

REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 3, 2007

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, December 3, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Silas Deane Middle School.

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

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HEARINGS

MILLWOODS PARK ATHLETIC FIELDS RESOLUTION - STATE FUNDS

REPEAL OF CHAPTER 77, FEES AND CHARGES, GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS FEES

Kenneth Sokolowski, 79 Main Street, speaking about the Repeal of Chapter 77, suggested that in the future more information be provided up front to the public when such a recommendation is presented.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, said he, too would like to address the repeal of Chapter 77. He said that this is another way of bringing money into the Town. By repealing it, it looks like the Town doesn't need this money. The Town provides a lot of services that have a charge. He said he thinks that this repeal is to keep people from getting some types of information and that is not very business or user friendly. He hopes the Town Council will turn this down.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Kenneth Sokolowski, 79 Main Street, said that the Town Council and Redevelopment Agency should know why the residents voted no to the Bond Referendum. According to the minutes of the Redevelopment Agency, one member proposed a survey to determine why residents voted no. The Town Manager said a survey would be too expensive, wouldn't get much of a response, and wouldn't be a representative answer. The small cost of a survey of an unbiased, non-political service should not be dismissed.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, said that Dr. Sokolowski brings up some good ideas. The referendum was crushed badly. A professional survey would be a good idea. He said that there was an article in the Hartford Courant about a property on the Silas Deane Highway. It was disturbing to read that the Town is going to be covering or allowing the covering of wetlands. The Town has strict policies to prevent landowners from ruining wetlands. The Town is supposed to be preserving open space and wetlands not covering it with asphalt.

Robert Smart, 62 Church Street, said that the Town of Wethersfield applied for a permit to the Army Corp of Engineers to filter one acre of wetlands along the Silas Deane Highway. There is no facility justification whatsoever or alternatives presented in the application. The increased runoff rate from Interstate 91 to this area will cause more water to go into the storm sewers. There is already a problem with water bubbling up out of manholes on the Silas Deane Highway in that area annually. This increased runoff rate will only exasperate that problem.

COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMENTS

Councilor Roberts said that the Shared Services Committee met for the first time since the election. There was an update on MUNIS by the Town Manager. The Town-side should be up and running by December 31, 2007 and the Board of Education by June 2008. The Central Connecticut Health District Director discussed issues concerning artificial fields and environmental issues. He reported that according to the Department of Public Health there is no reason for concern. They will be looking for funding from the Legislature for their own studies. The studies done to date have not been under the proper controls to replicate actual fields and playing on them. The fields are safe. Also, the Town Council and Board of Education need training for Federal Emergency Management in January in order to comply with Homeland Security requirements.

Councilor Walsh said that the work at the Keeney Center is progressing nicely and hopefully it will be opening by the second quarter of next year. Also, the 375th Anniversary Committee met and is working on plans for the celebration.

Councilor Kotkin said that the Millwoods Building Committee met and reviewed the shortfall of the amount of money that they currently have to work with versus the estimated cost of doing everything that is wanted in the first phase. The first phase involves building a field next to the lighted softball field, building a new soccer field behind Griswold Road, moving irrigation piping out to both fields, and moving electrical systems out to the Little League field. The Committee is working on deciding what projects to do and how much money to raise. Items like a score board and press box are being eliminated from phase one. The Committee is also looking at doing the infrastructure for both fields in phase one but only building one field now. The Committee's goal is to have the documents prepared so that the applications to do all the work can go before the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. The Little League is talking about donating the lights for the Little League field so the taxpayers would not be paying the \$100,000 cost.

Councilor Kotkin moved "**TO ADD ITEM B.3.D. - \$5,000 TRANSFER TO THE AGENDA**" seconded by Councilor Roberts.

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

Councilor Hemmann said that it is her understanding that there were some proposed revisions for the Code of Ethics presented to the Town Council and were referred to a committee. She would like to know what the revisions were and what committee they were referred to. She said that after the recent election, the Town Council has a unique situation. She said that there are family members in leadership roles on both the Board of Education and Town Council. The Town Council appropriates the level of funding to the Board of Education. During the process the Town Council is asking many questions and many factors go into determining the final amount. Residents have raised this issue over the past several weeks. This is a procedural issue. It presents a potential conflict of interest related only to the financial or policy decisions between the Town Council and the Board of Education. Nothing has happened at this time but she wanted to bring this to the table as the budget time approaches very quickly. It should be discussed now before it becomes an issue so that the Town Council, Board of Education, and residents can be comfortable with the process and policy. She said that she was appointed to the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee but since it meets during the day she will be unable to attend those meetings.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that she will get copies of the proposed ethics changes to the new Councilors. It was referred to the Rules and Procedures Committee and they met once with the Board of Ethics members who were advocating for those changes. Another meeting will be held by this Committee in January.

Councilor Cascio said that he had the honor to attend the Fall Sports Awards Assembly. The Town is fortunate to have over 85 percent of its fall athletes to be on the All Academic Team. It proves that the students have a full schedule and also do well in their sports. At the last Council meeting he mentioned that on December 10th, Wreaths Across America will come to Wethersfield. It is a program that remembers fallen soldiers. At noon on the 10th, a Town in each State will lay a wreath in honor of the fallen soldiers. Town staff has been very instrumental in putting the ceremony together. The public is invited to attend. There will be a reception following at the Solomon Welles House.

Chairperson Adil said that the Deputy Mayor will be his representative for this event as he will be out of Town.

Councilor Console said that he has gotten telephone calls about a house on 7 Wilcox Street.

Chairperson Adil said that the house is on the list of blighted properties.

Councilor Console also asked what was being done regarding the clearing of Town property adjacent to the new chocolate factory.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the property owners at Narcissus cleared brush, trees, everything off of Town property while clearing their own property. Town staff went down and appraised the damage, cost of the trees, and designed a replacement plan. The owners have agreed to plant the replacement in the spring. It will cost them about \$5,000. The Town will follow up in the spring.

Chairperson Adil said that:

- On December 10th at 6:30 p.m. the Town will have the Annual Tree Lighting at the Solomon Welles House. There will be a visit from Santa and refreshments, too.
- The Annual Salute to Business will take place on December 12th at the Wethersfield Country Club.
- There will be holiday carriage rides in Old Wethersfield on December 8th, 9th, 16th, 22nd, 23rd, 29th and 30th. The cost is \$10 per family and \$5 per person.

COUNCIL ACTION

Deputy Mayor Montinieri moved **"TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATIONS OF DAWN RICHARDSON-SILVER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS AND ANNE KUCKRO FROM THE TOURISM COMMISSION AND THE CENTRAL REGIONAL TOURISM DISTRICT"** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Chairperson Adil asked that a letter of thanks be sent to both of these long standing committee members.

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

Councilor Kotkin moved **"TO APPROVE THE MILLWOODS PARK ATHLETIC FIELDS RESOLUTION - STATE FUNDS"** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that this is a \$750,000 grant for Millwoods Park that was received from the State. This resolution must be passed in order to receive the money.

Chairperson Adil publicly thanked Senator Doyle for his working in getting this money for Wethersfield.

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

Councilor Robert moved **"TO REPEAL CHAPTER 77, FEES AND CHARGES, GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM FEES, SECTION 3, 4, AND 5"** seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that there is, under the schedule of fees, four different areas for GIS that cover the same items in this Ordinance. As Council is aware, the Town Clerk is trying to update the Code Book. Every year the Town Council adopts the schedule of fees. Now GIS maps, data, and CD's are listed under the schedule of fees for 2007-2008. She is recommending removing the Ordinance and keeping the fees as part of the fees schedule. The fees would be reviewed every year during the budget process.

Councilor Kotkin said residents would have the same availability of GIS services that they do now and the same fees.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the prices are the same but she doesn't see the \$100 per megabyte listed. It may be something that she will have to move to the fees schedule.

Councilor Kotkin said that if the Town Council adopts this tonight and repeals this section but didn't have the fee

structure for the megabytes what would happen if someone wants to come in for that item.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, there would be no fee for it. She said the Town Council would have to add that item to the fee schedule. The public could get that item but the Town couldn't charge for it.

Councilor Kotkin said that no one is losing any rights then. It is a duplicative section of the Code Book.

Councilor Hemmann said that item A is not included on the fee schedule. Is there a structure to accomplish item A?

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that there is not right now. She could give the Council something for the next meeting to add item A to the fee schedule.

Councilor Hemmann asked if there was a large demand for item A.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that there is not. The Town Council could table this item until the next meeting.

Councilor Hemmann moved **"TO TABLE THE ITEM TO THE NEXT MEETING"** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Deputy Mayor Montinieri moved **"TO TRANSFER \$91,182 FROM THE UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE TO THE CAPITAL BUDGET, PHASE ONE RENOVATION PROJECT FOR THE SETTLEMENT WITH THE NUTMEG COMPANIES; SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH NUTMEG WILL REFLECT AND CONFIRM THAT ALL THE TERMS AND WARRANTIES AND CONDITIONS WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT FROM THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT"** seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said there was a claim from Nutmeg Companies, the contractor for the phase one renovations of the Town Hall. The claim was for over \$900,000 for work they felt they should have been paid for in phase one. The Town went into mediation with Nutmeg Companies. The mediated settlement was \$300,000. The majority of that is the retainer that the Town was holding for work done. The amount that would have to be funded is \$91,182. She recommends the money be taken from the Undesignated Fund Balance.

Councilor Kotkin said that at the last meeting the Town Council was told the number would be higher. Did Town staff find that more money was available?

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that is correct. She said that she found out also that insurance would not cover this.

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

Councilor Kotkin moved **"TO TRANSFER \$12,000 FROM CONTINGENCY TO THE LABOR ATTORNEY ACCOUNT T10242005225"** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that for the past five years the Town has done very well with the Labor Attorney account. This year there are a number of personnel issues and she has been using the services of Attorney Plum. This transfer is necessary to get through the year.

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

Councilor Walsh moved **"TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPLY FOR PRESERVE AMERICA FUNDING FROM THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND TO ACCEPT THE FUNDS IF SO AWARDED"** seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the Town has the opportunity to receive another round of funding for Preserve America. The Town's Preserve America plan is almost complete. The Committee is meeting tomorrow night but is leaning towards asking for the money for the way faring signs and also to enhance the exits off of 91. The money that the Town Council has set aside for the guard rails could be the match for this money, if the Town receives all of the funding. The deadline is coming up.

Councilor Forrest said that he wanted to support and congratulate Councilor Walsh and Town staff for the great job they have done with this grant. The grant will help Wethersfield.

Chairperson Adil asked where the signs would be located.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that there is a draft of the locations of the signs. They would not all be in Old Wethersfield. The Town will work with the State to achieve a uniform look with all the signs.

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

Councilor Kotkin moved **"TO TRANSFER \$5,000 FROM CONTINGENCY TO ACCOUNT T1010115-5220"** seconded by Councilor Walsh.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that these dollars would be utilized to enhance the audit process. The Town will be concentrating on the Physical Services and Engineering areas.

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

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

RESOLUTION - CRCOG SERVICE SHARING GRANT- ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF AND STANDARD ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Whereas Public Act 07-239 passed by the Connecticut General Assembly provides statewide \$8.6 million in incentive grants to regional planning organizations for projects that involve shared services; and

Whereas the Capitol Region Council of Governments is acting as a convener and facilitator of service sharing projects around the CRCOG region; and

Whereas on November 13, 2007 the Policy Board of CRCOG passed a resolution authorizing development and submittal of an application package to the State Office of Policy and Management for funding under the Regional Performance Incentive Grant Program, on behalf of the Council's member municipalities, and municipalities of other regions, which are participating in Council initiatives; and

Whereas, the Chief Elected Officials and municipal staff of the Capitol Region have developed a list of service sharing project proposals that will be included in this application package, to the benefit of individual municipalities and the region as a whole; and

Whereas the Town of Wethersfield has expressed an interest in taking part in the project proposal entitled "Administrative Staff and Standard Admin Procedures."

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Wethersfield Town Council does hereby endorse the above referenced Regional Performance Incentive Program project proposal and authorizes the Town Manager, Bonnie L. Therrien, to sign all necessary agreements and take all necessary actions to allow for the Town's participation in this program.

RESOLUTION - CRCOG SERVICE SHARING GRANT- DIGITAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Whereas Public Act 07-239 passed by the Connecticut General Assembly provides statewide \$8.6 million in incentive grants to regional planning organizations for projects that involve shared services; and

Whereas the Capitol Region Council of Governments is acting as a convener and facilitator of service sharing projects around the CRCOG region; and

Whereas on November 13, 2007 the Policy Board of CRCOG passed a resolution authorizing development and submittal of an application package to the State Office of Policy and Management for funding under the Regional Performance Incentive Grant Program, on behalf of the Council's member municipalities, and municipalities of other regions, which are participating in Council initiatives; and

Whereas, the Chief Elected Officials and municipal staff of the Capitol Region have developed a list of service sharing project proposals that will be included in this application package, to the benefit of individual municipalities and the region as a whole; and

Whereas the Town of Wethersfield has expressed an interest in taking part in the project proposal entitled "Digital Health Department."

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Wethersfield Town Council does hereby endorse the above referenced Regional Performance Incentive Program project proposal and authorizes the Town Manager, Bonnie L. Therrien, to sign all necessary agreements and take all necessary actions to allow for the Town's participation in this program.

RESOLUTION - CRCOG SERVICE SHARING GRANT- IT APPLICATION SHARING AND DEVELOPMENT

Whereas Public Act 07-239 passed by the Connecticut General Assembly provides statewide \$8.6 million in incentive grants to regional planning organizations for projects that involve shared services; and

Whereas the Capitol Region Council of Governments is acting as a convener and facilitator of service sharing projects around the CRCOG region; and

Whereas on November 13, 2007 the Policy Board of CRCOG passed a resolution authorizing development and submittal of an application package to the State Office of Policy and Management for funding under the Regional Performance Incentive Grant Program, on behalf of the Council's member municipalities, and municipalities of other regions, which are participating in Council initiatives; and

Whereas, the Chief Elected Officials and municipal staff of the Capitol Region have developed a list of service sharing project proposals that will be included in this application package, to the benefit of individual municipalities and the region as a whole; and

Whereas the Town of Wethersfield has expressed an interest in taking part in the project proposal entitled "IT Application Sharing and Development."

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Wethersfield Town Council does hereby endorse the above referenced Regional Performance Incentive Program project proposal and authorizes the Town Manager, Bonnie L. Therrien, to sign all necessary agreements and take all necessary actions to allow for the Town's participation in this program.

RESOLUTION - CRCOG SERVICE SHARING GRANT- DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT AND ARCHIVING

Whereas Public Act 07-239 passed by the Connecticut General Assembly provides statewide \$8.6 million in incentive grants to regional planning organizations for projects that involve shared services; and

Whereas the Capitol Region Council of Governments is acting as a convener and facilitator of service sharing projects around the CRCOG region; and

Whereas on November 13, 2007 the Policy Board of CRCOG passed a resolution authorizing development and submittal of an application package to the State Office of Policy and Management for funding under the Regional Performance Incentive Grant Program, on behalf of the Council's member municipalities, and municipalities of other

regions, which are participating in Council initiatives; and

Whereas, the Chief Elected Officials and municipal staff of the Capitol Region have developed a list of service sharing project proposals that will be included in this application package, to the benefit of individual municipalities and the region as a whole; and

Whereas the Town of Wethersfield has expressed an interest in taking part in the project proposal entitled "Document Management and Archiving."

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Wethersfield Town Council does hereby endorse the above referenced Regional Performance Incentive Program project proposal and authorizes the Town Manager, Bonnie L. Therrien, to sign all necessary agreements and take all necessary actions to allow for the Town's participation in this program.

RESOLUTION - CRCOG SERVICE SHARING GRANT- INTERTOWN PUBLIC WORKS SERVICE COOPERATION PILOT PROGRAM

Whereas Public Act 07-239 passed by the Connecticut General Assembly provides statewide \$8.6 million in incentive grants to regional planning organizations for projects that involve shared services; and

Whereas the Capitol Region Council of Governments is acting as a convener and facilitator of service sharing projects around the CRCOG region; and

Whereas on November 13, 2007 the Policy Board of CRCOG passed a resolution authorizing development and submittal of an application package to the State Office of Policy and Management for funding under the Regional Performance Incentive Grant Program, on behalf of the Council's member municipalities, and municipalities of other regions, which are participating in Council initiatives; and

Whereas, the Chief Elected Officials and municipal staff of the Capitol Region have developed a list of service sharing project proposals that will be included in this application package, to the benefit of individual municipalities and the region as a whole; and

Whereas the Town of Wethersfield has expressed an interest in taking part in the project proposal entitled "Inter-Town Public Works Service Cooperation Pilot Program."

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Wethersfield Town Council does hereby endorse the above referenced Regional Performance Incentive Program project proposal and authorizes the Town Manager, Bonnie L. Therrien, to sign all necessary agreements and take all necessary actions to allow for the Town's participation in this program.

RESOLUTION - CRCOG SERVICE SHARING GRANT- REGIONAL TRAFFIC TEAM/ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION UNIT

Whereas Public Act 07-239 passed by the Connecticut General Assembly provides statewide \$8.6 million in incentive grants to regional planning organizations for projects that involve shared services; and

Whereas the Capitol Region Council of Governments is acting as a convener and facilitator of service sharing projects around the CRCOG region; and

Whereas on November 13, 2007 the Policy Board of CRCOG passed a resolution authorizing development and submittal of an application package to the State Office of Policy and Management for funding under the Regional Performance Incentive Grant Program, on behalf of the Council's member municipalities, and municipalities of other regions, which are participating in Council initiatives; and

Whereas, the Chief Elected Officials and municipal staff of the Capitol Region have developed a list of service sharing project proposals that will be included in this application package, to the benefit of individual municipalities and the region as a whole; and

Whereas the Town of Wethersfield has expressed an interest in taking part in the project proposal entitled "Regional Traffic Team/Accident Investigation Unit."

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Wethersfield Town Council does hereby endorse the above referenced Regional Performance Incentive Program project proposal and authorizes the Town Manager, Bonnie L. Therrien, to sign all necessary agreements and take all necessary actions to allow for the Town's participation in this program.

RESOLUTION - CRCOG SERVICE SHARING GRANT- REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT DATA SHARING

Whereas Public Act 07-239 passed by the Connecticut General Assembly provides statewide \$8.6 million in incentive grants to regional planning organizations for projects that involve shared services; and

Whereas the Capitol Region Council of Governments is acting as a convener and facilitator of service sharing projects around the CRCOG region; and

Whereas on November 13, 2007 the Policy Board of CRCOG passed a resolution authorizing development and submittal of an application package to the State Office of Policy and Management for funding under the Regional Performance Incentive Grant Program, on behalf of the Council's member municipalities, and municipalities of other regions, which are participating in Council initiatives; and

Whereas, the Chief Elected Officials and municipal staff of the Capitol Region have developed a list of service sharing project proposals that will be included in this application package, to the benefit of individual municipalities and the region as a whole; and

Whereas the Town of Wethersfield has expressed an interest in taking part in the project proposal entitled "Regional Law Enforcement Data Sharing."

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Wethersfield Town Council does hereby endorse the above referenced Regional Performance Incentive Program project proposal and authorizes the Town Manager, Bonnie L. Therrien, to sign all necessary agreements and take all necessary actions to allow for the Town's participation in this program.

RESOLUTION - CRCOG SERVICE SHARING GRANT- REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER

Whereas Public Act 07-239 passed by the Connecticut General Assembly provides statewide \$8.6 million in incentive grants to regional planning organizations for projects that involve shared services; and

Whereas the Capitol Region Council of Governments is acting as a convener and facilitator of service sharing projects around the CRCOG region; and

Whereas on November 13, 2007 the Policy Board of CRCOG passed a resolution authorizing development and submittal of an application package to the State Office of Policy and Management for funding under the Regional Performance Incentive Grant Program, on behalf of the Council's member municipalities, and municipalities of other regions, which are participating in Council initiatives; and

Whereas, the Chief Elected Officials and municipal staff of the Capitol Region have developed a list of service sharing project proposals that will be included in this application package, to the benefit of individual municipalities and the region as a whole; and

Whereas the Town of Wethersfield has expressed an interest in taking part in the project proposal entitled "Regional Law Enforcement Training Center."

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Wethersfield Town Council does hereby endorse the above referenced Regional Performance Incentive Program project proposal and authorizes the Town Manager, Bonnie L. Therrien, to sign all necessary agreements and take all necessary actions to allow for the Town's participation in this program.

MINUTES

Councilor Walsh moved "**TO APPROVE THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 12, 2007**" seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilor Hemmann ABSTAINED. The motion passed 8-0-1.

Councilor Forrest moved "**TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 19, 2007**" seconded by Deputy Mayor Montinieri.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:30 p.m., Councilor Roberts moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk