

JUNE 20, 2005 REGULAR MEETING

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on June 20, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Silas Deane Middle School Auditorium.

Present: Councilors Adil, Cascio, Czernicki, Forrest, Hemmann, Montinieri, Deputy Mayor Karangekis (7:40 p.m.) and Chairperson Morin.

Absent: Councilor Fortunato.

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 Forrest.

Councilor Adil moved **"TO ADD TO THE AGENDA THE BID FOR HEATING OIL AND DIESEL FUEL AND THE BID FOR HIGHCREST SCHOOL ROOF REPLACEMENT"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HEARING

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE AUTHORIZATION AND SUBMISSION OF A GRANT FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND YOUTH SERVICES AND THE AWARD OF FUNDS FROM THE GRANT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND YOUTH SERVICES

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 78, FALSE ALARMS

RESOLUTION CONCERNING PAYMENT TO VOLUNTEER FIRE AND AMBULANCE PERSONNEL

No one wished to speak and the Chairperson declared the Hearing closed.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO TAKE OUT OF ORDER AGENDA ITEM B.4.a"**, seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Skateboard Park

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that Parks & Recreation Director Kathy Bagley and members of the Skate Park Building Committee are very excited to discuss with the Council the bid award for construction of the Skate Park.

Committee member Matt Zawadski distributed Wethersfield Skate Park t-shirts to Councilors and asked them to accept the bid for the Skate Park construction.

Councilor Adil moved **"TO AWARD THE CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE SKATE PARK TO BREAKING GROUND, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$158,000 AND TO TRANSFER \$10,302 FROM THE PARKS AND RECREATION DONATION ESCROW FUND TO THE SKATE PARK PROJECT ACCOUNT IN THE 2005-2006 BUDGET"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Czernicki thanked the Committee for all the work they've done to receive donations and for the responsibility they have taken on. She said that she is in favor of the bid motion and asked Ms. Bagley if the escrow account involved is the same account being used to pay the seasonal hourly workers. Ms. Bagley said that the account

does pay for some of the seasonal programs that pay for themselves. Councilor Czernicki asked if all of the seasonal workers' payments have been paid up to date. Ms. Bagley said that all hourly employees have been paid and the transfers from the account into the payroll account are in the process of being done. She requested that Ms. Bagley obtain information and provide an update of the situation.

Councilor Forrest congratulated the Skate Park Committee and the Parks & Recreation Department for doing a fantastic job working with the youth of Wethersfield. He said that he favors the bid motion.

Councilor Cascio praised the Committee for the good job they've done, stating that dreams do come true. He said that he hopes the Committee stays whole and that there's continued involvement in the Skate Park to maintain and upgrade it as time goes by.

Councilor Montinieri asked Mr. Zawadski for an update on the site furnishings and trees at the Skate Park. Mr. Zawadski said that there is a plan in place and the Committee is waiting for funding. Councilor Montinieri congratulated the Committee for a job well done and said that she supports the bid motion.

Chairperson Morin stated that he appreciates the hard work put forth by everyone involved in the Skate Park. He said that he is very impressed with the organization and supports the bid motion.

Ms. Bagley commented that \$8,000 was cut from the site furnishings and trees; however, there are still fundraising efforts underway and \$1,500 has already been contributed for these items. She said that it is anticipated that groundbreaking for the Skate Park will take place in approximately two weeks.

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

GENERAL COMMENTS

Betty Rosania, 88 Desmond Drive, commented that she is proud of the Council and the Town of Wethersfield regarding the high ratings received by both Standard & Poor's and Moody's bond rating agencies. She said that the high ratings are due to a team effort between the Town's Administration, the Council, and the EDIC. She said that Wethersfield has not only held its' own, it has gone forward. Ms. Rosania reviewed some of the Town's growth statistics. She said that the Town is on the right path and needs to go forward to realize a vision for the future.

Paul Courchaine, 481 Main Street, commented on the use of the Olsen House for public purposes. He also commented on the DEP proposal for the roadway across the Hartford Dike and asked for an update on the status of this item. Mr. Courchaine commented on the landscaping at the Silas Deane Middle School, stating that the original plan will be replaced with one for grass only. He said that this is a bad idea and that it sends the wrong message to businesses in Town.

Jim Woodworth, 5 River Road, spoke on behalf of the Ferry 350th Committee and the Conservation Trust and thanked the Town for the contributions they've made to the Ferry's 350th celebration. Mr. Woodworth distributed to the Councilors publicity of the event and reviewed some of the statements made by State politicians. Mr. Woodworth thanked Kathy Bagley for helping with the bike ride and for helping with the Show mobile. He also thanked Town employee Victor Swanson and volunteer Charlie Viani for their efforts and announced that maps of the bike trail are available on the Conservation Trust website. Mr. Woodworth said that the Nature Center opening was a wonderful experience and acknowledged Eleanor Buck Wolf as the founder of the Conservation Trust and the Nature Center.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, commented on the discussion at the last Council meeting regarding the proposed renovation to the façade of the Town Hall, stating that the discussion was out of order in that the decision should have been made before the referendum. Mr. Young commented on the State budget recently passed and the high taxes in Wethersfield regardless of the positive bond rating received. He commented on Nextel being approved for the cell tower and asked if the Council voted to exempt Hartford from taxes on Goodwin Park. Mr. Young said that he is not in favor of the proposed roadway from Windsor coming through Wethersfield.

Jeff Kotkin, 28 Farms Village Road, applauded the Council for their management of Town funds, resulting in an

upgrade of the Town's credit rating.

Joe Cornelio, 100 Executive Square Apt. 1006, member of the EDIC and liaison to the Silas Deane Highway Committee, stated that the Silas Deane Highway Commission now has a landscape architect available as well as an excellent Design Review Committee to evaluate the proposed Town Hall façade and move forward with it.

No one else wished to speak and the Chairperson declared the General Comments segment closed.

COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMENTS

Deputy Mayor Karangekis arrived at the meeting at this time (7:40 p.m.).

Councilor Forrest announced that Andy Wizner has stepped down from the Conservation Commission.

Councilor Montinieri reported that the Silas Deane Advisory Committee held a joint meeting with Rocky Hill and Fuss & O'Neil. Councilor Montinieri reported that at the recent Fireside Chat meeting of the Council and Board of Education, a final report was presented by the Information & Technology Committee making several excellent recommendations with which to go forward. She said that Finance Director Lisa Hancock also spoke at the meeting regarding the implementation of the Munis system and Board of Education Director of Public Works, Mr. Maurice McCarthy spoke regarding the facilities management database. Councilor Montinieri said that the Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools both spoke on future common goals of the Board of Education and Town Council.

Councilor Adil commented that the Town Hall Building Committee was given the charge to evaluate how much it would cost to finish the renovations and to spend some money to improve the outside of the building. He said that a certain dollar amount was budgeted for each phase of the renovations and Councilor Adil said that the building needs a good corporate look. Councilor Adil said that the money spent on the Silas Deane Middle School and the Town Hall renovations shows the Town's commitment to the Silas Deane Highway. He said that when the landscaping plan was brought forward, it was not shared with the Beautification Committee. Councilor Adil said that he attended the opening of the Nature Center with the Mayor and several members of the Council. He said that the building looks spectacular and is a crown jewel at the entrance to Mill Woods Park. Councilor Adil said that he attended the Shinn awards which recognize young people for their efforts in volunteering.

Councilor Czernicki said that she attended the recent Channel 14 quarterly meeting and said that they look forward to moving into the Community Center. She said that when the landscaping for the Silas Deane Middle School was discussed, it went to the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Silas Deane Highway Committee which had representatives from the Beautification Committee sitting on the Committee. Councilor Czernicki said that there was general interest, discussion held, and decisions made based on the most positive effect. Councilor Czernicki commented that the two main issues at the recent Fireside Chat were the Munis system and the analysis of Town buildings.

Councilor Cascio thanked the Town Manager for getting the State to move forward with grass cutting on Wells Road, Prospect Street, Jordan Lane and other areas. He asked if the State provided a schedule for the cutting. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she does not yet have a schedule, but was told that the State will get to this as often as they can. Councilor Cascio suggested that the schools get involved with the buildings in the community. He suggested that Wethersfield High School science students get involved with the upkeep of Town properties as this could be a great source of self worth. Councilor Cascio said that he has suggested this to the Superintendent of Schools to possibly include in the science curriculum.

Chairperson Morin said that he attended the opening of the Nature Center and that the building looks beautiful and he sees the potential for great success for the facility. Chairperson Morin said that he and Councilor Czernicki attended the Girl Scout Gold Award ceremony for Moira Chance, saying that the award is the equivalent of Eagle Scout being awarded to a Boy Scout. Chairperson Morin announced that CRCOG has given a regional award to both Wethersfield and Rocky Hill for their work on the Silas Deane Highway. He said that congratulations are in order to both Town Managers for their cooperative efforts for the Silas Deane Highway. Chairperson Morin announced that the Wethersfield High School graduation will be held on June 21 at 6:00 p.m. at Cove Park. Chairperson Morin made

various other community announcements.

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Adil moved **"TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS:**

BOARD OF BUILDING APPEALS

Joseph M. Hallisey D 101 Sunrise Terrace 7-1-05 to 6-30-10

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Robert Turgeon D 15 Country Club Road 7-1-05 to 6-30-07

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT HEALTH DISTRICT

Nancy Merrill Klatt R 29 Terrace Road 7-1-05 to 6-30-08

CULTURE AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE

Robin A. Bourassa D 248 Dale Road 7-1-05 to 6-30-08

Mary-Beth Dobmeier D 42 South Pembroke Street 7-1-05 to 6-30-08

Elizabeth M. Kirkpatrick D 154 Clearfield Road 7-1-05 to 6-30-08

ENVIRONMENTAL CODE OF APPEALS BOARD

Jeffrey R. Kotkin D 28 Farms Village Road 7-1-05 to 6-30-08

FAIR RENT COMMISSION

Francis J. Farrelly D 24 Deer Ledge Lane 7-1-05 to 6-30-07

John J. O'Leary U P.O. Box 290002 7-1-05 to 6-30-07

FLOOD AND EROSION CONTROL BOARD

Wesley E. Sargent D 39 Randy Lane 7-1-05 to 6-30-08

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Susan D. O'Brien D 310 Hartford Avenue 7-1-05 to 6-30-10

Alternate:

Heidi Lane D 164 Windmill Hill 7-1-05 to 6-30-10

HOUSING AUTHORITY

George J. Kelly, Jr. D 369 Hartford Avenue 7-1-05 to 6-30-10

HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELATIONS COMMISSION

Susan M. Fennelly D 57 Country Club Road 7-1-05 to 6-30-08

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Seymour A. Adil D 53 Desmond Drive 7-1-05 to 6-30-10

LIBRARY BOARD

Greg Curtin D 115 Center Street 7-1-05 to 6-30-08

Howard Greenblatt D 35 Broad Street 7-1-05 to 6-30-08

PERSONNEL APPEALS BOARD

Janis Malec D 84 Liberty Hill East 7-1-05 to 6-30-08

J. Edward Brymer D 64 Old Post Road 7-1-05 to 6-30-08

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Thomas A. Harley D 289 Cedar Street 7-1-05 to 6-30-08

Dorcas McHugh D 508 Highland Street 7-1-05 to 6-30-08

Frederick E. Petrelli, Jr. D 790 Wells Road 7-1-05 to 6-30-08

Alternate:

Daniel A. Camilliere	D	148 Ox Yoke Drive	7-1-05 to 6-30-08
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PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Richard L. Dobmeier	R	42 South Pembroke Street	7-1-05 to 6-30-08
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SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Adele Antoniou (at large)	D	16 Bermuda Road	7-1-05 to 6-30-07
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Janet Klett (Health Dist.)	D	96 Orchard Hill Drive	7-1-05 to 6-30-07
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Susan M. Miller	D	36 Old Pepperidge Lane, D2	7-1-05 to 6-30-07
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Jane Helen Ross (at large)	D	80 Saxon Road	7-1-05 to 6-30-07
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Alternate:

Elizabeth K. Smith	D	76 Farmstead Drive	7-1-05 to 6-30-07
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SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Philip J. Cashman	D	96 Ox Yoke Drive	7-1-05 to 6-30-08
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SOLOMON WELLS HOUSE COMMITTEE

Deborah Ann Balzo	U	247 Clearfield Road	7-1-05 to 6-30-08
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WETHERSFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

