The regular meeting of the Town Assembly was held on September 28 1953 at the Gild Hall with Trustee Ware presiding.

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

No report from the Trustees.

Budget Committee report: The Budget committee submitted its budget for the fiscal year March 1954 to 1955. The amount to be budgeted is 12 880.00 of which amount $6000 has been set aside for taxes and $1,200 for administrative expenses. The amount of $5680 has been allocated toward various expenses of the town.

There was considerable discussion concerning setting aside a sum for the maintenance of the Field Theater. It was first suggested that a sum of 100 be taken from the Contingency sum of $300 and earmarked for care of the Field Theater. A motion was made and passed to increase the Commons fund to $1220 and to indicated special emphasize to be paid to maintenance of the Field Theater and to decrease the Contingency Fund to 200.00. The revised Budget was passed unanimously.

Registration Committee reported 4 registered voters

Auditing Committee examined the Trustees books verified checks and vouchers and found the books in good order. The report was accepted

Civic Committee reported by A. Williams stated that the drainage gutter on the Mosfort property is in poor condition and work

has been authorized to correct this situation. There is considerable erosion on the Gild Hall property from the drain on the Highway and steps are being taken to correct this. Safety Committee has not met as yet. It was suggested to this committee that they check all corners with poor visability to see if something can be done about them.

It has been suggested that a sanitation committee be formed of five members to check all drainage problems that are injurious to community health.

The nominations for the Budget Committee to be elected at the November meeting are:

Henry Aughey
Richard Holmetsch.

The following people were nominated to serve as Advisory Committee Chairman: Olar Vik and John Walker. The Registration Committee conducted the election and reported that Olar Vik has been elected to serve for one year.

The following people were nominated to serve on the Sanitation Committee:

Olar Vik, Dr. Bird, Frank Carroll,
Helen Van Drele, Michael Jaffe.

The secretary was instructed to cast a ballot electing this committee.

Pat Liberman made a motion that the minority report of the Assessors, i.e. $3.45 per 1000 sq feet assessment instead of $3.15 per 1000 sq feet as accepted by the July Town Assembly be submitted for referendum vote to the residents along with the Assessors report.

The By-Laws provide that any assessment other than that of the Assessors must be accepted by 2/3 of residents at a September Town Assembly before it can be sent out on a referendum with the Assessors report.

The assessment that receives the majority vote of all the residents then becomes the assessment for that year.

There was considerable discussion of this motion before it was brought to a vote. One of the points that needed to be clarified was what would happen if neither assessment received the majority vote of the residents. There is no provision in the By-Laws to state what assessment would hold in this case.

The Registration Committee conducted the balloting for this motion and reported that in order to pass the minority assessment of $3.45 per 1000 sq feet it would be necessary to have 40 aye votes i.e. 2/3 of residents present. The vote was 28 ayes and 31 nays; therefore the motion was defeated.

Under Good + Welfare: Mr Lawrence Epstein requested that an explanation of how the Assessors are elected be placed on the ballot.

Mrs Morley requested that the By-Laws Committee consider the problem of how to handle an assessment that had been submitted to referendum vote and that did not receive a majority of approval by the residents of Arden.

A motion was made that a letter of sympathy be sent to the family of Mr Hurley. A Committee is to be appointed to draft

this letter.

Respectfully submitted
Mary Mahly
Town Assembly Clerk.