

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

JUNE 22, 2004 SPECIAL MEETING

The Wethersfield Town Council held a special meeting on June 22, 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.

Chairperson Morin recognized the Village Improvement Association's donation of the flags in the Council Chambers and thanked them for all they do for the Town.

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

Chairperson Morin announced that the Council will be entering into Executive Session at the end of the regular meeting to discuss union negotiations and personnel matters.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HEARING

RESOLUTION CONCERNING BOND REFERENDUM FOR MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Martha Mayer, 133 Griswold Road, commented on the \$4.1 million for Phase 1 of the Mill Woods Park improvements. She urged the Council to define the work to be done in Phase 1 and look into any changes to the original plan and costs.

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. He said that the Association believes there is a tremendous tax burden on the tax payers of Wethersfield and although some of the items in the resolution deserve merit, they should be included in a plan. Too many projects have been undertaken in Town without a plan. Tax bills have doubled in the past ten years and the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. suggests that the time be taken to develop a plan for the items proposed in the resolution. He said that the Association believes that the Mill Woods plan is flawed as there is too much money in the plan for roads and parking lots. The Mill Woods plan, and funding of such, should be for the improvement or addition of fields, stadiums and the swimming area. He said that necessary projects in Town need to be planned and must be affordable for all.

Linda Forand, 26 Cedar Street, questioned where in Town the paving would take place. She agrees that paving needs to be done, but would like to know that all areas of Town are included.

Harry Lichtenbaum, 16 Towne House Lane, said that because of the revaluation in Wethersfield, homeowners have been hit with substantial tax increases and he does not think that residents will be receptive to the resolution's proposed bonding.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Linda Forand, 26 Cedar Street, distributed to the Council a copy of a 1997 notice she received regarding the Nott

Street reconstruction. She pointed out that the document makes no reference to blasting. She is concerned about the attitude of the current Council and is tired of the nasty finger-pointing that is taking place. She said that she requested that the Engineering Department review the work done where Cedar Street meets Nott Street and consider lowering the bank which blocks visibility to pull out of Cedar Street. Ms. Foran also expressed her concern over the newly-hired Police Dispatcher and would not favor his being hired as a Wethersfield Police Officer. Ms. Foran said that the Beautification Committee seems to be neglecting the Berlin Turnpike.

Woodrow Warren, 9 Nutmeg Circle, spoke of what he calls "political syndrome" and others call "corruption". He said that there needs to be more monitoring and controlling of those who serve. He said that the people cannot lose their rights and opportunities for freedom. Mr. Warren said that the roads in Town need to be repaired before funds are put into a new football field. He said that the Council needs to be fair to all the citizens they represent.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, commented on New Britain's slashing of teaching positions and said that he cannot understand why the Board of Education is hiring twelve new staff members while reporting that there will be twenty-eight less students. Mr. Young said that the budget should be more fine tuned and that the Council should not give the Department Heads the amounts they requested and even more. He does not consider this "budgeting" at all. Mr. Young spoke of the Board of Education's proposed energy management program at a cost of \$5,600 per month for forty-eight consecutive months. The total of \$268,800 is for the outside consultants to teach, show and make the Town save on energy costs. Mr. Young said that the property manager in charge of the buildings needs to be qualified to do this and should not have to be taught. He said that there are many resources available to achieve this without hiring an outside consultant at a cost of \$268,800 over four years. Mr. Young expressed his disgust over the hiring of the Police Dispatcher who has a very questionable background. He suggested that the Dispatcher be replaced and that the elected and paid officials who approved of the hiring should be reprimanded.

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. Mr. Orsini commented on the Town Manager's comment that the Town was once influential and attractive, and now is slipping. He asked if this is the Town Manager's opinion or if it is the result of a survey. Mr. Orsini said that he thinks that the Town is still attractive and has a lot of energy. He asked where all the taxpayers money is going if, as the Town Manager states, the Town is not properly funding their budgets. Mr. Orsini complimented Town Planner Peter Gillespie on his laying the groundwork for Grand List initiatives. He said that the Council needs to focus on these initiatives because the residents cannot afford the tax increases. Mr. Orsini said that there needs to be a comprehensive plan that is strictly adhered to by each new Council. Mr. Orsini said that the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. is also very disturbed by the hiring of the new Police Dispatcher and of the possibility that this Dispatcher could, in time, become an Officer in Wethersfield. In addition, the hiring of this person connotes nepotism, as he is related to a Town official. Mr. Orsini questioned whether this will affect Wethersfield's National accreditation.

Jim Clynch, 903 Ridge Road, thanked Mr. Viani for his \$200 donation to the Beautification Committee and recognized the Committee for their wonderful efforts throughout Town. Mr. Clynch commented on the \$50 fee to participate in the Recreation & Parks Summer program. Mr. Clynch said that everyone makes mistakes and everyone is entitled to a second chance. He thinks that it is terrible for people to be playing politics with someone trying to make a life and a living for himself.

COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMENTS

Councilor Fortunato reported that she attended the Shared Services Committee meeting and she provided an update of the school building construction projects. She said that it was suggested that a member of the Board of Education serve on the Strategic Planning Committee. A joint meeting of the Board of Education and the Council is anticipated for the Fall and a presentation by the Shared Services Committee will be given regarding the priorities of communication, facilities and maintenance, planning, and funding.

Councilor Adil reported that he and Councilor Montinieri attended the first meeting of the Silas Deane Committee and members are reviewing the 1987 plan for the next meeting. Future meeting dates of the Committee will be posted on the Town website. Councilor Adil acknowledged the good work of Mr. Anthony Camilliere whose term on the Economic Development and Improvement Commission will be expiring on June 30.

Councilor Cascio said that the Chamber of Commerce meeting has been rescheduled from July 1 to July 8 at 8:30 a.m. He said that over seventy-five people attended the State of the Town meeting which was well received and there was a lot of energy at the meeting.

Councilor Forrest reported on the Conservation Commission meeting. He said that the Commission is in the process of putting together prerequisites for land acquisition. He thanked Councilor Montinieri for attending the meeting and assisting with the development of these prerequisites.

Councilor Adil commented that anyone interested in serving on the Wethersfield Beautification Committee can contact the Town Manager's office to volunteer.

Councilor Forrest commented that there is no political agenda to the paving of roads in Wethersfield. He said that there is a comprehensive computer system to rate the roads and develop the most efficient paving plan.

Councilor Czernicki asked the Town Manager about the recent demographic area study conducted which listed Wethersfield as an urban periphery town. She said that this rating had to do with the educational attainment of the residents, the gross earnings, and the proximity to urban areas. She asked the Town Manager to find out if the study was based on the Myron Orfield metro patterns or if it is a completely different study. The Town Manager said that she will obtain this information. Councilor Czernicki asked if the July 21 referendum has to go to the Planning & Zoning Commission. The Town Clerk said that it originally went to Planning & Zoning; therefore it does not need to go again. Councilor Czernicki said that she visited the Nature Center to see the proposed layout of the new Center. Councilor Czernicki said that she attended a daylong training on instant command and emergency operations and will be receiving a FEMA certificate. Councilor Czernicki asked if there will be either Wethersfield's local or the State's Fire Marshall on site at all times during blasting on Nott Street. The Town Manager said that the Wethersfield Fire Marshall plans on being there, but if he cannot, the State Fire Marshall will be called. Councilor Czernicki asked what authority the Town Manger has to sign off on documents before such authority is approved by the Council. The Town Manager said that, by Town Charter, the Council needs to authorize the Town Manager to sign larger contracts. She would need to look into this further.

Chairperson Morin reported that he attended the Rocky Hill/Wethersfield Elks Flag Day Ceremony. He said that it was a very enlightening and educational presentation. Chairperson Morin announced that there will be a Public Hearing for the Charter Revision proposed changes on June 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the Police Facility. Chairperson Morin announced that the referendum will be held on July 21 at the Community Center from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. He said that notice of such will be distributed and available to residents in a number of ways. Chairperson Morin said that plaques of the Connecticut Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route of 1780-1782 were presented to a number of historical sites in Town. Chairperson Morin said that he and Councilor Fortunato met with officials of Riverfront Recapture and the project is moving along.

COUNCIL ACTION

Appointments to Boards and Commissions

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

Board of Building Appeals

Alternate:

Craig S. Pinney	U	40 Palomina Way	7-1-04 to 6-30-09
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Capital Improvement Advisory Committee

John J. Mullin	D	158 Windmill Hill	7-1-04 to 6-30-06
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Margaret Wagner	R	208 Clearfield Road	7-1-04 to 6-30-06
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Conservation Commission

Ingrid Boelhouwer	R	359 Pine lane	7-1-04 to 6-30-07
W. James Schumaker	U	15 Raynor Lane	7-1-04 to 6-30-07

Constables

Francis A. Baio	D	57 Old Mill Road	7-1-04 to 6-30-06
Albert J. Bonfiglio	D	31 Bunce Road	7-1-04 to 6-30-06
John J. O'Leary	U	P.O. Box 290002 P.O. Box 290001,	7-1-04 to 6-30-06
Brian F. Zito	D	Wethersfield, CT 06129-001	7-1-04 to 6-30-06

Culture and the Arts, Committee on

Joan E. Biagioni	D	217 Goff Road	7-1-04 to 6-30-07
Robin A. Bourassa	D	248 Dale Road	7-1-04 to 6-30-05
Rita T. Doyle	D	22 Sherburne Road	7-1-04 to 6-30-07
Frances A. Patti	D	28 Sherburne Road	7-1-04 to 6-30-07

Disabilities, Wethersfield Advisory Committee for People with

John F. Baker	D	275 Hartford Avenue	7-1-04 to 6-30-06
Frank R. Lane	D	164 Windmill Hill	7-1-04 to 6-30-06
Francis G. Meumier	U	117 Wells Road	7-1-04 to 6-30-06
Kathleen M. Sullivan	D	90 Clearfield Road	7-1-04 to 6-30-06

Environmental Code Appeals Board

Alternate:

Jeffrey R. Kotkin	D	28 Farms Village Road	7-1-04 to 6-30-05
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Ethics, Board of

Robert L. Hirtle	D	5 Nutmeg Circle	7-1-04 to 6-30-07
George E. Steinmetz	D	375 Brimfield Road	7-1-04 to 6-30-07
Alternate:			
John C. Lepper	U	932 Ridge Road	7-1-04 to 6-30-07
Cynthia L. Zuerblis	D	119 Two Rod Hwy.	7-1-04 to 6-30-07

Fair Rent Commission

Jeannette E. Soroko*	D	37B Fairway Drive	7-1-04 to 6-30-06
Cynthia L. Zuerblis***	D	119 Two Rod Hwy.	7-1-04 to 6-30-06
Alternate:			
Susan Grady***	D	25 Westlook Road	7-1-04 to 6-30-06

* Tenant ***At-large

Fence Viewers

Richard B. Lasher	R	100 Griswold Road	7-1-04 to 6-30-06
Harry L. Lichtenbaum	D	16 Towne House Lane	7-1-04 to 6-30-06
Erik W. Litke	U	33 Farmstead Road	7-1-04 to 6-30-06

Flood & Erosion Control Board

Susan M. Fennelly	D	57 Country Club Road	7-1-04 to 6-30-07
Douglas A. Ovia	D	56 Broad Street	7-1-04 to 6-30-07

Historic District Commission

Jennifer H. Wolf	U	19 Morrison Avenue	7-1-04 to 6-30-09
Alternate:			
Tracey E. McDougall	D	45 Nott Street	7-1-04 to 6-30-09

Housing Authority

Paul T. Camarco	R	411 Church Street	7-1-04 to 6-30-09
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Human Rights & Relations Commission

Lorrie L. Adeyemi	D	110 Woodside Drive	7-1-04 to 6-30-07
Aurelio Interlandi	D	249 Willow Street	7-1-04 to 6-30-07

Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission

Frederick T. Clark	D	495 Wolcott Hill Road	7-1-04 to 6-30-07
Joseph M. Hallisey	D	101 Sunrise Terrace	7-1-04 to 6-30-07
Michael J. Scenti	D	226 Amherst Street	7-1-04 to 6-30-07
James M. Sweeney	D	82 Ridge Crest Circle	7-1-04 to 6-30-07

Insurance Committee

Christopher J. Lyons	D	21 Woodland Drive	7-1-04 to 6-30-09
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Library Board of Directors

Susan Grady	D	25 Westlook Road	7-1-04 to 6-30-07
Pauline Rodgers Moon	D	99 Sharon Lane, Unit 3	7-1-04 to 6-30-07
Karen E. Mortensen	R	24 Stockade Circle	7-1-04 to 6-30-07

Planning and Zoning Commission

Philip Knecht	D	100 Executive Square, #1208	7-1-04 to 6-30-07
Joseph L. Hammer	D	65 Broad Street	7-1-04 to 6-30-07
Robert P. Jurasin	D	265 Hang Dog Lane	7-1-04 to 6-30-07
Alternate:			
Peter Leombruni	D	200 Broad Street	7-1-04 to 6-30-07

Recreation & Parks Board, Advisory

Richard F. Lepore	D	7 Jay Street	7-1-04 to 6-30-07
Thomas A. Ragonese	D	140 Black Birch	7-1-04 to 6-30-07
Alternate:			
Charles J. Wood	D	263 Brimfield Road	7-1-04 to 6-30-06

School Projects Building Committee - Webb, Stillman & Physical Services

Daniel A. Camilliere	D	148 Ox Yoke Drive	7-1-04 to completion
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Selectmen/women

Harry L. Lichtenbaum	D	16 Towne House Lane	7-1-04 to 6-30-06
Beverly M. Noren	D	352 Middletown Avenue	7-1-04 to 6-30-06
Brian F. Zito	D	P.O. Box 290001, Wethersfield, CT 06129-001	7-1-04 to 6-30-06

Senior Citizens Advisory Committee

Estelle B. Knurek*	D	15 Pepperidge Road	7-1-04 to 6-30-06
Rev. Wendy Vencuss	Clergy	111 Prospect Street	7-1-04 to 6-30-06

* At-large

Shade Tree Commission

John S. Winiarski	U	239 Hartford Avenue	7-1-04 to 6-30-07
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Solomon Welles House Committee

Caroline Bedula	U	55 Holly Lane	7-1-04 to 6-30-07
Nancy C. Smith	D	23 Bunce Road	7-1-04 to 6-30-07

Board of Assessments

Brendan T. Flynn	D	109 Springdale Road	7-1-04 to 6-30-10
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Youth Advisory Board

Sharon DiGioia-Daskal	D	24 Griswold Road	7-1-04 to 6-30-07
Rebecca S. Kotkin (under 21)		28 Farms Village Road	7-1-04 to 6-30-07

Zoning Board of Appeals

Thomas J. Vaughan, Jr.	D	484 Coppermill Road	7-1-04 to 6-30-09
Alternate:			
Matthew J. Cholewa	D	90 Ox Yoke Drive	7-1-04to 6-30-09

", seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Adil moved **"TO APPOINT DEBORAH J. POERIO TO THE CENTRAL CONNECTICUT HEALTH DISTRICT FOR THE TERM OF JULY 1, 2004 TO JUNE 30, 2007"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Councilor Cascio asked Councilor Adil to provide information on the credentials of Ms. Poerio. Chairperson Morin said that Ms. Poerio is a nurse and comes well recommended.

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO APPOINT KITCH BREEN CZERNICKI TO THE CENTRAL CONNECTICUT HEALTH DISTRICT FOR THE TERM OF JULY 1, 2004 TO JUNE 30, 2007"**, seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

The following roll call vote was taken on the motion to appoint Ms. Poerio.

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

The motion passed 6-3-0.

The following roll call vote was taken on the motion to appoint Councilor Czernicki.

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

The motion failed 3-6-0.

At this time Councilor Czernicki resigned her position on the Central Connecticut Health District since the Board of Directors is in the process of reviewing the Director and she thinks it important for Ms. Poerio to use her skills to come on board and be brought up to date in order for her to cast her vote concerning the evaluation.

Councilor Forrest asked if this is a motion. Councilor Czernicki said that generally there needs to be a motion, a second, and a vote to accept a resignation.

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF KITCH BREEN CZERNICKI FROM THE CENTRAL CONNECTICUT HEALTH DISTRICT"**, seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Czernicki moved **"TO ACCEPT THE APPOINTMENT OF BARBARA J. RUHE TO THE YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE TERM OF JULY 1, 2004 TO JUNE 30, 2007"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Adil ABSTAINED. The motion passed 8-0-1.

Resolution Concerning Bond Referendum for Municipal Infrastructure

Councilor Czernicki moved **"TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION CONCERNING BOND REFERENDUM FOR MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Hemmann said that the key information contained in the fifth paragraph of the resolution indicates that the Town Staff will work together to prepare a bond package to be brought back to the Council for further discussion.

Councilor Czernicki said that the resolution has been brought forth for the best interest of all residents of Wethersfield. She said that there needs to be discussion regarding grant applications and it is time to address areas not recently addressed in the capital budget. She verified with the Town Manager that the time line indicates that the question would need to be developed before Labor Day.

Councilor Fortunato said that staff of both the Board of Education and the Town is working to put this type of cohesive plan together. She feels it important that the Infrastructure Committee take a role in working with the Staff in developing a plan to be brought to the Council. She said that the proposed resolution is premature and she would rather see the matter referred to the Infrastructure Committee followed by the Budget & Finance Committee with a recommendation back to the Council.

Councilor Fortunato moved **"TO REFER THE RESOLUTION CONCERNING BOND REFERENDUM FOR**

MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE FOLLOWED BY THE BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE, TO PROVIDE A RECOMMENDATION BACK TO THE COUNCIL", seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis.

Councilor Forrest said that the recommended referendum is right for discussion and a key issue is redevelopment of the Silas Deane Highway.

Councilor Czernicki asked if there can be discussion when a referral is moved. The Town Clerk said that she is unsure of this.

Chairperson Morin said that the proposed resolution warrants discussion.

Councilor Fortunato withdrew her motion for the purpose of further discussion of the proposed resolution.

Councilor Forrest said that the redevelopment of the Silas Deane Highway is a premium package which is not included in the proposed resolution.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION TO INCLUDE BONDING MONIES FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED WITH THE EDIC"**, seconded by Councilor Adil.

Councilor Hemmann asked if this redevelopment language is necessary since the fifth paragraph of the proposed resolution already states that the Town staff will prepare a bond package for the repair and maintenance of the roads, buildings, and other assets of the Town. The Town Manager said that she would prefer to see the wording "redevelopment" in the resolution.

Councilor Czernicki asked Councilor Forrest if his amendment focuses on the redevelopment of property. Councilor Forrest said that he is talking about the newly created Silas Deane Highway Redevelopment Committee and their need for funding to redevelop the Silas Deane Highway.

Chairperson Morin said that this has not yet been created. Councilor Adil said that, technically, the EDIC has development authority and that Councilor Forrest is trying to make funds available to them for development along the Silas Deane Highway.

Councilor Forrest said that his motion's intent is to amend the resolution to include a reference to the possibility for bonding money to be looked at by the Silas Deane subcommittee.

Councilor Montinieri said that the Town Planner, Peter Gillespie, is in the process of developing a memo outlining exactly what the development agency is all about and what their role is. She said that it is uncomfortable to include the agency without it yet being developed but she can understand why it should be included now and have the information forthcoming.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis asked if the issue is not addressed at this time, could it be considered as part of the resolution at a future time. He asked if there would be anything prohibiting a redevelopment agency from using some bonding funds at a later time, without it being part of the resolution now. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that if the Council goes to bond for any money for a redevelopment agency and is shooting for a referendum in November, it has to be listed.

Chairperson Morin said that this is a very ambitious plan and he is concerned that it is a large amount of money for which to go out to referendum. Since the resolution states that it is for the purpose of generating discussion, Chairperson Morin verified that the Council is not tied to the stated numbers if the resolution is approved.

Councilor Czernicki stated that the resolution is solely for the purposes of discussion and development. The numbers listed in the resolution are subject to change. The intent of the resolution is to open dialog on the issues listed in the resolution.

Councilor Adil said that the projects listed are all laudable and have been previously discussed. He is concerned over the bonding for roofs and windows as these should be handled in the capital budget.

Chairperson Morin suggested that Town Manager Bonnie Therrien invite a financial advisor to meet with the Council to review how the Town stands financially regarding bond availability. This may help the Council with the overall discussion of these projects.

Councilor Fortunato said that the analysis of the capital improvement plan is currently being reviewed by Town staff. She said that projects could perhaps be bundled for bonding. She asked the Town Manager if the resolution can be revisited at a later time to include the redevelopment language, or should it be added now. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that if the redevelopment is something that the Council would like to have the staff review; it should be added to the resolution now.

Councilor Cascio commented that a Shared Services member spoke to the Council regarding capital improvements and topics that have been on the list for over twenty years. He said that the items will be reevaluated and prioritized. Councilor Cascio said regarding road repair that if a road appears on the list for a particular year and there is not time to work on the road that year, it does not get done for possibly another twenty years. He said that the software regarding the inventory of road repairs needs to be reassessed because there are many roads in Wethersfield on the list requiring attention and have not been done for a number of reasons. Councilor Cascio feels that there is clearly a flaw in the computer software and printout for road repair. Councilor Cascio said that he agrees with Councilor Forrest's amendment to include the additional language in the resolution for discussion purposes. He asked if it would be possible to begin the discussion with the financial advisor at the second Council meeting in July. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this would be possible.

Councilor Forrest said that he discussed the road repair program with Town Engineer Mike Turner and there is no glitch in the computer system. He said that there are legitimate reasons why the list is prepared as it is. He said that the list considers the amount of funding and the nature of the repair. These factors determine the efficiency of the repair and these factors can change from year to year.

Councilor Cascio said that there is a well-traveled road in Town that he is watching which has appeared on the list and it has yet to be paved.

Councilor Czernicki reminded the Council that there will be no meeting on August 2; therefore, it is imperative that as much information as possible be obtained from Town staff for the July 19 Council meeting. She asked what the bonding capacity was which was reported approximately one year ago. The Town Manager said that she has the full report which will be updated and information will be provided to the Council.

Chairperson Morin said that \$850,000 per year needs to be spent in order to keep up with the maintenance of the roads in Town. He said that this amount has not been budgeted for the past couple of years, or for the upcoming fiscal year. He said that in order to catch up, this will need to be put out to bond.

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

Councilor Fortunato moved **"TO REFER THE AMENDED RESOLUTION CONCERNING BOND REFERENDUM FOR MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE FOLLOWED BY THE BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE, TO PROVIDE A RECOMMENDATION BACK TO THE COUNCIL"**, seconded by Councilor Adil.

Chairperson Morin said that the information obtained will be prepared by Town staff and made available for the July 19 Council meeting. Councilor Fortunato said that she is also thinking about the Shared Services Committee and how to make this work with them as well.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she recommends a joint meeting of the Infrastructure Committee and the Budget & Finance Committee.

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

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Acceptance of Jacob Drive

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that there have been a number of concerns voiced by residents of Jacob Drive. She said that the cul-de-sac was put in under the Town's then current zoning laws and since that time there has been a change to the zoning regulations and the way that cul-de-sacs are constructed. She said that the newer, bigger fire trucks have issues getting into the cul-de-sacs; therefore the smaller trucks are sent to these locations and there is not a safety issue. The Town Manager said that the smaller plows are used in these areas in the winter. She said that the cul-de-sac could be removed for a cost of approximately \$4,500.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis asked if the removal of the island would allow for the use of larger equipment, both fire and snow removal. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this is so, but there is not currently funding to achieve this.

Councilor Cascio asked if the road has not been accepted because of the construction by the developer. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the developer is finished with the project as per the approved plans and the Council has yet to accept the road.

Councilor Adil asked the Town Manager how many more islands like this there are in Wethersfield. She said that there are others in Town. Councilor Adil said that all of the cul-de-sacs should be looked at to possibly take care of them all at one time, rather than piece meal. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the new zoning regulations propose to no longer allow islands in cul-de-sacs.

Councilor Hemmann said that she is concerned with setting a precedent by removing the cul-de-sac on Adams Lane and is also concerned that if the Council accepts the road and then there is a problem, this will be detrimental. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the Council should accept the road because the developer did all the work according to the specs provided by the Town.

Councilor Czernicki moved "**TO TRANSFER \$4,500 FROM THE 2003-2004 FUND BALANCE TO BE USED TO REMOVE THE CUL-DE-SAC FROM JACOB DRIVE**", seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Fortunato asked the Town Manager to explain Mr. Turner's recommendation that the Council accept Jacob Drive as a town road and that the Town hold a one year maintenance bond from the date of acceptance. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that there is a maintenance bond held each time a road is accepted. If there is a problem with the road within one year, the maintenance bond is used to repair it. Councilor Fortunato said that the Council should possibly not accept the road yet. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the removal of the island from Jacob Drive is the Town's responsibility, not the developer's. Should there be damage sustained when the Town removes the island, the developer will not let the Town take the maintenance bond. Councilor Fortunato asked if the residents were initially informed that there would be a cul-de-sac constructed on Jacob Drive. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that usually a resident hasn't yet purchased a house when Planning & Zoning is approving a development. They may have seen a sketch of what the road looked like.

Councilor Forrest said that he believes that the road must first be accepted before a motion can be made to allow for funding to remove the island.

Councilor Montinieri agreed that the road needs to be accepted and suggested that the island remain in the cul-de-sac. She said that the island does not create a safety hazard, but that the maintenance issue needs to be worked out.

Councilor Cascio asked if there is truly a safety issue. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that there is not. In the

event of a major fire with the need for a large fire truck in the cul-de-sac, it may go up over the curb and possibly cause damage, but it will get in.

Councilor Czernicki said that she is concerned that the undercarriage of the truck could possibly be damaged by the curbing. She said that she understands that it is the Town's obligation to maintain the grassy area of the island twice per year once the street is accepted. She verified that the repair of any damage caused to the curbing by a Town vehicle is also the responsibility of the Town. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this is correct.

Councilor Forrest agreed with Councilor Czernicki that the Town may end up spending more money to repair the curbing as opposed to spending \$4,500 to remove the island now. He'd like to see the island removed.

Chairperson Morin said that he is concerned about what happens to the one year maintenance bond if the island is removed and any structural integrity is compromised. He suggested accepting the road as it is and allocating funds in the next budget to remove the island. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that delaying the island removal would protect the maintenance bond.

Councilor Cascio said that because of the one year maintenance bond, the Town is obligated to do nothing to the street for that period.

Councilor Czernicki withdrew her motion to remove the cul-de-sac at this time; however, she will not vote to accept the road because she feels that there are legitimate public safety issues.

Councilor Adil moved **"TO ACCEPT THE RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ACCEPTANCE OF JACOB DRIVE FROM THE SOUTH STREETLINE OF HIGHLAND STREET TO AND INCLUDING THE CUL DE SAC AS A PUBLIC ROAD AND WAY IN THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD"**, seconded by Councilor Montinieri.

Councilor Cascio asked the Town Manager to verify if the maintenance bond is voided by any work being done to the road within the one year period.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Czernicki and Councilor Hemmann voted NAY. The motion passed 7-2-0.

Councilor Montinieri and Councilor Adil both left the meeting at this time (9:05 p.m.).

OTHER BUSINESS

Aetna Ambulance Contract

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that the contract between the Wethersfield Volunteer Ambulance Association, the Town and Aetna Ambulance expires June 30, 2004. She said that it is a good idea to extend the contract for longer than a one-year term. She said that Joyce Dussault, President of the Wethersfield Volunteer Ambulance Association is present as well as Jim Garrow from Aetna Ambulance. She said that the contract is fair and does not cost the Town any money. She has not had a complaint about either ambulance service since she has been with the Town. The new contract would be for a three year period.

Councilor Montinieri and Councilor Adil returned to the meeting at this time (9:10 p.m.).

Deputy Mayor Karangekis moved **"TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE WETHERSFIELD AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION, THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD, AND AETNA AMBULANCE FOR A THREE YEAR CONTRACT"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Councilor Forrest left the meeting at this time (9:10 p.m.).

Councilor Hemmann asked Ms. Dussault and Mr. Garrow if they are satisfied with the arrangements of the contract.

Ms. Dussault said that she is definitely satisfied and there are no problems, issues, or concerns. Mr. Garrow said that he and Ms. Dussault will be meeting with CMED on Monday to resolve any dispatching issues.

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

Councilor Czernicki thanked both Ms. Dussault and Mr. Garrow for their service to the Wethersfield community.

Councilor Forrest returned to the meeting at this time (9:15 p.m.).

Delay Costs - Nott Street Blasting

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that the Department of Transportation (DOT) received a letter from Roger Tabshey, Vice President of General Paving and Construction Corporation about costs that he should be reimbursed. The DOT called a meeting and said that some of the costs would need to be borne by the Town for changing blasters. There are three items to be addressed and they are as follows:

1. New pre-blast surveys had to be completed by the new blaster. Mr. Tabshey has been billed \$6,000 for these new surveys.
2. Mr. Tabshey has also been billed \$350 for a State Fire Marshall permit as the new blaster had to acquire a new permit.
3. The DOT staff has also reviewed Blastech's bid and Ravizza's bid and there is a price difference for the Rock-In-Trench Excavation that is estimated to be \$2,750 and a difference in price for rock excavation which is estimated at \$23,000 on the high side.

Councilor Adil moved **"TO TRANSFER APPROXIMATELY \$33,100 FROM THE 2003-2004 FUND BALANCE TO BE USED FOR THE TOWN'S SHARE OF THE NOTT STREET ROAD PROJECT"**, seconded by Councilor Fortunato.

Councilor Hemmann moved **"TO AMEND THE MOTION TO STATE "NOT MORE THAN" RATHER THAN APPROXIMATELY"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Cascio stated that the costs are not due to a delay but rather a change in the costs to do business.

Councilor Fortunato pointed out that Mr. Tabshey's letter does use the term "delay" in several places as rationale for the increased costs. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that he was originally going to charge for delay costs and withdrew this.

Councilor Czernicki asked if there has been any information from Ravizza regarding the length of time for the blasting. She said that originally the length of time would be two weeks and now it is up to four weeks. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the estimated time is three to four weeks at most. The number of blasts per day could be four to six.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Czernicki and Chairperson Morin ABSTAINED. The motion passed 7-0-2.

BIDS

Award of Design - Highcrest Roof Replacement

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that money is allotted in next year's budget to complete the Highcrest Roof Replacement project and the on-call architects have been contacted to provide a price for the design and construction of the project. The low price is with DeCarlo and Doll, Inc. at a price of \$17,700.

Councilor Montinieri moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR THE DESIGN PORTION OF THE HIGHCREST**

SCHOOL ROOF REPLACEMENT TO DECARLO AND DOLL, INC. AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$17,700 FOR THE 2004-2005 BUDGET", seconded by Councilor Fortunato.

Councilor Hemmann asked why BL Companies' bid is twice that of the other two bidders. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she does not know but will find out why. She said that if their bid is high because they are too busy, then they should not be on the Town's on-call list.

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

Award of State Bid - Gang Mower and Wood Chipper

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien requested that the gang mower and wood chipper be awarded off the CT State Contract Award even though the funds are in next year's budget. This year's State Contract provides for better prices on both pieces of equipment.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR THE GANG MOWER IN THE 2004-2005 BUDGET TO TURF PRODUCTS FROM THE CT STATE BID IN THE AMOUNT OF \$68,863.92 AND THE WOOD CHIPPER FOR 2004-2005 TO TYLER EQUIPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,385 BY TRANSFERRING THE NECESSARY MONEY NEEDED FOR THE GANG MOWER FROM THE WOOD CHIPPER AND DUMP TRUCK BALANCES"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Award of State Bid - Dump Trucks

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the Town went out to bid and the cost of \$198,750 is within the budgeted amount of \$200,000. She said that it will take approximately nine months for the trucks to be delivered to the Town.

Councilor Czernicki moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR TWO DUMP TRUCKS (WITH ONE PLOW OPTION) TO INTERSTATE FORD AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$198,750"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Adil expressed concern that the nine month delivery time would be almost at the end of winter. She said that it takes this amount of time, especially with all the orders coming in. She said that this is actually early to be putting in the order.

Councilor Cascio asked what color the trucks will be. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that they will look like the rest of the Town's fleet.

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

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

Proposed Blasting Ordinance

Section 1. Purpose of this ordinance:

- A. To insure that all blasting activity is regulated so as to promote the maximum levels of safety and the minimum level of disruption to the surrounding environment.

Section 2. Definitions:

- A. Blasting Agent - Any Material, composition or mixture intended for blasting, consisting substantially of a fuel and oxidizer, none of the ingredients of which is an explosive as defined in this ordinance and the finished product of which, as mixed and packaged for use or shipment, cannot be detonated by the test procedure established by regulations promulgated by the State of Connecticut, Department of Public Safety, Office of State Fire Marshal.
- B. Explosive - Any chemical compound or any mechanical mixture that contains oxidizing and combustible units or

other ingredients in such proportions, quantities or packaging that ignition by fire, friction, concussion, percussion or detonator may cause such a sudden generation of highly heated gases that the resultant gaseous pressure is capable of destroying life or limb or of producing destructive effects to contiguous nitrocellulose in sheets or rods or grains not under one-eighth (1/8) of an inch in diameter, wet nitrocellulose containing twenty percent (20%) or more moisture and wet nitro starch containing twenty percent (20%) or more moisture, manufactured articles shall not be held to be explosive when the individual units contain explosives in such limited quantity, of such nature or in such packing that it is impossible to produce a simultaneous or destructive explosion of such units to the injury or life, limb or property by fire, friction, concussion, percussion or detonator, including fixed ammunition for small arms, firecrackers, safety fuses and matches. "Explosive", as used in this ordinance, shall not be deemed to include gasoline, kerosene, naphtha, turpentine or benzene.

Section 2. Guidelines:

- A. The Wethersfield Fire Marshal or his/her designee shall be present for each blast. The cost of any independent consultant engaged by and representing the Wethersfield Fire Marshal for the purposes of monitoring any blast shall be borne by the blasting company, contractor or developer.
- B. The contractor with seven (7) days prior notice of the intended blast shall provide a pre-established schedule of blasting.
- C. Pre-blast surveys of buildings shall be conducted in the area designated by the Wethersfield Fire Marshal or his/her designee, and will include both internal and external review with photographs. Costs of pre-blast surveys shall be borne by the blasting company, contractor or developer.
- D. Copies of pre-blast and post-blast surveys, seismograph records and proof of seismograph calibration shall be made available to the Wethersfield Fire Marshal or his/her designee.
- E. The number and locations of required seismographs shall be placed on-site as required by the Wethersfield Fire Marshal or his/her designee, to monitor ground vibrations. Independent seismograph recordings shall be taken with the costs to be borne by the blasting company, contractor or developer.
- F. Blasting charges will start at the lowest reasonable point, not to exceed a 1.0-inch per second peak particle velocity at a minimum 20-hertz, or higher frequencies relative to particle velocity.
- G. Steel cable matting and or rubber tire matting overburden are to be in place for each blast.
- H. The blasting company shall provide the Wethersfield Fire Marshal or his/her designee a current certificate of insurance.
- I. Blasting shall only be allowed between the hours of 08:30 a.m. and 04:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. No blasting shall occur on weekends or holidays.

Section 3. Permissions:

- A. The Town Council, Town Manager or Fire Marshal in the Town of Wethersfield has the right to deny any blasting company, contractor or developer a blasting permit.

PURPOSE:

To insure that all blasting activity is regulated so as to promote the maximum levels of safety and the minimum level of disruption to the surrounding environment.

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE 26, SECTION 97 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE

BE IT ORDAINED, THAT PART I ADMINISTRATIVE LEGISLATION, CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE 26, TOURISM COMMISSION, SECTION 97, MEMBERSHIP, TERMS, VACANCIES IS HEREBY AMENDED AS FOLLOWS {deletions are in brackets, additions are in bold}:

- A. The Tourism Commission shall be composed of seven members and two alternates appointed by the Council [for three-year terms initially expiring on June 30, 2001,] as follows:
 1. One member of the Wethersfield Historical Society.
 2. One member of the Old Wethersfield Shopkeepers Association.
 3. One member of the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum.

4. One member of the Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce.
 5. One member of the Greater Hartford Tourism District.
 6. One member of the Economic Development and Improvement Commission.
 7. One resident of the Town of Wethersfield.
 8. **Two members of the business community.**
 9. Two alternates from any of the above.
- B. There shall also be [two] **three** ex-officio members, one appointed by the Historic District Commission, [and] one appointed by the Committee on Culture and the Arts **and one appointed by the Nature Center.** [All subsequent appointments shall be for terms of three years commencing the first day of July. Any vacancy in membership of the Commission shall be filled by the Council for the unexpired term of such member.]
- C. 1. **Beginning July 1, 2004, the Commission members shall be appointed in the following manner:**
- a. **The Commission members appointed from the Wethersfield Historical Society, the Old Wethersfield Shopkeepers Association, the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum and one member of the business community shall serve a term of three years to expire on June 30, 2007.**
 - b. **The Commission members appointed from the Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Hartford Tourism District, and one member of the business community, as well as the two alternates, shall serve a term of two years to expire June 30, 2006.**
 - c. **The Commission members appointed from the Economic Development and Improvement Commission, the resident of the Town of Wethersfield, and the three ex-officio members shall serve a term of one year to expire June 30, 2005.**
2. **All subsequent appointments shall be for terms of three years commencing on the first day of July.**
 3. **Any vacancy in membership of the Commission shall be filled by the Council for the unexpired term of such member.**

PURPOSE:

To increase involvement of the business community and to provide for staggered membership terms for Commission members in order to provide continuity for the Commission.

MINUTES

Councilor Adil moved "**TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 7, 2004**", seconded by Councilor Czernicki. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Cascio and Councilor Hemmann ABSTAINED. The motion passed 7-0-2.

Councilor Fortunato moved "**TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF JUNE 16, 2004**", seconded by Councilor Hemmann. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Czernicki ABSTAINED. The motion passed 8-0-1.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:35 p.m., Councilor Czernicki moved "**TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**" seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

At 10:01 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 10:02 p.m., Councilor Forrest moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Hemmann. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk