

MARCH 29, 2004 SPECIAL MEETING

The Wethersfield Town Council held a special meeting on Monday, March 29, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

Present: Councilors Adil (7:55), Cascio, Czernicki (9:35), Forrest, Fortunato, Hemmann, Montinieri, Deputy Mayor Karangekis and Chairperson Morin.

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

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

Chairperson Morin announced that there will be an Executive Session following the meeting to discuss Pending Litigation - State Elections Commission vs. Registrars of Voters and Mechanics.

Councilor Montinieri moved "**TO REMOVE ITEM B.2.c FROM THE TABLE**", seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Proclamation - 6th Grade Travel Basketball Team

Chairperson Morin recognized the success of the 6th Grade Travel Basketball Team and their coaches, and expressed the pride of the Town for their dedication and hard work. He read the Proclamation stating that the Team had an amazing 27-0 season and competed with teams from twenty-one other communities to capture the Central Connecticut Travel League Championship, earning the distinction of being the first undefeated team ever to win the Championship. Chairperson Morin congratulated the team, their coaches, and the parents whose combined efforts and dedication contributed to a successful season. The team members were commended for also being successful members of the Wethersfield community.

Economic Development Report

Town Planner Peter Gillespie gave a presentation of the March, 2004 Economic Development Report. The report included the following changes for March:

- 227 Main Street, LaDolce bake shop Grand Opening, April 24, 10 a.m.
- 860 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce Grand Opening, April 29, 10 a.m.
- 1260 Silas Deane Highway, interior renovation and remodel for medical office
- 133 Main Street, conversion from retail to office space
- 1080 Silas Deane Highway, CVS Pharmacy/Starbucks, building plans submitted for code review
- 151 Silas Deane Highway, Mercury Fuel Service, negotiating real estate transaction
- 82-86 Wolcott Hill Road, new medical office, anticipated Spring construction start
- 150 Prospect Street, Methodist Church expansion, building plans submitted for code review
- 38-46 Wells Road, Mozzicato Family LLC, PZC application filed & scheduled for April 6 meeting
- 271 Main Street, Main Street Creamery, HDC & ZBA approval granted, PZC April 6
- 100 Great Meadow, Cingular Wireless, rooftop installation
- 416 Silas Deane Highway, Suny's Restaurant, outdoor patio dining
- 1855 Berlin Turnpike, Cumberland Farms, new reconstructed convenience store, permits continue
- 20-30 Beaver Road, Dental Associates of Wethersfield, interior renovations
- 1715 Berlin Turnpike, potential 5,000+ square foot retail center
- Prospect Street, Moeller Home to Nature Center Project, discussion of code and permit issues
- 798 Silas Deane Highway, Huarong Clothing & Gifts
- 1881 Berlin Turnpike, Jamie's Jungle, seasonal flower stand
- 2180 Berlin Turnpike, zoning and development issues discussed with property owners

- 1000 Silas Deane Highway, contract negotiations under way

Mr. Gillespie said that a public hearing has been tentatively set for May, 2004 to review the Zoning Regulations. He and the Town Manager met with representatives from Central Connecticut State University to work with their Business School in assisting with initiatives on the Silas Deane Highway. Mr. Gillespie said that he continues to attend Wethersfield civic organization meetings and public information meetings. Mr. Gillespie said that the Economic Development and Improvement Commission (EDIC) will meet on March 30 at the Police Facility Community Room for the mandatory training for the Business Visitation Program. The EDIC continues to work on the Express Loan/Grant Program and anticipates presenting the specifics of the program to the Council at the May 3 Council meeting.

Report from Auditors - Blum & Shapiro

Mr. Reid Rustein who is a partner with Blum & Shapiro presented the completed audit for the Town of Wethersfield for the year ending June 30, 2003. He said that it was a challenging year for Wethersfield as the Town had three different Finance Directors during the audit process. Mr. Rustein said that the Town's unreserved General Fund balance is approximately 8.7% of the Budget. The recommended level is between 5% and 15%. Revenues were in excess of the budget by approximately \$500,000 and expenses were less than budget by \$600,000. This is a combined benefit of \$1.1 million than projected. Mr. Rustein said that the Town is in good shape at this point.

Councilor Fortunato asked for a definition of the terms "material weakness" and "internal control" which are mentioned in the letter accompanying the audit. Mr. Rustein said that a separate management advisory letter was issued which addressed the configuration of the software pertaining to the general ledger. He said that in addition to the Financial Statement Audit, a Federal Single Audit and a State Single Audit are also done. The purpose of these is to make sure that the Town complies with the major compliance provisions of the Federal and State Grants. Mr. Rustein said that the Town is in compliance on the State side; however, on the Federal side there was a finding concerning the allocation of Board of Education salaries to certain grants where the documentation presented did not support the charges shown. He said that this is a bookkeeping issue and there must be compliance with the grant requirements. Mr. Rustein said that the "material weakness" relates to salaries allocated to a single grant and this needs to be corrected. He said that management is aware of the issue and has responded to its correction. Councilor Fortunato asked if the Board of Education is otherwise reflected in the audit. Mr. Rustein said that the only mention of the Board of Education is with the above-stated issue. Councilor Fortunato asked if the Board of Education also has an annual audit. Mr. Rustein said that the Board of Education is part of the Town's audit he is presenting and they receive a copy of the audit. He said that there is a breakdown of the Board of Education's expenses in the Board's records, but not in the report.

Councilor Cascio asked if the roadmap for July 1, 2003 to the current time was reviewed to determine if the Town is moving in the right direction. Mr. Rustein said that the audit was challenging enough to complete in time because of the fluctuation in Finance Directors throwing off certain due dates and that the auditors did not look to the future.

Councilor Forrest asked Mr. Rustein to explain the difference between the terms "original", "final", and "actual". Mr. Rustein said that the terms "original" and "final" refer to the planned budget figures. The term "actual" refers to what the actual expenditure amounts are. Councilor Forrest asked what happens with any overage. Mr. Rustein said that it goes back into the Town's General Fund.

Councilor Montinieri asked if the problem with the Munis Software has been addressed yet. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that it has been looked at by current staff and that the newly hired Finance Director is aware of the problem and will be tackling it right away as she is very knowledgeable in this area.

Councilor Fortunato recommended that a higher level of analysis be provided for the Board of Education numbers and that the applicable audit pages be provided to the Board of Education members to enlighten them. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this can be done.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HEARING

Resolution for Heritage Way Recreational Trail Phase II

Ken Sokolowski, 79 Main Street, stated that Phase I was a success and urged the Council to proceed with Phase II.

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

GENERAL COMMENTS

Chairperson Morin reminded the public that they have a time limit of five minutes for comments. He took a moment to respond to a number of e-mails he received asking why the Nott Street Project was not listed on tonight's agenda. He said that the Town Manager is in the process of meeting with the DOT to discuss the available options. Any information from the meeting will be shared with residents of the area and of the Town as a whole.

Arlene McCarthy, 50 Cedar Street, thanked the Council for their support and asked them to vote in favor of stopping the proposed blasting. She stated her disappointment that the Town's website did not post until March 25 the change in the Council meeting date. Ms. McCarthy also expressed her concern that the Town Manager discouraged her from attending the Town and DOT meeting on April 1, stating that the Town doesn't want hundreds of residents showing up at the meeting. Ms. McCarthy does not want to be deprived of a fair and reasonable opportunity to attend the meeting. Ms. McCarthy submitted a copy of documents addressing alternatives to blasting or loud hammers. Ms. McCarthy suggests chemical demolition or a change in the scope of the project. Ms. McCarthy believes that other than one fatal accident on the designated area of road, there is no justification to remove any rock because of any safety hazards.

Marge Hunt, 26 Westlook Road, spoke in favor of chemical demolition on Nott Street if the project must continue, stating that blasting was not an original part of the project. If possible, Ms. Hunt is in favor of the Town seeking a waiver, stopping the rock demolition, and repaving the roadway as it stands.

Dominic Tedesco, 83 Woodside Drive, suggested that the Town put a stop sign at the top of the hill on Nott Street. He does not agree with the proposed blasting.

George A. Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, commented on the tabled appointment of Ken Sokolowski to the Charter Revision Commission. He said that he is under the impression that the Council is to steer clear of the activities of the Charter Revision Commission and have no influence on the make up of the committee. He finds it offensive and wrong that interfering is exactly what the Council did by tabling the appointment. Mr. Ruhe said that he agrees with the decision to not go with an Assistant to the Town Manager. He said that this is a small item; however, and that the bigger issues need to be addressed instead. Mr. Ruhe stated again his disagreement with the five minute comment rule which he considers muzzling.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, commented on Wethersfield's Grant List which has been reported as stagnant, and his concern over the shift of the tax burden from commercial properties onto residential properties. He said that there are many issues of concern in Town including the payment for bonding of the Police Facility; Cottone Field; the Town Hall/Library renovation shortfall; the requested 8.7% increase for the Board of Education budget; bonding payments for the Silas Deane Middle School; and the Stillman/Webb renovations, support staff, and recurring costs. Mr. Young said that it is important to stick to the 3.5% roadmap. He stated that he has not seen any listing on the Wethersfield website of delinquent taxpayers.

Penny Stanziale, 15 Harold Street, Board of Education member, stated that the Board of Education Administration has received a copy of the Town Audit Report in the past and that it has been made available to Board members. She asked if the Council is committed to the 3.5% roadmap.

Ron Rodd, 88 Westway, commented that Chairperson Morin has stated on two separate occasions that as a prerequisite for installing the lights at Cottone Field, they will be privately funded. Former Deputy Mayor O'Connor stated that there is overwhelming support for the lights and he pledged that the funds would be in place. Mr. Rodd said that through February, 2004 only \$14,000 has been raised, which is nowhere near the amount required. He cautioned the

Council to proceed slowly with the installation of the lights and insure that the remaining funds are in place. Mr. Rodd stated that he supports the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. in their petition drive for new ordinances associated with artificial turf and lighting Town wide. As President of the People for the Preservation of Wethersfield Neighborhoods, Mr. Rodd stated that PPWN will take an active role to insure that the public good is protected with regard to the renovation of Cottone Field. Mr. Rodd wants to make sure that the permitting process to proceed with Cottone Field is fair and thorough. Mr. Rodd reminded the Council that the proposed project for lights and artificial turf is a quality of life issue; the neighbors are real people who care about their lives.

Ken Sokolowski, 89 Main Street, announced that there will be a bottle and can drive at the Pitkin Community Center on Saturday from 9:00 am to noon to raise funds for the skate park. The drive is organized and run by the kids in support of the park.

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc., in urging the Council to stop the Cottone Field project as the proposed sports complex does not belong in the neighborhood and needs a better location. Mr. Orsini said that several citizen groups, spearheaded by the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc., have begun to gather signatures for a petition to bring the controversial Cottone Field proposals to the taxpayers for their opinion and decision. The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. does not agree with the appointments to the Artificial Surface Committee as six of the seven members are pro-renovation. They also feel that there is a financial scheme going on to get the funds into the budget in order to avoid a referendum. Mr. Orsini spoke of the large tax increase that will ensue and the burden it will cause on residents of Wethersfield, especially the elderly. Mr. Orsini commented on Senator Fonfara's presentation of Connecticut Metro Patterns. The document breaks down Connecticut Towns into groups of Stressed Towns, Towns At Risk, Fringe Developing Towns, Bedroom Developing Towns, and Affluent Towns. Wethersfield is listed as a Town At Risk which is defined as a Town with a continued low tax base and large mill rate increases. Mr. Orsini stated that the Town needs new big buildings in order to increase the Grand List. Mr. Orsini said that the last two Councils embraced the 3.5% roadmap and hopes that this Council will continue to do this.

Dan Fox, 34 Belcher Road, commented on the suggestion to move Cottone Field by asking to where the field would be relocated. He feels that to do so, the Town would need to purchase additional land and develop it into a sports field. This will be a huge expense to the Town so we need to improve the field that already exists.

