

Approved
REGULAR MEETING
April 4, 2016

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on April 4, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

Present: Councilors Bello, Hemmann, Martino, Rell, Spinella, Deputy Mayor Barry and Mayor Montinieri. Absent: Councilors Hurley, Latina.

Also present: Michael O'Neil, Director of Finance; Chris Monroe, Senior Vice President of USI Insurance Services; Jeff Bridges, Town Manager and Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk

All stood for the pledge of allegiance to the flag which was led by Councilor Hemmann.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Tom Mazzarella of 600 Wolcott Hill Road commented he has a problem with the taxes going up every year. The state situation is going to get worst. The State Comptroller gave a warning that revenues are down; people are spending less money. It is going to affect the taxes. Wethersfield, as a town, needs to prepare for that by cutting down on spending. At some point the state is going to cut the money off to the towns. Then, there will be no choice but to increase the taxes. In Newington the Deputy Mayor voted against the party line when talking about their budget. As a Council, you should consider that you get elected by the taxpayers. They are hoping you make good decisions that may not be the decision of your party. The Hartford Courant showed the Wethersfield housing market in the last quarter of last year had 23 foreclosures. That was shocking to him. An extra two or three hundred dollars for a tax increase may not seem like a lot. Some people are on a limited budget. Everything is a struggle. Consider that when you look at the Board of Education budget. They can put that much effort into figuring out a way to save a couple million dollars to keep it at the 56 million. He asked that Council deny their request.

Robert Young of 20 Coppermill Road noticed the same article about the housing market in Wethersfield which he found disturbing. It does affect not just the people who lost their homes but also the neighborhoods and it keeps driving the prices down. The planning to reduce our taxes should have been over the last number of years. It would have kept people stable and keep them from taking off. The idea was that Wethersfield and Connecticut was so fantastic that people would never leave. They are leaving and leaving the rest of us behind with the current debt load. It generates a downward trend in pricing. That reflects on the Council. The payback is happening now. He looked at the Board of Education budget and the changing of the chart of accounts. He noticed a lot of flip flopping to justify this, by saying they are doing this for more transparency. Also, they are bringing on more heads which will cost more money and it is a mistake. We are not growing as a town with the exception of 12 kids. That should be denied. Over the past six years you haven't cut back. You just kept taxing and taxing. You should have tightened up years ago. We are locked in to fixed costs and we are going to pay dearly going forward.

HEARING – NONE

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Bello reported that the Library met and they are looking to hire Lothrop Associates for an Architect/Engineering service for reconfiguring of Library space. This is not a renovation but some repurposing of different areas for the Library to meet the current and future needs of the residents. They hope to have that item on the Town Council agenda in early May. There will be a Friends of the Library

book sale the weekend of April 30th with a preview event the Thursday before. They worked on their budget and they are proposing a 2.4% increase and will meet with us on Saturday the 23rd to discuss that. The Memorial Day Parade Committee met and they discussed the theme for the parade, they solicited nominations for parade marshal, for speakers and for bands. The details should be finalized at the next meeting. This year they are going to honor veterans from WWII, Korea and Vietnam as it is the anniversary of each one of those wars.

Councilor Martino reported that Share Services met and reviewed the consolidation of town and board's data processing department. The Union has finally signed off on the union position being eliminated and switched to non-union. They were given the draft of the Memorandum of Understanding between the town and the board which is modeled after Enfield's consolidation. Members were asked to review the draft and get their comments back to either the Town Manager or Superintendent so they can have the finalized draft before the next meeting. They would like it to be finalized before the start of the next fiscal year. Suggestions for the next items to consolidate were Human Resources and Maintenance. The Committee heard Mr. Emmett's reasons for not consolidation but it was suggested that the board personnel committee review the consolidation and give their recommendation. Regarding Maintenance it was suggested that the board give the town Human Resources Director a copy of the board's custodian contract that is now in arbitration so that she can review it and advise us of any possible complication we would have to face with consolidation that we would have to overcome.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Rell commented that the Taste of Wethersfield is coming up on April 9th. It starts at 7:00 p.m. at the Keeney Center. Tickets are available now before Friday for \$35.00. After Friday it will be \$40.00. You can buy online @ www.wethersfieldhistory.org or at the door on Saturday.

Councilor Martino commented that the Volunteer Fire Department had its Wine/Beer Tasting event to raise money for scholarships and wanted to compliment them on a great job they did.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Bridges indicated that they had some issues with the basement being very wet in this building so they called in Conn Osha and they did a study of the basement. So we need to undertake some repairs to the ventilation systems, change out some carpet particularly in the Health District offices, ceiling tiles with condensation. The expectation that we would have some money left over in the snow budget was hopeful yet dashed this morning when the snow hit and we had to send out trucks and plows this morning. Jeff Morrissette who is one of our Deputy Fire Marshalls and also the State Fire Administrator and also a Wethersfield firefighter will be inducted into the State Firefighter's Hall of Fame this Thursday at the Water's Edge. He is a tremendous asset to this town and to the state fire service.

Town Manager Jeff Bridges did a brief overview of the proposed budget which will be included at the Public Hearing of April 18, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. It was a power point presentation. The proposed budget is already available online at wethersfieldct.gov.

TOWN CLERK COMMUNICATION

Absentee ballots will be available tomorrow, April 5, for the Presidential Preference Primary on April 26, 2016. Also there is a shredding event, on May 12, 11-1:00 p.m. at the Pitkin Community Center, in the parking lot. Budget hearing is on April 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. There will be sign-up

sheet at the door for anyone wishing to speak. There will be time for everyone to speak at least once before returning for another time. The budget hearing may adjourn to the next night if needed.

COUNCIL ACTION

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR ACTION

Councilor Rell moved to **“ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF LEIGH STANDISH (ALTERNATE) FROM THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION”**, seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

Vote: All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Rell moved to **“ACCEPT THE APPOINTMENT OF DAVID R. EDWARDS, III TO FILL A VACANCY AS AN ALTERNATE FOR THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF 4-4-16 TO 6-30-16”**, seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

Vote: All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Martino moved **“TO ACCEPT THE APPOINTMENT OF DEBORAH R. PIERCE-HENAULT TO THE CENTRAL CONNECTICUT HEALTH DISTRICT FOR THE TERM OF 4-4-16 TO 6-30-19”**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Barry.

Vote: All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted. The motion passed 7-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Bello moved to **“ADOPT THE RESTATED PLAN DOCUMENTS FOR THE TOWN’S THREE (3) 401(a) PLANS IN ORDER TO CONFORM TO CURRENT INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE REQUIREMENTS ”**, seconded by Councilor Spinella.

Finance Director Mike O’Neil stated this is a routine matter to clean up the documentation that has been amended as regulations are changed by IRS. It is approximately every 6 years the ICMA requests the restated documents incorporate the amendments to restate the plans. Wethersfield has three such plans to consider tonight: Plan 106022, for Town employees not eligible for the town’s defined benefit (pension) plan; Plan 109526 for Town Manager/Erdmann and for Plan 108829 for Town Manager/Bridges. The ICMA initiated an adoption process for all of its clients and prepares the plan. Upon approval, the Town Manager will execute the restated plan documents and file them with ICMA.

Councilor Rell asked approximately how many employees are eligible for it. Director O’Neil stated approximately 40 or 50, everyone from 106022.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

BIDS

Deputy Mayor Barry moved to **“AWARD THE SANDBLASTING/CAULKING/PAINTING BID TO SUPERIOR FINISHES FOR \$31,500”**, seconded by Councilor Martino.

Town Manager Bridges stated the upkeep of the Willard Pool falls under Sally Katz, Director of Physical Services. They recommended the repair of peeling pool paint be awarded, to the lowest responsible

bidder, Superior Finishes. The lowest bidder had complaints listed with Better Business Bureau and had never worked on a pool or with a municipality.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Spinella moved to **“AUTHORIZE THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO MEDBILL MANAGEMENT TO PERFORM AN AUDIT OF TOWN AND BOARD OF EDUCATION MEDICAL CLAIMS FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2014 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015, AND ADDITIONALLY TO PERFORM A DEPENDENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION, COST TO BE PAID OUT OF THE SELF INSURANCE HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL RESERVE FUND”**, seconded by Councilor Bello.

Finance Director O’Neil stated they had 5 respondents and interviewed four firms based on their fees and suitability for the Town. The Committee consisted of himself, Insurance Committee Chairperson Chris Bazinet and Chris Monroe, Senior Vice-President of USI.

Mr. O’Neil turned the program over to Chris Monroe to present a power point presentation to go along with his handout. The interview committee recommended selection of Medbill Management to the Insurance Committee based on their experience and qualifications, including previous audits with Anthem on behalf of other Connecticut municipalities. Several respondents also recommended that a dependent eligibility verification be performed that would ensure that only legitimate dependents of Town/BOE employees are receiving benefits.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

Approved:

For Introduction

Introduction: April 4, 2016

Public Hearing: May 2, 2016

A RESOLUTION THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD APPROVING PARTICIPATION IN CT PRIME, INC. (Program of Regional Insurance for Municipalities and Education)

WHEREAS, the Town of Wethersfield maintains a self-insurance program for health insurance coverage of Wethersfield Town and Board of Education Employees; and

WHEREAS, it is determined that it is in the interests of the Town of Wethersfield to procure a stop loss policy to mitigate the Town of Wethersfield’s exposure to large loss claims, and that savings may be achieved by procuring such stop loss coverage through its membership in a new Connecticut-domiciled captive insurer to be created by the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) and a number of other participating municipal entities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

(a) That the Town of Wethersfield hereby approves the procurement of a stop loss policy to mitigate the Town of Wethersfield’s exposure to large loss claims through a new Connecticut-domiciled captive insurer to be created by the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC)(the Captive”) (Known as CT Prime, Inc.);

(b) That the Town Manager and Finance Director authorized, on behalf of the Town of Wethersfield, to contract with the Captive for the procurement of such insurance and to enter into a participation agreement, a membership agreement , or such other agreement as may be necessary to procure such insurance; and

(c) That the Town Manager and other proper officers and officials of the Town are authorized to take any and all actions necessary or desirable to procure the insurance as described above.

Adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Wethersfield this ____ day of _____, 2016.

Town Manager Bridges stated that this is being introduced but they are still reviewing it. Our next regular Town Council meeting will be in May and he wanted to have the opportunity for action if they decide it is what they want to use.

MINUTES

Councilor Bello moved **“TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 21, 2016”**, seconded by Councilor Spinella.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert Young of 20 Coppermill Road stated that at the last Town Council meeting there were two speakers with regard to the Niagara Bottling Company issue up in Bloomfield. There was discussion about the Council writing a letter to the MDC and he was wondering if it was available for public consummation and he would appreciate a copy of it because he thinks it is a very important issue.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:20 p.m., Councilor Spinella moved **"TO ADJOURN THE MEETING"** seconded by Councilor Hemmann. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk

APPROVED BY VOTE OF COUNCIL (6-0-1)
May 2, 2016
(Deputy Mayor Barry & Councilor Latina Absent;
Councilor Hurley Abstained)