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**REGULAR MEETING
JULY 21, 2008**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, July 21, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Silas Deane Middle School.

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

Absent: Councilor Walsh

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

All stood for the pledge of allegiance to the flag which was led by Councilor Cascio.

PROCLAMATION

ELDERLY ABUSE AWARENESS

Chairperson Adil read the proclamation for Elderly Abuse Awareness Month.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, highlighted the following Economic Development Report:

**MONTHLY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT
JULY 2008**

RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS/NEW BUSINESSES

898 Silas Deane Highway – Pelton’s

On June 18 a grand opening was held at the new Pelton’s location at 898 Silas Deane Highway.

638 Silas Deane Highway – Prosthetics Business

This space has been renovated and reopened for a new prosthetics business.

Verizon – (Former Frame Shop) – Silas Deane Highway – Next to Max Bibo’s

Interior renovations are complete to accommodate the relocation of this business.

850 Silas Deane Highway – National Health Care Assoc.

Building permits have been issued to renovate this office space for this new tenant.

640 Silas Deane Highway – J and L Medical

This space was recently renovated to accommodate a new medical supply business.

217-233 Main Street – Façade Improvements

On July 9 a closing was held to fund a series of 7 storefront awnings for this building.

30 Jordan Lane – Prime Health Care

Space has been recently renovated to accommodate this health care concern.

APPROVED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS/UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Nathan Hale Apartments, AHEPA, Inc. – Elderly Housing Project – 1532 Berlin Turnpike

An application was approved by the ZBA and the PZC to permit the construction of an addition to the existing building to accommodate 42 additional units. A building permit has been approved. The project was delayed as additional State funds were pursued to cover budget overruns. A CO is anticipated shortly.

Former Amici’s Restaurant – Pal’s Pub – 672 Silas Deane Highway

Approval has been granted for the renovation of this building and for the use of an outdoor patio for a new restaurant/café in this building. Construction is now underway. A CO is anticipated next month.

Former Fire House Grill – 1151 Silas Deane Highway – Humphrey’s Restaurant

An interior demolition permit has been issued to conduct some interior work to this building. An application has been approved by Design Review and a building permit application has been approved. Construction is now underway.

Town Line Road – KFC/Hines Sudden Service

The PZC has approved plans for the demolition and reconstruction of buildings on this site to accommodate 2 new buildings, a new restaurant and larger office building. Construction is now underway.

Lot 4 Progress Drive – Office Building

A PZC application and plans have been submitted for site plan approval for the construction of a 2 story medical office building at this site, the building is roughly 20,000 s.f. and will be known as the Connecticut Center for Cosmetic Enhancement and Young Pharmaceuticals.

Liberty Bank – 171 Silas Deane Highway (Former TD Banknorth)

Plans for the renovation of this space have been submitted.

Progress Drive – CREC – Soundbridge School

On April 1 the PZC approved plans for an expansion to the school which would double the size of the building.

1370 Berlin Turnpike – Little Caesar’s Pizza – Jordan Lane Shopping Center

On June 3rd the PZC approved plans to renovate this storefront.

UNDER PERMIT REVIEW

Cottone Field – Sports Lighting

An application has been filed for a Special Permit to install sports lighting at Cottone Field. An August 5 public hearing has been scheduled.

1260 Silas Deane Highway – Hartford Hospital

A revised inland wetlands application has been approved for plans that include an expansion of 13,000 s.f. to the existing building and parking lots, to accommodate the growing needs of this medical facility. A PZC application is pending and scheduled for an August meeting.

322 - 334 Silas Deane Highway –

A zone change application has been filed to rezone various properties in anticipation of a mixed use office/retail building of approximately 10,000 s.f. The hearing is scheduled for August 5.

295 Ridge Road – Church Homes –

A CO has been issued for the renovation of this building to accommodate 13 condominium units. A preliminary plan has been submitted for the second phase of this project which would change the approved plans and include an assisted living facility. The PZC has reviewed preliminary plans and a zoning regulation amendment application will be heard on August 5.

Comstock Ferre and Co. – Main Street

An application to the HDC has been resubmitted for the demolition of the rear portion of the building to accommodate the creation of a mixed use retail-office and residential project and a new building fronting on Church Street is also planned.

DEVELOPER/PROPERTY OWNER/REALTOR CONTACT

- Continue to discuss development related issues and feasibility of redevelopment of property on the Berlin Turnpike.
- Continue to monitor and support property owner negotiations with potential redevelopers of potential redevelopment site and building.
- Met with owner of possible redevelopment site on the Silas Deane Highway regarding potential town assistance with project.
- Talked with local developer regarding interest in redeveloping Silas Deane Highway property.
- Discussed possible tenant interest and site improvements with owner's representative of Silas Deane Highway shopping center.
- Discussed possible tenant interest with tenant representative at Silas Deane Highway Shopping Center.
- Discussed potential tenant reuse of vacant space with owner of Silas Deane Highway Shopping Center.
- Discussed potential space needs for small business owner looking for space in Old Wethersfield.
- Met with business representative looking at building in Old Wethersfield for new business.
- Responded to site search request for restaurant chain.
- Responded to realtor looking for 6-7 acre site for business relocation.
- Received inquiry from manufacturer looking for 10,000 s.f. for business relocation.
- Responded to developer representative looking for site for a Transit Oriented Development opportunity.

SILAS DEANE HIGHWAY REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

- Work continues to progress on the Church Street streetscape project as paver sidewalks, ornamental walls, and stairs are constructed.

- A draft mixed use zoning regulation is presently being reviewed by a subcommittee consisting of representatives from Design Review, PZC and the Redevelopment Agency.

FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

- Continue to meet with property owners interested in the façade program. Have committed funds to 10 business/property owners to date totaling \$256,212.
- Working on STEAP contract for an additional \$200,000 to be used for properties in Old Wethersfield and the Berlin Turnpike.

OTHER NEWS AND INITIATIVES

Economic Development and Improvement Commission

- Continue to work with Keiler Inc. on marketing and promotion of the Town. A press release was developed promoting some of our new business starts this year.
- Discussing with the Chamber future opportunities for partnerships.
- The Commission has initiated a process to review and revise the 2001 Economic Development Strategic Plan.
- Several members are working with the Tourism Commission to organize for a Farmers Market.
- On June 5 staff attended a training workshop at North East Utilities presented by the Community Builders Institute on community marketing to discuss web site design, web site contents, marketing and site selection. We discovered that Wethersfield is one of the top 10 most viewed towns through the CERC site selector website.

Tourism

- We continue to work with Allegra Farms from East Haddam to operate the Horse and Carriage rides in Old Wethersfield through our recent State grant. The effort has been very successful and we intend to continue to operate this program throughout the rest of the year on select weekends. Rides have been held in July and the hours have been adjusted to later in the day to avoid the heat of the day. A heavier schedule of rides are planned throughout the Fall.
- We were informed by the Historical Society that we have received a \$5,000 grant from the State Commission on Culture and Tourism. A grant was filed for funds to conduct a strategic marketing plan.
- The 3 Historic Wethersfield billboards have been installed on I-95 and I-91 in the New Haven area. The effective circulation of each site is over 90,000 adults/day.
- On June 4 the Commission hosted a booth at an Open House at the CT Convention Center.
- The Commission has signed up with both the Connecticut and Massachusetts versions of the Staycation programs to encourage local residents to visit attractions closer to home this summer and Fall. We will be tallying web site hits in response to this new initiative.
- The Commission has recently coordinated a discount coupon program with local merchants and is making it available through the Staycation program.
- The Commission recently mailed out a promotional package to approximately 125 group tour operators in the Northeast, Eastern Canada and the Midwest to promote the community for future tour operators.
- The Commission continues to monitor present and future advertising opportunities. The recent ad campaign in AAA Journeys magazine generated approximately 450 visitor requests for information.

Redevelopment Agency

- On June 11 at 7 pm at the Silas Deane Middle School the Agency held a public forum to discuss the Town's present development climate.
- The agency is presently researching the procedures necessary to initiate a redevelopment plan.
- The Agency continues to meet with property owners to discuss potential for redevelopment opportunities and partnerships.
- The Agency is working on plans for the second community forum to be held in the Fall.

Preserve America

- A public hearing on the draft plan was held on May 20 and the Committee is waiting for revisions to the plan based upon the public comments. It is anticipated that the revised draft will be presented to the Council in August.
- We have heard that we have been awarded \$90,000 to be used for a wayfinding signage program. Official notification has not yet been received. We will shortly begin a process to review and detail the final design and locations with the various stakeholders.
- We have been advised that the state will be awarding an additional \$115,000 towards the gateway project. We are working on plans in anticipation of putting the project out to bid in the near future.

Meeting/Event Schedule July

July 1	Planning and Zoning Commission 7:00 pm
July 2	Redevelopment Commission 5:00 p.m.
July 2	Design Review Advisory Committee 6:30 p.m.
July 10	Chamber of Commerce 8:30 am
July 10	Economic Development Improvement Commission 12 noon
July 15	Planning and Zoning Commission 7:00 pm
June 16	Redevelopment Commission 5:00 p.m.
July 16	Design Review Advisory Committee 6:30 pm
July 29	Tourism Commission 5:30 pm

Chairperson Adil said that there was an impressive list of new businesses coming to Town. The Town Planner should be thanked for his efforts.

Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk, took attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS**HEARINGS****STEAP GRANT – FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

No one wished to speak on the Hearing. Chairperson Adil closed the Hearing.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Lee Sekas, 117 Wells Road, said that there are no lines on Wolcott Hill Road sidewalks for repair. He has discussed safety issue for ten years. There is a blind resident who lives on Jordan Lane who almost got hurt on these sidewalks. Something should have been done along time ago. Safety is very important. He said that he purchased one of the Town of Wethersfield's grocery bags.

Chairperson Adil said that he will have the Town Manager look into his concerns.

Linda Case, 103 Park Avenue, said that she constantly hears about good economic development. She said that the treescape is key to economic development. There are trees in Town but lately she has been concerned with the diminishment of the shade trees. Hundreds of trees have been cut down and virtually none have been replanted. Over twenty five years ago a key idea was the importance of the streetscape in creating a good town. She wants the Town Council to think of trees as an asset and not a liability. The Town should replenish the trees and develop plans by a landscape architect. There are two other factors. One is car parking on lawns and street aprons. There is no ordinance to forbid this practice. It does not keep with the look of the community. The other issue is the utility boxes on telephone poles. She is glad that the Town Manager is really fighting for this cause. These issues also tie into the streetscape.

Chairperson Adil asked that she give the Town Clerk the photographs.

COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMENTS

Councilor Cascio said that:

- The Memorial Day Parade Committee met. He thanked the Park and Recreation Department, Larry Spellacy, Parade Committee Chairperson and all members of the Committee for all of their work. This year the celebration had some new components: the release of the doves at the cemetery and the essay competition for the eighth grade social studies students. He thanked the eight grade social studies teachers for their work with the students. The Parade had a great turnout again this year.
- The Library Board met. Library use is up, programs are continuing, and patrons are happy. The staff is working hard to continue to offer services during construction. The Board is meeting again tomorrow to appoint new officers. Greg Curtin has served as chairperson of the Library Board for about 10 years. He has done a fantastic job.

Councilor Roberts said that Councilor Cascio is being modest about his involvement with the Memorial Day Parade. She thanked him for his work and the release of the doves in the cemetery.

Councilor Forrest said that the Conservation Commission met and continued to review the Beaver Brook Plan for opportunities within that corridor for improvements. The Energy Conservation group, a newly formed committee, has put forth an impressive and thoughtful

agenda. They will be interviewing energy consultants in the next two weeks. The Committee will meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. They will be looking at many energy concepts, including a cost analysis of hybrid vehicles and renewable energies. The Chairperson is Rick Baldoni and the Vice Chairperson is Nancy Keily.

Councilor Kotkin said that:

- The School Building Committee met last week and reviewed twelve proposals from architects who are interested in the two school projects. The Committee narrowed the twelve bidders to five. They will be interviewed by the Committee this week. It is possible that the Committee will recommend one or two architects by Thursday. This is to prepare the documents to go to referendum. It is not for the design of the renovations. \$100,000 was appropriated in the current fiscal year's budget to get the documents prepared. The Committee is meeting often through the summer.
- Last week, the Mill Woods Building Committee met and has some ideas about constructing the lights at the Little League field that will be discussed a little later. There was a ground breaking ceremony for the Little League field last week. There is enough money for the construction of the field, drainage, and a dug out.
- There was a very lengthy Budget Committee meeting at the end of June. The Committee covered a number of issues, one of which was discussing a small tax abatement on hybrid vehicles. Another was on the tax collection policy. The rate has gone up considerably which has allowed the Town to keep the tax rate down a bit. Private Duty rates for Police Officers was also discussed. The process of going out for a search consultant for the Town Manager was also started. The other items concerned a meeting with an outside internal auditor. Over the past year, the Town has found that a supervisor within the Town side has been taking property from the Town. The person no longer works here. The Police did get involved. The Town probably lost about \$10,000 in equipment that hasn't been recovered. That was bad but the part that the Committee was most struck by was that there was a systematic problem from within the Town for checking and accountability and insuring that the same person does not order equipment and receive equipment. There has to be checks and balances in the Town that fixed assets are accounted for and used as they should be used. There were a number of recommendations made by the Committee. The Town Administration is in the process of implementing them. This is a fairly broad policy issue. The Town Council really has to look hard to see if it gives adequate safeguards for the assets that the Town acquires. The recommendations include performing an inventory, redesigning work orders, checking inventory by the Finance Department to make sure that the inventory is actually accounted for, and procedures for the sale and disposal of scrap items. He said that some of these items have been implemented already. This audit showed a hole in the controls of Town government. It is too bad that this was discovered after some equipment was missing. The Committee will watch this closely.

Councilor Console said that there was a lot of reporting on what will be happening going forward. On another issue, the basketball courts in Town have a lot of late night activity going

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on at them by adults from out of Town. The Park and Recreation Department and Police Department should take a look at these issues.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that this issue with the basketball courts runs in cycles. Signage was put up to address some of the issues last time. The Police Department patrols the areas. She would be glad to receive some suggestions from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Chairperson Adil said that:

- He was at the groundbreaking of the Little League field. Councilor Kotkin solicited a donation from CL&P and the President of CL&P was at the groundbreaking to issue the Town a \$10,000 check.
- Wethersfield Historical Society will be sponsoring two free concerts at the Keeney Culture Center on the July 22nd and July 29th at 6:30 p.m.
- The Police National Night Out at Mill Woods Park will be on August 5th at 6:00 p.m.
- The Chamber of Commerce has set the 2008 Cornfest date as September 13th. They are looking for volunteers.
- Tomorrow evening there will be a special Town Council meeting at 6:00 p.m. to discuss core services for the 2009-10 budget. It will be the first of many meetings to assess and prioritize Town services in anticipation of a very lean 2009-10 budget. If anyone from the public has any suggestions, they should forward them to the Town Manager.

COUNCIL ACTION

Deputy Mayor Montinieri moved **“TO APPROVE THE RESIGNATION OF TRACY ANN GIONFRIDDO FROM THE LIBRARY BOARD, TIMOTHY J. VERRE FROM THE PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD, AND DIANNE G. SILVA-RATTI OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE – WETHERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL AND HANMER”** seconded by Councilor Forrest.

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

Deputy Mayor Montinieri moved **“TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS: CONSTABLE”**

Robert N. Turgeon D 962 Cloverdale Circle 7-21-2008 to 6-30-10

DISABILITIES, WETHERSFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH

Lisa Ann DiBella D 100 Executive Square, #425 7-21-08 to 6-30-10

FAIR RENT COMMISSION

Cynthia L. Zuerblis D 119 Two Rod Highway 7-21-08 to 6-30-10

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION (as an alternate)

Bette A. Botticello U 35 Deerfield Road 7-21-08 to 6-30-11

LIBRARY BOARD

Kimberly L. Bobin D 83 Longvue Drive 7-21-08 to 6-30-09

Ralph Horowitz D 64 Windmill Hill 7-21-08 to 6-30-10

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION (as an alternate)

Thomas R. Dean D 33 McMullen Avenue 7-21-08 to 6-30-11

SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Seth M. English(clergy) D 931 Ridge Road 7-21-08 to 6-30-10

Jane Helen Ross(at large) D 80 Saxon Road 7-21-08 to 6-30-10

TOURISM COMMISSION (Chamber of Commerce)

Shireen D. Aforismo D 185 Broad Street 7-21-08 to 6-30-09

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

Debra L. Hammer D 185 Broad Street 7-21-08 to 6-30-11

(Under 21)

Olivia Fortunato 28 Fairmont Street 7-21-08 to 6-30-11

Casey Lilley 100 Boulter Road 7-21-08 to 6-30-11

Meg O'Connor 843 Wells Road 7-21-08 to 6-30-11

Christopher Gillette 117 Mohawk Lane 7-21-08 to 6-30-11

LIBRARY BOARD

Jennifer Miglus D 7-21-08 to 6-30-09

BUILDING COMMITTEE – TOWN HALL/LIBRARY PHASE II

Richard L. Lepore D 7 Jay Street 7-21-08 to project completion”
seconded by Councilor Forrest.

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

Councilor Cascio moved **“TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENTS OF S. BRADLEY MILVAE TO THE LIBRARY BOARD FOR A TERM FROM 7-21-08 TO 6-30-11, KEVIN ROGER TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD FROM 7-21-08 TO 6-30-11, AND MOHAN SREENIVASAN TO THE FAIR RENT COMMISSION AS AN ALTERNATE FOR A TERM FROM 7-21-08 TO 6-30-10”** seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

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

Councilor Forrest moved **“TO FILE THE STEAP GRANT FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM”** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this is an additional \$200,000 State grant that the Town received to go along with the very successful façade grant. This \$200,000 will be used for businesses anywhere in Town but the Silas Deane Highway. The Silas Deane Highway businesses have their own pool of money. Business owners should contact Peter Gillespie, Town Planner for information.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

REPORT FROM TREE WARDEN

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that there have been a number of concerns that have been addressed about the trees and the Town’s policies on tree removal and replanting. She suggested to the Mayor that the Tree Warden come to the meeting to discuss his policy and receive direction from the Town Council. She passed out the Charter requirements.

John Lepper, Tree Warden, presented the following responses to Ms. Chase’s questions:

- The initial inventory done around 1992 started out with volunteers, most of who did not stay with the program. Two UCONN graduates students were hired to help. Ultimately, the Shade Tree Commission members attempted to finish the project. Annual budget requests have been submitted for a complete GPS/GIS data inventory and every year the request is turned down. The Town does not really know the status of the Town trees.
- A brief summary of the reason for removal of trees for the last five years is as follows:

Storm Damage and Wind Thrash	32
Dog Park	7
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3
Beaver Damage	2
Lightening	2
Utilities (CL&P)	3
MDC	200
Town Construction/Maintenance Projects	38
Contractor Negligence	9
ConnDot	23
Vandalism	1
Reimbursed Removal	1
Unauthorized Removals	32
At Risk/Diseased/Insect Damage/Sight Line/Age	371
- Like many other communities, the Town’s Tree Commission is reassessing its street tree planting program.

- The four requirements of becoming a TreeCity USA are: a Tree Board or Department, a Community Tree Ordinance, a community forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita, and an Arbor Day observation and Proclamation. Wethersfield's total community forestry expenditure for 2007 was \$230,277 or about \$8.64 per capita.
- Comparing Wethersfield to West Hartford or Glastonbury are not fair comparisons. Over the last five years, Wethersfield has planted a total of 373 trees and 577 shrubs.
- Residents being told that there will be no more street trees planted are misinformed. That statement did not come from the Shade Tree Commission, Tree Warden or Tree Arborist.

Chairperson Adil said that it seems that the general consensus of the Town Council is that this does need a review.

Councilor Forrest moved **“TO DIRECT THE PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEES TO CREATE A SET OF CRITERIA/GUIDELINES AND PRIORITIZATION FOR THE PLANTING OF NEW TREES AND SHRUBS IN THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD”** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

John Lepper said that trees are not like a public utility but like a science.

Councilor Cascio said that he would like to see the questions and answers that Mr. Lepper has put together along with any other work he has already done. He said that it would be much easier for the committee to start its work.

Chairperson Adil asked that this information be given to the committee for part of its study.

Councilor Forrest said that some of the responses tonight seemed a bit defensive. He said that he doesn't want the Tree Warden to feel that way. The general concern is that the quality of life in Town includes landscapes, treescapes, and trees in parks. They are a very important part of property values and the way of life. That is of great importance. He said that he does not want it to be the policy of the Town to neglect the replacement of trees nor to make an effort to find a way to remove trees. He said that he thinks these are the concerns of some residents. He is happy that this motion was made and that he will be able to take a look at the policy.

Councilor Hemmann said that she recommends that the Village Improvement Association, who has been so active in the planting of trees in Town, also be present during these discussions.

Chairperson Adil asked that the Town Manager take care of it. He thanked those members of the public for their interest in this issue.

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

FUNDING OF LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD- MILL WOODS

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Councilor Kotkin moved **“TO AUTHORIZE A LOAN TO THE WETHERSFIELD LITTLE LEAGUE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000 FROM THE PARKS AND RECREATION AND MILL WOODS MASTER PLAN ESCROW ACCOUNTS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF LIGHTS AT THE LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD IN MILL WOODS PARK AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO PREPARE AND SIGN THE APPROPRIATE LOAN AGREEMENTS WITH WETHERSFIELD LITTLE LEAGUE OFFICIALS”** seconded by Deputy Mayor Montinieri.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the Little League field ground breaking ceremony was held a few weeks ago. One of the items that would add to the park is the lighting so that night games could occur. Kathy Bagley, Park and Recreation Director, came up with a creative way to get the lighting done as soon as possible. This loan would be very similar to the one done with the Friends of the Nature Center for the Nature Center. The Building Committee met last week and recommended this to the Town Council. The Committee is willing to use some of the money from the Mill Woods Master Plan Escrow Account. She said that Kathy Bagley, Park and Recreation Director, and members of Wethersfield Little League are at the meeting tonight to answer questions.

Councilor Kotkin said that the Building Committee has done a great job on this project. A very good contractor has been hired and work has begun. The bid went out for the base work; field, and irrigation for the Little League field up to the proposed regulation soccer field and fencing. There were also other options for a scoreboard, lighting, and a press box. The Committee decided to do the base work and include the dugouts. At that point, there was about \$30,000 to \$40,000 uncommitted. Northeast Utilities donated an additional \$10,000 to the project. Installing the lights at the Little League field will be about \$100,000. He said that this is a policy issue. The Little League has talked about making a substantial donation to the field because adding lights will double the usage of the field. Little League does not have the money that is needed at this time. The question was how, could the lights get done now, without the full amount of money in place. He said that this seems like an innovative way to get the project done. The Town would become a creditor of Wethersfield Little League. He is strongly in favor of this as an imaginative way of getting a lot of work done at once and having the field up and running this spring.

Kathy Bagley, Director of Park and Recreation, said that the League has been in Town for a long time and over the years, Wethersfield Little League has contributed funds to the repair of the fields. As recently as last year, the League has donated funds to field projects. The President of Wethersfield Little League is also here tonight to answer any questions.

Steve Bruno, President of the Wethersfield Little League, said that the Little League did not want to use all of its funds for one project and not fund other things that it normally provides for. This loan will allow the Little League to do both.

Chairperson Adil said that he remembered when the Park and Recreation Director came up with a similar idea for the Nature Center. The project was completed and the loan was repaid sooner than expected. He said that he fully supports this motion to get this project done sooner rather than later.

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

HOURLY RATE – PRIVATE DUTY JOBS – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Councilor Kotkin moved **“TO ADD A 12 PERCENT ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGE TO THE POLICE PRIVATE DUTY HOURLY RATE AND TO INCREASE THE VEHICLE CHARGE TO \$20 PER HOUR EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2009 AND TO SET THE ADMINISTRATIVE FUND ASIDE IN THE OTHER POLICE EMPLOYEE BENEFITS TRUST FUND”** seconded by Councilor Console.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this came up during the budget workshops. It was requested that Town staff look into what other Towns are paying for police private duty charges as well as taking a look at what the Town can add to the private duty job cost to help the Town with the retiree costs that hit the Town later on. The Finance Director and Assistant to the Town Manager worked together to come up with a list of what other towns are doing. This information was brought to the Budget Committee. The Committee reviewed the information and suggested the motion that was made by Councilor Kotkin. The concern is that the Town may end up charging too much and then the private contractors will not contract for Police services but will use their own staff which could cause some problems. She recommends that the Town Council lower the amount in the motion and see what happens or the Town Council can vote on an ordinance that allows the Police Chief the final say for the use of private duty officers. The Town Council has a memo stating the Police Chief's concerns.

Councilor Kotkin said that the Town Council originally looked at this with the budget deliberations. The Town does not have a growing tax base. The Town Council wanted to make sure that the Town was being adequately compensated for all of the work that Town employees do including private duty jobs. He said that he is comfortable that the Town is charging the correct amount for the actual work and that the Town is collecting enough for the pension plan, but one of the significant long term liabilities that the Town has, is the fact that previous Town Councils agreed to give employees post-employment medical benefits. His concern is that the Town is not fully covering all of its costs including post-retirement medical benefits. Town staff did a good job canvassing surrounding Towns on what they charge for these services. An administrative charge will cover some of the costs. The motion he made was for a 12 percent administrative charge. That piece would actually not be used to fund the general fund, but to begin to start funding this very large liability that the Town has in terms of post-retirement medical benefits.

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James Cetran, Police Chief, said that it has taken years for the Town to have contractors provide public safety for traffic and flagging. Charging \$20 an hour for the cruisers is a lot. Now the Town is charging \$80 per shift which is a lot more money than it costs for repairs and maintenance. Some communities have ordinances that make it clearer. He said that he has no problem charging an administrative fee, but if the cost goes up too much per shift, the contractors may not use the Police.

Councilor Console said that the contractors should be paying the going rate. This is a lot of money for the Town.

Lisa Hancock, Finance Director, said that this is not just for contractors, but non-profit charities as well.

Councilor Cascio said that the Town Manager indicated that she may have an idea of trying this out at a lower rate first to see how the contractors react.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that she had thought that the Town Council could do a compromise and go with a 5-10 percent administrative fee and see what happens. In the next budget, this could then be looked at again.

Councilor Cascio asked if the Town Manager could share some comparisons.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that:

- Manchester has an administrative fee of 1.27 percent.
- South Windsor has a \$10 per hour fee for vehicles.
- Glastonbury has a \$10 per hour fee for vehicles.
- East Hartford has a \$10 per hour fee for vehicles.
- Cromwell has a \$10 per hour fee for vehicles and a fee for uniforms, clerks, workers compensation, pension, FICA, and medicare.
- Cheshire has a flat union fee of \$42 per hour and \$63 per hour for overtime plus an \$8 administrative fee.
- Stonington is \$20 per hour for the vehicle and has a 10 percent administrative fee.
- Weston has a 5 percent administrative fee and no charge for vehicles.
- There are about 25 Towns that were surveyed.

Councilor Cascio said that the number that the Committee came up with is not an arbitrary number. It is based on research.

Councilor Roberts said that the Budget and Finance Committee felt very strongly about these numbers. She can understand the Chief's concerns. The Town should look into drafting an ordinance. She suggests that the Town Council keep the numbers in the motion and revisit the issue in six months from the date the new numbers start.

Councilor Console asked if other Towns are addressing their fees as well.

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Lisa Hancock, Finance Director, said that some other Towns are now looking at their numbers, too.

Chairperson Adil said that it seems that there are two issues here: the hourly rate and the lack of clarity in an Ordinance allowing the Chief the authority to say when police officers will be used as opposed to private security. He said that he would support the fee change and an ordinance. He suggested that the drafting of an ordinance be sent to the Public Safety Committee so that the Police Chief will have the authority to tell a contractor when the Police must be used.

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

Councilor Roberts moved **“TO REFER THE DRAFTING OF AN ORDINANCE TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE”** seconded by Deputy Mayor Montinieri.

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

BUDGET TRANSFER - FIRE DEPARTMENT- HEATING OIL TO NATURAL GAS/FUELS AND LUBRICANTS

Councilor Kotkin moved **“TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF \$2192.15 FROM THE FIRE MAINTENANCE HEATING OIL ACCOUNT, 12210-53304 TO THE FIRE SUPPRESSION FUELS AND LUBRICANTS ACCOUNT, 12210-53301”** seconded by Deputy Mayor Montinieri.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this is a transfer from last year. Since it is a transfer between accounts, the Town Council has to sign off on it.

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

EXTENSION OF CONTRACT – 1 YEAR – AETNA AMBULANCE

Councilor Roberts moved **“TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT WITH AETNA AMBULANCE AND THE WETHERSFIELD VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION FOR ONE YEAR FOR THE PROVISION OF COMMERCIAL AMBULANCE AND PARAMEDIC SERVICES AS AMENDED AND TO REFER THE TOPIC OF AMBULANCE SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION”** seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the Town currently has a contract with AETNA Ambulance for back up service to the Wethersfield Volunteer Ambulance. The current contract expired June 30th. Normally the Town might do a longer contract but, as the Council is aware,

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the Town is having a study done to look at the volunteer organization. Once the recommendations come out of the study committee, the findings will be sent to the Public Safety Committee.

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

WAIVER OF POLICE FEES – WEBB SCHOOL CARNIVAL

Councilor Kotkin moved **“TO WAIVE 50 PERCENT OF THE POLICE FEES FOR THE WEBB SCHOOL CARNIVAL THAT WAS HELD ON JUNE 20-22, 2008 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,181.18”** seconded by Councilor Console.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the Webb PTO held a carnival on the weekend of June 20th through the 22nd. The cost for police services was \$2,362.36. Two officers were on duty during the carnival. She said that last she knew the PTO lost money on the carnival. The PTO requested this waiver of 50 percent of the police fees.

Councilor Console asked how much was raised by the carnival.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that last she heard from the Chairperson of the event was that it lost money. The weather was not good and the company they used didn't do what it said it would do as far as advertising.

Councilor Cascio said that anyone who volunteers in a school knows how much work was put into this event. He thanked the parents involved for their hard work. The PTO tried something different and it may or may not have worked, but at least they stepped forward and did something for the school.

Chairperson Adil said that there was a lot of work done for the carnival. He suggested that if another school wants to do a carnival, it consider moving it to the Cove Park. The Fire Department had a very successful carnival there.

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

BIDS

Deputy Mayor Montinieri moved **“TO APPROVE THE BID FOR LIBRARY SHELVING - RENOVATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH BID SPECIFICATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$107,717 FROM TUCKER LIBRARY INTERIORS LLC”** seconded by Councilor Cascio.

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Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this is a request for the Phase II Library shelving bid. The Building Committee is recommending Tucker Library Interiors. This shelving will be compatible with the existing shelving.

Councilor Kotkin asked if the Library Director could address the discrepancies between the bids. How come the other bids had significant flaws while Tucker's bid seemed so clean?

Joe Coombs, Chairperson of the Building Committee, said that at first, all of the bids look the same. It is when various components of them are looked at, the differences are seen. All the components need to match for a successful shelving installation. A lot of companies say their product is compatible but after looking at the individual components, the Committee can see that it is not true. This shelving will be in the Library for years. It is important to buy good quality shelving.

Laurel Goodgion, Library Director, said that she supports the recommendation that has been made.

Councilor Hemmann asked what the original budget amount was.

Mike Turner, Director of Public Works, said that the original amount allocated was \$108,000.

Councilor Hemmann said that she thought the original number was lower. Her concern was that if it was over budget and she wanted to know what impact it would then have for other items.

Joe Coombs said that the shelving is the Library's primary furniture. Without the shelving, the Library would have nothing.

Bonnie Therrien said that originally the number may have been different.

Mike Turner said that in the original budget it was \$140,000 and the revised budget lowered it to \$108,000 for Phase II.

Councilor Kotkin asked what the benefits or disadvantages would be to re-bid this.

Joe Coombs said that he sees no advantage to re-bidding this item. There is a timeframe issue. The materials used for the shelving have increased in price and are continuing to do so. Building materials are all increasing.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri said that at first glance, this appears to be the highest bidder. But after sitting in on several of the Building Committee meetings, it is apparent that there were hidden amounts. One can't look at the \$107,000 and compare it to the base bids of the other bidders. It would be vastly off. Tucker has everything that the Library needs in the \$107,000. The other bidders have wiggle room items in the bids. There is a closing window of how long this bid can

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be held. Steel prices have gone up about 48 percent in the last 90 days. The Town will be asking for some serious trouble if it re-bids it. He urged the Town Council to vote on this.

Councilor Kotkin said that he is ready to support this motion. He asked if the Town knew how much the Library would be turning back to the Town's fund balance.

Bonnie Therrien said that as of today, it looks like it will turn back about \$39,000 from last year to the Town's fund balance.

Councilor Kotkin said that when the Town Council was setting the budget, he thought that the Library was turning back about \$50,000 from the personnel accounts because the full Library had not opened.

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

Polly Moon, Chairperson of the Library Board, said that during a budget workshop, there was discussion about possible payroll account overages. There were two positions that were not filled last year. The figure was \$60,000 based on what the Library Board's sense of the budget was at the time.

Councilor Kotkin asked how much the Town Council built into its estimated fund balance.

Bonnie Therrien said that the Finance Director originally thought it would be \$77,000. The Town has done well in other areas to offset this amount. Originally, town staff planned \$77,000 to go into the fund balance from the Library.

Councilor Kotkin said that going towards next year and setting the budget for the new year, the Town Council needs to have a good idea of what is coming back and not be surprised after the fact by a number it thought would be coming back. Good lines of communication are needed during the budget process.

Polly Moon said that she doesn't believe that at anytime the Library Board gave the Town Council a specific amount until today. She was not under the impression that the Budget Committee had taken a number from the Library. It is her understanding that the Library is allocated a certain amount of money from the budget and is entitled to spend it all. There had not been any discussions back and forth with the Library Board. When the Library Board discovered that money would be left over, it met in June and reviewed that money. The Library Board felt very strongly about being able to fund positions for next year. It is not acceptable at this time to cut materials either.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri said that Polly Moon is the new Chairperson of the Library Board. He said that there was some breakdown in communication between the previous Library Board and the Town Council. Some strong suggestions were made on how to improve this communication.

Councilor Cascio said that there is a balance in this past year's Library budget, because the Library is semi-functioning in its temporary location. Wethersfield Public Library needs to be fully functioning and fully staffed when it opens. That overage was for positions that were not staffed because the Library was not opened yet. As a Town Council, this needs to be looked at again next year during the budget sessions.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO APPROVE THE BID WAIVER FOR F-350 DUMP TRUCKS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35,000 FROM MONACO FORD"** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the Town Council had allocated the money in this year's budget for the purchase of an additional dump truck. One of the current trucks is not operational or repairable. There is a truck available that the Town can pick up. If the Town goes out to bid, it will take 90 to 120 days and will cost more money for the vehicle.

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

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO AWARD THE CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A LARGE MOWER TO TURF PRODUCTS CORPORATION AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF \$5,497 FROM THE UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE TO THE CNEF FUND BALANCE FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE LARGE MOWER"** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the Town Council allocated \$70,000 for a large mower in this year's budget. The bid came in at \$85,497. The Town will be able to trade in two old mowers for \$10,000 but there will still be a deficit of \$5,497. She recommends that the additional funding come from Undesignated Fund Balance as soon as possible. When the old dump truck or old smaller mowers are brought to the State auction, the CNEF fund can be replenished with the money from the sale of the items.

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

Councilor Roberts moved **"TO AWARD A BID FOR AN AERIAL PLATFORM TRUCK IN ACCORDANCE WITH TOWN SPECIFICATIONS TO SUTPHEN CORPORATION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,119,099"** seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this had come back to the Town Council sometime ago about whether the Town should go out to bid for the aerial truck or wait. The Town did go out to bid on it and received one bid back from Sutphen Corporation. The next item will be about the lease. This motion is just for the bid. The Fire Department Committee has gone through the specifications, as well as Town staff. The bid meets all of the specifications.

Chuck Flynn, Fire Chief, said that this vehicle will replace a 1976 truck. It has been up for replacement for the past seven or eight years.

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Councilor Roberts said that the Public Safety Committee met on this and looked at all alternatives. The Committee feels that this is the best way to proceed and is in the best interest of the Town at this time.

Bonnie Therrien said that she was asked to purchase this truck the first year that she was hired. Staff from the Town Garage spent over a week last year fixing the hydraulics in the truck. It is leaking again. The company doesn't even make these hydraulic systems anymore. If it can't be repaired here, it will have to be sent out and see what can be done for it since replacement parts are not made anymore.

Councilor Console said for the record that he does not oppose buying a fire truck at this time. He has a problem with this bid being so specific that hardly anyone could bid. He finds it questionable. On page five of the bid specifications it states each manufacturer shall have been in business making similar apparatus for a minimum of twenty years and must have single ownership for more than twenty five years. If a company was in business for 19 years they would be disqualified. Also, if a conglomerate was a major owner in a company, they too would be disqualified. If someone is buying a Bentley other companies make a BMW others make a Cadillac you are being too specific, hence cutting out a competitive bid. Other companies may have a better piece of equipment.

Chairperson Adil said that it may be easier to have someone address individual questions.

Brian Schroll, Deputy Fire Chief, said that some of the bid specifications came from what they already had from previous Town bids and some from other Towns. There have been problems with third party vendors and vendors that have not been in business for a long period of time. The Department is looking for reputable dealers.

Councilor Console said that it seems like Sutphen is the only manufacturer who can meet the requirements.

Brian Schroll said that there are 15 or so other vendors out there. Fire Chief Flynn stated that with the same make of truck he increases the number of drivers, which is an advantage to using the same manufacturer.

Councilor Console also questioned some of the optional equipment. He said that he asked these questions because on the fire apparatus bid the last page. We should be bidding on this equipment separately.

Brian Schroll said that because of the size difference between the new and old trucks additional equipment will be needed in order to meet National standards.

Councilor Console said that the bid process is skewed. He thinks the whole procedure is wrong and the Department should go back to the beginning and write performance type bids. Whatever

the Town buys, it should always get more than one bid.

Councilor Roberts said that the professionals from the Fire Department have been working on this for a year and a half. There was a similar situation when the Town went out to bid on the rescue truck. She said that she is comfortable with the recommendation of the Fire Department. This has been a request of the Department since Bonnie Therrien became Manager five years ago. It will be another two years before the Town even gets the truck. There is a fiduciary responsibility to the Fire Fighters when the Town sends them in a truck that doesn't meet current safety specifications.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilor Console voted NAY. The motion passed 7-1-0.

Chairperson Adil thanked all of the Volunteer Fire Fighters for the work that they have done to get this bid here. He understands Councilor Console's comments but at the same token, it is up to the Town Council to make policy. Given the needs of the community right now, this is in the lead for top issues. There may be other needs for trucks and possibly replacing Fire House 2. He suggests working with Public Safety for these future needs. Buying more trucks in bulk can be revisited after the High School/Hammer renovation is done.

Councilor Kotkin moved **"TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND SIGN A FINANCING/LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR THE DUMP TRUCKS AND FOR THE AERIAL PLATFORM FIRE TRUCK WITH MUNICIPAL LEASING SERVICES OF DENVER, COLORADO"** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Chairperson Adil left the room.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that for the award of the two dump trucks and the aerial platform fire truck which was just awarded, the concept that was approved in this year's budget was to do it as a lease purchase for all these vehicles. The Finance Director researched the best way to finance the trucks and determined that it was best to have one lease on all of these pieces of equipment instead of on each vehicle separately. There would be five annual payments of \$193,314. If the Town puts a down payment on the fire apparatus, it would be eligible for a discount of \$10,651. Another question that came up was why the Town wasn't going to referendum for the fire truck. The Town Council could actually put into the budget the \$1,200,000 for the fire truck. The Town Council doesn't have to go to referendum on these huge capital items. They can be part of the budget process. The Town Council can put in up to \$5,000,000 in the budget process and not have to go to referendum. She said the Finance Director was at the meeting to answer questions or give an overview.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri said that the Finance Director's document is self-explanatory.

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Councilor Kotkin said that the rate looks very competitive. Should this be approved, beyond these three vehicles, what else would the Town have on lease payments.

Chairperson Adil returned.

Bonnie Therrien said that the artificial turf is the only other item. Everything else has been paid.

Councilor Kotkin said that the Town would essentially only be making two payments for the dump trucks. The fire truck would be paid off in six years. He said that he thinks this is a good idea. The Town clearly needs the equipment. Going through next year's budget, the Town will have pretty significant lease payments through the 2009-10 budget. It will really constrict what the Town can fund next year. The Town needs to fund these items, but will have a significant squeeze in what can be funded next year.

Councilor Forrest asked if a lease versus a referendum is shown differently in the debt management schedule or on a different schedule.

Lisa Hancock, Finance Director, said that the leases are part of the financial statements schedule. They come from a different account as far as statutory requirements. It is all part of the debt schedule.

Chairperson Adil thanked the Town Manager for addressing the issue of leases versus bonds. He has heard from citizens that they believed the Town Council was circumventing the voters. From a cost standpoint, it is more cost effective to have a lease purchase. The voters elected the Town Council to make these kinds of decisions.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilor Console voted NAY. The motion passed 7-1-0.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

ORDINANCE FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE RENUMBERED 2008 CODE

Section 1. Adoption of renumbering.

The ordinances and legislation of the Town of Wethersfield of a general and permanent nature, including the 1990 Code adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Wethersfield on June 18, 1990, as supplemented and republished by General Code with some chapter reassignments, as set forth in the Derivation Table attached hereto and published in said Code, are hereby approved, adopted, ordained and enacted as the "Code of the Town of Wethersfield," hereafter known and referred to as the "Code."

Section 2. Nonsubstantive changes in previously adopted legislation.

In compiling and preparing the ordinances and 1990 Code for publication as the 2008 Code of the Town of Wethersfield, no changes in the meaning or intent of such ordinances have been made. Certain grammatical changes

and other minor nonsubstantive changes were made in one or more of said pieces of legislation. It is the intention of the Town Council that all such changes be adopted as part of the Code as if the ordinances had been previously formally amended to read as such.

Section 3. Incorporation of provisions into Code.

The provisions of this ordinance are hereby made Article III of Chapter 1, General Provisions, of the Code of the Town of Wethersfield, such ordinance to be entitled "Article III, Adoption of Renumbered 2008 Code," and the sections of this ordinance shall be numbered §§ 1-19 to 1-22, inclusive.

Section 4. When effective.

This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

RESOLUTION OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY AND THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD, LOCATED IN DEMHS REGION 3, REGARDING STATE USE OF FUNDING GRANTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

WHEREAS, The State of Connecticut's Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (DEMHS) is the designated recipient and State Administrative Agency (SAA) of the United States Department of Homeland Security for: (1) Federal Fiscal Year 2007 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP), Grant Number 2007-GE-T7-0025, composed of the following programs: Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP); Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS); Citizen Corps Program (CCP); and (2) Federal Fiscal Year 2007 Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program, Grant Number 2007-GS-H7-0033; and

WHEREAS, The Emergency Management and Homeland Security Coordinating Council has approved the allocation formula for grant funds available under such programs as the SHSGP, LETPP, MMRS, CCP, and PSIC Grants; and

WHEREAS, The State of Connecticut's DEMHS is retaining pass-through funds from SHSGP Grant Number 2007-GE-T7-0025 in the total amount of \$2,541,251, on behalf of local units of government, for the following four regional set-aside projects designed to benefit the state's municipalities:

1. Expanded Regional Collaboration
2. Connecticut Intelligence/Fusion Center
3. Natural Disaster and CBRNE Preparedness
4. Interstate Coordination Plan; and

WHEREAS, DEMHS – in coordination and cooperation with the municipalities located within DEMHS Region 3, including the Town of Wethersfield – has created, and established bylaws for, the Region 3 Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT), a multi-disciplinary, multi-jurisdictional regional group to facilitate planning and resource coordination within DEMHS Region 3; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Wethersfield is eligible to participate in those Federal Fiscal Year 2007 SHSGP regional allocations made through the Region 3 REPT and not included in the set-aside projects, in the amount of \$1,238,160, which will be made available to the jurisdictions in the region in the manner recommended by the Region 3 REPT in accordance with its approved bylaws, upon execution of the grant application and as accepted by the SAA; and

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut's DEMHS is retaining pass through funds (\$10,400,000) provided through the 2007 PSIC Grant in accordance with the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) that was developed with significant local input and approved by the Statewide Interoperable Communications Executive Committee and the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Coordinating Council (EMHSCC), said pass through funds to be applied to the following projects that benefit local government:

1. Interconnectivity of Public Safety Answering Points and

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Communications Systems;

