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REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 7, 2013

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, October 7, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield.

Present: Councilors Drake, Hurley, Kotkin, Manousos, McAlister, Montinieri, Roberts, Deputy Mayor Console, and Chairperson Hemmann.

Also present: Amy Northrop Wittorff, Wethersfield Historical Society, Candace E. Holmes, President, Wethersfield Historical Society, Anthony Dignoti, Fire Marshall, Mike Turner, Town Engineer, Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, RaeAnn Palmer, Assistant Town Manager and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

Mayor Hemmann welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that there will be an executive session immediately following the end of the meeting.

Deputy Mayor Console led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Mayor Hemmann next read a Proclamation for Fire Prevention Week; and invited Fire Marshal Anthony Dignoti to speak on behalf of Fire Prevention.

Mr. Dignoti commented that Fire Prevention is extremely important; we have an excellent safety record here in Wethersfield and want it to continue. He emphasized this is a tribute to the fire fighters standing in the back of the room and at the firehouses tonight for all their hard work. He urged the public to take care to make sure we keep our community safe and to keep it going. This is a special week, it is Fire Prevention Week. Remember to practice safety measures in our homes to make sure we don't have fires in our homes. He explained that about a year ago we decided to add staff to the Fire Marshal's office and explained that the Fire Marshal does all the inspections and investigates fires, plans and reviews fire prevention activities. He stated that we had a staff of 3 and we added 2 more members from the volunteer fire department. They put in 250 hours of training to achieve Fire Marshal certification and tonight we are going to officially swear them in as fire inspectors.

Town Clerk Sassano swore in Lt. Michael Strong from Company 3 as a Fire Inspector. Mrs. Sassano next swore in Engineer Michael Mokrycki from Company 1 as a Fire Inspector.

Mayor Hemmann next introduced the Wethersfield Historical Society. Amy Northrop Wittorff gave a presentation of the Red Onions to the town. The presentation is attached to the end of these minutes.

Mayor Hemmann announced an honorary street dedication in honor of our sister city, Nagayo Japan.

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A Japanese delegation from Nagayo will be arriving in Wethersfield on October 15th and visiting with us on October 16th-18th. There are many things planned for them while they are here and one of the things that we thought that would be very nice is an honorary street named on their behalf. She stated that in Nagayo, Japan, they have a Wethersfield Street that is part of their community and what we will be doing is an honorary sign very similar to Constitution Way which is on the Broad Street Green and it will be underneath the Elm Street sign. Mayor Hemmann stated that we checked it out with Frank Weston Trust who is the guardian of the Broad Street Green trust and it is ok because we are not changing the name of Elm Street. It will still be Elm Street but in honor of our sister city relationship, we will put a sign up underneath Elm Street noting that this is an honorary street. She stated that the Councilors will be receiving an itinerary of dates, times and places during those upcoming days and one of the things that will be happening on October 16th will be a community reception from 4 to 7 at the Kinney Center and we hope that you will have time to stop by and meet the Mayor and his other companions who are coming. She stated that there is a Director of the University who is coming and several other key staff in his administration and we look forward to meeting with them and introducing them to our beautiful town.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kathy Stickley, 147 Collier Rd., commented on the poor air quality in the swim meet area at the Wethersfield High School. She stated that at a recent swim meet, students and guests had to leave the building because the air quality was so poor and that the chlorine in that swimming area was so poor that the students had to leave and parents were complaining about their eyes being affected by that and we were told that we could not open the doors. Ms. Stickley noted that the kids swim in that area every single day and noted that the coaches spoke up about it. She asked the Council for their help in this situation and anything that they can do would be greatly appreciated.

Nancy Musson, 65 Liberty Hill East, commented on the need for a head of security position for the school system. She stated that we need to be proactive and not reactive and understands the budgetary restraints but the need still remains. Ms. Musson urged the Board of Ed and Town Council to consider adding this position to the town budget and commented to please be responsible and think about the lives and not the money saved.

Paul Copp, 100 Executive Square, commented that Councilor Manousos met with him to discuss some of his ideas that he brought forth at the last meeting. He asked the Town Manager to comment on the problem that is occurring on McMullen Avenue and stated that it is a real criminal problem that is occurring. Mr. Copp commented that in Prescott, Arizona, 19 fire fighters died because the radios failed. He commented that the radios that were used in Prescott, were Motorola and York and hopes that that information helps against the legal actions against Motorola.

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Craig Musson, 65 Liberty Hill East, commented that he was disappointed and concerned when the Board of Education cut the proposed position of Director of Security and Residency but it was an anticipated outcome of the last minute and post-public hearing direction to slash about \$350,000 from the Board of Education budget. Not Surprisingly an amount about equivalent to the value of the Board of Education's new initiatives and inclusive of Director of Security and Residency. He commented that one fact is sadly certain, violence and crime in our schools will continue unless our community, our teachers and school administrators, our Board of Education and our Town Council work together to minimize the impact until we can eventually prevent it. He commented that he has experienced school violence, will never forget it and does not want to see it happen in Wethersfield or anywhere else. He commented that we have the opportunity to create a position of responsibility and accountability in a Director of Security and Residency and begin on a path to improvement, let's not weigh it another moment. Doing nothing is not an option. There is no compromise for the safety and security of our children and simply cannot be. He then urged the Council to improve the school security in Wethersfield.

Jodi Latina, 29 Blueberry Hill, she is concerned about where we are going with our High School renovation when it comes to the football field and creature comforts. She thought last week it was packed at the football game, there were no seats available and people sat on the hill that overlooked the football field. People were lined up all around the field. She asked if we were adding bleachers asking if it is something in the scope of the project.

Tony Martino, 374 Highland St., commented on a bid for engineering services for the generators on the agenda tonight to put a caveat in the motions. Mr. Martino explained the ambulance and nature center are side-by-side. They are close enough where one generator can handle both buildings with a separate transfer switch to handle each building independently if need be. He commented under the current specs it calls for gas in the ambulance building and diesel in the nature center. Council can go to gas which would be cheaper to run, handle two buildings. Annual maintenance will just be one generator to service and repair instead of two, keeping costs down. He asked consider it when Council approves it tonight.

Andrea Aglieco, 19 Pebble Rd. expressed concern about the unexpected issues creeping in to the High School reconstruction. While she is sure the people on the Building Committee put in many hours, it may be a good idea to add some vested individuals from the community who have expertise in facility construction and engineering. They would be happy to help in the town's future. She is curious to know how we might go about adding people to this oversight building committee.

Martha Conneely, 19 Fairmont St., commented that October 9, 2013 is Walk to School Day and announced that Wethersfield schools will be participating. She explained the details and benefits of the program to the Council. Ms. Conneely commented regular inspections of sidewalks strict, enforcement in school zones, proper training and supervision of crossing guards especially make walking to school more safe. The Wethersfield Schools Parent Council (WSPC) will be starting the paperwork for a program offered by the CT Safe Routes to School. It could lead to some

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available program funding for infrastructure improvements for safer walking routes. She urged everyone to discuss pedestrian and bike safety to their children before they send them out on Wednesday.

Rick Garrey, 35 Harding St., commented on what a great job Mr. Nowak is doing at the farm on Willow Street. We have a great agricultural view instead of what would have been six more mansions stuck on a little piece of property. He commented on having a single house going up at Goff Rd. The Council listened and everybody won. People who served on the Wilkus Farm Committee now feel their input was worth it. The town is better off for it. He is disappointed to hear about all the cuts to the Wethersfield High School project (the geothermal, the extra seating in the football field, and mezzanine in the auditorium). How can you be on budget if you cut half the budget out and you still do it for \$75 million? He thought it disingenuous to the citizens. He commented that you were over budget before you started and started late. Mr. Garrey asked Council to please watch that job and make sure we do a better job.

