

**Approved**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**June 20, 2016**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, June 20, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

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

Also Present: Kathleen A. Bagley, Director, Parks & Recreation; Derrick Gregor, Town Engineer; Fred Bushey, Director of Maintenance & Operations; Rich Bailey, Fire Chief; Art Abronzino, Deputy Chief ; Sally Katz, Director of Physical Services; Brook Berry, Director of Library; Dorene Ciarcia, Chairman of Board of Directors of Library; Erica Texeira, Assistant Director of Social & Youth Services; Sal Cucia, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation Jeff Bridges, Town Manager and Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk  
Also present: Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks & Recreation, Mike Turner, Town Manager and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

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

Mayor Montinieri presented a plaque to Marty Sitler, Supervisor of Parks and Recreation, for 28 years of service to the town who is retiring.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HEARING - None

GENERAL COMMENTS

Tom Mazzarella of 600 Wolcott Hill Road commented on three items. 1. Board of Education request for the transfer of unused funds for the purchase of video surveillance system. He believes the intent here is to provide a safer environment but that it is a little misguided to think it will prevent a tragedy. 2. The justification on the replacement of the loader for the town. It was a previously approved budget item once it's approved in the budget then it's a done deal. 3. A proposal on the property at 291 Ridge Road. The Town Council backed the \$400,000 tax abatement. Planning & Zoning backs the proposal yet when it went before them, there was strong opposition by the public. Planning & Zoning did their job, they listened to all the facts, they voted on it and they defeated it by a narrow margin 5-4. Now attorneys for the developer have sued. They are stating that the rejection of the proposal was illegal, arbitrary and the body abused its discretion. They constantly said that this was a pre-approved project. Well they are referring to a 2008 approval of a convalescent home. A different situation, less traffic, no children and no increase burden on the school system. They state that it was pre-approved so they went to court. The Court threw it back, said to revise your plans and resubmit it. That is what they have done for tomorrow night. He urged the public to attend and voice their opposition.

Gus Colantonio of 16 Morrison Avenue continues to speak on having a stop sign on Morrison Avenue even after being told it does not meet the requirements according to the Public Safety regulations.

Lee Sekas, 117 Wells Road has mentioned that our state laws call for two license plates and he counted close to forty cars in the parking lot tonight with no front license plate. This is a safety issue. He was almost hit last week and it had no front plate and he couldn't tell what car it was. They should be fined for not having two plates. If we need money this would be a good way to get it.

Robert Young of 20 Coppermill Road commented on spending money we don't have on video surveillance equipment and a pay loader. We need to start to reduce all this wild spending. The Superintendent has said that he is going to make money from the Transition Academy. We should now change our focus to looking at all items in our town where we can charge for pay to play. He feels the public should be able to attend negotiations for contracts to really see how things are handled by the town.

### COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Hemmann reported that she attended the Housing Authority meeting work continues on their construction project and its coming along nicely. They will be signing a contract for the James Devlin housing area soon. They've had two solar installations that are completed. They will be reaching to the Town Manager in regards to a pilot and will have further discussion about that.

### COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Rell commented the Courant had an article on the Emerald Ash Borer that is decimating trees throughout Connecticut. Approximately 10,000 of Hartford's 500,000 trees would be affected. He noticed that across from Standish Park, the town had taken down a tree or two and one did look like an Ash tree. Is there an inventory of how many ash trees are on town property, if any of those are affected or could be, and at what the cost to the town?

Councilor Hemmann stated the Tree Warden, Corey Christian, is on top of the Ash trees. There have been some removals already. He is active on trying to stay on top of it. The Shade Tree Commission is being kept up to date. It is unfortunate that kind of a pest exists and there is not a whole lot that you can do to treat it.

Deputy Mayor Barry wanted to recognize that yesterday, the Boy's track team, competed at Nationals. They came in first place in the nation. Councilor Hurley son, Pat as well as former Councilor Manousos' son, Christopher, are on the team. It is very exciting for them individually and for the entire team. Congratulations to them.

Mayor Montinieri informed everyone that at 4 p.m. tomorrow in Council Chambers there will be a check presentation to the food shelf from the proceeds of the Charity Ball. Over \$17,000 was raised. He hopes some Council members and public can attend.

### TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Bridges reported after the last meeting he was asked to go through the records and put together a chronology on the Morrison Avenue stop sign issue. He has gone back to 1997 and will be providing written information for the Council. They and newer Councilors will have some background.

TOWN CLERK COMMUNICATION - None

### COUNCIL ACTION

### ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR ACTION

Deputy Mayor Barry moved to **“APPROVE THE APPOINTMENTS OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:”** seconded by Councilor Bello.

BOARD OF BUILDING APPEALS

David D. Ambrose D 119 Farmingdale Road 07-01-16 to 06-30-21

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

John J. Mullin U 158 Windmill Hill 07-01-16 to 06-30-18

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT HEALTH DISTRICT

Ann Marie Diloreto D 143 Eastern Drive 07-01-16 to 06-30-19

CONSTABLES

Albert J. Bonfiglio D 33 Old Post Road 07-01-16 to 6-30-18

John J. O'Leary U P.O. Box 290002 07-01-16 to 6-30-18

Robert Turgeon D 962 Cloverdale Circle 07-01-16 to 6-30-18

Brian F. Zito D 55 Charter Road 07-01-16 to 6-30-18

WETHERSFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

David Caruk D 149 Broad Street 07-01-16 to 6-30-18

Kathleen Kanya D 27 Meadow View Drive 07-01-16 to 6-30-18

James T. Hulbert D 25 Mountain Laurel Drive 07-01-16 to 6-30-18

Lee Sekas D 117 Wells Road, Unit 13 07-01-16 to 6-30-18

Sue Buckland D 766 Wolcott Hill Road 07-01-16 to 6-30-18

BOARD OF ETHICS

Paula Izard D 89 Cider Brook Drive 07-01-16 to 6-30-19

Lorinda Coon D 11 Robbins Drive 07-01-16 to 6-30-19

Lorrie Adeyemi (Alternate) D 110 Woodside Drive 07-01-16 to 6-30-19

FAIR RENT COMMISSION

Jeanette E. Soroko U 37B Fairway Dr., Unit B 07-01-16 to 06-30-18

Cynthia L. Zueblis D 119 Two Rod Highway 07-01-16 to 6-30-18

Susan Grady (Alternate) D 25 Westlook Road 07-01-16 to 6-30-18

FENCE VIEWERS

Harry L. Lichtenbaum D 16 Towne House Lane 07-01-16 to 6-30-18

Erik Litke U 33 Farmstead Road 07-01-16 to 6-30-18

FLOOD & EROSION CONTROL BOARD

Lorinda S. Coon D 11 Robbins Drive 07-01-16 to 6-30-19

Basia Dellaripa (Alternate) D 37 Robbins Wood 07-01-16 to 6-30-19

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Douglas A. Ovian D 56 Broad Street 07-01-16 to 6-30-21

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Samuel A. Spratlin D 115 Broad Street 07-01-16 to 06-30-21

HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION

Michele Ann Lavoie U 16 Westwood Road 07-01-16 to 6-30-19

INLAND WETLANDS & WATER COURSES COMMISSION

Brent M. Owen D 42 Wells Farm Drive 07-01-16 to 6-30-19

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Greg Curtin D 115 Center Street 6-30-16 to 6-30-21

LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Laila Mandour	D	420 Ridge Road	6-30-16 to 6-30-19
Martha Conneely	D	12 Fairmont Street	6-30-16 to 6-30-19
Peter Denegre	D	527 Main Street	6-30-16 to 6-30-19

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

Thomas A. Ragonese	D	140 Black Birch	07-01-16 to 6-30-19
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PERSONNEL APPEALS BOARD

Maria Alfonso	D	266 Brimfield Road	6-30-16 to 6-30-19
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PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

Joseph L. Hammer	D	65 Broad Street	07-01-16 to 6-30-19
James Hughes	U	135 Highland Street	07-01-16 to 6-30-19

REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Thomas R. Pentalow	U	66 Boulter Road	07-01-16 to 6-30-21
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SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Barbara Higbee	D	126 Valley View Drive	07-01-16 to 6-30-18
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SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Joseph E. Hickey	D	28 Meadowview Drive	07-01-16 to 6-30-19
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SOLOMON WELLS HOUSE COMMITTEE

Sue Buckland	D	766 Wolcott Hill Road	07-01-16 to 6-30-19
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TOURISM COMMISSION

Charles F. Ford	U	249 Ridge Road	07-01-16 to 6-30-19
Carol Bruce (Alternate)	D	381 Hartford Avenue	07-01-16 to 6-30-19

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilor Spinella moved to **“COMBINE THE FOLLOWING FUNDS FROM PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS WITH THE CURRENT CAMERA SURVEILLANCE PROJECT FOR THE WETHERSFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION: \$54,011 FROM THE HANMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIRE ALARM PROJECT, \$22,740.31 FROM THE SILAS DEANE MIDDLE SCHOOL AIR HANDLER PROJECT, \$2,625 FROM THE HIGHCREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MISC. ROOF REPAIR PROJECT AND \$67,123.69 FROM THE EMERSON WILLIAMS GYM/CAFÉ FLOOR REPLACEMENT PROJECT”**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Barry.

Town Manager Bridges stated that going through the budget process, the Board of Education met with the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee. They reviewed several projects that were completed and had funds left over and reviewed the list of upcoming projects with the BOE. CIP had some funds left over from previously approved projects like the Hanmer Fire Alarm System that they received matching grant for from the State. That offset a lot of the Town’s cost. The floor at Emerson Williams also has some dollars left over from these projects. They also received \$50,000 in the next years’ budget for cameras. It has been a desire of the Board of Education to upgrade their security system ever since Newtown; doors, windows, locks, cameras so in talking with the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee they recommended coming back to the Council and reauthorizing some of these funds to be used to finish up their camera project. So this evening you are looking at a series of monies that would enable them to

complete the project from their leftover funds plus what's been allocated for next year.

Mayor Montinieri explained that this had been tabled some time ago because there was a question about the source of the funds and the estimate for the project. In the interim, they met jointly with the Board of Education to discuss the security requirements of the district, as it was evaluated by our Security Director Hal Even. There were some concerns about the values initially estimated for the project, matching up with the particular line items referenced in this motion. It was helpful in terms of evaluating the suitability of this request for security. Security, police and detectives, provided some very compelling information as to results. Not only to the economics of this project but the tie to security for children in the schools, access to buildings as well as the project scope. We did see a significant savings on this after going back out with the information. The Mayor wanted to thank Fred Bushey as he does think for the benefit of the public. Mayor Montinieri certainly believes this presentation was also done at the Board level. Mr. Even has worked on this in terms of security for our schools again after he was provided documentation. Members of Council, in attendance at that meeting, asked a series of questions that go to some of the points made this evening. The appropriateness of the expenditures and the suitability of the expenses that interface with some of the security needs of the district. Newtown changed the equation in schools around the country. Certainly Connecticut is the center. He believes that schools around the state and our district have been a part of that review. Mr. Even's expertise in that area has been very helpful. Based on the commentary by the Council during the meetings, they understood that even in light of these significant savings, there was appropriate questioning about the source of these funds, the impact on our school system. He doesn't see it as a panacea to spend money on cameras and digital monitoring. The details of all of it will be fully presented to the Board of Education.

Fred Bushey, Director of Maintenance & Operations was invited to the podium to answer questions.

Councilor Latina commented that she was going through some of the list of how the money was not used for certain projects. She asked about the SDMS air handling unit. It just said it was not sufficient for the monies and the money was going to be moved to this project instead. She was wondering how much that air handler unit costs.

Director Bushey stated that originally he had gotten some erroneous pricing. It was supposed to be anywhere between \$60,000 and \$80,000 range. When all bids came back the lowest bid he got was close to \$280,000. They actually have to cut into the roof and put curbing and drainage there to handle this unit. The current units are within the space of the locker rooms. It is much easier to get access to them from the roof than from the interior space. They have made provisions on the inside to be able to do this for now. This is not something we should completely forget about, but it is shelved for now. Money could be appropriated or used in a much better way at this time. We were able to refurbish both units that are in the ceiling; they probably have between eight to ten years left on them. Down the road, he could put it on capital improvement earlier and get better pricing on this before we even go to bid.

Councilor Latina asked how we tackle the maintenance of the cameras and the software system if something happens, who fixes it?

Director Bushey indicated that software system will be handled by our own IT Department once it is installed. We will have a certain amount of time that our vendor will be responsible for it but after we go through some training, our IT people will be able to take over and monitor all these devices. All the switches will provide the backbone of this system and will be handled by our own IT people. There is a one year warranty built into this package on everything that we are supposed to buy.

Councilor Latina asked after the year will we have to find a maintenance company?

Director Bushey said that he is looking to getting it to our own IT people. We are expanding on a daily basis on what we do. The high school is up and running now as far as the cameras are concerned. The Northwest tower will be coming online with cameras in accordance with the rest of the building in phase one. Building, phases two and three, are already on line. The balance of that, another 30 to 40 cameras in the Northeast tower and the Tech Ed wing will all be added. This is something our IT is getting accustomed to running.

Councilor Latina asked should we start budgeting now for when we have to replace user technology?

Director Bushey stated that yes it is going to become a maintenance item at some point and time.

Councilor Latina asked about the life span on these cameras.

Director Bushey, guessing from all the reading and research he has done, it is between eight to ten years. It will fall under all of us, IT and maintenance, as far as any wires that need to be run. When it gets down to software it will definitely be IT that would get involved.

Councilor Rell asked since there is not a security officer at each of the schools who would be doing the monitoring.

Director Bushey replied that he was in charge of infrastructure. He would have Mr. Emmett or Mr. Even to follow up with Council on this question. His best answer was they were going to place monitors in all the main office areas. There office staff will look at all times. There will be a backup of two or three weeks to see more of what has goes on or if something went awry in one section of the building.

Councilor Rell commented now you have an executive assistant, that person is capable of looking at a monitor to see a parent drop off a student and needing to be buzzed in. When you may have an active shooter situation, where something is going on in a hallway, they are not trained. Realizing what is going on or where it is or to quickly switch to different monitors may require additional costs, technology and staff to be specifically trained for that.

Director Bushey indicated he did know that was asked for within the budget and part of the budget that did not get picked. Councilor Rell needed to ask the question to the people who could answer that.

Councilor Rell asked Library Director Berry [attending the meeting] since they put in new security in the Library, if they saw a decrease at all in any kind of activity.

Director Berry stated that they do not actively monitor them. It is more "after the fact" review and so there is petty crime or accidents that occur where they are very useful for incident reports. They only have five cameras at the moment. That only gets them so far; they are asking for an additional fifteen cameras that would cover the nooks and crannies. We are a very open, public building. The schools are in a closed environment where they can go into lock down. It's not locking down, it is run for your life, it's more of an after the fact kind of scenario.

Councilor Rell asked prior to the Town Hall and the Library getting the cameras just over a year ago, he asked if the Library had any cameras at that point.

Director Berry replied that only the exterior portion of the building had the cameras. We added some and now we are looking to add more.

Councilor Rell asked if there were any decrease in malicious activity or kids doing what teenagers do.

Director Berry indicated that they have a library monitor after school to help with that. The kids are more aware that there are cameras but it is part of an overall package of staff involvement and really being up in the kids' business, the library monitor and programming.

Deputy Mayor Barry responded that having sat in on some of the Public Safety meetings in terms of an active shooter situation the feed would be straight to the police department. They will have cameras on site so they will actually be able to understand what is happening inside the building during, if that were to ever happen. The security aspects of that, Mr. Even would speak to more expertly about.

Councilor Hemmann thought the Committee asked good questions about process and policy. They try to anticipate some of those things that really need to be put into place for the long term. They were reassured that will be taken back and really worked on. She thinks that is going to outline all the different pieces that are part of that whole process and what needs to happen. She was confident with the response they got after the second meeting to those same questions that she opposed at the first.

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

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Bello moved to **"CANCEL THE JULY 5, AUGUST 1 AND NOVEMBER 7, 2016 TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS"**, seconded by Councilor Spinella.

Town Manager Bridges commented that it is a summertime thing on the July 5<sup>th</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup> and then historically we have cancelled the meeting before the election to allow the Town Clerk and her staff to be prepared for the following day.

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

Councilor Spinella moved to **"AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES GRANT OF \$10,000 FOR ASSISTANCE TO OUR JUVENILE REVIEW BOARD"**, seconded by Councilor Bello.

Director Kathy Bagley and Assistant Director Erica Texeira were invited to the podium to explain the motion. Director Bagley stated that this grant would provide funds that would assist our Juvenile Review Board which works with at risk youths here in the community. This is a grant that we are eligible to apply for and we look to do that each year to enhance the services that we are able to do as we work with our Juvenile Review Board.

Councilor Hemmann asked how long has the Juvenile Review Board been in place.

Assistant Director Texeira responded over 25 years.

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

Councilor Spinella moved to **"AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE KEANE FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT THE INTRAMURAL PROGRAM AT THE SILAS DEANE MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR \$6,600 FOR THE 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR"**, seconded by Councilor Bello.

Director Bagley stated that this past school year they had worked with the Parent Action Committee (PAC) group to do an intramural program at SDMS. It was very successful and was funded through the Keane Foundation. The initial grant was initiated by the school PAC. For the second year we talked with them and in coordination with them the town actually applied for the grant this time. We were helping them work through the process. Now we are looking to once again, through our Youth Services, to run this program that had 400 school children involved in it for an after school activity.

Mayor Montinieri responded that the Keane Foundation continues to amaze them with their generosity and their fundraising.

Director Bagley echoed that the Keane Foundation has been very supportive of the Youth programs in town.

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

Councilor Spinella moved to **“AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER, JEFF BRIDGES, TO EXECUTE FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD, A PUBLIC ENTITY ESTABLISHED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AN APPLICATION AND TO FILE IT WITH THE CAPITAL REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FOR THE PRUPOSE OF OBTAINING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE LOCAL ROAD ACCIDENT REDUCTION PROGRAM. SAID APPLICATION SHALL BE MADE TO OBTAIN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE ROADWAY RECONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION OF SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS ALONG APPROXIMATELY 410 FEET OF MIDDLETOWN AVENUE FROM HOUSE #520 TO THE RAILROAD TRACKS NEAR THE ROCKY HILL TOWN LINE”**, seconded by Councilor Bello.

Town Engineer Derrick Gregor stated that this is an application for accident reduction grant funded by Connecticut DOT [Department of Transportation]. This particular area on Middletown Avenue has had some outlet drainage scouring along the end of the road. Over time it has started to undermine the embankment and undermine the guardrail that exists along the edge of the road. The Town, in 2012, put up some precast concrete barriers as a temporary measure just for vehicle safety so no one goes off the road. This grant would be for reconstructing that section of the road, restabilizing the embankment, doing some work on the wetlands to push the channel further away; putting in an erosion control blanket and stone as well as a new metal guardrail on the east and west side of the road and includes about 400 feet of road reconstruction as part of it. As part of this grant they accept applications up to July 1<sup>st</sup> and if we are one of the projects that is accepted by DOT, the Town is responsible 10% of the construction cost and all of the engineering and any right of way or easement acquisitions that might be required which would be minimal. It is a program that doesn't come up very often and an opportunity to secure some funds to make the improvement. As you may be aware the MDC is doing some sanitary sewer improvements in the area that is going to go through this location so it would be our intent is to coordinate with them if we are able to secure these funds then we will work with them to either do this work as part of their project or immediately follow their project so we can have the sewer installation done prior to our improvements because they will be in the same vicinity.

Councilor Rell commented that the bridge to the south of the railroad tracks, the state had reconstructed that bridge over the last couple of years. They just had a ground breaking ceremony. Was that Rocky Hill property so none of our town costs were associated with that?

Town Engineer Gregor replied that bridge is located in Rocky Hill and it was his understanding that Rocky Hill had reconstructed the bridge and the road up to the railroad tracks on the south side of the

tracks so we would be looking at going directly from the north side of the tracks northward just beyond the project area.

Councilor Rell stated that if we would be responsible for 10% of construction costs we are looking at \$500,000 roughly.

Town Engineer Gregor responded that is a conservative estimate to start with. The program funds projects from \$50 to \$500 typically they will consider projects beyond that but at this point we have done some survey work, we don't have all of the design really developed yet so it is conceptual plan that outlines all the work we anticipated will be needed and we feel that would be adequate to cover what we anticipate the application amount would be when we submit.

Councilor Rell asked from the house to the railroad tracks is 410 feet, conservatively \$500,000 which is over \$1,000 a foot is that par for the course for doing this kind of work.

Town Engineer Gregor replied no not strictly for road reconstruction but this type of road reconstruction will be different than milling or paving work. This will be a full depth reconstruction and there is some undermining and some base failure evident and it something we are going to investigate further during the design process. We are anticipating a full box all over the road bringing in new better base materials, compacting and a new road section. We may look at some minor horizontal alignment if we can do that to pull this a little further west and away from the wetland area and the scour but this also includes a guardrail on both sides of the road which gets more expensive as well recreating the embankment that we have on the east side of the road which has been scoured out so it is more expensive than you would typically have for a road reconstruction. It does include some drainage improvements that we are accounting for at this point that once we get into further design we will determine whether it will be necessary or not.

Councilor Rell commented that looking at the map, the railroad tracks he was wondering if we have to work with any particular railroad.

Town Engineer Gregor replied that they will coordinate with the railroad company that uses the track but we are not impacting the tracks. He doesn't anticipate any issues with the improvements that we are showing but we will certainly be in touch with them with what our plans are. This is just to get the application in to see what we can do.

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

### BIDS

Councilor Bello moved to **“ACCEPT THE BID FROM SONITROL FOR \$154,500, \$37,500 FOR NETWORK EQUIPMENT AND A \$4,600 CONTINGENCY TOTALING \$196,500 FOR SECURITY CAMERAS FOR VARIOUS WETHERSFIELD SCHOOL BUILDINGS”**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Barry.

Mayor Montinieri stated that this is the follow up to the incorporation of excess funds and this is the actual funding of the project itself.

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

Deputy Mayor Barry moved to **“AUTHORIZE UP TO \$25,000 WITH LOTHROP ASSOCIATES FOR THE REDESIGN OF THE LIBRARY INTERIOR SPACES PENDING FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY”**, seconded by Councilor Bello.

Library Director Brook Berry and Director of Physical Services Sally Katz were invited to the podium to explain the motion.

Director Katz stated that as part of the process for going forward with this is the teen section of the Library. Currently, it is corralled into a very small area and it is a part of the population which really has not been given its due in the Library. There are approximately 50 to 75 teens per day that utilize the Library for up to three hours at a time. What we want to do is work with an architect who will not only create a warm welcoming technologically advanced space for the teens to be able to do group work, project work and it would give us better sight lines over where they are in the Library. Also, as part of this process, include clearing the front section of the Library which is very chopped up with different bookcases and tables; to open that up and bring new materials from the back and be able to present them to the members of the community. A lot of people have said to the Library that the new materials are just too far back in the Library and take a lot to get to those sections they want. The new materials brought up front. Right now there is no space for that and there is no space for the teens. Through a process of vetting a number of different architects who wanted to do this project, Lothrop came through and really brought us very dynamic ideas of what can be done. No structural work but there may some changes to the MEP parts of the Library. Creating a really dynamic environment by the use of lighting, the use of furniture and redirecting how traffic flows through the Library.

Councilor Latina questioned where the teen section is now.

Director Berry responded that the teen space is in 500 square feet when you enter the building through the front door and to the right and there are about fourteen chairs. We are looking to relocate them to the back of the Library so they are not her greeters in approximately 1,000 square feet of space. So doubling the space that would be set aside for teens in the afternoon but that would be very inviting to adults the other forty eight hours that the teens literally are not there. We don't want to give the teens too much square footage. They don't really spend too much time there in the summer except to grab their Nutmeg books. After school the influx of teens that we do have is just overwhelming. To give them a better space that really accommodates them is suggested. In the front room of the Library where you walk in there are no new books at all, not one new book and you need to walk all the way to the back. It should be like when you walk in -- the best sellers. It is totally not that scenario at all. We are also looking to doing the third space which is up on the mezzanine to create a more quiet environment that people can sit, lounge, read, possibly have a laptop bar and look out over the mezzanine overhang because the community would like that type of space. We purposely were looking for an architect where we kept saying we do not want the Sistine Chapel; this is not your glorious project. The will is not in Town to have that and we are really looking to be very practical but to improve the overall flow and not just for the teens. Two of the spaces will actually be benefiting the rest of the population but we need to give the teens their space.

Mayor Montinieri questioned whether the teens would be involved.

Director Berry responded that they've done surveys with a group of teens and that will be part of the process in the future is to involve them again. To get their feedback like: what do you want in the space? One of the things they really wanted in the space was a vending machine but they come up with some very interesting ideas and they are part of the process.

Town Manager Bridges indicated that they had received the final version of the agreement from the Town Attorney which Director Berry is reading.

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

Councilor Spinella moved to “**AWARD THE PAY LOADER BID TO TYLER EQUIPMENT FOR \$173,731**”, seconded by Deputy Mayor Barry.

Town Manager Bridges stated that on the podium is the third bid that they were waiting on from JCB but they did get three bids even though they used a cooperative purchasing system.

Director Katz explained that the pay loader is truly the workhorse piece of equipment for Physical Services more than the dump trucks and even our pickup trucks. This piece of equipment in the winter it not only loads the salt into the trucks but it is the piece of equipment that when we need to clear an area for fire vehicles and for other places we send in the pay loader first because it has the very large bucket in front of it and it can clear large amounts of snow and ice. During hurricane and storm cleanup it is what we use to clear brush, to haul away any type of cut and fallen logs, brush, debris, large rocks and we also have the availability to add attachments and accessories like the clam bucket and we can utilize forklift forks on this machine. Our pay loaders are used literally every single day that we are at work and there are some days when they are in constant use 24-7 especially during storms. The pay loader that they are looking to replace actually has holes in the floor which were covered over. That is how it has been used. It is over sixteen years old and it is breaking down from the continuous use of having been there for thousands of hours. We were lucky, we did initiate a grant and we did get a grant award to help us defray the cost of a new pay loader. We wanted models that were what we had or slightly bigger because the bucket is utilized so often. With the JCB bid even though it is a lower cost, the machine is a much smaller and lighter machine and they did not make a model that was comparable but they said they would send us a price. The Volvo machine which we have other pieces of equipment really is able to do everything we need it to do, it is also a local vendor and it utilizes John Deere parts also so it will allow us to exchange our parts and use our attachments that we already have and will serve us well in years to come.

Councilor Rell questioned to make sure that the attachments are all interchangeable with the new Volvo.

Director Katz responded yes because they all attach using this one universal coupling and all the attachments are in good condition. We have two pay loaders and this one is the oldest and in the worst condition. John Deere and Volvo utilize a universal coupler which allows attachments to be used on either models and the vendor carries both models replacement parts.

Councilor Rell inquired about Mr. Young’s concern whether or not it is built in Sweden or here in the United States.

Director Katz replied that Volvo is actually owned by Ford and built not here in Connecticut, but here in the United States. That was one of the issues with JCB because all of it is made overseas and most of the distribution comes from overseas for parts.

Councilor Hemmann inquired when the pay loader was purchased initially and how many hours it has on it.

Director Katz responded that it was purchased in 2000 and it has thousands of hours and she didn’t know the exact number.

Deputy Mayor Barry asked what would become of the old pay loader.

Director Katz replied that because of the grant that they have received they need to disable the engine of it which they have done in previous times when they have received grants for diesel engines and they video tape drilling of holes through the engine. On the Volvo there is a trade in value even with the engine disabled because that is part of the grant -- this machine will be taken out of service.

Town Manager Bridges indicated that this grant is that gets municipalities to upgrade their equipment to more cleaner fuel vehicles so that is the reason they have to disable the old engine and also without these pay loaders, we are kind of out of business.

Director Katz responded that was correct and to the issue of why we have two of them. In a storm you have to get the salt from the salt shed into the trucks and if you don't have a bucket and pay loader in which to do that, our operation literally comes to a standstill because then people would have to use shovels trying to get salt into trucks and during the summer months with all the brush and debris and when we cut down the trees this is the equipment we use.

Mayor Montinieri asked if this was a diesel engine.

Director Katz replied that it is still a diesel engine but they run much more efficiently and they are much better for the environment.

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

Deputy Mayor Barry moved to **“APPROVE PROPOSED CHANGE ORDER #616 WITH MACKENZIE SERVICE CORPORATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$27,907 FOR PAINTING OF THE CEILING IN THE POOL AREA AT WETHERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL”**, seconded by Councilor Spinella.

Town Manager Bridges stated that the Building Committee is reviewing some of the items that they would like to finish and painting the pool ceiling was not on the original project list but with some of the work that has been done in there particularly the HVAC it is clear that the ceiling would look out of place in the newer arrangements and so they are requesting the money to paint the ceiling and they are going to drain the pool this year to do additional work so this would be a good time.

Mayor Montinieri inquired whether it was coming out of the contingency for the high school project and Town Manager Bridges replied yes.

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

Councilor Bello moved to **“INCREASE THE PURCHASE ORDER WITH GARRITY ASPHALT RECLAIMING BY \$65,000 BASED UPON STATE BID PRICING FOR THE FALL PAVING PROGRAM”**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Barry.

Town Manager Bridges stated that part of this fall paving program you can see the list of streets, we use a milling company then come back in with a paving company and Garrity Asphalt provides the milling services.

Mayor Montinieri indicated that this is within our scope of our paving project and funding from our budget appropriation and this is identifying them.

Councilor Rell commented that he sees Ivy Lane on the list and he knows there have been some concerns over the years about Ivy Lane and he knows a number of residents, one in particular, who has had some concerns about that street and he is glad that it is going to be repaved this fall.

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

**Councilor Latina recused herself before discussion of the following motion.**

Deputy Mayor Barry moved to **“INCREASE THE PURCHASE ORDER FOR TILCON CT BY \$399,249 FOR PAVING SERVICES FOR THE FALL PAVING PROGRAM PER STATE BID PRICING”**, seconded by Councilor Bello.

Town Manager Bridges stated that this is the paving piece of the fall paving program. They come back in and actually do the paving so we are just increasing the purchase order. This is an expiring state contract so when they do a new one in the fall we will come back with a new one for the spring.

Town Engineer Gregor was invited to the podium to explain the motion.

Mayor Montinieri asked if everything looked to be on schedule and obviously the weather has been very cooperative and he sees a lot of working happening.

Town Engineer Gregor replied yes and that they have wrapped up the majority of spring paving work and right now they are scheduling for middle of August to start this list.

Town Manager Bridges commented that Tilcon did come back and fixed that piece of road on Hang Dog and did a wonderful job.

**Vote:** All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION - None

#### MINUTES

Councilor Spinella moved **“TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 6, 2016”**, seconded by Councilor Bello.

**Vote:** All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-1 (Mayor Montinieri Abstained).

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gus Colantonio of 16 Morrison Avenue wanted to congratulate Town Engineer Derrick Gregor and quite a good first impression just the fact that he was wearing a tie and jacket which shows respect for the Council and also the people of Wethersfield. He hopes he stays with us a long time.

Lee Sekas of 117 Wells Road commented that he was glad to hear that streets are still being repaired but maybe you haven't heard him mention the sidewalks in the past. Many sidewalks are utterly disgraceful and not just for people in wheelchairs or grandmas pushing the baby in a baby carriage. These should have been repaired decades ago. He knows there is a new sidewalk inspector in town but he thinks it needs to be addressed and make this town more welcoming for people who want to walk, roll or whatever. He wished the Town Engineer good luck in his new job and asked that he not forget about what he said before about license plates and make sure something is done about it because words are one

thing but don't forget the old saying actions speak louder than words. We need some action on lots of things especially if it's something that is going to cost money so let's get our ship in shape before we sink.

Tom Mazarella of 600 Wolcott Hill Road stated he and Councilor Rell asked similar questions on video feeds. He sat here and still doesn't know who is going to be monitoring the video. He is not trying to minimize the safety of the students or the staff. All the security goes out the window when you have a large crowd. People are going to feel safe because you spend \$200,000 on cameras. If it is true you can't put a price of a child's life then spend for a stop sign where kids cross on their way home from school, in the chance you might eliminate one child getting hit by a car. A pay loader, he understands that it is an important piece of equipment. A rusted out body is not going to stop a pay loader from working properly. It's all about money. It's \$170,000 for a piece of equipment but he didn't get answer for the maintenance cost. On the Ridge Road development proposal he is really concerned. Disagree with the vote by a Town body? Just take it to court and get it reversed. Can he go to court and sue the Town Council for voting to approve video cameras? He thinks so. This is setting a real precedence. How vigorously did the Town Attorney fight this appeal in court? He thinks it terrible that a court can decide whether the Town voted accurately or not. Why should a judge have a say in how a piece of property is developed? People if they want, can put up the money, just take the Town Council to court every time they make a decision they don't agree with.

Robert Young of 20 Coppermill Road asked if we know what the value is on that ten million dollars that the governor was reducing the municipalities and how much that affected Wethersfield.

Town Manager Bridges replied that it was 20 million dollars from towns, full municipal cut and they have not published the list yet.

Mr. Young commented on "eternal life" in government. The Town of Wethersfield keeps going on, keep spending of other people's money. Everybody has to pay because we live here and it is wrong.

Town Manager Bridges spoke about the Ridge Road process and stated that it is correct that we did have a private property owner present an application for use of their private property to the town under the zoning regulations to the Planning & Zoning Commission. After review the Planning Commission denied the private property owner their request. And under the law a private property owner aggrieved by a decision of a quasi-judicial board such as a Planning Commission can appeal that decision to the courts. That's the right of a property owner nationwide in every state. So the Ridge Road boys did that and filed an appeal with the court. Now what is being heard tomorrow evening is a proposed modification to the project which addresses point by point the Planning & Zoning Commission's concerns on the original application. This has not been to a court yet. There has not been a hearing and there has not been a ruling by a judge yet. We have not gotten to that point and the applicant decided that it may be better to revise their plans to address the concerns of the Planning Commission rather than going through a protracted legal battle with the Town which would be their right under the law. So tomorrow night is a proposed resolution to the outstanding issues that the Planning & Zoning Commission voted on and found deficient in the original application. That's all that is going on. No judge ruled. There's no court and yes any property owner aggrieved by a decision of the Planning & Zoning Commission, because they have a right to use their property under the law, can appeal such decision to the Court. It's not bad. It's not good. It's just the law. And that's America. People have the right to use their property. Someone shouted out from his seat, that the applicant doesn't own the property yet.

Town Manager Bridges commented that they are representing the property owner. They are the legal representative for the application.

Councilor Rell stated that we, as a body, approved the tax abatement of \$400,000 and that was based on a seventy unit proposal. If that proposal is changed, do we have to approve another course of action for another tax abatement.

Town Manager Bridges stated that actually we would be giving up less money in the tax abatement because the tax abatement only covers the first two years while they are ramping up occupancy.

Mayor Montinieri responded that if he remembered he thought it was an estimated value of percentage based on the value of the taxes. So if they reduce the scope of the project, then the abatement would come down. He thinks it is a great question and we will look at if this were to pass.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:50 p.m., Councilor Bello moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Spinella. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano  
Town Clerk

APPROVED BY VOTE OF COUNCIL  
July 18, 2016