

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

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## REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 6, 2003

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on January 6, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

Present: Councilors Fitzpatrick, Flynn, Gardow, Hemmann, Sassano, Deputy Mayor O'Connor and Chairperson Czernicki. Absent: Councilors Cascio and Morin.

Also present: Joseph Swetcky, Jr., Interim Town Manager, and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

Chairperson Czernicki read a letter from Judy Keane, President of the Richard M. Keane Foundation regarding a calendar in honor of three residents who were victims in the 9-11-01 terrorist attacks. The calendar displays patriotic artwork created by Wethersfield students. Calendar sales will benefit the Keane Foundation and ultimately the proposed Sports Center in Wethersfield. Calendars are available for sale from Judy Keane or at various locations around town.

### PRESENTATION

A Certificate of Recognition was presented to Bill Zuerblis, Wethersfield resident and MDC employee, for finding a long-lost diamond ring as well as an onyx ring while unclogging a drain at a sewage plant and returning the rings to their rightful owner. Chairperson Czernicki stated that his actions showed an example of kind human spirit toward another human being and that we're proud to call Bill a local hero.

Councilor Hemmann moved "**to add an item to the agenda regarding bond resolution and public hearing date**", seconded by Deputy Mayor O'Connor. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor moved "**to remove items c2g and c2l from the table**", seconded by Councilor Flynn. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

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

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

### HEARING

#### RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT RESOLUTION REGARDING STP ENHANCEMENT GRANT

Paul Courchaine, 481 Main Street, Chairman of the Silas Deane Revitalization Committee, introduced members of the Committee and also Mike Turner, Town Engineer to review the STP Grant.

Mike Turner pointed out that the resolution has been amended to signify the dollar amounts being sought. This is a million dollar project and the Town's share is approximately \$200,000. He reviewed the detailed Roadway Cost Itemization sheet which shows the actual construction costs from the Hartford city line to Nott Street. This cost is approximately \$612,000. When the state costs are added in, the total comes to approximately \$1,000,000 which is the amount that the Traffic & Transportation Committee was going toward.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked Mr. Turner to elaborate on the lighting in the center of the aisle.

Mr. Turner said that initially six lantern-style lights were to be placed in the island from Jordan Lane up to the Hartford city line. After the public hearing, it was decided to eliminate this portion of the work and instead to provide landscape uplighting to accent the trees on the island. The committee is looking to CL&P to replace the heads of the street lights with full cutoff heads.

Councilor Flynn asked Mr. Turner to describe the process required to access this fund.

Mr. Turner explained that the first step was for the Traffic & Transportation Committee to hold a public meeting which was December 9, 2002. Letters were written to all residents and businesses within the projects scope. The next step is to have a resolution passed by the Town Council authorizing the Interim Manager to submit the application on behalf of the Town. This also commits the Town to the 20% match (\$200,000). The application is due into the Capitol Region Council of Governments next Wednesday, January 15. There are about 28 towns in the region also submitting applications. The CRCOG Transportation Committee will rank all applications according to conformance to application guidelines. Finalists are invited in to make presentations to the Transportation Committee and CRCOG will select the top five to be forwarded on to the State of Connecticut.

Councilor Flynn reiterated that \$200,000 would not have to be taken in one lump sum out of this year's budget. Mr. Turner said that is true.

Councilor Gardow asked Mr. Turner what type of information is provided to the Capitol Region Council of Governments.

Mr. Turner said that everything is on 8 1/2"x11" when the application is submitted. There are reduced scales of drawings and digital photography of the existing conditions. Also, at the presentation, digital enhancements showing the proposed conditions are shown. Anything and everything to support the cause will be included in the submission.

Councilor Hemmann corrected three spelling errors on the resolution: Deputy Mayor's name, etc, and contingencies.

Councilor Sassano verified that the \$100,000 would not impact budgets until 2004-2005. He asked when the project was slated to begin. He also asked how certain are we that the federal monies will arrive. Councilor Sassano is concerned that CRCOG will grant priority to STP projects having a clear safety emphasis as opposed to enhancement. He wondered if there is any way to strengthen the safety issue language to increase our chances of winding up on the higher end of the CRCOG priority list.

