

Technicality Stops Waterbury Village Vote on New \$46,000 Fire Station

Some Favor Merging Town and Village;
Thomas L. Dodd Jr. Elected President

WATERBURY—A legal technicality in the Village warning prevented the voters of the Village of Waterbury from voting on the expenditure of \$46,000 for the construction of a new fire station and garage for water department and street equipment at the annual meeting held in the High School banquet hall Wednesday night.

Much to the chagrin of the firemen, the warning stated "To listen to the report of the committee" with no provision for action to be taken by the voters.

It was suggested, however, that means were available to present the project at a special meeting to be called in ten days through the legal channels. However, no definite action in this direction was indicated.

Would Dissolve Charter

During a heated discussion, several citizens expressed their preference for a dissolution of the Village charter making Waterbury one township and then proceed toward the construction of one municipal building to house all the village and town departments.

Thomas L. Dodd Jr. was unanimously elected village president after having served on the board of trustees for two years.

Other officers, most of whom were re-elected included Mrs. Arthur Spaulding, town clerk; Miss Mary A. Quinn, treasurer; Robert M. Eagan tax collector; C. C. Fisher, chief engineer; William Casey, 1st assistant engineer; Albert Williams, 2nd assistant engineer; Leon Shephard, George Wells, Earle Towne and Frederick Luce, fire wardens; Victor A. Backels, trustee; Attorney Ralph S. Meaker, budget committee for three years; Dr. Edwin H. Steele, water commissioner for three years.

Kenneth Sabin was elected to the budget committee for three years, succeeding Robert E. Luce who was not a candidate. Luce, who is also town representative, revealed that he has been a member of the budget committee for 29 years and felt it was time for someone else to be elected.

Edwin V. Henderson was also elected to the budget committee to replace Victor A. Backels who, of necessity, resigned to accept the post of trustee.

Tax Is Reduced



Thomas Dodd Jr.

or annual meeting with recommendation for action by the voters."

Edward W. Towne, street commissioner also indicated that a project to be considered in the not too distant future would be the widening and rebuilding of the High Street road in conjunction with the school area.

Also to be investigated by the trustees is the erection of "no passing" signs on the Main Street, a procedure which has caused a great deal of worry to residents of the area.

Fire Chief Bristles

Still bristling over the inability of the voters to take action on the proposed fire station, Fire Chief Fisher reminded the citizens that they should be thankful they could have a volunteer fire department of 15 men at a total cost of approximately \$3000 per year. "Quick response saves property and lives," he said, "and if Waterbury had to maintain a regular department it would require at least five men, full time, at a salary of at least \$2500 per year each."

There was no question but that the fire station is badly needed and former president Rex W. Morse penitently assumed responsibility for the technicality in the warning prohibiting the vote. It was evident from the discussion however, that a delay in building would have been inevitable.