

**REGULAR MEETING
JULY 6, 2010**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Tuesday, July 6, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield.

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

Absent: Councilors Hurley, Montinieri.

Also present: Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, Peter Gillespie, Town Planner, Mike Turner, Town Engineer, Kathy Bagley, Director of Recreation & Parks, RaeAnn Palmer, Assistant Town Manager, Marty Sitler, Recreation Supervisor, Lisa Hancock, Finance Director and Amy Bello, Assistant Town Clerk.

Deputy Mayor Console led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Peter Gillespie, Town Planner, presented the following report:

WELCOME!

- The former Green Bean Deli on Main Street is under new ownership and has reopened as The Cove Deli.
- Comstock Ferre has been purchased and has reopened under the same name. The new owner operates the Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Co.
- Heart of the Country has relocated to new space on Main Street next to Antiques On Main.
- The Governor's Prevention Partnership has moved to 30 Jordan Lane an Open House is scheduled for July 28.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

- Interior fit out is underway by the owner of 1260 Silas Deane Highway for renovation of remaining vacant space for to be used for additional medical office tenants.
- Exterior façade and Interior improvements are underway by the owner of 526 Silas Deane Highway (Ritz Camera).
- Exterior demolition is underway for a new façade at 990 Silas Deane Highway (Next To Mila Fabric).
- Plans have been filed for interior renovations for a new clothing store at 150 Silas Deane Highway.

OTHER NEWS AND INITIATIVES

Economic Development and Improvement Commission

- Wethersfield Shops Local program has been launched. To date we have signed up over 80 businesses to participate. We are in the midst of promoting the program to residents and we will soon be installing a series of light pole banners to further promote the program. On Friday June 25 the first of our monthly gift certificate drawings was held and we are happy to announce that Patricia Allen was the winner of the first \$100 gift certificate.

Tourism

- In partnership with the Wethersfield Historical Society and through a grant from the CT Commission on Culture and Tourism we have retained the **Pita Group** to evaluate our marketing efforts in order to determine opportunities to more cooperatively market programs and events with our other partners such as the Shopkeepers, the Historical Society, the Webb Deane Stevens Museum and others. A meeting was held on June 25 to review and discuss the draft Plan.
- Through an additional grant from the CT Commission on Culture and Tourism the Commission placed an ad in a magazine insert that appeared in a variety of newspapers in New Jersey, New York and Connecticut. To date, the Spring/Summer ad has generated over 2500 requests for information. A Fall ad is also planned.

Redevelopment Agency

- Continuing to look at development opportunities throughout the community. Meeting was held with property owner on Berlin Turnpike to discuss potential interest in partnerships.
- The agency presented a proposal from Bartram and Cochran to explore the redevelopment potential of a cluster of properties surrounding and including **1000 Silas Deane Highway** the former Foodways/Weight Watchers building. The agency met with the Town Council in May and agreed to pursue this project. The Town Attorney has prepared an agreement with the property to cost share.

Councilor Roberts commented that the Wethersfield Shops Local program is a fabulous program and asked how long the program will be running.

Peter Gillespie responded that the program will run until the end of the holiday season.

Councilor Roberts asked for the status of the Channel 14 building.

Peter Gillespie responded that renovations are continuing and it is available but no one has approached him for rental.

Deputy Mayor Console inquired about signage issue near the blind drive on Mr. Clynch's property on Marsh Street.

Peter Gillespie responded that Mr. Clynch may have an interest in changing the traffic flow on the property and it also depends on who the tenant may be and whether there will be a lot of traffic generated from the tenants. Peter Gillespie noted that the Town is willing to work with Mr. Clynch on the issue.

Deputy Mayor Console asked if there was discussion on what type of tenants could move into the property.

Peter Gillespie responded that when the property was first purchased, he did go over the issues with Mr. Clynch and noted that the property is not in a business zone.

Councilor McAlister inquired as to whether there is any follow up to a new business after a grand opening or ribbon cutting ceremony. He recently was at the Yuan Bistro and the food was great but there wasn't a lot of traffic.

Peter Gillespie stated that it depends on the business and whether or not the business contacts the Town. He explained that they try to assist them with contacts and advertising for Wethersfield Life and the Hartford Courant.

Councilor Manousos requested an update on the Berlin Turnpike apartment complex development.

Peter Gillespie responded that he hasn't heard anything regarding that property and explained that as reported at the last meeting, zoning regulations that needed to be modified have been modified. Additional applications have not been filed to date and the owner still needs to go to Wetlands, Design & Review and Planning and Zoning.

Deputy Mayor Console asked with regards to Mr. Clynch's property if the police department will be contacted with regards to the flow of traffic issues.

Peter Gillespie responded that they will work together with the police and Mr. Clynch to see what the needs are.

Councilor Drake inquired about the status of the Senior Citizen property on Ridge Road.

Peter Gillespie responded that things have been quiet but he understands that the Building Department has had conversations with the architect to try and see what can be done to keep costs down.

Councilor Drake asked if it is a cost issue or a funding issue to go forward with the project.

Peter Gillespie responded that it is both a project cost and how it relates to federal financing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gerry Orton, business consultant for Comstock Ferre commented that they are overjoyed with the reception they have gotten from the Town.

Jere Gettle thanked everyone for their support and interest and commented that they are looking forward to working with everyone to make Comstock Ferre a success.

Susan Butler, 8 Morrison Avenue, summarized the issues with Morrison Avenue regarding the assessment of \$1,000 for each Morrison Avenue resident. She asked why there was now a new choice offered of integral curbing and not the asphalt curbing. She also stated that any plan to reduce the width of the road is not prudent. Years ago, in order to make Morrison Avenue a thru road, the streets were made narrow when the sidewalks were installed. Susan Butler asked to have the asphalt curbs back.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, commented on the Gateway project off the I-91 highway and that stated that the bids received have been high and reminded everyone that we are in a recession. Suggested that the Town should cancel the present bid and review what the State bid was for the Merritt Parkway project. It was reported that the Merritt Parkway like fencing was \$60/foot while the Town Engineer is reporting \$85/foot. Mr. Young also commented on the Hartford Courant's article on the jobless rate in the country and suggested that the Town Council spend money as if it were their money.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Drake reported that the Infrastructure Committee met with the Morrison Avenue residents to go over what was thought to have been an agreement on a plan. There was some contention on what had been agreed upon. There was a closed ballot but because not all residents were there, he asked the Town Manager to send a letter to all the residents on the street regarding the two options. Councilor Drake explained that asphalt curbing on a concrete sidewalk is not a good way in the long term and the cost is more expensive. The goal is to know what is going to be decided on and then the Town Council can decide on the assessment.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor McAlister commented that he was in attendance for the office hours this past week and a resident did come in to discuss the Wilkus Farm Committee and wanted to commend the council members who wanted to wait to appoint the committee members. The resident also felt that the public should have the right to know of the individuals' background of who is appointed to committees and the expectations of committee members in terms of attendance, participation on other committees and performance on committees. The resident also thought that the office hours should be publicized more.

Councilor Manousos reported that Wethersfield hosted the Soccer Palooza Tournament on June 26 and thanked Marty Sitler and his crew and John Lamb for all their work preparing Millwoods and lining the fields. Councilor Manousos also requested gathering feedback from the Public Works Committee regarding selling town owned lots and pockets of land. He also asked if the Redevelopment Agency could look at the 33 acre site located in the 2-91 Corridor which the Town owns. He stated that it could be a potential development site and asked if there would be Town support on that idea.

Councilor Kotkin stated that the previous night he and his family were looking for a place to swim and first went to Mill Woods which was closing and then headed to Greenfield Pool which was opened for additional hours. He noted that he thought the Town added hours to the pools during extreme heat time and asked how people would know that pools would be opened for additional hours.

Councilor Drake spoke about the School Building Commission for Wethersfield High School and Hanmer School and noted that the Committee would be meeting with the architect at 6:30 p.m. on July 7, 2010 and noted that it would be educational information for the Council.

Councilor Roberts announced that Susan Kopecki, the art teacher from Highcrest, received a grant to study in Japan for three weeks this summer and while there will be visiting our sister city, Nagayo. Councilor Roberts also noted that Ms. Kopecki was given a Proclamation to present to our sister city and commented that it was nice that we are continuing to maintain our friendship with our sister city.

Chairperson Hemmann requested additional information to be included with the Proclamation such as the Town's Annual Report and our Tourism flyer, etc.

Deputy Mayor Console reported that this past weekend he visited the Town Hall in Kingston, Ontario, Canada and commented that the people there had heard of Wethersfield, Connecticut which he found interesting. He noted that he had opportunity to sit in the Mayor's chair and added that the Mayor wears a chain of medals at each meeting which includes each of the past mayors and weighs about 30 pounds. Deputy Mayor Console also commented on the positive articles in the Hartford Courant about the Silas Deane House and Comstock Ferre. He also commented that while meeting the local shopkeepers he was asked who was on the Town Council and how everyone fits into the picture. Deputy Mayor Console suggested that a group of Councilors join him in the next several weeks to visit business owners up and down the Silas Deane Highway and do a meet and greet. Deputy Mayor Console who is the liaison for the Housing Authority also reported that he had a conference call with the Housing Authority regarding police problems and has requested statistics from the Chief of Police. He included in tonight's Council packets information on the lease agreements and noted that these issues have been overlooked for some time and felt it was important to know who is living there and how the residents act. Deputy Mayor Console reported that he has received about a dozen calls from residents complaining about the \$75.00 launching fee for kayaks, which is the same charge as for a power boat. He said he would bring this matter before Council to see if anyone else had any thoughts about the cost. He also commented on the work being done at Comstock Ferre. Deputy Mayor Console also commented that we all need to be aware of what we can and cannot afford and referenced a Hartford Courant editorial by Bert Hamilton of Enfield regarding how the mid-size towns are being squeezed with pension costs and contracts.

Chairperson Hemmann noted the upcoming events: Wethersfield Police Department K-9 Unit's Golf Tournament on July 19; the Farmer's Market has extended its hours to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday nights and the 2010 Special Olympics Motorcycle Rally will be on July 25.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Jeff Bridges reported that he has received correspondence from CRRA notifying the Town that due to certain contractual quirks that they are interpreting, the Town has until January 1, 2011 to decide whether or not to sign a new municipal services agreement ("MSA") with them for solid waste disposal services but Jeff Bridges notes that he felt that their interpretation is in error and will notify them accordingly. Their interpretation in their MSA is that within 180 days from CRRA's notification to the Town of the final bond payment date we have to make a decision. His interpretation is that within 180 days of them notifying the Town that the bond has been retired which would make it well into 2013.

Councilor McAlister inquired about housing options regarding tax abatement programs in town.

Jeff Bridges noted that he has researched the statutes and there is a hazard rehabilitation program that allows for a temporary abatement or phased out abatement of improvements to structures, and there is also the ability to add a registration fee for abatement and parcels.

COUNCIL ACTION

Deputy Mayor Console moved **"TO APPOINT COLLEEN SHERIDAN OF 31 MAIN STREET TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FOR A TERM BEGINNING JULY 6, 2010 AND EXPIRING 6-30-15 AND BRENDANT FLYNN OF 109 SPRINGDALE ROAD TO THE GREATER HARTFORD TRANSIT DISTRICT FOR A TERM BEGINNING 7-6-10 AND EXPIRING 6-30-14"** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Deputy Mayor Console moved to **"TABLE THE APPOINTMENT OF COLLEEN SHERIDAN TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY."**

Councilor Manousos asked if this decision is a reflection of a conversation he had with a resident about knowing the background of the individuals, why they are good for the committees, how they served on previous committees.

Chairperson Hemmann noted that the process will take a bit longer.

Councilor Manousos seconded the motion.

Deputy Mayor Console withdrew his amendment and main motion.

Deputy Mayor Console moved to **“APPOINT BRENDAN T. FLYNN OF 109 SPRINGDALE ROAD TO THE GREATER HARTFORD TRANSIT DISTRICT FOR A TERM BEGINNING 7-6-10 AND EXPIRING 6-30-14,”** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilor McAlister abstained. The motion passed 6-0-1.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO ACCEPT THE BID FROM TOTAL FENCE LLC FOR \$195,083 FOR THE INSTALLATION OF WOOD GUIDERAIL AND LANDSCAPING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE MARSH STREET GATEWAY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BID SPECIFICATIONS AND TO AUTHORIZE A TRANSFER FROM THE CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$38,683”** seconded by Councilor McAlister.

Jeff Bridges noted that the Council has tabled this item at the two previous Town Council meetings and it was also discussed at the Infrastructure Sub-Committee. The current low bid with modification is \$211,000 and an additional \$38,000 is needed to fully fund the project.

Councilor Drake noted that this matter was discussed at the Infrastructure Committee meeting and had the understanding that \$155,000 was available and RaeAnn Palmer said that an additional \$25,000 was available from the Preserve America Fund because the Town needed to get to \$180,000 and he now wanted to know why the amount is different now.

Jeff Bridges responded that there are additional tasks that need to be done for the project to be completed.

Councilor Drake stated that he thought that everything didn't need to be accomplished for the project to get done.

Mike Turner noted that what was missing at the Infrastructure Committee meeting was the three components of the grant from RaeAnn Palmer which total \$40,000 so with the \$180,000 available and the \$40,000 is deducted, the amount is down to \$140,000 and that isn't enough to add very much wooden guide rail. Staff contacted each of the three vendors that had bid on the project originally and asked them for a budget number to swap out the three cable guide rail with 100% wooden guide rail without having to go out and rebid.

Councilor Drake noted that since the \$180,000 will not be enough where can money be pulled from now.

Councilor Manousos asked for clarification also on the numbers.

RaeAnn Palmer explained that the actual grant from the State of Connecticut is for \$115,000, and there is also a \$90,000 grant from the federal government for the signage and the Gateway Project for a total \$155,000 which was the \$115,000, the \$40,000 from the capital budget which is the actual match for the signage. In addition there is a \$25,000 match which is from the Preserve America grant.

Councilor Drake asked if the Town cannot come up with the additional money, then the project cannot be done with all wood.

RaeAnn Palmer responded that the project could go out to rebid again.

Deputy Mayor Console asked when the bids were done.

RaeAnn Palmer responded that the bids went out 90 days ago and expire at the end of July.

Deputy Mayor Console asked if there is a time issue with the state grant money.

RaeAnn Palmer responded that she doesn't believe there is a term on it but she would confirm that.

Mike Turner noted that the bids went out April 28.

Councilor Manousos asked if information was received from the Department of Transportation regarding traffic count coming off of the Marsh Street exit.

Mike Turner responded that the Town did a traffic count about five or six year ago and the average daily traffic count then was 5,611 and he presumes that the count has gone up substantially and noted that Marsh Street is more than a residential road.

Councilor Manousos noted that he would prefer using the grant money instead of the Town money if the traffic count is only 5,600 and asked is it worth spending the money on if there isn't a lot of traffic.

RaeAnn Palmer noted that she will be speaking with Lt. Power who will try to get more updated traffic counts for that area.

Chairperson Hemmann asked if Council wants to move this matter along or reject the bid and go back out to rebid.

Councilor Manousos noted that he thought it was worth trying to go out to bid again.

Councilor Drake asked what would happen if the bid doesn't come in lower and asked how important all wood guide rails are.

Deputy Mayor Console responded that Senator Fonfara was adamant that he was able to get the money he did because he sold it as getting all wood railing.

Chairperson Hemmann noted that this option does secure that opportunity and completes the wood fencing for the guiderails for a total of \$218,683 and also has the additional items and this would include the \$38,000 from the Capital Reserve.

Councilor Drake stated that it didn't want to take any money from the Town.

Jeff Bridges noted that without wood rails, the cost would be \$108,000.

Councilor Drake asked Mike Turner how bids on other projects were coming in.

Mike Turner noted that over the last six months, bids are not coming in much lower overall and the cost of steel has increased.

Councilor Roberts noted that this project needs to get done. The Marsh Street exit is the first thing people see getting off the highway of Wethersfield and at this time it is not attractive and suggested to move the matter along.

Councilor Kotkin noted that this matter should move forward and asked if there is a hybrid solution to this matter such as using wood rail where it is visible and the cable wiring where vegetation can cover the railing.

Chairperson Hemmann stated that it sounds like a combination of the original bid with some wood guiderail and the Town has until July 28 to use the bid.

Mike Turner noted that if they were to look at the \$38,000 the difference between the wood guiderails vs. the three cable rail is \$60.00 a linear foot.

Councilor Drake noted that he would like to see the project done correctly with as much wood as possible.

Deputy Mayor Console noted that when projects are done in bits and pieces, the projects are never done right, and he doesn't want to see that happen with this project and noted that this is the entrance to a town that is 375 years old and it should look nice. Deputy Mayor Console asked if the east side of Marsh Street belongs to the State of Connecticut or the Town.

Mike Turner responded that the Town has a typical 50 foot road right-away so ten feet off the edge of the road is town property and the rest is State property.

Chairperson Hemmann noted that at the request of the council at the last meeting, the figure that is presently reflected is getting done what was requested to be done.

Councilor Manousos suggested that there may be other alternatives such as having someone sponsor the landscaping in front of the guardrails.

Chairperson Hemmann noted that the Town needs to be careful that we follow the guidelines of the Preserve America Grant because it does include landscaping.

Councilor McAlister suggested going to businesses that benefit from the entrance and ask if they are willing to help the town out and put wood rails.

Chairperson Hemmann noted there isn't enough time to do that.

Councilor Manousos asked if this is spending more than the \$40,000.

RaeAnn Palmer noted that the Town needs to spend \$155,000 for the grant.

Councilor McAlister seconded the motion.

Councilor Roberts and Chairperson Hemmann voted AYE. Councilors Drake, Kotkin, Manousos, McAlister and Deputy Mayor Console voted NAY. The motion failed 2-4-1.

Councilor Drake moved to **"TO REALLOCATE \$180,000 TO MAXIMIZE THE USE OF WOOD GUIDERAILS,"** seconded by Deputy Mayor Console.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-1-0. Chairperson Hemmann voted nay.

Deputy Mayor Console moved **"TO CREATE THE WILKUS FARM AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR A WORKING PERIOD OF APPROXIMATELY 8 WEEKS FROM THE DAY OF ORGANIZATION WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS. THE NON-VOTING CHAIRMAN WILL BE COUNCILOR DAVID DRAKE. THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE WILL BE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE OPTIONS FOR USES OF THE PROPERTY AND WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS AND COSTS OF REUSING THE HOUSE AND BARN. ALSO, THIS COMMITTEE WILL LOOK AT RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF THE SITE:**

JOE HICKEY	D	28 MEADOW VIEW DRIVE
BILL KNAPP	U	171 COLLIER RD

RICK GARREY	D	35 HARDING ST
MIKE RAFFALO	U	101 CEDAR STREET
INGRID BOELHOUWER	R	359 PINE LANE”

The motion failed to get a second.

Councilor Drake moved **“TO CREATE THE WILKUS FARM AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR A WORKING PERIOD OF APPROXIMATELY 8 WEEKS FROM THE DAY OF ORGANIZATION WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS. THE VOTING CHAIRMAN WILL BE COUNCILOR DAVID DRAKE. THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE WILL BE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING OPTIONS FOR USES OF THE PROPERTY. ALSO THIS COMMITTEE WILL LOOK AT RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF THE SITE.**

JOE HICKEY	D	28 MEADOW VIEW DRIVE
BILL KNAPP	U	171 COLLIER RD
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MIKE RAFFALO	U	101 CEDAR STREET
INGRID BOELHOUWER	R	359 PINE LANE.”

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Console.

Jeff Bridges noted that with this motion, the use of the house and barns will not reviewed.

Councilor Drake noted that it has been determined already that the Town doesn't have the money to renovate the house and the barns and he doesn't want the Committee bogged down with those issues and instead focus on the rules and regulations for the property

Jeff Bridges asked what the function and role of the Committee then.

Councilor Roberts asked Councilor Drake if his idea was not to do the benefits and costs of the house and the barns.

Councilor Drake responded that there wouldn't be enough time to work out all the details of the house and barns and the rules and regulations of the land in the eight weeks.

Jeff Bridges suggested that the motion include the potential use or non use of the house and barns.

Councilor Roberts noted her concern regarding the vague language of the motion and asked what the parameters would be for the Committee.

Chairperson Hemmann noted it should be to make recommendations to the rules and regulations to the Council.

Councilor Kotkin moved to **“AMEND THE MOTION TO ADD ‘MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE TOWN COUNCIL REGARDING THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE SITE’ TO THE LAST SENTENCE,”** seconded by Deputy Mayor Console.

Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE to the amendment. Councilors Manousos and McAlister voted NAY. The motion passed 5-2-0.

Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE to the motion as amended. Councilors Manousos and McAlister voted NAY. The motion passed 5-2-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO AUTHORIZE A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$95,489 FROM UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE TO DEPARTMENT 1935, DISASTER RECOVERY”** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Jeff Bridges reported:

“A supplemental appropriation transfer request from Finance Director Lisa Hancock, which include a memorandum of explanation and a tornado expenses summary. Ms. Hancock is requesting a supplemental appropriation of \$95,489 from undesignated fund balance to the Disaster Recovery department to offset the remaining unbudgeted expenditures for storm cleanup in fiscal year 2009-2010. The \$95,489 insurance payment is in process and when received will be deposited as revenue and will become part of the undesignated fund balance to replace this appropriation. This appropriation will cover the cost of the playground equipment to Mill Woods Park, trees and computer equipment.”

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

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO BEGIN THE PERMIT AND APPROVAL PROCESS WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR THE NEW DOCS AND BOAT RAMP AT COVE PARK”** seconded by Councilor Manousos.

Jeff Bridges reported

“On July 20, 2009 Town Council accepted a positive § 8-24 referral from the Planning and Zoning Commission for the proposed changes to the docks and boat ramp at Cove Park and authorized staff to begin the permit and review process that must be followed to complete this project. Parks and Recreation Director Kathleen Bagley has completed the local review process and is seeking authorization to begin the review process with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The attached memorandum from Ms. Bagley provides more information about the

project and approval process. Included in Town Council packets, but not attached, is a copy of the original report on this project, including drawings and pictures of the proposed docks and boat ramp. (Copies for residents to view will be available in the Town Clerk's Office and the Library). Once completed, this project will provide access to the boating facilities at high water levels and reduce maintenance costs through the replacement of the deteriorated docks and boat ramp. Staff is seeking grant opportunities for this project and boating fees will also help to defray the cost. This project has been identified in the Parks and Recreation Department's Capital Improvement Plan. Ms. Bagley will be at the meeting to make a brief presentation on the project and to answer questions."

Kathy Bagley reported that the Cove Park and Docks and Boat Ramp project has been in the works since the Wethersfield Cove Park Master Plan was organized in 2000 and was one of the recommendations that came out of the this was to replace the docks and boat ramp. An engineering firm was hired because the deteriorating docks and different proposals were submitted. The final plan is for a one dock floating system with the boat launch adjacent to the dock.

Councilor Manousos asked if there were any other communities that have the elastic dock system that is being proposed.

Marty Sitler responded that the Yale Crew on the Housatonic River has this system and was designed by the same engineering firm that has designed the dock for Wethersfield.

Councilor Manousos asked how the dock is disassembled.

Marty Sitler responded that the floating dock is disassembled from the surface and is an all weather system.

Councilor Drake asked how long the permit is good for.

Kathy Bagley responded that the permit is good for three years unless the DEP makes any major changes. It will take approximately a year to go through the DEP process.

Councilor Kotkin asked if the Town will need outside assistance in preparing and filing the answers to the DEP questions.

Kathy Bagley responded that the Town was granted funds through the CIP program for \$25,000 for the engineer to work with the consultant to go through the DEP process.

Councilor Kotkin asked if the amount of the grant would be enough to complete the process.

Kathy Bagley responded that yes it would.

Councilor Kotkin asked if there was an estimate as to how much time and money will be saved by having this new system versus the old system of having to remove the docks yearly.

Marty Sitler responded that with the old docks, it would take a couple of days for three or four maintenance people to install and remove the docks each time. With the new floating dock, it will reduce maintenance time, improve safety and give high water access.

Deputy Mayor Console noted that the Wethersfield Cove is a diamond in the rough and it's going to take time to improve the Cove but added that the project should be done right so that it lasts.

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

BIDS

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO WAIVE THE BID REQUIREMENT AND TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A FORD EXPLORER AND FORD EXPEDITION TO MORANDE FORD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$49,370 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND SIGN A FINANCING /LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR THE VEHICLES WITH THE LEASE COMPANY THAT OFFERS THE MOST FAVORABLE TERMS TO THE TOWN”** seconded by Councilor Drake.

Jeff Bridges reported:

“The FY 2010-11 CNEF (Capital Nonrecurring Equipment Fund) Budget includes funds for the lease purchase of equipment, including a Ford Explorer for the Fire Marshal and a Ford Expedition to be used as a Police Sergeant's vehicle. Although Crowley Ford LLC is the State of Connecticut contract holder for both vehicles, staff was able to solicit lower pricing on both vehicles from Morande Ford. The Ford Explorer price, with a wheel size increase, from Morande Ford is \$23,975 and \$24,175 from Crowley Ford. The Ford Expedition price from Morande Ford is \$25,395 and \$26,589 from Crowley Ford. Staff, therefore, is requesting a bid waiver for both vehicles and award to Morande Ford. The purchase will occur as part of the negotiated lease for all of the approved equipment. The lease will have a three year term and the Town will own the equipment at the end of the term.”

Deputy Mayor Console inquired as to what is going to happen with the Fire Marshal's car that he presently has.

Jeff Bridges responded that the car will be sold and the money will be put back into the Capital Nonrecurring Equipment Fund Budget.

Deputy Mayor Console asked about the police vehicle and was it something that had already been approved earlier.

Jeff Bridges responded that it was part of the Capital Nonrecurring Equipment Fund along with the police cruisers.

Councilor Drake stated that he felt this was going in the wrong direction and asked why the Fire Marshal needs a large vehicle and why the police sergeant needs the Expedition.

Jeff Bridges stated that the decision to go to a larger vehicle for the Fire Marshal was because of the equipment that is needed both for the Fire Marshal position and the equipment that is needed as he is a firefighter also. He also noted that the Ford Expedition for the police is used by the Sergeant and is also used to transport police officers while in training.

Councilor Drake asked why the police officers couldn't use their individual cars to go to training.

Jeff Bridges noted that the larger vehicle would still be needed.

Councilor Roberts stated that the Town isn't very big to have an Expedition as a duty vehicle and asked if there was something other that could be used. She stated that her concern was the mileage being used for traveling around town.

Jeff Bridges stated that the selection of the vehicle can be revisited.

Deputy Mayor Console asked where the police train.

Jeff Bridges responded that it is wherever they hold training sessions.

Councilor Manousos asked how often the police train.

Jeff Bridges responded that training is done every week.

Councilor Roberts noted that every officer needs to be recertified every three years.

Councilor Manousos stated that this decision should be based on a long term basis.

Deputy Mayor Console moved to **“AMEND THE MOTION TO REMOVE THE FORD EXPEDITION FROM THE BID WAIVER AND TO AWARD THE BID WAIVER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,975 FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL'S VEHICLE,”** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Councilor Roberts noted that this matter needs to review the energy issues and the costs.

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

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A LEAF VACUUM TO THE ODB COMPANY FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$24,631 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND SIGN A FINANCING/LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR THE LEAF MACHINE WITH THE LEASE COMPANY THAT OFFERS THE MOST FAVORABLE TERMS TO THE TOWN”** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Jeff Bridges reported:

“The FY 2010-11 CNEF (Capital Nonrecurring Equipment Fund) Budget includes funds for the lease purchase of equipment, including a leaf machine/vacuum. With the acquisition of this vacuum, all leaf pick up equipment will be remotely operated. Staff is requesting your authorization for a bid waiver to purchase the equipment from ODB. Town Council has previously authorized bid waivers to purchase leaf machines from this vendor because the manufacturer of the Town’s original equipment went out of business, requiring staff to find machines that would be compatible with the Town’s existing leaf boxes. ODB’s leaf machine works well with the Town’s equipment. The first one was purchased in 2006. This is the fifth leaf machine requested and it will replace the last hand held leaf vacuum. The vendor will provide the equipment at the State of Pennsylvania contract price, at a cost of \$24,631, which is last year’s price. The purchase will occur as part of the negotiated lease for all of the approved equipment. The lease will have a three year term and the Town will own the equipment at the end of the term.”

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

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO AUTHORIZE A BID WAIVER FOR THE PURCHASE OF TAX COLLECTION SOFTWARE, INCLUDING ANNUAL SUPPORT AND WEB-HOSTING, FROM QUALITY DATA SERVICES AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN AMNAGER TO SIGN A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE”** seconded by Councilor Manousos.

Jeff Bridges reported:

“Finance Director Lisa Hancock is requesting a bid waiver to award a contract to Quality Data Service, Inc. for the purchase of tax collection software as discussed during the budget process. After reviewing available software, staff is recommending that the product offered by Quality Data will provide the best solution to improve work flow and customer service in the Tax Office, as well as the Assessor’s Office. Attached is a memorandum from Ms. Hancock that provides detailed benefits to the organization from this software. The implementation of this software will also allow residents to access their tax information via the internet. Ms. Hancock was able to negotiate a multi-year purchase, detail attached, that will minimize the impact on the budget. The annual support fees and web-hosting were waived for the first year of the contract. Staff will be present at the meeting to answer questions.”

Councilor Drake asked what the purpose of the web hosting was.

Lisa Hancock responded that web hosting would allow the residents to pay on line and research their records.

Councilor Kotkin asked if the cost was \$182,500 over a seven year period.

Lisa Hancock responded that it was and this included the support fees and the web hosting fees and the cost of the software.

Councilor Kotkin asked if the Town remained with MUNIS, what cost would be paid over the seven years.

Lisa Hancock responded that it would be \$70,000 for the cost of the software and there are issues with the software that takes up additional time for the staff.

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

MINUTES

Deputy Mayor Console moved **"TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2010 WITH CORRECTIONS"** seconded by Councilor Manousos.

Councilors Drake and Manousos, Deputy Mayor Console and Chairperson Hemmann voted AYE. Councilor Kotkin, McAlister and Roberts abstained. The vote 4-0-3.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Barbara Ruhe, 79 Main Street commented how happy she was with the purchase of the Wilkus Farm property, suggested that the Town set up a Facebook page to advertise town council hours and other information. With regards to the Morrison Avenue, she suggested perhaps the street could be striped or make the street one-way. She also commented on the Marsh Street wood guard rails and questioned the cost of launching a canoe in the cove.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:22 p.m., Deputy Mayor Console moved **"TO ADJOURN THE MEETING"** seconded by Councilor McAlister. 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 19, 2010