2. Enhancement and Integration of First Responder Practitioner Mobile Field Communications Through Equipment, Training and Coordination;
3. Enhancement and Migration of Regional Communications Systems to

700MHz, while maintaining current capabilities; and

WHEREAS, DEMHS agrees to serve as administrative agent for the 2007 PSIC Grant pass through funds;

NOW THEREFORE, The SAA and the Town of Wethersfield enter into this Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) authorizing the SAA to act as the agent of the Town of Wethersfield and allowing the SAA to retain and administer grant funds provided under Grant Number 2007-GE-T7-0025 for the four regional set-aside projects listed above and Grant Number 2007-GS-H7-0033 for the PSIC Grant Program projects.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT TO OBTAIN LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDS TO RECONSTRUCT A PORTION OF MIDDLETOWN AVENUE FROM SPRING STREET NORTH TO BROAD STREET ABOUT 1500 FEET

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD that BONNIE L. THERRIEN, TOWN MANAGER, is hereby authorized to execute for and on behalf of the TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD, a public entity established under the laws of the State of Connecticut, an application and to file it with the Office of Policy and Management for the purpose of obtaining financial assistance under the Local Capital Improvement Program. Said application shall be made to obtain financial assistance for the reconstruction of a portion of Middletown Avenue from Spring Street, north to Broad Street about 1500 feet.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING CAPITOL REGION PRE-DISASTER NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Town of Wethersfield in collaboration with the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) has developed a Capitol Region Pre-Disaster Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Wethersfield has established and prioritized goals and strategies for reducing the loss of life and property from natural hazards that affect the region within the Capitol Region Pre-Disaster Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency/ Department of Homeland Security has approved the Capitol Region Pre-Disaster Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, on condition of local adoption, enabling the Town to apply for Hazard Mitigation grant funding;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Wethersfield Town Council hereby adopts the 2008 Capitol Region Pre-Disaster Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

RESOLUTION APPROVING REVISED TOWN OF WETHERSFIED VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER PENSION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Town of Wethersfield Volunteer Firefighters are considered employees determined by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as to the taxability of stipends and other cash payments made to them,

WHEREAS, the Town of Wethersfield Volunteer Firefighters Pension Plan (the "Plan") is intended to be updated under the IRS Code Section 457 Plan Type,

WHEREAS, the Town shall adopt a Trust Fund to secure the assets of the Volunteer Firefighter Pension Fund,

WHEREAS, the Town's Firefighter's Pension Committee (Committee), in its capacity as Plan administrator, has approved additional changes to the Plan in order to comply with the IRS rules of a Section 457 Plan, consisting of updates to reflect Committee approved changes and certain administrative and clarifying changes; and

WHEREAS, the revision of the Plan through July 16, 2008, attached hereto as Exhibit A reflects all of the above-described revisions and has been approved by the Committee for adoption by the Town.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Wethersfield hereby votes to approve the Plan in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A.

ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE I, SECTION 139 - REMOVAL OF OBSTRUCTIONS

§ 139-1 Removal of [delete "*dangerous*"] obstructions.

(A) Definitions. As used in this Article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

OBSTRUCTION - Any impediment on a sidewalk or public highway that interferes with the removal of snow and ice from said sidewalk or public highway or interferes with the safe and orderly flow or passage of motor vehicle or pedestrian traffic. Such impediments may include, but are not limited to, grass clippings, brush, leaves, sand, gravel, stones, litter, vegetable and animal matter, refuse and rubbish.

PERSON – Any individual, corporation, association or other aggregation of individuals.

PUBLIC HIGHWAY – Any public streets, avenues, boulevards, roads, drives, parkways, alleys and other travel ways within the Town.

(B) Sidewalks.

The owner, agent of the owner or occupant of any building or land bordering upon any street, square or public place within the Town where there is a sidewalk [~~graded, paved or planked~~] shall cause to be removed therefrom and keep the sidewalks of said property free from all obstructions [~~such as mud . . . and other obstructions~~] which would endanger the safety, health or well-being of pedestrians; provided, however, that no such owner or agent of the owner or occupant having or occupying a residential lot with frontage on two nonintersecting streets shall be subject to the requirements of this section with regard to the sidewalks along the rear frontage.

(C) Public Highways.

(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to place an obstruction on a public highway in the Town. The Police Department shall be responsible for enforcing the provisions of this article. Upon notification of a police officer, the property owner or occupant of the property that adjoins a public highway must remove the obstruction. If the obstruction is deemed by the police officer as an immediate public highway hazard, such police officer shall immediately notify the Department of Public Works for its prompt removal. If the obstruction interferes with or obstructs any public works project or operation, any public works employee may remove such obstruction or interference from the highway. The Town, for the cost of such removal, may bill the owner or occupant of the property. This billing will also apply to any unscheduled leaf collection provided to Town residents as a result of the placement of leaves that are determined to be an obstruction on a public highway.

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(2) Placement of leaves on public property. Nothing contained in this article shall prohibit a person who owns or occupies property along a public highway from placing leaves on public property adjacent to or in front of their own property for the purposes of a scheduled collection only. However, no person shall be permitted to place leaves or other material on public property that is not in front of or along side of the

property he or she owns or occupies. At no time shall leaves or other materials be placed upon the paved portion of a public highway.

(D) Enforcement; penalties for offenses.

Any person observed placing an obstruction on a sidewalk or public highway or any person who places leaves on public property in violation of this Article shall be subject to a fine of \$50. Any property owner adjoining a sidewalk or public highway on which an obstruction is placed shall be subject to a fine of \$50 for failure to remove such obstruction within 48 hours of notification by a police officer, and may be subject to a fine of \$50 per day thereafter for every day the obstruction is on the public highway in violation of this Article. If the Department of Public Works removes the obstruction, as provided in § 139-1(C), the adjoining property owner shall be billed for the expense of said removal in addition to the penalties provided in this section.

MINUTES

Councilor Cascio moved **“TO APPROVE THE BUDGET MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 30, 2008”** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilor Forrest abstained. The motion passed 7-0-1.

Deputy Mayor Montinieri moved **“TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 16, 2008”** seconded by Councilor Forrest.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilor Cascio abstained. The motion passed 7-0-1.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:50 p.m., Deputy Mayor Montinieri moved **“TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS REAL ESTATE NEGOTIATIONS AND UNION NEGOTIATIONS”** seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0. No one else was present during the Executive Session. No motions were made and no voted were taken.

At 10:12 p.m., Councilor Roberts moved **“TO LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION”** seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

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ADJOURNMENT

At 10:12 p.m., Councilor Console moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk

*Approved by vote of Council
August 25, 2008*