

Unapproved  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**JUNE 29, 2009**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a special meeting on Monday, June 29, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Council Chamber of Town Hall, Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT.

Present: Councilor Console, Forrest, Kotkin, Roberts, Walsh, and Chairperson Adil.

Absent: Councilor Cascio and Hemmann and Deputy Mayor Montinieri.

Also present: Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager; John W. Bradley, Jr., Town Attorney; and Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk

Councilor Forrest led the Pledge of Allegiance

Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk, took attendance.

Councilor Roberts moved **“TO TRANSFER \$65,000 FROM THE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT TO THE CAPITAL RESERVE PROJECTS ACCOUNT # 3000-54435-30908 (EMERSON WILLIAMS BOILER REPLACEMENT) AND TO TRANSFER \$140,000 FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO THIS SAME CAPITAL PROJECTS ACCOUNT AND TO AWARD THE BID TO APPLIED ENERGY (TEMPTECH)”** seconded by Councilor Walsh.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that there are two year’s worth of funding in the Capital Accounts for the boiler replacement at Emerson Williams School. Even with the good bid pricing that the Town received, there is a deficiency of \$165,000. She said that she received information on Friday stating that the Board of Education is able to pledge the money needed for this project due to expected energy and maintenance savings.

Councilor Roberts withdrew her motion and Councilor Walsh withdrew his second.

Councilor Kotkin thanked Fred Bushey for his work on this bid. He said that he was interested in finding out why the Town was not eligible for grant money. He said that some of the funding has dried up.

Fred Bushey, Supervisor of Maintenance and Operations, said that much of the money has dried up. He said that the Town is purchasing a condensed water system to integrate with the existing system. It would be cost prohibitive to switch to a full hot water system. In the late 1960’s an addition to Emerson Williams was constructed and the heating system installed was hot steam. The rest of the building is a water system.

Councilor Kotkin asked if the project was not eligible for grant money because the boiler is dual fuel, oil and natural gas.

Fred Bushey said that all dual fuel grants have dried up. He is working on a grant for \$30,000 that the Town meets the criteria for this project.

Chairperson Adil asked if the work would be completed by the time the heat is needed.

Fred Bushey said that at least one boiler should be up and running by October 1<sup>st</sup>. The work will be isolated to the boiler room and can be completed with the children in the school.

Councilor Kotkin commended the school system for keeping the boiler up and running all last winter.

Councilor Forrest said that there are higher efficiency boilers available. He asked why the Board of Education chose this boiler.

Fred Bushey said that there are higher efficiency boilers available but the really green ones run on natural gas but can't fire up to make the steam necessary to heat part of the building. A conventional steam boiler is needed. It will get up to about 90 percent energy efficiency. In 2007, there was a leak to the boiler and temporary repairs were made. This new boiler will be much more energy efficient.

Councilor Forrest asked if there would be a reduction to the energy budgets.

\_\_\_\_\_ of Friar and Associates, said that the boilers will run at a greater energy efficiency. The operational and fuel costs have not been discussed yet.

Chairperson Adil asked if the total cost includes the boilers and the control system too.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that it includes both.

Fred Bushey said that the controls will allow for certain pumps to be turned off or down based on the usage of the building. Portions of the building can be heated while unoccupied parts are not.

Councilor Forrest said that it would be helpful if the Town Council had information concerning energy efficiencies for budget purposes.

Councilor Kotkin asked if that bid included all alternatives.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that it did.

Councilor Roberts moved **“UPON THE TRANSFER OF \$165,000 FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO THE CAPITAL PROJECTS ACCOUNT FOR THE EMERSON**

**WILLIAMS BOILER PROJECT, TO AWARD THE BID TO APPLIED ENERGY (TEMPTECH)**” seconded by Councilor Walsh.

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

Councilor Console moved **“THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL RULES AND PROCEDURES BE CHANGED TO REFELCT A CHANGE OF TIME OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS FROM 7:30 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M. AND TO CHANGE THE LOCATION OF THE MEETINGS FROM THE SILAS DEANE MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM TO THE TOWN HALL – TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS EFFECTIVE WITH THE JULY 20, 2009 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING”** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that now that the Town Council is back in the Council Chambers the Rules and Procedures need to be changed. The Committee recommended returning the meeting time to 7:00 p.m.

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

Councilor Forrest moved **“THAT THE CITIZENS ENERGY COMMITTEE ABSORB THE DUTIES OF THE CLEAN ENERGY COMMITTEE AS OF JULY 1, 2009 AND TO ADD TO THEIR CHARGE THE FOLLOWING: 1.) CONTINUE TO URGE RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES TO SIGN UP FOR CLEAN ENERGY AND TO THE TOWN’S GOAL OF 20 PERCENT BY 2010 AND TO OVERSEE THE INNOVATIONS GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS; AND 2.) OVERSEE THE INSTALLATION OF THE SOLAR PANEL AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER, WHICH WAS PROVIDED BY THE CONNECTICUT CLEAN ENERGY FUND”** seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that there are two committees working on energy. It was decided that the Citizens Energy Committee and Clean Energy Committee merge into the Citizens Energy Committee with the charge to continue to make a commitment to clean energy.

Councilor Forrest commended the Clean Energy Committee members for their work. He said that the Town still supports the clean energy initiative. He asked that letters be sent thanking the Clean Energy Committee members for their work on the Committee.

Chairperson Adil said that the Town is working towards its second solar panel. He encouraged residents to sign up for clean energy.

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

Councilor Roberts moved **“TO SEND THE WETHERSFIELD GAME CLUB, INC. REQUEST TO PURCHASE A THREE PLUS ACRE OF TOWN OWNED LAND,**

**LOCATED IN THE MEADOWS, KNOWN AS “FEARFUL SWAMP”, TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR AN 8-24 REVIEW”** seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that that Wethersfield Game Club would like to purchase this Town owned property in the Meadows. It is very swampy land that the Game Club can use.

Councilor Forrest said that in the correspondence to the Planning and Zoning Commission he would like some easement language included.

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

Councilor Forrest moved **“TO GIVE A 50 PERCENT WAIVER OF POLICE FEES TO THE INTERCOMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH – HARTFORD MARATHON RACE TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 30, 2009”** seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Chairperson Adil said that he and Joyce Rossignol are co-chairing this event. He asked that this waiver be granted because the organization is adding a 10k component that will result in a lot of people spending time in Town.

Councilor Console said that during the budget session the Town Council decided not to issue any more fee waivers. He said that he has to vote no on this.

Councilor Roberts said that the Intercommunity Mental Health was defunded in last year’s budget. She said that she would like to see no fee waivers but since the organization did not get its funding from the Town this year she approves this one time waiver.

Councilor Forrest asked if the 10K component was a separate race.

Chairperson Adil said that it is not a separate race but an additional component to the race.

Councilor Forrest said that the Manchester Road Race has really taken off and is a big event. It can be considered a tourist event with people coming from all over.

Chairperson Adil said that the Town Council removed a lot of funding from the Economic Development Improvement Commission and Tourism Commission. The Council also removed all the funding from Intercommunity Mental Health. This is a good way to support the Intercommunity Mental Health organization.

Councilor Forrest said that he is comfortable supporting this as a one time deal.

Councilor Kotkin said that he supports this but asks that it is an exception that won't be provided in the future.

Chairperson Adil said the Intercommunity Mental Health has received a double hit from the Town with the reduction of the funding and the lack of the waiver. He said that a lot of people come to this event and hopes the Town Council will support this waiver.

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

Councilor Walsh moved **“TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF \$5,000 FROM THE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT TO ACCOUNT #3420 54433 LAND ACQUISITION FUND”** seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this transfer will pay for a December bill for \$3,000 that was not submitted and a January upgrade to the appraisal for \$2,000.

Chairperson Adil said that he appreciates all the work that the Town staff has done on this purchase.

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

Councilor Walsh moved **“TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF \$1,500 FROM THE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT TO ACCOUNT #1110 52220, TOWN COUNCIL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES”** seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the contract for the new Town Manager includes payment for one trip for airfare for house hunting.

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

Councilor Forrest moved **“ADD AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO THE AGENDA”** seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

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

Councilor Kotkin moved **“TO ENACT THE EMERGENCY ORDINANCE FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$100,000 FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY EMERGENCY CAUSED BY THE F1 TORNADO WHICH HIT WETHERSFIELD ON FRIDAY EVENING, JUNE 26, 2009. THIS FUNDING WILL BE RECORDED IN A**

**CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT WITHIN THE DISASTER RECOVERY DEPARTMENT AND FUNDS WILL BE ALLOCATED BY THE TOWN MANAGER AS NECESSARY”**

seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the Town Charter allows for the passing of an emergency ordinance - “shall be only for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, shall contain an explicit statement of the nature of the emergency and shall be adopted by not less than six (6) affirmative votes in the Council.” The money is needed so that bills can be paid. FEMA is coming to Wethersfield tomorrow and the Town may be eligible for some reimbursement. All of this money will be set up in an account and will pay bills and salaries.

Councilor Forrest thanked staff and residents for their work with the storm clean-up and in assisting neighbors.

Councilor Roberts also thanked the staff for all of its work over the weekend.

Chairperson Adil said that the Town Manager was available all weekend long along with emergency staff. The Police, Fire and Ambulance were wonderful. Utility companies were in Town as well as crews from surrounding times. Six houses are uninhabitable. State representatives were here to lend support. It will take a long time to recover.

Councilor Kotkin asked if this money was coming from the fund balance.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this funding will come from the Contingency Account. There are only two days left in the fiscal year. Additional money needed in the future will come from the Fund Balance.

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

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, updated the Town Council. She said that:

- There are still 100 homes in Town that do not have electricity back. They are single home hook ups.
- Trash collection is on schedule.
- Tree branches and other storm related debris will continue. The hardest hit areas will be collected first. Pick up may take awhile to complete.
- The Town pools will be open tomorrow, except Mill Woods which sustained a lot of damage.
- Summer school will begin tomorrow.
- There are elderly and disabled residents that need help with the clean up. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact 721-2977.
- There was an unbelievable amount of assistance from so many people and organizations.

- FEMA is coming tomorrow to assess the damage. If a resident or business owner has damage please contact 721-2801. If FEMA money is available, their name will be on the list.
- Town staff was awesome working all weekend long.

Chairperson Adil suggested that neighbors check on any elderly people living in the area.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:20 p.m., Councilor Kotkin moved **"TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION"** seconded by Councilor Roberts. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0. John W. Bradley, Esq., Town Attorney was also present. He left executive session at 8:51 p.m.

At 9:21 p.m., Councilor Roberts moved **"TO LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION"** seconded by Councilor Forrest.

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

Councilor Roberts moved **"TO APPROVE THE 2009-2012 LIBRARY CONTRACT FOR A THREE YEAR PERIOD AS OUTLINED BY THE TOWN MANAGER, ONLY IF ALL WORDING ON NONFINANCIAL ELEMENTS ARE APPROVED BY THE UNION AND THE TOWN MANAGER BEFORE THE PARTIES SIGN OFF ON THE CONTRACT"** seconded by Councilor Forrest.

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

Councilor Kotkin moved **"TO TRANSFER \$20,152 INTO DEPARTMENT 1120 FOR THE PAYOUT OF VACATION TIME OWED TO BONNIE L. THERRIEN, TOWN MANAGER, AND A 3 PERCENT RAISE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009"** seconded by Councilor Forrest.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:23 p.m., Councilor Forrest moved **"TO ADJOURN THE MEETING"** seconded by Councilor Walsh. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.