

MAY 3, 2004 REGULAR MEETING

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, May 3, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

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

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

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

Chairperson Morin announced that there will be an Executive Session following the meeting to discuss Union Negotiations and Real Estate Negotiations.

Salute to Seniors Proclamation

Chairperson Morin announced that the week of May 10, 2004 has been proclaimed as Salute to Seniors Week in Wethersfield. In order to facilitate increased interaction between the youth and senior citizens of Wethersfield, the Silas Deane Parent Action Committee, the Student Council, and the Social & Youth Services Department are co-sponsoring programs linking students with the senior citizen population.

Presentations from SDMS Students - Special Seniors

Mary Ann Shinn, home school liaison for Social & Youth Services, introduced staff members from the Silas Deane Middle School and Board of Education, chairperson of the intergenerational event, and the SDMS PAC chairpersons. Ms. Shinn said that the purpose of the program is to build bridges of understanding between generations, to honor the Senior Citizens, and to show respect for their contributions to both family and community. Ms. Shinn introduced Joanne Huffman who congratulated students whose essays on an important senior citizen in their life were chosen as the top five. She said that it was a very tough choice as all of the essays were well written. Celina Rogers wrote about Dorothy Alsop, her grandmother. Mike Ciampi wrote about his grandmother Vincenza Simeone Ciampi. Pawel Burek read about his teacher Mrs. Cheryl Chadsey. Chris Thibeault read about his grandfather, Jim Keenan. Sunny Long read about his grandfather Shin Shulon who lives in Beijing China.

Economic Development Monthly Report

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

- 150 Prospect Street, Methodist Church expansion
- 20-30 Beaver Road, Dental Associates of Wethersfield
- 151 Silas Deane Highway, Mercury Fuel Service Inc., new gas station
- 82-86 Wolcott Hill Road, new medical office
- 38-46 Wells Road, Mozzicato Family application approved
- 416 Silas Deane Highway, Suny's Restaurant outdoor patio dining approved
- 1330 Silas Deane Highway, Best Western Camelot Inn, indoor pool room approved
- 271 Main Street, Main Street Creamery, addition to accommodate relocation, on PZC agenda for May 4, 2004
- Prospect Street, Moeller Home, Nature Center Project, on PZC agenda for May 4, 2004
- 1532 Berlin Turnpike, AHEPA, Nathan Hale Apartments, pre-application review with PZC on April 20
- 511 Maple Street, possible parking expansion for Evangelical Free Church
- 860B Silas Deane Highway, grand opening of Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce
- 1758 Berlin Turnpike, new owner and renovations to Sunoco

227 Main Street, LaDolce bakery shop grand opening

Mr. Gillespie said he has met with a nationally recognized housing developer who is looking to build apartments or condominiums in Wethersfield. The Zoning Regulations continue to be reviewed. A meeting was held with the Library Director to discuss the need for a Wethersfield Business Directory. A meeting was held with Northeast Utilities to discuss possible energy incentives available for Wethersfield businesses. Mr. Gillespie said that he is looking forward to working with the newly formed Silas Deane Highway Committee. Mr. Gillespie announced that the initial trial run of the Realtors Breakfast will be held on Friday, May 7, at Wethersfield Country Club.

Presentation from EDIC - Business Visitation Program

Economic Development and Improvement Commission representative Chris Lyons said that his subcommittee of marketing and communication is responsible for the kickoff of the Business Visitation Program. He said that the intent of the program, which began on April 26, is to spend time with business owners to identify and address specific concerns, needs, and questions. Mr. Gillespie said that the top tax payers and top employers will be visited by the Mayor, Town Manager, and Town Planner. It is anticipated that a Business Directory will soon be compiled as a tool for businesses in Town. Mr. Lyons also spoke of the Realtors Breakfast to discuss economic challenges in Wethersfield with local realtors.

Councilor Montinieri moved "**TO REMOVE ITEMS 3.b.2 AND 3.b.3 FROM THE TABLE**", seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HEARING

RESOLUTION RECOUPING REVENUE LOSS FOR MANUFACTURING MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT, AND COMMERCIAL VEHICLES EXEMPTION

RESOLUTION REGARDING A REFERENDUM ON PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO COTTONE FIELD

Thomas Wraight, 22 Coleman Road, said that the improvements to Cottone Field have been under consideration for at least thirty years. He said that the issue is of (some of) the people, for (some of) the people, but not yet by the people. This is what a referendum will allow. The project is important in size, scope, expense, and long-term impact on the community; therefore, the voters of the entire Town need the opportunity to decide on the issue. Mr. Wraight urged the Council to approach the referendum in two separate questions: (1)the drainage and artificial surfacing of the field, and (2)the lighting of the field.

Dan O'Connor, 34 Dorchester Road, said that he respectfully disagrees with Mr. Wraight. Mr. O'Connor said that he sees the resolution as a means for certain members of the Council to appease the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. He said that the top seven vote-getters in the November Council election were in favor of putting lights and turf on Cottone Field. He urged the Council to vote down the resolution for a referendum.

Patiera Patrissi, 16 Lexington Street, spoke on the bonding of capital improvements in the budget. Chairperson Morin said that specific questions on the proposed budget can be directed to the Town Manager.

Sheila Supicich, 24 Oxford Street, member of the Artificial Surface Football Field Committee, spoke in opposition to the referendum.

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

GENERAL COMMENTS

Linda Case, 103 Park Avenue, spoke of the modest store strip at the corner of Jordan Lane and Wolcott Hill Road. The strip has been remodeled with awnings and it has a very nice, coherent, beckoning look to it. Ms. Case noticed

recently that a number of trees at this location have been cut down and she is disappointed that the trees couldn't have been left standing by the new developers. Ms. Case made a plea for a Town design review that encourages beautiful streetscapes.

Casey Lily, 100 Boulter Road, spoke on behalf of all physically or mentally disabled children in Wethersfield and their families. He submitted a petition to increase funding to the Recreation & Parks Department to enable sports leagues for the handicapped. He said that the Wethersfield Youth Organization would organize and pay for this if the Council approves it. He said that children with handicaps have the same rights and should have the same opportunities as children without handicaps.

Arlene McCarthy, 50 Cedar Street, said that the Town Council needs to take a strong stand against the Connecticut Department of Transportation with regard to the issues at Nott Street. The DOT should be willing to come up with a compromise position or propose realistic and affordable alternatives that do not pose a threat to the homes and quality of life of the residents. Ms. McCarthy proposes that the removal of the rock ledge to a three foot depth will cut the entire project in half. She said that although the current Council did not get the Town into this mess, they need to get the Town out of it.

John Thibeault, 898 Cloverdale Circle, spoke in support of the renovations to Cottone Field. He said that he wants quality schools, safe streets, and quality recreational facilities in Wethersfield and he is willing to pay the tax increase to insure this. He urged the Council to support the project.

Paul Flannery, 382 Ridge Road, read from a letter he wrote regarding the project at Nott Street. He does not see it as reasonable to lower the ridge to the depth originally planned and if this cannot be agreed upon with the DOT, the project should be finished as it stands.

Joe Soja, 30 Hedge Row, spoke on the changes needed for the contract negotiation process between Wethersfield and the Teachers Union. He said that, for many years, the Boards of Education have been afraid of Teachers Unions because the arbitration awards have consistently favored the Unions up until this past year. The teachers have to know that these are hard economic times and that they need to take this into consideration in their wage and negotiation package.

Margaret Hunt, 26 Westlook Road, said that the Town needs to stop the Nott Street project and pave the road. She said that the Town needs to pay the bill for their foolish action and learn for the future. Ms. Hunt said that she wants a survey done on her home before any type of work on the project continues. Ms. Hunt commented that the proposed budget is too high and needs to be lowered to a more realistic level.

Donna Cathcart, 23 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield High School Field Hockey Coach, spoke in support of the artificial turf and lighting on Cottone Field.

Nancy Anderson, 27 Olney Road, spoke in support of the artificial turf and lighting on Cottone Field. She said that the Town needs to move forward for the kids of Wethersfield.

Edward Kardas, 850 Cloverdale Circle, made comments pertaining to the budget workshops of the Town Council. Mr. Kardas said that much needs to be evaluated in the limited time period allowed. Mr. Kardas spoke of a "top down formula" which is a simple and easy rationale for voters to endorse and works with bottom line items to provide efficiency and save money. He provided an example of this formula to the Town Clerk as an addendum to the minutes of the Council meeting.

Kathy Boyes, 20 Westlook Road, asked the Council to consider decreasing the reduction of the surface of Nott Street as a compromise to the project. Ms. Boyes spoke in support of the referendum for Cottone Field in order to see if the majority of residents want their taxes raised to pay for this project. Ms. Boyes said that if her taxes are raised to double digits, she may not be able to afford to continue living in Wethersfield. Ms. Boyes also expressed concern for the Police Officer who spoke at previous Council meetings stating that she was not recognized for her years of service. Ms. Boyes finds this appalling.

Dan O'Connor, 34 Dorchester Road, read two letters sent to him by residents of Wethersfield. The first letter spoke in support of the proposed renovations to Cottone Field and opposed any cuts to the Library budget. The second letter spoke of residents being approached by a member of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. to sign a petition in favor of lighting and artificial turf at Cottone Field. The resident later found out that the petition was against the lighting and artificial turf at Cottone Field. These residents are requesting that their names; therefore, be removed from the petition as they are in favor of the renovations to Cottone Field. Mr. O'Connor spoke of his displeasure of the tactics of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. with regard to the renovations to Cottone Field.

Ken Milano, Woodside Drive, requested that the Town pass a resolution stating that they will support any residents who sustain damage to their homes due to work done on the Nott Street project. Mr. Milano said that his property has already sustained damage. He said that he has already had a survey done to his home and found the company to be unprofessional and evasive. Mr. Milano said that he has yet to receive a copy of the home inspection although he requested one over six months ago.

Linda Avery, 39 Ox Yoke Drive, said that this is Teacher Appreciation Week and she thanked all of the teachers for their hard work and efforts for the children in Wethersfield. Ms. Avery said that the issue of Cottone Field has become an embarrassment with the two sides of the issue throwing stones at each other. She said that it is time to take the issue to the people of Wethersfield in the form of a referendum.

Paul Courchaine, 481 Main Street, stated that the previous ad hoc committee for the Silas Deane Highway had requested funds from the Council and the funds were cut and a new committee formed instead. Mr. Courchaine served with great interest on the ad hoc committee and submitted his name to the Town Manager expressing interest in being a member of the newly formed committee. He is saddened to say that he feels that Wethersfield is run on a political basis. Because of this, Mr. Courchaine stated that he cannot continue to work on a volunteer basis for any commissions with which he is currently involved. He said that he will submit his resignations in writing to the Town Clerk.

Jay Cottone, 37 Drummer Lane, Athletic Director of the Wethersfield Schools, commented on the renovations to Cottone Field. He said that the issue arose because the field is close to being unusable and because of injuries reported. He stated that the field serves numerous groups in Town, not just the football and soccer teams. Mr. Cottone said that some of Wethersfield's fields are in horrific condition and they are a disgrace to the Town. Mr. Cottone said that the reputation of the Town is at stake.

Judy Emmick, 88 West Way, spoke in opposition to the proposed renovations to Cottone Field. She said that the circulating petition was designed to bring the issue of Cottone Field to a referendum. Ms. Emmick said that she is deeply concerned with the abrupt resignation of a member of the Artificial Surface Football Field Advisory Committee. Ms. Emmick said that the resigning member could have a potential conflict of interest as his bid was one of the two being considered for Council approval this evening. The resigning committee member not only applied for the position, but had direct input into the RFP that went out for bid and could possibly have influenced other committee members in their review of the RFP's. Ms. Emmick said that this appears to be a conflict of interest and that bias has been given to one bidder over another. She is concerned about the clear bias of the Committee's decision making process and the impact on residents. Ms. Emmick feels that the Committee had an agenda to get the field done by September 1, no matter what the cost. Ms. Emmick said that her neighborhood has never complained about sporting events held at the High School, but that they do not support the lighting and increased events as a consequence.

Tony DiCicco, 30 Summerfield Drive, member of the Artificial Surface Football Field Advisory Committee, spoke in support of artificial turf on Cottone Field and does not support a referendum on the issue. He sees the referendum as an unnecessary tactic for delay. Mr. DiCicco commented that the Town Manager spoke to the Town Attorney about the issue of a conflict of interest with the member on the Football Field Committee and was advised that there was no conflict of interest involved. Mr. DiCicco said that the Town needs to look at protecting its student athletes and that he is very proud of what the Football Field Committee has accomplished to date. He said that the issue of lighting has gone from the amount of lighting spillage to how many activities will now be held at the field.

Sheila Suppicich, 24 Oxford Street, member of the Artificial Surface Football Field Advisory Committee, said that she has been impressed with the members of the Committee. Ms. Suppicich addressed some of the concerns about the

lighting issue and the estimated times and costs anticipated for the lighting of the field. Ms. Suppich stated that she feels there was no ethical breach made by the Committee member who has now resigned. Ms. Suppich said that she has been told that residents have been approached rather forcefully by the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. to sign the referendum petition. She does not support a referendum as the Council has enough information to move the project forward.

Dolores Gardillo, Woodside Drive, said that the Nott Street neighborhood has a history of the unapproved blasting in the area.

Jack Hagenbart, 275 Willow Farm Road, Southington, Coach of Wethersfield High School Football team, said that the football field was originally designed for football games only and now has become the High School athletic field which means increased usage. Mr. Hagenbart is in favor of lighting the field to allow for night games.

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, reminded the public and the Council that the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. does not attack people or groups, they attack issues. He said that harsh and extreme comments to the contrary are uncalled for. Mr. Orsini said that the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. felt that many people did not have an opportunity to speak at the recently held Budget Public Hearing because the meeting went too late. Mr. Orsini recommends that Town residents be notified of the sign up procedure and that the Council consider holding the Budget Hearing on more than one night. Mr. Orsini commented on the 3.5% tax roadmap and how the Town has yet to achieve it. Mr. Orsini commented that the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. is concerned that enrollment continues to decline in the Wethersfield Schools, yet the Board of Education is requesting eleven new employees. He said that the Town needs to negotiate hard with the Unions for lower wage increases and higher benefits contributions.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis left the meeting at this time (9:50 p.m.).

George A. Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, said that he spoke with approximately three hundred Wethersfield residents regarding the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. petition. He said that in circulating this petition, the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. is exercising its civil right. He said that he, for the most part, was shown a great deal of respect by those with whom he spoke. Mr. Ruhe said that many residents are concerned about the manner in which the Council is going about the process with regard to Cottone Field and not letting the issue go to referendum. Mr. Ruhe submitted to Town Clerk Sassano eighty-six petition sheets pertaining to the lights and artificial turf at Cottone Field. The sheets contain over eleven hundred signatures.

Penny Stanziale, 15 Harold Street, said that she has spoken in support of the correct installation of artificial turf at Cottone Field and that she was approached by parents around Town who do not want their children to play on artificial turf. Ms. Stanziale spoke in support of the proposed renovations being brought to referendum for the residents to decide on the issue. She reminded the Council that the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. has supported the Board of Education on many issues and that they have always respectfully requested that budgets be fair and reasonable. She said that she deeply regrets the resignation of Mr. Courchaine from the committees on which he has served and she thanked him for his years of service to Wethersfield. She said that she does not understand the bullying or ridiculing of citizens for their choice to express their opinions.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis returned to the meeting at this time (10:00 p.m.).

Councilor Adil left the meeting at this time (10:00 p.m.).

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, commented on his disappointment in the process for signing up to speak at the Budget Hearing. Mr. Young said that he is concerned about residents' use of the adjective "deplorable" when describing roads and conditions in Wethersfield. Mr. Young said that he has noticed a roller coaster type of spending in the recent budgets with appropriations going up and down. He said that the yearly appropriations need to be more consistent and level.

Councilor Adil returned to the meeting at this time (10:05 p.m.).

Bill Dest, 53 McMullen Avenue, addressed the abrasion factor and other specifics of artificial turf. He said that the

jury is still out on whether artificial surface cuts down on injuries or not. Mr. Dest said that the geology and composition of the soil is an important factor with regard to drainage. He also said that the maintenance crew in Wethersfield does the best possible job they can with the resources available to them and given the conditions of the fields.

Maurice Cornelio, 126 Hang Dog Lane, said that the Town is spending 85% of the Board of Education budget on salaries and benefits. This doesn't leave much funding for the school children. He is concerned that Cottone Field will be done right this time, just as it wasn't done right in the past. Mr. Cornelio said that the Council needs to take a closer look at the benefits of artificial turf and also needs to consider the neighbors of the field regarding the installation of lighting. Mr. Cornelio said that the Council needs to decrease what they are giving out in bureaucracy and increase what is being given out to the people of the Town.

John Cathcart, 23 Wolcott Hill Road, Chairperson of the Artificial Surface Football Field Advisory Committee, stated that Cottone Field will be done correctly this time. He said that many issues with artificial turf come about because of the base on which they are installed. Mr. Cathcart spoke of the highly skilled, expertise of the members of the Artificial Surface Football Field Advisory Committee. He said that a referendum will delay the use of the field and that it is unnecessary to have a referendum as the present Council was elected on their support of the renovations.

Tom Scareck, 2 Kelly Avenue, spoke in favor of the proposed renovations to Cottone Field. He said that the kids of the Town need to be thought of.