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS & REPORTS

Councilor Adil reported on the meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee. Topics discussed were the Recreation & Parks fee increases, Firefighter property tax abatement and vestment terms, and the Veterans tax exemption.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis reported on the Public Works Committee meeting where the following was discussed: leaf compost site proposal, automatic refuse fees and services to businesses, and review of the proposed tipping fees for the transfer station.

Councilor Cascio reported that the Memorial Day Parade Committee met to discuss the Parade which will take place on May 29, 2004. He said that the schools will again be involved this year by displaying banners outside each school in Town. A fundraiser was held to offset some of the Parade costs. Councilor Cascio also announced that the Wethersfield High School Varsity Cheerleaders placed 15 out of 29 teams competing in a State Competition on March 13.

Councilor Fortunato reported on the Library Board meeting stating that the Library has received a one year extension on their State Grant and also that the Board is being patient while the Building Committee does a further analysis of the Town Hall building in terms of proposed renovations. Councilor Fortunato announced that Library usage continues to increase, yet the finances of the Library are tight. This needs to be kept in mind during budget deliberations.

Councilor Montinieri reported that the Technology Committee toured the schools and will be touring the Town Hall at the end of the week. They will then meet with the Town Hall/Library Building Committee to review the architect's plans and how they relate to the required technology. Councilor Montinieri said that the Webb/Stillman/Physical

Services Building Committee met and she is concerned that the construction estimates for Webb are currently \$1 million over budget. As a result of this, substantial reductions are being recommended. Councilor Montinieri recognized Mr. Raposo and Mr. Dion for leading the Silas Deane Middle School and Wethersfield High School students in a wonderful band concert last week.

Councilor Hemmann reported that she also attended the Webb/Stillman/Physical Services Building Committee and that it is a concern of numerous communities that bid submission amounts have increased significantly and that alternatives for the project are being considered. She noted that the same problem was encountered and conquered during the renovations at the Silas Deane Middle School.

Councilor Fortunato announced that the time of the Shared Services meeting on April 13 has been changed to 5:30 p.m. Councilor Fortunato shared that the reason for the change in the date of the Council meeting from April 5 to tonight is in deference to those Councilors and residents observing the Passover holiday.

Chairperson Morin announced that he was informed by Congressman Larson's office that the Town has been awarded the Student Resource Officer Grant. Chairperson Morin said that he received a letter from Mrs. Bedula just before the last Council meeting and apologized for not reading it at that time. Chairperson Morin said that although he does not normally read entire letters at the Council meetings, he will read Mrs. Bedula's tonight as she felt slighted for not having it read at the last meeting. Chairperson Morin then read Mrs. Bedula's letter which stated her opposition to the installation of artificial turf and lighting at Cottone Field due to drainage issues. Chairperson Morin said that he also received letters from Edward J. Walsh regarding damage to his new trash barrel and his dissatisfaction with the replacement of the barrel with a used, dirty barrel by Paine's. Chairperson Morin asked that the Town Manager conduct an audit to determine whether the Town needs a supply of new barrels and also a report of where the "new garbage trucks" are.

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Adil moved **"TO APPOINT BOTH DAVID WELCH AND KRISTIN ZELLER TO THE YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE TERMS OF MARCH 29, 2004 TO JUNE 30, 2005 AND MARCH 29, 2004 TO JUNE 30, 2006 RESPECTIVELY"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE HERITAGE WAY RECREATIONAL TRAIL PHASE II"**, seconded by Councilor Adil.

Councilor Hemmann asked if there is a time frame involved with the project. Recreation & Parks Director Kathy Bagley stated that the time frame is three years from the time the contract is signed. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the Town has to front the funding and if we really want to do the project, we should proceed; especially the way State funding is going. Councilor Hemmann is concerned about funding \$10,000 and asked if this project is at the top of the Recreation & Parks priority list of things to be done.

Councilor Adil stated that the Grant seems to indicate that the \$10,000 can be in the form of in-kind labor and/or equipment lease/rental or donation. He said that this could reduce the Town's share of the contribution.

Councilor Cascio asked if funds have been set aside for this. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that funds are not appropriated out of the current budget and they will have to come out of next year's budget. Councilor Cascio verified that tonight's vote is to agree to allocate \$10,000 out of the 2004-2005 budget for this project. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this is correct. Councilor Cascio asked if this is the final phase of the project. Ms. Bagley said that there is a proposed Phase III which will route through the Meadows, possibly on existing roads. Councilor Cascio asked what the maintenance costs are. Ms. Bagley said that the current trail requires a spring prep of the stone dust, receives road side mowing during the summer months, trash pick-up and general maintenance. She said that none of these are a financial burden. Councilor Cascio asked if the project could be considered complete after Phase II. Ms. Bagley said that it could.

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

7-1-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Park and Recreation Revenue Fee Increases

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that the Budget & Finance Committee met and discussed the fee increases. The Committee is bringing these forward at this time so that the upcoming Recreation & Parks brochure can reflect the new fees. It is the goal of the Park & Recreation Commission and staff to have programs become more self sufficient in the future.

Councilor Cascio asked why the swim program family pool pass has a proposed increase of \$5 and swimming lessons have a proposed increase of \$10. Ms. Bagley said that the swimming lessons have not increased since the early 1990's. Councilor Cascio asked if a resident has to have a family pool pass in order to take swimming lessons. Ms. Bagley said that they do. Councilor Cascio said that this results in a \$15 increase to take swimming lessons, which he does not support, and this concerns him as part of the reason the swimming lesson fee has not increased is to make sure that all children can afford to attend them. Councilor Cascio can agree with the increase in the pool pass, but not in the swimming lessons. Ms. Bagley said that there is a scholarship program available so that no child is deprived of taking a program because of a financial burden.

Councilor Fortunato said that she is concerned that the playground fees are increasing from \$0 to \$50 and asked if parents have been polled to gather feedback about the \$50 fee and if they would send their child/children regardless of it. Ms. Bagley said that parents have not been polled. Councilor Fortunato said that she will support the increase but suggested that feedback be obtained from families as the program draws closer.

Councilor Adil suggested that polling and analysis take place during the summer playground season to determine the satisfaction of parents and children.

Councilor Hemmann asked if any data has been collected since the changes were made in the playground program last year. Ms. Bagley said that there was a reduction from four playground sites down to two last year which resulted in a reduction in registration of approximately fifty children. The attendance records were relatively high.

Councilor Montinieri asked how counselors keep track of children who are signed up as opposed to a child who just shows up on any given day. Ms. Bagley said that children are sent home with registration and emergency forms after the first day of camp which they need to have filled out by their parents. Ms. Bagley said that if a child just shows up, they are allowed to stay for a couple hours or even the whole day. They then are notified that if they want to come back they need to register and have paperwork filled out. Ms. Bagley said that this may be adjusted due to the proposed fee.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis said that the increase from \$0 to \$50 could be a significant burden to some families in Town. He asked if the scholarship fund is able to accommodate 25 to 30 children if the need arose. Ms. Bagley said that money is not actually distributed, but rather the fee waived or partial payment accepted.

Chairperson Morin said that he has heard feedback from residents that the programs run by the Recreation & Parks are very well done and are a great value for the money.

Councilor Adil moved "**TO APPROVE ALL OF THE RECOMMENDED REVENUE CHANGES AS PRESENTED BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**", seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Cascio voted NAY. The motion passed 7-1-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Transfer of \$750 - Tree Appraisal Consultant

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that Tree Warden John Lepper is requesting \$750 to hire a tree appraiser to

look at two parcels in Town where there has been damage to Town trees by the owner of the property and a contractor.

Councilor Montinieri moved **"TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$750 FROM THE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT TO ACCOUNT #T15505515220(PHYSICAL SERVICES-CONSULTING) IN ORDER TO HIRE A TREE APPRAISER TO LOOK AT 745 NOTT STREET AND THE CORNER OF WESTLOOK AND NOTT STREET"**, seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

Councilor Fortunato asked if the \$750 will be recouped when making a case for the property damage. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this can be added on.

Councilor Forrest asked why Mr. Lepper cannot evaluate the trees. Mr. Lepper said that on one of the parcels there is nothing left but stumps and he is not schooled in evaluating trees from a stump. On the other parcel there is significant damage to the trees and Mr. Lepper does not have the expertise to determine what is going on under the ground.

Councilor Adil asked Mr. Lepper if he has any idea of the return the Town will realize on the \$750 investment. Mr. Lepper said that the Town is looking to recoup what they've lost.

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

Budget Transfer - Mosquito Control - \$25,600

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that Health Department Director Paul Hutcheon asked her if the Council will be putting money aside for complete larviciding of the Town for mosquito control.

Councilor Fortunato moved **"TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$25,600 FROM THE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT TO ACCOUNT #T1550514-5335 (PHYSICAL SERVICES - WATERCOURSES) IN ORDER TO LARVICIDE THE TOWN FOR MOSQUITO CONTROL"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis.

Councilor Hemmann suggested that this be added as an item in the budget as it is not a problem that will go away and the larviciding will be required each year.

Councilor Adil said that he does not support the transfer as he did not notice any difference in the mosquito population last year. He said that the larvicide does not guarantee a benefit to residents. Given the budget concerns, he does not feel that this is a worthwhile investment.

Councilor Fortunato said that she agrees with Councilor Hemmann that this should be budgeted for each year from here on out. Being that the spraying should be done in the Spring, she supports transferring the funds at this time.

Chairperson Morin commented that it is easy to follow a road map when items are not put into the budget, but then the issues need to be dealt with afterward. He said that it is very difficult to determine the benefits of the larvicide program and he asked the Town Manager to work with Health Department Director Hutcheon to determine if the entire \$25,600 is necessary or if areas of Town can be prioritized for treatment.

The following roll call vote was taken:

Councilor Adil	NAY	Councilor Cascio	AYE
Councilor Forrest	NAY	Councilor Fortunato	AYE
Councilor Hemmann	AYE	Councilor Montinieri	AYE
Deputy Mayor Karangekis	AYE	Chairperson Morin	AYE

The motion passed 6-2-0.

Budget Transfer - CMED - \$24,000

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that a few years ago the State law changed to mandate all municipalities to have the ability to give pre-arrival instructions to citizens when there is a medical emergency. All dispatchers will have to be trained in medical protocol and the law also mandates that there must be a minimum of two dispatchers on each shift at all times. The former Council decided to hire North Central Connecticut Emergency Services Council, Inc. to do this work through their CMED program instead of hiring extra dispatchers and training our employees. The Town Manager said that money for the required dispatch program start-up fee of \$23,906.61 has not been budgeted for. The cost of \$48,732.71 for the CMED service for next year is included in the 2004-2005 budget proposal this fiscal year.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis moved **"TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$24,000 FROM THE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT TO ACCOUNT #T1423522 (POLICE-SUPPORT SERVICES BUREAU"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis said that the Police Department currently has three shifts of dispatchers and the law will now mandate that each of these will need to be trained and certified as medical technicians. They will also need to be retrained every couple of years. The cost of this would be significant to the Town and the CMED individuals are highly trained and can hold onto someone on the air and also give instructions to them prior to help arriving.

Councilor Montinieri questioned why the former Council voted to go with CMED but did not budget for the necessary funds. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she cannot find any money budgeted for this item. She said that there was a time lapse between the Council approving the Town's participation in the program and the budget hearings; therefore, it slipped between the cracks. Councilor Montinieri is concerned because this is the second item on the agenda tonight which the former Council approved and then did not budget for in the next year.

Councilor Adil agreed with Councilor Montinieri. He said that this is another unfunded State mandate and he is not pleased that the amount was not included in the budget.

Councilor Hemmann asked the Town Manager to provide a listing of which communities, if any, have dropped out of the program and also what surrounding communities are doing to deal with this mandate.

