

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

ADJOURNED BUDGET MEETING APRIL 13, 2005

An Adjourned Meeting of the Town Council (adjourned from Monday, April 11, 2005) was held on Wednesday, April 13, 2005 at 5:45 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Town Hall with Chairperson Russell A. Morin presiding.

Present: Councilors Adil (6:00), Cascio, Czernicki, Forrest, Fortunato, Montinieri, Deputy Mayor Karangekis, and Chairperson Morin.

Absent: Councilor Hemmann.

Also present: Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager; Rae Ann Palmer, Assistant to the Town Manager; Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk; and Lisa Hancock, Finance Director.

Chairperson Morin said that the Council will be reviewing the schedule of fees and Ms. Palmer provided information requested by the Council on the Docking fees, and the balance of the asset forfeiture fund for the Police Department. Ms. Palmer stated that funds deposited into the Cove Fund, set up by ordinance, can only be used for the repair or enhancement of the Cove and that the Parks & Recreation staff has suggested that the ordinance be amended to allow for the use of the funds for staff who work at the Cove to collect revenue.

Councilor Forrest moved "**TO INCREASE THE PICK UP ROAMING DOG/IMPOUNDMENT FEE FROM \$25 TO \$50**", seconded by Councilor Czernicki.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that, if this passes, she will need to verify that this can be done by State Statute.

Councilor Fortunato stated that she can appreciate the increase; however she would prefer that the appropriate staff review how problematic this item is and report back to the Council for future action.

Councilor Czernicki stated that the Town Manager's message included the need to begin to pay for these services so as to provide a clear indication of what people really want. Councilor Czernicki said that she doesn't think that this increase is out of line as dog owners need to be responsible for their dogs. Councilor Czernicki asked if each fee item is up for discussion, and if not, why it appears on the list. Chairperson Morin said that the fees that have been targeted for increases are those that the staff has suggested and that the Council is free to review the list line-by-line if they wish.

Councilor Montinieri asked if it is correct to assume that no one from Animal Control suggested a fee increase for this item. Ms. Palmer said that staff from the appropriate departments reviewed the fees and make recommendations to her.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis verified that some fees are State controlled.

Councilor Forrest commented that, outside of State controlled fees, it is the duty of the Council to set the fees even without recommendations from staff.

Chairperson Morin suggested that Council members bring any suggestions and inquiries to the Town Manager who can have staff research and prepare the proper information, and then the Council can discuss all of the fees at a future budget workshop.

Councilor Forrest withdrew his motion.

Councilor Czernicki withdrew her second to the motion.

LIBRARY - 710 (C-101 to C-106)

Greg Curtin, Chairman of the Library Board, thanked the Council and the Town Manager for their assistance over the last years and he reviewed the Library's bylaws and mission statement, complimenting the Library Director and staff for their wonderful job in implementing all that needed to be done to get the Library to where it is today. Mr. Curtin provided an overview of the Library's Literacy for a Lifetime program for all ages. He stated that the Wethersfield Library received a \$400,000 grant from the State Library Association to assist in renovations and the Library Board has donated \$50,000 toward the renovations and \$46,000 to support the Materials budget.

Library Board member Eugene Grayson reviewed the statistics of the Library such as items loaned (increased), materials expenditure per loan (decreased), and staff workload (increased). Mr. Grayson provided a Library budget comparison between Wethersfield, Newington, and Rocky Hill which showed Wethersfield to be lower in their budget total, materials budget, and staff and higher in their workload. He also touched on the Hennen's American Library Ratings report of peer libraries showing Wethersfield lagging its neighboring towns. Mr. Grayson made note of the decrease in percentage of the Town budget supporting the Library over the last five years from 1.94% in 2000-2001 to 1.79% in 2004-2005.

Councilor Forrest asked what the Library's percentage of the Town budget will be if the Manager's proposed budget is passed. Mr. Grayson said that it will be 1.975%.

Councilor Czernicki asked Mr. Grayson if he could provide a comparison of the Wethersfield Library's hours of operation to those of surrounding towns. Mr. Grayson said that this was done last year and Library Director Laurel Goodgion said that she will obtain and provide the current comparison.

Library Board member Donna Brown discussed the Library Board's leadership role in enhancing the Library's budget beyond the funding provided by the Town and provided an overview of the Library Revenue Initiatives. Ms. Brown thanked Councilor Fortunato, the Library Board's Council Liaison, for her assistance in seeking possible grant funding. She said that the Library Board believes strongly in a free public library serving all members of the community in their lifelong quest for learning.

Library Director Laurel Goodgion provided a worksheet that breaks out some of the costs relating to the renovation and those relating to increased use of the Library. She said that one of the chief costs relating to the renovation is an increase in staff to be present at all times in the new Children's Department on the lower level; another being Custodial costs due to the increased size of the Library. Ms. Goodgion said that the Library is not expecting to completely take over the ground level until January, 2006. She stated that an estimate of 177,000 patrons entered the Library last year and she is requesting additional computers for the Library in the upcoming budget. Ms. Goodgion said that positions cut from her requested budget include a part-time Librarian, a part-time Library Associate in Information Services, and a full-time Assistant at the check-out desk.

Councilor Fortunato asked if the four furlough days apply to Library employees. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the furlough days are in the budget, but the Library gets their funding and they can do whatever they wish with it. Councilor Fortunato asked if the Library would be closed on those days, or if the furlough days are staggered. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she will negotiate not to close any Town buildings on any of the furlough days, but rather stagger the days between employees.

Councilor Cascio asked what the 2005-2006 Library's requested percentage of the budget is compared to the Manager's budget. He was told that the Manager's proposed budget is 1.96% and the Library's requested budget is 2.26%.

Ms. Goodgion said that her situation is similar to the schools' in that her Department is moving into expanded quarters this coming year, adding approximately 9,000 square feet to the Library.

Councilor Cascio asked what the Library's creative ability will be to work around the elimination of the requested positions. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien pointed out that she approved the positions to cover the lower level of the Library; however not the three additional as mentioned above to Councilor Fortunato. Councilor Cascio then verified that the Library will receive additional staff in January if the lower level is completed; however there is no funding for

additional staff starting July 1.

Councilor Czernicki pointed out that the Manager's proposed budget amount is actually the highest percentage of the Town Budget that the Library has been funded in the last five years. She asked Ms. Goodgion what her best estimate is of the time she will be occupying the newly renovated space at the Library. Ms. Goodgion said that the date she agreed upon with the Town Manager in order to make budget projections is January, 2006. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she will try to obtain a more precise date; however the additional staff in the Children's Department will not be needed until January, 2006. Councilor Czernicki requested that Ms. Goodgion provide an update of the balance in both the Trust Fund and the Action Fund. Ms. Goodgion said that there is approximately \$52,000 in the Trust Fund and \$U,500in the Action Fund which does not include funds that the Library Board liquidated from the Trust Fund to be spent on the roof budget this year. Councilor Czernicki asked for a breakdown of the Conference & Training request in terms of what is mandatory and what is not. The Town Manager said that hone are mandatory; however Ms. Goodgion said that the Dues & Subscriptions amount includes a number of membership fees in various professional organizations which the Library is dependent upon for updated journals and to qualify for Connecticut Library Consortium discounts. She said that fairly mandatory meetings are the Computer Consortium meetings in Windsor which keep the staff up to date and trained on the Library's computer software. Finally, she is requesting funding to send some staff to the Public Library Association conference to be held in Boston in the Spring of 2006. Ms. Goodgion said that she can understand if this is not affordable this year; however training of staff is extremely important and she hopes that the Council allows some funds for computer workshops offered by the Connecticut State Library.

Councilor Cascio asked what the dollar amount is for each additional 1 % increase to the Manager's budget for the Library and was told that it would be approximately \$728,000. Councilor Cascio stated that he has said every year that the Town needs to put money into an area (the Library) that the entire community uses or it will find itself behind the eight ball. He said that the Town is behind in this area already and he is concerned about the Town's responsibility to the Wethersfield Public Library as usage increases with a newly renovated building.

Councilor Adil asked how much of the \$5 million approved is going toward the Library's Phase II renovations. The Town Manager said that she will provide him with a percentage amount. Ms. Goodgion stated that she would like to use some of the recently donated office furniture in the Library workrooms if it will fit.

Councilor Forrest said that he noted last year that the Materials budget was said to be the most important line in the Library budget. Ms. Goodgion said that the Materials line and the Staff line are the most important. Councilor Forrest asked what percentage of the Town budget the Library will be if the Council increases the Library Books & Other Media line from the Manager's amount to that requested by the Library Board. Ms. Hancock said that this increase of \$30,000 would not change the percentage as it is added to both sides. Chairperson Morin said that the Council does not add to line items of the Library, but rather gives them additional funding and they spend it as they see fit. Councilor Forrest asked if the Manager's budget amount plus \$30,000 would allow that the Library Board reach its core goals. Ms. Goodgion said that it would improve the Library's ability to serve the community since the main reason people come to the Library is to obtain materials.

Chairperson Morin said that many people in surrounding towns visit the Wethersfield Library and feel very strongly about the progress that has been made there. Ms. Goodgion provided a report on the usage of Wethersfield Library by non-residents and the usage of surrounding Towns' Libraries by Wethersfield residents which showed that Wethersfield residents last year borrowed over 22,000 items from each of Newington and Rocky Hill Libraries, yet Newington residents only borrowed 4,500 items from Wethersfield and Rocky Hill only 8,900:Shesaid that her goal is to turn these statistics around.

Councilor Czernicki asked Ms. Goodgion if she has any intention of increasing the Library hours. Ms. Goodgion said that this is not planned in the budget proposal; however her goal would be to be opened all day on Fridays again after the renovation is complete. Councilor Czernicki asked Ms. Goodgion about the recurring costs once the Library expansion is complete. Ms. Goodgion said that the electricity and fuel do not come from the Library budget; however she expects to see savings with the installation o(more energy efficient lighting. Councilor Czernicki commented that the Library Revenue Initiative amount of \$450,000 is really funding that comes from people's tax dollars. Ms. Goodgion said that this item was listed to point out the initiative taken by the Library Board to seek out the grant

funding. Councilor Czernicki commented positively on the donations from both the Friends of the Library and from individuals. Ms. Goodgion said that individual contributions have increased she believes as a result of improving Library services. Councilor Czernicki asked Ms. Goodgion where she would spend the additional \$30,000 if it were approved for the Library budget. Ms. Goodgion said that she would spend the additional amount on materials.

Councilor Fortunato commented that she has seen a real effort on the part of the Library Board to bring in additional revenue to support areas of programming.

Chairperson Morin said that the Library is an integral part of the Town of Wethersfield and the Council appreciates the work of the Library Board and the Library staff.

Ms. Goodgion stated that the Library has a very helpful staff who pride themselves on their customer service.

SOCIAL AND YOUTH SERVICES - 625 (C-98 to C-100)

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien stated that she is proposing that two layoffs take place in the Youth Services area, and that this is something she never likes to put forward to the Council. She said that there are Core Services in the Youth Services area that, with the tough budget times, may not be able to be maintained as in the past. The Town Manager said that she has received phone calls and letters from parents at the Silas Deane Middle School who would like to see the programs maintained; however the Town has been paying for the programs, and the grant money received goes to the Board of Education. She said that the Shared Services Committee has discussed possibly splitting the positions for the program between the Town and the Board of Education, with the stipulation that the Board accepts 100% responsibility of the position the following year. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that Social & Youth Services Director Nancy Stilwell has prepared a listing of services provided to residents and staff tasks.

Dr. Stilwell provided a presentation of highlights of the last year in the Social and Youth Services Department which included the Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program for students at risk for dropping out of school, the development and funding of a Wethersfield skate board park, and the presentation of the New England League of Middle School Parent and Community Group Award to Silas Deane Middle School's parent group. Dr. Stilwell discussed the potential costs likely to be incurred with the potential loss of two positions in Youth Services which include the solid network to identify and reach out to youth who could be at serious risk. She said that identifying these youth early, working with them and their families, and involving them with her Department on an ongoing basis, likely prevents several from being out-placed or requiring other costly intervention services. Dr. Stilwell said that her Department is already at bare bones and if the Council amputates positions, her Department risks losing some of the critical prevention pieces that are currently in place and working. She said that a cost of reducing ROPE is that an alternate would have to be found to satisfy the federal mandate for drug and alcohol education for sixth graders. Dr. Stilwell stated that the elimination of the home school liaison at the Silas Deane Middle School now, at a time when there is no permanent principal in place, will have a significant negative impact and that a year's reprieve will enable her Department to examine funding options and alternatives. She said that her Department will need to look at other options and programs in neighboring towns in order to deal with the proposed decrease in the amount proposed for the Senior Cafe lunch program. Dr. Stilwell stated Wethersfield's future is its children and the Town must continue to invest in prevention and planning for them. She said that she is concerned about the message given to the community by eliminating two youth positions and requested that the Council reconsider these cuts.

Councilor Cascio asked the Town Manager to provide an overview of her rationale of the two position eliminations. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that one is 100% funded by the Town and should go over to the Board of Education since they receive the funding, and she said that although Youth Services is important, there needs to be a way to provide programs with less staff or provide .Jess programs.

Councilor Czernicki said that she is uncomfortable putting names to positions and would rather simply refer to positions instead. She said that she seems to remember last year that it was suggested that this position be put over to the Board of Education side, at least partially, and asked what happened to those discussions. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that it was discussed, but never implemented. Councilor Czernicki said that the position brings in accolades and finances; however, it needs to fall under the purview where it belongs, which is the Board of Education. Councilor Czernicki said that the ROPE program is highly beneficial and helps children recognize their own strengths

and to trust others. She asked about the balance in the Young Adults escrow account and asked if some of these dollars could be used to save the two Youth Services positions. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she has asked Parks & Recreation Director Kathy Bagley to address this during her presentation. Councilor Czernicki asked if any of the Youth Services Crossroads escrow balance or the Youth Services Escrow account could be used to pay for the positions. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she will look into this. Councilor Czernicki asked Dr. Stillwell where the monies she receives for counseling go and was told that they go directly into the General Fund.

Councilor Fortunato asked Dr. Stilwell what type of communication her Department has with Wethersfield School Psychologists. Dr. Stilwell said that her Department collaborates closely with them and they often make referrals to her Department because the schools are often limited in their time to work with a student. Councilor Fortunato verified that none of the students are special education children and Dr. Stilwell said that this is generally the case. Councilor Fortunato asked what the average length of time is to manage a disabled or elderly case. Dr. Stilwell said that this is difficult to answer because needs are so varied and her Department refers out whenever there is another option for case management and services. Councilor Fortunato stated that Dr. Stilwell mentioned a lot about mandates for Youth Services and she asked if Senior Services are also defined by mandates. Dr. Stilwell said that both are defined by mandates and her Department is the Municipal Agent for both youth and the elderly.

Councilor Cascio asked if there will be an amendment to the Social & Youth Services Personnel Data Summary with the proposal made through Shared Services. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that there will be an amendment if the budget is adopted as such. Councilor Cascio asked what the dollar amount will be for the full-time and part-time positions proposed to be cut from the budget, and was told that the approximate total is \$75,500. Councilor Cascio asked Dr. Stilwell how the full-time position cut will affect her Department and she said that she has not yet begun to address this. Councilor Cascio asked what the role of this position is currently. Dr. Stilwell said that this Youth Services position covers ROPE and clinical counseling; therefore there will be an impact on both of these. Councilor Cascio asked Dr. Stilwell if she sees an increase in the usage of the services in her Department or if she sees this going backwards. Dr. Stilwell said that she sees an increase and does not see it going backwards. Councilor Cascio asked Dr. Stilwell if the hours of her Department could be reduced and Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that any reduction of hours would have to be negotiated through the union. Dr. Stilwell said that she is willing to be creative. Councilor Cascio said that he has a problem with the position reductions, as Social & Youth Services programs offer value to Wethersfield.

Councilor Montinieri stated that she doesn't think that anyone questions the value of the two positions and Dr. Stilwell makes a good argument regarding keeping children in the district with support rather than sending them out. She said that the Council is committed to do their best to retain these two positions.

Chairperson Morin explained that the budget before the Council is the Town Manager's recommended budget for them to discuss and deliberate with Department Heads. Chairperson Morin said that the budget isn't all numbers, its people and the Council will take into consideration all recommendations.

PARKS AND RECREATION - 810 (C-107 to C-112), COMMUNITY CENTER - 820 (C-113 to C-114), NATURE CENTER - 821 (C-115 to C-116), BUILDING & FACILITY MAINTENANCE - 825 (C-117 to C-118)

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien distributed a requested report of groups not charged for use of the Community Center.

Parks & Recreation Director Kathy Bagley stated that her Department covers four budgets and works very hard at generating revenue and offering programs with low costs. She said that many of the programs are self-sustaining with others joining this list each year. She said that there are a few programs, such as aquatics, that may never be self-sustaining due to the costs of maintaining the equipment. Ms. Bagley said that her Department has looked at fee increases as well as the possibility of closing the Mill Woods pool on Saturday and Sunday evenings, as well as closing one of the Town pools earlier in August. She said that one of her proposals is to use some of the funding from the boat launch fees to pay for the staff at the launch. Ms. Bagley said that in her budget she is proposing a \$.25 per hour raise for her part-time hourly staff, since they have not received a raise in three years. She said that some of the cost of this will be covered by revenues and some will come from the operating budget.

Councilor Fortunato asked if there will be a savings on the staff side as well as the facility maintenance if one pool is closed early. Ms. Bagley said that the \$5,000 savings would be for staff with some savings in the facility operation.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien distributed a petition requesting a summer recreation program in the Old Wethersfield section of Town.

Chairperson Morin asked Ms. Bagley what such a program would cost and was told that it would be approximately \$4,000.

Councilor Czernicki asked why the \$3,383 under Support Services for Special Activities was reduced to zero by the Town Manager. Ms. Bagley said that a consolidation of some accounts took place within Support Services; therefore some funding shows up on another line item now. She said that subsidies to all programs were eliminated which reduced the Support for Special Activities line, and that all groups were informed of this. Councilor Czernicki said that she would like to make sure that the message gets out that the programs offered are those that are currently popular and that a program that is dropped could come around again in popularity some years down the road. Councilor Czernicki suggested that fees charged are calculated in order to offset administrative costs such as room usage. Ms. Bagley said that she performs a cost benefit analysis on each program and all costs are factored into the fee for a program; however utilities and full-time staff costs are not currently factored into program fees. She said that the Community Center brings in revenue through rental fees and also through the fees charged for recreation programs based there. Councilor Czernicki asked why an analysis has never been done to include the cost for full-time staff since this would need to be done to make a program truly self-sustaining. Ms. Bagley said that this has not been done because one of the components in setting a fee is to examine what the market can bear and most of her programs are at the point where raising the fee could decrease participation and revenue. Councilor Czernicki asked Ms. Bagley if she could provide information on whether the increase in fees in the past few years has provided for a decrease in participation in any programs. Ms. Bagley said that the increase in the fees for pool passes has decreased the sales of these passes and that her Department is constantly studying the trends in fees and program participation, Councilor Czernicki suggested that Ms. Bagley consider using one program as a model and rolling into it all costs associated when calculating the fee. Councilor Czernicki said that Ms. Bagley could then gauge participation and see if a program can be 100% self-sustaining.

Councilor Adil asked about the difference in the Community Center Equipment line and Ms. Bagley explained that the Town pays a subsidy to the Board of Education for the use of the school facilities and the Town Manager has taken this out of the 2005-2006 budget. The Town Manager said that she will pay for the custodian but not the rooms since she doesn't charge the Board of Education to use Town facilities. Councilor Adil asked how the Park Board feels about the fee increases and Ms. Bagley told him that they have been very supportive.

Councilor Cascio asked if the Parks & Recreation Department is responsible for the maintenance operations of the fields as well as the pools. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the maintenance for the field falls under the Physical Services budget, although Ms. Bagley communicates with them to insure that the work is done. Councilor Cascio asked why Physical Services doesn't also handle the maintenance of the swimming facilities. Ms. Bagley said that traditionally the costs for the swimming pools has always been in the Parks & Recreation budget and she hires seasonal staff for pool maintenance along with the Town plumber and other Town staff as needed. Councilor Cascio asked if the Town is working toward protecting the sports fields in Town. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she doesn't think so as this budget does not provide enough funding to do so and that the fields are in terrible shape compared to other towns. Councilor Cascio asked if there is any allowance for field maintenance in the Board of Education budget and the Town Manager said that there is very little. Councilor Cascio said that he is concerned that if the Town is not maintaining what they currently have, they will lose support for what they want in the future. Ms. Bagley commented on the positive impact of teams playing on the new Cottone Field. Councilor Cascio asked under which account the Memorial Day Parade falls in the Parks & Recreation budget. Ms. Bagley said that it falls under Public Service Contribution - Community Celebrations.

Councilor Forrest asked why the Parks & Recreation budget is divided into different budgets for Community Center, Nature Center, etc. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this allows for an exact cost for the different facilities. Councilor Forrest asked if, in the future, a listing of revenues could be provided for each of the departments within

Parks & Recreation as well.

Councilor Czernicki asked what the line item of Office Machinery Service - Leadership: Social Opportunity is for. Ms. Bagley said that this is actually just an office machinery account with a title that has been used for years. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that when the Munis system is implemented, there will be a whole new chart of accounts.

Councilor Adil asked Ms. Bagley when the anticipated opening date of the new Nature Center will be. She said that she anticipates construction being done by the middle of May with a tentative opening day of June 11. Councilor Adil asked if the new Nature Center will provide for more summer programs and Ms. Bagley said that this is one of the goals. Councilor Adil asked if it is anticipated that the Nature Center will be self-sustaining. Ms. Bagley said that this is the goal of the Nature Center, although it can't be done in a year. She said that discussion has been taking place regarding the set up of an endowment fund.

Councilor Fortunato stated that she is looking forward to the new Nature Center facility and she suggested that the marketing for the opening of the Nature Center begin now in order to create a lot of momentum in the community. She said that she expects to see an increase in program fees there because of the new facility and she suggested that the Parks & Recreation Department work collaboratively with the YMCA camp at the Church next door.

Councilor Czernicki said that she is concerned about the .30 position for a part-time custodian at the Nature Center and asked if this is for 12.5 hours per week. Ms. Bagley said that it allows for 15 hours per week and she will work with the Staff to determine the best schedule.

Chairperson Morin said that he looks forward to the Nature Center being a great resource opportunity for Wethersfield and surrounding communities.

Councilor Cascio asked if seasonal employees are encouraged to go above and beyond in their positions by helping to keep the parks and facilities tidy. He suggested that a seminar be conducted to educate the employees about teamwork cooperation and less sitting doing nothing.

Chairperson Morin said that a mentality of "it's not my job?" doesn't fit in Wethersfield.

Councilor Montinieri asked Ms. Bagley to explain the Park Improvements requested amount of \$6,000 and the Manager's amount of zero. Ms. Bagley said that this is an amount that has been put into the budget for the past couple years for Cedar Street and windows at the Solomon Wells House.

Councilor Czernicki asked how encumbered the amount in the Young Adults escrow account is. Ms. Bagley said that it is mostly all encumbered and although the account is called "Young Adults", it includes funds deposited from all Park & Recreation self-sustaining programs. She said that expenses for the programs come out of the operating budget and then transfers from the escrow account are made at the end of the year to cover these expenses and to deposit the revenue into the Town's revenue account. Councilor Czernicki asked what the low amount over the past several years has been for this escrow account. Ms. Bagley said that a low amount has been approximately \$200,000 and it is a fluid, ongoing account. Councilor Czernicki asked if the account consistently has this balance, why some of the money cannot be transferred to Social & Youth Services to help cover the salary for the Youth Services position. Ms. Bagley said that all the money in the account is for particular programs and the funds needs to be spent on these programs. She said that any extra funds in the account are then transferred into the Town's General Fund. Councilor Czernicki said that she would like a 3-5 year analysis of the Young Adults escrow account in order to determine if any of the funding could be used toward Youth Services programs. Ms. Bagley said that she can develop an analysis showing that the escrow account balance is encumbered to various programs.

Councilor Cascio said that the if there are funds consistently left over in a revenue-generating program, they need to go into the General Fund to cover programs which do not generate revenue, and the Town needs to hire employees who can job share between different Departments in Town.

Councilor Fortunato asked if there is a surplus in the income for the playground programs, if this money could be used

toward the requested new playground program in Old Wethersfield. Ms. Bagley said that it cannot because funds generated by a program are used on that particular program and any funds left over have to go back into the Town's General Fund. Councilor Fortunato said that if the surplus comes from playground programs can't it be used toward another playground program. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that it cannot; however the Council can adopt a change to this procedure.

Councilor Forrest asked if the Nature Center revenues are included in the revenue amounts and was told that they are.

Ms. Bagley stated that the projected revenue of \$276,600 from the Parks & Recreation Department accounts for 21% of the Town's operating budget.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:50 p.m., Councilor Montinieri moved "**TO ADJOURN TO THE BUDGET WORKSHOP SESSION ON APRIL 26, 2005 AT 5:45 P.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE TOWN HALL**" seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Dolores Sassano
Town Clerk