

**REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 10, 2011**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, January 10, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield.

Present: Councilors Drake, Hurley, Manousos, McAlister, Montinieri, Roberts, Deputy Mayor Console and Chairperson Hemmann. Absent: Councilor Kotkin.

Also present: Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, RaeAnn Palmer, Assistant Town Manager, Paul Hutcheon, Director of Central Connecticut Health District [CCHD] and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

Councilor Montinieri led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Chairperson Hemmann asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the Arizona shooting.

Paul Hutcheon, Director of the Central Connecticut Health District presented the Health District's Annual Report. He commented that his department is a regional health department serving the towns of Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield with a population of just over 94,000. There is one representative on the Board for each 10,000 resident. He also noted that they operate as an independent entity and have their own website www.ccthd.org. See Attachment 1.

Councilor Manousos noted that 6% of its operating budget comes from a transfer from reserves, and inquired as to what the present reserve balance was.

Paul Hutcheon responded that they start with 25% of their operating budget so in the event that grants are not coming in when needed, they have the finances in place to meet their financial obligations. There is then an amount beyond that which is in the budget and being reviewed now to incorporate into the 2011-2012 budget.

Councilor Drake asked if the 6% is seen every year.

Paul Hutcheon responded that for the past 10 years a budget has always been adopted with a transfer from the reserve account to balance the budget.

Councilor Roberts asked if there has been a problem with bed bugs in motels or hotels or individual properties.

Paul Hutcheon responded that there have been issues with bed bugs in both situations. He noted that the motel apartment environment has the greater number of complaints.

Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, presented the Planning and Economic Development Department's Monthly Report.

TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD
Planning and Economic Development Department
MONTHLY REPORT
January 2011

A Monthly Report From The Planning and Economic Development Department
Prepared By Peter D. Gillespie, Town Planner and Economic Development Manager
Phone (860) 721-2838 e-mail peter.gillespie@wethersfieldct.com

RECENT PROJECTS

- Interior improvements are complete and a CO has been issued for a new tenant space in the Goff Brook Shops at 1303 Silas Deane Highway for Town Line Liquors.
- A ribbon cutting was held on December 16 to welcome Best Logic Staffing to Town at 48 Silas Deane Highway.



- The Wethersfield Planning and Zoning Commission approved plans for new freestanding 4,000 s.f building at the Wethersfield Shopping Center at 1129 Silas Deane Highway. The building will house a Panera Bread Bakery-Café and the restaurant will have outdoor seating and drive- thru service.
- New signage approvals have been issued to Liberty Bank as they have acquired CT River Community Bank 1190 Silas Deane Highway.
- The Refined Society Tea Parlor at 137 Main Street (former Bean and Grape) will open shortly.

OTHER NEWS AND INITIATIVES

Developer/Tenant Contacts

- Met with prospective buyer interested in 132 Silas Deane Highway (Former Porter and Chester)

Redevelopment Agency

The Agency met on December 6 to kick off the redevelopment planning process for the properties at 976 – 1060 Silas Deane Highway. An agreement has been reached to share the costs of the plan with the owner of 1000 Silas Deane Highway and a contract has been signed with Bartram and Cochran to conduct the Plan.

Economic Development and Improvement Commission

- The 21st Annual Salute To Business and Holiday Social was held on Thursday evening December 9 at 5:30 pm at the Wethersfield Country Club. Recognition was given to businesses to the community and to some of our longer standing businesses. The Shops Local Committee held a drawing and awarded a \$1,000 Holiday Gift Certificate.



- Staff with the assistance of the Chamber of Commerce has been working closely with the Rare Reminder and has completed the 2011 Town Guide, Calendar and Business Directory. The publication costs are being almost entirely supported from ad sales from local businesses.
- The State Bond Commission approved an additional \$250,000 to continue to fund the Wethersfield Façade Improvement program.

Tourism

- As a result of the success of the 2010 CT Getaway Guide Ads the Commission has filed a Grant application for 2011 for the same program through the CT Commission on Culture and Tourism.
- The Commission has completed a guide to assist those who are planning weddings in Wethersfield and our surrounding communities. The guide will be printed and appear on its website listing all local businesses and contact information for those who provide wedding related services in Wethersfield (Churches, Hotels/Motels, Banquet Space, Restaurants, Caterers, Bakeries, Florists, Rentals, Photographers, Transportation etc...)