Mr. Turner said that the project would begin in 2004-2005 and \$100,000 would come out of that budget. Mr. Turner stated that the federal money is already in place for the STP (Surface Transportation Program) enhancement. The money is committed. Mr. Turner said that an accident investigation study has been done in that area and has intentions of speaking with the State DOT Manager, whose endorsement is important in forwarding this project. A meeting is set for this week.

Councilor Sassano asked how long the project will take to complete once it is started.

Mr. Turner answered that the program monies are to be spread out over a 5-6 year period. Design will not start for 2-3 years. It will go into 2003-04 before projects are selected and agreements are signed. The actual construction would take 6-9 months.

Councilor Flynn asked how the proposals for Jordan Lane and Nott Street dovetail for points further south on the Silas Deane Highway.

Paul Courchaine said that the project is designed to be able to be carried southward with the exception of the intersection of Church Street and Silas Deane which the plan calls for the development of the Town Center. What is being done on this project is integral to all the plans going forward. There are three other grants available which will be pursued. One is through the Chamber of Commerce and two through Senator Dodd's office. Once this STP application is made, we cannot alter it by even putting our own flowers in. We are looking at improving parking for business owners from the police station down to Nott Street.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor recalled that the island at the border of Hartford and Wethersfield was originally done through an STP grant by the city of Hartford. This could actually help us in obtaining this grant as we would be continuing the project that Hartford had started. We could then continue down the Silas Deane.

Chairperson Czernicki asked if the work would be performed by Wethersfield Town Staff.

Mr. Turner said that the work would be put out to bid.

Arthur Nacht, 374 Main Street, pointed out that the businesses and individuals supporting the STP project are a very diverse and nonpartisan group. He believes that this is how it should be with regard to the Silas Deane Highway and also with regard to economic development and beautification of our Town. He stated that the National Design Competition for the Silas Deane Highway was held 15 years ago and this proposal is the first concrete step forward to implement the study. The time is overdue suggests the Town take the initiative to improve the economy of the Silas Deane Highway and the health of the businesses on it and to make the highway a more attractive place to visit, shop and do business.

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Tax Payers Association Inc. The organization is concerned for the financial situation of the Town. The number one item is economic development and this plan is economic development; therefore, they support it and hopes that it continues south.

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, stated it is a relatively small number of dollars for the enhancement of the Silas Deane. He is encouraged that there is long-term thinking involved and will continue to support the development of the Highway. By providing Boards and Commissions with the insight to only approve projects that will benefit the Town, political leadership has opportunities to have an influence on what is done. We need to stick to what we have set to accomplish.

Beverly Pierz, 115 Garden Street, said that in 1983 there was a dream for the Silas Deane, in 1985 there was a National Design Competition, in 1987 there was a Silas Deane Master Plan approved by the Council. It has been a long time. This is the beginning of many opportunities. She is enthusiastic about the progress of the plan.

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

## GENERAL COMMENTS

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, complimented the wonderful performance put on several weeks ago at Wethersfield High School's winter concert. He is concerned about the budget being strained due to the amount of snowfall. Also concerned that State funding is being cut for Connecticut's towns. He wonders how the economies of both Wethersfield and Connecticut can support the Webb/Stillman School project. We need to keep costs at a minimum.

Edward Kardas, 850 Cloverdale Circle, is concerned that the last revision of the Town Charter was 11/8/94. He remembers 4-6 weeks ago that there was an entry on the Town Agenda making reference to Charter Revision and there was also some data in the Council packet regarding the process of revision. He asks what the status of that entry is.

Chairperson Czernicki answered that one of the goals of this Council is to begin Charter revision. It had been hoped to begin around this time; however Council's energy for the immediate future has been diverted to hiring a new Interim Manager. The process of Charter revision is hoped to begin in the near future.

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, spoke of the Great Meadows Conservation Trust. He recalls that the amount of the taxes to be waived for them was to be \$3,142. Now there is an additional \$1,150. Is this new information? Why not ask the Trust to absorb the \$1,150? We have forgiven the \$3,142. On the east side of the Silas Deane Middle School they are concerned about the additional black top proposed for additional parking. He invited Mayor Czernicki, Deputy Mayor O'Connor and Councilor Gardow to the meeting on Monday night at 6:30pm at the Webb Building with David Drake and his committee to make the east side of the middle school beautiful. It needs to coincide with the progress

the STP is going to make.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor said that the additional \$1,150 was never mentioned and he was quite disappointed that it wasn't addressed initially.

Arthur Nacht, 374 Main Street, expressed his appreciation to Mr. Orsini and his organization for being not only a watchdog on taxes and spending, but also for their dedication to the appearance of the Silas Deane Middle School. He urged all members of Council to attend the meeting on Monday night.

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, is concerned over the Library's sale of surplus furniture. Could it be used in the expansion of the Library or in the new Police Facility? He questioned why the Library offers Computer Education classes when they are offered through the Board of Education's Adult Education. Once again he urged the Council not to pass the agreement with the Turf Farm to use Town water. It will set a very dangerous precedent.

Patti Silva, 24 Hillcrest Avenue, announced a meeting of the Wethersfield Support Group for parents of Special Kids on Wednesday at 6:30pm at the Webb cafeteria. Family members and others are also invited. She asked what the status is of the ordinance for the control of feral cats. Her neighbor's cats continue to roam onto her property. The attention seemed to be turned to the definition of "feral". Should not owners of cats who feed and house their pets be just as responsible for their cats as for a feral cat? Some of the Town Ordinances that apply to dogs should also apply to cats. The proposed Ordinance does not cover restitution for property damage.

Chairperson Czernicki said that she doesn't believe that the committee has yet met. She suggested that the Central Connecticut Health District be present at the meeting when it occurs because there may be different rules that apply to domestic cats. Chairperson Czernicki suggested that Ms. Silva contact Councilor Cascio. Ms. Silva stated that she already has.

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

#### COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Hemmann moved **"TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT"**, seconded by Councilor Flynn. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor moved **"TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION OF MUNICIPAL SUPPORT OF SILAS DEANE HIGHWAY REVITALIZATION - STP ENHANCEMENT PROJECT"**, seconded by Councilor Flynn. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor moved **"TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JOHN HALLISEY TO THE CAPITAL IMPORVEMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE TERM OF 1-06-03 TO 6-30-03"**, seconded by Councilor Fitzpatrick. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor moved **"TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF PAUL HUTCHEON TO THE WETHERSFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES FOR THE TERM OF 1-06-03 TO 6-30-04"**, seconded by Councilor Fitzpatrick. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor moved **"TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JOHN J. MCAULIFFE JR. TO THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT FOR THE TERM OF 1-1-03 TO 12-31-08"**, seconded by Councilor Fitzpatrick. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Interim Manager Swetcky spoke of the Housing Rehab Grant Program and how it will allow eligible Town

homeowners who apply to rehabilitate/improve their homes. He informed the Council that Bidder #1 withdrew their bid and recommended Council approve Bidder #2.

### OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Flynn moved **"TO REFER TO THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION THE REQUEST BY THE GREAT MEADOWS CONSERVATION TRUST THAT THE TOWN REIMBURSE \$1,150.52 OF TAXES PAID BY THE TRUST AT THE TIME OF CLOSING"**, seconded by Councilor Sassano.

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

### RESIGNATIONS

Chairperson Czernicki referred the Council to a letter of resignation from Ellen Foley from the Insurance Committee.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor moved **"TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF MS. ELLEN FOLEY FROM THE INSURANCE COMMITTEE"**, seconded by Councilor Fitzpatrick.

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

### BIDS

Councilor Flynn moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR HOUSING REHAB PROGRAM - 46 AMHERST STREET TO BIDDER #2 MPK BUILDING AND REMODELING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$26,650"**, seconded by Councilor Sassano.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked the Interim Manager why bidder #1 had withdrawn their bid.

Interim Manager Swetcky said that there had been some confusion about the bid and the price and the ability to work on the process. They will pursue other projects as they come along. These questions were answered by vendor #2.

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

Councilor Fitzpatrick moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR GASOLINE CRPC BID #427 TO BIDDER #1A BUCKLEY ENERGY GROUP, LTD - ALTERNATE FIRM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$26,000"**, seconded by Councilor Gardow.

Interim Manager Swetcky recommends that the Council go with the firm price of Buckley Energy Group (Bid #1A) rather than the differential price which is a price added to the per gallon cost.

Councilor Gardow asked Mr. Swetcky when the differential would kick in and how it works.

Interim Manager Swetcky said that the differential is the dollar amount shown that would be added to the per gallon cost any time we order gasoline.

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

### ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

#### **MOTIONS (1) INTRODUCING BOND RESOLUTION AND (2) SETTING PUBLIC HEARING DATE**

1. Councilor Hemmann introduced the following resolution:

#### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$7,500,000 REFUNDING BONDS FOR PAYMENT IN WHOLE OR IN PART OF THE OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST**

**AND ANY CALL PREMIUM ON THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD'S \$4,600,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 1993, \$4,500,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 1995, AND \$1,920,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 1996, AND COSTS RELATED THERETO**

RESOLVED,

(a) That the Town of Wethersfield issue its refunding bonds, in an amount not to exceed SEVEN MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$7,500,000), the proceeds of which are hereby appropriated: (1) to fund one or more escrows, the balance held in such escrows, together with the investment earnings thereon, to be applied by the Town to the payment in whole or in part, as to be determined by the Town Manager and the Treasurer, of the outstanding principal of and interest and any call premium on the Town's \$4,600,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 1993, \$4,500,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 1995, and/or \$1,920,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 1996, including the payment of interest accrued on said outstanding bonds to the date of payment, and (2) to pay costs of issuance of the refunding bonds authorized hereby, including legal fees, consultants' fees, trustee or escrow agent fees, underwriters' fees, net interest and other financing costs and other costs related to the payment of the outstanding bonds described above. The refunding bonds shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-370c of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds shall be general obligations of the Town secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town. The Treasurer shall keep a record of the bonds. The Town Manager and the Treasurer are authorized to determine the amount, date, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds; to designate a bank or trust company to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds; to sign such bonds by their manual or facsimile signatures in the name or on behalf of the Town; to designate a financial advisor to the Town in connection with the sale of the bonds; to sell the bonds at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds. The law firm of Day, Berry & Howard LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds.

(b) That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that costs of the refunding may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grant moneys) the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the refunding. The Town Manager and the Treasurer are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

(c) That the Town Manager and the Treasurer are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds.

(d) That the Town Manager, Treasurer and the other proper officers of the Town are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to enable the Town to effectuate the refunding of all or a portion of the Town's \$4,600,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 1993, \$4,500,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 1995, and/or \$1,920,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 1996, and to issue refunding bonds authorized hereby for such purposes, including, but not limited to, the entrance into agreements on behalf of the Town with underwriters, trustees, escrow agents and others to facilitate the issuance of the refunding bonds, the escrow of the proceeds thereof and investment earnings thereon, and the payment of the outstanding bonds in whole or in part.

(e) That the Superintendent of Schools, the Chairman of the Board of Education, the Board of Education and other proper officers and officials of the Town are authorized to execute and file all necessary applications, agreements and documents with the State Board of Education in order to obtain any applicable State grants to defray in part principal and interest on refunding bonds authorized hereby to the extent such bonds are allocable to the refunding of portions of the Town's \$4,600,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 1993 and \$4,500,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of

1995, representing school bonds issued pursuant to Section 10-289 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and to pay costs of issuance related to the refunding of said bonds.

(f) That this resolution shall be effective upon passage by the Town Council.

(g) That the above authorization to issue refunding bonds shall lapse six months from the effective date of this resolution.

2. Councilor Hemmann moved:

(a) that the Council hold a public hearing at its next meeting on January 21, 2003 on the resolution entitled:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$7,500,000 REFUNDING BONDS FOR PAYMENT IN WHOLE OR IN PART OF THE OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST AND ANY CALL PREMIUM ON THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD'S \$4,600,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 1993, \$4,500,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 1995, AND \$1,920,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 1996, AND COSTS RELATED THERETO**

(b) that the Town Clerk publish and post notice of such public hearing.

Councilor Gardow asked just what this ordinance is for.

Interim Manager Swetcky said that since interest rates have dropped over the past several years, Council members have asked that we look into calling some of our bonds and refunding or refinancing them. Studies have shown that at this time the opportunity is there for savings if we do a bond refunding. We will issue additional debt to cover the payment of existing debt when it comes due. Over the next ten years there is the opportunity to save \$200,000 - \$300,000 in debt costs.

Councilor Gardow asked if this procedure is common with municipalities.

Interim Manager Swetcky said that Wethersfield is in fact one of the last municipalities to be doing this.

Councilor Sassano clarified that there is an average savings of \$20,000 - \$30,000 per year of debt costs; to which Interim Manager Swetcky agreed. Councilor Sassano asked what the chances of saving money is if nothing is done. Interim Manager Swetcky said there is no chance.

The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor O'Connor and approved by the following roll-call vote:

| In Favor              | Opposed |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Chairperson Czernicki | NONE    |
| Councilor Fitzpatrick |         |
| Councilor Flynn       |         |
| Councilor Gardow      |         |
| Councilor Hemmann     |         |
| Deputy Mayor O'Connor |         |
| Councilor Sassano     |         |

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

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE SILAS DEANE MIDDLE SCHOOL ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

**Resolved**, that in accordance with Chapter 173 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Town Council of the Town of

Wethersfield hereby authorizes the preparation and funding of schematic drawings and specifications for the proposed roof replacement of the Silas Deane Middle School; and,

**Be It Further Resolved**, that in accordance with Chapter 173 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Town Council of the Town of Wethersfield hereby authorizes the Town of Wethersfield Board of Education to apply to the State Commissioner of Education for a grant for the proposed roof replacement of the Silas Deane Middle School; and,

**Be It Further Resolved**, that in accordance with Chapter 173 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Town Council of the Town of Wethersfield hereby authorizes funding in an amount up to \$710,790 from the Silas Deane Middle School Bond appropriation for costs associated with the proposed roof replacement of the Silas Deane Middle School; and,

**Be It Further Resolved**, that in accordance with Chapter 173 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Town Council of the Town of Wethersfield hereby authorizes the Silas Deane Middle School Project Building Committee to oversee the Silas Deane Middle School Roof Replacement work.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL, INC.**

Whereas, the Town of Wethersfield is part of the North Central Connecticut Emergency Medical Services Region; and

Whereas, Section 8.Section 28-25b(g)(1) and Section 8.Section 28-25b(g)(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes require the Town of Wethersfield to provide Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) to callers in their 9-1-1 system; and

Whereas, the Town of Wethersfield desires to implement EMD services through the North Central Connecticut Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc., a private non-stock, non-profit corporation established under the laws of the State of Connecticut; and

Whereas, such participation would benefit the Town of Wethersfield's population, now therefore,

Council, Inc. for the provision of regional emergency medical dispatch services on a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week basis beginning July 1, 2004 subject to successful negotiation of an EMD Contract by July 1, 2003.

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GOOSEBERRY HILL FROM THE TEMPORARY CUL DE SAC, SOUTH TO AND INCLUDING THE CUL DE SAC AS A PUBLIC ROAD AND WAY IN THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the extension of **Gooseberry Hill**, from the temporary cul de sac southerly to and including the new permanent cul de sac, approximately 500 feet in length, together with all easements as shown on two maps entitled: "Revised Resubdivision Plan, Lenard Farms Estates Subdivision - Phase II, Property of Anna Bednarz, #127 Willow Street, Wethersfield, Connecticut, Prepared for RJD Development Company, LLC, Scale 1"=40', Dated 3 July 2000, date of last revision Jan. 26, 2001, Sheet 3 of 10, prepared by Hallisey, Pierson & Cassidy, Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors, 78 Beaver Road, Wethersfield, Connecticut", and "Resubdivision Plan, Lenard Farms Estates Subdivision, Property of Katherine Lenard & Merrill R. Canfield, Willow Street & Gooseberry Hill, Wethersfield, Connecticut, Prepared for RJD Development, LLC, Scale 1"=40', Dated Dec. 28, 1998, last revised Apr. 01, 1999, Sheet 3 of 12", prepared by Hallisey, Pierson & Cassidy, Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors, 78 Beaver Road, Wethersfield, Connecticut", be accepted as a public road and way in the Town of Wethersfield. This Resolution shall also include the Release by the Town of Wethersfield, of the temporary easements on land used as the cul de sac turnarounds prior to this roadway extension.

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ACCEPTANCE OF NATHANIEL DRIVE FROM THE WEST STREETLINE OF WILLOW STREET TO GOOSEBERRY HILL AS A PUBLIC ROAD AND WAY IN THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that **Nathaniel Drive** from the westerly street line of Willow Street to Gooseberry Hill,

approximately 840 feet in length, together with all easements as shown on a map entitled: "Resubdivision Plan, Lenard Farms Estates Subdivision, Property of Katherine Lenard & Merrill R. Canfield, Willow Street & Gooseberry Hill, Wethersfield, Connecticut, Prepared for RJD Development, LLC, Scale 1"=40', Dated Dec. 28, 1998, last revised Apr. 01, 1999, Sheet 3 of 12", prepared by Hallisey, Pierson & Cassidy, Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors, 78 Beaver Road, Wethersfield, Connecticut, be accepted as a public road and way in the Town of Wethersfield.

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ACCEPTANCE OF JUSTIN LANE FROM THE NORTHERLY STREETLINE OF NATHANIEL DRIVE TO AND INCLUDING THE CUL DE SAC AS A PUBLIC ROAD AND WAY IN THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that **Justin Lane** from the northerly street line of Nathaniel Drive to and including the cul de sac, approximately 325 feet in length, together with all easements as shown on a map entitled: "Resubdivision Plan, Lenard Farms Estates Subdivision, Property of Katherine Lenard & Merrill R. Canfield, Willow Street & Gooseberry Hill, Wethersfield, Connecticut, Prepared for RJD Development, LLC, Scale 1"=40', Dated Dec. 28, 1998, last revised Apr. 01, 1999, Sheet 3 of 12", prepared by Hallisey, Pierson & Cassidy, Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors, 78 Beaver Road, Wethersfield, Connecticut, be accepted as a public road and way in the Town of Wethersfield.

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ACCEPTANCE OF JOHNNA LANE FROM THE SOUTHERLY STREETLINE OF NATHANIEL DRIVE TO AND INCLUDING THE CUL DE SAC AS A PUBLIC ROAD AND WAY IN THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that **Johnna Lane** from the southerly street line of Nathaniel Drive to and including the cul de sac, approximately 318 feet in length, together with all easements as shown on a map entitled: "Revised Resubdivision Plan, Lenard Farms Estates Subdivision - Phase II, Property of Anna Bednarz, #127 Willow Street, Wethersfield, Connecticut, Prepared for RJD Development Company, LLC, Scale 1"=40', Dated 3 July 2000, date of last revision Jan. 26, 2001, Sheet 3 of 10, prepared by Hallisey, Pierson & Cassidy, Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors, 78 Beaver Road, Wethersfield, Connecticut, be accepted as a public road and way in the Town of Wethersfield.

MINUTES

Deputy Mayor O'Connor moved "**TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 2002**", seconded by Councilor Flynn.

Councilors Flynn, Fitzpatrick, Gardow, Hemmann, O'Connor and Chairperson Czernicki voted AYE. Councilor Sassano abstained. The motion passed 6-0-1.

Councilor Flynn moved "**TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 2002**", seconded by Deputy Mayor O'Connor.

Councilors Flynn, Fitzpatrick, Gardow, Hemmann, O'Connor and Chairperson Czernicki voted AYE. Councilor Sassano abstained. The motion passed 6-0-1.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Reports

FY 01/02 Audit Report

Interim Manager Swetcky referred to the memo enclosed in Councilors packets regarding the "Town of Wethersfield Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2002" indicating that the Town ended in a very favorable position. The tax collection rate exceeded 98%, fixed assets grew by \$4.3 million (due mostly to the new police facility). The Pension Trust Fund had an investment loss of \$1.6 million. Overall, the Town had a good year. The Unreserved/Undesignated Fund grew to over \$3.5 million.

Councilor Sassano asked what the percent over funding is that that the Pension Committee currently enjoys.

Interim Manager Swetcky said that as of June 30, 2002 it was 108% indicating that the Town probably will have to make a contribution to the fund out of its General Fund. The amount is estimated to be approximately \$300,000.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked regarding the Pension Trust Fund if the "expenses" means distributions or the cost of running the actual program.

Interim Manager Swetcky said that "expenses" means the investment manager's fees, pension withdrawals and mainly the benefit payments to retirees.

#### Proposed Webb School Referendum Timeline

Councilor Flynn questioned the time allowed between January 11, when the Bond Ordinance is introduced and referred to Town Planning & Zoning, and the Planning & Zoning meeting date of January 22. He believes that there is a required two-week period in between for notice of hearing on any referral made. He asked that Planning & Zoning be asked to hold a Special Meeting in advance of the Council's meeting on February 3 so that they have a full public hearing rather than just a public meeting.

Interim Manager Swetcky said that they could be asked to do that.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked why the Referendum couldn't be held on March 18, 2003 which would be 30 days from the advertisement on February 18, 2003.

Interim Manager Swetcky said that because February is a short month, it would have to be moved up to March 25. It would be difficult to get 30 days in between February 18 and April 1. It could be looked at again. April 1 is the first Tuesday which is when Town Referendums are traditionally held.

#### Connecticut Remembers Memorial Board

Chairperson Czernicki noted that three members of the Wethersfield community perished in the tragic attacks of 9-11-01. On the six month anniversary of the incident last March, Connecticut provided family members and friends the opportunity to create a board with personal momentos, letters, photographs of victims. The board was assembled in Stamford. The board was exhibited at the Legislative Office Building and is now being moved from community to community upon the request of survivors. Mrs. Winton requested that the board come to Wethersfield. Representatives from Connecticut Helps, Office of Family Support, will be at the Town Hall on January 9 to set up the board. It will be in the main lobby of the Town Hall from that date until February 18, 2003. There will be a formal dedication on Saturday, January 11, 2003. All are welcome to attend on that day and to take the opportunity during the viewing period to visit and look at the board.

#### COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Gardow said that the Wethersfield Board of Education meeting held last Thursday will be shown on Channel 14 on January 7 at 7:00pm. He also commented on the Historical Assistance Technical Grant for the Historic District Commission. It provides online reference material for folks to do studying or for Historic District Commission reference. It states that without photographs, commissioners must go to the sight in order to learn about the building's present appearance. Councilor Gardow thought that it was part of their jobs to do this. He hopes that those on the Commission who make decisions, go and see the property. He asked Interim Manager Swetcky if there are any privacy issues about this website or is it public.

Interim Manager Swetcky said that the information is what you would get from an assessment record. The website has photos, the builder, the architect and the year it was built. The website is still being developed. It is yet to be determined whether the website will be available to the public or simply a working document for the Commissioners and Town Staff. Information would be limited to approximately 1,100 historical properties. Phase 1 is a book of the properties.

Councilor Hemmann reported that she attended the Wethersfield Advisory Committee of Persons with Disabilities

holiday party and it was a very active and wonderful experience.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked Interim Manager Swetcky to review the Blight Ordinance. He also announced that on January 25 the Irishman of the Year celebration is being held at the Community Center. This year Father Moran from Incarnation Church is being honored as Irishman of the Year. Tickets are available at the Town Clerk's office. This dinner is used to raise funds for the St. Patrick Day Parade.

Interim Manager Swetcky spoke with the Town Attorney and asked that a meeting be held with the parties interested in the Blight Ordinance. There are concerns about what was originally proposed and whether it will be workable/enforceable. They would like to meet with either the Committee or the people who were originally involved with this and clarify what they're trying to accomplish.

Chairperson Czernicki commented on a letter she and the Interim Manager received from Mr. Jeff Nelson regarding the Wethersfield Emergency ERS Boxes. He has concerns about three of Wethersfield's Firehouses and the one at the Cove and asked that Interim Manager Swetcky contact Mr. Nelson to discuss his concerns. Chairperson Czernicki also received a call from someone concerned about the snow removal at the Commuter Lot on Marsh Street that hadn't been done. This needs to be addressed as well. Interim Manager Swetcky said that this is a State lot and it is their responsibility to clear it.

## PUBLIC

Rocco Orsini, Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. asked Interim Manager Swetcky about the Pension Fund. He asked what the percentage has to be for the Town to not have to kick in any monies. Interim Manager Swetcky said that the fund assets have to be around \$52 million. Right now they are at \$49 million. The fund is made up of stocks, bonds, and cash, with the split being 65%, 30%, 5% respectively. Mr. Orsini asked if all of our new bonds are callable and the Interim Manager said that they are. Mr. Orsini stated that he'd like to see Wethersfield be more aggressive in this area as he sees a lot of money to be saved. They are concerned about the proposed mill rate increase, bonding, the pension fund, Board of Education budget up 6.9% and the lower State aid. They will be meeting Tuesday night to attempt to reduce these numbers. Mr. Orsini questioned the agenda of the Council/BOE meeting on Saturday.

Chairperson Czernicki said that the intent of the meeting is for the Interim Manager to explain how the Town is situated financially. The Legislative Delegation has been invited to hear Wethersfield's important financial issues and to provide insight as to what is going on with the state budget.

Mr. Orsini asked if discussions have started as far as Union contract negotiations.

Chairperson Czernicki said that she believes that Mr. Pinette has had some preliminary discussion and that in the next Council meeting there will be an Executive Session to begin discussions.

Mr. Orsini said the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association Inc. is recommending a zero raise in the first year and significant increases in co-pay. The Board of Education did not heed their recommendation. Also, they would like to see a possible delay in hiring a new Town Manager and Police Chief.

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, wished to donate his five minutes to Mr. Orsini.

David Drake, of the School Building Projects Committee, spoke of the parking issue at Silas Deane Middle School. There is a meeting next Monday evening to discuss the parking issues.

Chairperson Czernicki asked if any members of the Committee have been able to look at the plans presented by Fletcher Thompson for the Webb Building. Mr. Drake said that there has not been a chance to review the plans. Chairperson Czernicki asked if the meeting with Fletcher Thompson could possibly be this week as the Council would like to introduce the Bond on Saturday. Mr. Drake said that he thinks that they'll need a couple of meetings to discuss the issue, but he'll do what he can.

Rocco Orsini, Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. discussed the Webb and the Stillman Buildings. He said that

legitimate questions come up without legitimate answers, yet the Board of Education voted to go ahead with the project. The gross amount from the State prior to 12/18 was \$15,331,000. There was \$3.7 million for Stillman and \$11.6 million for Webb and the new number for Webb is now \$9.1 million. Included in the \$9.1 million is \$800,000 for a large addition to the Town Garage for the Maintenance Department. There seemed to be a lot of moderate renovations being made to the Webb Building. Why is there so much moderate renovation? This school is in excellent condition and why are we paying so much for architects? The building only needs light renovations. Mr. Drake may want to look at site improvements. Janet Pilzak [Board of Education member] commented that she thought the school was going to be opened in the existing footprint. The school is 71,844 square feet. The other four schools are 55,000. This school is much bigger yet there is a \$1.2 million addition going onto this Webb School. Mr. Orsini urged David Drake to look into this. Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc is in favor of fixing up the Stillman Building. The Stillman is a beautiful building. The architects have gutted all three floors of the Stillman, plus put a three-story addition on the back which houses an elevator and new bathrooms. A lot of money has gone into this addition. Why can't we leave the walls and the plumbing as they are, just like the Keeney Building. Lastly, Standard Steele sells storage buildings. A standard building 60x200 feet sells for \$50,000. Just what are we doing for \$800,000 for a storage building for Maintenance? If it's purely for storage, we don't need state-of-the-art.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:55 p.m., Councilor Flynn moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Deputy Mayor O'Connor. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano,  
Town Clerk