

**REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 15, 2011**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, August 15, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield.

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

Also present: Jeff Bridges, Town Manager and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

The Town Manager, Jeff Bridges, led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Charles Sheehan, CEO of the MDC, reported on the background and update of the Desmond Drive and Penwood Lane projects. Also present was Chairman William DiBella, District Counsel Bart Halloran, Commissioners McAuliffe and Camilliere, Chief Operating Officer Scott Jellison and Chief of Laboratory Steve Pratt. (See Attachment 1).

Amy Northrop, Director of the Wethersfield Historical Society presented the annual rental payment of the red onion rope to the Town for use of the Cove Warehouse, Keeney Cultural Center, Standish House and the Old Academy.

Laurel Goodgion, Director of the Wethersfield Library presented the progress of the RFID (Radio Frequency Identification system) and the Year End Report.

Peter Gillespie, Town Planner, Mike Turner, Town Engineer and Anthony Dignoti, Fire Marshall presented the Cedar Mountain Development Report.

Deputy Mayor Console noted his concern on the traffic impact and asked to be kept updated on the blasting issue.

Councilor Roberts commented on the impact of the corner lot on Russell Road intersecting with Wells Road.

Peter Gillespie commented that the corner lot project has been approved and conditions and mitigation problems have been resolved.

Councilor Manousos asked if the traffic study was going to be revised to include the demands from those corner developments.

Peter Gillespie responded that he has not seen the current revised traffic report to confirm that and to make sure the numbers actually reflect some of the traffic concerns.

Chairperson Hemmann asked Peter Gillespie if he has forwarded the drainage and traffic concerns to the DOT along with speaking to representatives.

Peter Gillespie responded that it has not been done yet, but an updated letter will be sent shortly and he will forward a copy to the DOT.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

HEARING - Resolution concerning an application to the Capitol Region Council of Governments to obtain STP-Urban Programs Funds, to make application for traditional roadway projects and non-traditional roadway projects in the Town of Wethersfield, Connecticut. No one spoke. Hearing closed.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Peter Weinstein, 15 Penwood Lane, commented on the oversight of the project. He noted that he had sent emails to the Council and has heard from Deputy Mayor Console, but he said that there has a general lack of communication regarding the project.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elkswood Drive, Newington, thanked the Wethersfield Town Council members, the Town Manager, Town Planner, Town Engineer and Fire Marshal for attending the Cedar Mountain hearings.

Bruce Winchell, 48 Tinsmith Crossing, thanked the Town Manager and noted that he was impressed with what Jeff Bridges has done for the Town. He also thanked Anthony Dignoti for taking the time to talk with him about the project and Chairperson Hemmann for making sure that the letter gets forward to the DOT. He also commented on the activity of the Toll Brothers.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, commented that in addition to a referendum that has been suggested to be put on the ballot for road repair in the amount of \$4 million, there is another referendum in the amount of \$7 million to help out developers. He noted that the second referendum does not include the names of the Council members that are supporting it. He noted that he does not agree with the Town paying a developer to come into Town. He also commented that he was glad to see the resignation of Stacey Hodges and that he was happy to see more articles about Wethersfield in the Hartford Courant.

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, commented on Stacey Hodges' resignation and the cost of the Ethics issue.

David Caruk, 149 Broad Street, commented on the Ethics investigation and noted that he supported her [Stacey Hodges] in the Ethics issue. He also commented on the Weight Watchers' building and wondered why the Council is trying to work on a building that has little potential other than a warehouse with limited parking.

Deputy Mayor Console moved "TO ADD ITEM B.3e, 'SOLAR PANELS ON VARIOUS TOWN OWNED BUILDINGS' TO THE AGENDA," seconded by Councilor Manousos.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

### COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Drake reported that the Infrastructure Committee met on Monday, August 14, regarding the Energy Plan, which has been approved based on the addition the Town Manager made. He also met with the Redevelopment Agency regarding the Berlin Turnpike/Nott Street project. The project consists presently of 180 units, and the contribution of the Town would be to help purchase the land and the demolition. He explained that this is a \$30-35 million project. Taxes are presently \$70,000 and it is expected to change in excess of \$400,000. There is a lot of work to be done to get this matter to referendum. The next step would be to have the Town agree with the project.

Councilor Manousos clarified what was said by Councilor Drake, in that what is being looked at is the mechanism for how the Town contributes the capital towards this project and how to minimize the Town's risks. He also reported for EDIC which generally supported both the Berlin Turnpike/Nott Street and the Weight Watchers projects. He also reported for the Budget & Finance Committee which met to discuss the Board of Education Administrator Union negotiations, and the repayment of the school project funds. There was also discussion on changes to the repayment of the School Project funds. He also reported that the Town, through Bank of America, will issue tax exempt private placement for the \$795,000 which is better than was previously reported earlier. There was also a discussion with the new Finance Director about the goals she has set forth and standardizing monthly financial reporting.

### COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Kotkin asked Jeff Bridges and Chairperson Hemmann about an item under Unfinished Business concerning the budget transfer request from the Wethersfield Public Schools for the transfer of funds held in the Town Contingency account, which he believed was for the 2010-2011 fiscal year and asked for the status of the matter.

Jeff Bridges commented that this should be the last month that this money can be carried over.

Councilor Kotkin asked if something is done with the matter tonight, this item will not show up on the September 6 agenda.

Jeff Bridges responded that it would not. He also explained that the Town asked the Board of Education to show a deficit position without the transfer and to date they have not been able to that.

Deputy Mayor Console commented that he has received calls from the residents of Wells Road and Jameswell Road asking when the street signs are going to be put back up and asked the Town Manager to look into the matter. Deputy Mayor Console also reported on the Police Department Safe Night Out held on Tuesday, August 2 and thanked the police, fire and

ambulance for their participation. He also asked on the status of Morrison Avenue, which was slated to have already begun.

Mike Turner reported that the Morrison Avenue is slated to begin on Wednesday.

Deputy Mayor Console commented on the Board of Education and the \$179,000 contingency request, and questioned the handling of finances at the Board of Education and noted that it should be taken off the agenda. He also inquired as to whether someone was supposed to be at the meeting to discuss the Charles Wright skylight repair issue.

Jeff Bridges responded that Fred Bushey is on vacation.

Deputy Mayor Console thanked the MDC for attending the meeting and answering questions. He commented on an article in the Wethersfield Life regarding the road referendum and noted the \$4 million road bond will cost the taxpayers \$1.9 million in other taxes to pay the interest. He commented that the Town should not be borrowing \$4 million and paying back \$6 million to repave roads and instead “pay as you go.”

Councilor Roberts asked the Town Manager to clarify the date on the Special Olympics event.

Chairperson Hemmann responded that it is September 11.

Councilor Roberts commented that the Farmers’ Market has more vendors and there is more foot traffic. The hours are 3:00 to 6:00 on Thursdays at the Kenney Memorial.

Chairperson Hemmann reported on the Roaring Thunder motorcycle ride for Special Olympics. She reported that she had Mayor’s Hours, but she did not have any residents come in. She also talked about the Neighbor to Neighbor challenge and encouraged everyone to participate.

#### TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

Jeff Bridges asked Mike Turner to report on the pedestrian’s way on the Putnam Bridge after his report. He also reported on the mediation between 1303-408 and the Town has been set for September with a mediator. He commented that at the last meeting there had been discussion about combining set of the hearings on the selling of the Wilkus property and Savage Park and the Town is looking at October 3 for a hearing date to introduce the resolutions. Jeff Bridges also reported that at the last meeting Mr. Clynch had talked about a fence had been taken down by a town employee and Jeff Bridges reported that if Mr. Clynch would like to have the fence replaced, the Town will take care of it.

Mike Turner reported that he and Kathy Bagley attended Stakeholders Meeting at the invitation of the Connecticut DOT in which there was discussion about a walkway on the Putnam Bridge and if there can be a component of the bridge rehabilitation to include a bike way crossing and he noted that it appears that it is feasible. Cost estimate is between \$7 and \$10 million to add this to the bridge and the ending component at ends of Wethersfield and Glastonbury is not part of the project.

### COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Drake moved **“TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER, JEFF BRIDGES, TO SUBMIT ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD, CONNECTICUT, A PUBLIC ENTITY ESTABLISHED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, APPLICATION FOR STP-URBAN PROGRAM FUNDS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE CAPITAL REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS IN THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD, CONNECTICUT,”** seconded by Deputy Mayor Console.

Jeff Bridges reported the STP Urban program has been a source of funding which allowed the reconstruction of Middletown Avenue/Spring Street Intersection, Nott Street Reconstruction, and Griswold Road Pavement Rehabilitation projects. The funding/match guidelines have been revised to require 20% town match for pavement rehab type projects. Costs using the federal and state guidelines are generally higher, but any opportunity to leverage outside funds will extend our local CIP program. The roads selected were result of input from Engineering and Physical Services staff, our Road manager software, and physical inspections of available candidate roadway.

Councilor Montinieri asked if the criteria for these roads different from the priorities on the road repair list.

Mike Turner responded that this program falls under the pavement rehab section and has to be a connector or arterial road, which would be heavily traveled roads. This program is the same as what was done with Griswold Road.

Councilor Manousos asked if these roads were part of the visual study done by the consultant.

Mike Turner responded that these roads are part of the study and the consultants are about 75% done with their analysis. These roads have a deadline of August 24 to get back to CRCOG.

Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO APPROVE THE SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT FOR 579 RIDGE ROAD,”** seconded by Councilor Drake.

Jeff Bridges reported the new mortgage will provide significant financial relief to the owner. Currently there are four rehabilitation loans on this property. The amounts are \$8,250, \$4,700, \$2,070, and \$39,840. The only one that will be subordinate to the mortgage will be the \$39,840. The remaining loans will stay in first position. With all these loans combined with the mortgage the total liens on the property are \$217,935 with a home value of \$240,000. The Town Attorney has reviewed the agreement and found it acceptable. Jeff Bridges also reported that there are a total of 35 residential rehabilitation projects in Town and have spent to date \$955,000 of grants.

Councilor Kotkin asked if the repaid money can be loaned out again.

Jeff Bridges responded that it can be loaned out, but until some of these issues can be resolved the Town doesn't want to encourage any more properties.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Hurley moved **"TO APPROVE \$1,400 FROM THE LEGAL BUDGET TOWARDS THE LEGAL COSTS OF THE TOWN OF ROCKY HILL SPENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLICE REGIONAL TRAINING FACILITY"** seconded by Councilor Drake.

Jeff Bridges reported there are 27 Towns that were involved in this effort. The Police Chief's Association through their annual \$500.00 assessment to the Towns was to fund the operations of the facility. There would be no direct fees for its use unless a particular Town wanted to use resources from outside the region.

Councilor Roberts asked how many towns have participated in helping pay the legal fees.

Jeff Bridges responded that to his knowledge, only the City of Hartford has offered to participate.

Councilor Roberts commented that when Hang Dog Lane was being repaved, Wethersfield had asked Rocky Hill if they would consider finishing the road and her understanding was that their response was not positive.

Councilors Kotkin, Montinieri and Chairperson Hemmann voted AYE. Councilors Drake, Hurley, Manousos, McAlister, Roberts and Deputy Mayor Console voted NO. The motion failed 3-6-0.

Councilor Manousos moved **"TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF \$296,872.22 FROM THE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT TO VARIOUS ACCOUNTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ATTACHED BUDGET TRANSFER REQUEST,"** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

	<b>Code</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Transfer From:	191059250	Contingency	296,872.22	Year End Transfer/balance accounts
Transfer To:				
	1124	Human Resources	14,956.07	Labor Attorney
	1130	Town Attorney	14,750.00	Attorney Fees
	1150	Registrar of Voters	1,340.27	Salaries;copy & binding
	1164	Tax Assessor	5,230.61	Salaries/retiree payout
	1205	Building Inspection	17,449.95	Salaries/retiree payout; legal ads
	1210	Police Services	34,259.62	Overtime
	1224	Emergency Medical Services	2,005.60	Stipends
	1450	Engineering	14,177.44	Salaries/retiree payout
	1452	Vehicle Maintenance	7,319.32	Snow Overtime
	1453	Refuse & Recycling	3,529.18	Disposal fees
	1457	Physical Services	166,576.21	Overtime; contractors to haul snow
	1701	Parks & Recreation	2,176.48	Unemployment for seasonal workers
	1940	MDC	10,382.10	Sewer charge
	1960	Reserve-Retiree	2,719.37	Retiree payouts
		Total	296,872.22	

