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JULY 19, 2004 REGULAR MEETING

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on July 19, 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 (9:50 p.m.); Kathy Bagley, Director of Recreation and Parks; and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

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

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

Councilor Cascio moved "**TO ADD TO THE AGENDA THE ITEM REGARDING TOWN OWNED VEHICLES**", seconded by Councilor Czernicki. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HEARING

Charter Revision Draft Report

Repeal of An Act Concerning Enforcement of Motor Vehicle Property Tax Delinquencies - \$5.00 Fee

Thomas Wraight, 22 Coleman Road, spoke on the proposed Charter revisions. He said that he is unhappy with the difficult time he had in acquiring the most recent draft of the revisions.

Councilor Czernicki asked Chairperson Morin which of the three "final draft" reports of the Charter revision was being used this evening as she has three copies, June 14, 2004, June 29, 2004, and June 30, 2004. Chairperson Morin said that this may have to be addressed at a special meeting unless the Chairperson of the Charter Revision Commission can come forward to answer questions. Councilor Czernicki said that she would like to see this happen so that the public has the opportunity to review the latest version of the revisions. Chairperson Morin asked Mr. Wraight if he would like to continue with his comments, or wait until Ms. Munroe makes her comments. Mr. Wraight said that he would like to continue at this point.

Mr. Wraight spoke of his opposition to the proposed changes for the selection of the Mayor. He said that, should this proposal go forward, he would like to see it as a separate question on the referendum in November as it represents a significant change to the leadership in Wethersfield. Mr. Wraight said that he agrees that the Town Attorney should assist citizens in the preparation of resolutions or ordinances for referendum petition. He believes that this should be added to the duties of the Town Attorney and should also be added to Sections 309 and 312. Mr. Wraight suggested that the word "should" be changed to "shall" in Section 503 and to add to the duties of the Town Attorney "and to advise and assist electors of the Town in the preparation of ordinances or resolutions for referendum petitions as provided in Sections 309, 310, and 312 of this Charter". Mr. Wraight commented that the proposed deletions in Section 602 contradict the Police contract which refers to them. Regarding the Division of Fire, Mr. Wraight objects to the suggested deletions. Mr. Wraight spoke in opposition to the deletions in Section 703 with regard to available copies of the budget. Regarding the added sentence in Section 713 (b) which states that this section shall not apply to the Town

Attorney, Mr. Wraight feels that this contradicts Section 503 stating that the Town Attorney should be appointed by RFP. Mr. Wraight brought to the attention of the Council the addition regarding the Council's responsibility to establish, by ordinance, rules which shall apply to all Town contracts for creative products or professional services.

Geraldine Munroe, Chairperson of the Charter Revision Commission (CRC), came forward to explain that June 30, 2004 is the final draft of the report and is no different from the draft dated June 29, 2004. These copies include the addition to Section 312 regarding the Town Attorney's review of any proposed Ordinance and petition form.

Ed Kardas, 850 Cloverdale Circle spoke on the proposed Charter revisions regarding a budget referendum provision. He recommended that the Council instruct the CRC to rework its proposal to include a budget referendum provision.

George A. Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, stated that the Wethersfield Town Charter is the Town's constitution and that Charter revision is a serious task. Mr. Ruhe questioned the lack of confidence in the Charter Revision Commission. Mr. Ruhe said that the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. is concerned by members' commitment to the task of the Commission. Mr. Ruhe stated that the citizens/taxpayers come before the Council as equals who expect to be treated as such. He said that the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. will be pushing for citizen participation in the budget process. He said that the time has come for a budget referendum. The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. recommends that the Council refer to the requests in the letter of September 16, 2003 submitted to the Council and CRC and resolve the differing requirements of Sections 309 and 312. Mr. Ruhe said that the CRC needs to look at the Charter revisions from the citizens' perspective. Mr. Ruhe said that the current proposed Charter is unacceptable and needs to be sent back to the CRC for more work.

John Miller, 375 Pine Lane, complimented the CRC on a job well done. He finds the revisions very acceptable and supports the present means of electing the nine Council members and Chairperson. Mr. Miller said that he does not support a budget referendum. He said that he trusts the elected officials to make the budget decisions for the Town.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, commented that he is very disappointed with the revisions proposed by the CRC. He said that the Charter should include the right for citizens to call for a budget referendum. He said that the taxpayers, voters and residents of Wethersfield should be allowed to petition the Town Council to submit a Town Budget for a Town wide vote. He said that the Council is not elected on their financial expertise, but rather their popularity. Mr. Young said that he would like to see additional language in the Charter regarding the private property rights of Wethersfield citizens. He said that there need to be standards and controls developed by the Ethics Committee. Mr. Young said that Town public meetings should maximize the participation and input of all citizens, rather than limit the time allowed for public comment. Mr. Young recommended that the Charter be sent back to the CRC to further review the items he has addressed.

Councilor Adil left the meeting for five minutes at this time (7:55 p.m.).

Jeff Kotkin, 28 Farms Village Road, said that the public does not have the right of budget referendum on the State or Federal Budgets, and he is unaware of any publicly traded corporation or non-profit groups where shareholders or members have this right either. He said that those voted into office are trusted to set the budget and they can be voted out of office if this does not please the public. Therefore, Mr. Kotkin stated that he does not agree with a budget referendum for Wethersfield.

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. Mr. Orsini said that the removal of the five minute public comment at the end of the Council meetings was wrong. The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. believes that the Charter should be revised to include a minimum five minute public comment both before and after each Council meeting. He said that all public meetings should allow for public comment. Mr. Orsini said that the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. is very concerned about the recent behavior of the Council. He said that there is bullying, intimidation, bickering, and tension. He said that the make-up of the Council needs to be possibly revised to have an even number of members. This will force the members to work out what is best for the Town rather than rely on a majority vote. Mr. Orsini said that the duties of the Town Clerk and the Town Attorney should be expanded so that the language of petitions can be reviewed before going out for signatures. The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. believes that there should be sufficient copies of the budget available to all members of the

public requesting such. Mr. Orsini said that the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. believes that the budget referendum is the most important issue in Wethersfield. It affects the financial health of citizens and provides for checks and balances by the citizenry. He said that the CRC needs to be instructed to provide for a budget referendum in the Charter. The revised Charter will then be put out to the people who can vote whether they want this or not. Mr. Orsini said that the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. will petition for further Charter revision should there not be a budget referendum included in the currently proposed Charter.

Raul Rodriguez, 175 Beverly Road, said that it is unfair to refer to the Council as a bullying, bickering Council. He said that the Council members volunteer their time for what is best for the Town. Mr. Rodriguez said that he does not agree with a budget referendum for Wethersfield. He believes that it is a means for the residents to hold the budget hostage until they get what they want.

Rich Roberts, 60 Highview Avenue, commented that he does not agree with the proposal of a separate election for Mayor. Mr. Roberts said that the long-standing tradition of the Mayor being one of the highest vote getters of the majority party works well as it combines the public vote and the confidence of the Council members. Mr. Roberts said that he agrees with the language allowing the Town Attorney to review petitions. Mr. Roberts said that he finds the wording regarding the removal of appointed members from board and commissions to be dangerous and provides the opportunity for game-playing. Mr. Roberts suggested that the Personnel Appeals Board be reduced to three members as this is the number serving on the Board since at least 1975.

Barbara Ruhe, 79 Main Street, commented that she is concerned about petitioned ordinances having to go to the Town Attorney. She said that the language should read "may" go to the Town Attorney instead. She said that otherwise this is a denial of the citizens to use their right to petition the government by being forced to use the Town Attorney.

Brendan Flynn, 109 Springdale Road, complimented the CRC for their hard work and many hours devoted to the Charter revision. He does not agree with the Town Attorney reviewing and approving citizen petitions as the Town Attorney represents the Town Council and not individual citizens. This could present a conflict of interest. He recommended that the language pertaining to this be deleted. Mr. Flynn said that a form of budget referendum takes place every two years on election day when the community votes in their representatives to lead the Town. He said that a budget referendum can cause paralysis in a community.

Leigh Standish, 278 Hartford Avenue, a member of the Charter Revision Commission, stated that the language pertaining to the Town Attorney specifically reads "may"; therefore it provides citizens the opportunity of opinion from the Town Attorney or seek another opinion. He said that the motivation to elect a Mayor does not represent any emulation of the system in Rocky Hill, but rather used their structure as a model for the proposal. Mr. Standish said that he would hope that each election is issues-based rather than popularity-based. Mr. Standish said that he personally supports a budget referendum and believes that if the process is properly constructed, it is an appropriate check on an either too high or too low budget. Mr. Standish said that his proposal for a budget referendum was defeated by a great majority of those on the CRC.

Dan O'Connor, 34 Dorchester Road, thanked the members of the CRC for their time and energy. He said that he supports many of the ideas the Commission has brought forward. Mr. O'Connor said that he is concerned about and disagrees with the possible changing of the makeup of the Council and he believes that the members fight for what is right for the Town and its citizenry, rather than "bully" other members. Mr. O'Connor said that the Council should not be bullied by comments made by the public regarding Charter revision concerning a budget referendum.

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

Chairperson Morin announced that the Council will be entering into Executive Session following the regular meeting to discuss personnel matters and possible real estate negotiations.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Thomas Wraight, 22 Coleman Road, urged all citizens to get out to vote on the July 21 referendum. He said that the grant money will be used for good things in Wethersfield.

Councilor Forrest left the meeting for five minutes at this time (8:30 p.m.).

Maura Chance, 21 Willard Street, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Teen Theater Company which is sponsored by the Town's Recreation & Parks Department. The group includes young adults from Wethersfield, Simsbury, Manchester, and New Britain. She said that the group will be performing the musical "Babes in Arms" at Wethersfield High School on July 22, 23, and 24 at 7:30 p.m. with a 2:00 p.m. matinee on July 24 and invited all to attend.

Jane Sjoman, 769 Maple Street, spoke on behalf of the Friends of the Wethersfield Library in urging the public to vote "yes" on the July 21 referendum. She stressed that taxes will not increase as a result of the passage of the referendum. She said if the referendum does not pass, the renovations to the Town Hall, Library, and Community Center cannot be completed as planned.

John Miller, 375 Pine Lane, also urged the public to get out to vote on the July 21 referendum. Mr. Miller said that the children of Wethersfield should be encouraged to make use of the Town's athletic fields without the requirement of permission to use the field. Mr. Miller said that most of the Wethersfield baseball games are away games and the Town needs to get its priorities straight on the use of its playing fields.

Ballou Tooker, 65 Harmund Place, said that there is uneasiness in Town concerning the lighting of Cottone Field, especially by some residents of Westway. He said that it appears that the Council has already made up its mind regarding the project. Mr. Tooker commented that it has not been adequately explained to the citizens of Wethersfield how important the upcoming referendum is. He urged the public to vote "yes" on the referendum.

Carolyn Vallieres, 4 Wilcox Street, urged the public to vote "yes" on the referendum on July 21.

Leigh Standish, 278 Hartford Avenue, urged Wethersfield residents to vote "yes" on the July 21 referendum. He stressed that the referendum is strictly procedural to allow the Town to avail itself of grant money only if the referendum passes. He said that the money does not come out of the tax revenue stream in any way.

Shirley King, 43 Westway, urged the Council to consider the difference between a sports complex and a high school facility with regard to the lighting of Cottone Field. She said that she still questions why the Town Council is voting on the issue as she is under the impression that the Board of Education is responsible for the land on which Cottone Field sits. Ms. King said that should the Council approve the lighting, she'd like to see them go with the best possible plan and not cut corners when considering safety of the players and lighting spillage into the neighborhood. Ms. King stated that she is not in favor of the lights. Ms. King spoke in support of the upcoming referendum and said that she is not in favor of a budget referendum.

Judy Emmick, 88 Westway, commented that the intention is not to charge the children of Wethersfield to use Town fields. She said that charges would pertain to adults who use the fields on weekends and evenings. Ms. Emmick said that there is a problem with the sound at Town meetings being transmitted on the television. She suggested that, for those who cannot hear well or at all, there be signing provided at Town meetings. Ms. Emmick thanked Town Manager Bonnie Therrien for arranging the neighborhood meeting last week regarding field usage; however, she would like to see such meetings held on a more informal, personal basis with face-to-face interaction. Ms. Emmick said that the lighting for Cottone Field will be provided by private funds; however she has an issue with the conduits to be installed along the perimeter of the field. She asked why this will be charged to the taxpayers of Wethersfield. Ms. Emmick commented on a newspaper article regarding Simsbury's main athletic field and track. She said that the voters of Simsbury will have a say in the issue and that leaders in Simsbury are opposed to illumination of the field as this could result in non-school groups requesting use of the field, making it a noisier, busier place. Ms. Emmick said that the neighbors in Wethersfield are not done fighting.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, said that he is surprised about the discussion of the low usage of Cottone Field as the project was introduced as being able to sponsor 300-400 events. He is concerned over the types of advertisements that will be displayed at the field. Mr. Young commented on his reservations regarding bonding issues and the Town's payment of the bonds. Mr. Young said that there hasn't been enough information provided regarding the upcoming referendum. He said that the bond counsel should be held more accountable for the necessity of the referendum. Mr.

Young commented that a recent article in the Hartford Courant regarding SAT scores around the State reported that Wethersfield did not do very well. He said that Wethersfield is spending a lot of money on education and not seeing very good results.

Peter Sposito, a resident of Glastonbury, said that he was hired for the past two and one-half years as a private investigator on the matter of Winding Brook Turf Farm and the Town of Wethersfield Millwoods Park/Goff Brook area. Mr. Sposito, speaking personally on behalf of the Town's wetlands, said that he opposes the pumping of water by the Winding Brook Turf Farm from Goff Brook due to excessive noise, pollution, butchering of wetlands vegetation, misuse of chemicals, and trespassing. He said that Winding Brook Turf Farm was denied a Connecticut Wetlands permit to extract water from Goff Brook on September 10, 2003 and they have not reapplied. He finds it unbelievable that the Town has allowed the use of its park for the past twenty years without a fee, regulations, or Town committee meetings. The Town has subsidized a successful business. Mr. Sposito said that enough people, as well as the wetlands, have suffered and that the democratic system on this matter has been sacrificed.

Ron Rodd, 88 Westway, commented that the field lighting design was made public and he has had the opportunity to review it. Mr. Rodd gave a summary of the history of events having taken place regarding the lighting. Mr. Rodd said that the proposed lighting design is a compromise in order to reduce costs. The compromise is being made at the expense of the residents of Westway and Church Street. Mr. Rodd said that he formally requests that light trespass be restricted on Cottone Field. He said that this request makes the surrounding area a Zone E-1 which allows for one lux or .1 foot candles. Mr. Rodd said that the current lighting design allows for light trespass to be 2-166 times this amount to be cast off the eastern boundary of Cottone Field. He said that no neighborhood should be subjected to this type of disturbance. He urged the Council to look at the lighting design as if they lived on Westway or Church Street and whether they would like this amount of lighting cast into their home.

Margaret Hunt, 26 Westlook Road, spoke on the Nott Street blasting and thanked Town Manager Bonnie Therrien for returning her phone calls promptly and courteously. She also thanked Councilor Montinieri for visiting her home on the first day of blasting to witness the effects for herself and listen to any feedback regarding the blasting. Ms. Hunt quoted from the Town ordinance pertaining to blasting. She said that the blasting being conducted is above the standard amount provided for in the ordinance. Ms. Hunt asked if the Wethersfield Fire Marshall could provide a log of the seismographic reading for each blast. Ms. Hunt said that some residents of the area are concerned over the attitude of the construction workers and police officers on site. Ms. Hunt stated that she is concerned over the speeding traffic down her street due to the detour.

Cathy Boyes, 20 Westlook, commented that she did not find any of the blasts to be tremendous, but can understand how those residents closer to the site may have problems. She said that detouring the traffic is a problem. Ms. Boyes also commented on her high tax bill. She commended the CRC for all of their hard work and thanked the residents of Wethersfield who have taken the time to comment on the proposed revision. She urged the Council not to approve the proposed Charter as there are still areas to be revised. Ms. Boyes said that she has not received enough information on the upcoming referendum and urged citizens to get out and vote. Ms. Boyes asked if the person sitting in the Town Manager's seat in her absence could be introduced to the public. Ms. Boyes also asked why some letters submitted to the Mayor are read publicly and others are not.

Chairperson Morin introduced Director of Recreation and Parks Kathy Bagley who is filling in for Town Manager Bonnie Therrien during her absence from tonight's meeting.

George A. Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, commented that, regarding the lighting of Cottone Field, the Town Council is spending a lot of time on an issue on which they have no authority. He suggested that a workshop be held with an unbiased technical expert who can explain the lighting design proposed. Mr. Ruhe commented on the bonding ordinance item saying that he will not support any bonding. He said that every dollar spent, even grant money, comes out of the taxpayers' pockets. Mr. Ruhe commented on the number of referendum questions that may appear on the November ballot. Mr. Ruhe is opposed to the pumping of water by the Winding Brook Turf Farm.

Dan O'Connor, 34 Dorchester Road, spoke in support of the July 21 referendum and urged the public to vote in support of it. Mr. O'Connor also spoke in support of the lighting of Cottone Field. He said that he has been approached by

children who are excited to play at the new field. Mr. O'Connor said that lighting expert Sheila Suppicich should be consulted by the Council with any questions they have regarding the lighting of the field and not listen to the comments of those who are not experts in lighting. He urged the Council to move forward with the lighting of the field.

Paul Flannery, 382 Ridge Road, addressed the issue of parking on Town snow shelves. He said that cars parked on the snow shelf are unsightly. Mr. Flannery spoke on concerns regarding the size of current fire trucks and their accessibility to both hydrants and buildings.

Jim Clynch, 903 Ridge Road, commented on Wethersfield's need for a new Post Office. He said that the current Post Office is a disgrace. He recommended that a letter to the proper authority be sent from the Town regarding a relocation of the Post Office. Mr. Clynch also commented on the cuts in the Board of Education budget. Mr. Clynch spoke of the current renovation projects in Simsbury.

Harry Lichtenbaum, 16 Towne House Lane, commented on the July 21 referendum and his concern that it may not pass. He feels that a "yes" vote is obligatory.

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. regarding the petitions they submitted recently which the Council voted not to accept under the advice of the Town Attorney. As a result, the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc., July 16, 2004 filed a complaint against the Town of Wethersfield and the Wethersfield Town Council with the Superior Court. The order sought would compel the Council to follow the requirements of the Town Charter putting the proposed ordinances concerning athletic field lights and artificial turf to a vote on November 2, 2004, allowing the taxpayers of Wethersfield to voice their position on these proposals. Mr. Orsini commented on the bonding agenda item that the Town needs to take a "time out" as the Town residents are already sinking financially due to tax increases. Mr. Orsini shared with the Council responses to a survey of residents by the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. He said that it is felt that Chairperson Morin and his fellow colleagues have deliberately and systematically divided the Wethersfield community. It is also felt that the public has been muzzled by eliminating public comment at the end of the Council meetings, that the Council has pushed through the spending of over \$1 million at Cottone Field without a referendum, that the Council has rejected the petition addressing artificial turf and lights, that the CRC has rejected the provision for a budget referendum in the Town Charter, and that the Council has approved the single largest spending increase in years which was devastating to many residents.

Brendan Flynn, 109 Springdale Road, urged residents to vote "yes" on the July 21 referendum. He said that the Town needs to take advantage of the funding for the long-overdue improvements to the Town Hall, Library, and Community Center. Mr. Flynn commented that he feels there is adequate time allowed during the Council meetings for public comment, as is shown at tonight's meeting. He said there is a lot of debate and issues addressed.

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

COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMENTS

Councilor Adil reported that the Recreation & Parks Committee has begun a review of all sports groups in Town. He said that there is a problem with field availability throughout Town and it was said that the renovations to Cottone Field could free up other fields. The group is also prioritizing the phases of the Mill Woods Master Plan. Councilor Adil reported that the Budget & Finance Committee held a workshop with the Town's Financial Advisor to discuss bonding and the Town's financial position.

Councilor Fortunato reported that the Shared Services Committee met earlier this evening and that there are four subcommittees working with information from the Fireside Chat and they will provide their reports to the Shared Services Committee in September. She reported that two School Building Committee members attended the meeting and gave an update of the projects. She said it was reported that the Webb School bids that have come in are putting the project over budget and the Council may need to go back out for additional bond money. Councilor Fortunato said that the Board of Education has inquired whether the Strategic Planning Committee composition has yet been determined as it was recommended that a Board of Education member be added to the Committee. She said that the Board of Education members have asked for a list of projects that the Council is considering for possible referendum

as well as a list of questions from Cottone Field neighbors regarding Cottone Field.

Councilor Montinieri reported that she attended the School Building Committee meeting and said that there is questioning as to whether there is enough funding to complete the Webb project. She said that the meeting with the Cottone Field neighbors was very productive and provided an opportunity for open dialog on the issues. Councilor Montinieri said that the Historical Society will be re-roofing the Hurlburt-Dunham House due to a donation they have received. Councilor Montinieri said that she has visited Nott Street during the blasting and reported that things are proceeding with very few complaints from residents. Councilor Montinieri reported that the Wethersfield High School Dance Team attended a camp at Southern Connecticut University and returned with a First Place trophy for their routines and a Leadership Award. Councilor Montinieri reported that the Metropatterns Public Forum scheduled for September 22, 2004 will hold a planning meeting on July 25 and she invited the public to attend.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis left the meeting for three minutes at this time (10:10 p.m.).

Councilor Cascio stated that the referendum vote on July 21 is very critical and the Town needs for it to pass. He said that the comments made earlier by Mr. Young were inaccurate as the article referred to Master Test scores, not SAT's. He said that Wethersfield ranked 47th or 49th in Connecticut with one area of deficiency. Councilor Cascio said that Wethersfield is a community that tests all of their children, not just a select group. Councilor Cascio said that he attended the Shared Services meeting and reported that the building projects are all on time. He said that the Committee is looking to obtain a "safety net" of funding. Councilor Cascio said that the contractor is responsible for one year for plantings in front of the Silas Deane Middle School and funds are being held for this. Councilor Cascio reported that there is construction underway to install cement pillars in the parking lot at Mikey's Place. He said that he is unaware of the Council approving this or if the project is privately funded. He also questioned whether the project has to be approved by the Historical Society. Councilor Cascio said that he is concerned with the Central Connecticut Health District meeting held on July 8 and asked if there was a quorum at the meeting and if the new appointee attended. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that there was not a quorum and the new appointee was not in attendance. Councilor Cascio said that the Cottone Field neighbors' meeting determined the beginning of a new process of communication with both the Town Council and Town Staff. He apologized for sitting at the back of the room; he said he came in late and just took a seat. Councilor Cascio wanted to make it clear that in September the field will have a new look, but there will be no lights nor additional games or field usage at that time.

Councilor Adil said that he also sat at the back of the room during the Cottone Field neighbors' meeting in order to listen to what was being said, rather than to talk. He suggested that signs be posted at the normal polling places indicating that the voting for the referendum is taking place at the Community Center.

Councilor Czernicki stated that she has seen that at the southernmost part of Onlook Street at Westlook there is a detour sign stopping traffic from proceeding eastwardly on Onlook. She said that it would help to alleviate traffic if traffic were allowed to turn onto Onlook. She asked the Town Manager to look into this. Councilor Czernicki asked the Town Manager if she knows anything about the portable toilet on the Green being burned and the trees scorched. The Town Manager said that she is unaware of this, but will look into it. Councilor Czernicki asked if the voting machines have been checked and are all in working order. Town Clerk Sassano said that the mechanics have set up the machines and that tomorrow the registrars will be going out to test the eleven machines to insure that they are all in working order. Councilor Czernicki said that she requested two weeks ago that the Fire Marshall send her the seismographic readings from the Nott Street blasting and has yet to receive this information. Councilor Czernicki thanked the Wethersfield Police Department for monitoring the speeds along Crest Street and Westlook. She requested that if this continues, that the monitoring be conducted during the hours of 7:00-9:00 a.m., 12:00-1:00 p.m., 4:00-6:00 p.m. and on weekends. Councilor Czernicki reported that she attended the Emergency Management Services meeting last week and said that Dick Fippinger has done a wonderful job in outlining what would have to happen and who would have to be in place should a disaster befall Wethersfield.

Chairperson Morin announced that the ribbon cutting for the grand opening of Bed, Bath, and Beyond will take place on Thursday, July 22 at 10:00 a.m. Chairperson Morin reminded all to vote on the referendum on July 21 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Pitkin Community Center. Chairperson Morin announced that there will be summer concerts at the Wethersfield Cove on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. through August. Chairperson Morin said that he and the Town

Manager have personally met with a representative from Senator Lieberman's office to discuss a new Post Office in Wethersfield. He said that the Town Manager has also sent a letter to the Postmaster General in Hartford making him aware of the need.

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Adil moved "**TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF DAMON HERRING FROM THE ADVISORY RECREATION & PARKS BOARD**", seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE.

Councilor Cascio asked what the ending date of Mr. Herring's term would have been and why he is resigning. Councilor Adil said that he suspects Mr. Herring is resigning because his business is taking off.

The motion passed 9-0-0.

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

WETHERSFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

PAUL HUTCHEON TE 505 SILAS DEANE HWY 7-1-04 TO 6-30-06

SOLOMON WELLS HOUSE COMMITTEE

ELIZABETH C. DUNNE D 54 RIDGE ROAD 7-19-04 TO 6-30-07

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION COMMITTEE

JAMES J. SHUGRUE D 83 SUNRISE TER 1-4-04 TO 1-5-06

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

Charter Revision Recommendations

Councilor Cascio asked if the Council has to make specific recommendations or if the Charter revisions can be sent back to the Committee with the comments made previously at tonight's meeting. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the recommendations have to come from the Council and that now is the time for the Council to make changes and suggestions.

Councilor Adil commended the Charter Revision Committee for their hard work. He spoke to the recommendation of a directly elected Mayor. He said that he prefers to follow the Newington model where the candidate either wins and becomes Mayor or loses and does not serve at all rather than that of Rocky Hill which allows for the loser to still serve on the Council should he/she achieve enough votes. Councilor Adil also addressed his concern over the charge of the Town Attorney to rule on referendum requests. He said that the Town Attorney serves as the voice of the Council and not as a representative of the citizenry and this could present a problem.

Councilor Fortunato referred to a July 6, 2004 memo from the Town Clerk which outlines the options available to the Council. The first is for the Council to approve the report as submitted, which is probably not the option to be currently considered. One other is to approve the report with stated deletions to which citizens would have forty-five days to petition the deleted sections only to a referendum vote. The third option is to recommend that the Charter Revision Commission (CRC) "look at" stated suggestions. The CRC then has thirty days to report back to the Council to either agree or not recommend the suggestions. This last option would take additional meetings, but would allow enough time to meet the September 2, 2004 deadline. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien suggested that any suggestions by the Council tonight be referred back to the Charter Revision Commission for review. If the Charter should allow for the election of a Mayor, Councilor Fortunato would also like to see that the area dealing with filling vacancies if the Mayor should leave be addressed. She said that the Charter needs to explore this area to be clearer as to whether the

Deputy Mayor assumes the Mayor's role in this situation; if the Mayor is elected.

Chairperson Morin suggested that each Councilor express their concerns and then the Council can vote on whether these be sent back to the CRC or whether it is not the consensus of the Council to do so. The Council then reviewed the Proposed Charter section-by-section to suggest any changes.

Chapter I

Section 101 - none

Section 102 - none

Section 103 - none

Chapter II

Section 201 - none

Section 202 - Councilor Cascio moved **"TO SEND BACK TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION THE RECOMMENDATION THAT SECTION 202 REGARDING THE CHOOSING OF A MAYOR BE RESTORED TO ITS ORIGINAL WORDING TO ELECT NINE MEMBERS"**, seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

Councilor Forrest asked if it is possible to split up the Charter when it goes to referendum so that the issue of Mayor could be a separate question. He was told that this is possible as the Council will determine the questions.

Councilor Montinieri agreed with Councilor Cascio and Councilor Hemmann and stated that the public has also provided very good arguments as to why the current procedure should be left as is.

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

Section 203 - none

Section 204 - Councilor Czernicki moved **"TO SEND BACK TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE NUMBER BE CHANGED BACK TO SIX (6) MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND STRIKE THE WORDS "AND A CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR" "**, seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Forrest asked if these are recommendations back to the CRC or directives. He was told that they are recommendations.

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

Section 205 - Councilor Fortunato moved **"TO SEND BACK TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION THE RECOMMENDATION THAT IN THE EVENT THAT THE CRC DOES NOT ACCEPT THE COUNCIL'S PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE ELECTION OF THE MAYOR, TO CLARIFY HOW VACANCIES FOR THE MAYOR WILL BE FILLED"**, seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Section 206 - none

Section 207 - none

Section 208 - none

Section 209 - none

Chapter III

Section 301 - none

Section 302 - Councilor Cascio moved **"TO SEND BACK TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE LANGUAGE BE CHANGED TO ADDRESS THE PREVIOUS CHANGES"**, seconded by Councilor Hemmann. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Section 303 - none

Section 304 - Councilor Czernicki moved **"TO SEND BACK TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE STRIKEOUTS REFERRING TO THE CHAIRPERSON AND MAYOR BE ELIMINATED"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien clarified that the organizational meeting language be left as is, and was told that this is so.

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

Section 305 - Councilor Forrest said that there is occasionally a problem with accepting the minutes if there are Council members absent and there is not a quorum. He suggested that this be changed to be less than five votes needed. Councilor Adil said that there must be a quorum in order to vote on anything.

Section 306 - none

Section 307 - none

Section 308 - none

Section 309 - Councilor Forrest moved **"TO SEND BACK TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE SENTENCE READING "FOLLOWING SUCH ELECTION OR REFERENDUM, THE ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION SHALL NOT TAKE EFFECT IF A MAJORITY VOTING THEREON SHALL VOTE IN THE NEGATIVE, SUCH MAJORITY CONSISTING OF AT LEAST FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS IN THE TOWN, AS DETERMINED BY THE LAST FINAL VOTER REGISTRATION LIST" BE FURTHER REVIEWED FOR CLARIFICATION"**, seconded by Councilor Czernicki. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Czernicki moved **"TO SEND BACK TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION THE RECOMMENDATION TO INSERT THE WORDING 'WHICH MAY BE REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY' AFTER THE WORD "PETITION" IN THE FIRST SENTENCE"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Adil stated that this is a bad use of the Town Attorney and presents a conflict of interest.

Councilor Fortunato stated that she cannot support this motion because of the reason stated by Councilor Adil. She said that the wording would be more appropriate in Section 312 instead. Councilor Czernicki said that she intends to suggest this in Section 312 as well.

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

Section 310 - none

Section 311 - none

Section 312 - Councilor Forrest moved **"TO SEND BACK TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE DISCREPENCY BETWEEN THE 5% QUORUM IN SECTION 309 AND THE 10% QUORUM IN SECTION 312 BE RECONCILED TO BE IN AGREEMENT"**, seconded by Councilor Czernicki.

Councilor Adil clarified that Section 309 refers to 5% of the qualified electors and Section 312 refers to 10% of the total number of electors.

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

Councilor Adil moved **"TO SEND BACK TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE ADDED SENTENCE STARTING WITH 'PRIOR TO CIRCULATION' BE DELETED"**, seconded by Councilor Fortunato.

Councilor Hemmann said that the sentence should remain as is with the word "may" rather than "shall".

Councilor Fortunato said that the word "may" causes the inherent problem of who determines and in what cases it can be reviewed.

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

Councilor Adil moved **"TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ALLOW THE MEETING TO CONTINUE PAST 11:00 P.M. AND TO TAKE A BREAK FROM THE CHARTER REVISION REVIEW IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THE AGENDA ITEM OF THE PROPOSED LIGHT SCHEMATIC AT COTTONE FIELD WHILE MS. SUPPICICH IS IN ATTENDANCE"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Proposed Light Schematic - Cottone Field

Ms. Sheila Suppicich, member of the Artificial Surface Football Committee, reviewed the lighting proposal for Cottone Field. She began by stating that there is no international standard for lighting. She stated that she is in no way biased and has met with the Town Manager, the Town Engineer, the Town electrical inspector, the Board of Education Supervisor of Maintenance and Operations, and with representatives from the utility company. Ms. Suppicich explained the schematic for the design which was provided to each Council member. She said that all companies manufacturing the lights have to meet specific requirements. She said that shielding is now manufactured within the lighting rather than with an exterior flap on the light. Ms. Suppicich said that the power required by the proposal could possibly come from the High School which has the capability to provide enough power; however, until the Council goes forward with the proposal, she cannot make the final determination on this. Ms. Suppicich said that the proposal is an acceptable lighting design for a high school field which abuts a neighborhood and meets all the criteria for a high school football and soccer field.

Councilor Adil asked Ms. Suppicich to provide a synopsis of her credentials. Ms. Suppicich said that she is an electrical engineer who has done lighting design and at one time was employed by the State D.O.T. She said that she was responsible for the complete lighting of the six State-owned airports (including Bradley International). She said that she has experience in lighting schools, sports fields, railroad stations, and nuclear power plants. Ms. Suppicich has admittedly no experience in residential lighting design. She said that she has experience in vertical construction up to 1 million square feet of building space. Councilor Adil thanked Ms. Suppicich for her guidance on the Committee.

Councilor Cascio asked Ms. Suppicich to explain the proposed heights of the lighting poles and the integral lighting shields. Ms. Suppicich said that the integral lighting is updated technology and that it can be requested that the fixtures

have the shields on the exterior. She; however, recommends the interior shielding.

Councilor Montinieri clarified that the poles on one side of the field are shorter than those on the other side of the field. Ms. Suppich said that this is to provide a more even distribution of lighting. She said that the topography of the field requires this. Councilor Montinieri asked how far beyond the borders of the field the lighting will trespass. Ms. Suppich said that the amount would be between 2.6 and 3.0 foot candles, which is minimal. She said that the evergreen trees along the border would block the lighting even more.

Councilor Hemmann asked if the proposed lighting plan includes the walkway. Ms. Suppich said that it does not. She clarified that the newly installed conduit is for the clubhouse near the field. It is not for the sports field lighting. Ms. Suppich said that this misinformation has caused confusion among the public.

Councilor Montinieri asked if there is a way to demonstrate with a spotlight how the lights will appear. Ms. Suppich said that this is not possible as it will not provide the same effect as complete field lighting.

Councilor Adil moved **"TO REFER THE LIGHTING PLAN FOR COTTONE FIELD TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND PLANNING & ZONING FOR AN 8-24 REVIEW"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis.

Councilor Hemmann said that she does not support the motion going forward. She said that she appreciates Ms. Suppich's efforts; however she has not supported the project.

Councilor Czernicki thanked Ms. Suppich for her work and said that she also cannot support the motion as she does not believe that lights belong on the field.

Councilor Fortunato asked if the recommendations will come back to the Council. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the proposal will go the Board of Education first and then once back from them it will automatically go to the Zoning Board of Appeals. After going to ZBA the referral will go to Planning & Zoning and then back to the Council for final approval. Councilor Fortunato asked about the cost and funding. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the Council has an approximate cost and she will provide the current amount of the private donations which are funding the project.

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

Charter Revision Recommendations (cont.)

Section 313 - Councilor Czernicki moved **"TO SEND BACK TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THIS SECTION BE REVIEWED TO INSURE OBJECTIVITY AND TO DEFINE MORE SPECIFICALLY THE TERM 'UNEXCUSED'"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Chairperson Morin said that this is interesting because he has sensed the frustration of committee members when other members habitually don't show up for meetings. Councilor Czernicki said that she would like to see language that is more specific.

Councilor Hemmann agreed to send this back for review, specifically item #1. She suggested that this item be completely left out because the term "unexcused" needs to be defined in order to be objective. She said that item #2 makes more sense in terms of "fifty percent" rather than just three meetings.

Councilor Adil said that the Charter Revision Commission needs to provide further clarification as to the definition of "unexcused absence".

Chairperson Morin said that he agrees that the "unexcused absence" needs to be defined, but agrees that there needs to be a method for removal if members just don't show up for meetings.

Councilor Fortunato said that the language is consistent with parliamentary procedure for non-profit organizations. She

said that the wording could read that "the Council, at the request of the committee chairperson, could recommend the removal of the member". She believes that the section is fine as written. She reminded the Council that the Boards & Commissions act as agents for the Town Council; therefore the Council would have the authority to remove members.

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

Section 314 - none

Chapter IV

Section 401 - none

Section 402 - none

Section 403 - none

Section 404 - none

Section 405 - none

Chapter V

Section 501 - Councilor Hemmann moved "**TO SEND BACK TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THIS BE A POSTED & HIRED POSITION REQUIRING CERTIFICATION AND PRIOR EXPERIENCE RATHER THAN AN APPOINTED POSITION**", seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Hemmann explained that she is recommending this partly because of supervision and evaluation issues. Currently the Town Council appoints the position, and since none of the members work in the building, it is difficult to evaluate the position.

Councilor Fortunato asked what the process is in other municipalities. She was told that it is varied.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilors Adil, Forrest, and Deputy Mayor Karangekis voted NAY. The motion passed 6-3-0.

Section 502 - none

Section 503 - Councilor Hemmann moved "**TO SEND BACK TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE WORD 'SHOULD' BE CHANGED TO 'SHALL'**", seconded by Councilor Czernicki. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Adil voted NAY. The motion passed 8-1-0.

Councilor Czernicki moved "**TO SEND BACK TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE LAST SENTENCE REGARDING CLERICAL AND OTHER ASSISTANTS HAVE THE WORDS 'AND OTHER ASSISTANTS' DELETED AS THESE WORDS OPEN THE DOOR TO HIRING AN ASSISTANT TOWN ATTORNEY**", seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Adil said that when the appointments were made last December, it was made clear that there are times when there is a need for an Assistant Town Attorney. He does not agree with the recommendation.

Councilor Cascio said that at the meeting in December, both the Town Manager and the Town Attorney stated that one firm was enough for the Town and that there is no need for an Assistant Town Attorney.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilors Adil, Forrest and Fortunato voted NAY.

The motion passed 6-3-0.

Section 504 - none

Section 505 - none

Section 506 - none

Section 507 - none

Section 508 - none

Section 509 - none

Section 510 - none

Section 511 - none

Section 512 - none

Section 513 - none

Chapter VI

Section 601 - none

Section 602 - Councilor Fortunato moved "**TO SEND BACK TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE LANGUAGE IN SECTION (A) REGARDING DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR THE POLICE BE REVIEWED AS THIS MAY VIOLATE CONTRACT LANGUAGE**", seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Czernicki moved "**TO SEND BACK TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THEY REINSTATE THE STRIKEOUTS IN SECTION (B)**", seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Fortunato stated that it is implied that the leadership will be involved in instituting and conducting suitable training. She does not understand what is sought to be clarified by adding the strikeouts back in. Councilor Czernicki said that she is bothered by the deletion of the words "in cooperation with company officers" as this seems to take away some of the authority of a volunteer department.

Councilor Adil said that the Chief tells the subordinates what to do and he would not agree to reinstating strikeouts.

Councilor Hemmann said that the language has been in the Charter for a long period of time. She said that the language supports collaboration and supports the company officers.

The motion passed.

Section 603 - none

Section 604 - none

Section 605 - none

Section 606 - none

Section 607 - none

Chapter VII

Section 701 - none

Section 702 - Councilor Czernicki moved "TO SEND BACK TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE DATE READ 'NOT LATER THAN THE FIFTEENTH DAY OF JANUARY' seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Czernicki said that this is an attempt to begin to move the budget process forward.

Councilor Adil said that he does not understand why every section of the Charter is being reworked with new comments. He feels that the CRC will not be able to take up the suggestions of the Council and get the Charter back within thirty days. He said that he believes that no further changes should be made unless they are substantial.

Councilor Hemmann said that the time frame of the budget currently is very tight and changing the dates in the Charter begins to accomplish a better time frame.

Councilor Adil stated that the longer the budget process is brought out, the less time is allowed to discuss other Town issues and legislation. He does not support any further change to the budget time frame.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that Berlin moved back their dates so that the Department Heads had all information to her by the beginning of January. Berlin actually went in the opposite direction to push forward the budget dates as the future budget figures were being worked on too early in the current fiscal year. She recommends that more time be allowed for the Council to deliberate the budget.

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

Section 703 - Councilor Czernicki moved "**TO SEND BACK TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE DATE IN THE FIRST SENTENCE READ THE 'FOURTH MONDAY IN MARCH IN EACH YEAR, THE BUDGET FOR THE ENSUING THREE FISCAL YEARS'**", seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Forrest asked the Mayor or Town Manager if they can offer any advice as to Councilor Czernicki's suggestion.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the fourth Monday in March would provide more time and that the three ensuing years provides that the Council to get a thought process as to where the budget is heading in future years.

Chairperson Morin said that he does not have an issue with the fourth Monday in March date; however he cannot support going out three years for the budget.

Councilor Hemmann said that the Capital Improvement budget is projected out five to ten years and it is helpful to take and use this as part of the tool when planning the budget for future years. She said that going out three years gives a better perspective for planning purposes.

Councilor Adil said that although he thinks that it is all well and good to look out over a three year period, the Council only serves for a two year period. He said that the terms of the Council would need to be changed.

Councilor Montinieri said that going out three years would provide projections rather than decisions.

Councilor Fortunato said that there is currently nothing preventing the Council from doing this type of forecasting now. She is reluctant to ask the Commission to change this section.

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

Councilor Czernicki moved **"TO SEND BACK TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE SECTION READ THAT FIFTY COPIES BE PRINTED FOR CITIZENS AND THAT THE DATE BE CHANGED TO THE FIRST MONDAY IN APRIL"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Fortunato asked if, under FOI, the public would have to be provided a copy of the budget if they requested one. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this is so and that each copy of the budget costs \$10 to print and this fee can be passed on to the recipient under FOI. She said that most Towns offer the public a summary budget, not the larger detailed one. Councilor Fortunato said that the Charter makes no mention of the word "summary" with regard to the printed budget.

Councilor Adil asked if the document can be posted on the website. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that it is posted and that the budget document is also available in the Library.

Councilor Hemmann said that she has no problem charging a fee to the public for a copy of the budget.

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

Section 704 - none

Section 705 - none

Section 706 - none

Section 707 - none

Section 708 - none

Section 709 - none

Section 710 - none

Section 711 - none

Section 712 - none

Section 713 - Councilor Czernicki moved **"TO SEND BACK TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION THE RECOMMENDATION THAT ITEM (B) BE CHANGED TO REMOVE THE TOWN ATTORNEY OUT OF THE REALM OF APPOINTMENT AND MAKE THE POSITION AN RFP SO AS TO AGREE WITH SECTION 503"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Chairperson Morin said that the Town Attorney is appointed in accordance with Section 503 which is a Request for Proposal. Councilor Czernicki said it needs to be clear that there is a difference between a hiree and an appointee.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilors Adil and Forrest voted NAY. The motion passed 7-2-0.

Section 714 - none

Section 715 - none

Section 716 - none

Section 717 - none

Section 718 - none

Section 719 - none

Chapter VIII

Section 801 - none

Section 802 - none

Section 803 - none

Section 804 - Councilor Czernicki questioned if the Personnel Appeals Board is supposed to have five members. Town Clerk Sassano said that there are supposed to be five members; however, the Committee has not been fully formed for a number of years. She said that it is an important Committee, and that notice should be provided to the appropriate screening committees to fill the membership.

Section 805 - none

Section 806 - none

Section 807 - none

Chapter IX

Section 901 - none

Section 902 - none

Section 903 - none

Section 904 - none

Section 905 - none

Section 906 - none

Section 907 - none

Councilor Czernicki asked the Town Manager to explain what a Limited Referendum on Budget is. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that every community has to have an ending to the budget process and limited referendums usually provide for going out to the public no more than twice before going back to the Council to make the budget determination.

Councilor Czernicki moved "**TO SEND BACK TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION THE RECOMMENDATION THAT A LIMITED BUDGET REFERENDUM BE CONSIDERED**", seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

Chairperson Morin said that he will not support this, as did Councilor Adil. Councilor Czernicki replied that she is not surprised and Chairperson Morin thanked her for her kind words.

Councilor Cascio suggested that information from other communities be provided to the CRC so that they can have an understanding of the Limited Budget Referendum. He said that he would not support unlimited referendums on the

budget. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the CRC has copies of the Charters of half the Towns in the State.

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

Councilor Fortunato asked if all committees in Wethersfield, including those newly formed by the Council, are to be listed in the Charter. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien recommended that too much information not be included in the Charter because it will not be able to be changed until the next Charter revision. She said that it is best to keep the Charter in general terms as the more specific it is, the more boxed in the Council becomes. Councilor Fortunato agreed with the Town Manager but pointed out that some long-standing committees are mentioned in the Charter.

Repeal of an Act Concerning Enforcement of Motor Vehicle Property Tax Delinquencies - \$5 Fee

Councilor Hemmann moved "**TO REPEAL ORDINANCE SECTION 149-19 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2004**", seconded by Councilor Czernicki. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont.)

Bonding Ordinance

Councilor Adil moved "**TO REFER TO THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE THE PROJECTS LISTED AND DOLLAR AMOUNTS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS BACK TO THE COUNCIL**", seconded by Councilor Czernicki.

Councilor Hemmann said that she is in favor of the referral, but would like to see a discussion in the same workshop format as the July 14, 2004 meeting.

Chairperson Morin said that he will consider this type of format; however, notice of the meeting would need to be made. He said that a quorum must then be achieved in order to hold the meeting. He said that all Councilors must commit to the meeting. The Town Clerk said that the meeting could still be held without a quorum, but votes could not be taken.

Councilor Montinieri commented about the Webb School project being currently under funded. She said that current projects need to be addressed before new bonding projects are determined. She asked if the Webb School project will be addressed in the bond package.

Councilor Fortunato said that it was indicated that the Building Committee chairpersons will be meeting with the Town Manager to present a budget to her.

Councilor Cascio clarified that the Webb School project was not under funded, but rather the prices came in higher than anticipated. He said that the market prices for materials have risen since the original budget was determined.

Councilor Fortunato said that the bottom line is that there is a project that will cost a specific amount and the money available is less than this amount. She said that additional funding is needed to complete the project as proposed.

Councilor Cascio said that using the phrase "additional contingency money" sounds much more positive than the term "under funded" which has a negative connotation.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Parking on the Snow Shelf - Change to Town Ordinances

Councilor Adil moved "**TO REFER THE AMENDMENT TO THE PRESENT PARKING ORDINANCE TO**

STOP PARKING ON THE SNOW SHELF'S TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE", seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Licensing Agreement for Winding Brook Turf Farm

Councilor Hemmann moved **"TO REFER THE LICENSING AGREEMENT FOR THE WINDING BROOK TURF FARM AND THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Montinieri asked if the information provided to the Council will have an impact on this item.

Chairperson Morin said that the information will go to the Public Works Committee to sort out and review.

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

Tour of Riverfront Recapture Properties

Chairperson Morin said that he, Councilor Fortunato and Town Manager Bonnie Therrien met with Mr. Joe Marfuggi, President and CEO of Riverfront Recapture, Inc. to discuss a future relationship with the group and possibly work with them to develop programming together. A letter has been sent to the Town Manager from Mr. Marfuggi suggesting that the Council take a tour of the Riverfront parks to provide a better sense of current and future projects. Chairperson Morin has requested that a date be chosen for the Council to meet with the group.

Councilor Fortunato said that according to the bylaws of Riverfront Recapture, Inc., a nonprofit organization, Wethersfield holds a place on their Board of Directors as an ex-officio member. This provides for voting privileges. She said that the Board meets quarterly and that she will be attending the meeting this Thursday. Councilor Fortunato suggested that the Council members tour Wethersfield's riverfront area with the Harbormaster to determine opportunities to be considered.

Councilor Czernicki asked Councilor Fortunato why the Riverfront Recapture group has not opted to provide a riverwalk connection between Hartford and Wethersfield as was originally planned. Councilor Fortunato said that the group is currently focusing solely on Hartford. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that Wethersfield has indicated in the past that they do not want the walkway.

Sale of Materials - Moeller Home

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that there are items to be sold before the construction at the Moeller Home can begin. She said that the Moeller Home Building Committee has requested permission to auction the items for fund-raising purposes.

Councilor Adil moved **"TO ALLOW THE MOELLER HOME BUILDING COMMITTEE TO SELL OFF SALVAGE ITEMS FROM THE MOELLER HOME WITH PROCEEDS GOING TOWARD THE RENOVATIONS OF THE MOELLER HOME"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Fortunato said that she would like to see the items monitored so that items stored at the Moeller Home by other organizations are not sold. She suggested that a notice be sent out to the organizations.

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

Town Owned Vehicles

Councilor Cascio said that the removal of four cars from the Town fleet was discussed during the budget sessions. He asked what the real savings in terms of the maintenance, fuel, and insurance costs of these vehicles are in comparison to morale and actual use of the vehicles. He asked that this information be provided before the Town removes the cars from the Town fleet.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that there were actually eleven vehicles in total to be removed. She said that \$28,000 will go toward the purchase of capital items approved through the budget process. This amount does not include the amounts for maintenance, fuel, and insurance costs. The Town Manager said that she can obtain these costs and provide them to the Council.

Councilor Cascio asked if it is contractual or in the job description of any Town employee that they be provided with a car. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she believes that this is so, but that she will verify it. Councilor Cascio said that he is concerned for the volunteers who are currently provided a vehicle.

Chairperson Morin said that it would have been helpful to discuss this matter in more detail during the budget deliberations. He said that although he does not necessarily disagree with Councilor Cascio's comments, the Council will need to make a budget adjustment should the decision to remove the cars change.

BIDS

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

MINUTES

Councilor Czernicki moved **"TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 6, 2004"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Town Clerk Sassano amended the minutes on page 16702 to correct a spelling error and on page 16706 to provide the names of those present during the Executive Session.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilors Cascio, Fortunato and Hemmann ABSTAINED. The motion passed 6-0-3.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:20 a.m., Councilor Adil moved **"TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION"** seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Present at the Executive Session were Councilors Adil, Cascio, Czernicki, Forrest, Fortunato, Hemmann, Montinieri, Deputy Mayor Karangekis and Chairperson Morin. Also present were Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager; and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

At 12:41 a.m., Councilor Czernicki 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 12:42 a.m., Councilor Czernicki moved **"TO ADJOURN THE MEETING"** seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk