

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

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## **FEBRUARY 2, 2004 REGULAR MEETING**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on February 2, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

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

Absent: Councilor Cascio.

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 Adil.

Chairperson Morin announced that there will be an Executive Session after the Council meeting to discuss Personnel Matters and Union Negotiations.

### Presentation: Wethersfield Historical Society

Judy Parker, President of the Wethersfield Historical Society, gave a presentation of the Historical Society and how they interact with the Town. She stated that the Wethersfield Historical Society is a seventy year old non-profit organization. Their mission is to preserve and interpret Wethersfield history and educate others about it. The Wethersfield Historical Society uses, oversees, and manages four Town-owned buildings. The Society owns outright two other historical properties and a large collection of historic objects. The Historical Society provides a research library and eighteen different education programs free to Wethersfield students. The Society has added to the success of Wethersfield tourism and spared the Town the "headaches" of managing a visitor's center. The Society has a regional and State-wide reputation of quality exhibits, programs, and tours which bring many people to Wethersfield. Ms. Parker introduced the Historical Society's new Executive Director, Douglas Shipman, who gave a short visual presentation of the Wethersfield Historical Society's past, present, and future. Mr. Shipman presented to Chairperson Morin and the Town of Wethersfield, as payment for the Historical Society's use of the Cove warehouse, a rope of red onions which are symbolic of the prosperity of the Town of Wethersfield and the connection between the Historical Society and the Town of Wethersfield.

Councilor Forrest asked Mr. Shipman if the Wethersfield Historical Society anticipates receiving any additional property. Mr. Shipman said that the Society currently has no plans for additional property.

### Presentation: Town Hall/Library Building Committee

Chairperson Joseph Coombs introduced himself as well as Town Engineer Michael Turner and the Architect of Record Peter Wells. Mr. Coombs reported that the various affected Departments in the Town Hall have shown a favorable response to the proposed plans. Mr. Wells provided a brief history of the project and how funding was obtained. Mr. Wells believes that the project will be able to stay within the budget constraints. Mr. Wells gave a presentation of the proposed changes to the Town Hall which focuses on the interior of the building rather than any external changes.

Councilor Czernicki asked Mr. Wells for the proposed dimensions of many of the renovated rooms. Councilor Czernicki asked if the Board Room and Conference Room on the main level can be used as one room or two separate rooms. Mr. Wells said that it can be used as either two separate rooms or one larger room. Councilor Czernicki asked about the "swing space" on the lower and the Conference Room indicated in the Health Department. Councilor Czernicki asked Mr. Wells for an approximate total of gained meeting space throughout the Town Hall as a result of

the proposed renovations. Mr. Wells said that he has not yet done this analysis, but can provide the numbers at the next meeting he attends. Mr. Wells said that the plans are not set in stone; however they are not as preliminary as in the past as a review has been conducted with the Town Departments and their approval received. Councilor Czernicki expressed her concern for the heating and air conditioning problems within the Town Hall and asked Mr. Wells how the energy problems will be alleviated. Mr. Wells said that he stated that the energy problems will be alleviated in the lobby and that the problems in the rest of the building were not part of his charge. The HVAC and electrical systems are still under review.

Councilor Fortunato asked for clarification that the chimney repair of \$15,000 will come from the Bond funding and not the Capital Improvement budget. Mr. Coombs said that the chimney is noted in the Bond budget but it is actually Town money. Councilor Fortunato stated that there will be some repair requests of the Librarian which will not be addressed and she asked Mr. Coombs for suggestions on how these improvements can be completed. Mr. Coombs said that many of the deficiencies stated are not part of the Renovation Project and have been part of the Capital Improvements budget for a long time. Many of the electrical issues have to be dealt with because of Coding regulations. Councilor Fortunato asked if Mr. Wells has an estimate of the cost of the project and if there will be funds left over to address the additional interior repairs. Mr. Wells said that a budget has to be established and the project must stay within the budget guidelines.

Councilor Hemmann asked if the Library needs, such as electrical, are part of the project. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that these would not be addressed as there is not enough money to fix these problems. Councilor Hemmann asked if furniture for the Library is included in the Bond money. Mr. Coombs said that fixtures, furniture, and equipment are included.

Councilor Czernicki is concerned that this project will end up in the same position as the Town was with the Police Facility with regards to the furniture. She does not want to see the Council put in the same position again as a result of money originally allocated for furniture being spent in other places. Councilor Czernicki said that the needs of the Town Hall need to be addressed in a more expansive way than what is currently being done. She'd like to see the heating and air conditioning as well as the wiring issues addressed. She would not like to see that anyone making use of the Town Hall building is put into any type of hazardous situation.

Councilor Adil commented that there is a limited amount of funds allocated in the Bond and that priority of the needs have been addressed. Mr. Coombs stated that both the Small Cities Grant and State Library Grant portions of the funding are very specific as to the use of the money. Mr. Wells said that furniture and lighting will be reconfigured in the Library which will address some of the issues there. Councilor Adil pointed out that the furniture needing replacement at the Police Facility does not compare with the furniture issues facing the Town Hall renovation. Mr. Coombs stated that furniture is always a discretionary figure. The furniture needs of the Police Facility were more specialized than the ordinary furniture needs of the Town Hall. Councilor Adil recommended that the gardens outside the Town Hall be considered during construction and they are treaded on lightly.

Councilor Czernicki asked if the renovation to the Town Hall will remedy the problems with heating and air conditioning units that do not currently function properly. Mr. Wells said that the units will be assessed and either repaired or replaced. Mr. Coombs said that the existing boilers in the Town Hall are forty years old and have reached their expected life span.

Councilor Fortunato asked Mr. Coombs if he could address some of the short term requests of the Library Board for repairs to be done in the Library. She asked Mr. Turner if the Capital Advisory Committee could also look at some of the outstanding items and needs to be addressed. Mr. Turner said that this would depend on how the Council defines a Capital project.

Chairperson Morin stated that there are needs that have surfaced since the Bond was passed and he asked if the Council could obtain an estimate of the costs to include these items in the project. Chairperson Morin is uncomfortable with the speculation of many of the current costs of the project. Mr. Coombs said that it is very hard to find the total costs of renovations in any project and they often are determined after demolition occurs exposing any problems.

Councilor Adil moved **"TO PROCEED FORWARD WITH THE TOWN HALL DEVELOPMENT PLANS AS**

**PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis.

Councilor Czernicki asked what the next phase of the renovation project will be. Mr. Wells said that he will continue with the preparation of the construction documents, hoping to finish within the next four weeks. He said that the drawings will also be developed in more detail in order to complete the cost estimates and get the bid process going. Councilor Czernicki asked if a time line for the project could be provided to the Council. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she will get this to the Council.

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

Presentation: Economic Development

Town Planner Peter Gillespie reviewed the January 2004 Economic Development Report. The changes include:

- Continued construction/renovation at the Town House Motel, 1770 Berlin Turnpike
- Renovations of Sovereign Bank, 1221 Silas Deane Highway
- Interior renovations and handicap ramp at Self Defense Studio, 965B Silas Deane Hwy.
- Renovation of Bed, Bath and Beyond, 1065 Silas Deane Hwy.
- Renovation of former Grange Hall, 136 Main Street
- CVS/Starbucks transfer of ownership, 1080 Silas Deane Hwy.-sales price \$2.1 million
- Pre-application review for 38-46 Wells Road, Mozzicato Family, LLC
- Methodist Church, 150 Prospect Street, expansion approval scheduled for 2/18/04 P&Z meeting
- Best Western Camelot Inn, 1330 Silas Deane Hwy, addition for indoor pool room
- Meeting with owners of Goff Brook Shoppes to discuss preliminary plans for a possible retail tenant
- Cookie Bouquet, 616 Silas Deane Highway, relocation

Mr. Gillespie reported that he met with the Town Manager and a representative from Hartford Magazine for a Town Profile of Wethersfield to appear March/April 2004. He attended the January 27, 2004 meeting of the Tourism Commission to discuss a possible approach to developing a Tourism Plan and also attended the January 27, 2004 presentation by CB Richard Ellis on the 2004 market outlook for office, industrial, and multi-family development. Mr. Gillespie said that there is a meeting scheduled with the Old Wethersfield Shopkeepers for February 9 at 6:00 p.m. at Comstock Ferre. The public hearing will be held some time in March. Mr. Gillespie attended the Greater Hartford Association of Realtors reception in West Hartford on January 29 where the need for a breakfast meeting of area realtors to share information on the local real estate market was discussed. Mr. Gillespie reported that the EDIC met with Metro Hartford Alliance to discuss the Business Visitation Program. The next meeting is Tuesday, February 3 at 4:00 p.m. There was also a meeting of the Silas Deane Highway Committee and the EDIC Development Subcommittee on January 13 to discuss the need for a cooperative approach and a review of the 1987 Master Plan. Several members of the EDIC attended the Connecticut Business & Industry Association's Economic Summit and Outlook held on January 21. Mr. Gillespie reported that the EDIC Finance Subcommittee continues to work on developing the Express Loan/Grant Program to target faAade and site improvements along the Silas Deane Highway. The next meeting is scheduled for February 11 at 3:00 p.m.

Councilor Adil applauded Mr. Gillespie's efforts to get everyone on the same page by having the EDIC work together with different groups. This is necessary in order to move forward with improvements to the Silas Deane Highway.

Councilor Forrest stated that he fully supports the creation of a committee to evaluate the improvements to the Silas Deane Highway.

Councilor Czernicki questioned the committee that Councilor Forrest spoke of as she believes that there is already a Silas Deane Revitalization Committee. Chairperson Morin said that the new committee would bring together all the participants in the revitalization of the Silas Deane Highway to keep all on the same page. The effort is to make one all-encompassing committee rather than separate committees of the EDIC, Silas Deane Revitalization Committee, Chamber of Commerce, etc. The new committee will focus on both the Silas Deane Highway and the Berlin Turnpike. Councilor Czernicki asked if the new committee will include representation from Rocky Hill. Mr. Gillespie said that any interested parties will be included and that his and the committee's initial focus will be on the Silas Deane

Highway.

Chairperson Morin asked Mr. Gillespie how Wethersfield compares with surrounding Towns with regard to our vacancy rate. Mr. Gillespie said that it depends on the type of property. The vacancy rate in the Class A, office space, marketplace is approximately 19%-20%. This is relatively good as is Wethersfield's retail environment.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

#### HEARING

None

Councilor Montinieri moved "**TO REMOVE ITEMS B.2.b AND B.2.d FROM THE TABLE**", seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

#### GENERAL COMMENTS

Tom Fitzpatrick, 40 Whippoorwill Way, expressed his concern over the Council's recent action of the appointment of the Assistant Town Attorney. He stated that the position has been compensated for over twenty years at \$20,000 per year. This year the Council has increased the payment to \$36,000 per year which is an 80% increase. Mr. Fitzpatrick finds this fiscally irresponsible in light of the current economic times and the appointment sends the wrong message at a time when the Town is negotiating wage increases with several of its Unions.

Kelly Weinberg, 480 Brimfield Road, agreed with Mr. Fitzpatrick with regard to the position of Assistant Town Attorney. She is very disappointed by this irresponsible spending by the Council when there are so many other ways to spend the money within Town. She realizes also that sports are very important to many in Town, but does not agree that the renovation of Cottone Field would be responsible spending. She would much rather see money going into the school system to support its curriculum and technology needs. Ms. Weinberg is angered by the recent appointment of two part-time positions. She supports the need for the School Resource Officer, but does not like the fact that once the grant monies are used up, the financial responsibility for this Officer will fall upon the Town. She urged the Council to think more responsibly and to consider these issues very carefully.

Ken Sokolowski, 79 Main Street, founder and webmaster of Wethersfield.net stated that information and updates on the automated trash pickup soon to commence will be available on the website. He thanked the Town Manager for her prompt response to inquiries regarding the trash pickup.

Patty Carroll, 34 Chesterfield Road, encouraged all parents to attend the Board of Education Budget meeting on February 5 to offer their input and to gain first-hand knowledge of the budget process.

Patty Silva, 24 Hillcrest Avenue, thanked Chairperson Morin for his recent article in Wethersfield Life as it was very comprehensive and informative. Ms. Silva, as a member of the WSPC (Wethersfield Schools Parent Council), urged all parents and residents to pay attention to the preparation and approval process of the 2004-2005 Board of Education budget.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, agreed with the comments of both Mr. Fitzpatrick and Ms. Weinberg regarding responsible spending. Mr. Young commented that he'd like to see all presenters to the Council provide a PowerPoint presentation so that the audience, and not just the Council, can be included in the visuals of the information being presented. Mr. Young also commented on the tax delinquencies and the posting of such. He is in favor of the delinquencies being posted on the website.

Marlene Schaeffer, 142 Coleman Road, retired Wethersfield Police Officer, commented on the letter she had written regarding the Police Department's neglect in giving her a retirement party. She said that the Town Manager contacted her and stated that she cannot force the Department to give her a party. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the parties for retired Police Officers are sponsored by the Police Benevolent Association.

Paul Courchaine, 481 Main Street, Chairperson of the Silas Deane Highway Revitalization Committee, provided information as to the makeup of the Committee which includes representatives from the EDIC, the Village Improvement Committee, the Preservation Trust, the Beautification Trust, the Men's Garden Club, the Tree Warden, the Shade Tree Commission and an architect from the original 1987 plan. The Committee has made presentations to both the Council and the Planning & Zoning Commission. Mr. Courchaine is very surprised by Councilor Forrest's and Mr. Gillespie's thoughts on the need for a new committee or a summit on the Silas Deane Highway improvement. He would like to have had the courtesy of finding out about this prior to tonight's public meeting.

George A. Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, stated that he is against the School Resource Officer as he does not feel that it is appropriate. Mr. Ruhe said in regard to the Cottone Field renovation, that any spending needs to come to the voters of Town for final approval.

Paul Flannery, 382 Ridge Road, agreed with Mr. Young's comments about the presentations not being visible to the public who are in attendance at the meeting. He'd like to see something done about this. Mr. Flannery is concerned about the HVAC studies that were done in the past on the Town Hall Building stating that something has to be done with the system. He thinks that all the work should be done at the same time rather than putting parts of it off to the future.

Chairperson Morin announced that the Town Manager has copies of the report and schematics presented by the Town Hall/Library Building Committee.

Barbara Ruhe, 79 Main Street, spoke in favor of the Underage Drinking Ordinance. She said that there are twenty-eight towns that have already passed this Ordinance and currently eight more considering it. Ms. Ruhe urged the Council to pass this Ordinance.

Ron Rodd, 88 Westway, commended the Council and the Town Manager for their role in the formation of the Cottone Field Renovation Advisory Committee. Mr. Rodd commented on the January 20 Council meeting's discussion of Cottone Field. Mr. Rodd personally measured the track field size and does not agree that its footprint is too small to accommodate a football field and an apron. The Wethersfield track field is large enough to accommodate a mixed-use football/soccer field configuration. Mr. Rodd considers that the absence of full disclosure of items acted upon or discussed for action could be interpreted as a barrier to the rights of citizens seeking due diligence. Mr. Rodd urged the Council to exercise caution in being influenced to act on a motion based on hearsay alone. Mr. Rodd proposed that the Council reconsider its action to deny funding to evaluate the track field as an alternative site for Cottone Field and instead refer the matter to the newly-formed Advisory Committee for a more comprehensive review.

Judy Emmick, 88 Westway, commented on the Cottone Field renovation and lighting. She would like to know who the source was who originally measured the track field and determined that the football field would not fit within its boundaries. She would also like information provided as to the number of proposed football field events scheduled for the coming year.

Dan O'Connor, 34 Dorchester Road, stated that he commends the forming of the Cottone Field Renovation Advisory Committee, but is disappointed with the selection of the members of such. Mr. O'Connor urged the Council to act on behalf of the residents who support the renovation of Cottone Field.

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. The Association believes that the hiring of an Assistant Town Attorney is a waste of money. They urge the Council to reconsider this appointment.

### COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Czernicki moved **"TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF LAUREN K. DAY FROM THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Adil moved **"TO ACCEPT THE APPOINTMENT OF NEIL C. BRICKLEY, WILLIAM M. DEST,**

**ANTHONY D. DICICCO, RONALD M. RODD, AND SHEILA E. SUPPICICH TO THE ARTIFICIAL SURFACE FOOTBALL FIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE TERM OF 2-2-04 INDEFINITELY"**, seconded by Councilor Czernicki.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis suggested that alternates be included as this will be a very busy committee with a large time commitment from each of its members. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the original motion was for five members and that if additional members are to be added, the Council could vote on this tonight.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that many residents were interested in appointment to this Committee and that she attempted to get a good cross section of representation.

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

Deputy Mayor Karangekis moved **"TO APPOINT TWO ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO THE ARTIFICIAL SURFACE FOOTBALL FIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Councilor Hemmann stated that she is comfortable with the five members appointed and does not see the need for additional members.

Councilor Adil said that he would like to see the two additional members appointed as alternates.

Councilor Forrest said that he recommends two additional regular members because their expertise could be used by the committee to further their information.

Councilor Fortunato said that she supports expanding the committee by two regular members.

Chairperson Morin said that he supports seven members on the committee as this seems very manageable.

Councilor Czernicki was concerned that the Council was very comfortable with a committee comprised of five members until tonight when a member of the public spoke of the expertise of a resident who was denied appointment to the committee. Councilor Czernicki said that there are seven members appointed to the Technology Committee and she verified with the Town Manager that there were a number of applicants with expertise beyond this seven.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Czernicki and Councilor Hemmann voted NAY. The motion passed 6-2-0.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### Request for Abandonment of Town Property on Columbus Street

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this is a request from Steven Kelly to swap an equal size of property of his with a Town-owned piece on Columbus Street. The Planning & Zoning has approved the second referral as long as there is nothing built on the property.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis moved **"TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER AND TOWN ATTORNEY TO PREPARE THE LEGAL DOCUMENTS AND EXECUTE THEM TO SWAP A PIECE OF LAND ON COLUMBUS STREET OWNED BY STEVEN KELLY (PARCEL C) WITH AN EQUAL AMOUNT OF TOWN OWNED LAND (PARCEL A) AS LONG AS PARCEL A IS NOT A BUILDABLE LOT AND MR. KELLY PAYS FOR ANY EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD IN EXECUTING THIS RESOLUTION"**, seconded by Councilor Czernicki.

Councilor Forrest said that he would like to make sure that the pieces of property are indeed equal. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the original swap agreement was to be acre for acre. Councilor Forrest asked if the parcels are equal and Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that they are not. Councilor Forrest said that the resolution should not state that the parcels are equal if they are not.

Councilor Adil said that the Town Planner Peter Gillespie stated that the parcels are roughly equal but the Town-owned land has some wetlands and therefore the usable space of it is equal with Mr. Kelly's parcel. Councilor Adil feels that this has been discussed enough and would like to see it moved forward.

Councilor Forrest stated his concern that if passed as is, there may be problems with the agreement when it comes to closing the deal as the parcels are not "equal". He suggested that the wording be changed.

Councilor Adil moved "**TO AMEND THE MOTION TO INSERT THE WORD 'APPROXIMATELY' BEFORE THE WORD EQUAL**", seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion to amend passed 8-0-0.

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

### Blasting - Nott Street - Questions for DOT

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she spoke with Scott Roberts of the Department of Transportation and he and other representatives of the DOT will be in attendance at the February 17 meeting for discussion and questions. Mr. Roberts requested that the Council provide him this week with questions they have so that he can be sure to obtain the answers for the February 17 meeting.

Chairperson Morin requested that the Council be provided with copies of the minutes of any of the meetings that dealt with this matter.

Councilor Czernicki said that she would like to know if the questions that Mr. Roberts will accept will be from the Council only or from the area neighbors as well. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that Mr. Roberts would like as many questions as possible up front and that he will probably answer other questions as well. Councilor Czernicki asked if the neighbors have been notified that they will have the opportunity to ask questions. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the mailing has not yet gone out. Councilor Czernicki asked if the date of the meeting could be changed so as to provide the neighbors the opportunity to submit questions.

Chairperson Morin suggested that the meeting with Mr. Roberts be postponed until March 1 giving both the Council and Nott Street neighbors the opportunity to come up with and submit questions.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien stated that the Council has requested that neighbors within one mile of the blasting area be notified and that this amounts to a huge mailing. She wished to clarify with the Council that this is their intent. Chairperson Morin asked what is reasonable in a blasting situation. Councilor Czernicki said that the last blasting affected beyond five hundred feet.

Councilor Adil asked if another public hearing on the blasting matter will need to be held as one was already held. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that there does not need to be an additional public hearing in order to move ahead with the blasting. Councilor Adil suggested that the mailing be sent to residents of a distance somewhere between five hundred yards and a mile. The Town Manager said that a mailing to residents within one mile would include approximately one-fourth of Wethersfield residents. She said that she will double or triple the usual requirement and also publish a press release in the newspaper.

### OTHER BUSINESS

#### Microphones for Town Council and Television for Public Meetings

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that there has been a problem with the proper televising of the Council meetings and with the current microphones not working properly. She has asked Town Clerk Dolores Sassano and Gary Santoro to have the wires checked first to make sure that the wiring is not the problem. She has also asked that Mrs. Sassano include a new microphone system in her budget for 2004-2005. The problems with the televising of meetings involve both Cox Communications and volunteers. The Town Manager recommends that there be a still camera at the back of the room which will be turned on by either her or Town Clerk Sassano; or the Town can pay

someone minimum wage to televise the meetings. The correct televising of meetings is extremely important to the public and one of these recommendations must be considered.

Councilor Montinieri asked if the current meeting is being shown from the one still camera in the back of the room. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that Mr. Santoro is at tonight's meeting and is controlling the cameras; therefore there is more than one camera operating. Councilor Montinieri suggested going with the one still camera and having the Council members speak up so that the audience would better see who is speaking. She is hesitant to pay someone to televise the meetings.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis said that once the Council has an appropriate microphone system, it will be easier for the public to discern who is speaking.

Councilor Adil is not in favor of the one still camera option and would like to wait and see how the new microphones play out at budget time.

Councilor Forrest would like to see that volunteers continue to do the televising; possibly even work something out with the school system. He said that occasionally something may go awry, but we'll just have to try our best.

Chairperson Morin said that it appears that the Council would like to continue, at least for the short-term, with the volunteers. He is concerned that there needs to be some sort of system indicating when the televising is not working so that it can be worked out before the meeting begins.

#### Workforce Development Grant

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she was informed by Nancy Stilwell, Director of Social & Youth Services that the Capital Region Education Council is interested in involving Wethersfield in their summer youth employment skills program. This will be an eight week summer program which, if successful, will be extended for two additional years. This will not cost the Town anything.

Councilor Fortunato moved "**TO HAVE THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD PARTICIPATE IN THE CAPITAL REGION EDUCATION COUNCIL'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANT**", seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

#### Flagpole Lighting

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that this has been an ongoing issue and there are three options available. The Town can pay someone \$2 per day to raise and lower the flags during non-business times, the pole can be removed, or lighting of the pole can be installed which would not require that the flag be raised and lowered each day. The quote received for lighting is \$8,500.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis said that he has been working on this issue with Mr. Clynch and Mr. Fred Valente, part-time Building Official, who has come up with an option that will not cost more than \$1,200 to \$1,500 for a device which replaces the ball at the top of the flag pole with a light that shines down on the flag. This light has a timer on it which turns the light on automatically at dusk and off at dawn.

Chairperson Morin agrees with the idea proposed by Deputy Mayor Karangekis as it would be more cost effective. He looks forward to hearing more about this option.

#### Physical Services - Extending Summer Hours - Construction

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the Physical Services Department has in the past modified their summer hours to earlier in the day due to the heat. The construction at the Physical Services Complex will begin this Spring and Public Works Director, Mike Turner, has recommended that the modified hours begin earlier this year to accommodate the construction. The modified hours would run from April 1 through the opening of school. The Union has agreed to this proposal.

Councilor Montinieri moved **"TO ALLOW FOR SUMMER HOURS FOR THE PHYSICAL SERVICES STAFF BEGINNING APRIL 1, 2004 AND GOING UNTIL EITHER CONSTRUCTION STOPS AT PHYSICAL SERVICES OR WHEN SCHOOL OPENS, WHICHEVER IS EARLIER"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Councilor Hemmann asked if the time change in the Spring will affect the productivity of the staff as it will be darker and cooler in the early morning. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that it will be light enough and warm enough by the time the staff gets their equipment prepared and out on the road. She said that because of a Town Noise Ordinance, no road work can commence before 7:00 a.m.

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

## BIDS

None

## ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

### **TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD UNDERAGE DRINKING ORDINANCE**

#### ***Section 1. Findings and Intent***

- A. The possession and consumption of alcoholic liquor by minors is a matter of growing local, regional, and national concern.
- B. Consumption of alcoholic liquor by minors unsupervised by parental authority creates a health and safety risk not only to children, but also the general public.
- C. The Town Council of Wethersfield seeks to protect, preserve and promote the health, safety, welfare and quality of life of its residents by regulating the possession of alcohol by minors on both public and private property.

#### ***Section 2. Definitions***

- A. **"Alcoholic Liquor"** shall have the same meaning as the term as defined in Section 30-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- B. **"Host"** shall be defined as a gathering of two (2) or more persons, or to allow the premises under one's control to be used with one's knowledge for a gathering of two (2) or more persons, for personal, social, or business interaction.
- C. **"Minor"** shall have the same meaning as the term as defined in Section 30-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- D. **"Person"** shall be any individual, firm, partnership, association, syndicate, company, trust, corporation, limited-liability company, municipality, agency, or political or administrative subdivision of the state or other legal entity of any kind.

#### ***Section 3. Possession of Alcoholic Liquor Restricted***

No person under the age of twenty-one (21) shall possess any container of alcoholic liquor, whether opened or unopened, within the Town of Wethersfield except when accompanied by or in the presence of his or her parent, guardian, or spouse who has attained the age of twenty-one (21) years. This restriction shall apply to both public and private property.

#### ***Section 4. Hosting and Event or Gathering Restricted***

No person or persons shall host an event or gathering at which alcoholic liquor is consumed by or dispensed to any person who has not attained the age of twenty-one (21) unless such person who has not attained the age of twenty-one (21) is accompanied by or in the presence of his or her parent, guardian, or spouse who has attained the age of twenty-one (21). This prohibition shall apply to any event or gathering within the Town of Wethersfield, whether conducted

on public or private property.

### **Section 5. Possession Otherwise Prohibited by Law**

Notwithstanding the above, nothing herein shall prohibit the serving or selling of alcoholic liquor by a minor if otherwise permitted by the Connecticut General Statutes.

### **Section 6. Enforcement**

The Chief of Police or any other sworn member of the Wethersfield Police Department is charged with enforcing the provisions of this ordinance.

### **Section 7. Violations and Penalties**

- A. Any person violating Section 3 of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine of one hundred (\$100) dollars for each such violation.
- B. Any person violating Section 4 of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine of one hundred (\$100) dollars.
- C. All fines paid pursuant to this Ordinance shall be payable to the Treasurer of the Town of Wethersfield.

### **Section 8. Appeals Procedure**

Any person fined pursuant to this ordinance may appeal such fine to the Wethersfield Citation Board or his or her designee within thirty days.

## **ORDINANCE CONCERNING FEES FOR THE REPORTING OF DELINQUENT TAX ACCOUNTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to enacted legislation in the June 30, 2003 Special Session, Section 58 amends 12-146, a municipality may by ordinance allow a tax collector to charge a taxpayer a fee per account, if the tax collector has reported a motor vehicle as being delinquent in motor vehicle tax payments to the Department of Motor Vehicles, pursuant to 14-33;

**BE IT ORDAINED**, that Chapter 149 of the Municipal Code of the Town of Wethersfield, Connecticut be amended by adding a section to be numbered 149-19 which said section shall read as follows:

### **SECTION 149-19. FEE CHARGED TO ANY MOTOR VEHICLE TAX ACCOUNT REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES OF UNPAID MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES**

- A. A tax collector shall charge a taxpayer a \$5.00 fee per tax account if such tax collector reports a motor vehicle owned by aforementioned taxpayer as being delinquent in motor vehicle tax payments to the Department of Motor Vehicles,
- B. This ordinance shall take effect and shall be applicable to the October 1, 2002 Grand List

### **MINUTES**

January 20, 2004

Councilor Adil moved "**TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 20, 2004**", seconded by Councilor Hemmann. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

### **GENERAL COMMENTS**

### **REPORTS**

Councilor Adil reported that at a Traffic & Transportation meeting held earlier this evening the following were

discussed: The Bunce Road sidewalks, the STEP urban funding for roads, and the Local Accident Reduction Grant. It was determined that the Bunce Road sidewalk project is two to three years away. The projects proposed for the STEP funding would be Willow Street, Goff Road north of Prospect Street, and the entrance to Mill Woods Park as this will increase the Town's likelihood of receiving funds through the Local Accident Reduction Grant. Councilor Adil reported that he attended the EDIC meeting on January 21 at which a presentation was given by a representative of the Connecticut Business & Industry Association.

Councilor Hemmann reported that she attended the Tourism Commission meeting and that they are proceeding along with many of the suggestions provided to them by Town Planner Peter Gillespie.

Councilor Czernicki reported that she attended WCTV's regular monthly meeting as well as their annual meeting. She informed the Council of the officers who were elected.

Councilor Fortunato reported that she attended her first Library Board meeting and that the usage of the Library continues to increase. The plans for the renovation of the Library were enthusiastically adopted by the Board. There continues to be a problem with middle school students who congregate in the Town Hall Lobby and in the Library after school. This will need to be dealt with cooperatively by the Library Board, the Library staff, the Human Services Department, the Council, and the Board of Education. Councilor Fortunato reported that the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee has begun to meet. She reported that the Shared Services meeting will be on February 10 and the Fireside Chat will be on February 28.

Councilor Fortunato recommended that there be descriptions for Town Committees and that these be included in the Rules and Procedures for the Town Council.

Councilor Montinieri reported that she attended the Historical Society meeting and she was very impressed with how hard-working and professional the group is. The Historical Society has available a calendar of upcoming events. The Historical Society has heeded the Council's recommendation that they communicate better with the Council and they are making this one of their priorities.

Councilor Forrest reported that the Space Needs Committee met earlier today to identify the needs for space in Town. The Committee concluded that the Town has very limited space and that the buildings are very full. There has been an increase in the amount of paper storage which is required by law to be retained. In order to address this issue, Councilor Fortunato suggested that only records required by law to be retained are retained. Also discussed was the Channel 14 issue of whether they should remain in the Olsen House or to move them to another location. The Town buildings will be toured so as to determine their availability of use.

## COUNCIL

Councilor Czernicki asked the Town Manager if there has been any work done on appointments to the Citation Hearing Board. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she needs only one more replacement for the Board.

## PUBLIC

None

## ADJOURNMENT

At 10:50 p.m., Councilor Czernicki moved "**TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**" seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

At 11:12 p.m., Councilor Adil moved "**TO ENTER BACK INTO THE REGULAR MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Montinieri. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Czernicki moved "**TO RATIFY FOR ONE YEAR (UNTIL JUNE 30, 2004), AS OUTLINED BY THE TOWN MANAGER, THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TOWN AND LOCAL 1303-408**", seconded by

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

Councilor Czernicki moved "**TO ACCEPT THE \$90,000 HEART AND HYPERTENSION SETTLEMENT WITH FORMER POLICE OFFICER JAMES LOZINSKI TO BE PAID OUT OVER A THREE YEAR PERIOD BEGINNING JULY 1, 2004**", seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

At 11:14 p.m., Councilor Forrest 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