Chamber of Commerce

On Friday morning, January 21 at the Community Center the Chamber will be hosting the Annual State of the Town Breakfast. Tickets can be purchased from the Chamber at 721-6200.

Meeting/Event Schedule January

January 4	PZC 7 pm
January 6	Chamber of Commerce 8:30 am
January 12	Shops Local 8:30 am
January 13	EDIC 12 noon
January 19	PZC 7 pm
January 21	Chamber State of Town 8 am
January 24	Redevelopment Agency 5 pm
January 25	Tourism Commission 5:30 pm

Councilor Roberts noted that the calendar looks great but there are no holes in which to hang the calendar.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc., a registered corporation. He noted that he is also speaking for the officers and Board of Directors still living in Wethersfield, including George Wallace, Robert Young and himself. They would like to pay tribute to Irene Stankevich, who died suddenly January 1, 2011. He noted that she always had the town's best interest at heart, and she will be missed.

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Avenue, thanked the Town for the snow removal on Morrison Avenue. He noted that Article 139-5 references that Council may vote to make and lay sidewalks on any public way at the expense of the owner's of the land. He asked for any explanation for the difference in the sidewalks on Morrison Avenue which the property owners had to pay for and the sidewalks on Middletown Avenue, which the property owners did not have to pay.

Ken Sokolowski, 79 Main Street, speaking as an individual for UNICO, which is holding their annual Macaroni Dinner on Sunday, February 13, 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. UNICO members will be creating 3,000 meatballs and many pounds of pasta and salads. There will also be three raffle drawings, and tickets can be obtained from any UNICO member.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, commented on the November 15, 2010 minutes under the Town Manager's Report regarding the \$672,000 that is owed to the State of Connecticut and noted that during the meeting not one council member asked any questions about the amount due. He also noted that a letter was received from the State of Connecticut dated January 14, 2010 and nothing was ever said about the financial situation from the Board of Education.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Drake reported for the CIAC Committee met for the first time to set up projects for the upcoming year. He reported that the quality of life issues have been resolved through the ordinances. There will be a press release in the Wethersfield Life and the Hartford Courant explaining the enforcement of the ordinances. The biggest issue will be the no parking on the snow shelf. Councilor Drake also reported for the School Project Building Committee and noted that the alarm security system at Hanmer School needs to be renewed at a cost of \$120,000, and approximately 50% of the cost will be covered by the State.

Councilor Roberts commented that she had Council Hours last week and someone inquired as to why grant money was used for the lights at Cottone Field after it was said that public money would not be used. Councilor Roberts has asked the Town Manager to look into this. Councilor Roberts also noted that someone inquired about the cost of the Ethics process and felt the citizens should be able to see an itemized list of all charges and who is paying for the expenses.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor McAlister reported that the Public Works Committee has not met yet but will be scheduling some tours, which will not include Savage Park. In terms of the unfinished business item of the Energy Plan, he and Councilor Drake are trying to finalize the plan and bring it forward to be accepted and adopted.

Jeff Bridges commented that there have been three different drafts reviewed to date.

Councilor Drake referred to the \$682,000 reimbursement issue that Robert Young had brought up earlier and noted that the Council has been paying attention to this matter and the reason not much has been said is because it is a moving number. He noted that he has attended State meetings with the staff and Board and they are looking at ways to repay the money.

Deputy Mayor Console reported that he attended the retirement party for Jim and Janice McDonald. He noted that he is also a UNICO member and if anyone needs tickets to the Pasta Dinner, to please contact him. Deputy Mayor Console also reported that he recently visited Wang's Kitchen, across from the police station, Carmela's Pasta Shop, which is located near the intersection of the Silas Deane Highway and Nott Street. Also, he visited CenterPoint Church located on the Silas Deane Highway. Their vision is to take the traditional Christian Faith and present it in a new way for people who may have given up on the Church but not God.

Councilor Hurley mentioned that at the last meeting Councilor Montinieri noted that at one time members of the EDIC conducted more formal visits with businesses in the past and asked if anyone has followed up on that.

Chairperson Hemmann noted that she also attended the retirement dinner for Jim and Janice McDonald and the kickoff of the CIAC meeting for capital improvements, and on Friday, January 7 she attended the 80th Anniversary of Boy Scout Troop 30.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Jeff Bridges reported a status on the search for a solid waste vendor.

Councilor Drake inquired as to whether the MDC was going to give a presentation to the Council regarding CRRRA issues and how pensions funds were funded.

Deputy Mayor Console noted that he has sent an email to the Town Manager asking for an update from MDC.

COUNCIL ACTION

BIDS

Deputy Mayor Console moved **TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO DENNIS K. BURKE, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF 76,000 GALLONS OF UNLEADED GASOLINE, AS NEEDED, AT A RATE OF \$2.5006 PER GALLON,**” seconded by Councilor Drake.

Jeff Bridges reported that as a member of the Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), we participate in the Capital Region Purchasing Council, which improves our chances of receiving lower pricing due to the combined volume of goods or services being purchased by

the 30 participating member Towns. The Town bids gasoline through CRCOG to improve our pricing and this year, we are able to lock in a price of \$2.5006 per gallon for regular grade gasoline. Last year's price was \$2.2633. The lock in price is firm for the purchase of 76,000 gallons. The bid allows each municipality to choose between a differential rate and a firm rate. Due to continued fluctuations in the price of gas, staff recommended a firm rate. The bid price does not include the three fees/taxes from which the Town is not exempt; the Connecticut Gross Tax is 7.5269% of the purchase, the Federal LUST tax is .00100 per gallon and the Federal Oil Spill fee is .00171 per gallon.

The current budget has \$80,000 left for the purchase of gasoline through June 30, 2011. The attached spread sheet provides information about pricing and total expenditures for the last four years.

Councilor Manousos noted that the cost is higher than last year and asked the Town Manager if it was still within their budget.

Jeff Bridges responded that it will be within the budget.

Councilor Manousos asked if this was bid in 6 month increments.

Jeff Bridges responded that it is bid yearly.

Assistant Town Manager RaeAnn Palmer responded annual starting in June.

Councilor McAlister responded that it comes from half a budget one year.

Councilor Manousos asked why there was a steady decline between 2007 and the present in consumption.

Jeff Bridges responded that the vehicles that are now being used more energy efficient.

Deputy Mayor Console asked if the vehicles are tracked.

Jeff Bridges responded that the vehicles are tracked and monitored.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION

Chairperson Hemmann noted that the Ordinance concerning house numbers will be heard at the February 7 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, referenced the removal of brush on the Wilkus Farm property. He commented that he felt that the Council made a mistake in voting to accept money from the State for lights at Cottone Field. Mr. Young also commented on the money the Town owes the State, and the fact that this particular issue has been around for awhile but has not made the public circuit and felt this was wrong. Mr. Young also commented on an article in the paper regarding non-profit organizations that do not pay taxes and perhaps it should be looked into where non-profit organizations are bringing children into town to be educated, yet are not paying taxes.

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, noted that the telephone numbers for the representatives on the State and Washington are missing or wrong in the Town calendar. He noted that with regards to the \$672,000 and \$32 million, he felt the problem was a lack of transparency in the financial dealings. George Ruhe also noted that a quality of life issue should involve people who are texting and driving.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:15 p.m., Councilor Montinieri moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Deputy Mayor Console. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk
Approved by vote of Council
January 19, 2011

Attachment 1

Slide 1



Update on Activities

Prepared by:
Paul Hutcheon, Director of Health
January, 2011

General Information

- CCHD is the local health department serving the towns of Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield with a combined population of 94,879
- Overseen by a 11 member Board of Health appointed by the Town Councils (1 Board member per 10,000 population or part thereof)
- 7 FT employees and 6 PT employees with offices in each town hall and in the Newington Senior and Disabled Center
- Web site- www.ccthd.org

Slide 2

Financial

- Current fiscal year adopted budget \$975,650.
- Funding sources:
 - 39% town contribution @ \$4.06 per capita
 - 18% State grant funding @ \$1.85 per capita
 - 15% program fees
 - 12% permit & licensing fees
 - 10% other grants
 - 6% transfer from operating reserve fund

Programs & Services

- **Environmental:**
 - ✓ Regulation and inspection of over 800 licensed facilities including food establishments, public pools, motels, salons & day care centers.
 - ✓ Investigation of public health complaints (e.g. food borne outbreaks, substandard rental housing, rodent/insect infestations, air/water pollution etc.).
 - ✓ Elevated blood lead investigations in children
 - ✓ Inspection and regulation of private wells and septic systems both new installations and repairs.

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Programs & Services

- **Community Health- Clinics/Screenings:**
 - ✓ Annual influenza & pneumonia clinics (3,000 flu and 53 pneumonia doses this season)
 - ✓ Dental screenings and cleanings
 - ✓ Foot care clinics
 - ✓ Blood glucose screenings
 - ✓ Prescription drug counseling

Programs & Services

- **Community Health- Education Programs:**
 - ✓ Reducing Blood Cholesterol
 - ✓ Diabetes: Taking Charge
 - ✓ Putting on Aairs (asthma home assessment)
 - ✓ Woman to Woman (breast cancer education & screening)
 - ✓ Mature Driver Safety Program
 - ✓ Updated our Community Health Report Card (see posting on our web site)

Slide 4

Success with Grants

- Over the past 4 years we have obtained over \$240,000 in additional grant funding to support District activities.
- These grants have allowed us to offer programs to address:
 - ✓ Obesity
 - ✓ Asthma
 - ✓ Dental Care
 - ✓ Safe Driving
 - ✓ Healthy Eating
 - ✓ Heart Disease
 - ✓ Stroke Screening
 - ✓ Breast Cancer

Emergency Preparedness

- The Health District continues to receive federal funding for a part-time Emergency Preparedness Coordinator.
- We have established a Public Health Emergency Response Plan in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological or other public health emergency.
- The District is an active member of the CREPC and the regional response efforts.
- We have over 400 volunteers signed-up to help in an emergency. They participate in various activities including flu clinics and trainings (incident command system, infection control, logistics etc.).
- **Please contact our Emergency Preparedness Coordinator if you are interested in volunteering!**

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H1N1 Campaign

- The outbreak began in late April 2009 with the first US death reported on April 29, 2009.
- We coordinated our response efforts with school superintendents, Town Managers, Emergency Preparedness Coordinators, CT DPH and others.
- We worked closely with the schools to ensure that the latest CDC guidance on return to school was followed for the 09/10 school year.

H1N1 Campaign

- 27 nurses and 21 assistants were hired to work the clinics along with CCHD staff.
- School pre-registration letters were distributed to over 14,000 families in the 24 public and 7 private schools.
- Collaborated with school districts to offer school based clinics.

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H1N1 Campaign

- The first of 26 scheduled clinics was held on October 29, 2009. The last scheduled clinic was held on March 30, 2010. The last dose was given on March 31, 2010.
- 15 home bound residents were served.
- A total of 6,335 people were vaccinated.

ACHIEVE Grant

- \$50,000 for two years starting July 1, 2011.
- This grant will allow us to work with our community partners to increase opportunities for healthy lifestyles.
- We intend to focus on healthy eating, physical activity and obesity.
- The grant will require us to establish a community coalition and conduct a community assessment with the goal of proposing policy, system or environmental changes.

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Putting On Airs

- Putting On Airs is a regional grant funded asthma home assessment program coordinated by the Health District with 18 participating towns.
- The program is designed to target the reduction of environmental asthma triggers in the home.
- Through referrals from health care providers, trained inspectors will visit the home, conduct an inspection and provide information on how to minimize asthma triggers.
- There is no cost to the resident.

Community Health Assessment

- Telephone calls to residents planned for the first two weeks of February, 2011. We need 400 completed surveys.
- Information to be gathered on a variety of health topics such as dental care, tobacco use, immunizations, cancer, diabetes and emergency preparedness to name a few.
- We encourage residents to participate if contacted. Calls made by "The Center for Research and Public Policy"

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Thank you!

Please visit our website
www.ccthd.org