

**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY &  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS OF NORTH BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT**

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**Tuesday, April 4, 2006**

**Totoket Valley Elementary School  
7:00 p.m.**

1. ROLL CALL: Present were Mayor Andrew Esposito, Deputy Mayor Joanne Wentworth, Council Members Mary Bigelow, Andrew Bozzuto, Vincent Candelora, Michael Doody, Donald Fucci, Arthur Hausman and Ashley Joiner. Also present were Town Manager Karl Kilduff and Town Attorney John Gesmonde.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

a. March 21 – Regular WPCA & Town Council Meeting

MOTION: Councilor moved, seconded by Councilor , to accept the minutes of the March 21, 2006 Regular Water Pollution Control Authority and Town Council Meeting as presented.

VOTE: Passed 8 to 0 in a roll call vote.

b. March 21 – Special Workshop Meeting

MOTION: Councilor moved, seconded by Councilor , to accept the minutes of the March 21, 2006 Special Workshop Meeting as presented.

VOTE: Passed 8 to 0 in a roll call vote.

**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY AGENDA**

3. CORRESPONDENCE/CITIZENS' STATEMENTS

There were no correspondence or citizens' statements at this time.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

5. NEW BUSINESS: None.

6. CORRESPONDENCE/CITIZENS' STATEMENTS

There were no correspondence or citizens' statements at this time.

**REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA**

7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

a. South Central Regional Council of Governments

Town Manager Kilduff reported

b. Economic Development Commission

Town Manager Kilduff reported

c. Other Reports

There were no other reports at this time.

8. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Kilduff presented and reviewed with the Council his Memorandum dated March 15, 2006 (Attachment 2), highlighting the Yale Urban Center Assistance for the Old Town Hall site.

The Town Manager questioned if Totoket Valley Elementary School was the preferred location for the budget public hearing. The Council concurred with this.

Town Manager Kilduff presented an example of new federally mandated street signs for all signs fronting on State highways. He confirmed that the funding for this is contained in the 2006/07 budget and will be phased in to 2010. The cost of the signs is approximately \$125 each and all signs on Routes 80, 17, 22 and 150 will need to be replaced.

9. COMMUNITY EVENTS AND PRESENTATIONS: None.

10. CITIZENS' STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Deputy Mayor Wentworth opened the meeting to citizens' statements.

Marion Bradley, Chairperson  
Library Board

Re: Issue of one or two libraries for North Branford.  
She spoke on the problems arising if the Town goes to a single library, including the loss of State grants, loss of the Smith building and lot, loss of the Smith



issues would help the Town and would allow the Fire Departments to cut back on fundraising efforts. He requested that the Council support these two issues as both have been included in the budget by the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Deputy Mayor Wentworth suggested that these issues be brought to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee will meet on the second Wednesday in April.

Elisabeth Caplan  
Old Post Road

Re: Felt that the Town should move forward with the renovations of the two libraries as funds have already been expended toward this. She spoke on the need to make these libraries handicapped accessible and felt that this was a viable financial option for the Town.

John Lappie  
168 Twin Lakes Road

Re: Felt that the renovations to the libraries are long overdue as this process was started in 1997. As he was on the Council at the time this decision was made, he felt that the decision was based on balancing current projects, economics and the desire to meet the community's needs. He urged this Council to proceed as planned with the project.

Mrs. Bradley

Re: Pointed out that the renovations to the libraries are based on a 20 year projection.

Cheryl Smith, Board of Education

Re: Board of Education budget. She stated that the Board would be more than happy to meet again with the Council with respect to the budget if required.

Cliff Potter  
1251 Middletown Avenue

Re: Town buildings. Stated that he felt that the Town should do what is right when it comes to Town buildings as the Town has a bad track record with respect to this. He spoke on a multi-purpose area where all Town functions are handled. At this time, he felt that the Town is heating many separate, older buildings. He pointed out that the Town has a reputation of not building it right the first time.

Theresa Baldwin, Adult Librarian  
1 Salem Street

Re: Felt that the library renovation projects are ready to go and should be completed. She spoke on the multiple tasks around the libraries done by Library Director Bob Hull. She noted that they have been waiting for handicap access for both libraries for a very long time and that restrooms are desperately

needed in the children's rooms. She gave many examples of problems which patrons experience due to the lack of each of these. She spoke on non-residents' use of our two smaller libraries. She requested that the Council support the renovation of both libraries.

Deputy Mayor Wentworth read into the record a letter dated March 20, 2006 from Janet Gregan, Town Historian, regarding the Route 80 project and opposing any taking of the North Branford Green (Attachment 3).

Judy Neubig, Member of the Library Board

Re: Stated that she was on the Library Board when it was voted to give the Town \$80,000. She concurred with all of the statements this evening but felt that the Council should look at what is best for the Town. She pointed out that residents were asked 15 years ago and at that time they wanted two libraries.

Town Manager Kilduff reviewed the timeframe with respect to the architect for the renovations to the libraries.

Carolyn Candelora, Member of the Library Board

Re: Questioned how the new members of the Council are educated with respect to the issues raised.

There was a brief discussion between Council members and Library Board members with respect to the issue of the renovations to the libraries. Councilor Candelora noted that the Council is still moving forward with the library projects.

Bob Hull, Library Director

Re: Noted that the renovations are based on population for 20 to 30 years from now, which is the State criteria that must be met in order to get State approval and grants.

11. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

There were no resignations or appointments at this time.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Discussion and Action Re: Resolution Authorizing and Directing the Town Manager to Execute a Cost Sharing Agreement with the State of Connecticut for Traffic Signal Revision at Route 80 and Totoket Road

MOTION: Councilor Doody moved, seconded by Councilor Hausman, that the North Branford Town Council hereby approves a Resolution Authorizing and Directing the Town Manager to Execute a Cost Sharing Agreement with the State of Connecticut For Traffic Signal Revision at Route 80 and Totoket Road (Attachment 4).

Town Manager Kilduff briefly reviewed this item with the Council.

VOTE: Passed 8 to 0 in a roll call vote.

- b. Discussion and Action Re: Update on Department of Transportation Plans for the Final Phase of Route 80 Widening

Town Manager Kilduff reviewed a letter dated February 17, 2006 from the State Department of Transportation on the final phase of the Route 80 widening project, which includes the proposed taking of the North Branford Green. He noted that the State no longer plans to reconfigure Church Street and is proposing a reduction in the lane width instead.

There was considerable discussion on this issue by the Council. Councilor Candelora felt that the Town should insist that the State look at this again. The Council requested that the Traffic Authority review and report on this as well.

As the Council felt that this was an economic decision being made by the State, it requested that a strong letter be sent requesting that there be no taking of the Green.

Town Manager Kilduff suggested that the Town could work with COG and the State legislators with respect to this.

MOTION: Councilor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Joiner, that the North Branford Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager to write letters to the Council of Governments and our State legislators expressing the Town Council's dissatisfaction with the State's proposal and recommending that the State go with Plan B that does require one additional taking, outlining the reasons discussed tonight as well as the reasons in Ms. Gregan's letter and any additional reasons that the Town Manager and Town Engineer may have.

AMENDMENT: Councilor Candelora amended his motion, and Councilor Joiner amended her second, to include notification to the Town's Traffic Authority to weight in on this issue as well.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION: Passed 8 to 0 in a roll call vote.

- c. Discussion and Action Re: Library Location

Deputy Mayor Wentworth noted that this issue was discussed at length under Citizen's Statements.

Councilor Bigelow spoke on the history of a centralized library. After much review and discussion last year, she now concurs with the renovations to the two libraries.

13. NEW BUSINESS:

- b. Discussion and Action Re: Affirmation of Fair Housing Policy Statement

**MOTION:** Councilor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Fucci, that as part of the Town of North Branford's annual commitment to the principles of Fair Housing, the Town Council of the Town of North Branford hereby adopts the attached Fair Housing Policy Statement (Attachment 5).

**VOTE:** Passed 8 to 0 in a roll call vote.

- a. Discussion and Action Re: Fair Housing Resolution

**MOTION:** Councilor Bigelow moved, seconded by Councilor Joiner, that the North Branford Town Council hereby approves the attached Fair Housing Resolution (Attachment 6).

**VOTE:** Passed 8 to 0 in a roll call vote.

- c. Discussion and Action Re: Amendment to Flexible Benefits Plan in accordance with Internal Revenue Service Regulations

**MOTION:** Councilor Bigelow moved, seconded by Councilor Bozzuto, that the North Branford Town Council hereby approves the attached Actions Taken and Resolutions Adopted by Consent of the Town Council of The Town of North Branford (Attachment 7).

**VOTE:** Passed 8 to 0 in a roll call vote.

- d. Discussion and Action Re: Financial Report - February 2006

Treasurer/Finance Director Anthony Esposito reviewed with the Council the Financial Report for February 2006. He pointed out that four departments are over-expended at this time but revenues continue to outpace expenditures.

- e. Discussion and Action Re: Approval of Tax Refunds

**MOTION:** Councilor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Bozzuto, that the North Branford Town Council hereby approves the attached property tax refunds (Attachment 8).

**VOTE:** Passed 8 to 0 in a roll call vote.

14. CITIZENS' STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS

Deputy Mayor Wentworth opened the meeting to citizens' statements and petitions. There were no citizens' statements or petitions at this time.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Councilor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Fucci, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

VOTE: Passed 8 to 0 in a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rosanne Krajewski,  
Clerk to the Council