Dave Caruk, 149 Broad St., commented school safety is an issue he was concerned about months ago. The budget that was given to the Board of Education pushed them to cut the school safety position. The Council has lessened the insurance of the schools by not giving them a safety officer. Everyone is concerned about school safety. In today's times, he believes it is a mistake as safety is an important issue. Safety is something worth spending money on. It's a shame some of the Council doesn't think safety is worth investing in.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Rd., commented that meetings should be held at the regular meeting times and not on special dates and times. Sunday's meeting, while posted, should not have been held. They could have met tonight. We still owe 9 more years of payments on the existing radio system, yet now we are buying a new one along with the purchase of a warranty program. Mr. Young doesn't recall hearing complaints the old system is not working but over the past 6 months it was "hammer, hammer, we need" this new system. He thinks Wethersfield wastes a lot of money. There should be more shared services. Also, fire trucks should not be used to shuffle fire fighters around town to attend ceremonies as that it is a waste of money. He is not happy with the Wilkus Farm development rights transaction paid with our money for that piece of property. Mr. Young spoke against retiring the 30 year old fire engine with 35,000 miles on it and purchasing a new \$800,000 fire engine.

George A. Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, commented that he didn't see any elected officials at John Larson's presentation regarding the shutdown in Washington. The Affordable Care Act was one of the things Mr. Larson stressed was the importance of citizen involvement in looking at what government does in a hard-nose business fashion and saying what are the cost benefits associated therewith and is this really necessary. He said people should watch their government and get involved in their government. The Council and Board of Education should listen to what the community has to say whether it takes 5 minutes or a little more.

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John Miller, 45 Highland St. commented that additional bleachers are needed at the football field because people need a place to sit and a place to park. He also commented that there was no parking at the high school on Saturday morning for the swim meet because the SAT tests were being held as well. Also, the tennis courts at the high school are graded fine and there is no sediment, there are a lot of cracks, but they are structurally sound. He doesn't understand why they should be replaced because they are fine. Mr. Miller suggested that in adding an inch and half of bituminous on the courts will give us the best courts in the area which will cost 25% of the \$400,000. If you don't want to do that, just put a sealant on the courts and then maintain them. He strongly urged the Council to get another opinion regarding the replacement of tennis courts because they do not need to be replaced.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Hurley asked the Town Manager or Fred Bushey to take a look at the air quality at the pool and to find out about the situation. He was at the football game on Friday on night, it was packed and not one of the biggest games of the season. It would be short-sided of the building committee to cut out those extra bleachers. It is nice for the kids to get out of the house and be there. He asked to put the bleachers back in so people can come out have a place to sit, and watch the game.

Deputy Mayor Console, in his discussions with people around Town, one person came up and put the bond referendum in my face. He asked him to read about the site safety improvements: refurbish the track and tennis courts, replace bleachers and provide accessibility to site amenities; add new bleachers. It is in the bond referendum. People are asking why the committee is not taking Mr. Miller's information under consideration with the knowledge that he has. Mr. Console asked one of the contractors working for O&G what he thought the issues were and his comment was you've got a pretty good base that is probably good for another 20 years. After hearing that, he did some research and came up with a company called Plexipave® nationally known company, which resurfaces and maintains tennis courts throughout the country. They do the ones for the US Open. He met a representative who came here in the afternoon. They walked on the tennis courts and he asked what they are planning. Deputy Mayor Console said they are going to take them out and spend \$400,000 to put in new tennis courts. The gentlemen responded you should probably force the vote; ask more information be given, because my company could do this job for roughly \$82,000 to \$100,000. You can get another 15 years out of it and save \$300,000 on moving tennis courts. Deputy Mayor Console stated he is a pretty frugal person when it comes to money. A lot of people are talking about the amount of money the school is costing. He thinks the committee should look at people like Mr. Miller and Plexipave® because if they can save \$300,000 and redo the tennis courts as the referendum says, then that money can be used for the increase of the bleachers that have been cut out or perhaps the mezzanine in the auditorium. There are different ways money could be spent or not spent at all, it should be looked into.

Approved

Deputy Mayor Console stated a lot of people asked why there are not enough shared services and what's going to be done. One person gave him a Town of Wethersfield Shared Services Committee hand-out from April 17, 2011. It is about 10 pages of why we should have shared services and how we can save money. We need to have collaboration between the Town and Board of Education. In looking at all of this, he started thinking about our Finance Director position in Town. He had some chats with Mr. House at the high school groundbreaking. Deputy Mayor thinks this is an opportune time for this, if we are talking about shared services, before we hire a Town Finance Director. Deputy Mayor Console thinks Mr. House would probably make a very good Chief Financial Officer for the entire Town and also a Chief Human Resources person. He also suggested two assistants: one at the Town Hall and an assistant at the Board of Education that report to him. It would be greater transparency amongst our budgets every year. We give better information on the financial obligations between the Board of Education and how they relate to the Town and vice versa. Deputy Mayor Console stated it would enhance a lot of the financing capabilities for both sides. Before we go and hire someone, he thinks it would behoove the Town and this Council or the upcoming new Council to really take a look at this before we make a decision. It is time to merge these areas together and somehow have the Finance Director reporting either to the Council with a dotted line to the Town Manager and Superintendent of the Schools. He stated there is some cost savings there and also transparency a big key there.

Deputy Mayor Console commented on 1860 reservoir and neighboring people asking for how the reservoir is being maintained, if a commission could be put together with several people that live around the reservoir. Also with some other town members and officials to look at the reservoir and how it could better meet needs for the Town and services and to keep the area in pristine conditions. Deputy Mayor Console said it is probably one of the best areas to walk but there are some issues to take care of there. There are citizens really wanting to volunteer and get involved. It is something else that we should look at.

Deputy Mayor Console commented the residents at McMullen Avenue were very positive with the Wethersfield Police Department's actions. They continue to curtail some of the robberies that have been happening there, and the speeding and all of that. He commented that believes that a key area here is that he walked the State property where the corrections property is and noticed that the State of Connecticut is taking great care in fencing in all of the vehicles at night. He stated that from what the residents are saying a lot of break-ins that take place, the people are cutting right through the backyards and escaping through the parking lot. Deputy Mayor Console thinks it would behoove the Council and Town Manager to continue to have discussions with Mr. Morin and Mr. Fonfara and see if the State of Connecticut can put up a chain link fence along the whole back perimeter and that would probably deter a lot of the actions that are happening on McMullen Avenue and make the residents feel a little bit safer.

Deputy Mayor Console read a letter from an elderly woman from a home at 579 Ridge Rd. The letter stated that she appreciated Deputy Mayor Console's assistance with her experience with the Town of Wethersfield's officials and Mt. Carmel and L. Wagoner Associates regarding her house damage. Deputy Mayor Console explained that work was done to this house under a specific

Approved

grant that came from Rocky Hill way back when work can be done on a home and then there were liens put on a house and the town gets their money back after the people sell the house which could be years down the road. He explained that the people that did this job were pretty much the worst contractors that he has ever seen in his life. Windows actually fall out of this person's house, gutters are going the wrong way where water pours into the basement, floors don't match up correctly, light switches go on in a bathroom and the lights go on in the bedroom. This woman has been living with torture for six years and it has come down to many comments and many calls, speaking to Senator Fonfara and Congressman Larson. It's \$25,000 to repair this. The Town should step up, either release the liens on this woman's house so she can get on with her life or we should get the town's crews involved and fix it once and for all and find a way to go after other people to get the money back but we've got to bring this to bed. This woman needs her house back and needs to live in a house that isn't falling apart half the time and the wind goes through it every winter.

Councilor Kotkin stated that he is going to second what Councilor Hurley mentioned and asked for more information on the pool. He stated that he timed Barracuda meets for six years and watched his daughter swim for four and doesn't remember the air in the pool being that bad and doesn't recall the prohibition on the doors being open particularly when it is warm in there. He stated that the relays that Mrs. Stickley was talking about, they are annual events and a lot of people come to them and it would be helpful just for us to know why it occurred. Councilor Kotkin questioned if it was over chlorinated, what is the policy for opening the door, particularly when the heat and humidity can build up quite a bit in that pool. He stated that if someone can get back, that would be great.

Councilor Kotkin commented that the Security Director is an important position for the town and it is quite unfortunate that it wasn't funded this year. He stated that if you think about it, there is a school resource officer in the high school that is really a part of the Police Department. There is a residency officer official that is really part of the Board of Education, so you are really looking at a Security Director position that sort of has inputs from both the town side and the school side. So although school folks ask for it, it is really a position that where employees and input from both sides of the town would feed into, it's really a classic position that should be looked at by our Shared Services Committee. He stated that unfortunately over the past couple of years, our Shared Services Committee has been essentially dormant so this is the type of issue that really we should be looking at through this committee. Councilor Kotkin stated that he knows Councilor Roberts is on it and thinks her perspective from both the town and board side would be valuable. He added that unless we really have this type of committee meet and address issues such as what's the level of security that we need and how does the town and the board feed into it. If we don't have those conversations, we are going to end up another year where the Board of Education comes in with a request and the funding isn't sufficient and we don't get a School Security Director. He stated that hopefully we don't have an incident but clearly the folks around the State are very, very nervous about this type of issue and this is something that we really have to work together with the board on and, unfortunately, this issue wasn't funded, it seemed to have gotten dropped over the last four or five months. Councilor Kotkin stated that it

Approved

is important to meet with our board counterparts which really hasn't happened for a couple of years other than in the budget process and then over the high school, and hopes that whether it is later this month or after the election there is a revival or the Shared Services Committee, particularly on issues so important as security.

Councilor Hurley commented that he is the Chairman on the town side of the Shared Services Committee. Unfortunately the Chairman on the Board side doesn't want to interact and do the things that we want so we do have a hard time. He stated that we met several times to try to get them to work with us on a Finance Director and on different initiatives and the board has just sat back and will not work with us on bringing those things to the forefront so I just want to make sure people know that we were trying on the town side to make do things on a shared services basis and we just got a lot of push back from the Board of Education.

Councilor Roberts commented that when she was the Chairman of the Board of Education they had a Shared Services Committee and it was very effective and met monthly. She stated that if there is some reason now that the Board of Education is refusing to meet with council people, that is a major issue with communications in the town and it is a real loss for the town because it can be a very vital functioning committee. She explained that they dealt with everything from combining Physical Services staff for the first time to dealing with parking issues to ways to drive the Police Department nuts trying to figure out how to straighten out some of the parking issues in the school system. She explained that it was a functioning, vibrant committee and we used to have people in from the public talking about their issues in their local schools. Councilor Roberts commented that it is a major failure between this Council and the Board of Education and doesn't have any ways to fix it, but that it's a shame to hear that the Board of Education doesn't want to meet if that is what the case is, so that is a loss for the town.

Councilor Roberts commented on the school Safety Director as another major problem because every day, unfortunately, you are waiting on CNN to see where the latest shooting is in the country. There have been school shootings in places where you can say, oh, it will never happen here like in the Amish community in Lancaster or in our own State. She stated we have been lucky so far that nothing has happened; if something does happen, we will all be sorry the position was not funded the way it should have been.

Councilor Roberts commented the Chairman of the School Building Committee has been here for several meetings, the Town Manager, Councilor Drake and Mike Turner also attend so I would ask that before people make statements, they get their facts straight. Councilor Roberts asked Councilor Drake and the Town Manager, if to their knowledge, has anyone come to a Building Committee meeting and been told that they couldn't speak?

Councilor Drake responded that public comments are always welcome. We ask for public comments at every meeting. He stated that if for some reason you weren't allowed to speak, I would be surprised.

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Councilor Roberts said there is a Facebook page, with a link to the Town of Wethersfield website so there are a lot of ways to find out what's going on. She is just befuddled every meeting somebody comes and has information that is totally incorrect about the Building Committee. Diane Fitzpatrick runs the Communications Committee, a subcommittee, and they have made multiple attempts to communicate with people. She doesn't understand where the problems are and why we keep hearing about issues showing up that people in Town aren't aware of. Councilor Roberts stated the Hartford Courant and the Rare Reminder have also done multiple articles on what's going on in terms of updates on the renovations. This project from all her years in Town service has probably had more coverage, more transparency than any other project we've had.

Councilor Roberts reported that last Monday, she attended the swearing in of a new Police Officer Peter Salvatore. She stated that he is from Wethersfield and has been an explorer. She stated that he seems like a great kid and a new addition to the force and is in the academy now and we look forward to seeing him out on the road in a few months, about a year or so—a great addition to the force.

Councilor McAlister commented that he and others attended a Building Committee and were told that “we can be quiet now”. He respects them and their time, but we were talking about the concern we had with the number of parking spaces. I think it was probably four months ago. Since then, they did revisit the number of parking spots but it was a very uncomfortable meeting to be in that we were told to be quiet. I'm not sure what event that individual was talking to, but I was there.

Councilor Roberts stated maybe people should go back more often because I know that according to Mr. Turner, Mr. Miller has been invited numerous times to attend and I don't think he has attended so again, it's odd to me that there is always this flare-up at our meeting about the Building Committee when people don't go to the Building Committee and raise their issues and complain.

In response to a question shouted by someone in the audience, Councilor Roberts responded you would have to ask the Town Manager. She doesn't know what the process is once a Building Committee is appointed and thinks they are limited statutorily by number.

Councilor McAlister responded at the meeting they were at several months' back, they actually asked if anyone on this committee actually has kids they drop kids off every single day. It also was the pick-up drop-off, we did ask a very similar question.

Mayor Hemmann responded we will work to get the answers to that question.

Councilor Hurley commented that he was at one of the Building Committees and believes that John Miller actually was there speaking out so I think he did go down there to speak because he was sitting next to him.

Approved

Councilor Montinieri commented Public Act 13-3 just passed today out of the CT Division of Emergency Management on this issue of security and recommends that the people look it up and look at it. There are about 20 points that are going to be required of the school system in the State of Connecticut, specifically the security issue. Many of those responsibilities will ultimately, without the security position, probably fall on Fred Bushey. Councilor Montinieri appealed to the council to take this issue up promptly. He stated that we talked about it with Board members when the budget was completed two weeks ago and the final appropriations and moves that were made with the budget, we were looking at that point for the possibility that the board would, in fact, find the funds to put the security position in. He stated that he thinks all of us would agree that we wanted to see that in there. I'm sure the majority wanted to see the security issue in there; it didn't make its way through by the judgment of the Board. He explained that we talked to the town manager about what would be the process to get this looked at again and stated that it has to either come from the Board or has to come through the majority but with respect to an alternative funding. He stated that he is not proposing any motion or resolution or anything because people would perceive that as inappropriate, but we do have time to look at this and with 13-3 passing, it puts enormous pressure on our community, particularly, our school system to respond to a series of security issues that I think provide an opportunity to look at funding this--not necessarily through the board side, but perhaps on the police side and make it a full-time position and fund it through the town budget. He stated that with respect to shared services, it's a natural and asked Mike if we can call that meeting and get bodies together and take a look at it. Councilor Montinieri urged that we do it and commented that the community is asking for it. He stated that basically, at the end of the day, the information is in, we know where we stand now, it's not conjecture and I think we have an obligation as an community to respond and 13-3 is going to put enormous pressure on us to respond immediately by January so it's going to impact this budget whether we find it on the Board or the Town side. He stated that he is happy to help but thinks we need to step up and do it.

Councilor Manousos commented that it amuses him that when it is near election the things that people say. He asked Councilor Montinieri, Roberts, and Kotkin if they are suggesting that the Council is responsible for not funding that security officer.

Councilor Montinieri commented that he thinks that the Board said to us during the budget appropriation that this would be cut if the budget went through as it did. He stated that it is not a surprise to him and that we are past that, and he is not trying to place blame, but it is real so we should go back and look at it however we respond. He stated that he doesn't think it is an issue of blame. He thinks it is an issue that we are past that and budget appropriation occurred, the Board communicated to us during the budget passage discussion here publicly that that would probably be a casualty if that full cut went through. He commented that what I believe you guys said is we think that probably won't happen and they'll find a way to budget it because there is money there. He commented that we are past that and the bottom line is that it hasn't been funded and there are appropriations that had to be made. Councilor Montinieri stated that in his mind it's not about the election, it's not about politics, it's about saying the fact is we do not have

Approved

this funded and we are under pressure to come up with security responses that the community wants and it doesn't matter why it's not funded. He commented that at this point what matters is do we wish as the leadership of this town to step up and say what can we do, can it come from new cuts. He commented that he doesn't care where it comes from, take credit for it, it would be great. Just say listen, we are looking at it and now we have the facts, this was not funded. He commented that it's not a matter of blaming because the majority passed a budget with a cut. It's about saying do we want to step up and solve it and if we agree we want to solve it, then I think we can meet with shared services at your request, bring in a couple of the Board liaisons. Councilor Montinieri commented that according to the town manager, it has to come as a request from the Board, it can be revisited at that point and we can say ok let's find it either in contingency or reserve. He stated again that if 13-3 puts pressure on us to fund these initiatives, we should do that. We should put all the politics aside, who cares who's leading the show, we need to do it.

Councilor McAlister commented that he agrees with that but thinks his point is more about this 13-3, what impact does it have on the school and will they have to find that money someplace else and maybe we can help out. We didn't know it back then.

Councilor Montinieri responded that it just happened and that the issue of security is on the table and I would suspect at the time that that appropriation decision was made and the cut was made, I think you probably felt a reasonably good chance that it will still stay in. He stated that he honestly does not believe that any of you would sit here and say well we hope the security was going to get cut and no, I know that is not how you felt. I think you probably felt reasonably we got a shot, they are going to keep it in, they are going to fund it. He commented that it hasn't happened for whatever reason without rehashing it, but what I would like to say is given that we know factually it's not and here we are it's October, I think our schools don't have that security position in place, the parents, I think, would want to have it and 13-3 is going to put pressure on us. Councilor Montinieri commented to put that all aside and work together to figure a way to get it in there. He commented that we are talking about probably 6 months of the budget year and then we can look at it again next year and we got that amount of money that we are talking about from the extra appropriations for ECS funding. It came to us. It is there. He commented that we might have to shift the shelves around a little bit but we're talking about maybe \$40,000 and I think all of us would agree if we funded that and got that position funded properly, parents would be happy that it got done and you guys would be happy that it got done. It doesn't matter about the appropriation back in May. It really doesn't, that's history. He stated that it's not about we have an election pending, it's about let's just work together and get it done.

Councilor Manousos responded that he is surprised to hear him say that and that he is glad and asked did you agree that we didn't have enough in the budget in what we appropriated to them?

Councilor Montinieri responded that it became a priority. It was different priorities. You guys went through your matrix and you said we think these cuts will get us where we want to be. They were saying we think your cuts are probably inaccurate. Again, at the end of the day, they

Approved

made a decision we're going to have cut here. They told us that was going to happen. We said here, we think it will guys, come on and it did. It's not about rehashing that, it's about saying o:k lets deal with the reality and the facts of today in October. Our schools do not have a position that I think the schools would agree should be done. I suspect Jim would probably agree it is a position that he would support and I think our community would support it and you guys would get applauded for stepping up and saying, yea o:k we got through this process, let's get it done.

Councilor Manousos commented this isn't about who takes credit, a good idea is a good idea no matter where it originates from but what I hear is that you are trying to place blame.

Councilor Montinieri responded that he has said several times that he is not placing blame and that this just became reality two weeks ago when the budget was finalized. He explained that we asked our contacts on the democratic side to say tell us if you think this is going to come out of the final appropriation because as you guys probably know two weeks ago the Board finally did the shifts amongst itself with reserves from some line items that were overspent, some line items that were under spend and it was up until that moment we understood that it was possible, possible that they could find some money from some money from some of the under spent budget lines and we said great if security gets resolved great. If it doesn't, we would like to bring it up again and it didn't and I think that we have to rely that the Board did their best efforts and it isn't about blame. I'm not casting that, I'm saying that I think the reality is what it is and let's get it fixed.

Councilor Manousos responded that he is glad to hear them say that now because that is not what you guys had been saying. He commented that as far as a security officer, it was funded in the way that we did the budget. He explained that all we do is appropriate the money to the Board of Education and they decide how to spend it. At the end of the day, as we all know here, they had an appropriation that was \$1.4 million dollars, more than they had last year. He stated that he has two kids in the school system so a security officer is something we were all concerned about and was something that was in our budget as we deliberated what the appropriations were going to be. Councilor Manousos stated that we can't speak for how they spend their money at the Board of Education but what I can tell you is that they had a \$375,000 surplus this year, so not only did we fund enough for the Board of Education for all of their initiatives including the security officer, they pre-purchased some initiatives for this coming fiscal year, so hopefully we won't hear any more about that. He stated that for the public too I think they need to know so as Gerri said we need to get the facts straight and we want to make sure that the public knows so they can make their own decisions on what they want to do or what they want to believe. Councilor Manousos commented that as far as the radio system, since Chief Cetran is here I would like to invite him up to speak specifically to some of the residents' concerns about why this radio system is needed because I think we have talked about it ad nauseam before. Councilor Manousos commented that this was a long process to get here and there's a reason why it wasn't public because there is a safety issue and if Fire Chief Bailey were here too, I would ask him to come up as well. He asked if he could interrupt his council comments for the Chief, he would love to do that.

Approved

Mayor Hemmann commented that she thinks she can do it this one time and stated that she thinks the public needs to know that the Police Department has put together an extremely thorough plan that entails all of the schools with all of their officers. Mayor Hemmann explained that they have a manual that is present in their police cruisers that have the information that they need to respond to those schools. She stated that they have maps and understandings of the building layout. She explained that each officer in the district that they are in has been part of that plan and meets with the principal and stops into that school. She commented that it's kind of their school and wanted the public to understand that there is a plan in place and that the Police Department is extremely active in that process and were instrumental in putting that plan together.

Chief Cetran explained that we were in dire need of the radios with no question about it. He stated that we have had numerous failures that occurred at very crucial times and our officers were at risk every single one of those times. He explained that you never knew when it was going to go down. Sometimes you didn't know it went down when it went down so we were really, I likened it to playing Russian roulette, you just never knew when it was going to happen, but you knew it was going to happen where someone was going to be put in a position where they were going to get hurt. Chief Cetran commented that they had a detective up in Hartford that was trying to make an arrest in an armed robbery, two armed robbery suspects and the radios went down and he couldn't call for backup. He explained that they had six failures in one day, a day in which they had a pursuit and stated that fortunately, the pursuit was o:k, but it was just a matter of luck. He commented that yes, the radio system was extremely dangerous for us and I and the officers are extremely pleased and appreciative of the fact that this has moved on and we will be getting a new system. He commented that we still have to get through the next 12 months until that new system is built, but do have some contingency plans now. He stated that we do have some hopefully back-ups, not the best scenario, but at least we will be able to survive.

Councilor McAlister asked for a timeframe for how long the system has been failing and why we didn't necessary want to make this public information.

Chief Cetran responded the system has been failing since end of life which was two years ago. He stated that end of life is bad enough but when it gets to end of support which is which is already past too that's when you can't get the parts to fix it. The only way you can get parts to fix this is by going believe it or not is on EBay. He explained that Motorola doesn't have the parts for this system anymore. They stopped manufacturing at the time of end of life. He stated that he is not sure exactly how long after end of life was end of support, but end of support was really when we were in trouble. He explained that if one of the controllers goes, that is the brains of the system, there is no replacing it and so far they have been able to whenever something is wrong, they were able to patch it, but that may not be able to be patched in the future. Chief Cetran explained that the system was never a great functioning system. He stated that it should have been a three-tower system and it was only a two-tower system so we had dead spots, we had problems from day one but hopefully the new system will correct all of those problems and we

Approved

will have something that is good that will last a while. He stated that we really didn't want people to know how critical that radio system was because that might give some people the idea that they might be able to come into Wethersfield and the police won't respond. Chief Cetran commented that we will respond no matter what, it's just that it may take a little more effort to do that response. That is the position we are in and that is why it wasn't publicly noted at every council meeting.

Deputy Mayor Console commented that years back Officer Dillon showed him a whole manual that he had put together and asked Chief Cetran to let the public know from that manual how you built your base and where we stand today as far as safety in the school system and what the Wethersfield Police Department is doing as far as that goes.

Chief Cetran responded that he thinks we comply with all of the points that Councilor Montinieri had mentioned that is coming up in January 2014. He stated that the retired Lieutenant Dillon had started that process prior to his retirement and he continued after he retired and he did a great job. He explained that he did all the assessments at the schools and we have the plans. He explained that the plans were in written form and is in the manual in the Sergeant's vehicle and now we have an electronic form and it's in the computers in each one of the line cars and they can pull it up. It has all the information that is necessary and has the blueprints for the schools and room numbers and it has a lot of details that will assist the officers if they have to respond and the whole idea of this response is because it is different today that it was ten years ago. He explained that ten years ago, we didn't have the active shooters scenario that we have today. Ten years ago, what we planned on was you surround the school, like Columbine, you surround the school, you call for the S.W.A.T. team the S.W.A.T. team goes in and takes care of business. He explained that it is much different today because we learned our lessons with Columbine and every school shooting since then. Officer Cetran explained that the officers who respond to those calls cannot wait for backup, cannot wait to secure a perimeter around the school, they have to go in the school and take care of whoever is actively shooting. He stated that the more information and the better equipment that we have will give them a better chance at doing this and it is the only way that I know of that you are going to stop someone like an Adam Lanza, nothing else will. It isn't until we get into that school and we stop the person from actively shooting that those kids will be safe. He stated that everything that we have done since then and Lieutenant Dillon has done a great job at doing that. He stated that the problem you have with school security, we just don't have the manpower and the time to do that and someone needs to stay on top of schools, with the lockdowns, the lockouts, the lock-ins, the training that goes along with that for not only the staff but the students so they know. He explained that they also have to stay up on technology. They have those new jammers that they put in the doors because one of the problems we always had is that the doors didn't lock or the doors opened out. Now they have special locks because you lose your motor skills when you start getting into panic mode but just taking a chuck and putting it into a door is something that somebody can do and you don't need fine motor skills for that. He explained that these are the things that the Security Director would actually research, fine out what is best and what equipment that we need to buy. So to answer your questions that were asked before, I believe that a Security Director is needed. That was a

Approved

priority on my list for school security and I still feel that way today. He asked if there were any other questions.

Councilor Manousos commented that as far as the Building Committee, he can appreciate Gerri's concern about people coming and it seems to be piling on I think what some of the comments we heard today and some of the ones that I feel that are basically, and I say this with all due respect, but I think that some of the people are starting to lose a little faith in the Building Committee and that is why you have the public coming forward asking how can we add new people that have some practical experience and maybe some individual expertise in different areas that would help in this endeavor of ours and that is why the council is being more vigilant in its monitoring of this project and I think rightfully so because this is the largest project that we are taking on in the town's history from what I am told. He stated that he knows to Gerri that it may be a little more personal because her husband is on the Committee but there are still good people on there but they just may need some more help, that's all. We are all in this together.

Councilor Roberts commented that it is not personal, it is just a review of the facts and I just for ancient history because a lot of you people haven't been on as long as I have when we did the previous Wethersfield High School renovation, Mr. Miller came at every meeting and complained about that renovation too. She explained that this is not news; this is every time there is a renovation at the high school certain people have certain issues with it. Again you can read all the documents, you can look at the Facebook and you can go to meetings and get the facts yourself, so it is not personal and the fact that my husband is on it has nothing to do with me, it just gets them out of the house which is great. So other than that I am more concerned about how people appear all of a sudden and have incorrect facts and yet what have they looked at?

Councilor Manousos commented on an idea that Mr. Copp had mentioned regarding a Citizens Audit Committee. He stated that he did not have a resolution to make today but thinks it is certainly appropriate for us to kind of explore it and whether it makes sense to do. He stated that he knows in the Town of Enfield there is a woman named Susan Lavelly who was on the Board of Education or is on the Board of Education and she was responsible for their Audit Committee of Board of Education operations and Town operations, whatever it was, it was not just a financial audit but more of an operations audit by people who had experience in the community. He stated that in looking at their report maybe the Town Manager can reach out to them and see what their experience has been. If it has been good or bad and if it is something that we should bring back and consider in town. He commented that in reading one of their reports some of the recommendations that they had included something that we've done here which kind of makes us feel pretty good that we did this on this council and that was to create this Capital Improvement Fund for the Board of Education so they don't spend down their budget surpluses. They have an opportunity to keep that money instead of losing it; they can fund this capital improvement fund which we created this year so it stays in the school system so it can go towards improvements of the school buildings. So that is something that they had recommended which we already done and it's just something that is worth wild looking at.

Approved

Mayor Hemmann commented that the Fire Department responds to alarms that go off and whether it is a false alarm or a real alarm and fire and they do respond to those alarms at any time of day or night.

Mayor Hemmann read a letter into the record from Cindy Hughes regarding the good work that the Physical Services Department is doing with regards to trees, road repair, plowing and grounds. Mayor Hemmann passed the letter on to the Town Manager.

Mayor Hemmann commented on what the Deputy Mayor talked about in regards to the tennis courts and thinks that some of that information that he had was interesting in looking at the surfacing information. She stated that it might be worth taking a look at.

Mayor Hemmann commented that she attended the MDC and Connecticut Rivers Shed Councils Source to Seas Cleanup at the Cove on Saturday. She stated that the attendance was phenomenal by volunteers in town. She stated that there were three boaters who came to transport people to the other side of the riverbank within the cove and there was a group of residents who went through Folly Brook along the dike and cleaned up year's worth of trash. Mayor Hemmann stated that USA Dumpsters donated a 30-yard dumpster and it was filled with debris that they cleaned up. She stated that they collected tires and bags and bags of trash both from places that they could get from the cove and then those other ancillary areas so kudos to them for working so hard to get that done. She explained that this is an annual event and is the 17th year that this has happened. She stated that it happens all over New England where the river shed impacts those different communities so we were very fortunate to have an extremely large group of volunteers this year and thanks those volunteers very much.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Bridges reported that we received word from the Government Finance Officers Association that our annual financial report for last year received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and that was done by Susan Smith our former Finance Director and we will make sure that she receives notice that we received that award.

Mr. Bridges reported that at the last meeting there was a question about Rocky Hill and the old Ames building and their action to get that cleaned. He stated that they are using the ordinance and the same laws that we are and they are fining that person or the owner \$100 per day for every blight issue they can find so they are basically going through the same process that we go through if there is blight on a property. He stated that if the blight is resolved, then we have the fines stopped. Mr. Bridges stated that they are also looking at the redevelopment statutes and everything else the same statutes and same ordinances that we have.

Approved

Mr. Bridges reported that the town was required by October 1st to appoint a veteran affairs coordinator and that person has been appointed and it is Christine Taylor from the Social Services Department. She will be coordinating veteran's affairs services.

Mr. Bridges reported that at the last meeting, there was a question about the site distance at Beverley and Wolcott Hill. He explained that the engineering department has done a report on that and it is stated in a memo from Mr. Turner that looking north from the intersection there is a utility pole with a u-verse box, site to the west of that utility pole is 295 feet, site east to the pole is unlimited and does not appear to be an issues, looking south from the intersection site distance is limited to 282 due to two rows of recently planted rose bushes in the front yard of property. This site distance is adequate for about 25 miles an hour. The posted speed limit is posted speed limit for Wolcott Hill is 35 miles an hour. We noted there is gab between the rose bushes that allow us for extended site distance, however, we anticipate the roses will grow and the situation will become worse. The Staff is sending notice to the owners of the property to relocate the roses or trim them and maintain them to a height less than 30 inches.

Mr. Bridges reported that at the last meeting we discussed a property tax delinquent collection process. He stated that the two lists of real property that is occupied in vacant lots are on your podium this evening.

Mr. Bridges reported that we did finalize the deal with Harris Corporation for a radio contract and the purchase price is \$3.6 million dollars. He stated that performance is required before acceptance that performance has been established. He explained that in this selection process, Harris will be responsible for any additional parts or software to meet the performance criteria on either the radio system or fire department paging system. He added that part of that agreement is a 15-year maintenance agreement which includes provisions protecting the town against end of life issues which we are facing now. He explained that all parts must be compatible with the system purchased and the town cannot be forced to upgrade due to an evolution of technology for 15 years and that the system will perform as accepted for 15 years. He explained that the full 15-year maintenance is \$2.9 million dollars, however, after year 5 we can negotiate that price depending on what we want to cover and what we don't want to cover and that was a conclusion of a very long process on the radios. He offered his congratulations to the council and thanks to the town staff that worked on that issue and stated that it is setting the tone for public safety communication for the next generation.

Councilor Manousos asked about the radio system additional cost, just so the public knows, as far as the budget goes, under the current system we are still paying maintenance costs. It's not like it's any additional money that is not already in the budget.

Mr. Bridges replied no we are paying a very similar cost now for the Motorola contract. He explained that now this will escalate over 15 years, there is an escalator in there based upon a hybrid formula of the CPIW and CPIU passed year 5. Again there are certain elements in that maintenance agreement which we may or may not want to cover past year five and it may be

Approved

more cost effective to pay a time and materials basis for some of those items.

Councilor Manousos commented so then the point is that we are paying a maintenance fee now and with the current system we are going to be paying a maintenance fee under any new system we get.

Mr. Bridges responded that is what we have seen.

Councilor Montinieri asked if the maintenance agreement that is in place under this contract is \$2.9 million for the full 15 years including the escalators which is a labor maintenance agreement correct.

Mr. Bridges responded yes.

Councilor Montinieri asked it does not cover parts, we are responsible for any part replacement.

Mr. Bridges responded yes.

Councilor Montinieri asked in the budget that you presented back when we were in discussion mode for this, this number is actually higher than our current budgeted amount for the radio. Is that correct?

Mr. Bridges responded yes, as we presented yes.

Councilor Montinieri asked have we made a provision for that as we go forward or will we have to make appropriations as those years unfold?

Mr. Bridges responded that the first few years are as presented. When we get past year four or five, it escalates beyond there because what is covered and again we can change those items.

Councilor Montinieri asked that would require us taking something off of the formula.

Mr. Bridges responded that may be more cost-effective to cover on a time and materials basis.

Councilor Montinieri asked what the finance cost to the Town is for the lease because he thought it changed slightly at the end.

Mr. Bridges responded that the interest rate changed fractionally so over the life of the 15 years there is an increase of about \$10,000 in the finance costs.

Councilor Montinieri asked so the total ball park is how much for the financing.

Mr. Bridges responded that he doesn't have that number this evening. He stated that includes

Approved

principal and interest--two payments of roughly \$192,000 each.

Councilor Montinieri asked this contract agreement that was proposed by Harris has about \$2.1 million dollars in equipment in it, correct.

Mr. Bridges responded \$2.1 million of infrastructure.

Councilor Montinieri asked of that \$2.1 million are there any projections as to parts replacement for the life of the 15 years.

Mr. Bridges responded that we are buying a substantial quantity of parts along with the \$3.6 million so we will have parts available not only to replace what is broken but if a part breaks they can replace it take the other one back, fix it and put it back into our inventory.

Councilor Montinieri asked if the cost covers everything, or just certain things. Rae Ann Palmer responded from the audience. She said it covers all the infrastructure and we are buying spares on the user equipment.

Deputy Mayor Console asked if that was in the \$2.9.

Mr. Bridges responded that it was in the \$3.6.

Ms. Palmer responded that the user equipment is not in the \$2.9.

Mr. Bridges confirmed that it is in the user equipment and is in the \$3.6.

Councilor Montinieri commented that at the end of the day there is just north of \$7 million on the project for the full 15 years including the labor of warranty.

Mr. Bridges responded yes.

Councilor Roberts asked if the Council will be getting copies of all the contracts that they signed because to be quite honest tonight was the first time she heard the \$2.9 million dollar number.

Councilor Kotkin asked how much we will be paying Motorola in this current fiscal year for maintenance of the current system.

Mr. Bridges responded roughly \$10,000 per month.

Councilor Kotkin responded roughly \$120,000.

Mr. Bridges responded if we go the full year.

Approved

COUNCIL ACTION

OTHER BUSINESS

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO INCREASE THE TOWN CLERK’S SALARY FROM \$66,900 TO \$69,000 EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2013”**, seconded by Councilor McAlister.

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

Councilor Manousos moved **“TO APPROVE THE CONSENT TO SUBLEASE BETWEEN THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD AND MITCHELL ON THE PARK LLC FOR THE PLACEMENT OF A VERIZON WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER ON THE PREMISES”**, seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Mr. Bridges explained that the owners of Mitchell on the Park and their representatives are here this evening if there are some specific questions. Mr. Bridges explained that we have been asked to review an amendment to the lease to allow for a Verizon Communications Tower on the Mitchell Housing Building. He stated that this was sent to the Planning & Zoning Commission at the last meeting and they have recommended it favorably for a review. He explained that it doesn’t mean that they are approving it; it just means that the council finds it favorable to consider. Mr. Bridges explained that if the Council approves the consent to sublease which is contingent upon all other regulatory approvals, then Planning & Zoning will get it back to look at the actual design and aesthetics of the structure itself. He explained that it doesn’t mean it is approved, it just means that the council finds it acceptable to move through the regulatory process and if approved through the regulatory process is acceptable to the town. Mr. Bridges stated that representatives are here this evening. He commented that it will be fully enclosed as shown in the documents this evening.

Councilor Hurley commented that it doesn’t seem like a good idea to put an antenna up there because it is basically in the middle of our town, it’s right in the middle of Mill Woods Park and it just seems like a bad idea to him and doesn’t think the residents would appreciate having a Verizon Tower in the middle of town. He stated that it is no disrespect to the people who want the tower, but we kind of have a responsibility to the citizens of the town and it is like one of the show pieces of our town, that Mill Woods Park where that building happens to be.

Deputy Mayor Console commented that he usually reads all the minutes from the Planning & Zoning Commission and stated that he hasn’t seen any of the minutes yet to get a good handle on the dialogue from the 8-24 report. He commented that the Manager has filled us in a little bit but that is all he really knows at this point so until he can read the minutes to see what their issues were he asks that we table this until next time or at least go back and be able to look at the minutes before we make a decision here.

Approved

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO TABLE THE ITEM UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING TO ALLOW TIME TO REVIEW THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES”**, seconded by Councilor McAlister.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted. The motion passed 7-1-1. Councilor Kotkin voted no. Councilor Roberts abstained.

Councilor Drake asked if Mr. Bridges could address any financials to the town of any benefits we could get besides nothing and if there is any financial benefit, what that would be and asked to address it in a couple of weeks.

Mr. Bridges responded that there is some financial benefit and it is shown in the sublease.

Councilor Drake asked if he had an estimate.

Mr. Bridges responded he didn't know what their business deal was with Verizon for the space.

Councilor Drake asked if that was something that he could find out.

Councilor Kotkin said he wanted to second what Councilor Drake just said.

Councilor Hurley moved **“TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO CIRMA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$80,385 FOR BUILDER'S RISK INSURANCE FOR A THREE YEAR TERM”**, seconded by Councilor McAlister.

Mr. Bridges explained that this is for the high school renovation project and stated that our agent of record Chris Winthrop went out and shopped Builders Risk Insurance which would cover the portions of the building under construction, roughly \$50 million dollars worth of coverage. He explained that he looked at a number of companies and Travelers seemed to be the most financially stable in this market so he compared their proposal to CIRMA's proposal which is our current insurer and has recommended that we go with CIRMA for the 3-year program. He added that the \$80,000 price is for 3 years not every year so it's \$80,000 total for the full project. Mr. Bridges commented that actually it was a very interesting process. We actually got CIRMA to rewrite their Builders Risk Insurance to cover our needs so we are recommending CIRMA.

Councilor Hurley asked if the project goes over the three years, would we have to extend this.

Mr. Bridges responded yes, as we would with everything else.

Councilor McAlister commented that he works for Travelers Insurance and asked if he should abstain from voting.

Mr. Bridges responded yes.

Approved

Councilor Montinieri asked if all of our facilities are insured now under our normal coverages and so as soon as we go into a renovation phase, our current coverages would, I assume, be subject to exclusion and commented that if something happens during the construction phase, the argument would be that your coverage on the building would not apply, they would find a way to get out of that basically. So this coverage says if it was determined that the building were to catch fire during construction, would the cause of the fire be bearing on whether this coverage, is the regular coverage off the table or are they simultaneous.

Mr. Bridges responded this is supplemental to the regular coverage and that's what makes the CIRMA proposal that much more attractive is that we still have the underlying liability coverage on the building. He stated that this is on top of that for all the work being done to renovate the building.

Councilor Montinieri asked how it interfaces with the general contractor's obligation to maintain insurance. He asked if there was some negligence on the part of one of the contractors that cause a fire that was catastrophic, they would have insurance first, this would be back-up insurance correct.

Mr. Bridges responded yes.

Mayor Hemmann asked if we have done this before.

Mr. Bridges responded yes all of our projects have builders risk insurance. Some of it is built into the contracts. Since we don't have a general we are holding the insurance, we actually hold the contracts.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-2. Councilors McAlister and Hurley abstained.

BIDS

Councilor Hurley moved **"TO AWARD ROCK SALT BID TO AMERICAN ROCK SALT, EASTERN SALT CO., AND INTERNATIONAL SALT CO. AT A COST PER TON OF \$56.36, \$56.54, AND \$64.60 RESPECTIVELY"** seconded by Councilor Manousos.

Mr. Bridges explained that we generally approve multiple bids for rock salt in the winter time depending upon availability and then have the option to use each one. We do this every year and staff is recommending the bids as presented.

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

Councilor Hurley moved **"TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO**

Approved

TREMCO/WEATHERPROOFING TECHNOLOGIES FOR ROOF SERVICE PER THE ATTACHED AGREEMENT FOR THE TERM JULY 1, 2013 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2014, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$55,165” seconded by Deputy Mayor Console.

Mr. Bridges invited Mike Turner to come up this evening. He stated that this is something in the CIP. It went through the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee and he will present the item.

Mr. Turner explained that this is the fourth year of a five-year term that the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee sought and negotiated with TREMCO with the idea that you can get a much lower price. He stated that the further along we go with this firm, he thinks their work has been very good to date. He stated that he is not aware of any roofs in town that are leaking. They have got a good grasp of control in providing us budget information for future planning. He stated that twice a year routine maintenance and inspection program is included in this price. They also are the ones that update our facilities database on all the roofs. They take pictures of any defects and if it is routine they fix it right then and there and they have been a very good firm to work with and we are recommending continuation.

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

Councilor Drake moved **“TO AWARD THE BID FOR TRIVET LAND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS TO B&J CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$24,527.50**” seconded by Councilor Hurley.

Mr. Bridges explained that this was included in this year’s budget. Trivet Lane has been on the list. Staff bid out the work as designed and these were the results so we are recommending B&J Construction of New Britain. Mr. Turner is here to discuss any particulars to the project.

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

Councilor Hurley moved **“TO REJECT ALL BIDS FOR THE SDMS ROOFTOP UNIT INSTALLATION**” seconded by Councilor Manousos.

Mr. Bridges explained that included in the CIP was an amount of \$60,000 to replace an air-handling unit at Silas Deane Middle School. He stated that Mr. Bushey is here this evening and added that it was a request of the Board of Education which was funded. He explained that unfortunately the design which provided the quote wasn’t sufficient to do the entire work so we are asking to reject the bids and go back to the CIAC process to try to get this resolved next year.

Councilor Hurley asked who was the Architect and suggested that we shouldn’t use this guy anymore if it’s \$64,000 and \$250,000 that’s a pretty big.

Mr. Bridges responded that Friar Associates was the Architect and they generally do good work.

Approved

Councilor Hurley asked how many times we have used them in the past.

Councilor Drake responded that we have used them a million times.

Councilor Hurley commented that it seems like a big miss though.

Councilor Drake asked if Mr. Bushey can explain how they screwed this up.

Mr. Bushey explained that he worked with Glenn Yeakel from Friar Associates on this project. He was rather taken aback on how this came in. I really can't answer for him in what he did but Friar Associates has been very active here in the town. They did both pieces of the Silas Deane Middle School and Webb Elementary and are normally a very, very astute firm. He stated he was rather shocked to see the bids that did come in the lowest bid was \$210,000. He stated that obviously it was over budget from we had thought about. He explained that he plans on going back to CIAC this winter to gather the additional funds for this project. He stated that the units themselves are now in order and they are running. He stated that they are just a little bit of a problematic thing to get at because they are above the ceiling in the gymnasium, locker rooms where I really cannot get at them unless it is after hours because the ceilings have to come out in order to do so. He asked if there were any other questions.

Councilor Kotkin asked if these were replaced during the renovation.

Mr. Bushey responded no, they were not.

Councilor Kotkin asked because what they would find at that time.

Councilor Drake responded that they didn't replace those because they were so buried in the original design in the ceiling. We ended up rebuilding them because you would have to take the whole gym would have to come down. Whatever they did 40 years ago, you would have to take the whole thing down to do it, so we rebuilt them. It was very awkward even to rebuild them so it was a problem area even back then.

Mr. Bushey commented that you would have to go up above ceiling wise to get at these units and you would have to create staging in there in order to do so and it would have to be left in there for an amount of time.

Councilor Drake stated that at the time they hadn't work for 20 years when we rebuilt them, they just never worked because they couldn't fix them so we did go in took it apart to get to fix them but it was very tough.

Mr. Bushey responded that he does have them running now. They are providing fresh air, if that. He stated that he really can't get any heat through them because the coils are not good and I really can't pump any water through them but they do provide fresh air to the gymnasium. He

Approved

stated that we do have an alternate unit that was hung during the project to provide heat to the area and we just try to recirculate that on a 14-hour basis.

Councilor Kotkin asked will there be an issue providing adequate heat to the gymnasium during the winter.

Mr. Bushey responded that even with some of the bad winters we've had in the past, he hasn't had that problem. Not to say if we get below 20 degrees for an extended period of time all bets are off.

Councilor Kotkin asked that will all his discussions with Friar, you stated that they don't understand this.

Mr. Bushey responded that he talked to both principles of that firm and they both kind of stymied. He stated that he believes that Mr. Bridges also has talked to Mr. Yealkel and he cannot offer him an explanation right now.

Councilor Kotkin asked could it be that people are full up doing this kind of work right now and they just sort of threw.

Mr. Bushey responded that's pretty possible and it could have been that folks just through numbers at it just to appease us.

Councilor Kotkin commented certainly Friar is familiar with the school because they did the renovations.

Mr. Bushey responded absolutely. It was almost like you didn't even need the plans for them; he said he thinks he has plans in their archives.

Councilor Drake commented that if you look at the numbers they are charging \$200,000 to put in a \$25,000 unit. The numbers seem crazy to him and something seems wrong to him.

Mr. Bushey stated that we are going to revisit it and do what we can to get it back up-to-date.

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

Councilor Hurley moved **“TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR REPLACEMENT OF EIGHT GENERATORS TO FRIAR ASSOCIATES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$24,600”** seconded by Councilor Manousos.

Mr. Bridges explained that the town received a hazardous mitigation grant to replace eight generators. Part of that is we need to design the generators spec amount and put together a bid

Approved

package. He stated that we bid that service out and Friar Associated was the lowest responsible bidder. He stated that we do have money in this year's CAP which we were going to use to buy generators but instead we will use it to design the generator systems and then use the grant money to buy the generators. He stated that we will include the review of combining a generator for the nature center and the ambulance building.

Mayor Hemmann asked if in fact that works out, there's one hanging in the mix, would that be potential to use for the library.

Mr. Bridges responded that you're going to buy one but it is going to be bigger than two and you are going to have to run separate wire, we just have to look at that, but even the Library I don't know if we could fit another one in somewhere. We would have to take a look.

Mayor Hemmann stated that she knows that is a concern because when the power goes off, they have to close and that could be a warming and cooling center depending.

Mr. Bridges responded we'll just have to take a look and see what we have left and how we can use it.

Councilor Drake asked does anybody look at the dollars that combine because you have to have bigger switchgear, bigger units, have you looked at the dollars at all of is that the first time you have looked at that concept combining the nature center and the ambulance facility.

Mr. Turner responded that he thinks that issue came up maybe a couple of months back during a discussion. He explained that we haven't looked at the dollars, but obviously these are priced as they are being replaced individually. He explained that as Councilor Drake said maybe one slightly larger generator that has enough capacity to take both buildings could certainly make sense and there is a close proximity.

Councilor Kotkin commented that he was looking down the list and it looks like there are several where we're talking about replacing diesel with primarily natural gas but there are two that you are replacing diesel with diesel and asked is it that gas isn't available at Fire House 2. He stated that is it sort of odd that gas would be available at the ambulance facility but not at the nature center since they are next door to each other so why would that be.

Mr. Turner responded that he thinks it is just the service into the building presently.

Councilor Kotkin asked there is no gas service in the nature center.

Mr. Turner responded right.

Councilor Kotkin commented so it heats with oil.

Mr., Turner responded yes. I think that is where the differential is and stated that this grant

Approved

would not cover the cost, I believe, of bringing in new service to the facility.

Councilor Kotkin commented that it is just a suggestion and that it might be an attractive load for them. Would they pay for bringing the service into the building so the whole building can go to natural gas?

Mr. Turner responded they may and that is where the Architect and the Engineering Firm would come into play to calculate those loads and see if this would work.

Councilor Kotkin asked is there a gas main that goes along Fire House 2.

Mr. Turner responded that he believes there is a gas main in Griswoldville.

Councilor Kotkin commented that with the State looking for subsidies to get residential commercial customers to switch to gas, that should be approved by the State by Thanksgiving, maybe these two buildings, we would have to pay nothing after the new policy passes, so maybe this is a time to look at those buildings and convert them to gas especially if we are not going to have to pay a connection charge.

Mayor Hemmann commented from the perspective of the generators for natural gas, residential can be different from town buildings, there is a low-pressure and a high-pressure flow and we looked into a natural gas generator and it did not have high-pressure flow in our area, so just something to consider when looking at that. She commented that a gentlemen from CNG had mentioned that many people don't ask first, they buy the generator first and then find out they can't use it.

Mr. Bridges responded that is the particular issue that we are having at the Community Center. That is exactly why we are in that situation.

Deputy Mayor Console commented that even the line they have going down Folly Brook, that's a high pressure line.

Mr. Turner responded that nothing is tapped off of that line that's a transmission main.

Mr. Bridges commented that you are not going to get a tap off of a high pressure line.

Deputy Mayor Console commented no but they are alongside each other along Folly Brook. A transmission plus a high pressure one.

Mr. Turner responded there is a jet fuel line and a gas line.

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

Approved

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

No items.

MINUTES

Councilor Hurley moved **“TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2013”** seconded by Councilor Drake.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-2. Councilors Kotkin and McAlister abstained.

Councilor Hurley moved **“TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2013”** seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Ave., commented on the amount of traffic flow on Morrison Ave. and Hillcrest Avenue and the need for a stop sign in that area.

Paul Copp, 100 Executive Square commented that regarding the Board of Education, he saw something that shocked him the other night when he was watching it. He stated that they asked when on the goals and projections and everything else, they asked when, the first time I ever heard it. Mr. Copp commented that he thinks if they are taking that type of attitude you might be able to go back again with your shared services and see what you can convince them of. He commented on the high school renovation and the committees stating that with \$75 million dollars being spent, nobody is going to be happy and the only way you put somebody on is you get a resignation or you add subcommittees. He commented that as in the last election, the independence party will be having a debate and asked some of the council members to participate.

Ed Brymer, 64 Old Post Rd., commented that he has been a member of the Building Committee since day one. He explained that initially Dave Drake was Vice Chair and had to give that position up when he became a council member and then replaced Dave as Vice Chair. He commented that the Building Committee is made up of a lot of hard working people, Republicans, Democrats and Independents. He stated that Dave Drake has been a liaison from the council and has done an incredible job with all the other things that he has to do. He stated that the Town Manager and Superintendent and Principle and Town officials, Mike Turner are at every meeting. He explained that they have had meetings since 2008. He asked Councilor Manousos how many meetings he has been to since 2008, he believes it has been about 2 or 3. Mr. Brymer commented that they all work hard and have people on the committee that have been

Approved

on other committees in town and are open and have asked the public to attend and they have not attend. He stated that they had meeting at the Wethersfield High School and only 5 or 6 people of the public have attended. He stated that they are open to ideas and suggestions and we want the best high school possible for the kids. He stated that we have a budget that is limited to the referendum and I don't know what more we have to do to get people to attend out meetings, but we are open for people to attend.

George A. Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle questioned the leadership of the Chairman of the Board of Education and lack of leadership. He also commented on the Mitchell antenna and stated that an antenna of that size, about 15 feet, is pretty small and if it were placed somewhere in the center of that building, you probably couldn't see it from the street. He commented on the high pressure gas line by the brook on his property.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Rd., commented about nepotism on the Council and the Board of Education and feels that the town leadership should handle these problems and that they should be addressed. He also commented about the lack of talk about the radio system until after the budget was passed and there was a meeting about it six months ago. Mr. Young suggested that town should go out and hire an Accounting Manager to handle to town side and just pull in the Board of Education side into their books and eliminate those dollars that the Board of Education has been getting for Tim Howes or open up the charter and put a statement in there on how the town needs to reduce costs and do it that way and if they don't want to talk, then you have to force it. He commented on all the money that is being spent on the radio system and the warranty package.

At 9:53 p.m. Councilor McAlister moved **"TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Console.

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

At 10:28 p.m. Councilor Kotkin moved **"TO EXIT THE EXECUTIVE SESSION"**, seconded by Councilor Roberts.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:28 p.m., Councilor Roberts moved **"TO ADJOURN THE MEETING"** seconded by Councilor Manousos. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk
Approved by Vote of Council
November 11, 2013

Approved

Amy Northrop Wittorff, 17 Center Street. Director, Wethersfield Historical Society

Good evening Madam Mayor, Members of Council, Mr. Town Manager, and thank you for this time on your busy agenda!

I am here tonight representing Wethersfield Historical Society along with President Candace Holmes.

We are here to make the society's annual presentation of rental payment to the Town of Wethersfield for use of the Cove Warehouse, Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, Deming Standish House and the Old Academy.

Wethersfield Historical Society is committed to continuing to be a strong partner with the Town of Wethersfield and a positive influence on the Town's quality of life and civic spirit.

The society is pleased to contribute its varied and considerable resources to support the Town's many efforts that make Wethersfield a great place to live.

With over 1,000 members and hundreds of active volunteers, the society ensures that:

Wethersfield visitors and residents enjoy a warm welcome six days per week at the Wethersfield Museum and Visitor Center.

Children from Wethersfield and surrounding communities learn about history in a fun and interactive way.

Researchers find in-depth information about their ancestors, their homes, or special research topics at the Old Academy's public research library and archival collections.

Visitors experience the past at important historic buildings.

Approved

New exhibits feature important objects, information and stories about the entire community.

Wethersfield residents and tourists alike can enjoy our free or low cost cultural events presented year round.

In 2012 we welcomed over 20,000 physical visitors to our historic sites, and reached another 60,000 through our internet and social media presence. We expect to surpass those numbers this year.

Wethersfield Historical Society, a private nonprofit organization, was founded by Wethersfield residents in 1932, and we continue to be a community organization run, and funded, by and for Wethersfield residents. We are proud of our long association and tradition of collaboration with the Town of Wethersfield and look forward to continuing that tradition into the future.

We have many exciting plans for the upcoming year, including a major exhibit on the Connecticut State Prison at Wethersfield. We continue to encourage residents who have artifacts, photos, or memories of the prison to share them with us and help enhance this community collaborative exhibit set to open in September 2014.

While our lease documents call for a monetary lease payment for the Keeney Memorial, Old Academy and the Deming-Standish House, the society is pleased that we have been able to retain the traditional “one rope of red onions” as lease payment for the venerable Cove Warehouse.

And so, Madame Mayor, we would be honored if you would please step forward to receive this presentation.

Thank you again for your continued support. It is an honor and a privilege to be a part of the Town of Wethersfield.