

REGULAR MEETING JUNE 4, 2007

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, June 4, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in Room F-4 of the Pitkin Community Center.

Present: Councilors Cascio, Drake, Forrest, Kirsche, Kotkin, Montinieri, Walsh, Deputy Mayor Fortunato 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 Deputy Mayor Fortunato.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT - PETER GILLESPIE

Peter Gillespie, Town Planner presented the May 2007 Economic Development Report. He said that:

- 719 Silas Deane Highway - There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at DiGiorgi Window on Friday, June 8th with a live radio telecast.
- 7 Railroad Place - He is working with the owner to obtain a facade grant and resolve permit issues.
- Comstock Ferre and Co. - The application before the Historic District Commission was tabled.
- 1260 Silas Deane Highway - The application is before the Inland Wetland and Watercourses Commission.
- Progress Drive - The owner has contacted the Town about plans to construct a 7,000 square foot office building.
- Berlin Turnpike - A big box tenant may be interested in retail space.
- Siperstein's Paint Store - The store is closing and another paint and hardware store has expressed an interest in the property.
- Goff Road - He has met with three or four people interested in phase II of the multi-family home site. There are wetland and floodplain constraints.
- Fun Zone - He spoke with the owner and he indicated that the property is under contract with a new buyer.
- Intersection with Church Street and the Silas Deane Highway - The Town will go to bid on June 14th.
- There was a very successful State of the Town meeting attended by 60 businesses. Sterling Jewelers was honored as the Business of the Year.
- On June 19th, the Mayor will be receiving an award on behalf of the Tourism Commission from the Central Region Tourism District.
- The Wethersfield Trolley took part in the Memorial Day Parade.
- The Tourism Commission has offered to assist with the Horse and Buggy Grant .
- The Redevelopment Agency met with Planning and Zoning and EDIC. The Agency also met with Bond Counsel to discuss a potential fall referendum.
- There will be another Preserve America meeting on June 14th and a public forum on June 20th.
- He participated in a public information meeting with residents regarding the proposal for sponsorship signs at Little League fields.

Councilor Drake asked where the multi-family property is on Goff Road.

Peter Gillespie, Town Planner said that the multi-family property is part of Brandywine. Phase II was never built. It will share the same driveway with the existing home.

Councilor Drake said that he thought the advertising signs at the Little League fields would be up for only 6 weeks and now it is proposed for 8 months.

Peter Gillespie, Town Planner, said that there is a spring and fall season. The signs could be left up from the spring

season, through the summer to the fall season. This may change.

Councilor Forrest asked for more specific information regarding the \$115,000 requested from the façade grant.

Peter Gillespie, Town Planner, said that he could provide the Town Council with a list of properties, their applications, and any support material he has regarding the applications.

Councilor Forrest asked for more information for the Horse and Buggy Grant.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that Senator Fonfara envisioned weekend rides in Town to add to Tourism. The rides would be held spring, summer and fall. The Tourism Commission will meet and determine guidelines. The Town would then go out for a Request for Proposal.

Councilor Kotkin asked what was the status of the Design Review meeting in May for the property at 1912 Berlin Turnpike.

Peter Gillespie, Town Planner, said that it was carried over to June.

Deputy Mayor Fortunato moved **"TO ADD TO THE AGENDA ITEM B.3.I. - LIBRARY UNION CONTRACTS"** seconded by Councilor Kirsche.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HEARING

RESOLUTION - ACCEPTANCE OF STEAP GRANT

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this is the second \$500,000 award from the State. The resolution uses the State wording.

RESOLUTION - GRANT FOR OLD WETHERSFIELD HORSE AND CARRIAGE RESTORATION

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this is a \$25,000 grant for horse and buggy rides through Old Wethersfield. It is a certified resolution using the State's wording.

No one from the Public wished to speak for or against the Resolutions.

GENERAL COMMENTS

No one wished to speak.

COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMENTS

Deputy Mayor Fortunato said that the Shared Services Committee met and discussed parking issues at the schools and a policy for charge backs. The Committee would like to have a Fireside Chat in July at the Nature Center followed by a social in Mill Woods Park to meet the new Superintendent. Violence and vandalism, school parking, and energy programs can be discussed.

Councilor Kotkin thanked the Insurance Committee for their work reviewing the bids for the insurances policies and for getting together with such short notice.

Deputy Mayor Fortunato said that during her Council office hours someone came in and talked to her about broadcasting the Town Council meetings live. Since they are in the banquet room, the cabling can be run from channel 14.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that both Gary Santoro, Fire Marshal, and Rick Garry, President of Channel 14 strongly recommend against a live broadcast because it would require shutting down channel 14 and rebooting it.

Councilor Cascio said that he was approached by a resident of Morrison Avenue who was concerned with the snow shelf and sidewalk. He asked how the Town was addressing these issues.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that she met with residents before the paving took place and is scheduled to meet with them again. The neighbors had requested the road be lower than the sidewalks. She said that Town staff explained that total road reconstruction costs hundreds of thousands of dollars and could not be done for 20 years. The residents voted 20 to 5 to only repave the road. There are still some concerns about drainage at house numbers 9 and 11. The Town can adjust the sidewalks at those areas.

Councilor Cascio asked for a clarification of the \$110 expense for supper of the Town Hall Building Committee.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the Town Hall Building Committee had a meeting from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. and the Town fed the Committee members. The Committee was going to take the money from the bond. She said that the money would now be taken from the General Fund instead. Lisa Hancock, Finance Director, is preparing a list of other small expenses that will be paid for out of the General Fund as well instead of Bond money.

Councilor Forrest thanked the Memorial Day Parade Committee for all of its hard work. He said that the parade was well attended and the program afterward was appropriate and sentimental.

Chairperson Adil said that:

- The Memorial Day Parade Committee did a great job. It was a beautiful ceremony and day.
- The UNICO/Keane Foundation Golf Tournament was held today.
- The Friends of the Library are holding a book sale on June 9th.
- Park and Recreation is sponsoring a bus trip to Foxwoods on July 29th as a fundraiser for Special Olympics.

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Kotkin moved **"TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR AN ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT"** seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Councilor Forrest said that this money is an integral part of the Silas Deane Highway project. He is looking forward to receiving this money.

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

Deputy Mayor Fortunato moved **"TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION REGARDING THE AUTHORIZATION AND SUBMISSION OF A GRANT TO THE CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT AND THE AWARD OF FUNDS FROM THE GRANT TO THE OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT TO THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD"** seconded by Councilor Montinieri.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the Tourism Committee will work out the operation of the horse and buggy rides. She said that she hopes the rides will be started this summer.

Councilor Cascio asked if the Committee would look at where the horse will live and who will care for the horse and insure it.

Chairperson Adil said that the Town would hire someone to bring their horse and buggy to provide the rides.

Councilor Cascio said that this needs to be communicated to the public.

Councilor Drake said that the State is looking for a 10 percent tax increase this year. He said that the State should have better priorities than horse and buggy rides. He said that he will vote no on this motion.

Councilor Montinieri said that this is a birth of a concept for tourism. Senator Fonfara's initiative is for a new feature of tourism. It provides an additional service to the Town. People will come to Town for the ride and spend time and money here.

Councilor Kirsche said that he can see both sides of this issue. However, he will vote no, because the financial windfall from these rides will come from the \$25,000 grant money. The State needs to redirect its priorities.

Chairperson Adil said that he thanks the Senator for his aid to the Town for tourism. This will draw people to Town.

Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilors Drake and Kirsche voted NAY. The motion passed 6-2-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Kotkin moved "**TO TRANSFER \$25,000 FROM CONTINGENCY TO THE INSURANCE ACCOUNT T1930-5239**" seconded by Deputy Mayor Fortunato.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the audits are done every two years on the worker's compensation accounts. This audit is for fiscal year 2005-2006. There is usually an overage or underage in this account but she was surprised by the amount. In 2005-2006, the 818 and Police Unions' contracts were still being negotiated when the budget numbers were needed for Insurance Costs. There will also be a discrepancy in the 2006-2007 year based on the 2005-2006 year.

Councilor Kotkin asked if the 2006-2007 increase will be \$25,000, too.

Lisa Hancock, Finance Director, said that 2006-2007 is the current year. The final numbers will be looked at in August and the Auditor's numbers will be back to the Town in January, 2008. She said that she expects a discrepancy but not that much.

Councilor Kotkin said that the Police Overtime hours can't be done ahead of time so there will always be a difference.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the Town was bombarded by Private Duty Time with the Police Department.

Deputy Mayor Fortunato asked if the \$25,000 was an exact amount or rounded up.

Lisa Hancock, Finance Director, said that the number was rounded up. The exact number was \$5 or \$6 less.

Councilor Cascio asked if this will have a negative impact on the 2007-2008 budget.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that it may have some impact but nowhere near \$25,000.

Councilor Cascio asked if this situation could be documented so that it can be discussed next year during the budget session.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that she could put a cushion in the budget for this.

Councilor Kirsche said that by under reporting, the Town is earning investments on this money. The Town shouldn't overpay.

Chairperson Adil said that this is a moving target. It is true that the Town earns interest on this money.

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

Councilor Kotkin moved **"TO AWARD THE TOWN'S PROPERTY/LIABILITY AND WORKERS COMPENSATION COVERAGE TO CIRMA"** seconded by Deputy Mayor Fortunato.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that Greg Bedula, Town Agent of Record went out to bid on the Town's worker's compensation coverage. He received quotes from CIRMA and MIRMA. The Insurance Committee recommends that the Town stay with CIRMA.

Greg Bedula, Town Agent of Record, said that the Town Council has the comparison of the CIRMA and MIRMA quotes at their places. He said that CIRMA's renewal cost is \$958,000 and MIRMA's is \$938,000. There is a loyalty to CIRMA and a history with the company during some bad years. CIRMA is more secure financially. There are also deductible differences. He said that he and the Insurance Committee agree that the Town should remain with CIRMA.

Councilor Drake asked if there were other companies besides CIRMA and MIRMA that provided coverage.

Greg Bedula, Town Agent of Record, said there are only 2 providers for municipalities. Towns have a history of unprofitability. MIRMA was started as competition for CIRMA.

Councilor Kirsche said that he is glad to see that there was a competitive quotation. He said that he thought historically, Wethersfield was profitable.

Greg Bedula, Town Agent of Record, said that the coverage is about the same. Some years, the Town has been profitable, while other years it has not been.

Councilor Kotkin thanked Greg Bedula and the Town staff for their work on these quotations. He said that LAP and worker's compensation are coming in flat. There are advantages to staying with CIRMA. An item important to the Insurance Committee was disaster coverage. CIRMA will provide better coverage for property loss in a single occurrence. He said that the LAP coverage has gone down in part to the increased sidewalk maintenance schedule.

Councilor Montinieri asked if CIRMA is a conglomerate of difference insurance companies.

Greg Bedula, Town Agent of Record, said CIRMA is a quasi governmental agency that was started by the State to provide insurance for Towns. It is one company with re-insurers to help carry the risk.

Councilor Montinieri asked if the Town is actively looking at worker's compensation issues with the Board of Education, Police Department, and Physical Services Division.

Greg Bedula, Town Agent of Record, said that he is very proactive and tries to get issues under control. The sidewalks are a good example of the Town working on its problems. There is no common thread among the recent worker's compensation claims. CIRMA is proactive on loss control. It has standard programs that it follows and also looks at individual issues.

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

Councilor Montinieri moved **"TO AWARD A TAX INCENTIVE TO KIRWIN LLC/PELTON'S FOR 898 SILAS DEANE HIGHWAY BY REDUCING THE ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PERSONAL PROPERTY AND REAL ESTATE BY 50 PERCENT FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS"** seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that Pelton's Home Health Care has responded to the foreclosure of the Porch and Patio building. The company would move its offices from Middletown and their store from Wethersfield to this location. The move would create 10 new jobs in Town. The company is proposing improvements to the building. The

Town Council needs to show its support for Pelton's Home Health Care to move forward with this project so that it can secure financing from a bank. Economic Development Improvement Committee is recommending a 50 percent tax incentive for the first three years. She said that she will come back to Council with the exact dollar amount at a later time. The vote tonight is for acceptance of the concept only.

Councilor Montinieri said that he is in favor of this project. It will improve the grand list, show that the Town is business friendly, improve the Silas Deane Highway, and support a local business. This is a win/win situation with Pelton's committing to a \$1,000,000 building. It is an appropriate business for Town, too with the aging population.

Councilor Cascio said that with the tax break of 50 percent on personal property, is there an agreement on the number of employees that will be hired.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that there is usually an agreement to stay on a timeline and have a certain number of employees. The tax abatement goes away if all of the criteria is not met. This is a vote on the concept only.

Councilor Cascio said that he agrees with Councilor Montinieri's comments.

Councilor Kotkin said that the current assessment is \$478,100. He asked what the taxes on the property are now and what will they be with the proposed improvements?

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that she would find out.

Councilor Drake said that he approves of this tax break only on what is improved. He said he doesn't think the Town should stipulate how many employees Pelton's hires. He asked what would become of the old building that Pelton's would be vacating.

Peter Gillespie, Town Planner, said that Pelton's is using space in the Brook's Pharmacy building on the Silas Deane Highway. Brook's is changing over to a RiteAid and they will fill the space.

Councilor Forrest said that the Town is working hard to improve the aesthetics on the Silas Deane Highway. He is in favor of this motion. His only caveat would be that the amount of commitment by the Town shouldn't be more than that of Pelton's. He asked if that Town had conceptual plans for the building.

Peter Gillespie, Town Planner, said that the Design Review Committee and the Budget and Finance Subcommittee of EDIC have seen the plans. They also have a listing of the improvements for the inside and outside of the building. There are no bid plans or floor plans yet so a new assessment can't be determined. Both Committees unanimously approved this motion. He would get Town Councilors the information.

Councilor Forrest asked if there would be any landscape improvements.

Peter Gillespie, Town Planner, said that there is very little room for landscape in the front of the building. He said the landscape plans will evolve over the next few months.

Deputy Mayor Fortunato said that she supports this motion because it will be a new endeavor. She said she would like the EDIC to create criteria for future businesses who approach the Town for assistance like this. She said that as a policy maker, she is not familiar with this process. She asked that the process be documented for the Town Council and the public.

Chairperson Adil said that he agrees with all of the positive comments he heard tonight. He said he would love to see success on the Silas Deane Highway.

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

Councilor Montinieri moved "TO ALLOW FOR THE SALE OF THE TAX LIEN ON 898 SILAS DEANE HIGHWAY FOR \$1.00 ONLY IF ALL PERMITS ARE GRANTED FOR THE RELOCATION AND

EXPANSION OF PELTON'S HOME HEALTH CARE CENTER" seconded by Deputy Mayor Fortunato.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this motion is for the same Silas Deane Highway property. The Town Council has the statutory authority to sell tax liens. The current taxes owed on the property are \$27,908. The tax lien would be sold after all of the approvals are met and the timeline followed.

Councilor Montinieri said that the projected cost is \$100,000 for the tax incentive, tax lien and façade grant. The tax lien on the property was a surprise to the owners of Pelton's. This project is proposed to be in the \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 range,

Councilor Drake said that he supports this motion but thought the Pelton's bought the building already through the foreclosure process and should have paid the taxes already.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that Pelton's does not own this property, yet.

Councilor Forrest said that this is an investment in the Town and the vote is a step forward in bringing this tenant to Wethersfield. He said that he needs more commitment from the company.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO AMEND THE MOTION TO ADD 'CONTINGENT UPON THE ISSUING OF A CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY FOR THE CONTEMPLATED REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AND ALLOWING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN SUCH AGREEMENTS'"** seconded by Councilor Drake.

Councilor Forrest said that the amendment shows that the company is also committed to the project. It is an attempt to make all sides on a level playing field.

Councilor Montinieri said that tying the motion with a certificate of occupancy may cause financing problems. It will create a timing issue. The bank wants the \$100,000 commitment from the Town now, not at the project completion.

Peter Gillespie, Town Planner, said that the lien on the Land Records needs to be cleared before the project can begin. He said that something could be put in to safe guard the Town but this amendment would create a timing problem.

Councilor Kotkin asked how the Town could get its money back if the tax lien is sold and then the project doesn't go through.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said she could put in a timing schedule to follow or the tax lien would need to be paid. She said that she will bring an agreement back to the Town Council at a later date.

Councilor Kotkin said that he is in favor of the concept but wants to make sure that the Town doesn't give away its tax liens

Councilor Forrest asked what kind of amendment could the Town Council put on this motion now to protect the Town.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this motion is to approve the concepts only. She said that she could put in a timeline that says that Pelton's must own the property within a certain number of months.

Councilor Forrest said that there is no contingency in place and he would like to add something.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO WITHDRAW HIS PREVIOUS AMENDMENT AND ADD 'CONTINGENT PURSUANT TO THAT WHICH THE TOWN MANAGER HAS JUST DESCRIBED'"**

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that she would need a timeline. She suggested moving in concept only and the lien will not be sold until she comes back to the Town Council with an agreement.

Councilor Drake said that this carries little risk for the Town. The Town Council has gambled on much larger items.

Chairperson Adil said that he would like the Town Council to vote on the motion as is.

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

Councilor Montinieri moved **"TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO IMPLEMENT CHANGES TO THE SILAS DEANE FAÇADE LOAN PROGRAM AS AUTHORIZED BY EDIC TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM LOAN AMOUNT TO \$50,000 PER PROPERTY"** seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the EDIC would like the Town Council to increase the maximum loan amount to \$50,000 per property, including the Porch and Patio property.

Councilor Montinieri said that the EDIC approved this change.

Chairperson Adil said that he supports this motion and said that the EDIC does a wonderful job.

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

Councilor Kirsche moved **"TO REFER THE REQUEST FOR DONATION OF OPEN SPACE FROM THE PROPERTY AT 15 HEATHER DRIVE TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR A REVIEW AND REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8-24 OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES"** seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this property is on Heather Drive and backs into Wintergreen Woods. It needs to be referred to Planning and Zoning.

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

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO SUPPORT PARTICIPATION IN THE CRCOG BUS SHELTER PROGRAM AND TO REFER BUS SHELTER ADVERTISING TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR A REVIEW AND REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8-24 OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES"** seconded by Councilor Montinieri.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that there are concerns with the appearance of the bus shelters. This CRCOG proposal recommends a system where ConnDot builds and maintains the bus shelters. Advertising on the bus shelter pays for the maintenance. Town staff currently spends a lot of time on maintaining the bus shelters in Town. She said that this is a win/win situation. She said that Lyle Wray, Executive Director of CRCOG, is at the meeting tonight. She said that she needs an endorsement by the Town Council to see if CRCOG will move forward with the initiative.

Councilor Drake asked who will decide where the shelters will be located.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that there are 11 areas that will be replaced.

Councilor Drake said that there is an Ordinance that prohibits the advertising on public property. He is concerned with advertising in residential areas, too.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this is only the preliminary stage; there may be some give and take

Councilor Drake said that he would only approve this if there was a stipulation that the Town could decide which bus shelters would have advertising.

Lyle Wray, Executive Director of CRCOG, said that if the Town has stipulations they should be discussed now. Westchester County has set up different criteria for residential and commercial areas. Advertisement criteria needs to be set up as well. The tone and type of the advertisements should also be set. He said that there is a problem with maintenance now and this program would get rid of the problem. The location of the bus shelters would not change. The bus shelters would be stainless steel and glass.

Councilor Montinieri said that this proposal should go to the Design Review Board for their opinion.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that the Design Review Board will get involved if the project gets to that stage. It will go to the Planning and Zoning Commission first. CRCOG needs an answer from Towns by its June meeting.

Lyle Wray, Executive Director of CRCOG, said that there is no set schedule to move forward. The Request for Proposal drafting may be challenging. The Request for Proposal process may take months.

Councilor Cascio said that he was concerned with the maintenance. Will there be periodic reviews?

Lyle Wray, Executive Director of CRCOG, said that there will be a rigorous set of maintenance standards, like those in Westchester County. There will be specific standards and contractual terms for failures.

Deputy Mayor Fortunato said that she is concerned with the content of the advertisements. She asked if the no tobacco ads policy implemented by CT Transit has been challenged in court.

Lyle Wray, Executive Director of CRCOG, said that he doesn't know.

Deputy Mayor Fortunato said that the RFP is with one vendor. She asked if the vendor solicits companies to advertise.

Lyle Wray, Executive Director of CRCOG, said that most of these large turnkey companies are usually large integrated multimedia companies that advertise themselves. The company wants to maintain a good relationship with the Towns so they usually exercise good judgement.

Deputy Mayor Fortunato asked how long the program has been in existence.

Lyle Wray, Executive Director of CRCOG, said that the program has been in effect for 40 years. Over that time it has evolved .

Deputy Mayor Fortunato said that she is interested in knowing that there are protections but anything can be challenged in a court of law. She said that she is concerned that it does not have control on what is put on the shelters.

Lyle Wray, Executive Director of CRCOG, said that he will take this feedback to the CRCOG meeting to see about the legal challenges.

Councilor Forrest said that he shares the Deputy Mayor's concerns. He said that Boston had a legal case that CRCOG could look into. He asked if the Town could remove signs once they are up on the bus shelters.

Lyle Wray, Executive Director of CRCOG, said that the bus shelters will be the property of the company. The Town can always withdraw from the program.

Councilor Forrest said that he would like an opt-out clause. He is comfortable moving forward with the motion tonight since it is only sending it to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review.

Councilor Kotkin said that he is in favor of these bus shelters in commercial areas, but not residential areas.

Chairperson Adil said that he supports this motion. He said that this program is a good way to support Town staff. He asked the CRCOG Director to make sure his staff would attend the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting.

Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Deputy Mayor Fortunato voted NAY. The motion passed 7-1-0.

Deputy Mayor Fortunato moved **"TO AUTHORIZE THE FEE INCREASES AND THE NEW FEES AS FOLLOWS:**

PER COPY FEE	\$1.00
RECYCLING BIN FEE	\$7.50

RETURNED CHECK FEE \$30.00
ONE DAY VENDOR PERMIT FEE \$25.00
BULKY WASTE PICK UP FEE \$20.00

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT RESPONSE BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT RESCUE \$355 FOR THE FIRST HOUR/\$200 PER HOUR EACH ADDITIONAL HOUR

RESCUE WITH TOOLS - \$750 FOR THE FIRST HOUR/\$545 PER HOUR EACH ADDITIONAL HOUR

" seconded by Councilor Montinieri.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that every year, Town staff reviews the fees. The motion is for increases in fees and additional fees. The new fees are for a one day vendor permit fee, bulky waste pick up fee and motor vehicle accident response by the Fire Department Rescue, only to Insurance companies.

Deputy Mayor Fortunato said that she thought that the one day vendor permit was initiated a few years ago. She said that it must never have passed but only discussed.

Councilor Drake said that he would like to see a large quantity copy discount and thought the Town was not starting a bulky waste pick up fee. He said that he is concerned that sofas will start appearing around town.

Chairperson Adil said that the bulky waste pick up fee does not include the tipping fee. The tipping fee would be much more expensive and may discourage residents from properly disposing of the sofas.

Councilor Drake said that he would like to revisit this again and make sure that there is no problem with sofas. He said that the Fire Department rescue should be the same price with or without rescue tools.

Councilor Kotkin said that a 10 page ordinance would cost someone \$10.00 for a copy. He asked what the rationale was behind the increase.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that yes, the increase in copy charges is because Town staff makes these copies.

Councilor Montinieri said that he has the same concern over cost. He asked if the motion could be amended to increase the fee from \$1.00 for the first five pages and a tier pay schedule after.

Chairperson Adil asked if these documents are available on-line and in the Library.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that they are.

Councilor Kirshe suggested \$1.00 for the first five pages and \$.50 per page for any additional pages.

Councilor Cascio said that the fees came in after research by Town staff in an effort to bring Wethersfield's fees up to the fees in surrounding Towns. In changing these fees, the Town Council is defeating the purpose of having the Town employees research this.

Chairperson Adil said that he agrees with Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Forrest said that it is important that residents are able to get information about the government. He asked if the Town charged now for this information.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the Town can now charge \$.50 per page but she said that she usually has extra copies of the Management Reports and Agendas and gives them to the public at no cost.

Councilor Forrest said that he disagrees with that. The operation of government should be free.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that under Freedom of Information it is chargeable. She said that the Town is giving residents a break by giving away these copies.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO AMEND THE MOTION TO ADD 'DO NOT CHARGE FOR COPIES ON ANY GOVERNMENT OPERATION DOCUMENTS'"**

There was no second to the motion. The amendment failed.

Councilor Kirsche moved **"TO AMEND THE MOTION TO MODIFY THE COPY FEE TO \$1.00 PER PAGE FOR THE FIRST FIVE PAGES AND \$.50 PER PAGE THEREAFTER"** seconded by Councilor Drake.

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

Deputy Mayor Fortunato moved **"TO ADOPT THE LIBRARY UNION CONTRACTS FOR THE SUPERVISORS AND NON-SUPERVISORS"** seconded by Councilor Kirsche.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that these contracts are for two new unions for Library staff, one for supervisors and one for non-supervisors. She said that the Town staff has been working for more than a year on these contracts. The contracts provide for a 4 percent salary increase. The Health Insurance remains unchanged. There is a re-opener in January to move the Health Insurance programs to ones similar to the Police Department and Teachers. This is a three year contract with benefits remaining the same.

Deputy Mayor Fortunato said that she fully supports this motion. The Town staff, Library Board members, and Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, have worked so hard for this equitable contract.

Councilor Drake said that he spent a lot of time reading over all of this information. He said that the way the contract is written, it is very hard to support. He said the contract is very rich and sets a bad example for the other unions in Town. He said that the benefits package bothers him the most. He felt that the Town didn't get anything and the Union got everything it wanted.

Councilor Montinieri said that he supports this contract. Town staff worked many months on this contract. He said that the Mayor decided not to vote on this contract at the last meeting because the Town Council did not have the full representation. He said that he supports the Mayor's decision to wait for bi-partisan support. He said that he was offended by the tone of the public comments by the Union members and representatives at the meeting. It was a misrepresentation to the public.

Councilor Cascio said that he also has respect for the Committee that put this contract together. He is not 100 percent comfortable with this contract. He also said that arbitration is not necessarily the way to go either. He said that he is not sure how he will vote.

Councilor Kirsche said that he shares Councilor Drake's concerns with setting an unfavorable precedent for future Union negotiations, but he believes that pragmatism should prevail when considering the best deal for the town. He defers to veterans of the union negotiation process who foresee a greater cost if we head to arbitration.

Councilor Kotkin said that this is a long contract with a lot of information in it. He said that he was not prepared to vote at the last meeting. He said that it is better to avoid arbitration.

Chairperson Adil thanked Laurel Goodgion, Library Director; the Library Board; Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager; and Deputy Mayor Fortunato for all of their work on this contract. He said that he, too was very unhappy with the comments made by the Library Union members at the last meeting.

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

BIDS

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR TRAFFIC LINE PAINTING FROM ATLANTIC PAVEMENT MARKINGS FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$31,575 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-08"** seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this is a CRCOG bid. The entire pavement amount will be used starting July 1st.

Councilor Montinieri asked why there was such a big spread between bidders.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this contractor has been used before. It will have to provide the service for the bid price.

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

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO REJECT THE BID FOR SALE OF THE VOTING MACHINES"** seconded by Councilor Drake.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that no one bid on the voting machines. A vendor has taken the machines to use for scrap metal.

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

Deputy Mayor Fortunato moved **"TO REJECT THE BID FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE WOODEN GUARD RAILS ON MARSH STREET"** seconded by Councilor Kirsche.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager said that there is Capital budget money for the replacement of wooden guard rails on Marsh Street. The bids came in over budget.

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

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SPECIAL REVENUE AND CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS

BE IT ORDAINED THAT Part II General Legislation of the Municipal Code of the Town of Wethersfield, Connecticut is hereby amended by adding the following Chapter entitled An Act Authorizing The Establishment of Special Revenue And Capital Project Funds.

Section 1. Establishment

Pursuant to generally accepted accounting principles, the Finance Director shall have the authority to establish any required Special Revenue Funds and funds for the appropriate accounting of Capital Projects.

Section 2. Custody and Investment of Funds

Funds shall be in the custody of the Treasurer of the Town of Wethersfield. All or any part of the moneys in said fund may, from time to time, be invested in any investments in which public funds may lawfully be invested. Certain Special Revenue funds may have legal restrictions that prevent them from earning investment income or may require a separate cash account. Those funds shall be segregated into the appropriate account to adhere to such legal restrictions. All income derived from the funds that are legally permitted to have such investments shall be paid into the appropriate fund and in appropriate cases shall become a part thereof. The moneys so invested shall at all times be subject to withdrawal from such investment for the uses provided herein.

Section 3. Annual Report

Annually, the Finance Director shall submit to the Council the annual financial report which will include the accounting of these funds.

Section 4. Expenditures

Such fund shall be used by the municipality for the payment of restricted or designated expenditures of the fund.

Section 5. Duration

Such fund shall not lapse at the close of the municipal fiscal year. Special Revenue funds shall be closed when the purpose of that fund has been completed. In some instances the fund will be ongoing. Any balance at the close of the Special Revenue fund shall be transferred to the fund deemed legally appropriate by the Town Manager and Finance Director. Capital Project or Improvement funds/accounts are temporary funds which should be eliminated once the specific capital project has been completed. Any balance which remains in a capital improvements or capital projects fund shall be transferred to the appropriate debt service fund or other fund as may be required.

Section 6. Definitions

"Special Revenue funds" are funds used to account for the proceeds of special revenue sources (other than special assessments, expendable trusts, or major capital projects) that are restricted to provide for particular functions and activities of the Town. The restricted revenues are segregated into individual funds to ensure that expenditures are made exclusively for the purpose designated.

"Capital Project funds" are funds used to account for financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities other than those financed by proprietary funds and trust funds. The financial resources of capital project funds come from several different sources including general obligation bonds, grants from the state and federal government and appropriations from the general or special revenue funds.

MINUTES

Deputy Mayor Fortunao moved **"TO APPROVE THE BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES OF APRIL 25, 2007"** seconded by Councilor Cascio. .

Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilor Montinieri ABSTAINED. The motion passed 7-0-1.

Councilor Montinieri moved **"TO APPROVE THE BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES OF APRIL 30, 2007"** seconded by Councilor Kirsche.

Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilor Kotkin ABSTAINED. The motion passed 7-0-1.

Deputy Mayor Fortunato moved **"TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 7, 2007"** seconded by Councilor Kirsche. .

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:15 p.m., Councilor Montinieri moved **"TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS UNION NEGOTIATIONS"** seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Also invited in was Phillip Robertson, Consultant with the Mercer Group.

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

At 10:47 p.m., Councilor Cascio moved "**TO LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION**" seconded by Councilor Forrest.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:48 p.m., Councilor Kirsche moved "**TO LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION AND 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 July 16, 2007