or not this is a necessity as most of the people living in the area go back and forth in their own cars rather than using public transportation. He said he, for one, would like some facts and figures before going ahead and placing another burden on the taxpayer.

THE PRESIDENT explained that the resolution does not establish a Transit Authority.

He said this is merely to ask the FUC and this Board, to investigate and see whether this should be done.

MR. KETCHAM said the resolution is merely to set the machinery in motion and does not obligate this Board or the City to do anything at this time - that it is just a request that the FUC look into the matter and find out whether or not this is feasible.

MR. MEYERS said one of the letters said that the reason Mr. Mazzola wishes to discontinue his bus service is because he would no longer be covered by insurance. He asked what would happen if the FUC does not grant his request and in that event, what type of coverage did he make arrangements for.

THE PRESIDENT said he did not see how anybody could force this man to stay in business.

MR. MEYERS replied that there were certain regulations by which he must abide, and just by going out-of-business will not enable him to escape the penalties. He said he, for one wishes to go on record as being opposed to "having this shotgun held to my head" to make a decision on a matter of such importance.

MR. PHILPOT said he believes the remarks being made are not germane to the powers given this Board. He said he thinks the important thing is that the Mayor has secured temporary service, thus alleviating the pressure. He said he believes any means should be used to keep these people from being left stranded without any bus service.

MR. NOLAN said he did not author the proposed resolution and if the author of it could explain the last part of the long sentence in paragraph (a) where it ends with ".....as well as any other method to achieve the end of continuing such service." He asked Mr. Johnson to explain.

THE PRESIDENT said he was the author of that paragraph.

MR. JOHNSON said he would try to explain. He said what they were attempting to do was to ask the PUC to consider all methods, including the advisability of establishing a Transit District under the State Statutes. He said it is possible for the PUC to take upon itself, or look into all possible ways of solving this loss of bus service, INCLUDING the possibility of the establishment of a Transit Authority or District, as the resolution is now worded.

THE PRESIDENT said what they had been trying to do was not to limit the solution to any one particular form, but to ask the PUC to do everything they could.

MR. NOLAN said although he did not agree with some of the remarks made by Mr. Ketcham, that he was wholly in favor of doing everything possible to alleviate the condition. He said he would not be against the resolution if the wording could be somewhat changed around.

THE PRESIDENT asked if the following words to change the resolution would be acceptable: ".....to hold a public hearing to consider any method which will achieve the objective of continued service."

MR. NOLAN said Mr. Murphy has suggested change in wording. He offered the following words: ".....to hold a public hearing to consider such methods as a Transit District within said area, as well as any other method to achieve the objective of continued service."

THE PRESIDENT read the following wording of paragraph (a):

"(a) The Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford, at a special meeting called pursuant to the Charter of said City on January 28, 1963, voted, under the provisions of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, to request the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Connecticut to hold a public hearing to consider establishing such methods as a Transit District within such area, or any other methods to achieve the objective of continued service."

There ensued considerable debate as to the proper wording.

MR. NOLAN suggested the following language: ".....to request the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Connecticut to consider any method which will achieve the objective of continuing service."

MR. JOHNSON explained that there are two ways in which this matter can come before the PUC - that one is by a condition bringing it to its own attention and the second is by a Board such as this one, to bring it to their attention. He said that in the absence of a Transit District, it is incumbent upon a committee to point out certain conditions. He said this Board has the same objective in mind as has the administration - to alleviate a bad situation.

THE PRESIDENT said he would now bring this to a vote, if it is acceptable to the members: that "we will take the resolution as it is now amended, which will eliminate any mention of a Transit District, and I will then appoint the Committee,



which I have previously discussed with you, and will charge that committee, specifically in their investigation of the situation, to report back on the feasibility or the non-feasibility of a Transit District, so that the Board will have before it the facts and the procedure and whatever other information is involved." He asked the members if they would accept that.

MR. JOHNSON said he did and that the only problem he could see is that the PUC is holding their hearing this Wednesday and in the absence of having anything before them in the form of a request from this Board, they themselves (the PUC) will have to explore this possibility and that it will have to be called to their attention somewhere along the line.

MR. SHERMAN said he thinks the purpose of this resolution as well as the Mayor's letter, is merely to make the Public Utilities Commission aware that some kind of continued service on this bus line must be provided. He said a Committee is going to be appointed to consider and investigate the possibility of establishing a Transit Authority. He said the Board apparently only wishes to go on record as being in favor of some sort of continued service and leave the rest up to the PUC to determine this.

MR. PHILPOT said it seems to him that the Committee would be taking upon itself the investigation of a matter which is absolutely uncharted.

MR. SCARELLA said he cannot understand, if Mr. Philpot is unwilling to let a Committee take it upon themselves to determine the proper course to take, is the Board supposed to take a position here tonight on this question when they don't know how badly this service is or is not needed. He said there are no facts or figures on which to determine the urgency.

MRS. CLARKE asked if it wasn't the function of the PUC to determine the need for this continued bus service. She said it appeared as if a big fuss was being made over nothing.

MR. SHERMAN said it was his understanding that the purpose for calling this meeting was to express the consensus of opinion that this Board would like to have continued bus service and what can the Public Utilities Commission do to forestall the inevitable and provide some stopgap measure. He MOVED THE QUESTION.

THE PRESIDENT allowed Mr. Johnson to speak once more, as he had requested the floor.

MR. JOHNSON said he would like a vote taken on the amendment offered by Mr. Nolan a few minutes ago.

MR. CONNORS said he was opposed to a Transit Authority.

THE PRESIDENT READ THE AMENDED MOTION and a vote was taken on the following amendment by a show of hands:

- (a) The Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford, at a special meeting called pursuant to the Charter of said City on January 28, 1963, voted, under the provisions of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, to request the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Connecticut

to hold a public hearing to consider establishing such methods as a Transit District within such area, or any other methods to achieve the objective of continued service.

MR. SHANEN asked: "If this motion is lost, then do we refer back to the original motion?"

THE PRESIDENT said in the event the motion is lost, any other resolution may be presented.

The above amendment was LOST by a vote of 12 in favor and 16 opposed.

MR. SHERMAN MOVED for adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Nolan and CARRIED unanimously:

RESOLUTION NO. 402

CONCERNING DISCONTINUANCE OF BUS SERVICE ON  
HIGH RIDGE AND LONG RIDGE LINES  
IN CITY OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

WHEREAS, the public necessity and convenience require that immediate action be taken to prevent a disruption in the bus transportation presently being provided on the High Ridge and Long Ridge Roads by bus companies operated by John Mazzola, and

WHEREAS, the discontinuance of the franchise now held by Mr. Mazzola seems possible, to the detriment of the citizens of the City of Stamford, and

WHEREAS, it would be in the public interest to take steps necessary to avoid that result,

BE AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that it is the sense of the Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford, that the Public Utilities Commission consider such steps as may be necessary to achieve the end of continuing such bus service.

APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE - To consider the bus problem and report back to the Board.

THE PRESIDENT announced the appointment of the following Special Committee to consider the bus problem for residents served by the High Ridge and Long Ridge Road bus lines; and report back to the Board:

DR. MELVIN N. GROVE (Chairman)

ALAN H. KETCHAM

RONALD M. SCHWARTZ

VINCENT G. CAPORIZZO

RICHARD J. O'NEILL



ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, upon motion, duly seconded and CARRIED, the meeting was adjourned.

Velma Farrell

Velma Farrell  
Administrative Assistant  
(Recording Secretary)

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APPROVED:

Paul D. Shapero

Paul D. Shapero, President  
Board of Representatives

Note: The proceedings of the above  
meeting were not broadcast.  
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