

[NOTE: These minutes are made available to the public prior to Town Council acceptance.]

REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on September 2, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

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

Also present: Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager; Nancy Stilwell, Director of Social & Youth Services; Kathy Bagley, Director of Recreation & Parks; Patrick Proctor, Superintendent of Schools; Board of Education Chairperson Penny Stanziale, Board of Education member Moe McCarthy, and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

An Executive Session to discuss pending litigation and the MDC was held prior to the Regular Meeting.

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

Chairperson Czernicki requested a moment of silence to honor the memory of Louis DelMastro who passed away last week. Mr. DelMastro served Wethersfield in a number of capacities, most recently on the Police Facility Building Committee and the Town Hall Renovation Building Committee.

Proclamation: National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month

The Wethersfield Department of Social & Youth Services, along with U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services, Administrative Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Office of National Drug Control Police invite all residents of Wethersfield to participate in National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month this September. This year's theme is "Join the Voices for Recovery Celebrating Health".

Councilor Cascio moved "**TO TAKE ITEMS C.2.c and C.2.g FROM THE TABLE**", seconded by Deputy Mayor O'Connor. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Proctor, reported that the opening of the 2003-2004 school year went very smoothly and that the kids and staff are off to a great start.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HEARING

None

GENERAL COMMENTS

Barbara Distin, 105 Valley View Drive, presented the Council with a petition of over sixty residents opposing the change in trash collection. The signers believe that there are still a lot of unanswered questions and they'd like to see a public hearing held to answer the questions. Chairperson Czernicki said that Mr. Paine is in attendance to answer any unresolved questions. Ms. Distin submitted the petition to Town Clerk Sassano.

Gordon Distin, 105 Valley View Drive, stated that the change of recycling from once per week to once every other week has evolved into a proposal to extend the current trash collection contract with Paine's for a period of 8-9 years at a savings to Wethersfield of approximately \$10,000 in total. Mr. Distin has many concerns over what will be allowed in the 35, 65, or 95-gallon containers and what the cost will be for any additional containers. Mr. Distin also

suggested that the 8-9 year contract should be put out to bid.

George A. Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. They support the WCTV lease agreement and hope that the funds are available in the budget. Regarding the Community Center dance floor, the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. agrees that the floor needs repair. The costs to rent are exorbitant and make no sense. Councilor Cascio's suggestion to purchase a portable dance floor makes more sense. The fire concerns do not seem to make much sense either. The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. supports the proposal for automated refuse pickup. It can only enhance the quality of life and the modest savings are a plus. The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. does not support the purchase of a Sport Utility Vehicle for the Engineering Department. Such a purchase is more of a "want" rather than a "need". These vehicles are gas guzzlers and pose tipping hazards as well. The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. has received a number of calls regarding Dial-A-Ride. Users of the service are nervous about the change. They would like to be better informed as to the game plan. Such communication would put their minds at ease. Mr. Ruhe reported today a sick crow outside his home. He was told by two different Town Staff members to put the crow in a bag and throw it in the garbage. Mr. Ruhe said that there should be a greater concern for mosquitos, crows and West Nile Virus. The pond near his home needs work; it is overgrown and is a haven to mosquito breeding and is a hazard to health. He is concerned that Town Staff took his reporting of a sick crow so lightly. He'd like the Town Manager to address tomorrow the problem of the crow at his home.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that a Dial-A-Ride pamphlet will be going out to users this week. She said that the Health Department will come out to pick up any dead birds. She will make the dispatchers aware of this so that they do not give out wrong information to callers.

Ed Zambrello, 85 Hillcrest Avenue, spoke of a concern he has regarding an incident on the first day of school. He drove his children over to the Charles Wright School and noticed that the grounds of the school are a mess. He, as well as other parents, was appalled. The grounds should be better tended to, especially for the first day of school. Mr. Zambrello is the President of WCTV and supports the proposal to have engineers look at the building to assess its condition and possible repairs and renovations. Mr. Zambrello presented the new WCTV September schedule to the Council. He urged both political parties to use WCTV's Wethersfield Live as a forum for their platforms. Lastly, Mr. Zambrello thanked all Councilors who are not running for re-election for volunteering their time and efforts to make Wethersfield a better community in which to live.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, spoke of the cell tower at Kelleher Court. He feels that elected and unelected Officials in Town have not shown concern for the residents near the tower's location. He feels that the tower has damaged property values in that area. He has heard no further mention of the tower being relocated. It should be moved. Mr. Young spoke of an article in New London's local paper, "The Day" which highlighted Wethersfield's hiring of Town Planner Peter Gillespie. The article stated that his contributions to New London were enormous. Mr. Gillespie was a key player in the Fort Trumbull development project which requested that seventy New London homeowners sell their homes or face eminent domain. Mr. Young is concerned that Wethersfield would hire a person like this. Wethersfield has completely different types of values and Mr. Young feels that Mr. Gillespie does not belong in a Town like ours. He is very disappointed in Mr. Gillespie's appointment.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that eminent domain is a policy decision on the part of elected Officials. It has nothing to do with an appointed Official. The appointed Official's role is to fulfill what the elected policy makers decide to do.

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

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Flynn moved **"TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF FRANK S. CHUANG FROM THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor O'Connor. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Flynn moved **"TO ACCEPT THE APPOINTMENT OF DEBRA L. HAMMER TO THE YOUTH**

ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM OF 9-2-03 TO 6-30-05; PAUL V. LOMBARDO TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR A TERM OF 9-2-03 TO 6-30-05; TRACY ANN GIONFRIDDO AS AN ALTERNATE TO THE INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF 9-2-03 TO 6-30-04; AND FRANCIS FARRELLY TO THE FAIR RENT COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF 9-2-03 TO 6-30-05", seconded by Councilor Morin. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Gardow moved **"TO APPOINT DETECTIVE MIKE FISHER TO THE YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM OF 9-2-03 TO 6-30-06; LIEUTENANT THOMAS DILLON TO THE WETHERSFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES FOR A TERM OF 9-2-03 TO 6-30-05; KAREN M. GOVE TO THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS FOR A TERM OF 9-2-03 TO 6-30-05; AND KAREN TOMCZYK TO THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE COMMITTEE FOR A TERM OF 9-2-03 TO 12-31-05"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Resolution Authorizing the Town Manager to Enter into a Lease Agreement with Wethersfield Community Television, Inc.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that Mr. Garrey of WCTV has researched engineers who have experience in historic homes. Of the two companies, one did not respond and Cianci and Cianci gave an estimate of \$1,000 to look at the building and provide a written report with estimates to repair any problems.

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO TRANSFER \$1,000 FROM THE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT TO THE TOWN MANAGER'S CAPITAL ACCOUNT TO ALLOW CIANCI AND CIANCI TO DEVELOP A WRITTEN REPORT ON THE PRICE AND SCOPE OF SERVICE FOR THE STRUCTURAL PROBLEM AT THE OLSON HOUSE"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor O'Connor.

Councilor Flynn said that Mr. Zambrello's comments concern him in that he is concerned about the current safety of the building while there are people working in it. Councilor Flynn said that the building needs to be inspected to insure that it is safe for habitation. Also, that the scope of the services in the motion addresses these safety concerns. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this item was mentioned to Mr. Cianci and is included within the \$1,000 fee. She will check with the Chief Building Official, Brian O'Connor, to insure that all safety items are inspected.

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

Sponsorship of Program - Wethersfield Medical Equipment

Dr. Stilwell said that there are still details to be worked out in the program, but what is clear is that the Graduate Nurses would still like to be involved in the administration of the program. The Town Manager spoke with the insurance company and the liability issue can be worked out provided a contract specifies who is responsible for what policies and procedures. If this can be worked out, the Town will take ownership of the equipment currently stored in the basement of the Moeller Home. The Graduate Nurses and Donna Mattison, Senior Center Coordinator would maintain the inventory as well as the oversight of the forms required for the loan of equipment. Bob Doucette of the Physical Services Department has agreed to inspect any equipment with moving parts to insure that they are sound. Dr. Stilwell recommends that an agreement be drafted between the Town and the Graduate Nurses Association which would recognize the program as a Social & Youth Services program operated by volunteers of the Graduate Nurses Association of Wethersfield and Rocky Hill. A detailed inventory of equipment at the Moeller Home will be computerized and all equipment with moving parts will be inspected. All other equipment will also be inspected to insure safety. Hospital beds and hoier lifts will be removed from inventory. A Social & Youth Services staff member and the volunteers who manage the program will review and revise the forms for policies and procedures. The implementation of the policies will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis. All agreements, forms, policies and procedures will be reviewed by the Town Manager and Town Attorney before anything is finalized. The goal is to keep this very valuable program operating.

Chairperson Czernicki agrees that this is a very valuable program and thanked Dr. Stilwell and her department for all of the efforts to keep the program running.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked if Dr. Stilwell has given any thought to where the equipment will be stored when the Moeller Home is no longer available. Dr. Stilwell would like to see space utilized in the sally port.

Councilor Fitzpatrick asked Town Manager Bonnie Therrien if CIRMA has accepted the liability for this program. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that once the program is accepted under the Town Department of Social & Youth Services, CIRMA will work with the Department on the forms. They will not accept the program unless it is officially run by the Town. It will then be covered by the Town insurance policy.

Councilor Gardow asked Dr. Stilwell if there are currently any hospital beds in inventory. Dr. Stilwell said that she does not believe that there are any currently. There are two hooyer lifts which are similar to large slings used to transfer a patient. There are many moving parts that the program does not want to be responsible for maintaining.

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO ACCEPT THE WETHERSFIELD NURSES ASSOCIATION MEDICAL EQUIPMENT PROGRAM UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE TOWN'S DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND YOUTH SERVICES"**, seconded by Councilor Gardow. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Roof Repair - Silas Deane Middle School

David Drake, Chairman of the Silas Deane Middle School Project, said that the completion of the Gymnasium roof needs to be added to the project in order to make the entire area brand new otherwise the remainder of the roof will need to be re-roofed within two to three years anyway. The credit of \$9,400 due to rain damage will be applied to the new roof. Overtime expenses of \$12,000 will need to be added to the cost if the work cannot be done during regular working hours. Unlike roofs of the past, current roofs are installed without using hazardous materials and without offensive odors so the Committee is asking the Town Council to allow the installation during regular school hours to eliminate overtime costs.

Councilor Cascio verified that there will be no fumes with the type of roofing to be installed. Mr. Drake said that there are no hot kettles with tar that will be used. Councilor Cascio asked if the area will be occupied by students while the roof is being repaired. Mr. Drake said that students will not be in the area and that a guard will be provided around the equipment for the four days that the work is being done. All safety issues have been addressed.

Councilor Morin clarified with Mr. Drake that there will continue to be no gym classes in the gymnasium during the roofing. Mr. Drake said that there will continue to be no gym classes in the gymnasium as is the case currently while work is being performed.

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO APPROVE THE CHANGE ORDER OF \$54,328 FOR ROOF REPAIRS TO THE SILAS DEANE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND TO ALLOW FOR THE WORK TO BE COMPLETED DURING SCHOOL HOURS"**, seconded by Councilor Flynn.

Councilor Gardow asked Mr. Drake how much of the roof will be the "old" roof when this project is completed. Mr. Drake said that the only "old" roofing will be over the Auditorium and the old Media Center.

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

Community Center Dance Floor

Councilor Cascio explained to Ms. Bagley that his intention is to derive a back up plan for the floor which has been an ongoing problem for a number of years. He is not concerned with the portion of Ms. Bagley's memo stating that the

Fire Marshall has indicated that the portable dance floor would be restricted to two areas in the banquet room; however he does question the issue of fire safety. Ms. Bagley explained that the Community Center is not equipped with sprinklers and because of this; any materials used in construction within the building must meet a certain fire rating. The Fire Marshall instructed Ms. Bagley to have any potential vendors specify the fire rating for the dance floor they would provide. The Fire Marshall would then determine if the floor would then meet the code for a non-sprinkled building. Councilor Cascio does not want to replace the floor and then end up with the same problems ten years from now. He asked if the vinyl and wood floors listed in the memo were up to code. Ms. Bagley said she was just informed today that the vinyl floor would meet the fire rating. There are wood patterns in vinyl that can be chosen.

Councilor Gardow asked if American Portable Dance Floors from Bakersfield has been asked for the same information. Ms. Bagley said that they informed her that the manufacturer has not been able to provide the wood floor. Councilor Cascio suggested that Council wait to make a decision until a price is received for the wood floor. Ms. Bagley said that she did not get the sense that the manufacturer could provide information indicating that the wood floor would meet the fire code. Councilor Cascio asked if the repair of the dance floor is a pressing issue that needs to be attended to within the next month. Ms. Bagley said that the floor needs to be fixed ASAP.

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO DIRECT \$7,500 TO THE RECREATION & PARKS DIRECTOR FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A SNAP AND LOCK PORTABLE VINYL DANCE FLOOR AND TO REPLACE THE CURRENT DANCE FLOOR WITH NEW CARPETING"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor O'Connor.

Councilor Morin does not support the motion. He questions the Community Center's ability to store a portable dance floor and the staff's time to put up and take down the floor each time it is required. The warranty would need to be investigated as well. Councilor Morin thinks that for a few thousand dollars more, it makes better sense to replace the dance floor.

Councilor Flynn asked Ms. Bagley how many labor hours will be required to put up and take down the floor each time it is required. Ms. Bagley said that she does not have a specific time frame, but it requires two people approximately one hour to put up and one hour to take down the floor. Councilor Flynn asked Ms. Bagley if the floor could be assembled and left in one location in the room or if it would need to be assembled and disassembled each time it is used. Ms. Bagley said that this depends on the booking requirements of different functions at the facility. The labor hours would make it difficult for her to book the facility as often as she currently does as set up and break down time would need to be considered. The flexibility of placement of the portable dance floor is limited by fire codes. Ms. Bagley confirmed that the proposed motion would be to patch the current dance floor area with carpeting. She said that it will be difficult to match the current carpet. Councilor Flynn said that caution must be exercised to insure the proper replacement of the carpet.

Councilor Cascio suggested that a solid carpet could replace the dance floor to give an almost stage-like appearance. He likes the flexibility of a portable dance floor. The floor could also possibly be used elsewhere. He asked if there has in the past ever been a "carpet fee" charged to rental groups. Ms. Bagley said that there was a carpet surcharge in the past. Councilor Cascio said that a surcharge fee could be charged to renters to cover dance floor installation and break down. Ms. Bagley said that this could be done but she needs to insure that the Community Center is competitive with other facilities in the area.

Councilor Gardow asked Ms. Bagley if the portable dance floor could be set up anywhere in Town. Ms. Bagley said that it could, but she would be concerned about the wear and tear sustained if the floor is continually loaned out. Ms. Bagley said that the current use of the dance floor at the Community Center would limit its use elsewhere.

Councilor Hemmann asked what the life of the current 7-year-old carpet is expected to be. Ms. Bagley said that it should last 10-15 years. Councilor Hemmann asked if this is included in the Capital Improvement Budget. Ms. Bagley said that it will be in the 2006-2007 budget.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked how long it actually takes to set up the floor. Ms. Bagley said that the literature she has indicates that it will take approximately one hour for two people to set up and another hour to take it down. Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked what the warranty is on the vinyl floor. Ms. Bagley said that the warranty is ten years for cracking and splitting. Deputy Mayor O'Connor feels that this would adequately cover the wear and tear of loaning out

the floor for other uses.

Councilor Morin said that he believes that the warranty is for normal operating use. If we move the floor and it drops and a corner breaks off, he doesn't think that this would be covered under the warranty.

Chairperson Czernicki asked Ms. Bagley to provide examples of the Town events sponsored by a Town Department that would utilize the Banquet Room. Ms. Bagley said that these would include programs holding holiday parties in the Banquet Room, the Parks & Recreation sponsored New Year's Eve Dance, the Senior Citizen Club banquets, as well as others. Chairperson Czernicki said that she thought the Line Dancing classes took place in the gym. Ms. Bagley said that they have recently been taking place on the dance floor of the Banquet Room. Chairperson Czernicki feels that the Town will get more use out of a portable dance floor and that there could possibly be a rental schedule set up to use it. She is concerned about the dance floor being restricted to two areas in the room because of the Fire Marshall's egress concerns. She has been to functions in the room where this issue does not seem to be addressed and wonders why it is an issue with the dance floor. She supports the portable dance floor.

Ms. Bagley said that she would like to do more research on a portable dance floor as she was not impressed with the vinyl floor currently presented. It did not appear to be made to withstand hundreds or thousands of uses. The portable wood dance floor looked more like something she would like to see in the Community Center.

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO TABLE THE PURCHASE OF A PORTABLE DANCE FLOOR IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND PARKS TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION"**, seconded by Councilor Flynn. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Selection of Architect, Roof Project - Fire House

Councilor Flynn moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR AN ARCHITECT TO DESIGN AND DRAW UP BID DOCUMENTS FOR THE ROOF REPLACEMENT AT FIRE HOUSE #3 TO BIDDER #1 FRIAR ASSOCIATES - IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,000"**, seconded by Councilor Gardow.

Councilor Flynn asked that Friar Associates include in the bid the removal of the antenna and locating the communications paraphernalia. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she would add this to the specifications of the bid.

Councilor Hemmann said that this was discussed during the budget process and also during the year at Capital Improvements Advisory Committee meetings. She said that this is a project that needs to get done.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked why we are paying an architect to tell the Town how to take a roof down. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this is not done in-house. Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked why we are not just hiring a roofer instead of hiring an architect first. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this is typical of most Towns.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Deputy Mayor O'Connor voted NAY. The motion passed 8-1-0.

Automatic Refuse Pickup Contract

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she met with Town Attorney Forsyth and Mr. Paine to review a draft amendment to the Town's present contract with Paine's Refuse. The amendment includes the key features discussed within the Refuse Committee as well as other issues between the Town Manager, the Town Attorney and Mr. Paine. This amendment would be attached to the specifications of the contract presently in place.

Chairperson Czernicki verified with the Town Manager that it is acceptable to amend the original agreement. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she discussed the matter with Attorney Forsyth who said that there is an option in the original bid specifications to go to automated pickup.

Councilor Fitzpatrick asked how the disposal of brush will be handled. Mr. Paine said that every home will receive a barrel and all material will go into or on top of that barrel. This will include brush. There is a limit to how much material will be picked up. The cover does not have to be on in order for the barrel to be emptied. Brush can be piled on top of it within reason.

Councilor Morin is fine with extending the contract for four years, but wonders if the Town would do better to put the item out to bid. He asked if after the ten months of \$1,000 payment reductions revert back after that time. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the payments do revert back. Councilor Morin said that he would like to know what the Town will be charging residents for additional barrels. The agreement states that the Town will be provided with one hundred additional barrels at no cost and Councilor Morin would like to know how these will be distributed. Will there be a request lottery or will they be distributed first come, first serve? Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that these will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis. She said that as requests for additional barrels come in, the Town will then be charged. She recommends to Council that the Town charge residents the same fee that is being charged to the Town for the additional barrels. Councilor Morin is vehemently against the automated refuse pickup. He doesn't think that the program will save the Town money as far as tipping fees. He thinks that Paine's service is phenomenal as it currently stands.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked how much a 35-gallon barrel costs. Mr. Paine said that all of the barrels cost approximately \$50. Deputy Mayor O'Connor suggests that a mailing go out to survey residents' necessity for more than one barrel. Deputy Mayor O'Connor recalls that two hundred barrels at no charge would be provided. Mr. Paine said that this was discussed two years ago and that the number has changed. Deputy Mayor O'Connor agrees with Councilor Morin regarding the tipping fees. He hasn't received any concrete facts for other Towns using this program and whether they are saving money in tipping fees. The program does; however beautify neighborhoods and adds to the quality of life. He thinks that this program will make it easier to take garbage out. He would like to see more barrels provided by Paine's at no charge.

Councilor Gardow said that the automated trash pickup is a plan for the Town to continue with weekly recycling. He believes that automated trash pickup is cleaner and it is the way of the future.

Councilor Sassano respectfully disagrees with those supporting the automated trash pickup. The amendment to the contract provides benefits solely to Mr. Paine. Automated trash pickup reduces the quality of life in Wethersfield because, although it may provide an aesthetic improvement, it does not improve the quality of life. The restriction of trash disposal reduces the quality of life. The agreement being extended to June 30, 2011 is cause for concern for Councilor Sassano as the garbage industry does not fluctuate drastically and eight years out is a long time for the Town to commit itself. The monthly payments will be reduced by \$1,000 per month for ten months, but the agreement does not provide for any control of the payments after that. They could, in fact, increase.

Councilor Cascio said that the automated trash pickup is a proactive move to the future in the way trash will be collected.

Councilor Flynn asked if a resident is not within the first hundred to request an additional barrel, he or she will be assessed an approximate \$50 fee for an additional barrel. Mr. Paine said that this is correct. Councilor Flynn asked if they will also be assessed an additional fee to empty the additional barrel. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the additional fee to empty will be billed to the Town and the question is how the amount will be recouped. In speaking with Rocky Hill, who has automated trash pickup, she was informed that there is hardly anyone who needs an additional barrel. Councilor Flynn said that there is a quality of life impact when a resident needs to store garbage from one week to the next if the garbage cannot all fit into the barrel, or if the resident instead has to haul the excess garbage to the Transfer Station.

Councilor Flynn agrees with Deputy Mayor O'Connor in wondering if the Town will actually realize a savings in tipping fees when the barrels can be left open to get wet. There has been no data provided; therefore this factor cannot be included in the analysis. Councilor Flynn said that to reduce the amount of trash being processed, people need to be provided with a meaningful alternative to throwing away their trash. This means a far more vigorous and effective recycling program. Councilor Flynn said that Paine's has been a great provider for Wethersfield and that this is a great

contract for Paine's; however, the Wethersfield Council has to get the best deal for its taxpayers. The savings to Paine's needs to be passed along to the Wethersfield taxpayers and this is not happening under the current proposal.

Councilor Hemmann asked if the Town is currently paying for any extra trash collected; it will not be a new cost. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that it is. Councilor Hemmann said that with the automated pickup, we will be trying to keep out water and moisture to get down to the true costs of the trash disposal.

Councilor Flynn asked Mr. Paine when the program is anticipated to begin. Mr. Paine said that once the Council makes a decision, the program would begin at the beginning of 2004. He will need to order new vehicles for automated trash pickup.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor said that there are definite economical and environmental benefits to recycling and believes that the automated trash pickup program forces residents to recycle more items. He agrees with Councilor Flynn that residents need to take a more vigorous approach to recycling. Residents will hopefully recycle more so as not to take up room in their barrel. Also, any excess garbage can be taken to Physical Services at no cost.

Councilor Flynn said that residents currently have one blue recycling bin. Many residents fill the bin each week and need to put recyclable items by the side of the bin. If this is the case now, it will be even worse when residents recycle more so as to not fill their barrel. It is a mistake not to consider this problem and devise a plan to solve it.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor moved "**TO AUTHORIZE THE MANAGER TO SIGN THE AMENDMENT TO THE ORIGINAL REFUSE AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE REFUSE SERVICE**", seconded by Councilor Gardow.

The following roll call vote was taken:

Councilor Cascio	YEA	Councilor Morin	NAY
Councilor Fitzpatrick	NAY	Councilor Sassano	NAY
Councilor Flynn	NAY	Deputy Mayor O'Connor	YEA
Councilor Gardow	YEA	Chairperson Czernicki	YEA
Councilor Hemmann	YEA		

The motion passed 5-4-0.

CCM Legislative Suggestions - 2003

Chairperson Czernicki asked Councilors if they have any specific suggestions for the Town Manager to pass along to CCM along with those of the Town Clerk and the Town Assessor.

Councilor Gardow asked for a follow up to the letter sent to the State Legislators with regard to the binding arbitration and the modification thereof.

Councilor Fitzpatrick would like to reinforce looking at all unfunded and partially funded mandates.

Councilor Flynn would like to restore municipalities' recreational use non-liability. He would also like to ask the General Assembly to honor its commitment to fully fund its share of the cost of local education. Councilor Flynn also requested that the General Assembly provide sufficient support to local municipal emergency services, particularly the volunteer department, to insure that they have sufficient training and equipment as the first responders. Lastly, that the General Assembly look at overruling contract provisions such as Hartford recently put in place with regard to Volunteer Firefighters.

BIDS

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this would replace a very old vehicle that the Engineering Department and Sidewalks and Roads Staff members utilize. There is a lot of equipment required to be carried in this vehicle. The

budget amount for this vehicle is \$33,000.

Councilor Sassano moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR ONE SPORT UTILITY VEHICLE FOR ENGINEERING TO BIDDER #1 INTERSTATE FORD - IN THE AMOUNT OF \$29,225"**, seconded by Councilor Morin.

Councilor Fitzpatrick, who in the past has spoken against the purchase of four-wheel drive vehicles, supports this purchase as the Engineering Staff definitely needs this type of vehicle.

Councilor Gardow said that he'd rather see this advertised as a truck as it is not really a sport utility vehicle.

Councilor Morin said that the Engineering Department has been requesting this purchase for 4-5 years and this truck is certainly due them.

Councilor Flynn pointed out that the Engineering Department transports a lot of heavy equipment which currently consumes most of the capacity of the current vehicle.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor read recently about Newington receiving a grant to purchase a sport utility vehicle. He asked the Town Manager if Wethersfield applied for the grant. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that normally these grants are for Police vehicles.

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

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien reported that she has appointed Joan Hughes, Cindy Jacobs Ramirez and Tom Grottko to the Economic Development Commission.

MINUTES

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 18, 2003 MEETING"**, seconded by Councilor Gardow. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Deputy Mayor O'Connor ABSTAINED. The motion passed 8-0-1.

GENERAL COMMENTS

REPORTS

Silas Deane Middle School Additions and Renovations

Councilor Cascio asked for an update on the concrete settling in the Cafeteria area. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that it has not yet completely settled, but because of temperature changes it has gotten much better.

COUNCIL

Chairperson Czernicki said that Councilors have received a petition of approximately thirty households to endorse the removal of the basketball court on the corner of Ridge and Crest Streets due to the rise of violence and drugs that it is creating after dusk. Chairperson Czernicki asked the Town Manager to check with the Police Department to verify how many calls have been processed regarding this situation and how many drug and/or violence arrests have been made. Chairperson Czernicki also asked that the Town Manager investigate the designation of this area and if it is to be kept forever as a Park.

Councilor Cascio informed all that a Shared Services meeting has been scheduled for September 15 at 6:00 p.m. per the request of Town Manager Bonnie Therrien.

Chairperson Czernicki said that there will be a family picnic sponsored by the Keene Foundation on the Wethersfield

Green on Sunday from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The United States Air Force Band of Liberty will provide entertainment and there will be games, fun and free ice cream. The picnic will be held in remembrance of Wethersfield residents who lost their lives in the 9-11 attacks.

On September 11, the Town of Wethersfield will lay three wreaths at each of the following flagpoles: Town Hall, the Police Facility, and Firehouse #1. The first wreath will be laid at 10:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. Concurrently, Wethersfield students will be asked to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance and observe a moment of silence.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor said that the Budget and Finance Committee will be holding a meeting either next week or the week after to discuss the Veterans Tax Relief. Also a Traffic and Transportation meeting will also be scheduled to discuss Land Abandonment. Deputy Mayor O'Connor encouraged all interested to attend this Sunday's opening day of the Wethersfield Youth Football League at the Hanmer School at 9:00 a.m.

Councilor Cascio said that Saturday, September 6, will be the Soccer Jamboree at DiCicco Field.

PUBLIC

Edward Kardas, 850 Cloverdale Circle, commented that when he walks he often sees bundles of branches and brush put to the curb by homeowners. He suggests that the Physical Services Department offer to come around twice per year and collect such bundles and put them through their wood chipper rather than have the Town pay to have these bundles collected as garbage.

George A. Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, asked why the address for the Police Officers appointed tonight to Boards and Commissions is listed as 250 Silas Deane Highway when other appointees have their home address listed. Chairperson Czernicki explained that these Officers are serving as Town Employees and not as private citizens therefore their employee address is listed. Mr. Ruhe questioned the flexibility of the dance floor being placed in the Banquet Room so as not to hinder egress from the room. He said that when the room is crowded at other times there is also a hindrance to the egress from the room and it doesn't seem to matter then. But when it comes to the dance floor, all of a sudden there is a problem. He believes that the dance floor will be put down and will stay put most of the time. The floor will be moved only occasionally. Mr. Ruhe congratulates the Council for making the right decision regarding the automated trash pickup. He agrees with Councilor Flynn's comments that we need to encourage citizens to recycle more to reduce garbage amounts. He also agrees with Councilor Cascio's comment that the Town is ultimately paying for the injuries that garbage collectors sustain on the job and that the automated trash pickup will reduce these injuries and; therefore, costs thereof. Mr. Ruhe said that citizens need to take steps toward solutions on their own to accommodate various limitations set forth and not continually expect the Town to do everything for them all of the time.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, is concerned that if the Town rents a dance floor, we are liable for any accidents. He believes that it would be better to install a new, quality dance floor in the Banquet Room than to purchase a portable floor. This would sustain the value of the building. Mr. Young does not agree with paying an architect \$6,000 to tell the Town how to install a new roof at Firehouse #3.

Jim Clynch, 903 Ridge Road, said that his wife, who is very ill, received a call recently from the Wethersfield Police Department soliciting for donations. When she said she was ill and needed to hang up, the person on the other end was very persistent and continued with his solicitation. Mr. Clynch phoned Town Manager Bonnie Therrien to report the incident. Mr. Clynch said that these calls are not from the actual Town Police Department, but rather from a fundraising organization hired by the Police Union. The Police Union actually only gets approximately 20% of the money raised. These fundraisers attempt to shakedown senior citizens as well as others. Some residents become afraid that if they do not donate, they will be identified as such, and not receive the services they would otherwise have gotten. Mr. Clynch would like to see that any such fundraisers in Wethersfield are announced in the paper so that residents are aware and prepared to receive any calls. Mr. Clynch said that he was informed by a CRRA Engineer that the Town of Wethersfield is rated very highly as far as recycling efforts. Mr. Clynch does not favor automated trash pickup with its large barrels. He fears that many senior citizens will have a problem with getting the barrel to the road. Mr. Clynch wonders if a service will be offered to residents with this problem in order to get their barrels to the road.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:35 p.m., Councilor Flynn moved "**TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**" seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

At 10:19 p.m., Councilor Flynn moved "**TO GO OUT OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION AND ENTER BACK INTO THE REGULAR MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Morin. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Hemmann moved "**TO UPGRADE THE ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN III POSITION FROM SALARY GRADE 11 TO SALARY GRADE 12 IN THE RESPECTIVE UNION**", seconded by Councilor Flynn. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

At 10:20 p.m., Councilor Cascio moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Flynn. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk

Unapproved