

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WEST HARTFORD CODE OF ORDINANCES, SECTION 30-16 AND SECTION 30-19 OF THE WEST HARTFORD PENSION PLAN CONCERNING DEATH BENEFITS AND EARLY RETIREMENT

October 10, 1995

Council Chambers

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President Sandy F. Klebanoff called the hearing to order at 9:46 p.m.

Present were Councilors Robert Bouvier, Owen Eagan, Sandy F. Klebanoff, Charles R. Matties, Patrick McCabe, Madeline S. McKernan, Larry Price, Andy Schatz and Alfred Turco.

President Klebanoff: Mr. Feldman does the administration have a presentation?

Mr. Feldman: Mr. Miller does.

Mr. Miller: Thank you. 30-16 in front of you is again another revision to the pension ordinances. What this one does is it provides a benefit to non affiliated members of the Board of Education. This benefit is an early death benefit. The cost of this is zero to the pension plan. I will entertain any questions on it.

President Klebanoff: Mrs. McKernan.

Councilor McKernan: I don't want a long answer, Ken, there are not very many people.

Mr. Miller: No, it incorporates roughly 23 or 27 employees.

Councilor McKernan: And their categories are?

Mr. Miller: They are non affiliated members of the Board of Education.

President Klebanoff: Mr. Matties.

Councilor Matties: I'm sorry your brief explanation didn't help me in any way.

Mr. Miller: Too brief? Okay, to give you a quick synopsis of this, this ordinance on pre retirement death benefits is what it is. So what would happen if a person who has reached eligibility for retirement benefits is still actively employed dies then the spouse would be entitled to a certain benefit. That is what this has done. This has been in effect for some time. What was left out because of the wording is certain members of the Board of Education those specifically being non affiliated members, non union members of the Board of Education and so we are correcting

that. We have now incorporated them but we need approval.

President Klebanoff: Mr. Matties.

Councilor Matties: Can you give me an example of who might be non affiliated now.

Mr. Miller: It would be again the twenty three to twenty seven members of the Board of Education, mostly, their support staff, secretarial, secretaries who are not in the union. 30-19 is also a continuation of that, certainly a different issue but again it was passed originally some time ago and for communication reasons those members again of the Board of Education who are non affiliated were inadvertently left out and this is to correct that. They are included in this 30-19 ordinance change also. What this does is it changes, for years the town's pension plan as you may know has provided a supplemental benefit until age 62 and in this case it was reduced because the formula changed. That was changed to 65 through negotiations several years ago. This would now make that applicable again for the same group of people, the twenty three or twenty seven people.

Councilor Matties: Do you have any kind of a fiscal note as to what impact this may have...

Mr. Miller: 30-19 is estimated to be an impact on the pension plan of about \$7,000 per year. That converts into a zero to the town because the plan is strong enough to absorb that cost.

Councilor Matties: Well at the moment the plan is self sustaining. I'm not sure as to how much of an opening, as an example and not applicable here, but I find that health benefits are more liberal for some people than a lot people think they should be and I don't know whether we are traveling down the same road.

Mr. Miller: All I can say to that, again, those that are being addressed here today were intended, were fully intended by the Board of Education when they negotiated to be included in these changes back then. I'm sorry I don't have the date that that was originally enacted but here today we are just addressing that error really. The original actuarial figures that were produced back then and showed the potential cost to these changes would be inclusive of these people also. It is because of the wording of the ordinance that we have to come back to you again for approval.

Vice President Eagan: Are there further questions? Is there anyone in the audience who wishes to speak? Hearing none, I will close the public hearing.

The hearing adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

Norma W. Cronin  
Recording Secretary