

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the fifteenth day of March 2021 A.D. the said remote meeting was called to order by Town Council President Stephen Moffitt, Jr. at 6:30 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02833.

PRESENT: Stephen Moffitt, Jr., conducted the meeting remotely. Scott Bill Hirst and Michael Geary were present in the Meeting Room, Sharon Davis, Robert Marvel, Town Solicitor Stephen Sypole, Acting Town Manager Brian Rosso and Town Clerk Elizabeth Cook-Martin participated remotely.

**6:30 P.M. HOPKINTON TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP**

BUDGET DISCUSSIONS RE: PROPOSED FY 21/22 BUDGET. Mr. Rosso began with a budget review and overview update.

Mr. Rosso explained that on the expense side of the proposed budget there was an increase due to the school budget of \$469,000 which was an increase of 2.3%.

The municipal budget showed an increase of \$82,500 with a big part of that being contractual, especially regarding healthcare in the Town Manager's Department.

The capital transfer was up by \$105,000 and total expenses were up \$657,000, a 2.4% increase. Councilor Geary asked what the capital transfer was and Mr.

Rosso explained that this was the funds being spent on the CIP this year; these funds would be transferred into the CIP budget. Mr. Rosso noted that there was an increase in state aid; however, it is not as much as previously expected. He felt that they could offset this with the change in the Land Trust budget and an increase in assessed values once the motor vehicle and tangibles were solidified by the Tax Assessor. Mr. Rosso believed the revenue would increase by \$656,000 to support the increase in expenses which is a combination of increases in assessed value and an increase of the tax rate.

Mr. Rosso addressed the estimated tax rate noting that the tax roll was up \$275,000 without any tax rate increase. There is an increase in tangibles (solar projects going online – an increase of \$120,000) and real property (increased by \$155,000). If they kept the tax rate the same as last year, \$18.28, they would have seen an increase of \$275,000; however, they know that they need to support a tax

rate increase of \$656,000. Mr. Rosso gave a summary of the 4% cap and noted that in this given year our maximum increase could be \$749,000 and they were at \$669,000 right now; so they are under the cap by .5% and he hoped to see some improvement to that due to the motor vehicle phase out reimbursement and increase in the tax roll. Mr. Rosso noted the breakdown for the FY 21/22 budget was 24% for municipal and 76% for education. If the mill rate is set at \$18.66 this would equate to \$4.46 going towards the municipal budget and \$14.20 towards education. Mr. Rosso gave an example of how much of an increase this would mean to someone who owned a home valued at \$350,000. Councilor Davis wished his example to be placed on the summary sheet.

Mr. Rosso referred to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), noting that the three items being funded this year were computer replacements, 1904 building and police vehicle replacement. There were no warrant items proposed and all other Departments and Budgetary matters had been discussed during the workshops. Council President Moffitt asked about the town's improved website and Mr. Rosso indicated that this was included in the CIP.

Council President Moffitt closed the budget workshop and convened the Town Council Meeting.

#### **7:00 P.M. HOPKINTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

The Town Council Meeting was called to order with a moment of silent meditation and a salute to the Flag.

#### **HEARING**

#### **PROPOSED ZONING DISTRICT USE TABLE AMENDMENT TO PROHIBIT ADDITIONAL GAS/DIESEL STATIONS**

The Council reconvened the hearing on proposed text amendments to the Town's Zoning Ordinance District Use Table read by Council President Moffitt. The intent of the proposed amendments is to prohibit any additional gas/diesel stations; to allow electric charging stations in commercial, manufacturing and neighborhood business zones, including the two current gas stations. This proposed amendment had been introduced and sponsored by former Councilor Sylvia Thompson, scheduled on the November 2, 2020 Town Council Agenda where the hearing date was set for

February 16, 2021. The hearing was continued to March 15, 2021 on February 16, 2021.

The Town Clerk read the proposed amendments to the District Use Regulations:

Proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, Appendix A; Chapter 135 Section 5

District Use Regulations that were shown in bold italics:

Section 5 – District Use Regulations.

District Use Table – P = Permitted N = Prohibited S = Special Use Permit A = Aquifer Protection Permit

Use Category	RFR-80	RES-1	NB	Comm.	Mnufct.	Aquifer Overlay	
						Primary	Secondary
554 Gasoline Service Stations	N	N	N	P	S	N	A

Proposed amendments in bold italics:

<b><i>554 Gasoline Diesel Service Stations</i></b>	<i>N</i>						
<b><i>559 Electric Charging Stations</i></b>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>P</i>

Section 8. Nonconforming development (C. Addition, enlargement, expansion, replacement or intensification of a nonconforming development shall be allowed by special use permit. ***Unless prohibited in the district use table.***

Sylvia Thompson participated remotely. Filing fees did not apply as this amendment was proposed by a councilor. Notice had been posted.

Councilor Hirst asked Solicitor Sypole whether there were any legal concerns should they adopt this proposal. Solicitor Sypole noted that he had two concerns, one being the advisory opinion that the Council received from the Planning Board who concluded that adding the language in Section 8 “Unless prohibited in the district use table” would apply generally across the board to any nonconforming developments in town and not just to gas stations which may have some unintended consequences for other properties in town. Mr. Sypole noted that his other concern was that there was no definition for electric charging stations. Councilor Hirst believed there was going to be a time when people had universal electric cars and they would need charging stations. Council President Moffitt noted that his concern was that there was no definition.

Sylvia Thompson stated that she initially proposed there being no more gas stations allowed in town because of the ordeal they went through with Love’s

Truck Stop. She noted that she spoke with Sherri Desjardins of the Building and Zoning Office who noted that electric charging stations were not defined. Ms. Thompson stated that originally she thought they should allow electric charging stations in commercial and manufacturing zones and she had put Ns in RFR80 and RES-1 zones because people should not be selling electricity. She felt that if someone had an electric car they would not need a charging station, just an outlet for charging. She felt that if they were not comfortable moving forward with this proposal they should continue the hearing and possibly hold a workshop with the Planning Board or they could turn to staff for assistance. She noted that her reasoning for putting Section 8 “Unless prohibited in the district use table” was because she did not want the two existing gas stations to use the land next to them to expand and add more pumps; however, that language would not allow for the replacement of pumps or gasoline tanks in the ground and she had not intended that. She believed that statement should be removed but felt that if they left S’s in commercial and manufacturing zones for gasoline stations that would allow the ability for a Love’s Truck Stop type of business to come back to town.

Councilor Geary thanked Ms. Thompson for bringing this proposal before them but questioned the old Valero gas station wondering if someone purchased it and wished to have another gas station there, would they be able to? Ms. Thompson advised that she had asked Ms. Desjardins about the Valero station as to whether or not this site could be a gas station again. Ms. Desjardins noted that this station was a legal nonconforming use; however, this use has been discontinued for over a year and therefore it is no longer viable and can no longer be a gas station. She noted this property was in a neighborhood business zone but it could not be a gas station again. Council President Moffitt wished to strike the language in Section 8 “Unless prohibited in the district use table.” Councilor Davis stated that the Planning Board had voted on *554 Gasoline Diesel Service Stations* to put an “S” under commercial and manufacturing, with an “A” under Overlay Secondary and she wondered if this would allow a big developer such as Love’s Truck Stop to come in. Council President Moffitt asked Solicitor Sypole for his opinion and he stated yes, it would be allowed by special use permit. Mr. Sypole noted that a special use permit is not a high burden to clear; it was more just a review of the project. Councilor Geary felt that

if you say no more are allowed in town then Hopkinton will be known as being business unfriendly though he did agree that the town did not want a Love's Truck Stop.

There was no public comment.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR GEARY TO CONTINUE THE PUBLIC HEARING TO JUNE 7, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Geary, Marvel

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilor Geary made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda but withdrew his motion when Councilor Marvel wished to correct the March 1, 2021 Town Council Meeting Minutes. Councilor Marvel asked that corrections be made to the March 1, 2021 Town Council Meeting on page 6, in the first line, to change the word "the" to "he"; and on page 12, on line 20 to change the word "wished" to "liked".

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR GEARY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR MARVEL TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA AS FOLLOWS:

Approve Town Council Meeting Minutes of March 1, 2021 as amended; Budget Workshop Notes of February 25, 2021; Budget Workshop Notes of February 22, 2021; Budget Workshop Minutes of February 11, 2021; Accept the following monthly financial/activity report: Town Clerk; Approve abatement due to duplicate billing on 2020 MV tax submitted by the Tax Assessor; Set April 5, 2021 as a hearing date for a Class BV Liquor License, a Class A Victualling License, a Holiday Sales License and a Multi-Event Permit filed by Little Rhody Lobster, LLC for property located on 15A Frontier Road; Approve refund due to an overpayment by escrow company and an overpayment by title company on 2020 real estate tax requested by the Tax Collector.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Geary, Marvel

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT**

Town Council President Moffitt announced that there was an upcoming meeting of the Westerly Town Council, the RI DEM and the Southern RI Conservation District on March 18, 2021 at 6:00 PM regarding the Pawcatuck River at Potter Hill; Current Conditions and Ideas for Ecological Restoration Meeting that had been reported by Representative Brian P. Kennedy in a letter to the Town Council. He read from Representative Kennedy’s letter:

Honorable Hopkinton Town Council  
One Townhouse Road  
Hopkinton, RI 02833

I wanted to notify the members of the Town Council and residents of the Town of Hopkinton that live along the Pawcatuck River in Ashaway near the Potter Hill Dam, about an upcoming meeting of the Westerly Town Council, the RI Dept. of Environmental Management and the Southern RI Conservation District. SRICD is assisting the Town of Westerly and its partners with the *Pawcatuck River at Potter Hill; Current Conditions and Ideas for Ecological Restoration* meeting on March 18th at 6:00 p.m. at the Westerly Town Hall.

The Town of Westerly and its partners received a grant from NOAA to study the feasibility of improving fish passage and flood resiliency at the Potter Hill Mill. The engineers obtained by the town have completed their preliminary study of the river and will provide that information on March 18th via a virtual meeting.

Due to COVID Restrictions on gathering size, the public is invited to participate via Zoom or by telephone. The meeting will also be broadcast live on PEG RI-TV Channel 18 (Cox) or Channel 29 (Verizon) and to FaceBook Live and recorded and re-broadcast later. Interested parties can watch online or on television and call the phone numbers below to ask questions. Residents of Westerly and the Town of Hopkinton can submit a question in advance by going to the Westerly webpage: At the top of the page click on submit a question or comment regarding the issue, or go directly to this page and submit the question or comments.

Council President Moffitt reported the information is posted on the Hopkinton website.

**TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

Acting Town Manager Brian Rosso reported a Maintenance Operator vacancy had been filled in the Public Works Department. The new hire’s name is Derek Gardiner, age 29 who lives in Westerly but grew up in Richmond, RI. Mr. Gardiner began working for the Town on March 8, 2021 and has experience with plowing, possesses a CDL license and has already contributed and shown he will be an asset to the Town.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RECREATION DIRECTOR AND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION REQUEST TO ENTER INTO A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WOOD-PAWCATUCK WATERSHED NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SYSTEM STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL REGARDING BRIGGS MEMORIAL PARK**

Recreation Director Mary Sawyer and Elaine Caldarone, Hopkinton representative on the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Wild and Scenic River System Stewardship Council participated remotely.

Ms. Sawyer noted that the Recreation Commission was looking for permission to enter into a partnership with the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed National Wild and Scenic River System Stewardship Council in order to upgrade Briggs Memorial Park. She noted that this is a four and one-half acre wooded parcel which is used as a neighborhood park and has walking trails. Ms. Sawyer noted that Ms. Calderone had approached her in October as the Ashaway River is protected by the National Wild and Scenic River System noting that they wished to see the public made aware of the Ashaway River, that it is protected, and made more accessible. The Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed National Wild and Scenic River System Stewardship Council has set aside \$9,000 of their current year's budget for the park to be surveyed and to develop a concept plan. The Recreation Commission believes that the most important improvement that needs to be made is to upgrade the parking for there is currently a U-turn type road with entry from High Street, running through the property and coming out onto Route 216. They would like to block that off and upgrade the parking area, along with other improvements including cleaning up the trails, grading the pathway, adding picnic tables and benches as well as safety fencing at the bank of the river. Ms. Calderone added that one of the goals of the Stewardship Council is to support public access to the Watershed Rivers and Briggs Park is the only place where people can get to the Ashaway River. She stated that Briggs Park is a beautiful park, though not well known, and without any place to park or sit and without a sign to indicate the entrance, it will not be used. She noted that they were not looking for a formal agreement at this time, just permission to have the concept plan written up and then when they see what the total cost will be, they will come back before the Council looking for a more formal agreement between the Town and the Stewardship Council. She noted that they have funds to purchase the

capitol items but they would be looking for the town to be partners by providing in-kind services, such as Ms. Sawyer's time and DPW time to smooth out the road or clear the area for parking.

Councilor Hirst remembered when this park was built, noting that he lived next to this property until 1976. He explained that Asa Lloyd Briggs was a State Representative from Hopkinton who died in approximately 1962. He believed that when this property was gifted to the Town, the Town was required to maintain it. He thought Solicitor Sypole should look into the background of this gift and any conditions that may have been placed upon the Town. He was also concerned because through the years this park has been vandalized. He hoped that if this project proceeded there should be police presence there so that this did not happen again.

Council President Moffitt thanked Ms. Sawyer and Ms. Calderone for entertaining this proposal. He noted that he was interested in seeing this parcel become a piece of property that the people in Hopkinton can enjoy.

Ms. Sawyer hoped to have the park need minimal maintenance and this site has not been accessible to cars in recent years so there has not been any recent vandalism.

Councilor Geary like the idea of this partnership.

Councilor Hirst believed that the Town had an obligation to maintain this property and he wished to ensure that the Town was maintaining the property under the spirit of how the property was given to the Town.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR GEARY THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL SIGNALS ITS INTEREST REGARDING THE REQUEST OF THE RECREATION DIRECTOR AND THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION TO ENTER INTO A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WOOD-PAWCATUCK WATERSHED NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SYSTEM STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL REGARDING BRIGGS MEMORIAL PARK.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Geary, Marvel

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

**CHARIHO RELATED MATTERS/CHARIHO BUDGET VOTE/REPLACEMENT OF FOUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WITH ONE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Councilor Hirst requested discussion on Chariho related matters: Discussion regarding the Chariho Budget Vote/Replacement of Four Elementary Schools with One Regional Elementary School.

Councilor Hirst was disappointed on the school budget vote and wished an outside management study be performed. He noted that the Chariho Act was established for a reason and it was given with veto power on specific things. He was concerned about the idea of one elementary school and the long bus rides and potential future growth problems that he foresaw. He believed if the Chariho Act was to be changed the School Committee needed to work with the Town Councils because when legislature passes something they usually check to assure that every Town Council is in agreement. He felt the School Committee needed to have a more collaborative approach to the individual towns. Councilor Hirst wished to have Mr. Santilli, the Building Inspector, examine the Ashaway Elementary School and the Hope Valley Elementary School buildings for he noted that the Chariho Act required the Chariho School District to maintain our school buildings. He wished Mr. Santilli to give an opinion as to whether he believed the Chariho School District was adequately maintaining these buildings. He also advised that the School Committee routinely changes their budget line items. Councilor Davis asked Solicitor Sypole if the Chariho School Committee can actually spend \$250,000 from their capital budget line in this new budget, FY21/22 without the towns having taken a vote to move forward with this consolidation. She did not feel they should be spending any money if people did not want this consolidation. Solicitor Sypole noted that he had researched the Chariho Act a few weeks prior and the attorney for the School District had indicated that to do the consolidation of the schools would require a referendum vote; the School District is a separate unit of government. Councilor Hirst believed that when the School District puts something on a referendum, that referendum is usually approved by the General Assembly and the General Assembly will check to assure that every Town Council has endorsed the vote.

Councilor Davis felt that they should know what their legal options were and if they disagreed with the spending of that money was their only option to vote down the Chariho budget. Solicitor Sypole stated that the School District and the School Committee are separate from the individual towns. Council President Moffitt suggested that Councilor Davis pose her question to Solicitor Sypole, who was having computer issues, and he could answer her question. Councilor Davis felt they were running out of time to inform the residents of what options they have. She wished to know legally what can or can't be done; if the residents do not want the Chariho budget to include that money to be spent. She noted that her concern was how the Chariho School Committee can try to move on consolidating the schools without changing the Chariho Act. The Chariho Act is something that is voted on by the General Assembly and when the General Assembly votes on the State level they need to know that the towns are in favor. She did not feel that the process was going as it should and wondered if they would have to open the Chariho Act and go before the General Assembly first. Councilor Hirst felt that the budget and the building proposal were two separate things even though they might include some things in the budget dealing with elementary schools.

Councilor Geary wondered if it was legal for the School Committee to perform their survey without letting the towns know. Council President Moffitt suggested that Attorney Anderson, the School District's attorney, indicated that they had every right to do that but at the end of the day it would be the voters' decision.

Mary Karlsson advised that she was opposed to shutting down the four elementary schools and building one campus. She felt the Solicitor should look into an injunction against the School Committee spending any money in the budget for that purpose. She noted that we are still paying a 2010 bond for the campus and a bond for the alternate education building. She believed that the smaller schools are the best models for the younger children and they should not be subjected to long bus rides. She has asked Chariho over the last ten years to provide her with evidence that the Fifth graders are doing as well on their studies as they had in the fourth grade at the elementary schools but she has never received anything. She wished the Council advocate for turning down the budget so they can take this money away.

Sylvia Thompson wished the Council ask the Solicitor if the School Committee can spend money to do the preliminary work; i.e. surveys, hire an architect, etc., or as the Chariho Act states, it is the approved Regional School District Building Committee that secures competent, architectural and engineering services, surveys and the preparation of plans, etc.? She felt that the Council should not accept the School Committee's Solicitor's word that the process that they are doing is correct; possibly it is correct, but they should be sure in light of what the Chariho Act states. She also noted that she had sent to the Council some documents specifically in reference to enrollment numbers. She explained that Chariho has lost over 800 in-district students since 2001 and this number has not been this low since the 1970's. One of her problems with Chariho is that they did not distinguish between the decreasing in-district students and the increasing of out-of-district students in their recent presentation. She felt this was misleading and she wished the Council to ask them to rework the enrollment document they used in their presentation to reflect this difference in order to fairly represent this information, because the tax money we pay to fund Chariho is determined by the number of in-district students every year. This year Chariho lost another 71 students; however, that is not reflected in their enrollment data that they were using for their presentation. As to the budget, over-estimating it or over-taxation has been an ongoing problem that they have had with Chariho since 2006. She noted that Mr. Rosso had identified some of these issues at the Omnibus meeting. She was curious to find out individually and collectively if any Councilor supported the budget. Regarding the issue of the Chariho Act and whether the process that Chariho is using is appropriate, she would also ask the Solicitor to look at the RIDE regulations. She wondered if the RIDE regulations allowed the School Committee to do the preliminary work instead of it having to be the Building Committee. She noted that Attorney Anderson had indicated to her that this was how they did the campus 2010 proposal and the alternate education building proposal; however, maybe that was done wrong.

Georgia Ure of Hope Valley felt that it would be very important to find out if the School Committee was following the Chariho Act, which is a law. She believed they needed a Building Committee before they can do what they have been doing.

She agreed with Ms. Karlsson that research has shown that small schools are better educationally and noted that if they combine all three towns' children at the Chariho campus there will be about 5,000 people on that campus. She did not feel that this would save any money for they would need sewer systems; water systems and larger roads. She hoped that the Council would stop them from thinking about this type of future planning. She indicated that the State of Rhode Island was wrong in promoting the idea of newer and fewer, especially because they came up with this before the pandemic; and, regarding terrorism, putting all your eggs in one basket is not a smart thing to do.

Joe Moreau of Old Depot Road wished to acknowledge a great job with the budgeting process by Mr. Rosso, the Town Council, all department heads, and the Town staff. He listened to the last School Committee meeting and felt that some people are just hell-bent on pushing forward with their plan of newer and fewer schools. He felt that Ms. Thompson, Ms. Ure, Ms. Capalbo and Ms. Karlsson all made great points. The Chariho student enrollment expenditure surplus document showed that Chariho was down 800 in-district students and in fact down 71 this year. Ms. Ure asked how much money was being spent, or was in the budget, for this proposal as far as architectural fees and so forth but they would not give her an answer and said that it was not the proper time. Eventually someone indicated that they were looking at somewhere around One Million Dollars. If you review the enrollment records from 2005 to 2021 the enrollment has been down every year, except for 2020 which showed plus two students. Seventy-six percent (76%) of our taxes paid for the in-district students and Chariho claims that they expect eighty-two more students in five years, which he did not understand. He noted that Ms. Capalbo had asked them to reduce the fund balance and was flat out told no. Their year-end surplus, year to date for 2020, is \$4,386,000 and the fund balance is \$9,139,000 and they want to waste at least \$250,000 on this study. He asked how they could get the message to Chariho that the residents do not want this. He noted that unfortunately the residents do not pay a lot of attention to the budget and will just go vote yes or no, without knowing all of the details.

## **BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

### **Land Trust Board of Trustees Appointment**

Jason Parent had applied for the vacancy on the Land Trust Board of Trustees and had been interviewed.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR GEARY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR MARVEL TO APPOINT JASON PARENT TO THE LAND TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Geary, Marvel

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

### **Planning Board Reappointment**

Ronald Prellwitz had submitted a letter requesting to be reappointed to the Planning Board.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO REAPPOINT RONALD PRELLWITZ TO THE PLANNING BOARD.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Geary, Marvel

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Barbara Capalbo thanked the Council for reappointing Mr. Prellwitz to the Planning Board. Regarding Chariho, she stated that the one school idea has not been approved and would still be discussed until August. She noted that she was also against having one single elementary school, though she did understand their need for newer and fewer. She indicated that she was open to the idea that there should be new schools and had proposed two new schools, one on the Hopkinton/Richmond line and one on the Charlestown/Richmond line. She noted that she wished Chariho to cut their fund balance down to 2% especially since the Biden plan just gave \$1.5 Billion to schools around the country and they have a new head of Education who is very supportive of public schools. She felt that they would be getting the money they needed and she did not believe that they need to keep extra money in their fund balance which belongs to the people.

Their fund balance does not deal with students, programs, teachers, benefits or facilities; it is just money that sits there just in case.

Sylvia Thompson mentioned that in 1986 when the voters approved the K-12 regionalization, they made a bargain that they were going to protect the elementary schools because the elementary schools were governed by the local in-town school committees back then. She noted that in the Chariho Act there is language that protects the elementary schools and keeps them in the individual towns and this is why they will have to change the Chariho Act if they are to move forward.

Joe Moreau advised that he has known Ron Prellwitz for approximately three years and he appreciated his straightforwardness. He believed Mr. Prellwitz has the town's best interest in mind when he makes a decision. He wished to thank Mr. Prellwitz and Mr. Parent for volunteering for these Boards.

Georgia Ure explained that Briggs Park was given to the town by the Briggs family in memory of Mr. Briggs' daughter who was the highest ranking female in World War II. She thought they should keep that in mind and believed the Briggs family would be very happy to know that there will be extra help to maintain the park. Councilor Hirst noted that Mr. Briggs' daughter was Lieutenant Colonel Ruth M. Briggs of the Women's Army Corps in the United States Army and she was secretary and possibly the driver of Walter Bedell Smith who was Chief of Staff at Eisenhower's European Headquarters in WWII.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR GEARY TO ADJOURN.

SO VOTED

Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin

Town Clerk

Marita D. Murray

Deputy Town Clerk