Ron Rodd, 88 West Way, spoke as a member of the Artificial Surface Football Field Advisory Committee. He said that at previous Committee meetings he raised the possibility of a conflict of interest with a member of the Committee and Rad/Sportsturf, who the Committee is recommending be awarded the bid for renovation of the football field and practice field at Wethersfield High School and by whom the Committee member is employed. The Committee member resigned from the Committee to join a team which submitted a bid for the project and he led a presentation to the Committee in order to promote his company to do the renovation work. Mr. Rodd has formally submitted an Ethics Violation Complaint to the Town Clerk and Board of Ethics. He reminded the Council of a quote which states that "a Town without a conscience is a Town without a soul".

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS & REPORTS

Councilor Fortunato reported on the meeting of the Shared Services Committee stating that ongoing planning of a draft vision statement for the Council and Board of Education was created and approved. Also, a lengthy discussion ensued on the MUNIS software system and its extension to the Board of Education. Councilor Fortunato also reported on her attendance at the Riverfront Recapture meeting on April 22.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis reported that the Public Works Committee met to discuss the distribution and fee for a second refuse barrel and to address the practice of small businesses operating out of residences in Town putting out commercial garbage.

Councilor Hemmann reminded the Council that there are guidelines for a referendum in the Town Charter that must be followed. She referred to Section 311 which states the following:

Obligatory referendum on bond issues and appropriations in excess of one hundred thousand dollars. No resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds or making a special appropriation in excess of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.) shall become effective until the same has been approved by a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon at a regular election or a special election or referendum called by the Council for the purpose.

Councilor Hemmann feels very strongly that the proposed renovation of Cottone Field must go to referendum. She said that there are other issues in Town that deserve the proper prioritization.

Councilor Adil commended Mr. Courchaine for his service to the Town and urged him to reconsider his decision to resign from the current committees on which he is serving.

Councilor Cascio stated that he has supported the renovation of Cottone field and the lights since 1995. He said that he does not support the statement that a vote was taken last November for fields. He said that a vote was taken for people to come and volunteer for a multitude of adventures. He said that the resolution before the Council this evening was not put together by any Taxpayers Association, Inc. and is not a part of the survey or petition signed by residents. He said that the resolution was put together by the three Republican minority members of the Town Council. Councilor Cascio said that he has attended many sports events throughout Connecticut and is aware of the conditions of sports fields across the State. The resolution should not be interpreted as nonsupport for the renovations, but rather as support for the residents of Wethersfield to vote and decide on the outcome of the Cottone Field issue.

Councilor Czernicki asked that the Town Manager provide the Councilors with a copy of Mr. Kardas' "top down" formulas. Councilor Czernicki said that the resolution for a referendum has been presented because the Charter indicates that an expenditure of this magnitude needs to be brought to the public for their input, as public input is a part of true democracy.

Chairperson Morin read a letter submitted to the Town Clerk from Joe and Rosemary Torrisi. The letter suggests that the Town leave Nott Street as is.

At this time Chairperson Morin suggested a five minute recess of the Council (10:45 p.m.).

Councilor Forrest moved "**FOR A FIVE MINUTE RECESS**", seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

The meeting resumed at this time (10:50 p.m.).

Councilor Forrest moved "**TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND ALLOW FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE COUNCIL MEETING PAST 11:00 P.M.**", seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Czernicki moved "**TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF FRED A. AUTORINO AS ALTERNATE TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**", seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Czernicki moved "**TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF DONNA J. SCHWARTZ FROM THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**", seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien made the following appointments to the Silas Deane Highway Committee:

Betty H. Rosania	R	88 Desmond Drive	5-3-04 to 6-30-06
John Adamian	R	86 Waters View Drive	5-3-04 to 6-30-06
Carmela Moore, Chamber Rep.	--	25 Pebblebrook Dr. Rocky Hill	5-3-04 to 6-30-06
Patrick Argy, SDH Rep.	R	236 Willow Street	5-3-04 to 6-30-06
Beverly Pierz, Citizen Rep.	D	115 Garden Street	5-3-04 to 6-30-06
Bernadine Franco	R	195 Middletown Avenue	5-3-04 to 6-30-06
Stephen Foote	--	45 Garden Street	5-3-04 to 6-30-06

Councilor Adil moved **"TO ACCEPT THE TOWN MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED APPOINTMENTS TO THE SILAS DEANE HIGHWAY COMMITTEE"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Councilor Cascio said that the ordinance passed by the Council states that the members on the Committee will be Town Manager appointments and that when a vacancy occurs, the Council will then make appointments to fill the vacancies. He asked for verification of this wording. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that it is up to the Council to amend the ordinance. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she will research this for the next meeting.

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

Resolution Recouping Revenue Loss For Manufacturing Machinery, Equipment, and Commercial Vehicles Exemption

Wethersfield Assessor Jan Neumuth said that the proposed resolution gives the Town the ability to recoup, due to State Legislation, the loss to the Town for two exemptions. The amounts have to be billed during the 2003-2004 fiscal year. The maximum dollar amount is approximately \$5,396 which would be added to the current fiscal year. This involves nine personal property manufacturing companies and four taxpayers for commercial vehicles.

Councilor Adil moved **"TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION ALLOWING THE TOWN TO LEVY A TAX DUE ON CERTAIN NEW MANUFACTURING MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT AND CERTAIN NEW COMMERCIAL TRUCKS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 53 OF PUBLIC ACT 03-2"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Resolution Regarding A Referendum on Proposed Improvements to Cottone Field

Councilor Czernicki moved **"TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION REGARDING A REFERENDUM ON PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO COTTONE FIELD"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Adil said that he can understand the desire for a referendum because of the impact of the proposed renovations on the surrounding neighborhood, but he, as well as the Advisory Committee, believes that the concerns can be mitigated. Councilor Adil said that the Charter refers to the issuance of bonds and that is not the case in this situation and he does not want to start a precedent that the Town will need to go to referendum every time a project or purchase in excess of \$100,000 is undertaken. He said that a referendum is an expensive proposition for the Town. Councilor Adil said that the top seven Councilors were elected with the pledge that they would support the renovation of Cottone Field with the lights. Mr. Adil does not support the resolution for a referendum.

Councilor Hemmann reminded the Council that whether they like the language or not, it is in the Charter and the Council must abide by it.

Councilor Forrest said that at this point the Town has neither proposed a bond for the renovations nor made a special appropriation. He said that when this occurs, the Council will then need to address the situation properly. Councilor Forrest said that the Town citizens have elected the Council to make decisions on their behalf. He does not want to create the precedence that every time there is a tough decision to make, the Council puts it out to referendum.

Councilor Czernicki questioned whether any Councilors know that there is a plan for the financing of the field renovations. She said that at least three Councilors are unaware of a plan for financing. She asked Chairperson Morin to share any knowledge he has of the plans to finance the renovations. Chairperson Morin said that the budget has not been adopted and neither the issuance of bonds nor a special appropriation have been proposed; therefore no action has been taken that goes against the limits of the Wethersfield Charter. He said that information will be forthcoming from the Town Manager as to the best action to take for financing the renovations. Councilor Czernicki said that she senses that a decision has been made in some form and that it reminds her of a situation a few years back when then-Councilor Morin answered a very tricky question with the phrase "no decision's been made yet". Councilor Czernicki said that she has always supported the renovations to Cottone Field although she has always had concerns over the lighting. The introduction of the Resolution has nothing to do with her support of the renovations, but rather with the right of the voters to weigh in on the issue.

Councilor Cascio asked if the resolution fails, and the petition list comes forward, does the issue then have to go to referendum. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that if the petition goes before the Council and it is denied, it is an automatic referendum. Chairperson Morin said that there is a process to be followed by the Town Clerk in which she needs to certify the signatures and this needs to be reviewed by the Town Attorney. Councilor Cascio asked if the reports on the fields and lights are approved without any dollar figures, then per the Charter does the Town still need to go out to referendum. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the Town does not need to go to referendum in that case.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted NAY. Councilors Cascio, Czernicki, and Hemmann voted AYE. The motion failed 3-6-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Automatic Refuse - Fees and Services to Businesses

Deputy Mayor Karangekis said that the Refuse Committee met to discuss the issue of businesses operating out of private residences and the conflict of their refuse being both business and household together. The Committee investigated the issue and determined that it is a violation to mix the refuse together. He said that the individuals involved need to be notified that they are required to dispose of the refuse in two separate containers and acquire a separate refuse collection contract on their own for the business refuse. Deputy Mayor Karangekis said that the Committee also discussed the issue of second barrels to residents. He said that those requesting second barrels will be required to pay an annual fee of \$60.

Councilor Fortunato moved "**TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL FEE OF \$60 FOR A SECOND BARREL AND THAT HOME-BASED BUSINESSES PAY THE COMMERCIAL RATE FOR PICKUP OF COMMERCIAL REFUSE**", seconded by Councilor Adil.

Councilor Forrest clarified that those residences requiring commercial pickup will still be entitled to the regular pickup of their residential refuse. Deputy Mayor Karangekis said that this is true.

Councilor Fortunato asked what the commercial rate of collection is. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that that it is \$100 per ton compared with the residential rate of \$60 per ton.

Councilor Czernicki left the meeting at this time (11:15 p.m.).

Councilor Cascio asked if other communities are also charging a fee for the second barrel. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that communities are providing a variety of options.

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

Nott Street Project

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that during the research of some of the Council's previous questions, she learned that if a Councilor is abstaining from a vote, he or she cannot take part in any of the discussion.

The Town Manager reported that she contacted Wethersfield's State and Federal Representatives and she received a letter stating that the State Representatives contacted the Department of Transportation and were told that there is nothing that can be done that is any different to the information given to the Council at the last meeting. The Town Manager spoke to an aide in Congressman Larson's office who is still working on the issue.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis believes that the best decision is to continue the project by blasting. He said that projects have been done consistently using explosives with very little negative effect on the surrounding areas. He said that this is why blasters have insurance to cover any small occurrences of damage. He said that any deviation from this plan will result in a substantial amount of money coming from the pockets of Town residents.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien clarified that if the Council wishes to move forward, they must rescind their former vote for no blasting. Also, she said that the DOT has stated that the Town is allowed to change blasting companies if they choose to.

Councilor Fortunato moved **"TO RESCIND THE COUNCIL'S FORMER VOTE TO HALT BLASTING ON THE NOTT STREET PROJECT"**, seconded by Councilor Montinieri.

Councilor Adil stated that he voted reluctantly to stop the blasting because he feels that the alternatives are questionable. He said that he could agree with the extra expense if the residents were in favor of the pounding; however, they don't really even want that alternative. Councilor Adil said that the Council should agree to support and advocate for any resident who feels they have suffered damage as a result of the blasting.

Councilor Fortunato said that the Council's previous decision was very genuine and receptive to the outcry from the neighbors in the Nott Street area; however, the State is not compromising on the issue and it is time to move forward with the project. She said that the Town has to make sure that Town Staff is on-site during the project to insure that all procedures are followed properly. She suggests that the Town Manager send a letter to all residents in the Nott Street area informing them of the blasting and the reasons for it. Councilor Fortunato said that she reluctantly supports the blasting.

Chairperson Morin left the meeting at this time (11:30 p.m.).

Councilor Cascio said that responsibility and communication are the keys to all Town projects and he hopes that this issue is a lesson to all Councilors. He said that his decisions are made on the information provided to him by paid Town staff. He recommends to the Town Manager that, in the future, individuals paid by the Town for projects of this magnitude need to be held responsible for complete and accurate reporting.

Councilor Montinieri reviewed the options and costs available to the Town at this point. She said that the Town cannot afford to "just say no", nor can they afford the chemical option with the hoe ramming. She said that the blasting will entail two to three blasts per day for two weeks vs. two months of hoe ramming for eight hours per day. Councilor Montinieri said that the Town gave the DOT permission to blast in January, 2002 and then Town Manager Lee Erdman's signature is on a document stating such. Councilor Montinieri said that the Council should choose another blasting company so as not to go with Blastek and that the project should be completed by September. Councilor Montinieri said that she regrettably is in favor of the blasting.

Chairperson Morin returned to the meeting at this time (11:33 p.m.).

Councilor Adil, Councilor Forrest Councilor Fortunato Councilor Montinieri, and Deputy Mayor Karangekis voted AYE. Councilor Cascio and Councilor Hemmann voted NAY. Chairperson Morin ABSTAINED. The motion passed 5-2-1.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis moved **"TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PROCEED WITH CONTROLLED BLASTING ON NOTT STREET AS PERMITTED IN THE ORIGINAL PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS OF JANUARY, 2002"**, seconded by Councilor Adil.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO AMEND THE MOTION TO INCLUDE THAT THE COUNCIL HIGHLY RECOMMENDS AN ALTERNATIVE REPUTABLE BLASTER THAN THE ONE ORIGINALLY SUGGESTED"**, seconded by Councilor Adil. Councilor Adil, Councilor Forrest Councilor Fortunato Councilor Montinieri, and Deputy Mayor Karangekis voted AYE. Councilor Cascio and Councilor Hemmann voted NAY. Chairperson Morin ABSTAINED. The motion passed 5-2-1.

Councilor Cascio asked when this project originated. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the contract originated in 1999. Councilor Cascio said that the motion states the wrong date for the original contract with the Department of Transportation which agrees to blasting.

Councilor Montinieri said that it is her understanding that the project began in 1998-99 and that at that time, there was some question as to whether blasting would be required or not. She said that she was told that the document stating the project specifications is dated January, 2002. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien asked Town Engineer Mike Turner to clarify the date of the first document to address the terminology of blasting. Mr. Turner said that the Councilors are confusing the contract between the Town and the State for the funding agreement with the approval of the bid documents (2002). He said that the 1999 preliminary design reports would have been the first indication of blasting.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO AMEND THE MOTION TO REFER TO THE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENT THAT REFERS TO BLASTING"**, seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Hemmann voted NAY. Chairperson Morin ABSTAINED. The motion passed 6-1-1.

Councilor Adil, Councilor Forrest Councilor Fortunato Councilor Montinieri, and Deputy Mayor Karangekis voted AYE. Councilor Cascio and Councilor Hemmann voted NAY. Chairperson Morin ABSTAINED. The motion passed 5-2-1.

OTHER BUSINESS

Report from Artificial Surface Football Field Committee

Jonathan Cathcart, Chairperson of the Artificial Surface Football Field Committee, reported that three of the four respondents to the RFP were interviewed on April 28, 2004. He said that the fourth respondent did not provide all of the necessary bid information and was therefore eliminated. He said that the Committee is recommending that artificial turf be installed on the football field and on the practice field. He said that doing both fields together will save approximately \$130,000. Mr. Cathcart said that the Committee voted 4 to 2 to choose Rad/Sportsturf as the preferred company for the project. Mr. Cathcart said that Rad was over \$100,000 less than Clark and they will use Field Turf. He said that Rad also has a better reputation and history of success. Mr. Cathcart said that Rad will complete the field including the lighting for the walkway from the parking lot to the field, will repair any drainage associated with the field, and provide the conduit for the possibility of future lighting of the field. Also included is the maintenance equipment for the field and an eight-year warranty period. The cost is \$837,440 for the football field and \$448,000 for the practice field.

Councilor Montinieri **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR RENOVATION OF THE FOOTBALL FIELD AND PRACTICE FIELD AT THE WETHERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL TO RAD/SPORTSTURF IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$944,140 AND AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS FOR A CONTRACT WITH RAD AND TO DEVELOP LEASE PURCHASE OPTIONS FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL TO REVIEW"**, seconded by Councilor Fortunato.

Councilor Adil asked what material will be installed on the practice field. Mr. Cathcart said that Field Turf will be on both fields. Councilor Adil asked what the concerns were for Vendor #1. Mr. Cathcart said that they did not take the drainage issues into consideration and the Committee did not want to suggest the lowest bidder and then be plagued with continued drainage issues.

Councilor Cascio asked why the amount has changed from the original suggested motion for \$1,285,440 to \$944,140. Councilor Montinieri said that, for budgetary reasons, the practice field would not be replaced with artificial turf; however the savings of \$100,000 to do both fields was not considered at the time this amount was derived. Mr. Cathcart said that the practice field will be used while the football field is being reconstructed. When the football field is complete, repairs will then be made to the practice field and the sod on that field may not be ready for play in the Fall.

Councilor Montinieri asked if the drainage issues on the practice field will be addressed for the \$106,700.

Mr. Cathcart said that the Town Manager will need to negotiate that these issues be addressed.

Councilor Cascio asked if all of the vendors bid to sod the practice field and install artificial turf on the football field. Mr. Cathcart said that prices for alternates were submitted from each vendor. Councilor Cascio verified that the

decrease in the motioned bid price removes the artificial turf alternate from the practice and opts for sod instead. Councilor Cascio asked if there will be a dangerous situation for the athletes running if the sod of the practice field abuts the artificial turf. He would rather see artificial turf on both fields. Mr. Cathcart said that there is a fifteen foot runoff between the end zone of the football field and the sod of the practice field. Councilor Cascio asked if the logistics for the entrance of maintenance equipment has been considered. He also asked if there is a plan in motion for the funding for replacement of the turf in approximately ten years. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that money will need to be set aside each year for this.

Councilor Hemmann asked what the difference is between Mr. Cathcart's stated quote of \$837,440 and the motioned amount of \$944,140. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the grass alternative is being added in the amount of \$106,700.

Councilor Fortunato said that she supports the turf on the football field and in seconding the motion, she thought that the additional \$106,700 would address the drainage of the practice field. She asked if the drainage problem can be addressed. Mr. Cathcart said that the drainage issues will be addressed if the option for artificial turf is chosen, but not with grass.

Mr. Dest, a member of the Artificial Surface Football Field Committee, said that the bid for the turf portion states "drainage", but did not specify what type of drainage. He said that a conventional drainage system is what is currently in the fields and it does not work. Mr. Dest said that he will hold the contractor to a slip drainage system in the grass field. He is unsure if the \$106,700 will cover the type of drainage system that is required in the field. Councilor Fortunato asked Mr. Dest for an estimate of the cost to repair the drainage. Mr. Dest said that the slip drainage system will cost approximately \$260,000 to install correctly. Councilor Fortunato asked Mr. Cathcart what he expected to obtain for the \$106,700. Mr. Cathcart said that this is the bidder's recommendation to fix the drainage problem and Mr. Dest does not agree with their explanation for the repairs. Mr. Cathcart said that the Town Manager would need to contact the proposed contractor for details of the drainage repairs before signing a contract with them. Councilor Fortunato said that it appears that the Town cannot afford to install artificial turf on both fields, but rather turf the football field and grass the practice field with repair to the drainage problems.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the Council can table the bid and she will clarify the quoted prices with the vendors. Mr. Cathcart said that the vendors have submitted designs for drainage that they say will work and it is their responsibility to make sure it works.

Councilor Fortunato said that she is concerned that the \$106,700 will not sufficiently address the drainage problem. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she will ask the question to the vendor again. Councilor Forrest said that if the Town Manager is comfortable with this then she will stay with the motion.

Councilor Forrest asked if it is possible to accept the \$837,440 for Cottone Field tonight and delay the decision on the practice field until the Council's next regular meeting. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the vendor was asked when they would need to have a contract signed in order to complete the field by September 1 and the date given was June 1.

Councilor Fortunato asked the Town Manager about financing through a lease purchase option. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the only time the Town has to go to a referendum is if the funding is outside of the budget process or if there is a special appropriation made. She said that a lease purchase would be for eight years and would cost approximately \$60,000-\$65,000 per year. Councilor Fortunato verified that the grant to be received by the State would decrease the \$944,140 by \$250,000. She suggested that an option would be to spend the \$250,000 to renovate the practice field and lease only the football field.

Councilor Cascio said that if a project is done, it needs to be done the right way. He said that if both fields were surfaced with artificial turf, the drainage problems would have to go away so the Town would be better off to address the drainage problem by installing artificial turf on both fields.

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO AMEND THE MOTION TO INCLUDE ARTIFICIAL TURF ON BOTH THE FOOTBALL FIELD AND THE PRACTICE FIELD FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,285,440"**,

seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Councilor Fortunato asked what has been done to-date to address the drainage at the practice field. Councilor Cascio said that nothing has been done to-date. Councilor Fortunato suggested that to save dollars, a good drainage system could be installed into the practice field with the installation of grass.

Chairperson Morin said that the renovation of Cottone Field will allow for less usage of the practice field for games. He would like to see the drainage of the practice field addressed without the cost of artificial turf. He said that the vendor will be held to the design of a drainage system that will work.

Councilor Adil said that if the drainage issue is addressed at this time, the resurfacing of the practice field could take place at a later time. He said that it is difficult for him to ask the taxpayers for more funds to resurface the practice field.

Councilor Forrest said that he is concerned about the drainage being done properly for the \$106,700 amount and that more funds will be required down the road to repair the field yet again.

Councilor Montinieri asked if the slip drainage system will have to be done away with and start from scratch if the Town decides on artificial turf for the practice field at a later date. She was told that this is correct.

Mr. Cathcart said that the practice field is not only used for practice, but is also used by Coaches for a number of reasons, which may change with the resurfacing of the football field.

Councilor Cascio and Councilor Forrest voted AYE on the amendment. Councilor Adil, Councilor Fortunato, Councilor Hemmann, Councilor Montinieri, Deputy Mayor Karangekis, and Chairperson Morin voted NAY. The motion failed 2-6-0.

Councilor Adil moved "**TO AMEND THE ORIGINAL BID MOTION AND TABLE THE RENOVATION OF THE PRACTICE FIELD WHILE MOVING FORWARD WITH THE COTTONE FIELD RENOVATION**", seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Hemmann voted NAY. The motion passed 7-1-0.

Councilor Montinieri moved "**TO WITHDRAW HER ORIGINAL BID MOTION**", seconded by Councilor Fortunato. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Hemmann voted NAY. The motion passed 7-1-0.

Councilor Montinieri moved "**TO AWARD THE BID FOR RENOVATION OF THE FOOTBALL FIELD AT THE WETHERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL TO RAD/SPORTSTURF IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$837,440 AND AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS FOR A CONTRACT WITH RAD AND TO DEVELOP LEASE PURCHASE OPTIONS FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL TO REVIEW**", seconded by Councilor Fortunato. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Hemmann voted NAY. The motion passed 7-1-0.

Report on Town Hall Renovations - Building Committee

Joseph Coombs, Chairperson of the Building Committee-Town Hall/Library, distributed packets of scale-in drawings to the Council from Architect Peter Wells as well as handouts on the cost estimates for completing the work at the Town Hall.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that a referendum question must be set for the two grants in order to continue the renovation for the downstairs of the Town Hall as the Committee and the Architect need to know how much money they have to work with.

Councilor Hemmann asked what the dollar total will be. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that it will be \$799,000. Councilor Hemmann asked if the \$5.2 million includes only work to be done per the original bond. Mr. Wells said that

the \$5.2 million is the additional scope of work that he was asked to look at. He said that the total of the work currently out to bid is \$3.1 million. Councilor Hemmann verified that the total will be \$8.3 million and was told that this is correct.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien asked the Town Clerk when the earliest date for a referendum would be if the referendum is introduced at the next Council meeting. Town Clerk Sassano said that an approximate date would be some time in July.

Mr. Wells said that he is most concerned about the Small Cities Grant. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she can call and inform DECD that Wethersfield is in the process of going to referendum.

Councilor Fortunato asked what the most outstanding needs are that are not being met by the current funding. Mr. Coombs said that this would include the replacement of the boilers and heating, the installation of a new roof, and the upgrading of the telephone and data systems. Councilor Fortunato asked Mr. Coombs what recommendations he has for the electrical system in the Library. Mr. Coombs said that there is enough power in the building; however the problem of overloaded circuits indicates that they need to be redirected. Councilor Fortunato asked how much these stated items will cost. Mr. Wells said that some of the Library's electrical issues are being addressed under the project currently out to bid and indicated various figures to Councilor Fortunato that would need to be considered when determining a cost for the stated items.

Councilor Forrest asked if it is possible to introduce the referendum at tonight's meeting. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that it has to be put into ordinance form and be reviewed by the Town Attorney; therefore it will be introduced at the May 17 Council meeting.

Summer Hours - Town Hall

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the summer hours seem to create total confusion on everyone's part. She recommends that the Town not have summer hours at all or try the hours year-round for one year. The hours she is proposing are Monday thru Wednesday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Friday 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Councilor Montinieri suggested changing the Thursday hours to 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The Town Manager said that this could be worked out.

Councilor Fortunato said that she supports the Town Manager's recommendation that the hours run year-round for one year.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she will discuss moving forward with these hours with the Union representatives.

Budget Transfer - Overtime - Physical Services and the Lift for the Town Garage

Councilor Adil moved "**TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM THE UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE - FEMA REVENUE RECEIPT TO A NUMBER OF PHYSICAL SERVICE DIVISIONS AS OUTLINED BY THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**", seconded by Councilor Hemmann. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Leaf Compost Site Proposal

Deputy Mayor Karangekis moved "**TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN THE LEAF COMPOST SITE AGREEMENT WITH MULCHSEAL COMPANY**", seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Councilor Adil asked if 15% of the compost will be sufficient for the Town's needs. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this is an increase from the original 10% amount in the proposed contract.

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

Reimbursement Request - Historic District Application

Councilor Hemmann moved "**TO AUTHORIZE THE REIMBURSEMENT OF \$25 TO MARY DIAZ-RAYMOND FOR A HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION APPLICATION**", seconded by Councilor Fortunato. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

BIDS

Drainage - Church Street

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she spoke to Roger Tabshey of Tabshey Development of Wethersfield to see if he would be willing to lower his bid to match the previous low bidder's amount for the project. He has responded saying that he will match the low bidder. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that Town Engineer Mike Turner has informed her that the second phase of the drainage project is ready to go to bid and that the Town could save money by bidding it as one big project. She suggests rejecting the previous bids and bid the project out as Phase I and Phase II.

Councilor Adil moved "**TO REJECT ALL BIDS AND REBID THE CHURCH STREET STORM DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AS TWO PHASES**", seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Hemmann left the meeting at this time (12:50 a.m.).

Fire House 3 Roof Project

Deputy Mayor Karangekis moved "**TO AWARD THE BID FOR THE FIREHOUSE 3 ROOF PROJECT TO AVT CONSTRUCTION - AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$57,444**", seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Chairperson Morin asked if there will be repairs required on the ceiling tiles or rugs of the firehouse because this leak has gone on for so long. Mr. Turner said that any of these repairs will be addressed.

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

Lecture Hall - Board of Education

Councilor Cascio moved "**TO AWARD THE BID FOR THE WETHERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL LECTURE HALL SEATS PROJECT TO INSALCO CORPORATION AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$29,520**", seconded by Councilor Fortunato.

Councilor Cascio asked how much over budget the project is. Mr. Turner said that \$33,000 was budgeted for the project and the bids for one hundred seats came in at \$32,800. Mr. McCarthy feels that there will be floor repairs required once the old seats are torn out. The seats will be reduced to ninety which will allow for the additional costs.

Councilor Adil commented on the necessity to replace seats in the High School Auditorium that currently have duct tape on them.

Councilor Forrest asked why the Board of Education is not funding this project. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the Town covers all Town Capital Projects out of the Town-wide Capital Budget.

Councilor Hemmann returned to the meeting at this time (12:54 a.m.).

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

Cleaning Services

Councilor Montinieri moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR CLEANING SERVICES TO NEW ENGLAND CLEANING OF ROCKY HILL FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE FISCAL YEAR AND NEXT FISCAL YEAR"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Councilor Cascio asked if this is the same company that does the Police Facility. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that it is not.

Councilor Adil asked why vendor #4 from Wethersfield was not chosen. Mr. Turner said that even if they had applied for the local vendor preference, they were not within 10% of the lowest bid.

Chairperson Morin asked if vendor #4 was interviewed. Mr. Turner said that they were. He said that research was conducted showing that although vendor #4 provides a Wethersfield address, none of their business equipment is taxed as property in Wethersfield and they do not portray themselves as a Wethersfield-based business.

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

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

RESOLUTION OF MUNICIPAL LEGISLATIVE BODY

BE IT RESOLVED, that Town Manager Bonnie Therrien, is authorized to execute on behalf of the Town of Wethersfield an Open Space Agreement with the State of Connecticut for financial assistance to renovate the football field.

IN ADDITION, that Town Manager Bonnie Therrien is hereby authorized to enter into such agreements, contracts and execute all documents necessary to said grant with the State of Connecticut.

BE IT FURTHER KNOWN that Town Manager Bonnie Therrien was appointed and her term of office began on April 21, 2003. As the Town Manager, Bonnie Therrien serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the Town of Wethersfield, and is duly authorized to enter into agreements and contracts on behalf of the Town of Wethersfield.

MINUTES

Moved **"TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 19, 2004"**, seconded by Councilor Fortunato. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:54 a.m., Councilor Adil moved **"TO ADJOURN THE MEETING"** seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk