

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE AMENDING WEST
HARTFORD CODE OF ORDINANCES, SECTION 7-1 CONCERNING
SETTLEMENT AUTHORITY FOR CLAIMS

November 12, 1996

Council Chambers

999, 40

President Nan Glass called the hearing to order at 7:10 p.m.

Present were Councilors Rob Bouvier, Kevin Connors, Liz Gillette, Nan Glass, Sandy Klebanoff, Patrick McCabe, Madeline McKernan and Alfred Turco. Councilor John Ritter was absent.

President Glass: This was discussed in a joint meeting of Administration and Community Planning Committee and the Finance and Budget Committee so most of us have heard a presentation. Mrs. Wilder did you have anything or Mr. Feldman did you have anything you wanted to say?

Mrs. Wilder: Just briefly for the record, this idea was generated as a result of our experience with the self insured program and the fact that prior to the time we became involved in that program there were few claims that came to you for settlement because they were insured claims and the insurance company had control of the settlements. As a result, we were looking for a systematic way for resolving issues that fell within our self insured program and I think that increasing the settlement authority for our administrator of the self insured account together with the requirement that the administrator reports to you quarterly will give you that kind of assurance with regard to what they are doing but also give the administrator the flexibility it needs to perform its function well.

The other piece of this is increasing the settlement authority of the Corporation Counsel from \$2500 which was put in place in 1983 to \$10,000. That really just keeps up with the times, I think, in the thirteen years since that was changed and it also gives us a little bit of flexibility with regard to smaller claims.

President Glass: Thank you. Are there any questions? Mr. Bouvier.

Councilor Bouvier: Just a question, Marge, to follow up. We were discussing the private health carriers if they were to reimburse someone who is claiming money from the Town whether or not we had claim to that money. We were talking about Medicare and Medicaid, how we did not have right to recovery from that, that they had first right to recovery. What was the effect of private health carrier payments?

Mrs. Wilder: I don't know the answer to that. I believe

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that in some respects it depends on the plan. As I mentioned to you Medicare does have a lien on any of these proceeds. If there a third party claim or an accident of some kind, we would have to reimburse Medicare versus the ability to deduct that from a settlement. As to private insurers, I don't know the answer yet though I promised you I would get it but I haven't.

Councilor Bouvier: No problem.

President Glass: Perhaps that answer can come at a later time.

Mrs. Wilder: It will for sure.

President Glass: Thank you. Are there any other questions or comments? I gather there is not much of a sign up sheet.

Mrs. Wilder: No one has signed up.

President Glass: If there is nothing further I will close this public hearing.

The hearing adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Norma W. Cronin
Town Clerk/Council Clerk

BYRON WESTON
TOWN CLERK
LIBER RECORD 1996