The February 4, 1946 Special meeting of the Arden Town Assembly

The meeting was held at Gild Hall, Arden, Delaware, and was presided over by Trustee Ware.

After the Chairman had declared a quorum to be present, the minutes of the August 27, 1945, meeting of the Town Assembly were read and approved.

The secretary read a financial report from the Trustees of Arden for the three month period ending January 22, 1946. The report was accepted.

Herman Kumme reported for the Civic Committee. The report, a copy of which is attached, was accepted. The main subject discussed in the report was the construction of the Green Lane extension, a project which was carried out by Mr. H. S. Vandever after receiving from the Civic Committee a cancellation of a previous order and which failed to receive the necessary number of votes in the September 1945 referendum to approve it's being carried out.

Mr. Peterson suggested that since 75% of those voting on the referendum approved the above project, the Registration Committee be authorized to count the additional ballots which were received at Dubb's

Post Office subsequent to the tallying of the ballots, a procedure which would very likely result in obtaining the additional 2 votes required to obtain the approval of a majority of all of the residents of Arden.

Mr. Gangemi suggested that the Trustees of Arden pay the bill from a Contingency fund upon receiving a 2/3 vote of the meeting.

Chairman Ware stated that such a procedure was illegal under the Deed of Trust and the By-Laws of the Town Assembly.

Mr. Bloom asked the Civic Committee why the bill for the above construction was not paid out of the Road Repair or Emergency Funds.

Mr. Kumme stated that it was considered advisable by both the Budget Committee and the Civic Committee that the expenditure of large sums of town funds be specifically approved by referendum vote.

Mr. Gerstine moved that the Registration Committee be authorized to pick up the ballots in Grubb Post Office and recount the referendum. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peterson, and after much discussion was voted down by a vote of 18 to 24.

It was moved, seconded, and

approved that the problem of how to pay Mr. Vandever and the Allessandro Petrillo Co. for the labor and materials, respectively, put into the construction of the Green Lane extension be placed in the hands of a committee of three for its recommendation as to how the bill might be paid.

The Board of Assessors, the Budget Committee and the Community Planning Committee presented no report.

Mary Morley reported for the Registration Committee. The report, a copy of which is attached, was accepted.

David Bloom reported for the Committee on Sewers stating that the committee is continuing with its program to get the county to survey the Arden-Ardentown area with a view toward setting up a sanitary district in the area. At the completion of the survey the County will make an estimate of the cost of the project and will then hold a referendum to vote on the setting up of the sanitary district. The report was accepted.

The following nominations were made for the 5 member Budget Committee:

John Ware
Carl Karlsson
Emanuel Gerstine
Earl Missimer
Earl Brooks
Meyer Pressman
Thomas Farrell
Henry Aughey
Amy Scholes

It was moved, seconded, and approved that nominations be closed.

The Registration Committee, then took charge of the meeting to supervise the casting of ballots for the election of the Budget Committee. At the completion of the balloting the Registration Committee retired to tally the vote.

David Bloom criticized our present mechanism for conducting referenda and moved that the By-Laws be amended so that items now decided by referendum be decided by a ~~any~~ majority vote of those voting on an election day set aside for balloting on given issues. The motion was seconded. Chairman Ware ruled the motion out of order on the ground that the Town Assembly could not amend the By-Laws and even if it could such an amendment would be illegal under the Deed of Trust.

Samuel Harrison moved that the Registration Committee be directed

to post and announce at the next Assembly meeting the names of those who did not vote on the last referendum. The motion was seconded and then voted down.

Edmund De Forest Curtis moved that the Registration Committee be directed to set a date for counting ballots and to count no ballots thereafter. The motion was seconded and then voted down.

The Registration Committee reported on the results of the election of a Budget Committee, the following members being elected:

Thomas Farrell
Carl Mussmer
Emanuel Gerstine
John Ware
Carl Karlsson

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 P.M.

Signed: R. W. Peterson