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JANUARY 21, 2003 REGULAR MEETING

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on January 21, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

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

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

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

Chairperson Czernicki called upon Mike Turner, Town Engineer to speak. Mr. Turner introduced Gordon Derring, an associate of the firm of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. in Middletown. They are the Town's paving consultants and have been assisting the Town since 1995.

Mr. Derring proceeded with a PowerPoint presentation to discuss the pavement management process. VHB's definition of pavement management is the practice of planning for pavement repairs and maintenance with the goal of maximizing the value and life of a pavement network. It strives to provide the best possible pavements at the lowest possible cost. A Pavement Management System consists of a database of physical street characteristics, record of historic street work, and software that recommends road repairs to get the most "Bang for the Buck". The pavement management process involves pavement section inventory, pavement distress identification and quantification, pavement condition index (PCI) calculation on a 0(impassable) to 100(nearly perfect) scale, and testing various budget scenarios. PCI Treatment Bands change as a road wears. These bands include "do nothing", "routine maintenance", "preventive maintenance", "structural improvement", and "base rehabilitation". Repairs need to be done in a timely manner to avoid roads deteriorating into a band that requires more extensive work. Pavement management saves money by maintaining roads in good condition with low cost repairs as opposed to a "worst first" approach which spends large amounts to fix few streets. When a Town-wide pavement inventory and evaluation was conducted in Wethersfield by VHB in 1995, the average pavement condition index was a 77. This is about average. Since this evaluation, the Town has used Road Manager to assist in street repair selection. In 2001, VHB was hired to return to do another evaluation of street conditions and update the Town's data base. Municipal parking lots in Town were also looked at. At that time VHB met with Mike Turner and his staff to develop a paving and crack seal list. At that time, the average pavement condition index was a 78. There was a slight improvement over conditions in 1995. Pavement Management keeps a comprehensive up-to-date log of repairs, past work and current condition. It is a tool allowing for the objective selection of repairs based on benefit value. It provides an initial cut at estimating the cost of doing repairs. It allows the Town to project forward given various budget scenarios. Of 102 total miles of roads in Wethersfield, only 6 miles fall into the base rehabilitation category. Because of the expense of this category, those 6 miles will cost approximately \$3.3million. Forty-two of the 102 miles will require overlay, which will cost approximately \$6million. Twenty seven miles are in need of maintenance costing approximately \$500,000. Wethersfield needs to take immediate action to rehabilitate roads in need of overlay. This will delay more costly base rehabilitation. Also, the crack seal program, because of its cost effectiveness, should definitely be continued. Wethersfield needs to keep the Pavement Management program current. It is a good tool for the Engineering staff in allowing the Town to maintain the conditions of the roads at the level they were in 1995 and even improve them slightly.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked how many towns use this of evaluation. Mr. Derring answered that in southern New England there have been approximately 150 towns. Connecticut towns include East Hartford, Rocky Hill, Hartford, Middletown and others in the greater Hartford area. Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked if when a road is sealed does this return the road to the "excellent" level. Mr. Derring said that sealing does not eliminate all the distress to the road. It

does not bring it back up to 100, but it can bring it back to somewhere in the 90's. Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked how many times a road is sealed before further repair is needed. Mr. Daring said that it depends on the exact conditions of each road. Typically 5-7 years after a road is paved it will require crack seal. After 12 years it may need more aggressive maintenance. There may be one more crack seal before an overlay is required.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HEARING

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE SILAS DEANE MIDDLE SCHOOL ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT

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

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

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

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

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

Mike Turner, Town Engineer, left at Council's places a summary of results of a survey sent out before roadways are accepted. There were 35 notices sent out to residents living on Gooseberry Hill, Nathaniel Drive, Justin Lane, and Johnna Lane and also on Willow Street. Of the 35 notices, either no responses or no objections were received from 30. There have been negative comments from 5 residents. The issues involve streetlights being out of plumb and serving monuments not set flush with the ground. This work is weather dependent and cannot be done until springtime. It is his recommendation that the roads go forward to be accepted. P&Z has recommended this as well. Upon acceptance, a 10% maintenance bond (\$60,000) will still be held from the developer for another year to assure that any final clean up items will be completed.

Councilor Gardow asked what the PCI rating of these roads is. Mr. Turner said that these are brand new roads and that the PCI ought to be 100.

Councilor Fitzpatrick addressed the issue of flooding in the Justin Lane area. He asked if there will be a drainage problem in the future. Mr. Turner said that during construction there was a temporary problem with silt in the catch basins. This has been addressed and the contractor has been required to clean the catch basins. This has been done once.

Councilor Cascio asked about the two additional building lots. He asked if the contractor is responsible for damage to the roads due to any heavy equipment going up to these lots. Mr. Turner said that the contractor is absolutely responsible. There are no required pavement cuts.

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

RESOLUTION OF MUNICIPAL SUPPORT OF THE RECREATION TRAILS GRANT PROGRAM FOR PHASE II OF WETHERSFIELD HERITAGE WAY BIKEWAY/PEDESTRIAN PATH

Andy Wizner, 28 Belmont Street, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, spoke in favor of adoption of the resolution. He said there has been a wonderful show of support for Phase I of the project which was completed within the budgeted amount. The project is being maintained very nicely. The Conservation Commission made a commitment to seek external funds to move on to Phase II of the project. The State DEP Grant Program provides funds and the project qualifies for a \$50,000 grant through this program. If the grant money is received, the Town will have to match only 20% of the amount granted. This is an excellent opportunity for the Town to pursue. People have enjoyed Phase I and Mr. Wizner invites anyone to walk the path, or ski it in the winter. Phase II will be mostly through an urban setting which the DEP looks for and so this is in our favor. The Conservation Commission expressed their appreciation to the Town Council for inspiring the Town staff, namely Mike Turner, Kathy Bagley, the Physical Services, and Town Manager Swetcky to rise to this challenge.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Ann Kuckro, 471 Main Street, Chairman of the Tourism Commission, spoke of the Commission's goal to encourage economic development by promoting Old Wethersfield as a heritage tourism destination. The Commission has committed \$4,000 for the photography and design of a brochure she passed around to Council members. The work was done by Jack McConnell Studio and Brian McGee Marketing, both local businesses. The Commission and the Festival Board request the Council authorize the transfer of money from the Festival to the Tourism account so that the Commission can print and distribute the brochure. The brochure needs to go to Heritage Tour planners by March to be placed in Connecticut Welcome Centers by April. The 200th Anniversary of Wethersfield Fire Department will be the focus of this year's Tourism Commission's activities. The Commission and the Festival Board recommend that \$5,000 of Festival funds be used to cover the expenses associated with the exhibit "Answering The Call - 200 Years With The Wethersfield Fire Department" which will open at the Keeney Center on May 9. Finally, the Tourism Commission would like to establish links between Wethersfield and the Greater Hartford Heritage community so that the Town can benefit from the enormous investment the Governor/State is making in downtown Hartford. Wethersfield attractions can be tied in to events occurring this spring at both the Hartford Atheneum and the Elizabeth Park Rose Garden. The Tourism Commission would like to provide transportation at these events. The transfer of funds will support Wethersfield's businesses and its economy.

Neil Walsh, 49 Woodland Street, Business Owner, Chairman of the American Heritage Festival, noted that there is no Festival event this year in support of the Fire Department's anniversary. He supports the transference of funds to the Tourism Commission. The Festival has in the past been able to leverage dollars that the Council has given them. Last year \$20,000 was given and was leveraged into a budget of over \$85,000. Of the \$85,000, there was an approximate advertising benefit of \$60,000 to the Town. A good portion of that was in-kind advertising which reached over 2,000,000 people with a positive message about the Wethersfield community. In the first year, the Festival was able to raise five additional dollars for each dollar the Town gave them. At the last Festival, they raised approximately ten dollars for each dollar given them. This is in terms of developing and promoting the Town through its economic, heritage and cultural offerings. There is extensive use of volunteers. Last year, approximately 3200 hours of volunteer hours went into the Festival planning and implementation. Given a value of \$10 per hour that is a value of \$32,000 not included in last year's Festival income. When the Convention Center in Hartford is complete it will be the largest convention center between New York and Boston. We'd like to take full advantage of this to encourage tourists to come to Wethersfield.

Christine Trazek, 466 Brimfield Road, member of the American Heritage Festival group, spoke in favor of the transfer of funds to the Tourism Commission. She reminded the Council that in 2000 the Town adopted a plan of conservation and development. In that plan there were economic development goals for developing Old Wethersfield as well as activities, arts & crafts, antiques and retail operations in Old Wethersfield. The proposed budget helps to develop this tourism plan. She asked that the Council look favorably upon the request and approve the transfer.

Paul Courchaine, 481 Main Street, spoke on the request from the Tourism Commission. He is a member of the Commission. He feels very strongly that the funds need to be transferred to finish the brochure. Also he is surprised with Town Manager Swetcky's comment that the Historical Society's use of \$20,000 to replace boilers at the Keeney Center rather than repaying the Town will have no impact on the operating budget. How can this be? If this is approved, it sets the precedent to delay repayment of loans, unless the \$20,000 is waived entirely.

Wes Christensen, 5 Morrison Avenue, member of the Tourism Commission and staff member of the Historical Society, spoke of the exhibit being created for the Fire Department's 200th Anniversary. They hope to have the exhibit up May 3 thru September. It is expected to be an exciting exhibit of Fire Dept. history. When the show is over, parts of the exhibit will go to the small museum in Company 1's building. The exhibit will cost \$21,000. The Commission needs the Town's \$5,000 to begin work on the project.

John McAuliffe, 149 Boulter Road, commended the Fire Service for their work on the 200th Anniversary planning. He thanked the Council for the appointment as a Commissioner to the Metropolitan District. He knows the issues in Town, namely the Cove, and feels this will be a benefit in doing his service to the Town. He apologizes in advance that he will be unable to attend the meeting in February with the MDC. He will be out of the state at that time.

Jim Woodworth, 5 River Road, representing the Great Meadows Conservation Trust extended an invitation to a walk on Sunday at the back side of the Cove. This is where the MDC drainage comes out. There is a lot of wildlife to view there.

Charles Ford, 249 Ridge Road, member of the Tourism Commission spoke in favor of transferring the funds. Everything mentioned as a planned use of the money would be very beneficial to the Town. Specifically he spoke of the printing and distribution of the brochure, and the establishment and maintenance of a website.

Steve Holtz, 11 Hubbard Place, spoke on behalf of the transfer of funds into the Tourism budget. He said that it is vital to capitalize on events in the surrounding area and link them to Wethersfield.

Fred O'Dell, 41 Oldham Road, has served on both the Board of Directors of the Wethersfield Community Television and representative to the Cox Cable Advisory Council. He is requesting that a studio be put in the Town Hall for public access. Cox Cable has funds available and are anxious to serve in the Governmental area and would be able to "hot wire" various places in the Town Hall for recording. The library's enrichment programs would also be ideal for public access television. Mr. O'Dell indicated that he is not speaking on behalf of either aforementioned Boards, but feels that these are good suggestions for the Town to consider suggesting to the Building Committee. Other town's have their community television operating out of their Town Hall.

Jim Clynych, 903 Ridge Road, spoke of Rocky Hill's initiative to pass a resolution/ordinance regarding CRRA illegal loan that they would not pay anymore increases and tipping fees. He would like to see Wethersfield take a similar action.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, spoke of the State's financial budget crisis. He recently met with Representative Paul Doyle and had a discussion about the State's situation. He said that he had attended the January 11 meeting and still considers the amount allocated for the "shed" for maintenance to be too high. He can't believe that it will cost that much, and if it does, he can't believe that a referendum will pass. Hopefully, it will pass at a much lower number. The Webb School needs to be up and running as soon as possible. The Stillman building should not be gutted and rebuilt. He thinks we should forget the shed.

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. He reminded all attending that the budget workshop held on January 11 identified almost \$5.7million needed to run Wethersfield next year. This translates into a 10% tax increase. The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. is not pleased with this increase. The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. would support the Tourism's request for \$20,000 and \$5,000 because it is tied in to economic development. Regarding the repayment of the roof at the Keeney Center, the historical society has paid back half of the \$200,000. They want the Town to forgive the \$20,000 payment due. The Historical Society should pay back the total amount unless they are broke. He suggests that they should not be granted the \$20,000. Also, the Police Building Committee should not get \$71,000 for furniture. The dollar amounts of the Bond

should not have bundled into one amount. It doesn't hold people accountable to come in according to their budgets. He suggests that the Committee get the \$71,000 provided they identify \$71,000 of hard savings in their current budget. Lastly, economic development is the most important issue that Wethersfield faces. This subject has been silent in the last six months. He'd like to see something on the agenda to discuss economic development now that we have a new Economic Planner.

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, commended the Council for their steps to moderate costs to refurbish our school system. The Council and the BOE needs to be challenged to continue with significant savings on the balance of the funding. He said that with the current state of the economy and continual reduction of staff, he suggests that the Council decides what amount of a budget increase they will accept (zero would be challenging but nice) and stick with it.

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

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Flynn moved **"TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE SILAS DEANE MIDDLE SCHOOL ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor O'Connor.

Mr. Drake, Chairman of the School Projects Committee, said that the next step is to gain State approval. The amount being asked for is \$710,000, but the project should cost about \$550,000 including the roofing and brick work.

Councilor Flynn asked if there is an anticipated reimbursement rate. Mr. Drake said that it is around 25%.

Chairperson Czernicki asked Mr. Drake to speak about the incident at the Middle School today. Mr. Drake explained that during water main work near the building, the contractor clipped a water main feed into the building which shut the school down. It is expected to be finished being repaired tonight.

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

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL, INC."**, seconded by Councilor Flynn.

Councilor Gardow asked whether or not there is a cost impact or if this is simply an agreement to work together. Town Manager Swetcky said that there will be a cost impact to the Town. The impact will start next year. The cost impact is not known at this time. It will depend on how many towns are involved in the agreement. The voting is to authorize the Town Manager to enter into negotiations. Councilor Gardow asked if in the end the Council would vote on the final agreement. Town Manager Swetcky said that Council would vote on the agreement next July or August. He said that there is a new law requiring us to provide emergency dispatch. Entering into the agreement will be more cost effective than hiring two new staff to provide the service.

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

Deputy Mayor O'Connor moved **"TO APPROVE THE 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"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor moved **"TO APPROVE THE 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"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor moved **"TO APPROVE THE 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", seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor moved **"TO APPROVE THE 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"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Fitzpatrick moved **"TO APPROVE THE 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"**, seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

Councilor Gardow asked Town Manager Swetcky what the schedule for payment looks like. Town Manager Swetcky said that it doesn't look good right now because of the current market and economy. This resolution gives us the opportunity to sell these bonds anytime within the next six months. As soon as the market shows a 2% spread, the Town will go ahead with the sale. There is the potential to save up to \$250,000 over the next 10 years.

Councilor Morin asked how long normally the Bonds take to pay off. Town Manager Swetcky said that it is normally 20 years. Councilor Morin asked if there is any downfall past the 13th year. Town Manager Swetcky said that the debt will be paid off at that point in time so that there is no impact on the principal, but there will be savings on the interest part.

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

Councilor Morin moved **"TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION OF MUNICIPAL SUPPORT OF THE RECREATION TRAILS GRANT PROGRAM FOR PHASE II OF WETHERSFIELD HERITAGE WAY BIKEWAY/PEDESTRIAN PATH"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Flynn moved **"TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF SEYMOUR A. ADIL TO THE INSURANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE TERM OF 1-21-03 TO 6-30-05"**, seconded by Councilor Morin.

Councilor Gardow said that he had asked the Town Clerk for the Statute for the Insurance Committee after the resignation a few weeks ago. He believes that there has to be a certain split and fears that voting in Mr. Adil may even be illegal. Town Clerk Sassano said that according to minority rules, there is a 5/2 split on 7 member Boards. He would like to have another look at the Statute before approving this appointment.

Councilor Gardow moved **" TO TABLE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF SEYMOUR A. ADIL TO THE INSURANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE TERM OF 1-21-03 TO 6-30-05"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor O'Connor. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Gardow moved **"TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF DONNA J. SCHWARTZ TO THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS FOR THE TERM OF 1-21-03 TO 6-30-05"**, seconded by Councilor Morin . All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Gardow moved **"TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JAMES E. PAYETTE TO THE FENCE VIEWERS COMMITTEE FOR THE TERM OF 1-21-03 TO 6-30-04"**, seconded by Councilor Morin. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilor Cascio informed all that the Public Safety Committee will be meeting on January 29 at 7:00pm and will be discussing the Ordinance to Control Feral Cats.

OTHER BUSINESS

OLD SPRING STREET ROW - REQUEST FOR ABANDONMENT

Councilor Gardow asked Mike Turner if the piece of property at Old Spring Street is between the condominiums. Mr. Turner said that it is the property on which the old house burnt down. There are the Watson Condominiums, a spot of land, and then more condominiums. Other properties in the area have been already conveyed after being referred to P&Z.

Councilor Cascio asked if there will be anything built on this vacant lot or will it just be cleaned up. Mike Turner said that the land will allow the builder to construct a duplex rather than just a single family home.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor moved "**TO REFER TO PLANNING AND ZONING THE OLD SPRING STREET ROW - REQUEST FOR ABANDONMENT**", seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

TOURISM COMMISSION FUNDING REQUEST

Deputy Mayor O'Connor moved "**TO REFER TO BUDGET AND FINANCE THE TOURISM COMMISSION FUNDING REQUEST**", seconded by Councilor Fitzpatrick.

Councilor Sassano supports the motion to refer the request to Budget and Finance and wants to go on record showing support for the Tourism Commission and its subcommittee, The American Heritage Commission. The Council needs to maintain its commitment to economic development. He would hope that the Budget and Finance Committee would understand that this money will be well spent. He hopes that Budget and Finance can meet in a timely fashion.

Councilor Cascio asked if the Tourism brochure is universal or if it changes every year at a cost of \$20,000. Ann Kuckro said that the estimate for printing is for 50,000 copies which will last 2-3 years. Councilor Cascio asked if there is a process that needs to be taken to go out to bid if it's over \$10,000? Town Manager Swetcky said that the charter requires that any one service or commodity purchased over \$10,000 has to go out to bid. This should go out to bid if it's all to one vendor. Ann Kuckro said that there were multiple bids for the printing and the lowest was \$7,000. Councilor Cascio asked what responsibility the Council and/or Town Manager Swetcky have over a project such as this brochure. Last fall, the Heritage Festival reported that they would not have their annual Festival, but would instead support the Fire Department's anniversary. At that time, there was discussion of the funds going over to the Firemen's festival. He wants to make sure we're not spending money that we've already informally given to another organization. Ann said that this whole project was discussed with former Town Manager Erdman last August.

Chairperson Czernicki said that although the former Town Manager may have been aware of the whole project and process, he unfortunately did not share this with Council before he left. Council is seeing this request for the first time and Councilor Cascio's concerns are regarding the commitment that has already been made for the printing of the brochure. She asked Town Manager Swetcky if the Council should have been notified previously so that they could have made a decision. Town Manager Swetcky said that the initial work was done with money the Committee received through the Town budget last year and this year. It probably would have been good to come back to the Council to request the money ahead of time. There are many groups who would like to use the \$20,000 available by not having the Heritage festival. This is the first formal request.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked Ann if another 50,000 copies would cost another \$15,000 or would we just be paying for the printing costs. Ann said that the brochure is all done digitally and changes would be minor. The additional cost would be just for printing and minor changes. The Committee would hope to get funds from the State Tourism Commission for future printings. Ann verified that the Tourism Committee went out to bid for the brochure work.

McGee Marketing did the cost estimates. The design and photography was covered by the Tourism Commission's budget. Estimates have been gotten for the printing and distribution. Deputy Mayor O'Connor expressed concern that generally the Council is usually responsible for authorizing the Town Manager to go out to bid. Ann said that the Town Manager has not put it out to bid. The Commission has only gotten cost estimates.

Councilor Morin said that he'd like to nail down a time for the Budget & Finance Committee to act upon this matter.

Chairperson Czernicki, after a discussion, said that this could probably be done within the next two weeks.

Councilor Cascio wanted to know if the revenue was up for the shopkeepers during the last Festival or was just the Festival itself's revenue up. Neil Walch said that a survey was not undertaken among the shopkeepers; however any activity which brings positive light on Wethersfield brings potential opportunity for future business.

Councilor Fitzpatrick said that \$15,000 was invested in brochures a few years ago and he's curious to know if any are still around. Town Manager Swetcky said that there are still a number of those around town and available in the planning office.

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

WETHERSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY FUNDING REQUEST

Chairperson Czernicki asked Town Manager Swetcky to explain the Wethersfield Historical Society funding request and how it will not impact the operating budget.

Town Manager Swetcky said that the Town provided a \$200,000 loan to the Historical Society about five years ago to replace the roof at the Keeney Center. The loan was interest free and to be paid back over ten years at \$20,000 per year. The money comes from a gift from the Hartford Foundation. This year the Historical Society paid back \$60,000 for the past three years. They also requested that \$20,000 be used for the replacement of the boilers. This does not impact the Town's operating budget because the original loan money actually came from the Town's Capital budget. The \$20,000 annual repayment amount is put back into the Capital budget. The money would be reallocated in the 2004 Capital Budget. The \$20,000 is currently available.

Councilor Fitzpatrick clarified that of the \$60,000 paid in December, the Society would like \$20,000 back to replace the boilers. Town Manager Swetcky said that currently \$100,000 of the original \$200,000 had been paid back. This is not a loan; they just want \$20,000 as a separate request.

Councilor Sassano said that it is simply a request by the Historical Society that the boilers be repaired. He asked when this item was likely to be inserted into the Capital Budget in the first place. Town Manager Swetcky said that this was a surprise to him. Apparently staff was aware of it though. The former Town Manager may have been aware of it. Councilor Sassano said that the Historical Society is pointing out that they have a need and that the money is available and they're asking for it. This is a Town building and the Council needs to support the repair of it.

Councilor Flynn said that the Keeney Building is a Town building used for Town functions. The Historical Society is not flushed with cash. The Town needs to be responsible for making these repairs. The Building cannot limp along for the balance of the heating system. He supports moving forward on this.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked why the Historical Society didn't just give us \$40,000 and fix the boilers on their own. Why give us the money and then ask for it back? Town Manager Swetcky said that they would still owe us \$20,000. They could not fix the boilers without Council's authorization. If they used the \$20,000 to repair the boilers, they would default on their loan.

Councilor Flynn said that part of the problem has to do with the source of the funding. The Grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving was to be applied to the roof repair debt. They are asking for the Town's consent to take \$20,000 from that debt payment and have it applied to boiler repairs. It's not just found money.

Councilor Hemmann said that there are plenty of requests of the Capital Improvements fund. There needs to be better communication with the Historical Society. Town Staff also did not bring this forward or it would have shown on the Capital Improvements Request List. They have put the Council in a difficult position.

Councilor Gardow asked in what fiscal year the note is due. Town Manager Swetcky said that it was given in 1997 and the note is due in 2006. Councilor Gardow said that this would not add another year onto this loan. Town Manager Swetcky agreed.

Councilor Sassano said that the Historical Society has paid their \$60,000 and are clearly asking for an additional \$20,000 for boiler repairs.

Chairperson Czernicki pointed out that the letter from the Historical Society states that the \$60,000 is partial payment for the "roof" loan and then goes on to request \$20,000 for boiler repairs. They are identifying the \$20,000 for two different reasons.

Councilor Morin, who has always looked guardedly at spending money on these buildings, said that the boilers need to be repaired; whether we do it or they do it. It could be catastrophic to the building if the repairs are not done. They are making efforts by going after grant money. This is a plus for the Historical Society to be doing this. We need to take action.

Chairperson Czernicki expressed to the Town Manager that she understands that, other than the roof, the Historical Society is to be paying to the repairs to Keeney based on the rental of the Standish House. Town Manager Swetcky said that the money from the Standish House rentals is to be used for the general operations at Keeney, not repairs. She asked Councilor Flynn if the Society had informed him during one of their meetings that this repair would be coming down. Councilor Flynn did have a telephone conversation with Town Manager Swetcky during December. They have had extensive discussions with Town Staff.

Councilor Flynn moved **"TO APPROVE THE WETHERSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY FUNDING REQUEST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000 FOR BOILER REPAIRS"**, seconded by Councilor Morin. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed

BIDS

Councilor Fitzpatrick moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR TIRES AND TUBES TO BIDDER #5 TOCE BROTHERS, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000"**, seconded by Councilor Flynn. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Hemmann moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR POLICE FACILITY CHANGE ORDER: INSTALL 50 PAIR GEL-FILLED CABLE TO BIDDER SBC SNET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,356.78"**, seconded by Councilor Fitzpatrick. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Fitzpatrick moved **"TO TABLE THE BID FOR POLICE FACILITY FURNITURE"**, seconded by Councilor Flynn.

Councilor Fitzpatrick said that he would have to reject this bid. He has a hard time spending \$70,000 for two rooms of furniture. This is supposed to be state-of-the-art; however six high back chairs at \$600-\$700 each for a reception area are unnecessary. He'd like to send this back to get a better deal.

Councilor Cascio asked Town Manager Swetcky if we could ask the bidder to look at a different quality of manufacturer. Town Manager Swetcky said that this was a State bid and that there are probably other vendors. We could look at the other vendors to see what alternative furniture and pricing they have. The second option is to look at the list of furniture and scale it back to the basic essentials. Councilor Cascio stated that there are needs and wants and we need to stick to what we need.

Councilor Gardow shared a quote from OFS for a desk for \$1,351.14 which is \$1,200-\$1,500 less than the bid price.

The pencils need to be sharpened to get the prices down.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor said that we need to move to table and possibly refer the bid. The furniture is needed but this is a bit exorbitant.

Councilor Sassano asked Town Manager Swetcky which price we are paying for furniture. Is it the first price listed for each item or is it the amount listed under the word "customer"? He said that there is a difference between the qualities of furniture you would want to purchase for home use as opposed to the quality of furniture to be used in a public building where it would be subject to more wear. He agrees to table; however, he cautions Council not to take the discount route and pay for it in the long run.

Councilor Fitzpatrick is concerned that we are going into the Town Hall budget to get money to pay for the Police Facility furniture. Town Manager Swetcky said that the Town received a grant to improve accessibility to the Town Hall. Instead of spending the \$150,000 for the elevator out of the Bond, it would be spent out of the grant. Councilor Fitzpatrick asked if all of the budgeted money for the Police Facility has been spent and Town Manager Swetcky said that it has. Councilor Fitzpatrick said that we will be over budgeted at the Police Facility by \$70,000. The grant has given our Town budget \$150,000 more. If we eat through that \$150,000, where do we go next? Do we go to another bond? We want to be cautious. He is concerned with this amount of money being spent for two offices. They can be furnished for a lot less with durable items. It can still look nice for a lot less.

Councilor Gardow apologized for providing misleading information regarding the prices. He can see that Councilor Sassano was right with the prices of items.

Councilor Hemmann agrees that the building needs to be furnished, but does not necessarily want all the high-end equipment. Middle of the road, durable equipment that meets our cost guidelines would be better.

Councilor Sassano agrees with Councilor Hemmann but needs confirmation that the items listed are indeed high-end. It may in fact cost \$70,000 to furnish the rooms. He doesn't think that enough information has been provided to make a decision.

Chairperson Czernicki asked Town Manager Swetcky to ask the Building Committee to provide information on the next grade down that is just as serviceable, just as practical that would fill the needs of the department.

Councilor Fitzpatrick wonders how beneficial the State Bid amount is if we can go out onto the internet and get the same price.

Councilor Morin said that the comparison may not be apples to apples. He suggests that the Council come up with a number and let the vendor know that this is the amount we have to spend.

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

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR SDMS PROJECT CHANGE ORDER: PAINTING TOILET ROOMS TO BIDDER NEWFIELD CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,493"**, seconded by Councilor Fitzpatrick. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Flynn moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR SDMS PROJECT CHANGE ORDER: REPLACE PLUMBING FIXTURES TO BIDDER NEWFIELD CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$22,464.06"**, seconded by Councilor Fitzpatrick. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Gardow asked Mr. Drake if these are reasonable prices. Mr. Drake said that these are really great numbers. There have been minor renovations to the original package. This is to fully renovate six bathrooms.

Councilor Fitzpatrick moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR SDMS PROJECT CHANGE ORDER: EPOXY RESIN FLOORS-TOILET ROOMS TO BIDDER NEWFIELD CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF**

\$8,918.84", seconded by Councilor Flynn. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

MINUTES

Councilor Flynn moved **"TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 6, 2003"**, seconded by Councilor Gardow. Councilors Fitzpatrick, Flynn, Gardow, Hemmann, Sassano, O'Connor and Chairperson Czernicki voted AYE. Councilors Cascio and Morin abstained. The motion passed 7-2-0.

GENERAL COMMENTS

REPORTS

Municipal Agent Report SFY 2002

Report on Town Vehicles

Councilor Fitzpatrick asked Town Manager Swetcky why the Fire Department vehicles weren't listed. Town Manager Swetcky said the time frame did not allow for that information but that he would get the information.

MDC Tenth Progress Report: Wethersfield Cove Remedial Actions

Silas Deane Middle School Renovations Update

Councilor Fitzpatrick asked Mr. Drake how the project is progressing.

Mr. Drake said that the available funds log shows a negative amount at the bottom. We are trying to identify what to do with the additional monies. The boiler, technology wiring and the roof replacement are on there. The bathrooms will be added. This should cover everything we want to do for the building.

Councilor Gardow asked how the schedule is looking.

Mr. Drake said that because of the cold, we are maybe a week behind. The cold affects the concrete. On the North side of the gym, there is a lot more time being spent on the digging. We're shooting for Spring break to have the new downstairs done.

COUNCIL

Councilor Cascio said that Shared Services met and items discussed included parking & traffic issues at a couple elementary schools. Traffic & Transportation met to discuss the issues. Officials will be speaking with the school representatives to resolve the issues. Also, air conditioning of the elementary schools and the cost to the Town was discussed.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked Town Manager Swetcky to send a letter to Rick Porth to get feedback regarding the first stage of the STP grant and also request that Senators Ciotto and Fonfara log a call into him to tell him how important this grant is to the Town. Deputy Mayor O'Connor is hoping to schedule a blight meeting next week as well as a Traffic & Transportation meeting.

Councilor Morin said that he is pleased to hear that the Police Facility will be occupied earlier than anticipated. He is however displeased that he had not been officially notified of this. A sitting member of Council should not have to hear of this through the newspaper.

Chairperson Czernicki addressed Councilor Morin saying that she had heard the building might open sooner and went in to see Town Manager Swetcky who verified that there was an earlier date. She asked that this non-notification be

corrected in the future.

Chairperson Czernicki said that there was a meeting this morning with the Old Wethersfield shopkeepers. There will be temporary signage posted indicating that there is parking behind the Keeney Center. Permanent signs cannot be installed at this time, due to the weather conditions. Both customers and employees will be directed to park there. Letters will go out to the shops and business owners to reiterate this directive. There will be six spaces designated in the area from Village Pizza up to the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum for 1/2 hour parking. There will be 2 hour parking south of the Museum. The handicapped spot will be identified in two ways so that handicapped parking rules can be enforced. There was further discussion of the possibility of making the Main Street-Church-Marsh intersection a 4-way stop. There would be major costs involved. She asked that for the next meeting Town Manager Swetcky invite Ray Carpentino to provide an overview of what's happening currently and share some of his goals. Also to check with Cox Cable and the Committee for Town Hall renovations on the feasibility of having a studio in the Town Hall or Library.

Councilor Flynn spoke to Councilor Cascio about the Library renovation plans. At some point there had been talk of including an A/V hookup or studio as part of the library. Where does this stand? Councilor Cascio said that this has not been discussed.

Councilor Sassano has had conversations with several elected officials in Rocky Hill and understands that Cox Cable is prepared to donate Channel 16 for Government use exclusively for Rocky Hill and that locally produced shows by Rocky Hill would continue to be shown on Channel 14. Wethersfield should make inquiries to have Wethersfield Community TV shown on Channel 14 as well as all Town sponsored government programs show on Channel 16.

Councilor Gardow is the liaison to Channel 14 and has gotten correspondence regarding Channel 16. He was informed that there was a heated meeting a couple weeks ago. Certain towns want this and others don't. He will obtain more information tomorrow evening at the Channel 14 annual meeting.

Town Manager Swetcky has looked into this and has expressed the desire to have a separate government access channel. There was initial opposition. Channel 16 is a regional channel. Some towns have broken away from this. He would like to see Wethersfield break away. This would necessitate a vote of the Committee to change their regional approach and give us our channel. He will report to Council when more information is available.

PUBLIC

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, commented to Council that if we ever get involved with TV, we want to make certain that it is appropriately controlled. Regarding the Historical District, they've paid \$100,000 and now need \$20,000 more. He thinks they should get the \$20,000 to fix the boiler, but why isn't it just added to the amount currently owed. Regarding the furniture, \$70,000 is very high. We need to make sure the police take everything from the existing facility that they can. Transfer Enterprises provides quality furniture at a good price. This is slightly used furniture, but high quality. Our high-priced officials don't seem to be willing to do some digging around to get a better price.

Jim Clynych, 903 Ridge Road, said that Bloomfield has a studio for public TV along the length of the back of their Council Chamber. It is a very nice set up. He congratulates them for appointing a new female police chief. Regarding the boiler at the Keeney Center, he found it amusing that there was a wonderful presentation about pavement management, yet there is a lack of communication between town staff in Wethersfield. It was talked around that the boiler needed to be replaced, yet it was never formally discussed. He is concerned with the contract for Dial-A-Ride. Hartford and Wethersfield are the only two towns involved now. He thinks it would be wise to look into the scenario before the new contract comes up. Lastly, he'd like to see the Council freeze the tipping fees on the CRRRA. The Memorial Day Parade Committee will be meeting on January 30.

Paul Flannery, 382 Ridge Road, agrees with the action on the furniture purchase. He is amazed that in only 20 days, Acting Chief Cetran figured out that a cable can be run from Town Hall to the new Police Facility. Where was he last fall when we were told there was no way they could get into the new facility because of the tower situation? Mr. Flannery has observed that the antenna at the new facility is not on the pole. The pole is not wired to the building. The

height of the Callahan tower has not been increased to be compatible with the height of the tower at Company 3. He is concerned that our own Town employees knew about the boiler situation at Keeney and this wasn't communicated to those in charge.

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, spoke of the item on unfinished business (for about a year) regarding the Wethersfield email. He suggests that items of importance be emailed to Councilors. He is concerned that putting a TV studio here would add to the parking problem at Town Hall. He suggests the Moeller Home. He is confused about the loan to the Keeney Center. If the Town is responsible to do the repairs to Keeney, why didn't they pay to do the roof? Why not add on another payment to pay for the boilers? They've been running on one boiler. Do we need three? He commented to Chairperson Czernicki that on the \$10.6 proposal for additions and renovations to Webb School, Stillman Building and Physical Services Building million voted on at the special meeting, nobody has any idea how that breaks out. At the February 3 meeting are there going to be new plans submitted? Will the plans be broken down? Mr. Orsini's committee had a meeting and came up with \$9.7 million. They found almost \$1 million of architect fees. Did that come out of the numbers? They also found 7% escalation. Also, a 10% planning contingency and a 5% change order. There was a 9% construction manager construction fee. Are these fees in or out? He asked Chairperson Czernicki what the plans are to inform the public. Chairperson Czernicki said that Mr. Drake explained what was removed from the Webb plan. She will ask Town Manager Swetcky to make sure there is a more detailed plan available for the upcoming meeting. Mr. Orsini suggested a May 1 referendum date rather than April 1. Lastly, Mr. Orsini commented on the Union contracts. We should ask for give backs, just as the Governor is doing. The BOE just doesn't get it. Council needs to manage their debt. The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. will be asking for a moratorium on more bonding until the debt is managed. The incremental impact to the taxpayer must be zero. He'd rather have spent \$13 million on the schools than for 60 people in the Police Facility. Mr. Orsini spoke of the pension shortfall of \$800,000. The rule of 85 has been changed to a rule of 80 which means that higher pensions have been given to the employees. The Town has to pick up any shortfall. He is concerned by the recurring costs to the Police Station. The past recurring cost for heat, light and power was approximately \$50,000. The cost is going up to \$300,000. We should have turned the lot over to a developer to bring in tax income and increase the grand list. Mr. Orsini is concerned for the quality of life for those on lower incomes such as seniors. The costs keep going up and up and up. He sees more expensive government.

Doug Ovian, 56 Broad Street, spoke of the expenditure on the Keeney Building. Generally speaking, Wethersfield must share the riches of its history. He appreciates the support of the historical buildings. They are part of the ongoing expense of our town. They play an integral part in the development and future of our town. We can be happy that the Historical Society is willing to manage the building in the public interest. He recognizes the limits of the taxpayers. He thanked Council for their efforts on an ongoing basis to find balance.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:30 p.m., Councilor Flynn moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Fitzpatrick. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano,
Town Clerk