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## **DECEMBER 1, 2003 REGULAR MEETING**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on December 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

Present: Councilors Adil, Cascio, Czernicki, Forrest, Montinieri, Deputy Mayor Karangekis and Chairperson Morin.

Absent: Councilor Fortunato and Councilor Hemmann.

Also present: Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

All stood for the pledge of allegiance to the flag which was led by Deputy Mayor Karangekis.

### Presentation from the Library Board

Chairperson Morin introduced Mr. Greg Curtin, Chairperson of the Library Board, who provided a brief report on the library hours and issues. Mr. Curtin reported that most patrons are aware of the changes to the library hours of operation. The changes have been posted on the website, in the newspaper, and through mailings. Complaints have been minimal, as most patrons have adapted well. Library usage is up 19% from last year at this time, despite the cut in hours. The Library Board thanks the Council for their continued support and Councilor Cascio for his effective and attentive liaison work.

### Presentation from the Economic Development and Improvement Committee - 2003 Business Survey

Chairperson Morin introduced Mr. Frank Frago, a member of the Economic Development and Improvement Commission, who presented the results of the 2003 Business Survey. Mr. Frago reported that a direct mailing was conducted in August with a 15% response. Of those responding, 41% are service related and 30% are retail. The percentage of respondents who have been in Wethersfield for over 21 years has grown to 30% this year over 1997's 24%. Seventy-two percent have always been located in Wethersfield. When asked where their business comes from, 64% answered from out of Town. This indicates that Wethersfield is effective in marketing the Town to surrounding communities. A disappointing 82% of respondents indicated that they are not planning to expand. Those businesses belonging to the Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce was up 3% from last year's 43%. The respondent's financial obstacles need to be addressed in order to show that we are concerned about their business success. Only 25% of respondents said that they would like to meet with the Mayor or Town Manager. Respondents provided verbal comment to the following questions: Please describe any of your business service needs which are not being met; If you do not belong to the Chamber of Commerce, why?; What do you like best about Wethersfield?; and What can Wethersfield do for you?

Councilor Forrest asked Mr. Frago if he has any recommendations for the Council to help increase business in Wethersfield. Mr. Frago said that the main issue is to make sure that any Wethersfield employee or committee/commission member acts always in a helpful way to the public. We need to visit the businesses and talk to them.

Chairperson Morin asked if any Councilors had questions for Mr. Curtin.

Councilor Czernicki asked Mr. Curtin if any thought has been given to opening the library for the full day on Friday. Mr. Curtin said that this is not being considered at this time.

Councilor Cascio asked if there was any consideration given to having the library closed on Friday morning and open in the afternoon so that students could stop in after school. Mr. Curtin said that Friday afternoon was shown to be the

day with the greatest population of students; however they were doing the least amount of studying on that day. Morning hours provide for the continuation of ongoing children's programs.

Chairperson Morin introduced Town Planner Peter Gillespie who prepared a monthly Economic and Development Commission report and presented it to Council members. This report will be presented to Councilors at the first meeting of each month. Mr. Gillespie is welcome to any input as to the format of the report. The report lists projects currently under construction, those that have been approved but construction has not started, and those that need additional approval from a Board or Commission, and those in the preliminary stages. Lastly, the report lists items being worked on by the EDIC currently. Under construction are Red Lobster Restaurant, D'Esopo Funeral Home, Aaron's Store, Quest Diagnostics, a new convenience store at 724 Silas Deane Highway, and Absolute Mortgage. Approved but not yet under construction are Bed, Bath and Beyond, CVS Pharmacy/Starbucks, Mercury Fuel Service, and a new medical office at 82-86 Wolcott Hill Road. Additional approvals are needed on Mozzicato Family LLC, Sebastian Traina, and a carwash at 1730 Berlin Turnpike. In the planning stages are a market rate multi family housing development and an age restricted cluster housing development. The EDIC is currently working on its Salute to Business on December 3, a business incentive policy, available space inventory, review of Zoning regulations, creation of development opportunities map and plans, and marketing through the Town's website.

Councilor Adil asked Mr. Gillespie if ideas for the future came from the EDIC Forum. Mr. Gillespie said that the ideas came from both the EDIC Forum and the Economic Development Plan.

Councilor Forrest stressed to Mr. Gillespie that he should not feel constrained by the EDIC. All ideas and requests for resources should be presented to the Council.

Councilor Montinieri asked if Bed, Bath and Beyond is moving into the building where Pay Half is currently located. Mr. Gillespie said that Pay Half is moving out and Bed, Bath and Beyond is planning on moving into that location. Mr. Gillespie clarified that the new façade will only be on the space occupied by Bed, Bath and Beyond.

Councilor Cascio thanked Mr. Gillespie for the information provided and asked if the projects under construction and approved but not yet under construction were all done prior to November 24. Mr. Gillespie verified that this is true.

Councilor Montinieri asked if projects under construction will be subject to the design review process. Mr. Gillespie said that the new design review process will not affect the sites that are under construction. They have gone through the existing version of the design review process.

Councilor Czernicki asked Mr. Gillespie if he could share the possible locations for the multiple-family housing development or age-restricted cluster housing. Mr. Gillespie said that he is not in a position to share that yet, but will be able to in the near future. These are still in the discussion stages and there is still a level of confidentiality to be held to.

Councilor Montinieri moved "**TO REMOVE ITEMS C.2.b AND C.2.d FROM THE TABLE**", seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

## HEARING

Resolution Opposing Any Collective Bargaining Agreement Clause Restricting Paid Firefighters from Serving in Any Capacity on Volunteer Fire Departments in the Their Home Community

Resolution Authorizing Social Services Block Grant

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that both of these resolutions were passed unanimously at the last Council meeting. By Charter, all resolutions must have a hearing and this is why they appear back on the agenda this evening.

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

## GENERAL COMMENTS

Ann Kuckro, 471 Main Street, spoke in regard to the Historic Resource Inventory transfer of \$1,000. She said that the Town applied last January to the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation for a technical services grant and received \$5,000 which the Town matched. The purpose of the grant is to develop a data management system allowing for historical district information and photographs being available when applications are made to the Historic District Commission. The data management system will cost more than the original estimate; therefore Town Manager Bonnie Therrien has suggested to Ms. Kuckro that she go back to the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation to request that they increase the amount of the grant. They are willing to grant an additional \$1,000 and the request is to transfer \$1,000 to match the State's amount.

Doug Ovian, 56 Broad Street, thanked Ms. Kuckro for providing the Historic District Commission with a valuable resource through the data management system. This is a template for what other Towns and Historic Districts around the state will be able to use. He informed the Council that there are times when inadequate data images are an obstacle to providing good customer service and this data management system will aid the Commission in becoming more user-friendly to both residences and businesses.

Aurelio Interlandi, 249 Willow Street, said that the taxpayers carry the burdens of the Town. Mr. Interlandi commented on the grass clipping program and requested that the Council budget for funds to reinstate the previous grass clipping program. Mr. Interlandi would also like to see the garbage collection remain as it is. Mr. Interlandi suggested that leaf bags be distributed to residents to alleviate the mess of leaves and dust in the streets.

Woodrow Warren, 9 Nutmeg Circle, commented on the playing fields in Wethersfield. He stated that there is a drainage problem throughout all of Wethersfield. If there is not proper engineering initially, the problem will sustain. Mr. Warren has walked the field in Town and feels that there is no requirement for artificial turf. Artificial surfaces require qualified people to properly maintain them. Wethersfield has higher priorities to tend to before installing artificial turf on the football field.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, spoke on some of the objectives that he has for the newly elected Council. His first objective is that the Council keep the tax increases in line with the road map set by the two previous Councils. Mr. Young stated that the Cove needs to be cleaned up and he is in favor of any action taken to do so. Mr. Young commented that the success of economic development in Wethersfield has been underutilized. He believes that most of the blame for this lies with the Planning & Zoning Commission. He would like to see a turnover in the membership of this Commission. Mr. Young stated his opinion that the new Police Facility lacks adequate parking for visitors. Mr. Young also commented on the safety of the cell tower at Kelleher Court.

Ronald Rodd, 88 Westway, questioned why the renovation to the High School football field does not include installation of the football field inside the track as other surrounding towns have positioned their fields. Mr. Rodd said that the existing location of the football field has a long history of poor drainage and the Town has had little success remedying this problem. The cost to complete a thorough drainage improvement project to Cottone Field is significant and mandatory before artificial turf can be properly installed. In order to lay artificial turf over the field, the existing sprinkler would need to be removed. Mr. Rodd proposes that if the football field is moved to the track location, that the existing field be used exclusively for soccer as it is much less demanding on natural turf. Mr. Rodd formally requested that the Council include in the resolution regarding lights at Cottone Field an amendment that the track field be considered as a viable, alternative site. Chairperson Morin stated that Mr. Rodd's report will be forwarded to the Town's architect, Mr. Webb, for review and consideration. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that any other suggestions will be forwarded as well.

Jim Clynych, 903 Ridge Road, chairman of the State Disabled American Veterans/Homeless Veterans, spoke of his concern that the flags do not fly in Old Wethersfield during inclement weather. His second concern is that the previous Council elected to drop from the agenda the item relating to the Veterans Tax Exemption Proposal. The Town is overdue in recognizing the low-income Veterans who apply for tax relief.

George A. Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, announced that he is giving his five minutes to Mr. Rodd to continue speaking

on the issue of Cottone Field.

Ronald Rodd, 88 Westway, continued his discussion on the football field and his concern for safety at Cottone Field. An ambulance needing to enter onto the field could easily become stuck in the mud. This presents a sizeable liability risk. Mr. Rodd pointed out that the distance from the High School to Cottone Field is over 1,000 feet and only 250 feet to the track facility. This presents a safety issue for both participants and spectators when it is dark. The nearest resident to the center of Cottone Field is 190 feet. The nearest resident to the center of the track field is 385 feet. The light issue would be less significant with the football field being located within the track. Finally, by lighting the track field, the track itself will be lit so that track meets can be held into the evening. Also, residents can utilize the track in the evening to walk and jog. This would benefit all Wethersfield residents, not just those involved in sports. The lighting could also attract outside regional competitions. The results of the architect's opinion on this proposal would provide residents with the information to make a more informed decision on this issue.

Shirley King, 3 Westway, spoke in opposition to the proposed lighting installation at the High School football field.

Barbara Ruhe, 79 Main Street, spoke on the issue of underage drinking. A problem in dealing with the issue in Wethersfield is that the Police do not have the right to enter onto private property to deal with parties. She does not feel strongly for civil rights for children under the age of eighteen. The Town needs to provide the mechanisms for local police to deal with problems for underage children who drink. This is an important issue and an ordinance will be presented to the Council in the near future to deal with it.

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. and commented on the Councilors' editorial in the Wethersfield Life. The editorial stated that the Councilors have given Wethersfield their trust and for that the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. is grateful. Mr. Orsini commented on the top four issues listed in the editorial: those being economic development, Cottone Field, Wethersfield Cove, and education funding. The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. stresses that the Council needs to stick to the 3.5% budget roadmap.

Dan Maselli, 62 Westway, urged the Council to look at alternatives to the renovation of Cottone Field. The area is a disaster. Mr. Miselli feels that the lighting is a quality of life issue regardless of which field is installed. This issue needs to be looked at very seriously and the expense to the taxpayers especially needs to be considered.

Dan O'Connor, 34 Dorchester Road, said that the additional costs of new bleachers, rest rooms, etc. need to be considered if the football field is moved to the track field. Mr. O'Connor is an advocate of the artificial turf and lighting and stated that he and others in favor are concerned about the quality of life of the neighbors. He announced that a bus has been rented for Wednesday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m. on which the Council, Board of Education members and residents of Westway have been invited to travel to Bloomfield High School to view their field and the lighting thereon.

Peter Negrola, 124 Black Birch, commented that the budget was cut for a number of services and now the Council is creating a project that doesn't need to be - the resurfacing of the High School football field. The Board of Education budget is falling short and the Police Facility left without proper furnishings. From where will the funding come for the proposed football field if the Town didn't have enough money for various Town and School items when the budget was set? Mr. Negrove feels that it will unfortunately come from his and every other taxpayers' pocket.

Judy Emmick, 88 Westway, supports Mr. Rodd's suggestion of using the inside of the High School track for the football field and has spoken with neighbors on Church Street who do as well. She does not think that it is timely right now to look at the football field when there have been freezes put on other items within the Board of Education budget. Ms. Emmick finds very disturbing the rumors that this proposed renovation to the football field is already a done deal. She feels that there needs to be a lot more discussion on this issue.

Bob Peters, 175 Coppermill Road, said that if the schools are at a point of not being able to afford supplies and Wethersfield kids have to play on fields of inferior conditions, then taxes need to be raised.

Paul Courchaine, 481 Main Street, spoke as the President of the Preservation Trust and the Village Improvement. He asked the Council to look favorably on the transfer of \$1,000 to complete the Historic Resource Inventory. This is a

tool that the Town can use on a widespread basis. He stated that the Town is at a crucial point in its approach to Economic Development. The Silas Deane Renovation Committee has already reviewed many upcoming ventures. Regarding the Cove situation, Mr. Courchaine would like to get information as to where the Town and new Council currently stand.

Paul Camarco, 413 Church Street, is in favor of both the artificial turf and lighting at Cottone Field.

Mary Jane Maselli, 62 Westway, stated that she formally opposes the artificial turf and lighting at Cottone Field.

Town Clerk Sassano read into record letters from the following three residents who are opposed to the artificial turf and lighting at Cottone Field:

Joseph M. Frutuoso, 492 Church Street  
Mr. & Mrs. Kaeser, 77 Westway  
William & Marianne Amo, 74 Westway

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

### COUNCIL ACTION

Deputy Mayor Karangekis moved "**TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF WESLEY R. CHRISTENSEN FROM THE TOURISM COMMISSION**", seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Czernicki moved "**TO APPOINT TOWN MANAGER BONNIE L. THERRIEN AS THE ALTERNATE TO THE MAYOR FOR CRCOG'S POLICY BOARD MEETINGS**", seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that the Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is made up of twenty-nine communities throughout Connecticut. CRCOG has a Policy Board and the Chief Elected Official of each community is always a member of this Board, but there is an alternate that is appointed in case the Mayor cannot attend.

Councilor Forrest understands that the Town Manager has held this position in the past; however he thinks that it is appropriate that the Deputy Mayor, as second in command, hold the position instead. He would oppose the appointment of the Town Manager to this position.

Councilor Adil agrees with Councilor Forrest. The Town Manager can always attend the CRCOG meetings, but he would like to free her up to spend more time at Town Hall. He is in favor of the Deputy Mayor serving in this position.

Councilor Czernicki, having served on the Policy Board of CRCOG for the past two years, does not agree with Councilors Forrest and Adil. She understands the desire to have elected officials represent the Town; however this is served by appointing the Mayor. The Town Manager has represented well the Town of Wethersfield in the past and is very familiar with the issues that come before the CRCOG Policy Board. She does not intend in any way to speak to the Deputy Mayor's ability to become aware of and familiar with the issues before CRCOG, but she suggests that he sit in on the meetings at least for his first year on the Council. The official vote-caster, in the absence of the Mayor, should be the Town Manager.

Chairperson Morin supports the appointment of Deputy Mayor Karangekis as the alternate. The Town Manager attends enough meetings as it is and Chairperson Morin would like to see more opportunities for the Council to participate in meetings.

The following roll call vote was taken by the Town Clerk:

Councilor Adil                      NAY                      Councilor Montinieri                      NAY

Councilor Cascio	AYE	Deputy Mayor	ABS
Councilor Czernicki	AYE	Karangekis	
Councilor Forrest	NAY	Chairperson Morin	NAY

The motion failed 2-4-1.

Councilor Adil moved **"TO APPOINT DEPUTY MAYOR KARANGEKIS AS THE ALTERNATE TO THE MAYOR FOR CRCOG'S POLICY BOARD MEETINGS"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest.

The following roll call vote was taken by the Town Clerk:

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

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 5-2-0.

Councilor Czernicki moved **"TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION OPPOSING ANY COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT CLAUSE RESTRICTING PAID FIREFIGHTERS FROM SERVING IN ANY CAPACITY ON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS IN THEIR HOME COMMUNITY"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE.

Councilor Adil asked that the resolution be amended to reflect the signature of both former Mayor Czernicki and current Mayor Morin. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this would be appropriate.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER: TO ADD 'AND THE COMMUNITIES OF WEST HARTFORD, NEW BRITAIN, AND EAST HARTFORD' TO THE SECOND TO LAST PARAGRAPH"**, seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion to amend passed 7-0-0.

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

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

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### Request for Abandonment of Town Property on Columbus Street

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that Mr. Steve Kelly has requested that property on Columbus Street be abandoned and this was denied by the previous Council. Mr. Kelly then requested that rather than abandoning the property, the Town would swap parcels of land with him. That proposal was referred to the Planning & Zoning Commission for an 8-24 review and was on their agenda twice. Mr. Gillespie, Town Planner, spoke with Mr. Kelly on several occasions and requested that he attend one of the Planning & Zoning Commission meetings to discuss this land exchange and to answer any questions. Mr. Kelly did not appear at any of the meetings. The Planning & Zoning Commission has denied the 8-24 review. If the Council wishes to override the Commission's denial, there must be a 2/3 majority vote of the Council.

Councilor Cascio asked if the questions of the Planning & Zoning Commission for Mr. Kelly are available for review. Mr. Gillespie said that the Planning & Zoning Commission had concerns that swapping one property with other properties could create a problem for some of the neighbors. A public hearing was not held and there was concern for

the neighbors' input. The Commission felt that the swap deserved a broader study by contacting all of the property owners and laying out all of the options to be sure that Mr. Kelly's request was the most appropriate approach. At this time, the mandated time constraints had run out as well. Councilor Cascio asked if the P&Z could bring this back to the table and notify the neighbors of the intention to go forward with the proposal. Mr. Gillespie said that P&Z can review this over and over again; however he believes that the Council should discuss the issue and decide how it is to be handled as a policy matter. P&Z has no authority to hold a hearing on 8-24 matters such as this one. It is more appropriate for the Council to do so.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis clarified that the P&Z on numerous occasions asked Mr. Kelly to meet with them and that he did not respond. Deputy Mayor Karangekis questions if Mr. Kelly wants to go forward with this or not. Mr. Gillespie said that he spoke with Mr. Kelly on two separate occasions and that Mr. Kelly had conflicts on both nights of the P&Z meetings. Mr. Kelly does wish to pursue this issue further. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that Council can pursue this matter as a resolution, notify the residents, and hold a public hearing at the next Council meeting at which time it could be re-referred to P&Z.

Councilor Forrest stated that there is a requirement in the Charter that a public hearing be held on this item before it is voted on.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO INTRODUCE THE RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ABANDONMENT OF TOWN PROPERTY ON COLUMBUS STREET AND HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON DECEMBER 15, 2003"**, seconded by Councilor Czernicki.

Councilor Cascio stated that this is a good way to begin. There is a process to be followed and P&Z is looking toward Council to hold a public hearing.

Councilor Adil strongly recommends that Mr. Kelly attend the public hearing and that all of the neighbors are notified and are well aware of the situation.

Councilor Czernicki stated that it is important to get notification out to Mr. Kelly and the neighbors as quickly as possible so that they can come before the Council with their opinions. They need to be given as much advance notice as possible.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO AMEND THE MOTION TO INCLUDE THAT NOTICE TO NEIGHBORS INVOLVED BE PROVIDED"**, seconded by Councilor Fortunato. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion to amend passed 7-0-0.

Chairperson Morin said that the Planning & Zoning Commission is not uncomfortable with their negative referral. They voted the issue down because they felt that they were not receiving any cooperation from Mr. Kelly.

Councilor Czernicki clarified that when the decision was made to refer to P&Z, there was some delay in the item appearing on their agenda. This could be part of the reason why Mr. Kelly was unavailable for the meetings.

Councilor Adil said that Mr. Gillespie's memo states that the reason for the negative referral was that there was a lack of sufficient information including, but not limited to a comprehensive plan for the Town property on Columbus Street, and the lack of advocacy. Mr. Gillespie said that the P&Z Commission was concerned about the public's knowledge of the swap and any impact involved. The Commission wanted to make sure that all options were considered. Councilor Adil asked Mr. Gillespie if the P&Z specified any of the other options. Mr. Gillespie said that they did not. Councilor Adil asked Mr. Gillespie if he feels that Mr. Kelly was given adequate notice of the meetings. Mr. Gillespie said that he was.

Councilors Cascio, Czernicki, Forrest, Montinieri, Deputy Mayor Karangekis and the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Adil ABSTAINED. The motion passed 6-0-1.

Resolution Authorizing the Town Manager and Chief of Police to apply for a Federal U.S. Department of Justice Grant for School Resource Officer

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the Grant will provide for a Resource Officer at Wethersfield High School to act as a liaison between the students, the Police Department, and the School Administrators. The Council had approved this and it went to the Board of Education where it was debated back and forth. The Council is looking to the Board of Education to split the cost of the position. Since then the Federal Government has delayed the funds until March when they will make decisions and hopefully release the monies to those awarded the Grant. This item is on the Board of Education's December 9 agenda.

Councilor Adil asked that Chief Cetran come forward to offer his perspective on this item.

Chief Cetran said that the goal of this resolution is to get a Resource Officer into the High School because it is felt that there is a direct need for such. The current Juvenile Officer's time is limited with respect to getting into the High School because of other duties he has. This resolution would provide for a full-time Officer in the High School to forge bonds with the students and the faculty. Chief Cetran stated that this Officer is in no way going to infringe upon the civil liberties of the students; he is at the High School to keep the lines of communication open so as to stop problems before they occur.

Chairperson Morin said that this program is most appropriate in light of some of the Town's recent occurrences.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis said that this position is absolutely required in this day and age. The Officer needs to be committed to the position during the entire school year; therefore the Officer will have an office at the High School.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis moved **"TO REFER TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION THE COMMITMENT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL TO PROVIDE THE PRELIMINARY FUNDING OF THE RESOLUTION FOR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER UNTIL THE GRANT MONEY IS RECEIVED"**, seconded by Councilor Adil.

Chairperson Morin said that this was discussed and supported by the previous Council during the budget phase. The Board of Education was concerned about paying for one half of the funding. This motion sends a commitment to the Board of Education that the Town will cover the costs of the Officer until the Grant funds are received. Councilor Czernicki asked what the Town's financial commitment will be. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the cost will be equally split with the Board of Education which is what the Board is deliberating. Councilor Czernicki asked if what the Council is voting on is that the Town will accept the full financial responsibility for the position. She said that if this is the intent, she will need to know the amount and from where the funds will be coming. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the amount for the Officer will cost approximately \$45,000-\$47,000 with benefits. The Grant is set up to cover a different percentage each year.

Chief Cetran said that approximately \$14,000 would need to come from the Police Department Budget in the first year. The second year will be \$32,510 from the budget. The third year will be \$35,892. The fourth and last year would be \$82,402. The Federal Grant provides \$125,000 split toward the first four years.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the \$14,000 funds for this year would be provided from the Police Department budget.

Councilor Cascio said that it is important that the Board of Education take ownership of this as well. They need to be informed of what the Council has done tonight and that this motion does not take the Board of Education off the hook for their share of the funding. The Resource Officer will be an integral part of the Wethersfield High School campus.

Chairperson Morin stated that in light of the most recent budget problems encountered by the Board of Education, he does not want to see this proposal held up.

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

## OTHER BUSINESS

### Lights for High School Football Field

Councilor Adil moved **"TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE WETHERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD BY ALLOWING THE ARCHITECT TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL DESIGN FOR LIGHTS AT THE FIELD AND TO LOOK AT ALTERNATIVES TO THE LOCATION OF THE FIELD"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Cascio asked that the Town Manager explain what will happen next should this motion pass. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that the architect will look at the existing field and will meet with the relevant staff in order to make recommendations to the Council regarding options for placement, options for resurfacing and the types of artificial surfaces. He will make recommendations regarding the repair of the drainage in the area and the possibility and placement of lighting at the field. The Architect will provide a preliminary budget and the Town Manager will provide funding options. This process will take the Architect four to six weeks allowing for the information by the second Council meeting in January, 2004. After that date, the project will be referred to the Planning & Zoning Commission for an 8-24 review. Because the field is on Board of Education property, the Town Manager recommends that the issue of the lights be referred to them for input.

Councilor Cascio asked that the Superintendent be notified to insure that this issue appears on the Board of Education's December 9 agenda. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she will call him and put it in writing as well.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO AMEND THE MOTION TO INCLUDE THAT IT BE SENT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THEIR APPROVAL"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. Councilors Adil, Cascio, Forrest, Montinieri, Deputy Mayor Karangekis and the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Czernicki voted NAY. The motion to amend passed 6-1-0.

Councilor Czernicki read a letter submitted by Councilor Hemmann regarding the football field lights. Councilor Hemmann feels that all sports fields in Town need to be addressed. She does not want to see this project rushed. There are numerous infrastructure needs within Town that need to be addressed first. She does not support pushing this project through on the fast track. She does, however, support moving forward with a well thought out plan that will benefit the citizens of Wethersfield.

Chairperson Morin said that he understands the concerns brought forth. He said that there are contractors and others who are willing to donate their services in-kind. There is fund-raising occurring currently to expedite this project. This is a true opportunity for Wethersfield to have a public and private partnership that will benefit many.

Councilor Czernicki asked the Town Clerk to define how the current motion differs from the original motion for the artificial surface and lights which was defeated on October 6. It appears to her that the

Council is moving forward with the field and the lights. Town Clerk Sassano said that the motion was defeated in its original format and was amended to delete all references to lighting. Councilor Czernicki pointed out that adding the lights back in differs in no way from the already defeated motion. The Council is revisiting the original motion. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that if this were put before the same standing Council, a vote of reconsideration would be required. Since this is a new Council, a new motion can be entered. Councilor Czernicki is concerned that the abutters of the football field property will take the Town to court requiring that the installed lights be removed, as happened recently in Old Saybrook. She is also concerned with the height of the light poles. Councilor Czernicki pointed out that the Code Book of the Town of Wethersfield has regulations regarding lighting and she'd like to know how the proposed lights fall into those regulations. She does not want to see that the Town is put again in the position of exempting themselves from their own ordinances. She cannot move forward in support of the lights as she feels that the Council has not yet been provided with enough information about them. Supporting the lights at this time will not be fair to the residents concerned about their quality of life.

Councilor Montinieri asked Councilor Czernicki if the lights she referred to in Old Saybrook were installed with visors. Councilor Montinieri said that she lives near Maxwell Park and has noticed that the larger lights at the back of the Park have visors to direct the light onto the field. Mr. Cottone told her that these lights can be installed at various heights and the lighting can be directed onto the field only so that there is no light spillage into neighbor's back yards. Councilor Montinieri hopes that the trip to Bloomfield scheduled for December 10 will satisfy concerns of the Cottone Field neighbors by showing them that the lighting does not spill into back yards. Councilor Montinieri appreciates the

process followed by the Council and hopes that the neighbors will be involved in every step of the process. She has been informed that the track field is not the exact same footprint size as the football field and has concerns about moving the football field to this location. She said that the motion made tonight is to allow the architects to incorporate the lights into the design of the project.

Councilor Forrest said that he is concerned that there may be a light ordinance problem. He indicated also that the motion proposed this evening is to add lights to the initial design review of the project, not to spend any money on the project at this time. Councilor Forrest also stated that he is concerned about moving the football field to the track field as he does not believe that the field is large enough.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis supports this motion allowing the professionals to gather any and all information for the Council to consider at a later date. He wants to see that all questions by the Council and the public are answered before any expenditures take place. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that copies of these minutes will be provided to the architect.

Councilor Adil stated that the Council is not committing to anything tonight except to move this project along by obtaining more information.

Councilors Adil, Cascio, Forrest, Montinieri, Deputy Mayor Karangekis and the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Czernicki voted NAY. The motion passed 6-1-0.

#### Economic Development Tax Incentive

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that the Economic Development Tax Incentive before the Council tonight has been reviewed by the Town Attorney and has also been sent to the Major Contracts Subcommittee with a positive referral. Town Planner Peter Gillespie has had the opportunity to review the program and it is now coming back to the Council for review. The Town needs to work on items such as this Tax Incentive Program and Business Loan Program in order to attract businesses to Wethersfield. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien recommends that a public hearing be scheduled for the December 15 Council meeting.

Councilor Czernicki moved "**TO INTRODUCE THE RESOLUTION AMENDING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TAX INCENTIVE PLAN AND HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON DECEMBER 15 AS AN AGENDA ITEM**", seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

#### School Building Committee - Change Orders - Silas Deane Middle School

Mr. Drake from the School Building Committee explained that the cost of the Silas Deane Middle School Change Order items have already been included in the final budget for the project.

Councilor Adil asked if there has been damage sustained by the Sonitrol security system. Mr. Drake said that there was a fair amount of wiring that was damaged during construction partly because of some inadequate maps. This needed to be repaired by Sonitrol. Councilor Adil said that he took part in the Silas Deane Middle School Open House held recently and was very impressed with the work done; however, there seemed to still be a few loose ends. Mr. Drake said that the Committee has a list of those loose ends and they will be completed soon. These items will come forward to the Council in the near future.

Councilor Forrest said that there was a lot of dampness in the school. Mr. Drake said that the dampness was from the weather and the concrete pouring was remedied by bringing in heaters.

Councilor Forrest moved "**TO APPROVE \$22,606.11 TO BW DEXTER, \$15,069 TO WJ MOUNTFORD, AND \$31,965.76 TO SONITROL**", seconded by Councilor Czernicki. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

#### School Building Committee - Asbestos Abatement - Stillman Building

Mr. Drake explained that this is the first contract in the renovation of the Stillman Building.

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR ASBESTOS MONITORING SERVICES FOR THE STILLMAN BUILDING TO ATC ASSOCIATES, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$8,000 AND TO AWARD THE BID FOR ASBESTOS ABATEMENT WORK TO SUPERIOR ABATEMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$152,000"**, seconded by Councilor Czernicki. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

#### School Building Committee - Technology Purchase - Middle School

Mr. Drake explained that this package includes additional computers and installation costs. The original request allowed for \$324,000. Mr. Drake said that the School Building Committee is requesting an additional \$15,236.45 to cover the additional equipment.

Councilor Czernicki moved **"TO AWARD THE SILAS DEANE MIDDLE SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY BID TO THE COMPANIES AND EQUIPMENT OUTLINED ON THE SUMMARY SHEET OF RECOMMENDED TECHNOLOGY AWARDS AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$339,436.45"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Mr. Drake pointed out that the amount has been changed to \$346,291.45 to include the Microsoft Licensing Fees.

Councilor Czernicki moved **"TO WITHDRAW THE ORIGINAL MOTION"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion to withdraw passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Czernicki moved **"TO AWARD THE SILAS DEANE MIDDLE SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY BID TO THE COMPANIES AND EQUIPMENT OUTLINED ON THE SUMMARY SHEET OF RECOMMENDED TECHNOLOGY AWARDS AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$346,291.45"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Mr. Drake reported that the Webb project is going before the Planning & Zoning Commission tomorrow evening for final approval. He said that everything is on schedule. The designs for the Stillman School are going forward as is.

Councilor Cascio said that he received phone calls from residents on Willow Street asking if it is necessary for the big sign stating who the construction company is to be placed in front of Webb. Mr. Drake said that he is not sure if this is required or not. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she will check with Building Official Brian O'Connor. She said that she will check to see if the sign can be placed in another location further away from the residences.

#### Historic Resource Inventory - Transfer of \$1,000

Chairperson Morin stated that Ms. Kuckro has already explained this request earlier in the meeting.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO TRANSFER \$1,000 FROM THE CONTINGENCY FUND TO ACCOUNT #411-5220-1144 TO COMPLETE THE HISTORIC SURVEY FOR THE TOWN"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

#### Homeland Security Survey - Transfer of \$2,500 for Emergency Management Director

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that the Federal Government has mandated that every State complete a Homeland Security needs assessment in order to receive Federal funding. The State therefore mandates it to the municipalities. Wethersfield's new Emergency Management Director, Richard Fippinger, took over this undertaking and did an excellent job. The \$2,500 payment to Mr. Fippinger is 100% reimbursable by the Federal Government.

Councilor Montinieri commented that Mr. Fippinger seemed to account for a lot of time spent due to technical difficulties. She asked if these difficulties are on our end. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that what happened is that the software package developed for the entire country did not work once everyone started to download their information. The system could not handle all of the input. The system was finally corrected.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO TRANSFER \$2,500 FROM THE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT TO ACCOUNT #T1010136-5272 IN ORDER TO PAY WETHERSFIELD'S EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR FOR WORK ON THE HOMELAND SECURITY SURVEY"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis.

Chairperson Morin thanked Mr. Fippinger for his hard work and prompt response.

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

#### Adams Landing Cul-De-Sac

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that a petition was received by residents of Adams Landing requesting that the island in the cul-de-sac be removed. This will need to be referred as an 8-24 to the Planning & Zoning Commission for review. The cost of removal is anticipated to be \$5,000.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis moved **"TO REFER THE REMOVAL OF THE ADAMS LANDING CUL-DE-SAC ISLAND TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR AN 8-24 REVIEW"**, seconded by Councilor Adil.

Councilor Cascio pointed out that in the long run the Town will be saving money by removing the island because there is a cost to maintain the cul-de-sac.

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

#### Transfer of \$8,000 - Additional Auditing Services

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained to the Council that with the resignation of Finance Director Rob Budin, the Town's auditors will need to perform additional work to complete the audit in a timely manner. The auditor has informed her that there will be an additional cost of approximately \$8,000 to do this. The auditing regulations must be met; therefore, this is a necessary action.

Councilor Adil moved **"TO TRANSFER \$8,000 FROM THE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT TO THE LINE ITEM FOR THE AUDITORS FOUND IN THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis.

Councilor Forrest asked if the Town Manager is expecting to fill the Finance Director position so that these costs do not continue. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the application deadline for the position is December 8. She is setting up an interview panel so that the interview process can begin immediately. She expects to have the position filled by February 1, 2004. She said that this \$8,000 will cover the costs to complete the audit.

Councilor Cascio asked if the Town Manager has an updated total of the funds available in the Contingency Fund. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that without these transfers, there is \$215,000. These transfers would bring the total down to \$206,000. Councilor Cascio asked if this is a comfortable level for the Town at this point in the fiscal year. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the snowfall during the winter will make or break this total.

#### BIDS

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that at the last Council meeting, the bid for quarry and bituminous materials was awarded 100% to DRVN Enterprises, Inc.; however, the actual bid results should have been split between the three bidders depending on who was the lowest bidder in each category.

Councilor Czernicki moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR QUARRY & BITUMINOUS MATERIALS TO DRVN ENTERPRISES, INC; TILCON CT; AND D.W. TRANSPORT & LEASING AS OUTLINED IN AN ATTACHED BID MEMORANDUM"**, seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that the previous Council had awarded \$98,000 for the computer servers because there were many problems with e-mail service. The low bidder, Advanced Office Systems, is one that the Town has worked with in the past and they know the Town's system and have bid a price of \$54,011. There will also be a need for Vision Appraisal software at a cost of \$3,400.

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR THE TOWN SERVER CONTRACT TO ADVANCED OFFICE SYSTEMS AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$54,011 AND TO ALLOW FOR THE PURCHASE OF VISION APPRAISAL WEB HOSTING OF TOWN PARCELS ON AN ONGOING BASIS AT A COST OF \$3,400"**, seconded by Councilor Czernicki.

Councilor Adil clarified with the Town Manager that there will not be any privacy concerns with allowing the public to access the appraisal records. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that there will be no privacy concerns and residents will be allowed to request that their home or any part of the information can be excluded from the program.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis asked if the cost to replace the program in the years to come will be another \$3,400. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the program is replaced every four years and an additional cost will accompany this. By that time, the Council can evaluate how many people actually use the software.

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

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that Wethersfield is involved in the \$350,000 small cities rehabilitation project for income-eligible homeowners. This bid is a project for 23-25 Main Street. Plourde Enterprises was the only bidder on this project.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR REHAB PROJECT - SMALL CITIES PROGRAM - 23-25 MAIN STREET TO PLOURDE ENTERPRISES IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$37,475"**, seconded by Councilor Adil.

Councilor Forrest asked the Town Manager if those qualifying for the Grant could be contacted so that the Town could take a more proactive step in the renovation and beautification of Wethersfield. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that there is currently a waiting list for the \$350,000 awarded. The program covers a particular section of Town. Because there is a waiting list, she recommends the Council wait until the next Grant.

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

#### ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

#### MINUTES

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 17"**, seconded by Councilor Czernicki. Councilors Cascio, Czernicki and Chairperson Morin voted AYE. Councilors Adil, Forrest, Fortunato, Montinieri, and Deputy Mayor Karangekis ABSTAINED. The motion passed 3-0-4.

Councilor Czernicki moved **"TO AMEND THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 17 ON PAGE 16311 TO READ THAT COUNCILOR FITZPATRICK SECONDED THE MOTION TO JOIN WITH CCM FOR THE DPUC RATE-SETTING CASE AND ALSO TO WRITE IN THE VOTE OF 8-0-0"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. Councilors Cascio, Czernicki and Chairperson Morin voted AYE. Councilors Adil, Forrest, Fortunato, Montinieri, and Deputy Mayor Karangekis ABSTAINED. The motion passed 3-0-4.

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 17 AS AMENDED"**, seconded by Councilor Czernicki. Councilors Cascio, Czernicki and Chairperson Morin voted AYE. Councilors Adil, Forrest, Fortunato, Montinieri, and Deputy Mayor Karangekis ABSTAINED. The motion passed 3-0-4.

#### GENERAL COMMENTS

## REPORTS

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien reported that the leaf pick-up is on schedule and is expected to be finished by Saturday, December 6. She said that there will not be a third pick up.

## COUNCIL

Councilor Cascio asked how much it would cost the Town to purchase a flag that could be put up on Main Street in inclement weather. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she will find out and report back. Councilor Cascio asked for an update on the Veteran's program for the new Council members and Mr. Clynch. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this item will be addressed during the budget session once the new Grand List is established. Councilor Cascio commented on the Council liaison positions to Boards & Commissions. He said that he is honored to be placed on the Drainage Committee, but has no interest to be on the committee. Councilor Hemmann has requested this position and has had two years experience on the committee. He requested that Councilor Hemmann be placed in the position instead. Chairperson Morin said that he will consider this. Councilor Cascio did request that he be placed as liaison to the Library Board as he has served in this capacity for the past two years and has served the committee well. The Library Board requested that the same members remain on the committee and Councilor Cascio is disappointed that he was not granted the courtesy of being appointed as liaison to the Library Board.

Councilor Adil said that he spoke to a member of the Village Improvement Association and he was told that they are looking into Federal Government programs providing funds to replace the existing flags with all-weather quality flags. Councilor Adil suggested that alternative buildings in Town be considered as homes for Wethersfield Community Television, Inc.

Councilor Czernicki stated that it was discussed that another possibility for the Wethersfield Community Television would be to use part of the space at the Moeller Home until the safety of the Olsen House was determined. She agrees with Councilor Adil that a sound decision needs to be made with regard to the Olsen House.

Councilor Montinieri asked if there could be information provided to the Council and the public as to the current situation with the Wethersfield Cove and the MDC. Chairperson Morin said that a workshop is scheduled for December 9 at 6:30 p.m. to provide an update.

Councilor Cascio asked Chairperson Morin if Wethersfield is planning to sue the MDC. Chairperson Morin said that he does not think that Wethersfield is at that point yet.

Councilor Czernicki asked Chairperson Morin, in light of the Special meetings scheduled for December 6, December 9, and December 10, if he is aware of any other meetings scheduled as this is a very busy time of year. Chairperson Morin said that a time will need to be set for Town Attorney interviews which could possibly be held in the late afternoon.

Councilor Forrest requested that the interviews be held all at once and possibly on a weekend. Councilor Czernicki suggested that the interviews be held during the week from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Councilor Forrest said that he could be at the interviews for 5:15 p.m.

Chairperson Morin said that by Charter the appointment is to be made by December 15 or else extended. Chairperson Morin said that a date will be set and provided to Council members.

Councilor Montinieri distributed to Councilors an invitation to a Special Olympics event.

Chairperson Morin stated that the Mayor/Councilor hours will commence after January 1. He said that he has received phone calls regarding the Crest Street basketball court park. Mrs. Risotto is concerned with the situation and is unhappy with the results of the last Council discussion of this issue. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the Park was deeded as a Park and the Town cannot simply get rid of it as a Park. She checked with Chief Cetran and was informed that there were four calls from March to October, 2003 made to the Police regarding the Park. The Police Department does patrol the Park and they respond immediately to any calls and investigate. Residents must continue

to report issues to the Police Department. Deputy Mayor Karangekis said that this has been a long-time, ongoing issue dealt with by the Police Department. Complaints are responded to immediately and dealt with accordingly. Councilor Czernicki said that the greater problem with the Park is after dark with kids hanging around.

Councilor Forrest commented that he drove past the Town Hall one day and there were no flags flying. He would like to see a Town flag flying as well as the State and Country's flags. He would like to see it possible for citizens of Wethersfield to purchase Town flags. Councilor Forrest also suggested that public speakers be given a warning that their five minute limit is approaching so that they have time to wrap up their comments.

## PUBLIC

Woodrow Warren, 9 Nutmeg Circle, commented that the Resource Officer is vital in the school system to insure that the students are safe. The candidate for the position must be adequately qualified to deal with kids. Mr. Warren would like to see something done about the Pyquaug Village issue which has been tabled for too long. Mr. Warren said that Cottone field is not a suitable sports complex.

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, stated that he resents the five-minute rule for public comment. Mr. Ruhe agrees with Mr. Orsini's comment that the council should not take comments personally. The public is speaking and making their comments to the Council and the Mayor as an elected body and has a right to speak their minds. Mr. Ruhe suggested that the Council look seriously at the safety issues at Cottone Field. The Council cannot satisfy some segment of the population to the detriment of others. This would be irresponsible.

Connie Rosato, 581 Ridge Road, spoke regarding the Crest Street Park. She said that the Park is not used only by neighborhood children, but there are others there using profane language and this affects the quality of her life. The Park is a nuisance to the neighborhood.

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, commented that flags can be purchased through legislators from the Federal Government. They can be purchased at an inexpensive price. Regarding Crest Street Park, Mr. Orsini said that there will always be problems for neighbors to a Park or School. If there is a problem and a call is made to the Police, they respond immediately. The neighbors need to get involved with the Police. Mr. Orsini questioned why the new Fire Department's Pumper Truck did not have its lights or sirens going when responding to a recent fire call. Mr. Orsini inquired about the pending litigation between the Department of Public Health and the Town of Wethersfield. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that it is the State Department of Health. Chairperson Morin said that it cannot be discussed as it is an issue addressed during Executive Session. Mr. Orsini asked if the public will hear about the issue once it is resolved. Chairperson Morin said that they will if it is deemed appropriate. Mr. Orsini asked the Town Manager to indicate in her weekly report where the funds are coming from to pay Mr. O'Connor, the Wethersfield school teacher who sued the Town and won. Mr. Orsini also asked that she share with the public what was approved in the Police Contract. Mr. Orsini commented that the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. supports suing the MDC over the Wethersfield Cove. Mr. Orsini commented that the issue at Cottone Field is a quality of life issue.

Dick Fippinger, commended Wethersfield Fire Company #2 in their quick response to a recent fire and he commented that the lights. He is disturbed that there continues to be a growing pattern of a shadow government of people in Town who take it upon themselves to represent everyone else in the Town as continuing players in front of the Town Council. He is a firm believer in Freedom of Speech, but feels that self-appointed shadow government with total opinion on everything the Council does is out of line. He does not think that it is appropriate for the Town Clerk to read at the Council meeting letters sent in by residents. Finally, Mr. Fippinger stated that public opinion is bonified assistance to the Council. It is a responsibility, a right, and a privilege of this Country. It is not to be abused by donating one's allotted time to someone else so that that person can speak for a longer amount of time. This is a violation of the spirit in which the public information segment of the Council has built its reputation. Mr. Fippinger believes that it is the right of anyone to be heard and give their opinion, but he does not respect minds that beat a path to the microphone at every Council meeting to reiterate the status of the business before the Council. This defeats the voice of the people used at the voting machines to put the responsibility on those whom they have elected.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 11:20 p.m., Councilor Cascio moved "**TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS REAL ESTATE NEGOTIATIONS**" seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

At 11:30 p.m., Councilor Czernicki moved "**TO ENTER BACK INTO THE REGULAR MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

At 11:33 p.m., Councilor Czernicki moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Montineri. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano  
Town Clerk