

[NOTE: These minutes are made available to the public prior to Town Council acceptance.]

MARCH 21, 2005 REGULAR MEETING

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on March 21, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

Present: Councilors Adil, Cascio, Czernicki, Forrest, Fortunato, Hemmann, Montinieri, Deputy Mayor Karangekis and Chairperson Morin.

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 Fortunato.

Chairperson Morin announced that there will be an Executive Session after the regular meeting to discuss pending litigation and real estate negotiations.

Certificate of Recognition to Irish Grand Marshal - Joan Hughes and Proclamation to Wethersfield Irish Person of the Year - Joseph Hallisey

Chairperson Morin introduced Kathy Mohan Hallisey from the Wethersfield St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. Mrs. Hallisey thanked Chairperson Morin, Councilor Forrest, and Councilor Adil for marching in the St. Patrick's Day parade.

Chairperson Morin said that there was a lot of spirit and great representation from the Town of Wethersfield at the parade.

Mrs. Hallisey said that the St. Patrick's Day Committee made the nomination of two fabulous people this year for the Parade Marshal and Irish Person of the Year and that both nominees deserve to be recognized by the community. Mrs. Hallisey said that there were terrific volunteers helping with the parade including Student Council members from the Silas Deane Middle School who helped build a float.

Chairperson Morin read and presented both the Certificate of Recognition and Proclamation.

Mr. Hallisey sincerely thanked the Council for the honor and said that he proudly accepts it. He also thanked all of those involved in the float project, especially the students from Silas Deane Middle School.

Mrs. Hughes thanked the Council for their recognition and the Parade Committee for recognizing her. She said that her husband and son both served as Grand Marshal in past years and all three of them have been very proud to represent Wethersfield.

Fair Housing Month - April

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that she requests the Council each year to readopt the Town's Fair Housing Policy which provides equal opportunity for fair housing, rental, and ownership throughout Wethersfield. She said that the Town's fair housing representative is Peter Gillespie in Economic Development. The Town Manager said that the Town conducts a lot of public relation with realtors and mortgage lenders to make sure that people know that fair housing is a number one priority in Wethersfield.

Presentation from Scully and Wolf - Audit for 2004/2005

Scully and Wolf representative Chris Wolf provided an overview of the audit and informed the Council that he is

always available to go over any lingering issues. Mr. Wolf said that the annual auditing procedure is part of a statutory requirement conducted to render an opinion on whether the financial statements of the Town are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principals. Mr. Wolf said that the largest result of the engagement with the Town is the Financial Statement. He said that the Federal Government, in the 1980's, stated that communities that are recipients of Federal funding would be better served if they issued one report, rather than the previous several, summarizing and giving an opinion of the overall administration of Federal Financial Assistance (Federal Awards). He said that shortly after the State followed suit by also adopting the policy of a State single audit. Because of this, Scully and Wolf have provided separate reports on the Town's administration of Federal Awards of approximately \$1.4 million annually, as well as the Town's State Financial Assistance of approximately \$9 million per year of which \$1.3 million is subject to audit. Mr. Scully said that both reports are unqualified opinions which point out weaknesses and any non-compliance with laws and regulations. He said that the Town has received the highest level of assurance from the audit firm and the Town should be pleased that the Federal and State programs are administered in accordance with the appropriate regulations. Mr. Scully said that the audit includes a management letter providing comments on the Town's compliance with laws and regulations in the Town Charter and State Statutes, and also on the Town's compliance with reporting standards and strong internal controls over financial reporting. Mr. Scully said that the Town's overall accounting systems and compliance do not warrant a mandatory reporting of any issues; however there are a few items to be considered relating to the ongoing process of administering overall financial affairs. Mr. Scully said that the audit also provides a review of the State's Form ED001 which is a filing that the Town's Board of Education conducts with the State Department of Education. He said that this form provides for comparison with other communities within the State. Mr. Scully reiterated that his firm tries to make themselves available during the year to answer any questions or issues that may come up.

Councilor Forrest asked Mr. Scully to explain the \$4.2 million of revenues over expenses on page 3. Mr. Scully explained that a dual reporting process was adopted whereby government continues to report whether they have enough resources on a current basis to pay bills. Mr. Scully said that a budget is adopted to provide enough taxes to pay bills without a major surplus. He said that long-term receivables and payables, such as grants, are reported as revenues which will be paid over many years. Mr. Scully said that the Council must recognize the big difference between the two and should concentrate on the budget in terms of the Town having enough money to pay its bills. Councilor Forrest suggested that a meeting be held in the future to thoroughly review this.

Councilor Fortunato asked where the Town General Fund health stands with the rating agencies. Mr. Scully said that Town residents want their taxes low and a General Fund balance of zero and those investing in Town building projects want the Town to have a rainy day fund. He said that the rating agencies are not concerned with the tax payers but rather if the Town has the political will to levy enough taxes and develop enough reserves to meet any unforeseen problems, which is usually 5%-10% of the Town's operations. Mr. Scully said Wethersfield is right where it should be at 7%. Councilor Fortunato asked Mr. Scully if he has discussed with the Board of Education staff the items found on the Board side. Mr. Scully said that as part of the normal audit process, the Council should adopt a policy of having Town Management, whether the Town Manager or the Superintendent of Schools, report back to the Council on the Audit Report. He said that the Board of Education issues relate to the administration of student activity funds and programs and the need for definition of what goes into these funds. Mr. Scully said that this has been brought to the attention of administrators. Councilor Fortunato said that both she and Councilor Czernicki were impressed with the experience of Mr. Scully's firm with municipalities and this came through in the audit and in the documents provided.

Chairperson Morin commented that the audit report indicates that the Town is performing up to snuff and he thanked Mr. Scully for a thorough report and for making himself and his firm available for any future inquiries.

Councilor Adil moved "**TO ADD ITEM B.5.c - PETITION - TO THE AGENDA**", seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HEARING

None.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Larry Spellacy, 215 Pine Lane, Chairperson of the Memorial Day Parade Committee, announced that the Parade will be held on Saturday, May 28 at 9:00 a.m. starting from the DMV and ending at the Village Cemetery. Mr. Spellacy stated that last year's Parade cost \$4,785. He said that five bands take part in the Parade, two of which, Wethersfield High School and Colonel Chester do not charge fees; however a total of \$1,400 is paid to the other three bands. Mr. Spellacy said that two of those three bands have notified the Committee that their fee will increase by \$50. He said that another expense of the Parade is the flags and stands that are erected in the Village Cemetery totaling \$1,285 which will increase by approximately \$46 this year. Mr. Spellacy said that five uniformed Police Officers are used to secure intersections during the Parade at a cost of \$1,072 and they are supplemented by volunteer Cadets and that contract increases will raise the amount this year by approximately \$125. He stated that there are also other small miscellaneous Parade expenses such as wreaths, plaques, and refreshments. Mr. Spellacy said that the committee requested a budget of \$5,000 last year and this was reduced to \$4,000 due to budget restrictions, and this year they are asking the Council to restore half of the reduction or \$500.

Larry Ebner, 152 Ox Yoke Drive, thanked the Council for their service to the Town of Wethersfield, especially during this trying and difficult financial time for the State and the Town. Mr. Ebner stated that he is pleased to be a member of the Memorial Day Parade Committee. He commended Mr. Spellacy for the terrific job he is doing as Chairperson of the Committee and said that he supports the comments made by Mr. Spellacy regarding the request for increased funding for the Parade.

Leigh Standish, 278 Hartford Avenue, spoke on the petition before the Council regarding the exemption of the Town from its Zoning & Planning ordinances and regulations. Mr. Standish stated that there may be unforeseen consequences that come into play for current and future Town-owned properties, buildings, and structures. Mr. Standish said that the Ordinance removes the checks and balances for neighborhood protection and he urged the Council to put the issue to the voters to decide on the best interest of the Town.

Mary Dobruck, 689 Folly Brook Boulevard, stated that she agrees wholeheartedly with Mr. Standish. Ms. Dobruck corrected a statement that she made at the last Council meeting saying as fact that "Wethersfield sewage is going into the Cove". She said that she should not have stated this as fact since until or unless the MDC does different modeling, this cannot be proved and actually appears to be untrue. Ms. Dobruck said that it is true, however, that Wethersfield is contributing to the Cove's problem when the Folly Brook interceptor surcharges into the Franklin Avenue interceptor causing it to back up and spill into Folly Brook and then into Wethersfield Cove. Ms. Dobruck thanked those who contacted her to explain her misinterpretation of the MDC report. She said that it is critical for the Town to work on removing the inflow from the Folly Brook interceptor by continuing to work with the MDC on short and long term solutions for Folly Brook Boulevard. Ms. Dobruck said that the Council has to acknowledge that Wethersfield's sewer and storm infrastructure has problems and that the Town cannot expect to recruit new entities if the proper storm and sewer infrastructures are not in place. She suggested again to the Council that they develop a committee to review the inflow and infiltration issue. Ms. Dobruck said that she and her husband thank all who have contacted them and shown their support regarding the inflow and infiltration issue.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, stated that he agrees with the comments made by Mr. Standish regarding the petition. Mr. Young commented that he'd like to see the sewer problem taken care of and also commented on the audit report and the topic of State funding vs. State personal income tax paid, feeling that the State is cutting Towns short. Mr. Young said that at the recent Fireside Chat either a Council or Board of Education member spoke of how to raise local taxes in creative ways. Mr. Young spoke to the issue of government mandates and that the turf at Cottone Field is a voluntary mandate that the Town took upon itself.

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. thanked Chairperson Morin for his condolences on the recent passing of his mother-in-law. Mr. Orsini said that it is encouraging to listen to Mrs. Dobruck's facts and stated that the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. will continue its fight with the MDC to remove the Wethersfield Cove from the loop and to have no raw sewage in any home. Mr. Orsini commented that there are always issues with an audit and it is important for the Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools to respond to these issues. Mr. Orsini reminded the Council that there is a Charter requirement that the Town Manager,

once per year, publish union contract summaries and stated that past Town Manager's provided a monthly financial statement for reference. Mr. Orsini commented that the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. strongly opposes the petition to exempt, after a public hearing, Town property from Planning and Zoning regulations as this poses long-term consequences and grants ultimate control to future Councils.

Judy Emmick, 88 Westway, congratulated the Wethersfield High School basketball team on their performance last Saturday night as well as the Indoor Track Team on their regional event in Boston. Ms. Emmick spoke to the accessibility of Council members through e-mail stating that she has experienced only one time when her correspondence did not go through to either Councilors or Town Hall employees. She questioned why the Town can spend money for turf on a field, but cannot afford anti-virus software enabling residents to communicate with their elected officials. Ms. Emmick said that this is a significant problem and the solution to shut down the e-mails requiring a phone call instead is not the future of communication technology. Ms. Emmick asked if the Town has decided on the type and cost of groomer needed to maintain Cottone Field and requested that the Town Manager provide an update of the status of this in her next Manager's Report. Ms. Emmick commented that she was disturbed to hear that a student asked a school employee to sign the recent circulating petition as the student is only sixteen and far from voting age. Ms. Emmick said that because of this she questions how many signatures were obtained illegally and who authorized the student to solicit signatures during the school day. She commented that those signing the petition may have been misled in its misrepresentation of the true thrust of the proposal and that she finds the author(s) of the petition to be desperate and finds their actions to be self-serving. Ms. Emmick said that Council's acceptance of the petition will not be in the best interest of the Town as it could have a profound impact on the quality of life of all residents living next to municipal properties. Ms. Emmick thanked Councilor Czernicki and Councilor Hemmann for continuing to ask questions that promote meaningful dialog during the Councilor Comments segment of Council meetings.

George A. Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. addressing the issue of referenda being more politically oriented than fact oriented. Mr. Ruhe quoted a comment made by Councilor Montinieri at a previous Council meeting referring to the point of a referendum and then he read the definition of the word referendum from the dictionary. Mr. Ruhe said that getting input is a worthy thing to be doing and is vastly different from approving or rejecting. Mr. Ruhe said that Councilor Montinieri's comments tie in with the distorted language being used to sell the John Miller petition to the Town residents, and that the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. believes there should be concern with the potential for the use or the abuse of power that the language presents. Mr. Ruhe commented that the approach of the petition borders on corruption at worst and is ethically challenged at best and he urged the Council to be conscious of not falling into an ethical trap. Mr. Ruhe addressed Councilor Adil's previous Council meeting comment referring to the earning of respect and said that Councilor Adil has to earn the public's respect rather than vice versa.

Chairperson Morin commented that there is a fine line between terms like ethical and corruption.

Brendan Flynn, 109 Springdale Road, thanked the Council for their service during these challenging times. Mr. Flynn spoke in support of the additional funding for the Memorial Day Parade Committee. Mr. Flynn stated that it is important to have a reasoned, rational, and appropriate public debate over the referendum and that it doesn't do anyone in the community any good to have advocates on either side referring to their opponents as corrupt or morally or intellectually bankrupt.

No one else wished to speak and the Chairperson declared the Public Comment segment closed.

COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMENTS

Councilor Adil reported that the EDIC met on March 10 where the Tourism Commission made a presentation of ongoing efforts to increase tourism in Town and there was talk of an effort to combine marketing resources between the Tourism Commission and the EDIC. Councilor Adil said that a land use meeting will be held on March 23 and reported that the EDIC was pleased with the budget approval for the Assistant Town Planner position. Councilor Adil reported that there was a very good response from architectural firms for the Silas Deane Committee landscaping improvement project. Councilor Adil announced that the Parks & Recreation Board will be meeting with State

legislators and the Mill Woods Master Plan Committee on April 28 to coordinate efforts to obtain grant money for Mill Woods Park.

Councilor Cascio reported that the Memorial Day Parade Committee has had three meetings and at the last meeting the Parade Marshals and Speakers at the Cemetery were discussed and confirmed. Councilor Cascio said that this year's Parade theme will be based on World War II Veterans and he urged his fellow Council members to support the additional funds requested by the Committee.

Councilor Montinieri announced that the Wethersfield Historical Society is sponsoring a Winter Lecture Series with an upcoming lecture on March 28. Councilor Montinieri reported that she attended a meeting of the Municipal Services Committee with Town Manager Bonnie Therrien and found the brainstorming to be very interesting and resourceful.

Councilor Forrest commended the Town Manager for organizing a conservation group to speak to the Conservation Commission in order to find ways to obtain funding to preserve open space.

Councilor Czernicki announced that there was a recent meeting at Corpus Christi School at which Principal Eileen Sampiere was honored with the National Catholic Education Association's Dr. Robert J. Kealey Distinguished Principal Award for New England. Councilor Czernicki asked the Town Clerk if it is allowed for people under voting age to circulate a petition for signatures. Town Clerk Sassano said that this is a question for the Town Attorney and he has indicated that this is allowed as long as those signing are eligible voters. Councilor Czernicki asked for verification that the circulator of the petition does not have to be an eligible voter. Chairperson Morin said that a formal written opinion can be obtained from the Town Attorney. Councilor Czernicki asked if this policy has been adhered to in the past. Town Clerk Sassano said that past petitions have fallen under Federal rules and regulations which state that the circulator has to be an elector. Councilor Czernicki asked the Town Clerk to perform some research into the last time that non-voters were allowed to circulate a petition. The Town Clerk said that not all petition forms are formally presented to her personally; therefore she cannot verify this information all the time. Councilor Czernicki asked if the Town Attorney will be weighing in on the petition signatures and she was told by the Town Manager that he will be. Councilor Czernicki asked if the ordinance is passed and the Town becomes exempt from all P&Z ordinances, can it be overridden just for Cottone Field rather than exempting all Town property from lights. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she will receive an opinion from the Town Attorney on this. Councilor Czernicki suggested that the Town Attorney make himself available to attend the April 4 Council meeting to answer any questions and provide an overview of petition procedures.

Councilor Adil said that he would like to see training take place on the procedure of the Munis program. He asked where the donations of office furniture will be going. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that there are certain offices that have requested the furniture and the installation will begin on Friday. Councilor Adil confirmed that a letter of thanks will be sent to the company for their donation.

Councilor Adil said that he is pleased to see that an agreement has been reached with Town sports organizations regarding the policies for use of Cottone Field.

Councilor Cascio asked if the sewage has ceased entering the homes of those affected during the last rain storm. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she has not heard of this occurring since the Martin Luther King weekend. Councilor Cascio asked for an update of the repairs in the Heather Lane and Fairview Drive area. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she has not heard any further complaints from this area. Councilor Cascio asked the Town Manager where the Town is in forming a committee to deal with this drainage issue. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that it is up to the Council to advise her as to the make up of the committee if they wish to pursue this matter. Councilor Cascio announced the Chamber of Commerce's 40th Anniversary event scheduled for April 30. Councilor Cascio thanked former Fire Chief Will Clark for the energy and spirit he displayed as Fire Chief of Wethersfield and for his volunteer work as well. Councilor Cascio commended the talents of students at Wethersfield High School in their recent production of West Side Story, of the gymnastics team who placed second in the State, and of the basketball team who made it to the finals at Central. Councilor Cascio said that Wethersfield has a lot to be proud of and there are many positive things that occur in the community.

Chairperson Morin announced a number of community events and the Church Street reconstruction that will occur

between Silas Deane Highway and Main Street beginning on April 1, weather permitting as well as a public meeting on March 29 at the Police Facility regarding the milling and resurfacing of Griswold Road. Chairperson Morin announced that Office Depot's grand opening was March 10 and they donated \$500 in gift cards to the Wethersfield Library, \$500 in gift cards to the Youth Services Department, and 440 completely stocked backpacks to the schools. He said that Starbucks held their grand opening on March 18 complete with a drive-up window. Chairperson Morin asked the Town Manager to explain the procedure for sending in donations for the Memorial Day Parade. The Town Manager said that donations are to be sent through the Parks & Recreation Department. Chairperson Morin said that the seriousness of sewage in residents' homes is not acceptable and aggressive efforts are being made by the Town Manager to rectify this with the MDC. He said that currently the Town is working with the MDC and Rocky Hill to put together ordinances to deal with illicit discharges in the system. Chairperson Morin said that he will be deferring to the Town Manager to advise the Council on the best procedure regarding a Committee to deal with the problem. He said that the Council members are not afraid to tackle issues and they do the best they can to find solutions with the resources available.

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Adil moved "**TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF DEBORAH POERIO FROM THE CENTRAL CONNECTICUT HEALTH DISTRICT**", seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Councilor Czernicki said she recalls that at the time of Ms. Poerio's appointment Councilor Cascio asked if she would be able to attend the meetings and since then Councilor Czernicki has reviewed Ms. Poerio's attendance record which indicates that she has only attended half of the meetings in the last ten months.

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

Councilor Adil moved "**TO APPOINT PATRICK J. KELLY, III TO THE CENTRAL CONNECTICUT HEALTH DISTRICT FOR THE TERM OF 3-21-05 TO 6-30-07**", seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Councilor Cascio asked if Mr. Kelly is aware of the time commitment required to serve on the committee. Councilor Adil said that he has spoken to Mr. Kelly and verified that he is well aware of the time commitment and that he is quite excited to take on the responsibilities of the appointment.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Blighted Properties - Property Maintenance Code

Councilor Adil moved "**TO APPROVE THE ADDITION OF 78 CARSON AVENUE TO THE BLIGHTED PROPERTIES LIST**", seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis.

Councilor Adil said that he is pleased to see that action is being taken on blighted properties. He said that this particular property is well deserving of its reputation as a blighted property.

Councilor Montinieri said that she is concerned about the refrigerator on the property with doors intact as this is a very dangerous safety issue. The Town Manager said that she will make the Health District aware of this to make sure that it is addressed ASAP.

Inoperable Motor Vehicle Ordinance

Deputy Mayor Karangekis moved **"TO FORWARD THE INOPERABLE VEHICLE ORDINANCE TO THE BUDGET COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW OF RECOMMENDED STAFF CHANGES"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that the present Town Ordinance does not address inoperable vehicles on commercial property and this needs to change in order to proceed with the clean up of all inoperable vehicles in Wethersfield.

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

Fair Housing Policy and Title VI

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO ADOPT THE FAIR HOUSING POLICY AS FOLLOWS: THAT THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD HEREBY ENDORSES THE ATTACHED FAIR HOUSING POLICY TO ENSURE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL PERSONS TO RENT, PURCHASE, AND OBTAIN FINANCING FOR ADEQUATE HOUSING OF THEIR CHOICE ON A NON-DISCRIMINATORY BASIS; AND THAT THE TOWN MANAGER OR HER DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR RESPONDING TO AND ASSISTING ANY PERSON WHO ALLEGES TO BE THE VICTIM OF AN ILLEGAL DISCRIMINATORY HOUSING PRACTICE IN THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD"**, seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

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

Memorial Day Parade Police Expenses

Councilor Adil moved **"TO TRANSFER \$500 TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR MEMORIAL DAY PARADE EXPENSES"**, seconded by Councilor Montinieri.

Councilor Cascio said that adding this \$500 will still leave the Committee short of funds and asked if the Council is comfortable with this amount.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this is the amount requested by the Committee; therefore this is the amount being granted.

Councilor Adil said that the Committee seems to feel that they can come up with the remaining funding through donations.

Councilor Czernicki commented that the request from Sal Cucia of the Parks and Recreation Department is for an additional \$1,000 with a minimum of \$500. She said that the Council should take to heart the word of Mr. Flynn who acknowledged the debt of gratitude owed to Veterans and those who gave their lives for our country.

Councilor Czernicki moved **"TO AMEND THE MOTION TO TRANSFER \$1,000 FROM THE CONTINGENCY FUND TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR MEMORIAL DAY PARADE EXPENSES"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Forrest said that he is a member of the Memorial Day Parade Committee and he recalls there being monies left over from last year and that the Committee is very efficient and uses funding to the best of their ability. Councilor Forrest said that the monies left over from last year need to be taken into account when deciding on additional funding. He asked the Town Manager to elaborate on this.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the Committee could not have saved any General Fund money because it is not allowed to carry this over from year to year. She said that they may have carried over donations; however she is unaware of this and she can only go by the \$500 request made by the Chairperson of the Committee.

Councilor Adil verified that the Town Manager is recommending the \$500 as requested by the Chairperson of the

Committee, given the fact that the Contingency Fund is dwindling fast. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this is so. Councilor Adil suggested that as the parade date approaches, the funding situation be reviewed and Council could possibly take further action for additional funding at that time.

Councilor Cascio said that it was discussed at the last Parade Committee meeting to make an attempt to bring in additional bands and since parades in Connecticut are becoming very competitive, bids need to go in early. He said that if funding is not available, the requests of the community for more bands and music will not be met.

Councilor Fortunato said that she can appreciate the desire to make the parade even better; however this is not the request currently before the Council. She said that the motion is not to expand the parade, but to provide an additional \$500 in funding and suggested that the Committee reflect in next year's budget their desire for additional bands. Councilor Fortunato said that she is inclined to support the \$500 transfer and review the funding closer to the parade date for possible additional funding. She asked if anyone is aware of how much money is raised through donations. Councilor Cascio said that it is typically under \$300 and that last year the Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce, through the Parks & Recreation Department, last year sent out over 450 letters soliciting funds for the Memorial Day Parade and only \$260 of donations were received.

Councilor Czernicki stated that she served previously on the Parade Committee and there have been huge efforts put forth to generate money; however the donations don't seem to get any higher than \$250-\$260. She said that the request isn't simply for \$500, but rather it's about honoring those who volunteer to honor people who did everything they could for this country. She said that it would be shameful to have the Council's motion be of a political nature because this is an opportunity to honor those who gave their lives for this country. Councilor Czernicki said that there was no compunction to spend \$1.3 million on a field that came out of nowhere; however the Council is now debating over \$500.

Chairperson Morin commented that Councilor Czernicki's grandstanding amazes him at times and that she should have made her political stand when this issue came up during budget deliberations.

Councilor Czernicki said that at budget time it appeared that all Committees were being cut.

Councilor Forrest said that five or six days ago he spoke with Mr. Spellacy who showed concern that there isn't enough funding for the parade and, at that time, his request was for \$1,000 which he reduced to \$500 because he is concerned for the tight budget situation of the Town. Councilor Forrest commented that the \$1,000 is appropriate and will be some of the best money the Town could spend. He said that he has faith in the Committee that if they do not use the entire amount, they will return the remainder to the Town.

Councilor Fortunato asked if the "Wethersfield Cares" Committee has any funds available to make a donation to the parade in the spirit of supporting Veterans. She said that people donating to "Wethersfield Cares" indicates appreciation for Veterans. Councilor Fortunato said that she will abstain from the vote because she is hearing conflicting information regarding the amount requested.

Councilor Hemmann stated that it is getting harder and harder to sit on the Council and that she supports the transfer of \$1,000 as it is a demonstration by a group of volunteers to do the right thing.

Chairperson Morin said that he is inclined to support the \$1,000 transfer; however he does not support the spirit of the motion as being politically based. Chairperson Morin said that previously today he spoke with Mr. Spellacy who made the request of \$500; however, in the spirit of not being political, he will support Councilor Czernicki's amendment.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE on the amended motion. Councilor Fortunato ABSTAINED. The motion passed 8-0-1.

Councilor Adil moved "**TO WITHDRAW HIS ORIGINAL MOTION**", seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Town Council Budget Schedule

Councilor Adil moved "**TO ADOPT THE TOWN COUNCIL 2005/2006 BUDGET WORKSHOP SCHEDULE AS PROPOSED**", seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis.

**Town of Wethersfield
Town Council
2005/2006 Budget Workshop Schedule**

Monday, April 11, 2005 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Overview Revenues General Government Planning & Development	Conference Room
Wednesday, April 13, 2005 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Library Health Social & Youth Services Recreation & Parks	Conference Room
Monday, April 18, 2005 7:00 p.m.	Public Hearing	Wethersfield High School Auditorium
Tuesday, April 26, 2005 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Education Fire Non-Departmental Other Funds - Debt	Conference Room
Wednesday, April 27, 2005 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Public Works Capital Improvements	Conference Room
Thursday, April 28, 2005 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Police Catch up (if necessary) Budget Amendments	Conference Room
Monday, May 2, 2005 7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting	Council Chambers
Wednesday May 4, 2005 5:30 p.m.	Catch-up (if necessary)	Conference Room
By May 15, 2005	Budget Amendments BUDGET ADOPTION	Council Chambers

Chairperson Morin pointed out that the budget meetings will begin this year before the Public Hearing, in order to avoid such a rush on the budget.

Councilor Czernicki said that she likes the idea of meeting prior to the Public Hearing and asked if the Council will go back to these areas if they need to be readdressed. Chairperson Morin said that this is so. Councilor Czernicki requested that the meetings commence at 5:45 p.m. rather than 5:30 p.m. as she is not able to leave work in order to attend at the earlier time. Chairperson Morin said that the Council will gather at 5:30 p.m. for refreshments and the business meeting will start at 5:45 p.m.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she will switch the meeting time to 5:45 p.m. with an opening at 5:30 p.m.

Councilor Hemmann asked why there is no Council meeting scheduled for the week of April 18, rather than the Public Hearing. Chairperson Morin said that a number of Councilors will not be available that week. Councilor Hemmann said that she will need to miss a number of budget workshops due to work-related travel.

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

BIDS

None.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE HISTORIC DOCUMENTS PRESERVATION GRANT

BE IT RESOLVED, that Town Manager Bonnie Therrien or Town Clerk Dolores G. Sassano, as her designee, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name of and on behalf of this municipality, an application and contract with the State Library for a Historic Preservation Grant in the amount of \$12,000.

RESOLUTION ALLOWING THE PETITION TO BE ADVERTISED AND A PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON
APRIL 4, 2005

MINUTES

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 7, 2005"**, seconded by Councilor Montinieri.

Councilor Czernicki requested that her analogy of the petitions be included in her comments on page 16987 and that the color coding of streets on a big map is not included in Councilor Montinieri's comments on page 16988.

Councilor Forrest asked Councilor Czernicki if she is requesting an amendment made to the minutes regarding the two issues she just raised; she said that she is.

Chairperson Morin reminded the Councilors that the minutes are not recorded verbatim; however if Councilor Czernicki would like specific items included, the Town Clerk will address this.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO AMEND THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 7, 2005 AS REQUESTED BY COUNCILOR CZERNICKI"**, seconded by Councilor Czernicki. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Cascio ABSTAINED. The motion passed 8-0-1.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE to approve the minutes as amended. Councilor Cascio ABSTAINED. The motion passed 8-0-1.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:25 p.m., Councilor Forrest moved **"TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION"** seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis left the Executive Session at 9:40 p.m.

At 9:45 p.m., Councilor Adil moved **"TO ENTER BACK INTO THE REGULAR MEETING"** seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

At 9:45 p.m., Councilor Forrest moved **"TO ADJOURN THE MEETING"** seconded by Councilor Fortunato. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk