

OCTOBER 4, 2004 REGULAR MEETING

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on October 4, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

Present: Councilors Adil (7:10), Cascio (7:30), Czernicki (7:15), Forrest, Fortunato (9:05), Hemmann, Montinieri, Deputy Mayor Karangekis and Chairperson Morin.

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

Chairperson Morin announced that there would be an Executive Session following the regular meeting to discuss pending litigation and union negotiations.

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

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK PROCLAMATION

Chairperson Morin presented a proclamation to Wethersfield Fire Marshal Gary Santoro, Martin Graff from True Value Hardware, and Wethersfield Police Officer Alison Sullivan in honor of fire prevention week. This year's theme of TEST YOUR SMOKE DETECTOR kicks off October's fire prevention month. The proclamation announced that in conjunction with Fire Marshal Santoro and the Wethersfield Fire Department, True Value Hardware stores will host a fire safety day on Saturday, October 9, 2004 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Goff Brook Plaza. Residents are urged to change the batteries in their smoke detectors when changing their clocks on October 31. Appreciation was extended to the Wethersfield Fire Marshall and all members of the Wethersfield Volunteer Fire Department for a job well done.

Mr. Graff stated that True Value has been involved in nation-wide fire safety for a number of years, especially now on the local level in Wethersfield with various fire safety publications and handouts. He said that True Value sells many fire safety related items including smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Fire Marshal Santoro said that the emphasis this year is not only on fire safety, but also on all public safety; therefore along with fire apparatus being displayed on October 9, there will also be a presentation by the Volunteer Ambulance staff. The Police Department will be participating as well.

Officer Sullivan said that the Police Department will be represented on October 9 to conduct inspections of proper child safety seat installation in vehicles. Other topics represented will include vehicle theft and gun safety.

SKATEBOARD PARK COMMITTEE

Skateboard Park Committee members Paul Mangiafico, Matt Zawotski, and Michael Johnson introduced themselves. Mr. Johnson thanked the Council, on behalf of the Committee, for their support and for the land for the skate park. He also thanked the Physical Services Department for their donation of services for site demolition and preparation. Mr. Mangiafico informed the Council that the fund raising goal of \$125,000 has been surpassed for a total donation amount of \$157,000. Mr. Johnson said that \$100,000 of the total is a State Grant made possible through Senator Fonfara. Mr. Johnson invited the Council and the public to the groundbreaking ceremony to be held on Thursday, October 14 at 3:30 p.m. at Mill Woods Park.

Chairperson Morin stated that the Committee has been working for over a year to accomplish their goal of fund raising for the new skate park. He said they have done research on cost-efficiency, safety, and equipment styles, as well as rules and procedures. Chairperson Morin gave the Committee much credit for their hard work and accomplishments.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE AND PRESENTATION

Mr. Gillespie said that there is a renewed interest in the Silas Deane Highway with a lot of construction activity

occurring.

- 1030 Silas Deane Highway, new Philippine-style restaurant
- Jordan Lane Shopping Center, plans for fitness facility
- 804 Silas Deane Highway, pizza restaurant
- 1000 Silas Deane Highway, interested party
- Ridge Road Church Homes property, interested developer
- 1912 Berlin Turnpike, developer waiting for new zoning regulations adoption
- Fun Zone Property, interested individual

Mr. Gillespie stated that the Zoning Regulations are almost done and it is expected that the Commission will close the public hearing on them tomorrow evening. He said that a new Ordinance needs to be adopted by the Council in order to initiate a new design review process. Mr. Gillespie announced that the Town of Wethersfield in partnership with Rocky Hill will be working on revitalization efforts on the Silas Deane Highway through a \$500,000 STEAP Grant. Mr. Gillespie said that the Town's annual Business Survey is underway. He announced that the second quarterly Real Estate Community Breakfast will be held on October 13 at 8:00 a.m. at the Wethersfield Country Club. Mr. Gillespie introduced Beverly Pierz, Chairperson of the Silas Deane Highway Advisory Committee, who provided an update of the activities of the Committee.

Ms. Pierz presented the Committee's preliminary report for Council approval so that the report can be brought to the public for their review and comments. She thanked the Council for reviewing the report and for their interest in revisiting the Silas Deane Highway Master Plan. She said that the basic concepts of the plan are alive and well and need to be urgently implemented. Ms. Pierz introduced all members of the Silas Deane Highway Advisory Committee. She thanked the Committee members and Town staff for their interest and commitment to the Silas Deane Highway Master Plan. Ms. Pierz asked Mr. Gillespie to present to the Council the key components of the Committee's report.

Mr. Gillespie reminded the Council that this is a preliminary report and that there is still much work to be done. He said that the Committee has reviewed the 1987 Master Plan as well as other contemporary documents of planning and development. Mr. Gillespie said that since 1985, an additional \$40 million of assessed property has occurred along the Silas Dean Highway. He said that the corridor has been photographed, videotaped, and mapped to identify potential development opportunities. Mr. Gillespie said that active dialog with the State has been and continues to be conducted. Mr. Gillespie then presented the fifty recommendations of the preliminary report from the Silas Deane Highway Advisory Committee.

Ms. Pierz concluded that it is time for Wethersfield to bring order and quality of life to the Silas Deane Highway. She said that it is also time to recognize the Highway's relationship to the total Town. She said that the three tools to be used are the Master Plan, a Streetscape Plan and a Redevelopment Plan.

Councilor Adil asked Ms. Pierz what the simple steps to be taken next are. Ms. Pierz said that the Northgate tree island needs to be modified and completed. She said that trees should be planted next Spring. Councilor Adil asked Mr. Gillespie what the holdup is on the Zoning Regulations. Mr. Gillespie said that the Commission received a number of public comments, questions, and concerns and the Commission has revised the Regulations to reflect the public comments. He said that the hearing should be closed tomorrow and that action on the Regulations will take place after that. Councilor Adil asked if the Design Review has been formalized. Mr. Gillespie said that he will be proposing a new Ordinance authorizing the creation of a Design Review Committee. He said that professionals have already expressed an interest in participation on this committee.

Councilor Czernicki asked Mr. Gillespie about a redevelopment agency with regard to the New London and Supreme Court decision on eminent domain. Mr. Gillespie said that the Supreme Court's decision could change the whole redevelopment concept. He said that the Silas Deane Highway Advisory Committee has not advocated for redevelopment by taking ownership of properties. He said that eminent domain would be a last resort to be used. Councilor Czernicki thanked Chairperson Pierz and her committee for their efforts in such a positive manner.

Councilor Montinieri asked Mr. Gillespie if the new Zoning Regulations allow for the recommendations in the proposed plan just presented. Mr. Gillespie said that they do and actually include a Town Center Business Zone. He

said that there are very few concepts that still need to be resolved.

Councilor Forrest asked Mr. Gillespie if the utility poles and lines have been considered in the Streetscape I plan. Mr. Gillespie said that the issue of the overhead utility lines was debated back and forth and there are certain trees that can be planted which will be compatible with the overhead lines. He said that specific recommendations need to be made for all areas of the highway taking into consideration the existing conditions. He said that installing the power lines underground would cost approximately \$10-\$12 million. The committee therefore, is not recommending this at this time as the cost benefit is not warranted. Councilor Forrest stated that the removal of the power lines would make a phenomenal impact on the appearance of the Silas Deane and he considers this to be an important issue. Mr. Gillespie said that this has been considered for certain areas.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she needs a consensus from the Council in order to write to the DOT to postpone construction for one year.

Councilor Forrest asked for clarification of the purpose of the one-year delay. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the DOT has stated that they want all traffic calming work done before they pave the road. Councilor Forrest asked if the funds are guaranteed to be available in a year. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the DOT is guaranteeing the funds for one year only. Councilor Forrest asked Mr. Gillespie if the work will be able to be completed within one year. Mr. Gillespie said that it is not being assumed that substantial improvements will be funded within the one-year period; however, certain stretches and intersections impacted by the paving could be enhanced using STEAP or other funding. He said that priorities need to be set using the Town's limited resources. Councilor Forrest asked if the Town will actually get more for the money by waiting one year. Mr. Gillespie said that money will be saved by cooperatively working with the DOT.

Chairperson Morin stated that there is a consensus to direct the Town Manager to postpone the work for one year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Councilor Montinieri moved, "**TO REMOVE ITEM B.2.b FROM THE TABLE**", seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Czernicki asked where the agenda item regarding the Pyquaug Village Open Space has gone as it is no longer appearing on the agenda. Chairperson Morin said that there has been no action taken for many years and the Town Manager is looking into the item. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that an Executive Session will need to be held on this item.

HEARING

None.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Michelle Bonfiglio, 46 Ivy Lane, commented on deteriorating trees along the right-of-way on her property. She said that Public Works Director Mike Turner told her that the trees are her responsibility. She shared comments made to her by two different arborists regarding the conduit and liability. Ms. Bonfiglio then contacted the Town Manager who informed her that the Town will not absolve her or the arborists of any liability. She was told that the Town has plans to dig up the conduit as part of the Tanglewood Open Space Project and that both the pine trees and Ms. Bonfiglio's liability would be removed. Based on this information, Ms. Bonfiglio requested that the Council allocate the funds of \$20,000 to support the project. Ms. Bonfiglio commented that flooding occurs in her yard due to the right-of-way blockage and the stagnant wetlands behind her home. She again requested that the Council allocate the necessary funds of approximately \$84,000 to correct this problem. Ms. Bonfiglio submitted a petition of her neighbors regarding this issue.

John Console, 38 Ivy Lane, commented on the conduit issue and provided a brief summary of the project. He said that the silting problem has become so bad that there is virtually no drainage at all currently. He said that during heavy

rains, the conduit completely back ups through the storm drains on Ivy Lane. Mr. Console said that it is time that proper action is taken to correct this problem.

Peter Gardow, 60 Griswold Road, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Strategic Planning Committee. He provided a status and update of the Committee's activities. He said that a goal was set to review and update the 1995 Plan by January 2005. Mr. Gardow said that the Committee will hold a public hearing on October 13 in the Council Chambers from 7:00-9:00 p.m. to provide a more detailed status report of the 1995 Plan, to provide an outline of the process to update the Plan for the next decade, and to establish milestones and opportunities for community participation in the formation of an updated Plan.

June Wilcox, 125 Mapleside Drive, commented on the proposed sidewalk installation on Mapleside Drive. She said that the cost and maintenance of the sidewalk will be a hardship to her and her husband. Mrs. Wilcox does not agree with combining the sidewalk installation and repair in with the road repair issues on the referendum question. She believes that these should be separate questions.

Leslie Lourigan, 57 Mapleside Drive, commented on the proposed sidewalk installation on Mapleside Drive. She asked if residents have any say in whether or not the installation occurs, why Mapleside was chosen, what the cost will be to each homeowner and whether this cost will be included in their tax bill. Ms. Lorrigan asked if the sidewalks will increase the property assessment and how the residents in opposition to the sidewalk installation can express their opinions. Chairperson Morin suggested that Mrs. Lourigan contact the Town Manager for answers to her questions.

Ken Millano, 95 Woodside Drive, commented on the Nott Street project. He said that the project has caused a hardship on his home and family and that damage has occurred to his property. Mr. Millano suggested that the residents have input on the final plans for the project. He said that there are still a lot of outstanding problems regarding the slopes on properties and driveways.

Kay Diamond, 135 Mapleside Drive, spoke in opposition to the installation of sidewalks on the west side of Mapleside Drive. She said that she has heard so many different reasons as to why these sidewalks are being installed, she wonders if everyone is even on the same page. Ms. Diamond said that the commingling of the issues of road repairs, sidewalk installation and renovation of the Town Hall is totally inappropriate on one ballot. Chairperson Morin clarified that the Town Hall renovation and the sidewalk and road repairs are two separate referendum questions.

Steve Frechette, 326 Prospect Street, commented on the recently rejected bid by his company, Wespro, Ltd., for sidewalk repairs. Mr. Frechette said that there have been many bidders on the project in the past number of years. He said that his company has bid on the project over the past few years and has never won the bid on local bidder preference, but rather as the lowest bidder. Mr. Frechette said that he has lived in and owned a business in Wethersfield for many years and has given much to the community in terms of volunteering his time for sports. Mr. Frechette said that he is confused by how the Council can reject the bid and vote to rebid the project if this is a fair bidding process. He said that rebidding cannot possibly be fair at this point as other bidders now know what his bidding prices are. Mr. Frechette requested that the Council rescind their previous decision to reject the bid and allow him to negotiate a price with the Town Manager that will work within the Town's budget.

Florence Norkin, 119 Mapleside Drive, spoke in opposition to the sidewalk installation on Mapleside Drive. She said that she and other residents of Mapleside would like an honest answer to the reason for the sidewalk installation. Ms. Norkin said that the sidewalks should not be included in the referendum question along with road repairs.

Darlene Achilli, 39 Mapleside Drive, spoke of her opposition to the sidewalk installation on Mapleside Drive and believes that the cost of installation will be much higher than anticipated due to landscaping issues. Ms. Achilli said that the cost and maintenance of the sidewalks will be a burden to some residents.

Kuang Tao, 45 Mapleside Drive, spoke in opposition to the sidewalk installation on the west side of Mapleside Drive. He finds the installation to be unfair, as he does not find it to be necessary. Mr. Tao stated that he will have a problem parking the three cars he owns in his single driveway if a sidewalk is installed. Mr. Tao said that the sidewalks are there for the public to pass and that the Town should bear the cost of installation.

Judy Emmick, 88 Westway, commented on the Cottone Field project as one that an overzealous handful of people persuaded the Council to "push through" or they would not get elected. She stated that Mr. Hallisey used this phrase numerous times in a recent Council meeting. Ms. Emmick said that the field usage has approximately tripled since the renovation has occurred. She said that there seems at times to be a bit of over usage, but for the most part things have been O.K; however the lighting of the field would make it unbearable. Ms. Emmick said that she has not seen a large showing of crowds on the weekends. She said that opening day of the football season did not appear to show any increase in participation from last year. Ms. Emmick spoke to the parking issues with regard to the field and the issue of the seating not being handicap accessible. Ms. Emmick said that she has heard that the softball field will be torn up for parking spaces and DiCicco field will be the new football field complete with lights and artificial turf. Ms. Emmick said that the Nott Street project is similar to the football field lighting issue in that the Council has yet brought destruction to another neighborhood. She said that she feels that the Town has provided a lot of lip service with no follow through. Ms. Emmick spoke of the lighting issue at Cottone Field and the specifics of the lighting. Ms. Emmick spoke of the recent Ethics Board meeting attended by both her and her husband regarding the complaint of Mr. Brickley. Ms. Emmick quoted Mr. Hirtle as saying that since the local Board of Ethics do not possess subpoena authority, there is very little they can do without the truth and most always have to dismiss complaints due to lack of evidence unless you bring in a smoking gun. Ms. Emmick said that the possibility of exposing the Town to public embarrassment since the Council had already approved the bid to Cottone Field in light of a pending ethics complaint may have influenced the decision to dismiss the complaint. She said that this decision has justified her suspicions that the Cottone Field process had been tainted and just short of corrupt all along.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, stated that the term "corrupt" could and should be used at Town Council meetings when appropriate. He commented that it is a shame what Wethersfield continues to do to create outrage amongst its citizens for the sake of "progress" and that the Town should be more sympathetic with the issues and positions that it takes regarding its citizens. Mr. Young commented that the Building and Inspection staff in Town is using Nextel telephones for communication and that the Police Chief has requested that his staff be provided with Nextel telephones as well. Mr. Young said that the Town has an 800 MHz system for which it paid \$3.2 million. He said that it was proposed that this system would facilitate and economize Town government communications; therefore, he questions the necessity for Nextel cell phones for Town staff. Mr. Young said that he'd like to know the rate of interest being paid if the Cottone Field project is being paid over a seven-year period, and what the total cost will be.

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association. He said that it is encouraging to see economic development turned up a notch in Town. Mr. Orsini said that the Nott Street issue is disconcerting as it appeared that all is well, but there are actually residents who are telling a different story. He suggested that Chairperson Morin meet with the neighbors in that area to obtain a true picture of the status of the project. Mr. Orsini said that that he is concerned about the 800 MHz system and that the Town is still struggling with the system working effectively due to interference. Mr. Orsini commented on the renovation of the Moeller Home and the successful fundraising efforts being made. Mr. Orsini commented on the sidewalk installments and repairs. He suggested that sidewalks be installed only in the event of an absolute safety issue.

George A. Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, commented that there is a negative tone creeping through Wethersfield regarding the infringement of citizens' right to speak. He suggested that the Council become less testy to citizens' comments. Mr. Ruhe stated that the current Council is a threat to the very fiber of what makes America a great country.

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

COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMENTS

Councilor Montinieri reported on the Metropatterns Forum held on September 22. She said that a very interesting discussion was held and that the forum was a healthy start to the topic. Councilor Montinieri said that the Webb/Stillman/Physical Services Building Committee met and was given a tour of the Stillman building which looks very impressive.

Councilor Hemmann reported that she also was present for the tour of the Stillman building and commented that the

work done on the building is well done.

Chairperson Morin said that he has asked the Town Manager to set up a Saturday date for the Council to tour the building as well. Chairperson Morin said that he and Councilor Hemmann met before the Council meeting this evening to discuss rules and procedures regarding the appropriateness of out-of-town citizens addressing the Wethersfield Council. He said that after reviewing the information, the issue does not seem to be one that requires any action being taken.

Councilor Cascio congratulated former Assistant Town Clerk Sandra Wieleba for her appointment as Town Clerk of East Hampton, Connecticut. He said that Ms. Wieleba worked for the Council in the past and asked that this be acknowledged on behalf of the Council. Councilor Cascio wished Ms. Wieleba well in her new position. Councilor Cascio spoke of his concern that the sidewalk contractor was given a verbal understanding of the work to be done. Councilor Cascio said that he is concerned that he was told by the Town Manager that the sidewalk work would not begin until the Spring, yet this evening Mr. Frechette presented a letter indicating that he had put work on hold in order to fulfill the contract with the Town.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that nothing is given out verbally and that it is stated in writing that the Town has the right to reject any and all bids for any reason. She said that she commented that the work will not begin until the Spring because the bidding process probably will not be completed until sometime in November. Councilor Cascio commented that the Council is not the body that decides on the sidewalk projects to be undertaken. He said that the Council determines the allocation of the funds; however it is the paid Town staff who recommend sidewalk installation due to public safety issues. Councilor Cascio said that he wants to insure that the Council is receiving from Town staff all of the appropriate information to make good decisions. He said that the reason there is a cost to the property owner for installation of the sidewalks is because there is an Ordinance in place by which the Council must abide. Councilor Cascio said that the usage of Cottone Field is regulated by the Recreation & Parks Department and that High School events are given first preference. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien verified that the scheduling rules are being followed by the Recreation & Parks Department staff.

Councilor Adil said that the criteria used for the sidewalk installation did not only include recommendations by paid Town staff, but also recommendations made by a large community group made up of representatives from the Police Department, Town residents, School representatives, and the Town Engineering staff. This group determined a points system based on specific criteria and developed a priority list of sidewalk installation. Councilor Adil verified that groups other than those from the High School are paying a fee to play on Cottone Field. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this is correct.

Councilor Czernicki commented that her husband attended the Nott Street project meeting and left with the impression that the project would be completed by mid-November. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that there have been water problems encountered which will delay the paving and the completion of the project. She said that there has been no new completion date set. Councilor Czernicki asked the Town Manager if she has yet been provided with information regarding the Mayor's fundraising golf tournament. Chairperson Morin said that he does not have the information and that no funds have yet been disbursed to the Town. Councilor Czernicki said that she is concerned because there was an indication that funds would be donated to the Town's Social & Youth Services Department. Chairperson Morin said that the organization is working with Social & Youth Services Director Nancy Stilwell to find ways for her to best utilize a donation. Councilor Czernicki asked if there is an accounting of how much money to-date has been collected for the lights at Cottone Field. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien reported that \$25,694 has been collected at the last reporting and that funds are put into an account from which the Town can sign checks to disburse funds. The account is not a Town account. Councilor Czernicki asked the Town Manager to provide an accounting of time spent by Town employees on design or design review for the Cottone Field lights. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that Ms. Suppich has done most of the work and that the Town staff has not done much and has not kept an accounting of any time. She said that she is unaware of what the Board of Education is doing on this. Councilor Czernicki asked if funds have been spent on Town Attorney fees dealing with the installation of lighting at Cottone Field. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she is not aware of anything being spent, but she will check on the latest numbers.

Councilor Forrest said that he has reviewed the Town's Sidewalk Ordinance and has found that it states that the Town may charge the property owners up to 50% of the costs. He said that it is important to note that the Ordinance states "may" and not "shall" and that this indicates that the charge is up to the discretion of the Council.

Councilor Montinieri commented that parents at Board of Education meetings have been asking for years that sidewalks be installed on Two Rod Highway and Mapleside Drive. She said that the Council has received two reports of damage due to the Nott Street project, yet a resident commented that there have been several homes damaged. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she has received only two reports. She urged any residents who have sustained damage to submit their reports to her ASAP. Councilor Montinieri said that she is concerned over Ms. Emmick's comment that the use of Cottone Field has tripled and asked the Town Manager if this is an accurate statement. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that sports teams using the field are those who have requested to use it in the past. She said that most of the teams probably couldn't use the field in the past due to its condition; therefore they didn't show for the scheduled games.

Chairperson Morin announced various community events. He asked the Town Manager to provide the Council with an update on the Tanglewood project. Chairperson Morin said that he has taken a great interest in the Nott Street project and has asked the Town Manager to set up a meeting with the residents, the DOT, and the contractor to discuss the status of the project.

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Adil moved **"TO APPOINT DANIEL CAMILLIERE TO THE SCHOOL PROJECTS BUILDING COMMITTEE - WEBB, STILLMAN & PHYSICAL SERVICES FOR THE TERM OF OCTOBER 4, 2004 TO COMPLETION; JOHN J. O'LEARY TO THE FAIR RENT COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF OCTOBER 4, 2004 TO JUNE 30, 2005; AND CHRISTINE L. TRACZYK TO THE TOURISM COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF OCTOBER 4, 2004 TO JUNE 30, 2006"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Czernicki left the meeting for the night at this time (9:15 p.m.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

GPS Survey Equipment

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that this item was tabled in order for her to investigate the possibility of purchasing the equipment with a surrounding town. Newington showed interest; however they do not have the adequate technology needed to support the equipment; therefore Wethersfield will need to purchase the equipment on its own.

Councilor Montinieri moved **"TO AWARD THE PURCHASE OF GPS SURVEY EQUIPMENT TO THE STATE CONTRACT VENDOR, KEYSTONE PRECISION INSTRUMENTS FOR \$9,955"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis.

Councilor Montinieri asked if the provision of GIS services through CRCOG is available at this time. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that GIS is different from the GPS survey equipment. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Moeller Home

Councilor Adil moved **"TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO AWARD A \$10,000 GRANT AND A \$40,000 LOAN TO THE FRIENDS OF THE WETHERSFIELD NATURE CENTER TO BE USED SOLELY FOR RENOVATION EXPENSES FOR THE MOELLER HOME AND AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT TO LTC CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$628,100"**, seconded by

Councilor Cascio.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that the original bids were much higher than expected and budgeted for. Recreation & Parks Director Kathy Bagley informed the Town Manager that the Committee worked with the two lowest bidders to fine tune their bid work. The Building Committee also decided on certain parts of the projects to be removed from the costs, which still leaves the costs at approximately \$90,000 over the projected budget. A private donor is willing to fund \$50,000 if the group can match the amount in thirty days (which ends October 13).

Councilor Hemmann said that she is concerned with the deletion of the exterior masonry pointing and asked if this has a structural impact to the building. She said that she is also concerned with the deletion of the emergency generator and asked what the evacuation plan would be for animals in the building should the power go out for an extended period of time. Ms. Bagley said that the emergency plan would be to evacuate the animals to the Community Center. She said that the repainting of the brickwork is more of a maintenance issue rather than a structural one.

Councilor Fortunato asked Moeller Home Building Committee Chairman Perry Cornwall what other options are available to obtain other grant funds or donations. Mr. Cornwall said that the grant was offered by a family who supported the Nature Center venture from the start. Mr. Cornwall informed the Council that the existing emergency generator at the Moeller Home had never needed to be used and that the power lines for the Nature Center will be installed underground which will help to alleviate power outages. He said that the Committee has made extensive attempts to seek other funding through grants; however the renovation does not fit the category of many grants; therefore they've been turned down. Councilor Fortunato asked Mr. Cornwall if the private donor would be willing to extend the thirty day matching time in order for the group to seek additional donors. Mr. Cornwall said that the \$250,000 from the State of Connecticut expires in March, 2005 with an anticipated 105-150 days of construction; therefore the project construction must begin ASAP. Councilor Fortunato asked when the loan funds from the Town will be used during the project. Mr. Cornwall said that the funds will be used toward the end of the project. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the State grant will be used first so that the funding is not lost. Pat Yagmin, President of the Friends of the Wethersfield Nature Center, said that she has written to a number of corporations within Wethersfield for donations and will continue to do this. Councilor Fortunato asked if the loan will be paid back over five years. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the last loan for the Historical Society was for a period of five to ten years. Councilor Fortunato recommended that the agreement with the Nature Center include a minimum yearly payback to the Town.

Councilor Adil moved **"TO AMEND THE MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO AWARD A \$20,000 GRANT AND A \$30,000 LOAN TO THE FRIENDS OF THE WETHERSFIELD NATURE CENTER TO BE USED SOLELY FOR RENOVATION EXPENSES FOR THE MOELLER HOME AND AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT TO LTC CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$628,100 AND TO TRANSFER APPROXIMATELY \$5,000 FROM THE RECREATION & PARKS ESCROW ACCOUNT, APPROXIMATELY \$5,000 FROM THE UNPAID BALANCES, AND APPROXIMATELY \$10,000 FROM THE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT WITH A MINIMUM FIVE YEAR PAYBACK PERIOD"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion to amend passed 8-0-0.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The original motion passed 8-0-0.

Property Agreement - South Meadow Road - Great Meadows Conservation Trust, Inc.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GREAT MEADOWS CONSERVATION TRUST, INC. TO USE A PORTION OF THEIR PROPERTY ON SOUTH MEADOW ROAD FOR A TEMPORARY ROAD BYPASS"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that in the past, the Town had an agreement with the former owners of property on South Meadow Road to utilize a portion of their land to maintain a temporary road bypass around an embankment due to washouts. This agreement insures that the new owner, the Great Meadows Conservation Trust, Inc., agrees to allow the Town to carry on with this.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Small Cities Grant Public Hearing

Councilor Montinieri moved **"TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO ADVERTISE AND HOLD A COMMUNITY NEEDS PUBLIC HEARING ON NOVEMBER 1, 2004 AT 7:00 P.M. IN PREPARATION FOR THE SMALL CITIES PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that the wrong date was in the original motion at a past meeting; therefore a new motion needs to be made. She said that this grant is for approximately \$350,000 for a Town wide housing rehab program.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Rental Fee for Meeting Rooms - Community Center

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO APPROVE A CHANGE TO THE RENTAL FEES AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER AS PROPOSED BY THE RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD, TO ALLOW "NOT-FOR-PROFIT" GROUPS ONE MEETING A MONTH FREE AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER IN ONE FUNCTION ROOM (CLASSROOM) ON A WEEKDAY FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 10:00 P.M."**, seconded by Councilor Adil.

Councilor Adil clarified that this has been budgeted for in the 2004-2005 budget. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this is correct.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Open Space Selection Criteria

Councilor Montinieri moved **"TO APPROVE THE OPEN SPACE SELECTION CRITERIA AS PRESENTED BY THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Councilor Forrest said that the Conservation Commission spent a lot of time on the criteria and that it is a great plan. He said this is the first step for open space and is the right thing to do in order to move forward.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Sidewalk Ordinance - Referral to Public Works Committee

Councilor Adil moved **"TO REFER THE SIDEWALK ORDINANCE TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

BIDS

Social Security Alternative Program

Councilor Adil moved **"TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH GARRETT R. HUGHES TO PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM FOR PART TIME EMPLOYEES"**, seconded by Councilor Fortunato.

Councilor Adil said that he understands that this program will save the Town approximately \$60,000 per year. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien verified that this is true. Councilor Adil recommended that the Board of Education be urged to implement this program for their part timers as well.

Councilor Fortunato requested that the Town Manager add this item to the upcoming Shared Services agenda so that this can be discussed with the Board of Education.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Deputy Mayor Karangekis ABSTAINED because he is a client of Mr. Hughes. The motion passed 7-0-1.

EAP Program

Councilor Fortunato moved **"TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF EAP SERVICES FOR TOWN EMPLOYEES TO THE LEXINGTON GROUP, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,882.72 AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN THE CONTRACT WITH LEXINGTON GROUP"**, seconded by Councilor Montinieri.

Councilor Hemmann asked if the Town has had EAP services in the past. The Town Manager said that the Town has had an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) in the past. It is a confidential, professional program of assistance for employees with personal problems and financial or legal stress.

Councilor Fortunato said that the Lexington Group is also the vendor for the State of Connecticut.

Councilor Forrest asked if the \$1,882.72 is from a budgeted line item. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that it is from the Human Resources budget.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Pavement Crack Seal

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO REJECT ALL HOT CRACK SEAL BIDS"**, seconded by Councilor Adil.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that the low bidder has an outdated bid bond and therefore must be rejected. She said that the next low bidder is 1.75 times the cost of the low bidder and she recommends rejecting all bids and re-bidding the service.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Pavement Restoration/Preparation

Councilor Montinieri moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR PAVEMENT AND RESTORATION SERVICES TO GENERAL PAVING AND CONSTRUCTION AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$109,000"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Traffic Painting

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR LINE STRIPING SERVICES TO ATLANTIC PAVEMENT MARKINGS AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$9,256"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

RESOLUTION CONCERNING 2004 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT

WHEREAS, under federal law, the Town is eligible to receive funding from the FY 2004 Homeland Security Grant Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Wethersfield has elected to administer the FY 2004 Homeland Security Grant fund through a cooperative sub-state regional arrangement; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security ("DHS"), as the state administering agency of the funds, embraces the regional approach and is working with the designated recipients to implement the goals and objectives of the Statewide Homeland Security Plan; and

WHEREAS, the State Homeland Security Working Group reached consensus on allocation parameters that resulted in specific dollar amounts of available funding for local jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the proposed allocation formula was presented to the Governor's Domestic Preparedness Senior Steering Council for review and approval on May 19, 2004; and

WHEREAS, following approval, municipal chief administrative officers were provided notification of the allocation award, a choice of designating the administrator of the award, and pursuant to federal guidelines, a Memorandum of Understanding for execution should the municipality select the State of Connecticut as the administrative agency; and

WHEREAS, for municipalities electing to administer funds through sub-state regional entities, further guidance was requested from the Office of Policy and Management ("OPM"), the agency of cognizance for such regional organizations, regarding the procedures and formalities necessary to distribute the funds; and

WHEREAS, OPM responded that there must be an authorizing resolution adopted by the legislative body and a written agreement between the regional planning organizations and the recipient municipalities; and

WHEREAS, additionally, requirements of the federal financial guide for grant recipients must also be incorporated in any agreement or authorizing resolution among grant recipients; and

WHEREAS, these include a requirement that all such arrangements must be formalized in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding between the parties involved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Town of Wethersfield as the recipient of the municipal allocation of the 2004 Homeland Security Grant funds hereby approves of and designates the Capitol Region Council of Governments ("CRCOG") administrator for all 2004 Homeland Security Grant funds allocated to the Town of Wethersfield, and
2. That **Town Manager Bonnie Therrien** is hereby authorized to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between CRCOG and the Town of Wethersfield and any other necessary documents or contracts on behalf of the Town as may be required by the State of Connecticut or the Division of Homeland Security.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT TO OBTAIN LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDS TO RECONSTRUCT A PORTION OF CHURCH STREET FROM SILAS DEANE HIGHWAY TO MAIN STREET

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD that BONNIE L. THERRIEN, TOWN MANAGER, is hereby authorized to execute for and on behalf of the TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD, a public entity established under the laws of the State of Connecticut, an application and to file it with the Office of Policy and Management for the purpose of obtaining financial assistance under the Local Capital Improvement Program. Said application shall be made to obtain financial assistance for the reconstruction of a portion of Church Street from Silas Deane Highway to Main Street.

MINUTES

Councilor Adil moved "**TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2004**", seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Fortunato moved "**TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2004**", seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion

passed 8-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:45 p.m., Councilor Adil moved "**TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**" seconded by Councilor Hemmann. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Present at the Executive Session were the following: Councilors Adil, Cascio, Forrest, Fortunato, Hemmann, Montinieri, Deputy Mayor Karangekis, Chairperson Morin, Town Manager Bonnie Therrien, and Assistant Town Attorney John J. O'Brien, Jr.(left at 10:15 p.m.).

At 10:18 p.m., Councilor Adil moved "**TO ENTER BACK INTO THE REGULAR MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

At 10:19 p.m., Councilor Adil moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Hemmann. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk