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REGULAR MEETING MARCH 17, 2003

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on March 17, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

Present: Councilors Cascio, Fitzpatrick, Flynn, Gardow, Hemmann, Morin, Sassano (7:20), Deputy Mayor O'Connor and Chairperson Czernicki.

Also present: Representative Paul Doyle, Representative Antonio Guerrero, Senator John Fonfara, 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 Fitzpatrick.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor moved "**TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ALLOW MR. JAMES HUGHES TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE WETHERSFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT**", seconded by Councilor Flynn. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Jim Hughes, 131 Randy Lane, a Wethersfield Firefighter, shared two things about leadership that he learned from his father who was both a police officer and firefighter in Wethersfield. The first is to educate and develop your men so that they too are ready to leave. The second is to promote from within your ranks. If you do not promote from within your ranks, there is little motivation for your men to do their best. The choice of the next Wethersfield Police Chief not only affects the Wethersfield Police Department, but also sends a message Fire Department and Ambulance Association about potential future promotions. Mr. Hughes has known and worked with Jim Cetran for over twenty-five years. Mr. Cetran has always operated with the highest level of integrity and professionalism. He is always considering what is best for his hometown. He urges the Council to act and do what is best for Mr. Cetran's hometown of Wethersfield by making Mr. Cetran the next Wethersfield Chief of Police.

DISCUSSION: METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION

Chairperson Czernicki introduced Steven Rhoades, CEO of the MDC.

Mr. Rhoades spoke of the extremely difficult issue of the overflows into Wethersfield Cove. It is a very sensitive issue to which all are looking for solutions. There are two major goals to accomplish. One is to meet the water quality standards of the Cove and the second is to meet the regulatory requirements to reduce overflows into the Cove. Mr. Rhoades turned the presentation over to Mr. Robert Moore.

Senator John Fonfara joined the meeting at this time.

Mr. Moore stated that in November, 2002, it was noted that the previous flow model had not been accurate and the projections for work to be done were revised. It was assumed that the only remaining project needed was the rain leader disconnection program. Recent modeling has indicated that this would not be enough. Council requested additional information on projects needed to eliminate the overflows. MDC representatives are here tonight to present that information. Mr. Moore handed out a narrative description of projects, and maps to go along with it. The work completed to date represents approximately \$28 million and provides the reduction of 23 million gallons of overflow during the one year storm. There are now three different project phases. The first is to look at where the greatest reduction of combined sewers would be for the least amount of money. It was determined that the location would be in the area of the mid Franklin Avenue separation. This area would represent approximately \$3 million in construction and will remove 2.18 million gallons of overflow from the system. There is \$3 million in the capital project for the Wethersfield Avenue separation project. The money has been moved internally to fund, instead, the mid Franklin

Avenue area which allows the bidding process to begin this Fall. This project is very cost effective in reducing a significant volume of overflow. In addition to the separation project, there will be the completion of separation of F-5, which is the major flow that takes the storm and sanitary flows near Wethersfield and directs the overflow into Folly Brook. This summer, the MDC will begin their rain leader pilot study. The City Council of Hartford has approved a study for the disconnection of rain leaders and a pilot study for 90 homes along Campfield and Victoria Roads and along the Wethersfield border. This requires a year of monitoring and is expected to be complete by January, 2005. The remaining 2.18 million gallons of overflow has been broken up into a variety of street and separation projects. These projects represent approximately \$19 million of separation projects. These will be pursued under the capital project program. If there is an infusion of State money, the programs would begin immediately which would speed up the process considerably. The MDC proposes at the end of each project to rerun the model and identify what is left to be done. Mr. Moore introduced Mike Petty who is the MDC Director of Engineering and Planning and will be responsible for the implementation of all of this work.

Mr. Petty explained that of all the challenges that lay ahead for him, CSO's (combined sewer overflows) is not only a very important project for the district, but also for him as it will occupy a major portion of his time for at least the next decade. Council requested that MDC consider the alternative of shallow tank storage. The other alternative is a deep rock tunnel. Mr. Petty handed out a map of the Franklin Avenue drainage district. The tunnel would be completely enclosed under Franklin Avenue. The tunnel would be 13' in diameter and would run from Bodwell Street to Victoria Road. It would contain a volume of 3.6 million gallons which is equivalent to the same amount of overflow attempted to be removed by the Phase 1 & 2 portions of the program. The only problem with the tunnel is that it is not particularly cost effective. The tunnel would cost approximately \$54 million. Given this cost reality, Mr. Petty looked at the shallow tank storage which would be more cost effective. The tank would consist of pipes 36"-54" in diameter beneath Franklin Avenue in approximately the same location shown for the tunnel. The consolidation sewers would be 20' below street level and drain to a shallow subsurface tank located in the lower Franklin Avenue portion of Hartford. The cost for this would be approximately \$27 million. The cost effectiveness of either of these projects is not cost compatible with the cost effectiveness of continuing the separation program.

Councilor Cascio asked what Wethersfield will see happening in the cove with the Phase 1 project. Mr. Moore said that the flow event for a one-year storm will be reduced from 5.78 overflow to 3.6 million gallons. The sewage would be directed to the sewage treatment plant without the 40" overflow that occurs in that chamber. Councilor Cascio asked what the time phase is for Phase 1. Mr. Moore said that Phase 1 has begun and bids will begin this Fall. The Maple Avenue construction project will be completed this July. Councilor Cascio asked when the Wethersfield Cove will meet water standards. Mr. Moore said that it will not meet water quality standards for possibly 5-10 years.

Councilor Flynn asked if the flow levels are based on a one-year storm. Mr. Moore said that they are.

Councilor Gardow asked if the infrastructure is already in place for the removal of the F5 overflow by having sewage go to the sewage treatment plant. Mr. Moore said that this is part of Phase 1. He said that when the sewage flow is below 40", all the flow goes to the sewage treatment plant. When the flow exceeds 40", the rest of the flow goes out into the Cove. Councilor Gardow asked if the infrastructure could take everything to the sewage plant without all this other plumbing. Mr. Moore said that the sewage treatment plant cannot handle the storm water flow from the city of Hartford; that is why there are overflows built in. Councilor Gardow asked if the overflow could be brought directly to the river. Mr. Moore said that there was a proposal that the DEP asked the MDC to evaluate that brought the combined overflow to the Connecticut River without treatment. The estimated cost was \$21 million several years ago. The cost now would be \$25 million. This does not provide any type of treatment to the overflow.

Councilor Morin said that Wethersfield has been dealing with this situation for over five years and has been battling for what the residents feel is comfortable. He is discouraged to see a cost of \$21 million that handles a one-year storm event. He'd like to know how much rain is involved and how often a one-year storm event occurs. He was hoping that for this much money we would be much further along with the project. To go ten years to address a one-year storm is not satisfactory. He asked what needs to be done to get to the appropriate level of progress.

Mr. Moore said that 21 million gallons of overflow has been removed from the system at a cost of \$28 million. There has been a study, and construction which is still ongoing. The work on this program has never really stopped. The

result needed to eliminate the overflow has not been accomplished as originally planned and now a new plan has been put in place to get the overflow down to a satisfactory level. It was anticipated that the original project would have been completed by now. This now will take time as there is competition for funds within the budget.

Mr. Petty said that the probability of a one-year storm event is 100% in any one year. This means that every year there will be at least one one-year design storm. The amount of rain expected is 2.5-2.7 inches.

Mr. Morrissey of the Connecticut DEP said that storm profiles run throughout Connecticut show that in the last ten years there have been ten storms that match the profile. Some years may have two storms that match the profile and other years may have none.

Councilor Flynn asked about the ten-year profile and Mr. Morrissey said that a profile for a ten-year storm event has not been run. It is; however, approximately a 4 1/2 inch rain storm. The 100-year rain storm is a 7-9 inch event.

Councilor Cascio asked if the \$10 million of Wethersfield funds in the presentation is considered to be under Phase 2A. Mr. Moore said that if the State funds are available for infusion into this program, a decision will be made jointly between MDC, Wethersfield Council and DEP to use the funds to speed along this process. Councilor Cascio asked where this project lies on the MDC priority list of funding. Also, what can we do to make this a top priority?

Mr. Moore said that this has been a top priority for the district and projects have been funded every year.

Mr. Petty said that the CSO program is a very important program to the district; however, we can only do that which there are funds available. The DEP has indicated that there will be approximately \$21 million available each year to keep the CSO program moving forward. He expects that CSO projects will be undertaken every year and will be done as fast as the money becomes available. Mr. Petty is committed to keeping this project moving along.

Chairperson Czernicki asked Mr. Petty to explain what the consent order requires the MDC to provide in terms of the one-year storm with respect to the Wethersfield Cove.

Mr. Petty said that there are two consent orders. He is most familiar with the city-wide consent order entered into with the DEP. There is also a separate consent order issued earlier specific to the Wethersfield Cove issue. Mr. Moore is more familiar with the latter and Mr. Petty deferred any questions regarding it to him.

Mr. Moore said that the consent order on the Wethersfield Cove required the construction of a variety of projects outlined in a report as well as a schedule for the projects. The schedule has lapsed and so have most of the projects, except for Maple Avenue. The consent order needs to be changed to reflect this new construction and meet new projects, as it is not reflected in the original 5143 order to the MDC. A new schedule needs to be negotiated with DEP.

Chairperson Czernicki asked if the ultimate goal of the consent order was to have no CSO's to the Cove in the one-year storm. Mr. Moore said that this is correct. Chairperson Czernicki asked if this is still the goal that the MDC is obliged to meet. Mr. Moore said this is correct. Chairperson Czernicki asked if this is to be accomplished with MDC funds. Mr. Moore said that this is correct and it will be pursued that way. He said that the funding for the CSO is a joint effort by the State and the Municipalities.

Representative Guerrero expressed his concern that the one-year storm does not seem to be accurate. Also, regarding the rain leader disconnect program, he wonders what will happen if this project is not 100% completed. How will it affect the one-year storm?

Mr. Moore said that Phase 3, the rain leader disconnect program, expects that possibly not 100% of rain leaders will be disconnected. After each project completion, MDC must check to be sure that they're still on track and that projects are achieving the goals set.

Representative Guerrero is concerned that \$28 million is being spent and is concerned about what happens if the city of Hartford decides not to go ahead with the rain leader disconnect program after the pilot study is run.

Mr. Moore said that a significant rainfall event in December, 2002 yielded 1.8 inches of rain. The design storm is 2.6 inches.

Senator Fonfara addressed Mr. Moore when he indicated that the one-year design storm means nothing because it doesn't relate to real life in the Wethersfield Cove. The issue is what the circumstances are when there is discharge into the Cove. Also, under what size storm will this happen. He'd like MDC to obtain this information and present it to those present for review. MDC has been monitoring this for five years to be able to tell if during a storm there is discharge into the Cove.

Mr. Moore said that he has information for last year. Last year there were 35 events in which there was discharge into the Cove. This could continue until F5 is separated from the major Wethersfield trunk. This separation will result in a significant reduction in the amount of water that goes into the Wethersfield Cove. It is expected that F5 will be separated by Fall, 2003. He informed Senator Fonfara that he can provide him with the amount of rainfall and the total overflow and try to calculate how the overflow will be affected once the F5 project is complete.

Senator Fonfara asked Mr. Moore to provide information on how often a greater than one-year storm event occurs in a year on average during the past five years. Also, whether the MDC would support a plan that goes beyond a one-year event. The one-year event is the Clean Water Act standard, but that is for the Connecticut River which cleans itself every three hours. The Cove cleans itself every two weeks.

Mr. Moore said that the MDC commitment is to meet water quality standards in the Cove. This effort may cause research past the one-year storm event.

Senator Fonfara said that waiting 5-10 years to remedy this problem is unacceptable for the residents of Wethersfield. He would like Mr. Moore to further clarify the water quality standards.

Mr. Moore said that as part of the water control program, the MDC must monitor the Wethersfield Cove and show that it meets water quality standards. Achieving these standards is a priority.

Mr. Morrissey said that the one-year storm is the general criteria for all CSO's to meet in terms of adoption of water quality goals. In order to meet water standard criteria in the Cove, not only does MDC need to treat and eliminate CSO discharges, but they also need to do a better job with what's being done with the streets. Many of the streams that empty into the Cove do not meet water quality goals because of runoff from streets. To totally meet water quality standards for the Cove, not only combined sewer overflows need to be addressed, but also storm water runoff from the streets in Wethersfield. This is a big challenge to be met. He said that representatives from the DEP would be happy to meet and explain to residents what they can do to help achieve the water quality goals.

Richard Smith, legal counsel for the Town on this matter, said that we should not disperse our focus to water quality standards and what needs to be done to address that issue. In terms of designing man made control mechanisms for dealing with CSO's, we need to look at the volume of water that needs to be handled in particular design storms. The short-term tasks that need to be addressed by Fuss & O'Neill are as follows:

1. They need to meet with MDC and SEA to review the model runs that have occurred over the past few months. The model runs did not include the CT River alternative or the deep boring system or the shallow tank system. We need to make sure we're speaking a common language in terms of different design storms.
2. They need to review with MDC and SEA the amount of funds required for the deep bore and shallow tank options and what these designs consist of.

Mr. Smith said we also need to ask the DEP to address the issue of what would be the checklist of permits and approvals required to allow discharge into the Connecticut River of either untreated or with some identified form of treatment. Time is a critical factor and as we talk about more complex projects as alternatives we need to discuss the permitting and approval process. At this time Mr. Morrissey said that some sort of treatment is always required. Mr. Smith said that in this case the question would be what level of treatment is satisfactory.

Councilor Hemmann said that representatives from the DEP coming to speak would be very helpful. It is important for

the whole community to be educated.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked when the consent order regarding projects and schedules for 100% reduction of CSO discharges to the Cove was issued. Mr. Moore said that it was issued in 1994. Under this consent order MDC has installed static screens in several overflows. There have been a number of outreach programs. They conducted both the upper-Franklin Avenue and north-Franklin Avenue sewer separation programs as well as a number of other programs totaling approximately \$27 million. Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked how many million gallons of water emptying into the Cove have been reduced as a result of this work. Mr. Moore said 21 million gallons. The remainder is 5.8 million on the one-year storm.

Councilor Morin spoke of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Phase II which affects Wethersfield as well as other municipalities. This is federally mandated, but not funded. We are responsible to fulfill six criteria which include public education and participation. It stipulates how often we are to clean our catch basins and how often we are to sweep our streets. We have five years to meet the criteria and all of Wethersfield is responsible for this. This could cost \$3-\$6 per capita to implement. This is a good thing because it cleans up the water and makes us all aware of what is going on. This is something we'll be doing regardless of the Cove water standard improvements. Councilor Morin asked what needs to be done to get to the next step regarding the Cove. So many discussions have already been held and something needs to be done now.

Councilor Cascio asked how the readings have been on the water in the Cove and asked what situation would require intervention of the DEP to close the Cove. Would this problem have ever been addressed by MDC if residents had not brought this issue to the attention of the Council?

Peter Gross of Fuss & O'Neil said that samples have been taken during wet and dry weather. During the wet weather sampling on October 16, 2002, the bacterial levels exceeded bathing standards for both Folly Brook and the Cove. The higher levels were actually in Folly Brook. There had been .83 inches of rain during the wet weather event and the MDC found that there were no CSO discharges during the rainfall. The dry weather sampling indicated that the bacterial levels were at or slightly below the swimming standards in the Cove and a little bit higher in Folly Brook.

Mr. Morrissey answered Councilor Cascio saying that the opening and closing of beaches is up to the local health director to determine. The MDC works with the Department of Health Services to establish the bathing beach standards and every summer public bathing beaches are monitored along with that department. Local bathing beaches are monitored by the local health director and free analysis of the samples are provided by the Department of Health Services. If samples show bacteria levels consistently above bathing beach standards the beach would be closed.

Councilor Sassano said that Wethersfield became serious about this issue after the event of September, 1997 when, during a dry weather spell, more than 20 million gallons of raw, untreated, undiluted sewage backed up into Wethersfield Cove over a period of eight days. The volume of the Cove is approximately 200 million gallons. This was an insult to our treasured body of water. Wethersfield assembled a team of experts from Robinson & Cole, Fuss & O'Neil, the MDC and the DEP as well as numerous citizen groups. The Town is still relentless in its pursuit of a solution and Councilor Sassano is discouraged to hear that the pre-abatement plan conditions of 1993 allowed for 29.38 million gallons of CSO's to flow into Wethersfield Cove. Following the completion of the abatement projects, that amount was reduced by 21.74 million gallons. This leaves us with 7.64 million gallons during a one-year storm event. The rain leader disconnection will reduce it further by .31 million gallons which leaves us with 7.33 gallons. Following additional CSO modifications removing another 1.55 million gallons we are left with the current state of affairs. This would leave Wethersfield with 5.78 million gallons of combined sewer overflow in a one-year storm event. What is being proposed are additional projects to reduce this amount of overflow. At the conclusion of Phase 2A, at a cost of an additional \$10.3 million, we will be left with 1.72 million gallons of combined sewer overflow into the Cove. After the completion of Phase 2B, which will cost \$8.5 million, we will be left with .45 million gallons of CSO's flowing into the Cove. After Phase 3 is complete .31 million gallons will be removed leaving us with .14 million gallons of CSO's. Our objective is not necessarily to focus on a one-year storm; it is to reduce all CSO's even with the one-week storm. Rather than go up to five-year, ten-year, one hundred-year storms, what about the storm that occurs every month? Last year there were 35 events suggesting some overflow into the Cove. The cumulative effect is there even though we're focusing on a one-year storm. Even after \$20+ million additional funds are spent, there will

always be something flowing into the Cove. Councilor Sassano can't believe that the MDC's commitment to this project is as relentless as Wethersfield's. Wethersfield has worked hard at obtaining State funds and has been granted \$10 million. This money hasn't been spent yet. Phase 2A which will cost \$10.3 million is likely to be completed if the \$10 million could be used to pay for it. Councilor Sassano would like to see an updated counting of the number of events and the number over overflows into the Cove.

Councilor Hemmann asked if Mr. Morrissey would advise Wethersfield with regard to federal permits including the Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Morrissey said that with regard to waste water discharge permits, we are a delegated state. We've been delegated all federal authority to issue waste water permits. The Army Corps of Engineers only get involved if there is a wetlands' crossing or impact. They will be involved in this issue. Councilor Hemmann believes that because of the poor turnover of water in the cove, events indicating high bacterial levels will occur until it becomes clean. Mr. Morrissey corrected this by saying that storm water runoff is the last remaining frontier of pollution that this nation needs to tackle. Any stream in Connecticut, after a fairly significant rain storm, will exceed bacteria standards because of storm water overflow from urbanized areas. Storm water Phase 2 permits require no limits at the end of storm water discharge pipes. It only requires a modicum of monitoring. In the future, there will be limits to be met. We, as a community, need to make sure there are no illicit sanitary connections to the storm water system. What's been found in cities and urbanized areas is that there are a lot of illicit connections. No sanitary waste pipe should be connected to the storm water system. Councilor Hemmann stated that the funding was meant to be used for the clean up of the Cove rather than projects. She believes that the funding should be earmarked to clean up the Cove.

Chairperson Czernicki thanked Councilor Sassano for summarizing the situation for members of the audience. She agreed that we have all worked very hard over the past five years to resolve this issue. To implement the current projects could take 5-10+ years to complete which could still leave us below standards of the one-year storm. Council looks at the \$10 million as additional work to the Cove; to make it cleaner than the one-year storm. It is a way to begin projects beyond or different than this one. She'd like to see the representatives from MDC meet with Fuss & O'Neill and Bill Hardy from the SEA and follow the guidelines set out this evening by Attorney Smith. Also Council would like information regarding the number of storms, the amount of discharge and the frequency of storms over the one-year that we've seen over the past five years. She asked the legislative delegation to share their opinions of how secure the \$10 million is for Wethersfield to access.

Senator Fonfara said that there is no time limit on the resources. There is; however, an annual review of unallocated funds and the bonding subcommittee makes recommendations to the finance committee and then the package is voted on by the legislature as to whether the funds would be retained in their current place. The Wethersfield delegation will do everything in its power to insure that those resources are retained in place and available when the Town sees fit to use them. The difficulty will not be in keeping those funds in place, but in accessing them.

Chairperson Czernicki asked any of the public in attendance to stand to show their support of the resolution of the Cove issue. (Many stood) She wanted Mr. Petty and Mr. Rhodes to observe Wethersfield's commitment to the Wethersfield Cove.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HEARING

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ABANDONMENT OF A PORTION OF FORMER SPRING STREET RIGHT OF WAY IN THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD

Philip Roequie, 14 Willow Street, spoke in favor of the Spring Street abandonment. It would release the Town of any liability and maintenance. This would make this property income rather than an expense to the Town.

Anthony DiGiro, 15 Middletown Avenue, asked if any fill will be going into the sliver of Spring Street because being in the flood land he is very concerned about this. Mr. Roequie answered that being that the property is flat, there will be no fill.

RESOLUTION ALLOCATING \$40,000 FOR AIR CONDITIONERS AT THE HIGHCREST AND HANMER

SCHOOLS

Thomas Wraight, supports allocating funds for the air conditioners. We are on the right track in proceeding with the Webb School renovations and we need to make this effort to make conditions better at Highcrest and Hanmer.

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. The Association is pro-education but has a problem with this resolution because it's being taken out of process. Process is key. We have not heard that there are any problems at these schools. Parents have come forward, but neither the Principal nor health personnel from either school have. The process requires that the programs go through the Capital Projects Advisory Committee who prioritizes where the money is to be spent. He advises sending this resolution back to the Capital Projects Advisory Committee. Wethersfield will have a serious budget problem starting July 1. Back in November, 2002, there was a fund balance of \$800,000. It is projected that that balance will drop to \$400,000-\$450,000. We're losing \$400,000 of reserve funds to keep our taxes low next year. We lost \$189,000 in State grants and lost \$130,000 on interest in our investments. Let the committee prioritize this request and if the schools require air conditioning, the request will appear at the top of the priority list.

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, agrees with Mr. Orsini. He advises Council to do this project within the framework of the current economic climate and within the context of the overall spending plan that will be confronted over the next several months.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Donna Brown, 39 Dudley Road, serves on the Library Board. She shared some of the positive improvements that the library is experiencing. She said that reference use continues to expand. The adult services are answering 37% more reference questions than they did at this time last year. The request for items in the library shows an increase of 23%. The increased use of the library is affecting staff time. Traditionally there has been one reference librarian on duty. As a result, more staff time has to be scheduled. She thanked the Council for their continued support of Wethersfield Library.

Paul Courchaine, 481 Main Street, Chairman of the Silas Deane Revitalization Committee said that Wethersfield did not make the final cut with CRCOG in its application for the Silas Deane Revitalization project. The Committee, along with Chairperson Czernicki, Interim Town Manager Swetcky, the Town Planner and the Town Engineer made a presentation to CRCOG. A wonderful job was done on the presentation. It was Mr. Courchaine's belief that if you had submitted an application, that you could not vote in the process. One week before the presentation, Simsbury made a motion that would overturn this. Simsbury, Canton and Avon, between them, had projects in place to do the Farmington Rails to Trails continuation. A vote of 11-10 passed Simsbury's motion. Two of the Rails to Trails were passed. The committee is committed to continuing with the process. It is important to the economic development of Wethersfield that they address what can be done on the Silas Deane Highway and what resources are available. Mr. Courchaine also spoke on the selection of the new Police Chief. He is pleased to see that a decision will not be made until the new Town Manager is brought on board. He reemphasized the importance of looking within our current staff. How could Wethersfield have followed the proper process if we are allowing a father to have his son working for him. Someone must have blinked or skipped a page. Any father would be hard pressed to call his son into his office and tell him that he must now quit.

It is incumbent on Interim Town Manager Swetcky to have such a conversation with that particular candidate and ask the candidate if he'd like to step into that position or withdraw his name at that point.

Chairperson Czernicki thanked Mr. Courchaine and the Silas Deane Revitalization Committee and also Ray Carpentino, Town Planner and Mike Turner, Town Engineer for a great presentation and for all the hard work that went into preparing it. She agrees that Wethersfield fell victim to an "interesting" voting system. She encouraged the continuation of this project. Chairperson Czernicki shared with those present that Ms. Bonnie Therrien was hired as the new Town Manger of Wethersfield and will begin her position on Monday, April 21, 2003.

Thomas Wraight, 22 Coleman Road, spoke in support of hiring James Cetran as Police Chief. He submitted to Council a petition of 104 Wethersfield Townspeople supporting the appointment of James Cetran as Police Chief. Mr. Wraight

referred to the provisions of the Wethersfield Charter. Chapter 8 refers to the classification system. "All regular salaried employees of the Town shall be appointed and promoted on the basis of merit as determined by examination." "Whenever a vacancy occurs in any position within the classification system, it shall be the duty of the personnel officer to conduct or cause to be conducted an open, competitive examination, written or oral, or both, including consideration of education, experience and previous record of each candidate. The personnel officer shall have the authority if deemed advisable to appoint a board of not more than three members versed in the duties of the position to be filled and who need not be residents of the town to conduct any such examination." "No person shall be appointed to any position in the classification system who has not obtained in the examination a passing grade representing, in the opinion of the examining authority, the minimum qualifications necessary to fill the position. When more than one candidate obtains such a passing grade, the names of all such persons shall be placed on an eligible list in the order of the grades obtained and the appointing authority shall make the appointment from the three highest on such list if there be that many and otherwise from the list as a whole." Mr. Wraight pointed out that in accordance with Wethersfield's Charter, the selection process was flawed. We did not have a three member examining board. This provides that in the case of a tie, there is a tie-breaking vote. Moreover, the newly selected Town Manager was a member of the examining board. It was known at that time that she was a candidate for the Town Manager position. This is an unethical position for her to have been in. It was inappropriate that she was not asked to remove herself from the board. Wethersfield's Personnel Director, Roy Pinette, shared with Mr. Wraight that there was a total of six candidates who met the minimum requirements of a 70% grade in the examination. The top two scored 93%. The next was 91.6%. The next, Mr. Cetran, scored 88%. What weight could have been put on previous record of each candidate that it did not put Mr. Cetran over the top?! Also, the previous record would require a complete background check on each of the candidates to whom the position may be offered. Mr. Cetran was the only candidate whose record we knew. Twenty-nine years of loyal, faithful service to this Town would have passed him with flying colors.

Woodrow Warren, 9 Nutmeg Circle, spoke of the respect we must have for our streets and the type of traffic on the streets. There were many risks during the recent snow storms. Many sidewalks were dangerous to walk on forcing those walking to walk in the street. Mr. Warren believes that promotion should be based on length of experience, dedication and qualifications. In public service it is expensive to afford the best qualified people. A person who is devoted and qualified needs to be rewarded. It would be unimaginable to have an outsider hired as Police Chief. There will be a morale problem.

John McAuliffe, 149 Bolger Road, former Fire Chief of Wethersfield spoke on behalf of James Cetran. Mr. Cetran can do a lot for both the Police Department and the Fire Department. Mr. McAuliffe feels that there should have been a representative from the Fire Department on the Police Chief Selection board. Wethersfield's Police and Fire Department work very well together and this cannot change because of low morale.

Leigh Standish, 278 Hartford Avenue, said that the Town could be facing legal issues if they pressure a candidate to withdraw based on a circumstance he might confront. He suggests that the candidate consider the situation himself and if he chooses to withdraw, it would be his choice. Mr. Standish said that the MDC has not had a permit for MPDES for about fifteen years. The Council has standing in the permitting process. This permit is not automatic and the Council can have some say in how the permitting process proceeds. Also, while .83 inches did not cause an overflow; .5 inches in October caused 230,000 gallons to flow from just gate F5. A quick .5 inches over a short period of time is very different than .83 inches over a prolonged period of time. He urged Council to apply the appropriate political pressure on the DEP to permit a solution to the Cove and understand that the Cove is the only body of water in the State of Connecticut that is essentially a closed body that receives CSO's.

John Zubretsky is the owner of Century 21 Access America, 449 Silas Deane Highway and resides at 501 Highland Street. With regard to the Police Chief, he urges Council to hire from within. Mr. Cetran's 29 years of devoted service to the Town provides one of the most loyal and energetic Police Chief's we could have in this town.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, commented on the "arrested development" of Wethersfield. Our grand list is dwindling down to a very small increase this year. He does not see results coming from the Council regarding economic development. Procedures for hiring must be followed by the Council as not following them casts a shadow on confidence. Cleaning up the Cove does not appear to be a priority with the MDC. The Cove is an asset to this Town and we need to be more forceful when speaking to these people.

Patti Silva, 24 Hillcrest Avenue, spoke of the April 1 referendum. A packet has been formed called "Strong Schools=Strong Wethersfield". Everyone is encouraged to vote "yes" on April 1. Anyone looking for information on the referendum can attend a presentation by Dr. Proctor at the Silas Deane Middle School on March 20 at 7:00pm. He will also be at Wethersfield High School on March 19 at the same time. The April issue of Wethersfield Life will also provide information on the referendum. There is also a website Wethersfield.net/sssw. Ms. Silva shared that April 6 is the 2003 MS Walk. Ms. Silva also supports the hiring of James Cetran as Police Chief.

Peter Maxwell, was impressed with Council comments regarding the cleaning up of Wethersfield Cove. This is a top priority to Wethersfield that the MDC doesn't seem to understand. The Cove should be the primary asset of this Town.

John Lynch, 15 Straddle Hill, spoke on behalf of James Cetran. He is a quiet, serious, professional man. He listens. He observes. He does not use the political arena to better his position. He is the most qualified candidate to be Wethersfield's Police Chief. To make any other decision sends a negative message.

David Santoro, 187 Church Street, agrees that the hiring system is flawed. It is a cop-out on the part of the Council. One of the three candidates for Police Chief is drawing a pension from the Town of Wethersfield. Mr. Santoro wonders what it will cost Wethersfield if this candidate is chosen. Council needs to stop dragging their feet and stalling the process.

Tom Grottke, 100 Old Common, a resident of Wethersfield and member of the Wethersfield Board of Education, asked how with all the staggering economy Wethersfield can have a budget increase. When Mr. Grottke was voted onto the Board of Education, the Town put forth two major issues; education and economic development. He has great faith in the Council regarding economic development which will take a long time. We need to attract new development and employers. We need to fill vacant and unutilized buildings in order to collect property taxes. We need to make investments. The Town cannot stop spending money. Mr. Grottke feels that a "0" budget means "cuts". A good educational system is a big draw for those looking for a place to reside. Wethersfield's school system is solid and sound, but it is at a breaking point at times. Schools are full, some class sizes are too large and there is a demand for updated text books. A 6% increase is a consistent increase over the last two years and equates to 3.2% per pupil. This is not a large increase compared to Union contract increases of 3-4% in base salaries. We need to continue to get tougher with the Unions; however they are the front line of our school system and are doing a fine job. We need to spend money; therefore this Town needs to get going on economic development. We need to focus on increasing the tax base rather than on tax cuts.

Anthony DiGiro, 15 Middletown Avenue, commented on the water problem on the east side of Middletown Avenue. Something needs to be done about the slope of the road. He asked where the Historic District Commission gets their power. They seem to have too much power and have done nothing about the speed on Middletown Avenue.

James Gagosz, 283 Nott Street, commented on the MDC and the Cove. The criteria to which the MDC is working doesn't seem to fit. They are not restricted to what they can design provided the funds are available. There are two residents of Wethersfield who sit on the MDC Board. This is where we have to start to influence what the criteria will be. The engineers at the MDC need the right guidance in establishing the criteria. We need to do a cost benefit analysis. He asked that the process be sped up as the Cove will otherwise not last.

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, spoke about State layoffs. Council has been asked before to try to apply some of the practices of the private sector to government. Layoffs are occurring all over the state. It is just as sad for government employees as it is for employees in the private sector. Consolidation is important. You need to be creative. Use the management techniques that businesses use to become efficient. Newington has contained their budget increase to 3%. If they can do it, we can do it. We need to concentrate not on cuts in spending, but rather on cuts in increases in spending.

George Wallace, 22 Chesterfield Road, discussed again the recent census report. The definition of "household" in the census is as follows: "a household includes all the people who occupy a unit that is a usual place of residence". Mr. Wallace phoned the State Social Services Department regarding the poverty level. The numbers given in the census refer to households, not heads. The current poverty level in Connecticut is \$749 for one-person households and \$1,010

for two-person households. These amounts are changed every January. It is graduated up to eight-person households. Mr. Wallace also discussed the

Wethersfield Strategic School Profile for 2001-02. At that time the listed cost per pupil was \$9,261. Last week's Wall Street Journal reported 2001-02 school district debt at \$202 billion which is +13% over the previous year. The cost per pupil increased 7% to \$7,200 that year. Our tax rate base has gone up over \$16 million. The community cannot exist for education alone. He urges the Council to remember this during budget time.

Thomas Wraight, 22 Coleman Road, shared with the Council that Mr. Pinette told him that the former Town Manager instructed him to use the same process when hiring the new Police Chief that was used in hiring former Chief Karengakis. Mr. Wraight believes that this is wrong.

There being no one else wishing to speak, the Chairperson declared the general comments portion closed.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor thanked Senator Fonfara for staying at the meeting to listen to all of the general comments.

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ABANDONMENT OF A PORTION OF FORMER SPRING STREET RIGHT OF WAY IN THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD"**, seconded by Councilor Fitzpatrick. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Fitzpatrick moved **"TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION ALLOCATING \$40,000 FOR AIR CONDITIONERS AT THE HIGHCREST AND HANMER SCHOOLS"**, seconded by Councilor Morin.

Councilor Gardow commented that he had asked Interim Town Manager Swetcky for backup information on this resolution and that the information was not in Councilor's packets. Residents are also looking for the information. Councilor Gardow supports in theory the air conditioning, but needs backup information.

Councilor Flynn asked what the backup information would consist of. Councilor Gardow said that it would be information from the school nurse, principal or Board of Education indicating the need and cost. Councilor Gardow also asked for a breakdown of where the money would be coming from. Councilor Flynn asked Councilor Fitzpatrick if he anticipated that this would be a supplemental appropriation from the Council to the Board of Education or that a contract would be awarded for the air conditioners. Councilor Fitzpatrick answered that this would be a supplemental appropriation.

Councilor Fitzpatrick explained that the air conditioners would be a capital expense which has been on the Capital budget for at least eight years. There are a number of people who have gone to the Board of Education to complain about the situation, but at the time the expense would have been close to \$1 million. Dr. Goldman indicated that window air conditioners could be installed in the two schools and that the work could be done by Town staff; therefore it would need to be a supplemental allocation to the Board. This is a creative way to address a health concern in the schools.

Councilor Cascio said that the topic of air conditioning came up during Shared Services meetings. It was discussed if this job could be done during April vacation this year and according to Mr. Whall and Dr. Proctor it cannot be done during this school year. Councilor Cascio recommends reviewing the information asked for by Councilor Gardow before making any decision.

Councilor Morin supports the resolution because it is very difficult to learn when there is no air circulation. Wethersfield High School also is so unbearable at times that some teachers will bring in fans. To say that we can't put these air conditioners in over April vacation is not acceptable. Councilor Morin wants to know why this can't be done. We need to look at how we can get it done, rather than why we can't.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor said that he would like to see both schools air conditioned, however we've never heard from

the nurse or principal at either school indicating that there is a learning problem. We have heard from some parents and approving this resolution on that basis alone could be setting a precedent for other parental requests. He'd like more information in order to make an informed decision.

Councilor Flynn expressed concern about the limit of Council's authority. Council can vote a supplemental appropriation to the Board of Education, but cannot direct how the funds are used. Until there is some indication from the Board of Education that they will accept this appropriation and use it for air conditioners, he is hesitant to approve it. He'd like to see the schools air conditioned. He has reservations about the use of window air conditioning in the classrooms because it does nothing to cool common areas. He'd like to refer this matter to the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee for consideration and report back to Council during the time Council is assembling information. In order to be able to direct the use of funds, this should come out of the Capital budget.

Councilor Fitzpatrick commented that this issue was brought up by the Board of Education at the Shared Services meetings. The concern has come from more than just a couple of parents. Members of the Board of Education indicated that there is a concern with the air quality in the two schools. Classrooms are now forced to close their doors allowing for less air flow. We need to trust the Board of Education to use the funds for the purpose they are intended. Two top priorities of the Council are the health and safety of our citizens, which includes school children.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor clarified with Councilor Fitzpatrick that there is an actual air quality issue at Hanmer and Highcrest schools. Councilor Fitzpatrick said that there is a concern with the air quality. Deputy Mayor O'Connor wants clarification and statistics in order to make an educated decision.

Councilor Flynn agreed with Councilor Fitzpatrick that the air conditioning concern has been raised consistently by various school staff. Doors to the outside cannot be opened because of security issues. Councilor Flynn would like to get the Capital Improvement Advisory Commission's input on this issue.

Councilor Sassano said that this is a wonderful gesture by Councilor Fitzpatrick; however, he thinks that it is a mistake to govern by anecdote. In the absence of a formal request by the school administration, it is not clear that this is a high priority to the schools. He respects that it is a concern to parents, but process is very important. Requests for capital improvements in the past have been O.K.'d by Council and then the money would run out. The Board of Education needs to go before the Capital Improvement Advisory Commission or this decision should be made at budget time.

Councilor Hemmann supports the theory of the air conditioning in the schools; however she agrees that it should be referred. She is concerned whether or not the installation of air conditioning could be accomplished during this school year. If it could be, how do you choose which school and that could create a battle between the schools which we certainly do not want. A supplemental appropriation may be appropriate, but she'd like to see more direction and approval from the Board of Education.

Councilor Cascio asked if the resolution should be tabled. He asked Interim Town Manager Swetcky to request information regarding when this project could be accomplished, reports of air quality and also reports of any complaints.

Councilor Cascio moved "**TO TABLE THE RESOLUTION ALLOCATING \$40,000 FOR AIR CONDITIONERS AT THE HIGHCREST AND HANMER SCHOOLS**", seconded by Councilor Flynn. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-2-0 with the following roll call vote:

In Favor	Opposed
Councilor Cascio	Councilor Fitzpatrick
Councilor Flynn	Councilor Morin
Councilor Gardow	
Councilor Hemmann	
Councilor Sassano	
Deputy Mayor O'Connor	
Chairperson Czernicki	

Councilor Cascio brought forward **"AN EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE FOR JAMES CETRAN AS WETHERSFIELD'S POLICE CHIEF"**.

Councilor Cascio thinks that although the Council has no vote in the matter, it is important to let the community and Jim Cetran know that the Council is behind him. Since January, Jim Cetran has done a solid and excellent job as Acting Chief. He has the skills of professionalism, unity and the commitment to the Wethersfield community and Police force.

Councilor Sassano said that all Council members are thankful to Jim Cetran and other Police officers for all they do for the Wethersfield community. While Councilor Sassano applauds Councilor Cascio in his need to respond directly to the community, he is reluctant to put this into a formal motion as it unfairly puts undue pressure on the incoming Town Manager to make a specific decision rather than one that rates all candidates based solely on their merits.

Councilor Gardow believes that Acting Chief Cetran has done an excellent job and supports what Councilor Cascio has said. Within twenty days of being appointed Acting Police Chief, Jim Cetran figured out a way to get staff into the new Police facility. From what has been said by the public, fire department and other police staff, Councilor Gardow supports what Councilor Cascio has put forward.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor said that the Town Council is an extension of the public and is the public's voice. They elect the Council trusting that they will do the right thing. This Council has an opportunity to tell the public that they agree with them and support them. He believes this should be shared in a public form and does not apply any undue pressure. It tells the public that Council agrees with what they're saying.

Councilor Hemmann agrees with Deputy Mayor O'Connor.

Chairperson Czernicki appreciates Councilor Cascio bringing forward the expression of confidence and agrees with it.

Councilor Gardow moved **"TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF ANTHONY P. KARLOWICZ TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE TERM OF 3-17-03 TO 8-31-07"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

OTHER BUSINESS

CCM AMICUS CURIAE INTERVENTION - BOARD OF EDUCATION OF NAUGATUCK V. TOWN AND BOROUGH OF NAUGATUCK

Interim Town Manager Swetcky explained that this is a request for financial support from CCM. They are going to enter a legal brief into a State Supreme Court case involving the Town of Naugatuck and their Board of Education. It has to do with a budget referendum matter. Their budget arrangement allows for the Board of Education's budget to be a separate question from the Town Budget at the budget referendum. The Appellate Courts have decided that they cannot separate the two. It is now at the Supreme Court level and CCM would like to have support. This does not affect the Town of Wethersfield directly.

BID

Councilor Flynn moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR CHARLES WRIGHT SCHOOL ROOF REPLACEMENT DESIGN TO FRIAR ASSOCIATES, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,800"**, seconded by Councilor O'Connor. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Morin moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR SDMS TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE TO BIDDER #3 THE MERCURY GROUP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$36,663"**, seconded by Councilor O'Connor.

Councilor Flynn asked Interim Town Manager Swetcky why the awards was not going to the lowest bid. Interim Town Manager Swetcky said that the lower bidder is not in compliance with the bid specs.

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

Councilor Cascio moved "**TO AWARD THE BID FOR STREET LINE STRIPING TO BIDDER #2 MARKETING INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18,250**", seconded by Councilor Morin. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Morin moved "**TO AWARD THE BID FOR STATE BID - CARPETING AT FIREHOUSE #3 TO MCBRIDE WAYSIDE CARPET, CO. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,548.50**", seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

Councilor Gardow asked why the local bidder wasn't chosen. Interim Town Manager Swetcky said that when staff went out for this, they obtained a quote off the state bid and went with the recommended bidder simply because we've been using him all along. A quote could be obtained from the local bidder if Council would like to delay this motion until the next meeting. This would create a three week delay.

Councilor Hemmann asked Interim Town Manager Swetcky if the carpeting is to be scheduled before May. Interim Town Manager Swetcky said that this vendor would be able to install the carpeting before May.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked Interim Town Manager Swetcky if the funds available are \$4,737 and this bid is for \$5,548, where is the extra money coming from. Interim Town Manager Swetcky said that it will come from other projects in the Capital budget that are finishing up under budget.

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

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

HISTORIC DOCUMENTS PRESERVATION GRANT

Resolved: That Joseph Swetcky, Interim Town Manger, or the Town Clerk as his designee is empowered to execute and deliver in the name of and on behalf of this municipality, an application and contract with the State Library for an Historic Preservation Grant in the amount of \$12,000.

Town Clerk Sassano stated that Council must authorize this Grant in order to apply for it.

MINUTES

Councilor Cascio moved "**TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MARCH 3, 2003**", seconded by Councilor Morin. Councilors Cascio, Fitzpatrick, Gardow, Hemmann, Morin, O'Connor, Sassano and Chairperson Czernicki voted AYE. Councilor Flynn abstained. The motion passed 8-0-1.

Councilor Morin moved "**TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 3, 2003**", seconded by Councilor Gardow. Councilors Cascio, Fitzpatrick, Gardow, Hemmann, Morin, O'Connor, Sassano and Chairperson Czernicki voted AYE. Councilor Flynn abstained. The motion passed 8-0-1.

Councilor Cascio moved "**TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MARCH 6, 2003**", seconded by Councilor Hemmann. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Reports

SDMS Status Report

STP Enhancement Grant Status

COUNCIL

Chairperson Czernicki announced that on March 18 at 7:00pm there will be an Underaged Drinking Coalition meeting at Wethersfield High School. There are teen members, school psychologists, social & youth services staff and members of the Youth Advisory subcommittee taking part in this coalition. Also, March 21 is the retirement dinner for former Chief of Police John Karengakis.

Councilor Morin said that it may be helpful if Physical Services could provide a report to give an idea of the status of their budget. Councilor Morin expressed his birthday wishes to his daughter.

Councilor Flynn shared issues discussed with him during Council Office Hours last week. One resident questioned the cost effectiveness of the grass clipping bin at the transfer station. It would make more sense for the Town to encourage home composting. He'd like background information on the program to forward to the resident. The resident also spoke of possible options for automated leaf pickup. Specifically, biodegradable or compost able bags furnished to residents free of charge.

Councilor Gardow said that last Tuesday the refuse subcommittee met with Interim Town Manager Swetcky and Mr. Hart to talk about Spring cleanup. Mr. Hart asked that the Town pick up the remainder of the leaves. Interim Town Manager Swetcky said that a press release was e-mailed to the members of the committee today and is ready to go to the newspapers. The leaf collection program will be resuming for those areas who did not receive a second collection last Fall before the snow came. Pay loaders and dump trucks will need to be used. Residents can bag their leaves and they will be picked up or they can bring them to the transfer station. They will not be picked up as part of the normal trash collection. Also, the Christmas tree collection will resume.

PUBLIC

Jim Clynch, 903 Ridge Road, wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day and expressed concern about the \$40,000 air conditioning resolution. He asked if this has to go out to bid or not. Mr. Clynch thanked Interim Town Manager Swetcky for the great job he has done in the position.

George Wallace, 22 Chesterfield Road, shared with Council the 1991 Administrative Study Report for the Board of Education. In 1998, the Board of Education created another Administrative position currently paying more than \$90,000 per year. Mr. Wallace asked Council to consider this quote when entering into budget sessions, "The difficult we will do immediately. The impossible will take a little longer."

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, speaking on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. commented on the grass clippings. The large bin at the transfer station is filling up all the time. The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. would not be against charging for grass clippings. Trash patrols should be started with one Lieutenant, one Supervisor and a couple part timers. The trash patrols should be done before the leaves form on the trees. He suggests April 1. Mr. Orsini thinks that things will still happen with the beautification of Wethersfield. Also the Silas Deane Middle School parking has eliminated 26 spaces on the east side of the school. Tomorrow night it is going to Planning & Zoning. The Building Committee has found more than enough spaces for parking. Regarding the Cove, Mr. Orsini thought the MDC presentation was tough to follow. The Cove is a Wethersfield gem and reflects on the Town's image. A professional, executive summary should be presented. Councilor Sassano's summary made much more sense. A clear summary should have been available for the audience. Lastly, Mr. Orsini has received calls from residents about the upcoming referendum. Many residents are starting to link the budget increase on July 1 to this bond issue. They want to know what their taxes will increase by on July 1. Mr. Orsini can only go by Council's special meeting in January that estimated a 10% tax increase. Now it is March and Mr. Orsini asked Chairperson Czernicki if she plans on asking Interim Town Manager Swetcky to come up with a new estimate of taxes. Chairperson Czernicki said that Interim Town Manager Swetcky has been working over the last few months to bring the 10% increase down considerably. It is still a work in progress and she and Interim Town Manager Swetcky will appear at a Chamber of Commerce meeting in April to present an overview of the budget, debt service, etc. On April 21 they will be attending an AARP meeting. Chairperson Czernicki suggested that Mr. Orsini advise callers to contact Interim Town Manager

Swetcky to indicate where he is rather than suggesting the 10% increase.

Chairperson Czernicki spoke of the memo from Interim Town Manager Swetcky regarding a favorable bond sale.

Interim Town Manager Swetcky explained that recently the Council authorized the Town to refinance some old debt in the amount of \$9 million. Over the past month, \$5.5 million of debt has been identified that could actually be refinanced or refunded. Also, another \$3.5 million in new money for the Silas Deane Middle School has been sought. A bond sale totally \$8.9 million has been put together. The refinancing of the old debt sold very well. Over the next twelve years the Town will save \$318,000 in interest costs by refinancing. \$290,000 of that savings will occur in the next year. As part of the sale, our AA3 rating was confirmed which is very good news for the Town.

Chairperson Czernicki shared a note from Mr. Dick Lasher and Dr. Ellovich in support of Jim Cetran for Chief of Police. She also received a letter from Dr. Carl Braren reminding Council of the importance of clean water in the Cove.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor read a letter from Arthur Nacht, 374 Main Street, regarding the need for an improved design and review process for commercial properties in Town.

Chairperson Czernicki listed the names of those who have made a donation to the Police Furniture Fund. They are as follows:

Philomena Vincenzo	Beverly & Ted Puchulski
Helen & Mary Phelan	Florence Spring
Michael Lagna	Cecile Bibal
Irene Steidel	Skip McGurkin
Gail Hanson	Mary Sedorik
Lloyd Schaffhauser	Tommy LeClair
Alexander & Lori Chizinski	Andy & Karen Adil
Jennie Vincenzo	

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:35 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