

Unapproved
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 18, 2009

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, May 18, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Silas Deane Middle School.

Present: Councilors Cascio, Console, Forrest, Hemmann, Kotkin, Roberts, Walsh, Deputy Mayor Montinieri, and Chairperson Adil.

Also present: Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

REPORT FROM THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE COMMITTEE – LARRY SPELLACY

Larry Spellacy, 215 Pine Lane, Chairperson of the Memorial Day Parade Committee, said that the Memorial Day Parade is this Saturday, May 23rd at 9:00 a.m. He said that there will be five bands marching in the parade along with military and youth organizations and community groups. There will be a reenactment at the Webb Deane Stevens Museum on Saturday and the reenactors have been invited to march in the parade. Phil Cashman, a World War II Veteran will be this year's Parade Marshal. Judy Keane will be the speaker. The theme of the parade is – Honoring Military and Their Families. At the conclusion of the parade at the Village Cemetery, the 8th grade essay contest winner, Melissa Reed will read her essay and doves will be released. The American Legion and the Boy Scout troops put 726 flags on graves at the Village Cemetery. Dan Camilliere will be master of ceremonies.

Larry Spellacy led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk, took attendance.

HEARINGS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, said that he is glad to hear that the budget was adopted but was disappointed that the Town Council didn't make the cuts that it should have made. He said that a lot of cuts could have been made on the Board of Education side. Special education costs are too high. They should be reduced by 25 percent.

Brian Skeeahan, 105 Straddle Hill, said that if you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem. He thanked the Town Council for its hard work. He has been in Town for 30 years and he has never been happier living here in Town.

COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMENTS

Councilor Walsh said that the Infrastructure Committee met and is setting up a meeting with residents on Morrison Avenue. He said that the Infrastructure Committee will meet with the Energy Committee to discuss streetlight energy reduction.

Councilor Cascio said that the Chamber of Commerce held its Annual Meeting last week. The Chamber raised enough money to provide 5 scholarships for high school students. The Chamber of Commerce is celebrating its 25th anniversary at the Cornfest on September 12th.

Councilor Roberts said that the Shared Services Committee met and received a presentation by Councilor Forrest on electricity procurement for the Town and Board of Education. The Committee also discussed alternative schematics for traffic by the middle school on Church Place with the Director of Public Works. She said that the Superintendent of Schools is drafting a health care reserve fund plan. Finally, the Committee is discussing consolidation of services, particularly IT and Human Resources.

Councilor Kotkin said that the architect is coming tomorrow to inspect the Mill Woods Little League field to see if play can begin on the field. The dedication ceremony will be in June. The scoreboard and lights are working. Some additional work needs to be done on the ADA compliance with the press box.

Councilor Forrest said that the Energy Committee will be working on a request for proposal for energy procurement and will work with the Infrastructure Committee on streetlight energy savings. He said that the Conservation Commission met and discussed the finalization of the Beaver Brook plan and is looking at its implementation. The Committee is also reviewing the open space inventory in Town.

Chairperson Adil said that the Town will look at energy savings for stadium lighting with stimulus funds.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri said that the Economic Development Improvement Commission (EDIC) met and is active with establishing a Farmers Market in front of the Keeney Center on Thursday nights. The products will not draw business away from the farms in Town. The EDIC also wanted to share its appreciation that its budget priorities were revisited. The Commission will continue to provide support to the Town and community. The Committee is also looking at ways to reduce its costs.

Councilor Roberts said that she would like to publicly acknowledge Larry Spellacy's work on the Memorial Day Parade Committee. It is a pleasure to work with him. He always has the best interest of the veterans in mind.

Councilor Walsh said that last week was busy with the adoption of the budget and passing of the referendum. He thanked all employees for working as a team and making concessions. He said that it is a big deal and really shows the community spirit in Wethersfield. He thanked all the folks who worked to pass the referendum and said that it was a big victory.

Councilor Console thanked Beth Hacket for talking with him she came away knowing that he attacks issues and not people. He said that the article in the newspaper addressing the “silent majority” was aimed at him. He looks forward to seeing her in the future. He said that the phrase was used by Calving Coolidge, Richard Nixon, Rudy Guliani, and Michael Bloomberg. He said that he was not on the Town Council when the new police station was built and would not have support it. He does support the Library and feels that it is appropriately funded this year.

Chairperson Adil said that:

- The Cystic Fibrosis Walk was held yesterday. It had a great turnout.
- Webb Deane Stevens Museums will have a reenactment camp set up this weekend from 10:00a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and is free to the public.
- The Dollars for Scholars Awards program is May 27th at 7:30 p.m.
- The Volunteer Firefighters are hosting a Tip the Fire Fighter for Autism on May 27th at the Wood ‘n Tap.
- He wanted to remind residents that tag sale signs must be taken down on Sundays and can’t be posted on telephone poles. There is a Town ordinance and residents will be fined.
- He wanted to echo Councilor Walsh’s comments. He is pleased that staff stepped up to bat with concessions so that the Town Council was able to cut the budget. He also commended the Town Manager for her work in preparing the budget.
- He thanked the key players in the referendum who helped to get people out to vote on the Wilkus Farm and was pleased to see residents from both parties working together.

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Cascio moved **“TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATIONS OF SETH M. ENGLISH FROM THE SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND ANTHONY MARGIOTTA FROM THE DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE”** seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

Chairperson Adil asked that a letter of appreciation be sent.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Kotkin moved “**TO AUTHORIZE THE ATTACHED FEE SCHEDULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010, INCLUDING THE PROPOSED FEE INCREASES AND ELIMINATIONS**” seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Department/Function	Other/State Fee	Town Fee	Total Fee
ALL Departments (except Library)			
Photocopies per page		\$0.50	\$0.50
Notary Fees		\$5.00	\$5.00
Animal Control			
Pick Up Roaming Dog/Impoundment	\$77.00		\$77.00
Daily Board Fee		\$15.00	\$15.00
Dog License			
Neutered	\$8.00		\$8.00
Un-neutered	\$19.00		\$19.00
Adoption/sterilization/vaccination	\$45.00	\$5.00	\$50.00
Building Department			
Building Permit	0.16 Per \$1000	\$30.00 first \$1000; \$16.00 each addl \$1000	\$30.00 first \$1000; \$16.00 each addl \$1000
Certificate of Occupancy			
Residential		\$30.00	\$30.00
Commercial		\$70.00	\$70.00
ZBA Application	\$30.00	\$125.00	\$155.00
Zoning Regulations		\$20.00	\$20.00
Zoning Maps		\$10.00	\$10.00
Zoning Permits			
Residential		\$100.00	\$100.00
Commercial		\$100.00	\$100.00
Historic Dist Comm App		\$25.00	\$25.00
Historic Dist Handbook		\$10.00	\$10.00
Inoperable Car Permit		\$50.00	\$50.00
Community Center			
Rental Rates available @ Parks & Rec			
Engineering Department			
Aerial Map Blueprints		\$7.50	\$7.50
Other Blueprints		\$7.50	\$7.50
Contractor License			
First Year		\$75.00	\$75.00
Renewal		\$50.00	\$50.00

Unapproved

Street Map		\$7.50	\$7.50
Subdivision Map		\$7.50	\$7.50
Driveway & Excavation Permits		\$40.00	\$40.00
GIS Maps		\$4.00/\$10.00	\$4.00/\$10.00
GIS Data - CD		\$10.00	\$10.00
GIS Data - Floppy		\$2.00	\$2.00
GIS Programming per 1/4 hour		\$15.00	\$15.00
Xerox Mylar's		\$7.50	\$7.50
Survey Monuments		\$60.00	\$60.00
Fire Department			
Blasting Permit		\$20.00	\$20.00
Boat Rescue per event		\$250.00	\$250.00
Pumping Water/sewage			
Commercial per hour		\$100.00	\$100.00
Inland Wetlands			
Private Residential Permit			
Summary-no significant activity	\$30.00	\$75.00	\$105.00
Plenary-significant activity	\$30.00	\$125.00	\$155.00
Developer/Commercial/Industrial			
Summary-no significant activity	\$30.00	\$50.00	\$80.00
Plenary-significant activity	\$30.00	\$125.00	\$155.00
Regulations		\$10.00	\$10.00
Wetland Map		\$7.50	\$7.50
Wetland Regulations		\$10.00	\$10.00
Photocopies		\$0.50	\$0.50
Map Amendments	\$30.00	\$125.00	\$155.00
Regulations Amendments	\$30.00	\$125.00	\$155.00
Subdivisions			
Maps		\$7.50	\$7.50
Regulations		\$20.00	\$20.00
Modification of Permit	\$30.00	\$50.00	\$80.00
Library			
Overdue Books - per day		\$0.10	\$0.10
Overdue Videos & CD's - per day		\$1.00	\$1.00
Photocopies		\$0.15	\$0.15
Computer Printing per page		\$0.10	\$0.10
Blank Computer Disc		\$1.00	\$1.00
Planning & Zoning Department			
Site Plan Approval	\$30.00	\$200.00	\$230 plus \$25/\$1000 sf GFA or \$25/Dwelling Unit
Special Exception	\$30.00	\$200.00	\$230.00
Zone Change	\$30.00	\$250.00	\$280.00
Subdivision & Re-subdivision	\$30.00	\$200.00 & \$50.00 per lot	\$230.00 & \$50.00 per lot

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Subdivision & Zoning Regulations		\$20.00	\$20.00
Town Plan Of Development		\$20.00	\$20.00
App to modify prior approvals/minor	\$30.00	\$200.00	\$230 plus \$25/\$1000 sf GFA or \$25/Dwelling Unit
Zoning Regulation Changes	\$30.00	\$100.00	\$130.00
Subdivision Regulation Changes	\$30.00	\$100.00	\$130.00
Renewal of Special Use Permit	\$30.00	\$100.00	\$130.00
Sign Review		\$25.00	\$25.00
Multiple Family Special Residential Development (SRD)		\$50 per unit	\$50 per unit
Subdivision Re-approved	\$30.00	\$100.00	\$130.00
Certification of Zoning Compliance Letter			
Residential		\$25.00	\$25.00
Multi Family/Commercial		\$75.00	\$75.00
Lot Split/First Cut/Determination		\$100.00	\$100.00
Police			
Fingerprinting		\$10.00	\$10.00
Accident Photographs		\$7.50	\$7.50
Incident Reports		\$0.50	\$0.50
Vendor Permit from vehicle		\$100.00	\$100.00
Vendor Permit		\$100.00	\$100.00
Vendor Permit - Single Day		\$25.00	\$25.00
Private Duty Fee - per hour		\$67.24	\$67.24
Precious Metals & Stone Permit		\$50.00	\$50.00
Audio Tapes		\$10.00	\$10.00
Record Checks		\$5.00	\$5.00
Pistol Permit Fee		\$35.00	\$35.00
False Alarm		\$50 third/\$75 fourth/\$100 fifth, etc.	\$50 third/\$75 fourth/\$100 fifth, etc.
Alarms Monitored at Hdqtrs-annual		\$200.00	\$200.00
Alarm Registration Fee-Commercial		\$25.00	\$25.00
Alarm Registration Fee - Residential		\$25.00	\$25.00
User Charge for Cruiser-per hour		\$20.00	\$20.00
Letter for IRS & Immigration		\$10.00	\$10.00
Parking Violation		\$25.00	\$25.00
Parking Violation - fire lane/handicap		\$75.00	\$75.00
Public Works Department			
Bulky Waste Collection-per 1/2 cy		\$30.00	\$30.00
Bulky Waste Disposal Permit		\$30.00	\$30.00
Bulky Pick Up (paid to Paine's)		\$25.00	\$25.00
Commercial Tipping Fee-per 1/2 cy		\$300.00	\$300.00
Fee for "white goods" with Freon delivered		\$10.00	\$10.00
Fee for "white goods" with Freon picked up		\$25.00	\$25.00
Second "white goods" (same pick up)		\$15.00	\$15.00
Third "white goods" (same pick up)		\$10.00	\$10.00
Other "white goods" pickup		\$25.00	\$25.00