Councilor Fortunato asked if the only alternative would be to have two dispatchers on per shift. The Town Manager said that there may be another alternative. Deputy Mayor Karangekis said that the law requires two dispatchers with medical certification to be on each shift. He said that on the midnight shift there is only one dispatcher and the mandate would require hiring more. Councilor Fortunato asked if there has been any cost analysis done comparing the various alternatives. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the cost for CMED for next year will be approximately \$50,000 and for a dispatcher is \$45,000 plus benefits. Councilor Fortunato asked if there are other companies like CMED who offer this service. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she will find out. Councilor Fortunato asked if the Town currently has a contract with CMED. The Town Manager said that the Town has committed to be a member community and needs to speak to the Town Attorney as to whether this locks the Town in. Councilor Fortunato said that she would like to know if there is a penalty for backing out.

Chairperson Morin said that it makes sense to table this item so that the Town Manager can obtain the necessary legal opinion and answers to Councilor's inquiries.

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO TABLE THE MOTION TO TRANSFER \$24,000 FROM THE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT TO ACCOUNT #T1423522 (POLICE-SUPPORT SERVICES BUREAU"**, seconded by Councilor Hemmann. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Economic Development - Use of \$50,000

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that \$50,000 was allocated in this year's budget for economic development and improvements to the Silas Deane Highway and that members of the EDIC and Silas Deane Highway Revitalization Committee would like to know what specifically this money was intended for so that each group knows if they have dollars to spend this year. She is now requesting that the Council decide on how this money should be allocated so that both groups are clear on how the money should be spent for 2003-2004.

Councilor Adil said that since the Silas Deane Highway Revitalization Committee has been disbanded and a new committee is being formed, he suggests that \$25,000 be allocated to the EDIC for use on the façade improvement program.

Councilor Adil moved "**TO ALLOCATE \$25,000 TO THE EDIC FOR USE ON THE FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND KEEP THE REMAINING \$25,000 IN THE BUDGET FOR SILAS DEANE HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS UNDER THE TOWN MANAGER'S JURISDICTION UNTIL A NEW COMMITTEE IS FORMED**", seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis.

Councilor Cascio said that a motion was made on March 15, 2003 to allocate the funds to the Silas Deane Revitalization Committee and he asked if the motion needs to be revisited or rescinded according to Roberts Rules of Procedure. The Town Manager referred this to the Town Clerk.

Chairperson Morin said that he understands that this is a new Council who can allocate budgetary funds as they choose.

Councilor Cascio clarified that the point of allocating the funds was clearly for the efforts of the Silas Deane Revitalization Committee. Councilor Cascio asked what the makeup will be of the new committee and to whom they will be responsible. Chairperson Morin said that an ordinance addressing this will be introduced this evening. Councilor Cascio is concerned that projects are being split and wonders if the \$25,000 is enough to complete the façade project. He supports revitalization of the Silas Deane Highway, but he cannot support this motion as he is concerned that a vote to give \$50,000 to the Silas Deane Revitalization Committee is being rescinded.

Councilor Czernicki arrived at the meeting at this time (9:35).

Councilor Fortunato stated that the Silas Deane Revitalization Committee has been an ad hoc committee and what is being proposed in the ordinance this evening is to create a more permanent committee. She asked if the EDIC will use the \$25,000 to leverage other resources from the community. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this is correct and that the EDIC will have a full report of this at the Council meeting in April.

Councilor Adil stated that the EDIC is made up of many members of the community and he will not ignore any comments attempting to shape this into a partisan group. Councilor Adil said that the former committee did not move forward because they applied for a STEAP grant and were not awarded the funds. He said that the revitalization must continue to be encouraged. Councilor Adil moved the question.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Cascio and Councilor Hemmann voted NAY. Councilor Czernicki ABSTAINED. The motion passed 6-2-1.

BIDS

None

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A SILAS DEANE HIGHWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BE IT ORDAINED, that the Municipal Code of the Town of Wethersfield, Connecticut, be amended to include Article XXVII, Section 10-98 & 99, in accordance with Section 1-4, Amendments to the Code of Wethersfield.

ARTICLE XXVII Silas Deane Highway Advisory Committee

Section 10-98 Creation; duties.

There is hereby created a Silas Deane Highway Advisory Committee to assist the Town Council to encourage,

maintain and enhance the vitality and environment of the Silas Deane Highway. Said Committee shall report to the Town Council, by July 1, 2004 on its recommendations for modifying the Silas Deane Highway Master Plan dated April 9, 1987 prepared by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.

Section 10-99 Membership; terms; vacancies.

- A. The Silas Deane Highway Advisory Committee shall be composed of seven (7) members appointed by the Council for two-year terms expiring on June 30, 2006, as follows:
 1. One (1) member shall represent the Planning and Zoning Commission.
 2. One (1) member shall represent the Economic Development and Improvement Commission.
 3. One (1) member shall represent the Chamber of Commerce.
 4. One (1) member shall represent the Silas Deane Highway Ad Hoc Committee.
 5. One (1) member shall represent the Silas Deane Highway Business Community.
 6. Two (2) members shall represent the community/residents of the Town.
- B. In addition, said Committee shall have the following five (5) non-voting ex-officio members, the Town Planner/Economic Development Manager, the Town Engineer, the Town Manager, the Tree Warden and a Town Council member.
- C. Any vacancy in the membership of the Committee shall be filled by Council for the unexpired term of such member.

Councilor Adil moved **"TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING DATE OF APRIL 19, 2004 FOR THE ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A SILAS DEANE HIGHWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest.

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

Councilor Fortunato moved **"TO AMEND THE ORDINANCE TO STRIKE FROM SECTION A, #4 STATING THAT ONE MEMBER SHALL REPRESENT THE SILAS DEANE HIGHWAY AD HOC COMMITTEE AND INSTEAD EXPAND #6 TO READ THAT *THREE* MEMBERS SHALL REPRESENT THE COMMUNITY/RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Councilor Fortunato suggested to the Town Manager that a member of the former Silas Deane Highway Ad Hoc Committee initially serve on the newly formed committee and then to appoint someone from the community.

Councilor Adil agrees that a former member of the Silas Deane Highway Ad Hoc Committee should serve on the new committee.

Councilor Cascio asked where the projects that the Silas Deane Highway Revitalization Committee had been working on will end up when the committee is eliminated effective April 19, 2004. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that any current projects can still move forward with the newly formed committee. Any new members will need to be brought up to speed. Councilor Cascio asked if projects such as the new signage will be put on hold until the members are brought up to speed.

Chairperson Morin said that Town Planner Peter Gillespie will be reviewing the Silas Deane Master Plan and will be looking at all options for improvement.

Councilor Montinieri stated that it was difficult in the past to deal with the Ad Hoc committee and the EDIC. The Council needs to provide for a formal committee who can provide a unified recommendation and come forward with priority settings happening through Mr. Gillespie, who oversees Economic Development for the Town as a whole.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Cascio and Councilor Hemmann voted NAY. Councilor Czernicki ABSTAINED. The motion passed 6-2-1.

MINUTES

Councilor Adil moved **"TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 15, 2004"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis.

Councilor Montinieri amended the motion on page 16491 to read "infilled" instead of infield.

Councilor Adil amended the motion on page 16495 to indicate that someone other than Councilor Fortunato seconded her motion. Also to add to his comments on that page that he requested that the Town Hall/Library Building Committee be kept up to date on the findings "of the telephone technology committee's work".

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

Councilor Hemmann moved **"TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MARCH 22, 2004"**, seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Fortunato ABSTAINED. The motion passed 8-0-1.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:40 p.m., Councilor Montinieri moved **"TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION"** seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Registrar Pamela Rapacz joined the Executive Session at this time.

At 9:56 p.m., Councilor Adil moved **"TO ENTER BACK INTO THE REGULAR MEETING"** seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

At 9:57 p.m., Councilor Forrest moved **"TO ADJOURN THE MEETING"** seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk