

**REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2011**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, December 5, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield.

Present: Councilors Drake, Hurley, Manousos, McAlister, Roberts and Deputy Mayor Console.

Absent: Councilors Kotkin, Montinieri and Chairperson Hemmann.

Also present: Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, RaeAnn Palmer, Assistant Town Manager, James Cetran, Chief of Police and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

Councilor McAlister led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Chairperson's Food Pantry Challenge: Deputy Mayor Console reported that in addition to food items brought in by Council, Amy Nix presented a check from an anonymous donor in the amount of \$1,000 for the fuel bank; Farley-Sullivan gave a check for \$200.00 for the fuel bank and Deputy Mayor Console and his wife, Laura Nash, gave a check of \$100.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Avenue, commented on the stop sign issue on Morrison Avenue, the High School renovation and the stop light at the intersection of Wolcott Hill Road and Rt. 175, which is impossible to see the green arrow light when facing east.

Joseph Soja, 30 Hedgewood Street, commented on his disappointment that the referendum failed and felt the Redevelopment Agency did not have the support of the Town Council and suggested finding a way to make the Silas Deane Highway project work before the owner backs out.

Amy Nix, 854 Ridge Road, commented that she voted against the two referendums because she feels the Town is not in the development business and is proud that residents voted against the referendum.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilor Manousos reported for the Redevelopment Agency, which discussed the outcome of the referendum, the future of the Redevelopment Agency and the possibility of modifying its role.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Deputy Mayor Console reported that there will be an additional flu clinic from December 13 from 3:30 to 5:30 in Council Chambers, the EDIC Salute to Business will be held Thursday,

December 8 from 5:30 to 8:30 at the Wethersfield Country Club and the Friends of the Library have rescheduled their book sale to Saturday, December 10 and Sunday, December 11.

### TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Jeff Bridges reported that the Town hired a radio consultant as part of the budget process. He reported also that the Legislature has finished its redistricting work and the Town has been notified that it can decrease the number of polling places from 10 to 6 and a map is being prepared to reflect the changes. He also reported that the Planning Commission will be meeting in January to take up the 8-24 referral for the renovation project at the high school..

### COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Drake moved **“TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF TIMOTHY TUELL, 886 RIDGE ROAD, FROM THE LIBRARY BOARD FOR THE TERM 8-17-2009 THROUGH 06-30-2012,”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

Councilor Drake noted that Mr. Tuell does a lot of volunteering in Town and asked that a letter of thanks be sent to him.

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

### OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Hurley moved **“TO RECOMMEND THAT THE WETHERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATION REFERENDUM BE HELD ON APRIL 24, 2012 WITH TEN POLLING PLACES,”** seconded by Councilor Drake.

Dolores Sassano explained that if March 13, 2012 date is selected, there would only be one polling location with four machines being utilized at a cost of \$12,000. If April 24, 2012 date is selected with ten polling places, it would be the same date as the Presidential Preferential Primary and there would be a major push for voters to participate, with an additional cost of \$12,000 to \$15,000.

Councilor Roberts commented that she would rather see the date set for March 13, 2012 and is against the April 24 date, because it is the same date as the Republican Primary, and there may be a mindset that non-republicans may feel that they do not need to go out and vote, and it may also be confusing if voters are asked to vote for two separate items, in which case the referendum will not be given a fair chance.

Councilor Manousos commented he felt it was not fair to use just one polling location.

Councilor Roberts responded that this is a massive project that the taxpayers will be funding and this isn't the time to not spend the extra money to have additional polling places.

Dolores Sassano explained that the machines are locked for 16 days after the primary, so if the referendum isn't voted on April 24, the earliest date a primary can be held is June 5.

Councilor Drake commented that he is for the high school project and wants to get as many people out as possible.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilor Roberts voted NAY. The motion passed 5-1-0.

Jeff Bridges reported that at the next meeting, there will be a resolution for a Public Hearing.

Councilor Manousos moved **“TO AUTHORIZE PARTICIPATION WITH THE CAPITOL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT’S REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM GRANTS FOR: A BACK OFFICE SERVICE SHARING STUDY; CAPTAIN 4G ENHANCEMENTS, GIS ENHANCEMENTS AND GIS FLIGHT AND MAPPING DATA, IT APPLICATION SHARING AND DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL ASSESSMENT STUDY,”** seconded by Councilor Drake.

Assistant Town Manager RaeAnn Palmer reported that this is the same program that the Town participated in to receive its Building Permit Application software.

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

Councilor Roberts moved **“TO AUTHORIZE PARTICIPATION IN THE REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM GRANT FOR EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING TO CREATE A MID-STATE REGIONAL MAJOR CRIME SQUAD”** seconded by Councilor McAlister.

RaeAnn Palmer reported that this is a grant offered by the State.

Chief Cetran reported that it is along the same model as the accident reconstruction and commercial enforcement which has worked well for the Town.

Deputy Mayor Console asked if this is something that the towns would take over from the State Police.

Chief Cetran responded that the State Police only come out for homicides and police shootings, which is dictated by the State's Attorney's office. He explained that this training would improve the level of skill for the officers.

Councilor Roberts commented that she felt this was a good idea but her concern is what would happen if there is a major event in two surrounding towns, how the staffing would be delegated along with the crime van.

Chief Cetran responded that there would like to have eight members on this team and the team could be split up with the skills levels that they have. He added that normally there are not two major crimes going on at the same time.

Councilor Hurley asked if there would be any ongoing costs.

Chief Cetran responded that the ongoing costs would be minimal, and may save money and it is a better service for all five communities.

Councilor Drake commented that the extra training would be beneficial, but felt that crime scene investigation should be coming from the State.

Chief Cetran responded that there is a level in which the State Police are called in and that is for a homicide or a police shooting. He explained that the Town has always handled their own crime scene investigation, but this will make it better.

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

Councilor Hurley moved **“TO APPROVE THE SCHEDULE OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR 2012”** seconded by Councilor Manousos.

**2011-2012 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING DATES**

January	3	(Tuesday due to New Year’s Holiday)
	17	(Tuesday due to Martin Luther King’s Day)
February	6	
	21	(Tuesday due to President’s Day)
March	5	
	19	
April	2	
	16	<b>Public Hearing</b>
May	7	
	*	(Budget Adoption- On or before May 15 <sup>th</sup> , date and time to be established)
	21	
June	4	
	18	
July	2	
	16	
August	6	
	20	

September	4	(Tuesday due to Labor Day)
	17	
October	1	
	15	
November	5	
	19	
December	3	
	17	

**\*Mandatory Meeting (Town Charter)**

**\*\*May be adjourned for continued budget deliberation**

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

Councilor Hurley moved **“TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR PREPARATION OF A SMALL CITIES PROGRAM GRANT ON BEHALF OF THE WETHERSFIELD HOUSING AUTHORITY TO COMMUNITY CONSULTING,”** seconded by Councilor McAlister.

RaeAnn Palmer reported that under the Community Development Block Grant “CDBG” regulations, the Town has to be the grant applicant and the Housing Authority would be the sub-application. The money would be used for improvements at their elderly housing at 60 Lancaster Road and for a consultant to work on the CDBG grant. If the grant is received, then the consultant is paid from the grant.

Councilor Manousos asked how many residents were at the elderly housing at 60 Lancaster Road.

RaeAnn Palmer responded 140.

Councilor Manousos asked how many seniors are living in elderly housing.

Deputy Mayor Console responded that he has that information and would forward it to Councilor Manousos.

Deputy Mayor Console asked if this information will be complete by January for the meeting with the Housing Authority.

RaeAnn Palmer responded that she wasn't sure if it would be completed by then.

Jeff Bridges added that the application needs to be completed by a certified administrator per federal guidelines.

RaeAnn Palmer commented that she has an email which outlines what is needed and what work needs to be done. She added that the Housing Authority has to pay for the architects' cost.

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

### MINUTES

Councilor Hurley moved **“TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2011”** seconded by Councilor McAlister.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilor McAlister ABSTAINED. The motion passed 5-0-1.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Avenue commented that he felt it was discouraging that some council members still want to work something out with the contractor, even after the referendum has failed. He also commented on the Ordinance regarding the responsibility of the sidewalk is that of the property owner, even though it is on Town property.

Deputy Mayor Console commented that there are a lot of needy people in Town and if people can help with the Fuel Bank and Food Bank, it would be greatly appreciated.

Councilor Hurley moved **“TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION,”** seconded by Councilor McAlister.

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

At 8:23 p.m., Councilor Hurley moved **“TO LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION,”** seconded by Councilor McAlister.

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:23 p.m., Councilor McAlister moved **"TO ADJOURN THE MEETING"** seconded by Councilor Manousos.

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

Dolores G. Sassano  
Town Clerk  
*Approved by vote of Council*  
*January 3, 2012*