

Minutes of December 9, 1963
Meeting of the Board of Representatives
Stamford, Connecticut

3837

The first regular monthly meeting of the 8th Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford was held on Monday, December 9, 1963 in the Cafeteria of the Walter Dolan Jr. High School, Toms Road, Stamford, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Ronald M. Schwartz, at 8:15 P.M.

The INVOCATION was given by Rev. Rocco D. A. Nadile, Sacred Heart Church.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG: The President led the members in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL was taken by the Clerk. There were 38 present and two absent. The absent members were: Stanley Kulowiec and Peter Martin.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES - Meeting of November 12, 1963

There being no corrections, the minutes of the above meeting were accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

STEERING COMMITTEE

The President read the Steering Committee report, which follows:

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT
Meeting held Monday, December 2, 1963

A meeting of the Steering Committee was held on Monday, December 2, 1963 in the Cafeteria of Dolan Jr. High School, immediately after the Organisation Meeting of the newly elected 8th Board of Representatives.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman and President of the Board, Ronald M. Schwartz. All 15 members were present.

The following matters were discussed and acted upon:

- (1) Mayor Thomas C. Mayers' letter of 12/2/63 requesting confirmation of the following appointments:

COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE - Mr. Gibbs Lyons

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS - Mr. Arthur Mitchell

CORPORATION COUNSEL - Mr. Sydney C. Kweekin

The above appointments were REFERRED TO THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE and ordered placed on the agenda for the December 9, 1963 Board meeting.

- (2) Mayor William F. Hickey's letter of 10/17/63 concerning requested appropriation of \$900.00 - Pension for Mrs. Margaret Donohue (As per Special Act 128) Code 169 - Widow of Custodian who retired 2/1/46 under old Pension Plan, with no survivorship benefits - Monthly pension of \$75.00, effective 7/1/63 (Previously approved by Board of Finance)

The above matter, having been deferred by the Fiscal Committee of the previous Board at the November 12, 1963 meeting, was ORDERED PLACED ON THE AGENDA under the FISCAL COMMITTEE.

- (3) The following additional appropriations, having been approved by the Board of Finance at their meeting held 11/14/63, were REFERRED TO THE FISCAL COMMITTEE and ORDERED PLACED ON THE AGENDA:

\$93.48 - Police Department - Code 530.0101, Salaries - Concerning reclassification of Legal Claims Investigator, George Melfi, retroactive to Oct. 7, 1963 (Mayor's letter 11/4/63)

\$109.99- Board of Recreation - Code 720.0101, Salaries - Reclassification for Bruno Cornelio, effective 11/4/63, changing job title from Laborer 11 to Utility Serviceman (Mayor's letter of 11/4/63)

\$6,901.15 - Pensions - Custodians' Retirement Fund - Code 154.0000 - Covering pensions for Leon S. Kayler in amount of \$3,692.02 and for Stephen M. Tucker in amount of \$3,209.13 (Mayor's letter 11/4/63)

\$2,264.36 - Pension for Det. Frederick J. Blundell, based on annual pension of \$3,425.32, effective 11/3/63, being 52% of his annual salary of \$6,587.15 (Mayor's letter 11/4/63)

\$35.00 - Planning Board - Code 134.1202, Maintenance of Equipment (Service contract for typewriter) Mayor's letter 9/17/63)

- (4) Letter and attached resolution from Alan H. Ketcham, dated 12/2/63 proposing the establishment of a Special Investigating Committee, under provisions of Section 204.2 of the Charter, to Investigate Civil Service and Personnel Department procedures.

MR. KETCHAM read the above letter and resolution at this time and MOVED that it be REFERRED TO THE LEGISLATIVE & RULES COMMITTEE and the PERSONNEL COMMITTEE. Seconded by Mr. Kuczo and CARRIED unanimously.

- (5) Letter and attached proposed Ordinance from Robert L. Levister, dated 11/27/63 concerning the establishment of a Commission on Human Rights for the City of Stamford.

The above matter was REFERRED TO THE LEGISLATIVE & RULES COMMITTEE.

- (6) Two letters from John J. Heanue, Business Representative, Teamsters Local Union #145, dated 11/15/63 and 11/29/63 concerning certain proposed revisions to the Classified Employees' Pension Plan.

For the reason that the second letter, above referred to, requested this matter be held in abatement until a unified proposal could be presented by all interested parties, action was DEFERRED until this is forthcoming.

- (7) Letter dated 11/26/63 from Isadore M. Mackler, former Corporation Counsel, concerning the proper procedure for keeping the Charter and Code of General Ordinances up-to-date . NOTED AND FILED

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

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[illegible]

MR. NATHANSON, Chairman of the above Committee, presented his Committee report at this time. He said his Committee met on Thursday, December 5, 1963 at 7:30 P.M. in the Conference Room, City Hall. Present were the following members: Edwin O. Lindstrom, Jr., Joseph S. Bitetto, Paul Kuczo, Jr., Peter A. Martin and Benjamin R. Nathanson, Chairman. He reported that Mr. Lindstrom was named Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

MR. Nathanson said the Committee interviewed five of the Mayor's appointments, as follows: For Commissioner of Finance: Gibbs Lyons. For Corporation Counsel: Sydney C. Kweakin. For Public Works Commissioner: Arthur Mitchell. For appointment to the Planning Board: Julius M. Wilensky (Republican) for a two year term, expiring 12/1/65, and Saul Kwartin (Republican) for a five year term, expiring 12/1/68.

He reported that all of the above Mayor's appointments were unanimously approved by the Committee with the general feeling that the people of the City of Stamford are very fortunate to have men of their caliber serving their City.

The Tellers distributed the ballots on the following appointments. The votes are recorded below; (All as submitted in Mayor's letter of 12/2/63)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------|-------|--------------|
| (1) <u>CORPORATION COUNSEL:</u> | Sydney C. Kweakin | VOTE: | 22 yes |
| | | | 16 no |
| (2) <u>COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE:</u> | Gibbs Lyons | VOTE: | 20 yes |
| | | | 17 no |
| | | | 1 abstention |
| (3) <u>COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS:</u> | Arthur A. Mitchell | VOTE: | 25 yes |
| | | | 13 no |

MR. NATHANSON placed the following names in nomination, to be voted on at the next Board meeting, in conformance with Charter provisions: For appointment to the Planning Board, as requested in the Mayor's letter of 12/4/63:

Saul Kwartin (R), 96 Harvest Hill Lane, for a five year term,
to expire on 12/1/68

Julius Wilensky (R) 51 Barrett Avenue, for a two year term,
to expire on 12/1/65

MR. NATHANSON read the qualifications of the above appointees as outlined in the report of his Committee.

FISCAL COMMITTEE:

MR. ROGERS asked for a short recess at this time (8:40 P.M.) in order to acquaint his Committee with some information that has just been received by him. The recess was granted.

The recess being declared over, the members resumed their seats at 8:50 P.M.

MR. ROGERS reported that a meeting of the Fiscal Committee was held the evening of December 6, 1963 in the Conference Room of City Hall with the following members present: Randolph Rogers, Chairman, Mrs. Frances Lilliendahl, George Russell, Robert Durso and Gerald Rybnick. He said all items on the agenda were approved by the Committee.

- (1) \$900.00 - PENSION for Mrs. Margaret Donohue (As per Special Act 128) - Code 169 Widow of Custodian who retired 2/1/46 under old Pension Plan, with no survivorship benefits - Monthly pension of \$75.00, effective 7/1/63 (Mayor's letter of 10/17/63) (Previously approved by Board of Finance - Deferred by 7th Board at 11/12/63 meeting)

MR. ROGERS said that upon receipt of information as to how many people are eligible for this, they found out that there are very few, if any. HE MOVED for approval of the above request. Seconded by Mr. Kelly and Mr. Kane and CARRIED unanimously.

- (2) \$93.48 - POLICE DEPARTMENT - Code 530.0101. Salaries - Concerning reclassification of Legal Claims Investigator, George Melfi (Retroactive to Oct. 7, 1963) (Approved by Board of Finance on 11/14/63) (Mayor's letter of 11/4/63)

MR. ROGERS MOVED for approval of the above request. Seconded and CARRIED unanimously.

- (3) \$109.99 - BOARD OF RECREATION - Code 720.0101. Salaries - Reclassification for Bruno Cornelio, effective 11/4/63, changing job title from Laborer 11 to Utility Serviceman (Approved 11/14/63 by Board of Finance) (Mayor's letter of 11/4/63)

MR. ROGERS MOVED for approval of the above request. Seconded by Mr. Kelly and CARRIED unanimously.

- (4) \$6,901.15 - PENSIONS - CUSTODIANS' RETIREMENT FUND - Code 154.0000 - Covering pensions for Leon S. Kaylor in amount of \$3,692.02 and for Stephen M. Tucker in amount of \$3,209.13 (Approved 11/14/63 by Board of Finance) (Mayor's letter of 11/4/63)

MR. ROGERS MOVED for approval of the above request. Seconded and CARRIED unanimously.

- (5) \$2,264.36 - PENSION for Det. Frederick J. Blundell, based on annual pension of \$3,425.32, effective 11/3/63, or 52% of his annual salary of \$6,587.15 (Approved 11/14/63 by Board of Finance) Mayor's letter of 11/4/63)

MR. ROGERS MOVED for approval of the above request. Seconded and CARRIED unanimously.

- (6) \$35.00 PLANNING BOARD - Code 134.1202, Maintenance of Equipment (Service contract for typewriter) (Mayor's letter of 9/17/63) (Deferred by Board of Finance on 10/10/63 and approved on 11/14/63)

MR. ROGERS MOVED for approval of the above request. Seconded by Mr. Hearing and CARRIED unanimously.

LEGISLATIVE & RULES COMMITTEE:

MR. SELSBERG, Chairman, presented his Committee report. He said a meeting was held on December 9, 1963 (earlier this evening) in Dolan Jr. High School at 7:05 P.M. with all members present.

Concerning letter and attached resolution from Alan H. Ketcham, dated 12/2/63 proposing the establishment of a Special Investigating Committee under provisions of Section 204.2 of the Charter, to investigate Civil Service and Personnel Department procedures.

MR. SELSBERG said Section 204.2 of the Charter reads as follows:

"The Board of Representatives shall have power, by a two-thirds vote of its entire membership, to investigate any officer, department or agency and shall have access to all data kept by any officer, department or agency, and shall have power to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of data at any meeting of the Board of Representatives or any Committee thereof, and for that purpose may issue subpoenas which shall be signed by the President of the Board. The investigation may be conducted by a Committee, appointed by the Board for the purpose, provided that not more than half of the members of such Committee shall be members of the same political party."

MR. SELSBERG said: "It was the opinion of all members of the Legislative and Rules Committee that a Special Investigating Committee is authorized by Section 204.2 of the Charter. The resolution which is now submitted to the Board for its approval, reads as follows:

"WHEREAS, it appears that some procedures presently followed in the hiring and firing of personnel by some of the governmental agencies of the City of Stamford, appear not to be in the public interest, and further

WHEREAS, it also appears that the safeguards designed to be attained through the procedures and standards of Civil Service are being circumvented by some persons whose duty it is to protect those safeguards; and further

WHEREAS, Section 204.2 of the Charter of the City of Stamford delegates to the Board of Representatives the power '.....to investigate any officer, department, or agency.....' through the medium of a Committee appointed by the Board of Representatives:

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that such a Committee shall forthwith be constituted in accordance with the provisions of said Section and such Committee shall be appointed by the President of this Board by and with the advice and consent of both the Majority and Minority Leaders of said Board, for the following purposes:

- "(1) To investigate the procedures and practices presently followed by the various governmental bodies of the City of Stamford with regard to both Civil Service and non-Civil Service positions, whether part-time or permanent, insofar as these procedures and practices, relate to personnel matters;
- "(2) To investigate the Civil Service Department itself and to determine whether or not it is performing its functions in an efficient, conscientious and impartial manner;
- "(3) To determine whether or not it is in the best interests of Civil Service standards and procedures to permit a non-civil service employee, appointed by an incumbent administration, to establish the job specifications of a new civil service position to which he himself might be appointed during the remaining term of the same administration;
- "(4) To recommend what steps, if any, must be taken to correct any weaknesses or abuses which may be found to exist in any areas so investigated; and
- "(5) To determine, and to make recommendations as to what steps may be taken to separate from public service, with or without appropriate consequences, any Civil Service or non-Civil Service personnel who may be found to have violated the public trust insofar as such violation may have taken place in connection with the hiring or firing of employees and/or the establishment of Civil Service job specifications and/or the filling of Civil Service positions.
- "(6) To report back to the Board of Representatives within a reasonable time."

MR. SELSBERG MOVED for adoption of the above resolution. Seconded by Mr. Rogers.

MR. LONGO MOVED for a five minute recess at this time. (9:10 P.M.) This was granted.

THE PRESIDENT called the meeting to order at 9:20 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT explained that the motion on the floor is the motion made by Mr. Selsberg to adopt the resolution as set forth above. He asked if there was any discussion on the motion.

MR. KANE MOVED for a ROLL CALL VOTE. Seconded.

MR. SHANEN said this matter was before the Board (7th Board) several months ago and at that time he spoke against the resolution for what he believed were obvious reasons. He said at that time he had stated there were no specific charges to warrant the need for the resolution, but now feels it is time that this has to be done, with certain reservations - that he does not feel this should be a "white-wash" but should be done in the true spirit of a bi-partisan Investigating Committee and concerned only with obtaining the facts and should in no way be a "kangaroo court".

MR. SHANEN MOVED TO AMEND the above resolution to state that the Committee be appointed by the President with the recommendations to come from the Majority and Minority Leaders and their recommendations be honored. Seconded by Mr. Kane.

THE PRESIDENT said the amendment would have to be discussed before the Board could act upon the main motion as previously offered by Mr. Selsberg.

MR. KETCHAM said this wording was contained in the original resolution.

THE PRESIDENT asked Mr. Ketcham to read the portion of the resolution to which he refers.

MR. KETCHAM read the fourth paragraph of the resolution, as follows:

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that such a Committee shall forthwith be constituted in accordance with the provisions of said Section and such Committee shall be appointed by the President of this Board by and with the advice and consent of both the Majority and Minority Leaders of said Board....."

MR. SHANEN said he still feels that this should be spelled out just a little bit more.

THE PRESIDENT again stated Mr. Shanen's amendment to read briefly as follows:

"so that the recommendations of the Majority and Minority Leaders be honored."

One of the members asked if this meant that the Board is substituting for the words "advice and consent" in the resolution, the words "the recommendations of the Majority and Minority Leaders".

THE PRESIDENT said, as he understands it, what is being done is saying that the President still has the power to appoint under the provisions of the Charter, but that, as Chairman, should honor the recommendations of the Majority and Minority Leaders. He said this does not limit the power of the President, because it is a provision of the Charter and you cannot amend the Charter this way, but it is merely a request to the Chair to amend the resolution that the recommendations be honored - that this be the amendment to the proposed resolution as submitted by the Legislative and Rules Committee.

VOTE taken on Mr. Shanen's amendment and CARRIED unanimously.

MR. KANE MOVED for a ROLL CALL VOTE. Seconded and CARRIED.

The following resolution was APPROVED by a roll call vote of 32 in favor, 3 opposed, 2 abstentions, with the President not voting, as is customary, except in the case of a tie vote. The roll call vote appears after the resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 429

CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL INVESTIGATING
COMMITTEE UNDER PROVISIONS OF SECTION 204.2 OF THE
CHARTER, TO INVESTIGATE CIVIL SERVICE AND PERSONNEL
DEPARTMENT PROCEDURES.

WHEREAS, it appears that some procedures presently followed in the hiring and firing of personnel by some of the governmental agencies of the City of Stamford, appear not to be in the public interest, and further

WHEREAS, it also appears that the safeguards designed to be attained through the procedures and standards of Civil Service are being circumvented by some persons whose duty it is to protect those safeguards; and further

WHEREAS, Section 204.2 of the Charter of the City of Stamford delegates to the Board of Representatives the power "..... to investigate any officer, department, or agency....." through the medium of a Committee appointed by the Board of Representatives:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that such a Committee shall forthwith be constituted in accordance with the provisions of said Section and such Committee shall be appointed by the President of this Board so that the recommendations of the Majority and Minority Leaders be honored, for the following purposes:

- (1) To investigate the procedures and practices presently followed by the various governmental bodies of the City of Stamford with regard to both Civil Service and non-Civil Service positions, whether part-time or permanent, insofar as these procedures and practices, relate to personnel matters;
- (2) To investigate the Civil Service Department itself and to determine whether or not it is performing its functions in an efficient, conscientious and impartial manner;
- (3) To determine whether or not it is in the best interests of Civil Service standards and procedures to permit a non-Civil Service employee, appointed by an incumbent administration, to establish the job specifications of a new Civil Service position to which he himself might be appointed during the remaining term of the same administration;
- (4) To recommend what steps, if any, must be taken to correct any weaknesses or abuses which may be found to exist in any areas

so investigated; and

- (5) To determine, and to make recommendations as to what steps may be taken to separate from public service, with or without appropriate consequences, any Civil Service or non-Civil Service personnel who may be found to have violated the public trust insofar as such violation may have taken place in connection with the hiring or firing of employees and/or the establishment of Civil Service job specifications and/or the filling of Civil Service positions.
- (6) To report back to the Board of Representatives within a reasonable time.

ROLL CALL VOTE on above Resolution No. 429:

THOSE VOTING IN FAVOR

Patsy Arruzza (D)
 Vito Biscaglio (R)
 Joseph Bitetto (R)
 George Connors (D)
 Jennie Esposito (D)
 William Hearing (R)
 Booth Hemingway (R)
 John Kane (D)
 Stephen Kelly (D)
 Alan Ketcham (R)
 Paul Kuczo (D)
 Frances Lilliendahl (R)
 Edwin Lindstrom (R)
 Carmine Longo (D)
 John Maffucci (R)
 Lee Mogul (R)
 John Morris (D)
 Thomas Morris (R)
 William Murphy (D)
 Benjamin Nathanson (R)
 Romaine Philpot (R)
 Paul Rand (R)
 Daniel Remling (R)
 John Rich (R)
 Randolph Rogers (R)
 George Russell (R)
 Gerald Rybnick (D)
 William Selsberg (R)
 Allen Shanen (D)
 Michael Sherman (R)
 Dominick Vivona (D)
 Michael Zesima (R)

THOSE VOTING IN OPPOSITION

Vincent Caporizzo (D)
 Robert Durso (D)
 Anthony Truglia (D)

THOSE WHO ABSTAINED FROM VOTING

Edward Dombroski (D)
 Chester Walajtys (D)

CONCERNING APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE:

THE PRESIDENT said he would announce the names of the members of the special committee within the next few days. He said it would be an 8 member committee.

Concerning Proposed Ordinance to Establish a Commission on Human Rights for City of Stamford (Referred to Legislative & Rules Committee at 12/2/63 meeting of Steering Committee)

MR. SELSBERG read the following letter, dated Nov. 27, 1963 from Robert L. Levister, enclosing a copy of a proposed Ordinance on the above matter:

Board of Representatives
City of Stamford
City Hall
Stamford, Connecticut

November 27, 1963

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is a copy of the Ordinance establishing the Commission on Human Rights, as amended, which was referred to the Legislative and Rules Committee of your Board. That Committee has now held a public hearing and we urge that this Ordinance be put on the agenda at the earliest possible date.

Very truly yours,

RLL/rd
enc.

(Signed) Robert L. Levister

MR. SELSBERG said it is the Committee's feeling at this time that they will do everything possible to hold committee hearings to enable them to have this placed on the agenda at the January meeting of the Board.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:

Petition dated 11/4/63 from residents of Crestwood Drive, requesting help in obtaining street improvements

MR. MORRIS, Chairman, presented the above petition at this time, addressed to the President.

Letter dated 11/25/63 from Laura Powell, 174 Tom's Road, complaining of soil erosion and the need for a retaining wall in front of her property.

MR. MORRIS presented the above letter also at this time. Both of above letters were REFERRED TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE for proper referral at their next meeting.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE:

MR. RUSSELL, Chairman, presented his Committee report. He said a meeting was

held on Friday, December 6, 1963 in the Conference Room, City Hall, with the following members present: Randolph Rogers and George Russell.

Acceptance of Road as City Street:

MR. RUSSELL said the Committee agreed to present the following road for acceptance. He said it was certified for acceptance by the City Engineer, inspected, and met with the Committee's approval. HE MOVED for acceptance of the following road as a City Street. Seconded by Mr. Rogers and CARRIED:

BREEZY HILL ROAD: Extending from Rock Rimmon Road westerly, length approximately 1,250 feet, width 27 feet, as shown on Map No. 7140 filed in the office of the Town and City Clerk.

Mr. Russell apologized for the short notice given his committee members, but said it was all done in such a short time and people were not available during the time allotted.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE:

MR. KELLY, Chairman presented a report at this time, although he said, no opportunity has been given for the committee to meet with any city Boards, as yet, due to lack of time.

Cummings Park Pond Improvements

Mr. Kelly reported that Mr. Edward Connell, Superintendent of Parks and Trees, has sent a letter to Mr. Walter Wheeler, Jr. in which he stated that the plans and specifications for the above improvements are in the hands of the Purchasing Agent and they hope to have bids with actual construction in the near future. He reported that partial dredging has been done and they expect to finish the north end dredging after the silting basin and the new dam have been constructed. He said the work has been delayed by a series of unforeseen incidents, one being a revision of the original agreement between the City and the Engineers (Frederick E. Harris, Inc.) and the other, the misplacement of the revised contract during the transition period in City Hall, but it is now hoped the work can go forward so that a long standing problem will be solved.

MR. KELLY said: "Sometime ago (almost a year to be exact), I suggested that the Board go on record as seeking from the Park Commission, Hubbard Heights Golf Commission and the Board of Recreation, a notice of any changes in fees or of rules and regulations of each of these three groups, in time for the January meeting of the Board, so as to prevent confusion at, or near the time when this Board would be at its busiest sessions with the Budget.

"Upon requesting this information from Mr. Edward Connell, I have received a memorandum from the Department of Parks, addressed to the Board of Representatives, dated December 9, 1963, which I received, by messenger, at my home, with the following information:

PUBLIC MARINA FEES APPROVED FOR THE 1964 SEASON
(No change from the 1963 Season)

COVE DOCK (up to and including 16 ft. boats).....\$35.00

CUMMINGS DOCK (up to and including 16 ft. boats).....\$35.00
 COVE DOCK (over 16 ft. and including 18 ft. boats)..... 45.00
 CUMMINGS DOCK (16 ft. and including 18 ft. boats..... 45.00
 SOUTHFIELD DOCK (up to 16 ft. boats)..... 25.00
 COVE & CUMMINGS OPEN \$1.00 per ft. \$15.00 minimum
 (Maximum light 24 ft.)
 COVE & CUMMINGS (shore moorings)..... 10.00
 TRAILER PERMITS: SEASONAL 5.00

"Mr. Connell said they are forwarding this information, inasmuch as Marina registrations begin in February and that other use fees will be sent for the January meeting."

URBAN RENEWAL COMMITTEE (Special Committee):

MR. RICH, Chairman, said he has no report for tonight's meeting, but does expect to bring in a report for the next meeting. He said the Planning Board, on Dec. 3rd, approved an amendment to the current Capital Projects Budget in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 which will be considered by the Board of Finance on Dec. 12th. He said if the Board of Finance approves this, it will then come to this Board for consideration at our meeting on Jan 6th, 1964.

Mr. Rich explained that the amendment is for the purpose of permitting the Urban Renewal Commission to initiate engineering, property acquisition and other necessary work preceding construction.

HELCO "TASK FORCE" (Special Committee)

THE PRESIDENT called on Mr. Ketcham, Chairman of above Committee, to present his report.

MR. KETCHAM presented the following report at this time:

SUBJECT: Suitable Quarters for the Board of Representatives in the new City Hall, or Helco Building.

On Friday, 6 December 1963, the Helco "Task Force" met at the Helco building at 3:00 P.M. with Mr. Arthur Mitchell, Commissioner of Public Works, and members of his staff. Present were: Mr. Truglia, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Lindstrom, Mr. Ketcham, of the Committee, and Mrs. Farrell, Administrative Assistant to the Board.

The Committee made an inspection of all six floors of the building, although informed that the sixth, fifth, fourth (except for three small rooms), the third and part of the second floor were already either occupied, or reserved for City Departments, and that either the lobby or part of the second floor might be available to the Board.

It was evident that the ground floor or lobby, was entirely unsuitable for Board meetings, as the acoustics are terrible and would require extensive and expensive alteration and remodeling to meet minimum requirements for our meetings.

It was felt that any proposition that would locate our offices several floors above our meeting room, would not be a sensible solution, and, therefore, the fourth floor proposal was deemed to be unsuitable.

By elimination, your Committee was faced with then securing suitable quarters for this Board on the second floor of the building.

It has been, and is foremost in the minds of your Committee that this Board, by Charter, the most powerful of all City Boards, has been an orphan since our City form of government was instituted in 1949. Thanks to the Board of Education, we have been permitted the use of first, Burdick Jr. High School Auditorium, and later, Dolan Jr. High School Cafeteria. These quarters are not conducive to a legislative atmosphere. Caucus and Committee meetings have been held in private homes, restaurants, and many other more or less inappropriate quarters.

The Committee feels that our minimum requirements are: (1) A room large enough to comfortably house and seat this Board, with seating space for an audience up to 100 persons - this meeting room to be under the control of the Board. (2) Adjacent rooms for the Board's Civil Service staff, and for storage of Board records. (3) Adjacent rooms for both the Republican and Democratic parties, for caucus and meetings, separate from the Board's regular offices, and at least one room for separate Committee meetings of the Board.

Our inspection indicated that these requirements can be met by the acquisition by the Board of that space on the second floor towards the front of the building on Federal and Atlantic Streets, extending from the centrally located lobby leading to the elevator, to the front of the building.

It is recognized that there will be some re-location of the movable partitions, in order to give us the proper arrangement of the rooms but that can be accomplished with minimum expense.

It is also most probable that some additional monies will have to be appropriated for the furniture.

Your Committee is in unanimous agreement that the above represents the most practical solution to the problem, and bearing in mind that this will be our - the Board's "Home" for years to come, requests that this Board, by appropriate action, authorizes this Committee to proceed with the task, as outlined above, and secure such suitable quarters for the Board of Representatives.

SIGNED:

Alan H. Ketcham

Anthony D. Truglia

Edwin O. Lindstrom, Jr.

Stephen E. Kelly

Minutes of December 9, 1963

THE PRESIDENT said he does not believe there is any need for a vote on this, inasmuch as it is a Special Committee created by the Chair. He said the only comments he would like to make, as President, is to inform the Committee that it was the intention of the Chair in creating this, that this remain as a continuing Committee until the work is fully completed. He said he would also request that the Committee check into the financial aspect which may be presented to bring about the material change in the Board's surroundings, including the possibility of any radio facilities, after consultation with WSTC.

OLD BUSINESSConcerning appropriation for the widening of Intervale Road

MR. SHERMAN said that approximately three or more years ago an appropriation was made by the City Boards for the widening of Intervale Road in the amount of about \$40,000.00. He asked that this matter be submitted to the Steering Committee for the Public Works Committee, a request to determine what happened in connection with this appropriation - what work, if any was done, pursuant thereto and if the money has remained unexpended, when will the work be done.

Concerning request for a proper designation of the new City Hall, located at 429 Atlantic Street

MR. SHERMAN: "I would respectfully request that the Steering Committee also refer to the proper Committee a request for a proper designation of the new City Hall. I think the time has come when it should no longer be called the "HELCO" building and that some distinction should be made between the new and the old City Halls for the convenience of all concerned."

MR. KELLY said it is his recollection that when the Board was appropriating the money for the purchase of the HELCO Building that it was referred to as "City Hall Annex".

THE PRESIDENT informed the members that this will be referred to the Steering Committee for discussion.

MR. RICH said he would like to suggest that the building be called the "Municipal Office Building".

Concerning Dam on Cove Pond

MR. RUSSELL said he would also like to have referred to the Steering Committee, the matter of the dam on Cove Pond, on which the City spent a great deal of money. He said it wasn't in too long before part of it gave way - one of the gates, it seems

MR. TRUGLIA asked if any consideration was being given to committee changes.

THE CHAIRMAN replied he had nothing to report at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, upon motion, duly seconded and CARRIED, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 P.M.

Minutes of December 9, 1963

3851

Velma Farrell
Velma Farrell
Administrative Assistant
(Recording Secretary)

vf

APPROVED:

Ronald M. Schwartz
Ronald M. Schwartz, President

Note: The above meeting was broadcast
over Radio Station WSTO.