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One time visit - residential		\$60.00	\$60.00
Recycling Bin		\$7.50	\$7.50
Second Barrel (Paid to Paine's)		\$60.00	\$60.00
Small TV - Disposal at Transfer Station		\$7.50	\$7.50
Large TV - Disposal at Transfer Station		\$10.00	\$10.00
Sofa - Disposal at Transfer Station		\$10.00	\$10.00
Mattress - Disposal at Transfer Station		\$15.00	\$15.00
Cabinet - Disposal at Transfer Station		\$10.00	\$10.00
Tires - Disposal at Transfer Station		\$2.00	\$2.00
Social Services Department			
Dial-a-Ride - annual fee		\$78.00	\$78.00
Senior Center Membership - 3 years		\$10.00	\$10.00
Senior Center Memb. Nonresident - 3 yrs		\$15.00	\$15.00
Clinical Services - available in Dept.			
Tax Department			
Report of Unpaid Taxes to DMV		\$2.00	\$2.00
Duplicate Tax Bills		\$0.50	\$0.50
Returned Check Fees		\$30.00	\$30.00
Lien Fees (incl's lien and subseq release)		\$24.00	\$24.00
Warrant Fee		\$6.00	\$6.00

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that there are some increases to fees and some eliminations of fees. The fee for Dial-A-Ride is increasing by \$5 per week or from \$52 to \$78 per year. The Police private duty fee is increasing to bring it in pace with the union contract. There will be a fee of \$2 to reimburse the Town the State fee that it must pay the State for unpaid motor vehicle taxes. The fee for disposal of televisions is being eliminated because of a State mandate for free electronic disposal.

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

Deputy Mayor Montinieri moved **“TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO UTILIZE \$306,000 FROM THE LAND ACQUISITION FUND TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF THE WILKUS PROPERTY”** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the land acquisition fund has \$307,130 in it that can be used for the purchase of the 2.5 acres of land with the structures on it.

Councilor Hemmann asked how much is needed for the property.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that up to \$306,000 will be spent. The Town Council needs to discuss the structures and repairs at a meeting in June.

Councilor Cascio said that usually the seller is responsible for repairs.

Councilor Console suggested holding off on this motion until that can be negotiated.

Bonnie Therrien said that money up to \$306,000 will be used.

Councilor Console said that this property could turn into a black hole for the Town. The Town needs to negotiate with the Wilkus family on the repairs.

Councilor Walsh said that passing this motion just allows the Town Manager to spend this money. She can still negotiate on the cost. This is part of completing the deal.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri said that the referendum passed and now the Town Council can honor the sentiment of the community. This is just one step of many to the process. The Wilkus family has been patient waiting to negotiate the purchase throughout the referendum. The Town Council has been charged by the voters to proceed with this purchase and this motion respects that wish. He said that he agrees with Councilor Console's comments, but due diligence will be done during the inspections.

Councilor Console said that he agrees with the open space, but this parcel isn't open space. There are issues with the barns. He said that before the funds are utilized, these issues need to be discussed.

Councilor Roberts said that she understands the rationale but the timing of the sale is important. This needs to be done now. She said that she is willing to change the motion to read up to \$306,000.

Councilor Forrest said that the two issues shouldn't be confused. This motion is to take the funds from the Land Acquisition Fund so that the Town has control of the property. If the bond funding or State grant money was used, there would be restrictions on the property. This is just a mechanism to acquire the land using these funds. He said that he fully supports this motion.

Councilor Cascio asked if the motion would be changed to up to \$306,000. He said that this property is exempt from the State grant money and the limitations of the bond.

Councilor Kotkin said that there are restrictions with using the State grant money and bond funds. Using the Land Acquisition Funds gives the Town the greatest flexibility with the property. This funding should be used regardless of the condition of the barns.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri moved **“TO AMEND THE MOTION TO READ – TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO UTILIZE UP TO \$306,000 FROM THE LAND ACQUISITION FUND TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF THE WILKUS PROPERTY”** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Chairperson Adil said that the aim is to move along with closing on this property on June 15th. He fully supports this motion.

A roll call vote was taken. Councilor Forrest, Kotkin, Roberts, Walsh, Deputy Mayor Montinieri and Chairperson Adil voted AYE. Councilors Cascio, Console and Hemmann voted NAY. The motion passed 6-3-0.

Councilor Walsh moved **“TO REMOVE 1680 BERLIN TURNPIKE FROM THE BLIGHTED PROPERTY LIST”** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Bonnie Therrien said that the Cityside Motel has been working on cleaning up and the facility looks much better.

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

BIDS

Councilor Kotkin moved **“TO AWARD THE BID FOR REFILLING AND TESTING OF OXYGEN BOTTLES FOR VARIOUS TOWN DEPARTMENTS ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS TO SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND FIRE PROTECTION”** seconded by Councilor Console.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this is for oxygen bottles and fire extinguishers in Town buildings on an as needed basis. This is the low bidder.

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

Councilor Console moved **“TO AWARD THE BID FOR BITUMINOUS CONCRETE PAVEMENT TO TILCON-CT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$350,000”** seconded by Deputy Mayor Montinieri.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this is the State low bidder. Tilcon CT has been used before in Town.

Councilor Kotkin said that the Town should be getting more bang for the buck this year. He asked how much more roadwork could be done.

Bonnie Therrien said that she would put that information in the next Management report.

Councilor Console said that at the last meeting, a sidewalk contract was awarded. He asked if there was a way to tint the new sidewalks to make them blend in better with the existing sidewalks.

Bonnie Therrien said that she will ask.

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

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

RESOLUTION- GRANT AGREEMENT AND CONSERVATION AND PUBLIC RECREATION EASEMENT

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Bonnie L. Therrien be and hereby is authorized to execute on behalf of the Town of Wethersfield a Grant Agreement and Conservation and Public Recreation Easement and Agreement under the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program with the State of Connecticut for \$490,000 of financial assistance to acquire permanent interest in land known as Wilkus Farm, OSWA-379 and to manage said land as open space land pursuant to Section 7—131d of the Connecticut General Statutes.

MINUTES

Councilor Walsh moved **“TO APPROVE THE BUDGET MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 27, 2009”** seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Forrest asked that on page 10, a zero be added to the bonded amount. It should read \$2,700,000.

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

Councilor Forrest moved **“TO APPROVE THE BUDGET MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 29, 2009”** seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

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

Councilor Roberts moved **“TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 4, 2009”** seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Councilor Kotkin said that he was not at the meeting and did not second the motion on page 13.

Councilor Forrest said that he seconded the motion. He asked that in the third paragraph on page 12, the word being be changed to begin.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilor Kotkin abstained. The motion passed 8-0-1.

Chairperson Adil said that the next regular Town Council meeting will be June 15th in the Town

Council Chambers. The June 1st meeting has been canceled. He wished everyone a happy Memorial Day.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:30 p.m., Deputy Mayor Montinieri moved **"TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS – UNION NEGOTIATIONS AND TOWN MANAGER SEARCH"** seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0. Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager was present for the union negotiations only. No motions were made and no votes were taken during executive session.

At 8:53 p.m., Councilor Walsh moved **"TO LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION"** seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:54 p.m., Councilor Roberts moved **"TO ADJOURN THE MEETING"** seconded by Councilor Hemmann. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk