The regular meeting of Town Assembly was held on May 24, 1954 at the Fire Hall with Trustee Wade presiding.

After a quorum was declared present the minutes of the March meeting were read and approved.

A communication from the League of Women Voters offered to show the method of using the voting machines. This machine will be demonstrated at a later meeting.

The financial report of the Trustee for March to May 24, 1954 was read and approved. A copy is on file.

Trustee Wade read a letter from the Trustees concerning the proposed leasing of lots in the woodland. The letter stated that the Trustees have always considered it their responsibility to lease land in Arden but that several leaseholders have retained an attorney who questioned their right to issue any further leases. The Trustees believe an important legal question has been raised and that the answer should be obtained from the Court of Chancery. The Trustees do not believe that benefit can be derived from disputes, letters or petitions that require judicial determination. The Trustees have decided to issue no further leases until the question is resolved judicially.

There was considerable discussion about this report. One question that was asked is who would pay for the suit. The Trust fund would have to pay for the decision from the Court of Chancery.

Another question was who would get the leases that had been opened and have were

they selected. Trustee Ware replied that there has been a waiting list for some time of people who have desired leases. These people have filed a request in writing stating that they desire a lot in Arden.

Samuel Lee stated that he felt that the woodlands should be set aside as public lands for the use of all residents; that if there is to be inroads into the public lands the extent of such inroads should be defined and that if land is to be leased the residents should be told and have an opportunity to place their names on the waiting list.

Trustee Ware was asked if any of the woodlands or commons have been defined as such so that they could never be leased. He said that the School Common have been dedicated to the use of the School and cannot be leased as lots.

Joe Downing asked if there was any possible way to have the present Woodlands and Commons dedicated to the use of the residents and leaseholders.

Bill Franks stated that although he did not question the legal right of the Trustees to lease the land, he felt that they had not done a good job of public relations in doing so without explaining to the residents why they felt such a thing should be done.

Trustee Ware was asked why the Trustees considered leasing these lots. He stated it came about accidentally when the lines between Balicki, Smith, and Lages were surveyed to straighten out the boundary lines.

At this time it was found that three lots could be opened in this area that would not take away too much area from the Woodlands and would give opportunity of leasing land to some of those on waiting list. Mr. Gerstines name was first on the list but he was willing to let Philip Cohen have his lot.

Trustee Ware stated that two people had hired an attorney to take what ever legal action could be taken against the Trustees. This attorney had written a letter asking the Trustees to meet with the residents and state their position concerning the leasing of the land. Because of this letter the Trustees felt they must get a legal interpretation of their right to lease lands.

The Trustees were asked if they would lease land if the majority of the residents did not want it. This question was not answered.

Donald Stephens stated that the idea of opening lots had come up last year, but the whole matter was dropped. No mention of the possibility of opening lots was proposed by the Trustees at the March Town Assembly meeting. He felt that the Trustees seem to ignore the feeling of a great number of the residents. He also feels that it is time we call a halt to the leasing of the woodland areas.

The Civic Committee reported that a great deal of work has been done to improve the swimming Pool. Mr. Williams also read the proposed changes to the Swimming Pool regulations. These changes would limit issuance of guest badges to 2 per family and also make it necessary for all children that are

not residents to have guest badges regardless of age. The reason for this change is because the pool is getting overcrowded and the water supply is getting lower. The report of the Committee was accepted. Mr Dolmetsch made a motion commending the Civic Committee for the fine work done at the pool. This motion was carried.

Registration Committee reported 405 voters.

Advisory Committee had a meeting in May but all of the matters discussed have been covered by the Committee reports.

Sanitation Committee report given by Mr. Jaffe stated that they have had several meetings and field trips. The condition at Laskeys has not been solved but the committee feels that it is surface drainage not sewage that is causing the trouble. The situation in area known as Little Arden is still not corrected. Mr Stephens has been contacted and the matter turned over to the Trustees for action. Mr Stephens reported that the State Board of Health Sanitary Engineer was coming up to study this problem. Report of Committee accepted.

The Registration Committee conducted the election of the Registration Committee and reported the following elected: Edna Page, William Beachan Rae Gerstine.

The following people were nominated to act on the Auditing Committee: Gordon Gregg, Carl Van Duele, Wm Beachan, Arthur Stevenson. The Secretary was instructed to cast a ballot electing them.

The following were nominated to serve on the Community Library Committee. Edith Ware, C. S. Shedd, Joseph Patterson.

The following resolution was proposed by George Cleaver "I propose a resolution that the people of Arden, gathered in Assembly, join me in an urgent request to the Trustees of Arden that the sewage drainage situation in Little Arden as reported by the Sanitary Committee be stopped immediately". This resolution was accepted.

Donald Stephens proposed the following changes in the By Laws: Amendment to By Laws governing the election of Assessors: section 3(a) In the country ballots shall be recorded until three additional names beside the seven elected shall be named and these shall act as alternates to fill any vacancies which may occur through the death or resignation of any of the Assessors. These alternates will be selected in the order of the number of votes cast for each. The first to serve being the one receiving the largest number of votes and the other two accordingly. This motion was defeated.

The following motion was made and passed. "That it is the sense of the meeting that the Trustees do not take such drastic steps as leasing the Woodlands without announcing their intentions to a Town Assembly and letting the people express their opinion about it.

On motion the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted
Mary Hardy.