Councilor Montinieri asked if the labor attorney transfer was beyond the budget line item for the year that was appropriated for the fiscal year.

RaeAnn Palmer responded that it was. She explained that there were negotiations in several labor issues.

Councilor Montinieri asked if this also included the labor attorney fees.

Rae Ann Palmer responded that it was included in the labor attorney fees.

Councilor Montinieri commented that during the budget discussions in the Spring, the Chief of

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Police was asked about overtime which had been proposed in the budget and cut. When asked

how overtime was handled going into the fiscal year, the Chief of Police responded that the department would do the best that it could and deal with it. Councilor Montinieri noted that the \$34,000 is approximately the same amount of overtime requested for next year that was not approved. He noted also that he understood that the money was expended and that it needs to be paid, but the message that he is getting is that this is basically how the Town is going to respond to continued police services overtime and he was concerned. Councilor Montinieri also inquired about the MDC sewer charge of \$10,000.

RaeAnn Palmer responded that it was a miscalculation by staff of the amount of the sewer tax.

Councilor Montinieri asked if this came directly from the MDC, which is based on linear miles. He also asked if that pays for the testing of the pipes that are not working.

RaeAnn Palmer responded that she believes it is paying for the Town's sewer charge. RaeAnn Palmer also clarified the police budget. She noted that there were several vacancies in the police budget and they had a \$96,000 savings in their payroll account which was reduced by an overage of \$96,000 in private duties. She further explained that if in fact there hadn't been a large increase in private duty expenses, the police department would not have had an overage. The Town has since moved the private duty expenses and revenues out of the general fund budget and are now in a separate fund so this impact won't be seen again.

Councilor Montinieri asked if there are vacancies in the police department and those positions are not drawn from salaries, shouldn't there be a net savings at the end of the day.

RaeAnn Palmer responded that there would have been, except that last year was a banner year for private duty expenses in terms of road construction and private duty jobs and those expenses were charged to the budget. The Town budgeted \$300,000 in expenses, when in fact the Town spent \$400,000 on private duties. In addition to the regular over time charges, there was an increase in the private duty expenses charged to the police department budget.

Councilor Montinieri noted that the Town charged for those private services and that revenue line item is not in the budget.

RaeAnn Palmer explained that it goes into the general fund revenues.

Councilor Montinieri commented that at the end of the day, in terms of understanding the impact of the budget, we want to see that revenue.

RaeAnn Palmer responded that revenue exceeded by approximately \$50,000 to \$60,000. What it doesn't do is offset the direct expenses.

Councilor Manousos commented that this is why it is being taken off budget in order to have a more accurate depiction of what the police budget actually is.

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Councilor Roberts asked for clarification on sections for the tax assessor building inspection and

engineering that has retiree payouts and for a separate line reserve for retiree payouts.

RaeAnn Palmer responded that there were significant long term employees that retired this past year so there were large payouts, that were charged to the operating departments.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Manousos moved **“TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT FOR FACADE IMPROVEMENT FUNDING WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND TO SIGN ANY AND ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS,”** seconded by Deputy Mayor Console.

Jeff Bridges reported Town Council authorized the submission of a STEAP grant for the facade loan program in July of 2010. The State of Connecticut requires this action to move forward with the grant award.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Drake moved **“TO SEND TO BUDGET & FINANCE FOR ADDITIONAL DETAIL AND CLARIFICATION FOR THE ADVISORY BALLOT FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS,”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

Jeff Bridges reported during the budget process, the Council asked if it was possible to place on the ballot a question of increasing the mill levy for capital improvements. Town Attorney Forsyth has researched the issue and has provided the information contained herein.

Councilor Montinieri noted that there is a motion on the table to introduce this, but he asked if it was being put on the table or was it being taken off the table.

Chairperson Hemmann responded that it was being taken off the table for the motion that was in the packet and the motion is to move it to Budget & Finance for further clarification and discussion.

Councilor Drake commented that they are trying to separate the road levy vs. drainage and park levy and clarify what needs to be done.

Councilor Montinieri asked if this is something that needs to be tabled.

Councilor Drake responded that a motion is needed to send this item to the Budget & Finance Committee for clarification.

Jeff Bridges asked if the Board had until September 8 for ballot questions.

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Dolores Sassano responded that if it is going on the ballot, the deadline is September 8 and would need to be approved by that date.

Councilor Montinieri asked if this matter were to be a question on the ballot, would there be a proposed hearing similar to a referendum question or would it just be put on the ballot.

Chairperson Hemmann responded that it would be put on the ballot because it is not binding.

Councilor Montinieri asked whether it would be binding on the Council or not binding at all.

Chairperson Hemmann responded that it is not binded at all.

Councilor Kotkin noted that this subject talks about reserve funds for capital and recurring expenses, and asked if the view on this would count for both capital work and equipment purchases.

Chairperson Hemmann responded that it is being looked at to clarify and better define it because this includes the total for adding potential for capital improvements. Also being looked at is clarifying and adding the money to the budget through a tax levy to get the roads up to the \$1.2 million on an annual basis. Further discussion is needed with regards to the funding of capital improvements and this should start with Budget and Finance about how that can be done.

Councilor Kotkin noted that his understanding then would be that the number would include the road work, building work and heavy equipment purchases.

Councilor Drake noted that this is the reason why it should be brought back to the Budget & Finance Committee so that the roads are separate from everything else.

Councilor McAlister noted that to review this in layman's terms, what is trying to be done is to first give it more transparency of what is being spent on roads, and secondly to make sure without future action from future Council, money will be dedicated to road repair.

Chairperson Hemmann responded that it is being reviewed to look at the best way to pay for road improvements and other capital projects.

Councilor Drake stated that one of the items discussed was the need to separate road work from other projects and have a specific levy for the roads.

Councilor Montinieri stated that as Deputy Mayor Console has previously suggested, the road issue should be "pay as you go." He added that there are two schools of thought, both of which have merit. He believed that bonding the entire amount allows for that to be spread out

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through 20 years reflecting the longevity of the project. He stated that both questions should be raised and residents should be allowed to decide between the two choices.

Councilor Manousos commented that when Budget & Finance comes back, there may not be a bond alternative and that residents should have all the facts.

Councilor Montinieri stated that residents should make that decision for the Council.

Councilor Manousos responded that residents can, after they are given the facts.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Hurley moved **“TO APPROVE THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$89,000 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT RESERVE FUND FOR THE PAYMENT OF OBLIGATIONS RELATED TO THE IMPROVEMENTS OF VARIOUS TOWN OWNED FACILITIES,”** seconded by Councilor McAlister.

Jeff Bridges reported that the State needs to be paid back, based upon their grant close out review. Staff is asking that \$89,000 be added to the appropriation of these projects to true up the books for these approved projects. He added that the State needs to be paid back \$672,465 and repay the Town cash \$477,624 that would be forwarded, as part of these projects. The amount to be bonded is \$795,000. This is being reviewed by the Budget and Finance Committee Thursday evening. Webster Bank, the Town’s Financial Advisor has negotiated a deal with Bank of America for 2.67% for 10 years. There is no rating or disclosure necessary which cuts the cost of issuance down to approximately \$24,000. Originally this number was over \$40,000.

Deputy Mayor Console commented that this resulted from an accounting error made eight to ten years ago and the Town needs to pay this. He also commented that this is a waste of money but that he will vote yes. He thanked the interim financial director who reviewed the books to make sure there were no other instances of this type of error.

Councilor Drake commented that the bookkeeping issue was one thing, but the Physical Services building matter was never bonded.

Councilor Kotkin thanked the current Town staff for going through the records and doing all the work that needed to be done to resolve this issue.

Jeff Bridges thanked Councilor Drake and Charlie Viani for working with the State to lower the fees.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

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#### OTHER BUSINESS

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT WITH DCS ENERGY FOR THE PLACEMENT OF SOLAR PANELS ON VARIOUS TOWN OWNED BUILDINGS, CONTINGENT UPON FINAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE**

**TOWN ATTORNEY, INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE, AND TOWN STAFF,”**  
seconded by Councilor Manousos.

Jeff Bridges reported that the Energy Committee has been working with Town staff and DCS Energy to evaluate various Town owned buildings to review which buildings would be appropriate. Original deadline for submission was October 15 but was moved up to September 1.

Mike Turner responded that all available Town owned buildings were reviewed and the selection was narrowed down to eight town/school buildings. DCS Energy is paid by State and Federal grants to furnish and install solar panels. DCS gets the energy credit and the Town gets the energy. At the end of five years, the contract with DCS for the solar panels is over and the Town owns the panels.

Chairperson Hemmann asked if there was an estimated value that the Town may get back from energy savings.

Mike Turner responded that DCS has estimated \$15,600/year.

Councilor Drake asked if the Town is responsible for any repair during the five years.

Mike Turner responded that the Town is responsible for repairs after the five year contract has expired. DCS is responsible for any repairs during the five year contract.

Deputy Mayor Console asked if the Town would be getting any input from Tremco, the Town's roofing contractor.

Mike Turner responded that Tremco has personally reviewed all of the site visits. He noted that installation on the flat roofs are not permanently affixed to the roofs. The installation on the slope roofs are permanently affixed to the roof.

Councilor Roberts asked if there were any other buildings in Towns have solar panels.

Mike Turner responded that the Community Center had been approved for solar panels, but the panels were never installed due to a problem with the main breaker of the building.

Chairperson Hemmann asked if the Town still has the solar panel, can it be installed on another building.

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Mike Turner responded that the Town does not physically have the solar panel because it would have been provided through a third party vendor. DCS had not seen a problem with the main breaker at the Community Center and have proposed a different methodology to backfeed into the system.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

### BIDS

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO AWARD A BID TO DBL CONTRACTING OF WETHERSFIELD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$21,710 FOR WINDOW REPLACEMENT AT FIREHOUSE ONE,”** seconded by Councilor McAlister.

Jeff Bridges reported the Engineering Staff prepared and solicited bids for the removal and replacement of 28 original windows at this 1978 facility. Windows were selected by the WVFD staff and have been approved by the Wethersfield Historic District Commission as appropriate replacements. The new windows will be double pane, low E glass panes set inside vinyl coated wood frames. The apparent low vendor is Doug Lisella of DBL Contracting LLC, a local Wethersfield vendor who has done previous work for the town and the WVFD. The project bid has exceeded the amount budgeted by \$9,700, therefore staff is requesting additional funds be drawn from the building window replacement CIP account, which was established specifically for widow replacement in Town buildings. According to the apparent low bidder, the budget was exceeded because of the upgraded style of windows that HDC approved, and the project must now address new DEEP lead abatement work procedures and the general rise in material costs over time.

Councilor Kotkin commented that previously the Town was seeking federal money for windows at Webb Elementary School and asked if there was presently an application for this project.

Jeff Bridges responded that this particular application was submitted at the same time the Neighbor to Neighbor Challenge application was submitted, but the Town was not awarded the grant.

Deputy Mayor Console commented that he has personally used this company at his home and they had done a great job and he also noted that it was nice to see a Wethersfield company awarded the bid.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO AWARD A BID TO CROWLEY FORD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$29,550 FOR A FORD F350 PICKUP TRUCK IN ACCORDANCE WITH SPECIFICATIONS; TO AWARD A BID TO NUTMEG INTERNATIONAL TRUCKS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$179,035 FOR A 2012 DUMP TRUCK IN ACCORDANCE WITH SPECIFICATIONS; AND TO AWARD A BID TO TURF PRODUCTS CORPORATION**

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**IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,890 FOR A GROUNDMASTER MOWER IN ACCORDANCE WITH SPECIFICATIONS,”** seconded by Councilor McAlister.

RaeAnn Palmer reported that these items were approved in the 2011-2012 budget and will be purchased off State bids. A 1995 dump truck and 1981 pickup truck are being replaced. Staff

completed an extensive analysis of alternative fuel vehicles and determined that the use of alternative fuels is not advised for the trucks. After reviewing options, staff found that the dump truck is not available in alternative fuel without a costly conversion kit to natural gas. The torque is significantly less with a natural gas engine, which would be a problem when the trucks push snow. In addition, the vehicles would have to leave Town to refuel, which will be impractical in a snow storm. All of the vehicles will be purchased through State of Connecticut bids.

Deputy Mayor asked about the status of vehicles at the Town garage.

RaeAnn Palmer responded that the garage is in pretty good shape but these new purchases do not completely replace the entire fleet.

Deputy Mayor Console asked if a new tree cutter will be in the next budget.

RaeAnn Palmer responded that it is planned in the CNF budget but there is the possibility of applying for a regional sharing grant as the Town already shares a tree crew with Newington.

Councilor Kotkin asked if he could review the analysis that was referenced, and asked if RaeAnn Palmer saw the applicability of natural gas for any Town vehicle, or is only the heavy dump trucks being looked at.

RaeAnn Palmer responded that she felt it would make sense if the Town looks at the inspectors' vehicles.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Hurley moved **“TO AUTHORIZE A CHANGE ORDER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,925 TO WESTPRO, LTD FOR REPLACEMENT OF SIDEWALK PANELS AT CHARLES WRIGHT SCHOOL,”** seconded by Councilor McAlister.

Jeff Bridges reported the BOE prepared bid documents for the replacement of sidewalks along the west side of Charles Wright School, from Nott Street to the building side entrance. The original budget set by CIAC was \$30,000. The low bid was received from Wespro LTD with a bid of \$13,850 and they were issued a purchase order. The BOE Maintenance staff is requesting Town Council award a \$6,925 change order to allow replacement of 900 SF of additional sidewalk slabs as required at the school. The total contract amount will exceed the \$20,000 purchasing threshold, prompting Town Council award, however costs will remain below the \$30,000 budgeted in the CIP.

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Deputy Mayor Console asked when the project would be started.

Mike Turner responded that it would have started today but will start as soon as the rain ends.

Deputy Mayor Console asked how long it will take to complete the project.

Mike Turner responded that it will be completed before school starts.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

#### ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

Introduction of bond ordinance for the Appropriation of \$5 million towards the redevelopment plan of the Berlin Turnpike/Nott Street project and authorizing the issue of bonds and notes to finance the portion of such appropriation not defrayed from grants.

Introduction of a bond ordinance for the appropriation of \$2 million for costs with respect to implementing the redevelopment plan for 1000 Silas Deane Highway and authorizing the issue of bonds and notes to finance the portion of such appropriation not defrayed by grants.

Councilors Drake, Hurley, Kotkin, Manousos, McAlister, Montinieri, Roberts, Deputy Mayor Console and Chairperson Hemmann agreed to have this introduced.

#### MINUTES

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 1, 2011”** seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilors McAlister and Roberts ABSTAINED. The motion passed 7-0-2.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Avenue, commented that he was surprised on the bond issue to help private developers and he was bothered that it was only two years ago that the Town bought the Wilkus Farm property to deter additional housing in Town. He also questioned why school projects are done while school is in session rather than during the summer.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, commented that he belongs to a number of organizations that deal with the economy and taxes and shared with Council a handout regarding economic issues with Connecticut towns and the State.

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George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, requested that Council members speak up while talking as it is difficult for some people to hear comments made. He commented on the need to let residents decide on issues and giving the residents an understanding of the options being offered.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive, Newington commented on the Cedar Mountain presentation and commented that both Wethersfield and Newington council meetings have similar discussions. She noted that Newington residents have only three minutes to speak at a Council meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:00 p.m., Councilor Roberts moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor McAlister.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano  
Town Clerk  
*Approved by vote of Council*  
*September 6, 2011*

