

ORIGINAL

VERBATIM PROCEEDINGS

WEST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

IN RE: ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5,  
ARTICLE 5-22B

WEST HARTFORD TOWN HALL  
50 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06107-2431  
JULY 8, 2003  
6:06 P.M.

POST REPORTING SERVICE  
HAMDEN, CT (800) 262-4102

RE: ORDINANCE AMENDING CHP. 5, ARTICLE 5-22B  
JULY 8, 2003

1 . . . Verbatim Proceedings of a hearing  
2 before the West Hartford Town Council in the matter of an  
3 ordinance amending Chapter 5, Article 5-22B held on July  
4 8, 2003 at 6:06 p.m. at the West Hartford Town Hall, 50  
5 South Main Street, West Hartford, Connecticut. . .

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7  
8  
9 MAYOR JONATHAN HARRIS: We will open the  
10 first public hearing. Mr. Slifka, if you could read the  
11 notice, please.

12 MR. SCOTT SLIFKA: Ordinance amending  
13 Chapter 5, Article 5-22B of the Town Code of Ordinances  
14 regarding the powers and duties of the Pension Board.

15 MAYOR HARRIS: Mrs. Cronin, a roll call,  
16 please.

17 (Whereupon, a roll call was taken.)

18 MAYOR HARRIS: Thank you, Mrs. Cronin.  
19 Mr. Feldman, could you explain the proposed ordinance  
20 amendment.

21 MR. BARRY FELDMAN: Mr. Mayor, the amended  
22 ordinance that's before you tonight clarifies the  
23 responsibility of the town administration as it relates  
24 to providing administrative support to our Pension Board.

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1 The paragraph right immediately above it, Paragraph B, is  
2 also further amended to clarify what the Pension Board --  
3 their responsibilities regarding employees' certain  
4 skills and -- such as actuarial, legal, consulting  
5 services are their prerogative to employ. And that the  
6 town administration shall provide to the Pension Board  
7 administrative support.

8 This is a clarification and I think it's  
9 necessary and helpful. There has been always, I think, a  
10 little bit of question in regards to what does the town  
11 administration provide to the Pension Board. What  
12 authority does the Pension Board have to hire its own  
13 experts. And this ordinance attempts to do that.

14 MAYOR HARRIS: Thank you, Mr. Feldman. Any  
15 questions by Councilors?

16 MS. CAROLYN THORNBERRY: Mr. Mayor.

17 MAYOR HARRIS: Dr. Thornberry.

18 MS. THORNBERRY: Mr. Mayor, I'd like to  
19 ask the town manager that if under this ordinance this  
20 keeps the Pension Board from hiring anyone who would be  
21 classified as an employee of the town. I'm sorry, as an  
22 employee -- my question.

23 MR. FELDMAN: Mr. Mayor, Dr. Thornberry,  
24 that's correct, but that's always been practice. It's

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4

1 always been that.

2 MS. THORNBERRY: Mr. Mayor?

3 MAYOR HARRIS: Yes, Dr. Thornberry.

4 MS. THORNBERRY: Another question for the  
5 town manager, this does not preclude, however, as so  
6 stated in it, from the Pension Board hiring on their own  
7 with or without Council approval outside contractors or  
8 consultants.

9 MR. FELDMAN: Mr. Mayor, Dr. Thornberry,  
10 it permits the Pension Board to hire actuarial, legal and  
11 consulting services on their own without necessarily  
12 coming back to the Council for approval.

13 MS. THORNBERRY: Thank you.

14 MAYOR HARRIS: Mr. Turco.

15 MR. AL TURCO: Just sort of following the  
16 same line of questioning, definition of terms, it would -  
17 - I would read C to -- or there is a reference to  
18 administrative support to be exclusive of the categories  
19 listed in B of the actuary lawyer consultant, etcetera.  
20 Is that fair --

21 MR. FELDMAN: Mr. Turco, that's correct.  
22 That's the intent of the ordinance amendment.

23 MR. TURCO: So that B and C are not  
24 overlapping, but indeed separating -- clarifying by

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1 separating.

2 MR. FELDMAN: That's correct.

3 MR. TURCO: Okay.

4 MR. FELDMAN: That's absolutely correct.

5 MR. TURCO: Okay. Thank you.

6 MAYOR HARRIS: Thank you, Mr. Turco. Mr.  
7 Feldman -- do any other Council members have any  
8 questions? I have a couple.

9 So, just to clarify then, currently there  
10 is an administrator for the Pension Board. That  
11 administrator is paid by the town currently, correct?

12 MR. FELDMAN: Mr. Mayor, the pension  
13 manager and clerical support are town employees. They're  
14 part of the classified service. They always were and  
15 hopefully always will be. And this ordinance clarifies  
16 that.

17 MAYOR HARRIS: And the Pension Board still  
18 is an independent body appointed by the Council. This  
19 doesn't affect the independence of the Pension Board.

20 MR. FELDMAN: Oh, in no way, no sir.

21 MAYOR HARRIS: And this -- in clarifying  
22 that the administrator is an employee of the town, and  
23 making that consistent -- you know, showing that that's  
24 been our past practice, these employees, whether they be



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1 clerical or administrator, as you say, would be subject  
2 to the Code of Ethics of the town?

3 MR. FELDMAN: In -- all those requirements  
4 are then incumbent upon these employees certainly to  
5 follow.

6 MAYOR HARRIS: And the same would be true  
7 with our personnel rules.

8 MR. FELDMAN: Absolutely, personnel,  
9 ethics, anything regarding employee behavior, that's  
10 absolutely correct.

11 MAYOR HARRIS: And, again, as an  
12 independent board because of what Mr. Turco and Dr.  
13 Thornberry asked about, the exclusivity issue, the Board  
14 would still be allowed to retain consultants, actuarial,  
15 legal and other services needed to perform their  
16 independent function.

17 MR. FELDMAN: Yes.

18 MAYOR HARRIS: Any further questions?

19 Do we have a sign up sheet, Mr. O'Brien?

20 MR. JOSEPH O'BRIEN: Let's see. Yes, we  
21 do and there is one person signed up.

22 MAYOR HARRIS: Frances Donohue, if you  
23 could state your name and address for the record, please.

24 MR. FRANCES DONOHUE: My name is Frances

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1 Donohue. I reside at 23 Crocker Avenue, West Hartford.  
2 Since we're making changes for different things on the  
3 Pension Board, I would like to bring notice to the  
4 Council that as of 6/9 we have 558 employees retired from  
5 the town. We don't have no -- we don't have anybody on  
6 the Board to cry for us or we have to wait until the town  
7 manager decides to flip a coin to take care of the  
8 retirees.

9 We would like to see one of the retirees  
10 put on the Pension Board. If you making changes for  
11 actuaries and lawyers and everything else, I think we  
12 should have a say in what we get from the town for the  
13 retirees.

14 That's all. Thank you.

15 MAYOR HARRIS: Thank you, Mr. Donohue.  
16 Any further comments by the non existent public? There  
17 being none, we will close the public hearing.

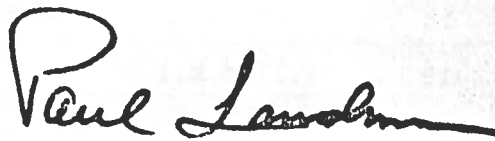
18 (Whereupon, the hearing was adjourned at  
19 6:14 p.m.)

**CERTIFICATE**

I, Paul Landman, a Notary Public in and for the State of Connecticut, and President of Post Reporting Service, Inc., do hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing record is a correct and verbatim transcription of the audio recording made of the proceeding hereinbefore set forth.

I further certify that neither the audio operator nor I are attorney or counsel for, nor directly related to or employed by any of the parties to the action and/or proceeding in which this action is taken; and further, that neither the audio operator nor I are a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties, thereto, or financially interested in any way in the outcome of this action or proceeding.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and do so attest to the above, this 24th day of July, 2003.

  
Paul Landman,  
President

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