James F. Grise	D	455 Wolcott Hill Road	7-1-05 to 6-30-07
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Carol Keenan	U	430 Wolcott Hill Road	7-1-05 to 6-30-07
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Pamela M. Rapacz	D	12 Bailey Road	7-1-05 to 6-30-07
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Judith Tacey	U	212 Middletown Avenue	7-1-05 to 6-30-07
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Patricia Yagmin	D	27 Jay Street	7-1-05 to 6-30-07
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YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

Susan M. Miller	D	36 Old Pepperidge Lane, D2	7-1-05 to 6-30-08
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Melissa Hoon	D	9 Halfpenny Lane	7-1-05 to 6-30-08
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Under 21:

Matt Daskal		24 Griswold Road	7-1-05 to 6-30-08
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Ryan Jordan		22 Burwood Road	7-1-05 to 6-30-08
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Natalie Kotkin		28 Farms Village Road	7-1-05 to 6-20-08
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Kaitlin Taylor		443 Main Street	7-1-05 to 6-30-08
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ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Bruce Bockstael	U	255 Crest Street	7-1-05 to 6-30-10
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Alternate:

Frank Dellaripa	U	37 Robbinswood Drive	7-1-05 to 6-30-10
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", seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Councilor Czernicki verified some of the information provided in the appointment listing, including the change of Janet Klett's distinction to "Health Personnel" under the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee.

Councilor Cascio asked if any of the "under 21" members of the Youth Advisory Board will be graduating; therefore affecting their attendance on the Board. Chairperson Morin said that these members would be expected to resign like any other member if there is a conflict.

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

Councilor Czernicki moved **"TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS:**

CULTURE AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE

Sandra Mulcahy	R	454 Coppermill Road	7-1-05 to 6-30-08
Ruth Schumaker	R	15 Raynor Lane	7-1-05 to 6-30-08

BOARD OF ETHICS

Joseph J. Koneski	R	140 Eastern Drive	7-1-05 to 6-30-08
Penrose Wolf	R	23 Cheston Circle	7-1-05 to 6-30-08

Alternate:

Christopher Healy	R	27 Dorchester Road	7-1-05 to 6-30-08
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HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELATIONS COMMISSION

Mark Kulmacz	R	37 Old Pewter Lane	7-1-05 to 6-30-08
Barbara J. Ruhe	R	79 Main Street	7-1-05 to 6-30-08

Alternate:

Mark S. Townsend	R	38 McMullen Avenue	7-1-05 to 6-30-08
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INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION

Frank Morris	R	188 Broad Street	7-1-05 to 6-30-08
Lawrence F. Buck	R	360 Main Street	7-1-05 to 6-30-08

LIBRARY BOARD

S. Bradley Milvae	R	13 Wolcott Hill Road	7-1-05 to 6-30-08
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PERSONNEL APPEALS BOARD

John E. O'Leary	R	27 Coleman Road	7-1-05 to 6-30-08
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SOLOMON WELLS HOUSE COMMITTEE

Cheryl M. Gardow	R	60 Griswold Road	7-1-05 to 6-30-08
Mary E. Mahar	R	36 Old Pepperidge Lane	7-1-05 to 6-30-08

TOURISM COMMISSION

Charles E. Forsdick	R	18 Monticello Drive	7-1-05 to 6-30-08
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Alternate:

Geraldine Munroe	R	855 Ridge Road	7-1-05 to 6-30-07
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WETHERSFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Joan Haines	R	516 Highland Street	7-1-05 to 6-30-07
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ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Alternate:

Earl R. Munroe	R	855 Ridge Road	7-1-05 to 6-30-06
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", seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Adil ABSTAINED. The motion passed 7-0-1.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION REGARDING THE AUTHORIZATION AND SUBMISSION OF A GRANT FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND YOUTH SERVICES AND THE AWARD OF FUNDS FROM THE GRANT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND YOUTH SERVICES"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that this is a yearly grant received by the Town and that this year's amount

is \$21,513. She said that the funding goes toward programs offered by the Youth Services Department.

Councilor Czernicki asked if the money is used for programming only and not salaries. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that there could be some offsetting of salaries and that she will check this; however the majority is for programming.

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

Councilor Adil moved **"TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 78, FALSE ALARMS"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that during the budget adoption process, the Council decided that anyone with an alarm must register and file a \$25 fee with the Police Department. She said that fines will also be imposed if there are recurring problems with alarms being false; the fines increase with each additional false alarm.

Councilor Adil asked if the anticipated revenue from the fines is included in the 2005-2006 budget and was told that it is.

Councilor Cascio asked if a press release will be going out indicating that this ordinance will be in effect. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that there will be a press release in addition to a mailing to those with alarms. Councilor Cascio suggested that this be announced on Channel 14 as well.

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

Councilor Adil moved **"TO REVOKE THE PRESENT ORDINANCE ON FIRE/AMBULANCE VOLUNTEERS TAX ABATEMENT PROGRAM"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that some of the Fire Department personnel approached her because they have property only in a spouse's name or they do not own personal property; therefore they cannot receive the Town's tax abatement. She said that the IRS considers the tax abatements taxable, which the Town has not been doing. After numerous discussions, the Budget sub-committee of the Town Council decided that in order to rectify these two issues, the current ordinance needs to be revoked and replaced with a new one for the Volunteer Fire and Ambulance volunteers.

Councilor Cascio asked if all of the groups are aware of the change and agree with it. The Town Manager said that they are all aware and a survey was actually held in the Fire Department as to which tax abatement options were preferred. She said that the numbers were so strong that it was decided to offer all three options.

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

Councilor Adil moved **"TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION CONCERNING PAYMENT TO VOLUNTEER FIRE AND AMBULANCE PERSONNEL"**, seconded by Councilor Montinieri.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that as of July 1, 2005, the tax abatement will allow for up to \$1,000 depending on the number of calls attended. She said that the options offered to the volunteers will be to deposit the money into their present pension plan, to take the money and spend it as they wish, or to have it go into the Social Security Alternative Plan. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the volunteers requested that if the Federal IRS Law on tax abatement is overturned, that the tax abatement program be brought back to the Council to reinstitute.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

8-24 Referral - Nextel Lease - Kelleher Court

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that Nextel is looking to go on the existing tower at 23 Kelleher Court and this was approved by the Connecticut Siting Council. She said that the monthly lease payment is \$1,800 with an annual 3% increase and any monies received goes to defray the radio maintenance costs. The Town Manager said that this now has to go to the Planning and Zoning Commission for an 8-24 review. She suggested that the Council include in the motion that Nextel not take up any of the parking spots at Kelleher Court.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis moved **"TO REFER THE PROPOSED NEXTEL AGREEMENT TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR A REVIEW AND REPORT OF THE CURRENT AMOUNT OF PARKING SPACES AT KELLEHER COURT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH §8-24 OF THE GENERAL STATUTES"**, seconded by Councilor Adil.

Councilor Hemmann asked what happens if it is discovered that there is a parking issue. The Town Manager said that if Planning & Zoning doesn't approve it, it will come back to the Council, and if the Council doesn't approve it, it will go back to the Siting Council who could overrule the Town.

Councilor Cascio clarified that there is nothing additional being added to the ground, but only to the tower, and he was told by the Town Manager that she thinks there is more equipment going onto the ground.

Councilor Czernicki said that the firefighters at Kelleher Court showed concern over additional ground space being used and the lease indicates the use of approximately four hundred fifty square feet of land. She asked how many parking spaces this would account for and was told that it would be three or four. Councilor Czernicki said that she cannot impress enough that this use of four hundred fifty square feet compromises public safety in the community since it will take away from ample space for parking needed for the firefighters.

Councilor Montinieri clarified if the four hundred fifty square feet is additional space or just a renewal of the space already leased. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she believes it is to add four hundred fifty square feet, but she will check this.

Councilor Adil pointed out that it is not the Town Council who is putting Nextel on the tower, it is the Connecticut Siting Council. He said that if there are parking issues, the lot should be examined for possible expansion.

Councilor Forrest asked if the revenue from this motion is included in the 2005-2006 fiscal year and the Town Manager said that it may not be in there, but she will double check with the Finance Director.

Chairperson Morin said that the Council has heard loud and clear that there is concern over the parking spaces at Kelleher Court for drills and meetings. He said that the Siting Council prefers to use existing towers instead of erecting new ones and he is hoping that the Planning and Zoning Commission will work with Nextel to put the shed where it will have the smallest impact.

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

CL&P Rebate to Town Hall Bond

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that this is for authorization to enter into an agreement with CL&P for energy incentives for the Town Hall and Library. She said that CL&P has determined that the Town will be eligible for a rebate of \$6,521.48 and this money will go back into the project.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT**

WITH CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER FOR ENERGY INCENTIVES AND TO UTILIZE ANY INCENTIVE RECEIVED UNDER THE AGREEMENT FOR THE TOWN HALL/LIBRARY RENOVATION PROJECT", seconded by Councilor Montinieri.

Councilor Cascio verified that the \$6,521.48 will be added to the project and not taken away and Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this is true.

Councilor Montinieri said that she has heard that the project budget is very tight and asked the Town Manager to verify this. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she has not heard this, although the project is slow going and they're making sure not to do anything above or beyond what has to be done.

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

Motorola Radio Service Contract

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that this is a renewal of the contract with Motorola who actually maintains the software and do the system maintenance. She said that there still are problems with the radio system. The amount of the contract is \$142,183.56 which has been budgeted for.

Councilor Montinieri moved **"TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH MOTOROLA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$142,183.56"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis.

Councilor Hemmann asked if the Town has to contract with Motorola even though there have been problems with them. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she does not think that another vendor will work on someone else's problems. Councilor Hemmann expressed her concern that the problems still haven't been resolved to the Town's satisfaction.

Councilor Cascio asked if the \$973 increase is in addition to the amount budgeted. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the total Radio budget will be able to accommodate this \$973. Councilor Cascio asked if the service contract has been rewritten to provide additional protection for the Town due to the fact that the Town is not satisfied with the product or service provided by Motorola. The Town Manager said that she will have the Attorney working solely on the Motorola issue check it out. Councilor Cascio asked if this opinion will be obtained soon. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the contract is the same as last year's which he approved. She said that the problem is with maintenance since there are days when the signal is clear and then a static issue will arise. Councilor Cascio asked if the Town is currently 100% covered and the Town Manager said that it is not and that Motorola will guarantee 93-94% which occurs on days when the signal is clear. Councilor Cascio asked if the Town still has to pay for the service on days when it is not at the 94% point. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the Town consistently came in at 94% in July and then something unknown happened in September.

Councilor Czernicki stated that she cannot vote in favor of the service agreement with Motorola due to their lack of good faith dealing. She said that the Town has never had the guaranteed percentage of coverage that Motorola said they would; therefore they have not held up their end of the bargain. Councilor Czernicki said that the Town does not have the responsibility to be held hostage by Motorola because it is their system and they are the only ones who can repair it. She suggested that Motorola repair the system at their own cost until the level guaranteed to the Town is reached.

Councilor Czernicki moved **"TO TABLE THE MOTOROLA SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH MOTOROLA UNTIL FURTHER INPUT IS RECEIVED FROM THE ATTORNEY"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Chairperson Morin asked the Town Manager when the current contract expires and was told June 30, 2005.

Councilor Czernicki said that what has to be done in order to be covered should have been done prior to the Council receiving this item in their packet Thursday evening. She said that she'd like to see communication made with Motorola letting them know that the Town has not been satisfied and is looking for a way to get a different level of

service or, certainly, a cost reduction for service due to their inability to honor their contract.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted NAY. Councilor Cascio, Councilor Czernicki, and Councilor Hemmann voted AYE. The motion failed 3-5-0.

Chairperson Morin said that he does not disagree with many of the comments made, especially those by Councilor Czernicki.

Councilor Adil asked when the original contract agreement went into affect and Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that it was in the Fall of 2001. Councilor Adil said that there has been talk that Motorola has never reached the level of coverage they guaranteed. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that some days the coverage does reach the guaranteed level and some days it does not. Councilor Adil said that the history of the issue needs to be reviewed. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that there have been a number of meetings to discuss the problems and it was agreed that with the final payment to Motorola, they will pay half of any third party organization looking to find the problems with the system, Trott in this case. She said that Trott is frustrated since they cannot even figure out what is causing the problem. Councilor Adil verified that the problem is with the operational system and not with the software or maintenance. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this is what she has been told. Councilor Adil said that the Town needs to receive 100% satisfaction.

Councilor Hemmann said that she is not comfortable moving forward with this. She said that there have been meetings with several Town Attorneys and the problem still has not been rectified. She said that a compromise was made in the contract to allow for a third party, but there needs to be further language adjustments made in the contract to reflect the issues still outstanding. Councilor Hemmann said that renewing the contract with Motorola does the Town a disservice since, three years out, there continues to be a problem and no one is able to find a solution. She said that, because of this, public safety will be compromised.

Councilor Cascio verified that the Town receives \$1,800 per carrier on the tower per month and the Town Manager said that this is correct and that this is a revenue item to offset the maintenance of the tower. He asked how much of this amount Motorola receives and was told that they receive none since the Town owns the tower. Councilor Cascio asked who does receive anything and the Town Manager said that Fred Martin receives a certain percentage for his consulting work. Councilor Cascio asked if Mr. Martin is held accountable since something is obviously causing interference and asked if money can be held back from him. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that it is not the current carriers on any of the towers who are causing the interference since they have been shut off one by one to test this. Councilor Cascio asked if a letter to Motorola will go along with the service contract if it is passed, stating that there was not a unanimous vote and that there are concerns of some Council members that the service agreed upon is not being provided. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this should be done and sent to the division of Motorola responsible for figuring out what is causing the interference rather than the service support division with whom this contract agreement is made.

Councilor Adil agrees with Town Manager Bonnie Therrien that the Town should not mix apples with oranges and needs to work with the appropriate division to voice concerns and solve the problem.

Councilor Forrest said that he is dismayed by the two Councilors who do not want to support the motion. He said that what is before the Council is the agreement with Motorola that they will take care of the communications of the Police, Fire and other various Town services. He said that after July 1, the Town still needs this service to take care of the Town.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis said that Councilor Forrest makes a good point and asked if the Town does not have a contract as of July 1, who will take care of the system. He said that the problem is not constant and work is being done to solve the problem. He said that the Town has a contract with Motorola to maintain the equipment purchased from them and he worries about public safety if this is not continued.

Councilor Czernicki clarified that her remarks requested that the Town Attorney review the contract to possibly reduce the cost and that she cannot support the agreement as is. She said that the safety of Wethersfield citizens is the highest priority and she has heard on her scanner at home the unclear transmissions coming through on the current radio

system and that public safety is currently compromised. Councilor Czernicki said that Motorola needs to be held responsible and that renewing the contract with them is to pay money foolishly. She said that the result of the system not working as it was intended to means the public safety of Wethersfield is somewhat compromised and to renew the contract knowing this, is fool hearty. Councilor Czernicki said that the Town Attorney needs to review the contract in order to obtain some of what the Town needs out of it.

Councilor Hemmann said that what is before the Council is a service contract that needs to be looked at for what it says. She said that the motion to table was made so that the Town Attorney could review the contract and weigh in to see if there is language that could be added to protect the Town should something else go wrong.

Councilor Montinieri said that this issue has caused a high degree of frustration for the Council. She said that the Council is attempting to address an original installation problem by holding back on the Service Support contract currently before the Council. Councilor Montinieri said that these are two separate issues and it does not make sense to use one to rectify the other. She said that the Town needs the service and support and the original installation issues need to be dealt with separately.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis clarified that he is in no way suggesting that the Town drop its efforts to correct the existing problem, but that the Town needs to continue operating the system.

Councilor Cascio said that it is unfortunate that Motorola is the service provider as well as support, as he understands this to be two separate animals; however Motorola represents the entire picture and the name is not credible at this point in time. He said that the Town needs to be protected and this should be a lesson going forward to provide protective language next time a service contract comes before the Council.

Councilor Forrest disagreed that it is foolhardy to sign this agreement and by not signing it the maintenance of the radio system would cease to exist. He said that saying no to the agreement is foolhardy. Councilor Forrest said that he does not agree that the Town, through the Town Attorney, can begin to write clauses into the contract to fix the transmission issues. He said that what's before the Council is a service contract and not a contract to fix the system and that tabling and delaying the agreement puts the Town past the July 1 renewal date.

Chairperson Morin said that it is presumptuous and inappropriate to state that supporting the motion is not caring for public safety. Chairperson Morin asked if the Motorola service contract has been used for issues other than the radio system. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that they have been used when services have gone down and they have provided upgrades to software. Chairperson Morin said that he would like to see Motorola made aware that there are numerous Councilors who are unhappy with the performance of the original contract with regard to the static issue.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Cascio, Councilor Czernicki, and Councilor Hemmann voted NAY. The motion passed 5-3-0.

Blighted Properties List

Councilor Montinieri moved **"TO APPROVE THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES TO THE BLIGHTED PROPERTY LIST: 1912 BERLIN TURNPIKE, 2090 BERLIN TURNPIKE, 271 SILAS DEANE HIGHWAY, 1178 SILAS DEANE HIGHWAY, 1210 SILAS DEANE HIGHWAY"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that the Property Maintenance team inspected the entire Silas Deane Highway and Berlin Turnpike for properties that are in violation of the Town's Property Maintenance Code. She said that thirty-four properties were identified as being in violation and five qualified under the blighted definition. The Town Manager said that the Town has been working with the other properties and a lot of them have been cleaned up. She said that the team will go out on a quarterly basis to continue inspections.

Councilor Montinieri said that she appreciates the format of the material provided to the Council. She clarified that of the two properties on the Berlin Turnpike, one is a former gas station and one is former retail that have both been abandoned. She said that 271 Silas Deane Highway is a vacant home, 1178 Silas Deane Highway is the former Fun

Zone, and 1210 Silas Deane Highway is Puritan Furniture. Councilor Montinieri referred to Director of Health Paul Hutcheon's question to the Town Manager as to how she would like to handle the issuance of orders for the blighted properties. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that as of July 1, the Health Department will no longer be handling this and she will have Building Official Brian O'Connor send out letters that will be signed by her. She said that she meets with the property owners and works with them to clean up the properties. Councilor Montinieri said that she supports efforts to clean up the Silas Deane Highway and the Berlin Turnpike.

Councilor Adil said that there are programs and grant available to property owners.

Chairperson Morin said that he sees this as an opportunity to move in a positive direction.

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

Budget Transfer - Wage Accounts

Councilor Adil moved "**TO TRANSFER FUNDS BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ATTACHED BUDGET TRANSFER FORM**", seconded by Councilor Montinieri.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that these are the end of the year transfers between departments to cover increases to salary accounts due to union negotiations and staff wages.

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

BIDS

Fuel Bid - Heating Oil and Diesel

Councilor Adil moved "**TO AWARD THE BID FOR HEATING OIL AND DIESEL FUEL TO DIME OIL COMPANY THROUGH THE CAPITOL REGION PURCHASING COUNCIL'S BID OF \$1.8348 FOR HEATING OIL AND \$1.8311 FOR DIESEL**", seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this could be floated, but that she does not recommend it at this time since the current market rate is \$2.09.

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

Highcrest School Roof Replacement - Award of Bid

Councilor Montinieri moved "**TO AWARD THE BID FOR THE HIGHCREST SCHOOL ROOF REPLACEMENT TO WILKTOWN ROOFING IN MANCHESTER AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$492,900**", seconded by Councilor Adil.

Councilor Hemmann asked if the difference between the bid amount and the budgeted amount of \$540,000 will be used for other capital improvement projects. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that when the project is completed, she will come back to the Council to close it out and at that time the Council can decide where any excess funds go.

Chairperson Morin said that the Highcrest roof has been an issue for a number of years; therefore he is glad to see it finally resolved.

Councilor Cascio asked when the roof replacement project will begin. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the vendor will begin as soon as possible with a guarantee that it will be completed by the start of school in the Fall and a \$1,000 fee due for each day it goes into the school year.

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

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

None.

MINUTES

Councilor Forrest moved "**TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF JUNE 6, 2005**", seconded by Councilor Montinieri. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Czernicki ABSTAINED. The motion passed 7-0-1.

Councilor Montinieri moved "**TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 6, 2005**", seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Councilor Hemmann amended her comments on page 17178 to read "choice of wording from standards to guidelines" rather than "name change".

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

Councilor Montinieri moved "**TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF JUNE 7, 2005**", seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Adil, Councilor Cascio, Councilor Hemmann, and Deputy Mayor Karangekis ABSTAINED. The motion passed 4-0-4.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:05 p.m., Councilor Adil moved "**TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**" seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

At 9:16 p.m., Councilor Adil moved "**TO ENTER BACK INTO THE REGULAR MEETING**" seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

At 9:16 p.m., Councilor Adil moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Montinieri. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk

Approved by vote of Council
7/18/05