

Approved

REGULAR MEETING

March 16, 2015

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, March 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield.

Present: Councilors Hemmann, Hurley, Kotkin, Martino, Manousos [7:30], Rell, Roberts and Deputy Mayor Barry, acting chair. Absent: Chairperson Montinieri

Also present: Mike Emmett, School Superintendent and Staff: Sally Dastoli, Fred Bushey, Keith Rafaniello, Tim Howes, Andrew Parker; Gina D'Angelo, Board of Education Chairperson, Board of Education members: Polly Moon, John Morris, Charles Carey, Elaine Steinmiller-Paradise. Mike Turner, Town Engineer, Kathy Bagley, Dir. Of Social & Youth Service and Parks & Recreation, Brook Berry, Librarian, Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk

Councilor Martino led the pledge of allegiance.

Deputy Mayor Steve Barry presented a Proclamation to the Girl Scouts for 103 years of Girl Scouting in Connecticut, helping to build girls into women of courage, confidence and character. [Sent to Janet Vasel]

Deputy Mayor Steve Barry presented a Proclamation to the Central Connecticut Health District [CCHD]. Wethersfield is a founding member and Dianne Doot and Angela Colantonio, 2 of our 3 Board Representatives for Wethersfield accepted the award. Dr. Doot spoke on behalf of the CCHD, thanking everyone for their support for the last 18 years and for recognizing that regionalization brings benefits, while serving almost 100,000 people of Wethersfield, Newington, Rocky Hill and Berlin. The theme, "Healthiest Nation 2030" is very ambitious and events are being planned, district wide, involving various other departments, such as Parks & Recreation and Police. Events will challenge both our mental and physical health with the goal of making the United States the Healthiest Nation in One Generation by 2030. They will kick it off with Step into Spring Walking Competition with a breakfast meeting on April 9th at 10:00 a.m. CCHD welcomed a dynamic new Director, Charles Brown, this year as well.

School Superintendent Mike Emmett presented the Wethersfield Board of Education Budget for year 2015-16 to the Wethersfield Town Council as is required by the Town Charter.

He recognizes the importance of education and that is drives the Town budget. Recently Wethersfield was listed as one of the top ten towns to reside in and he likes to think that is partly because of our educational system.

The proposed budget increase, \$1,816,217 or 3.31%, from \$54,797,197 to \$56,613,414 includes: negotiated agreements; fixed costs; state & federal mandates; health insurance; OPED Trust and

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Pension; elementary math program [no overall elementary program currently exists] and ELL [English Language Learner].

In the past there have been pretty hefty budgets submitted, but after having spoken with many of Council, they decided to come in lean but educationally forward. It is a responsible budget.

He is proud to come forward with budget efficiencies: combined purchasing—Energy, working with Heather and the Town, from \$3 gallon for diesel fuel, down and locked in at \$2.17, a savings of \$43,000 in unallocated funds; retirements, there are 4 reflected in budget; contract negotiations, they have paid more attention to the details; pursuit of grants, Mr. Rafaniello working on Technology now; budgeting process, earlier start helped a lot; and special education tuition forecasting. Started earlier in the budget process and this year, in a very long time, they are suggesting a decrease in special education forecasting line. Special education department have focused on getting special education students in from other towns and having the monies coming into Town by extending the net.

The goals continue to be: 1. Ensure that all students are prepared for lifelong success through comprehensive, research-based curriculum and world class instruction; 2. Ensure all families and stakeholders are engaged and involved in the learning experiences of our students; and 3. Shall provide a clean, safe, and positive learning environment.

Councilor Kotkin asked about retirements listed at \$112,000 and wanted to know the level of teacher being replaced. Mr. Emmett stated they were all at the elementary school level.

Councilor Kotkin asked about paraprofessionals. Mr. Emmett replied that last year he relied on attrition; reallocating paraprofessionals to work with more than one student. At the high school level, as it is the goal to prepare them to pass into adulthood, they scaled back. He sees no changes at this time in number of paraprofessionals.

Mr. Emmett stated they are looking forward to reducing the number of storage units as the pool area is renovated. Councilor Kotkin asked if the use of storage units were in the school renovation budget. Mr. Emmett replied no.

Councilor Hemmann asked, knowing the increase on both sides, if there were any trending issues on workers comp so they could work with a list of preventive measures to reduce the frequency of them in the future. Mr. Emmett replied that they are looking at that on with the school safety committee. They are seen an increase in the number but a decrease in the severity of the injuries.

Councilor Rell noticed there were 2 custodians not on the list. Where would they be located? Mr. Emmett stated one would be for the newly renovated high school and the other would be district wide. Councilor Rell asked about the cost. The cost would be approximately \$40-50,000 each.

Deputy Mayor Barry asked if the anticipation of custodians was for next year and the following

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year, because more projects will come online then.

Mr. Emmett thanked the Council for the process used this year. Deputy Mayor Barry agreed. [Attachment 1]

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Hearings:

- a. Resolution on authorizing the application for an Historic Document Presentation Grant (Town Clerk) **No public comments**
- b. Resolution on applying the Local Capital Improvement Program Funds (LOCIP) for 2014-2015 fiscal year to the reconstruction of Fairlane Drive. **No public comments**

The following people spoke on behalf of the 2015 Community Development Block Grant five resolutions: Kate Fourcier and Peter Huckins. [speaking later during the meeting: Donna Hemmann, Jeffrey Kotkin].

- c. Resolution for the Fiscal Year 2015 Community Development Block Grant program and to solicit citizen input.
- d. Resolution authorizing the Town Manager to submit a grant application with the Department of Housing on behalf of the Wethersfield Housing Authority for \$800,000 for improvements to the James Devlin Senior Housing Apartments.
- e. Resolution adopting a Fair Housing Plan
- f. Resolution for use of Small Cities Community Development Block Grant program income.
- g. Resolution adopting an amendment to the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant program income use plan.

Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, spoke in favor of this Community Development Block Grant which would benefit resident housing in our community. He explained the Town and Wethersfield Housing Authority have over the past several years worked together to attain these grants for upgrades and improvements to the Housing Authority properties. The Wethersfield Housing Authority cannot apply for these grants directly therefore the Town applies on their behalf.

The Housing Authority would be a sub-recipient of the grant funds as spelled out in the agreement, approved by the Town Attorney. They also support all of the resolutions proposed for the fiscal year 2015 Community Development Block Grant.

The resolutions were introduced at a previous Town Council meeting, have been advertised as required. The public hearing is being held tonight as previously advertised and is being held prior to an application being submitted for citizen input. The Town of Wethersfield Meeting is broadcast live; repeats throughout the weeks leading up to the next meeting. Residents have opportunity to respond, prior to a vote of the Wethersfield Town Council

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Kate Fourcier, Housing Authority Director, spoke about the need for citizen participation as an integral part of the Community Development Block Grant program. There is a great need for the updates to this housing.

The Town and the Housing Authority selection committee recommend Community Consulting to administer the grant.

Peter Huckins, representing Community Consulting, supports the proposal and application.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Ave continued questioning the reasoning of stop sign use; concerned with a shift in the road at the new intersection, may reduce sight distance.

Marjorie Carson, 12 Avalon Pl commented on the GOMATH curriculum, the teachers, students and parents enthusiastically support it, recommend the program be fully funded to have a complete program as adopted by the Board of Education, starting next year.

David Caruk, 149 Broad St, thinks the Council should fully fund the Board of Education needs; good schools mean good people moving into community. Give our students the opportunity to reach the level of West Hartford and Glastonbury; don't set up our students to fail.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Hemmann commented on attending the Housing Authority meeting and developing plan to renovate Devlin Housing as a positive move forward and very much needed in our community. Also, she attended the Shade Tree Commission. Eversource [formerly CL&P] will be doing further tree trimming, this time northeast Ridge Rd and their Arborist will be putting information out to the public with door to door notices for homes where the trees are being questioned.

Councilor Kotkin reported on Shared Services and the progress in merging technology groups from the Board and Town. One of three positions on town side is open; another meeting is planned within the next several weeks. The Town and Board is putting together a memorandum of understanding for this process.

Councilor Martino attended the EDIC meeting and noted they discussed marketing as well as changes to be made to the Town web site. Tom Hemphill will be involved. Also there are plans for Welcome Wagon for new home buyers; a package will go out via realtors. He attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting where they were planning on upcoming events: 3rd annual car show, fireworks in May, and their annual dinner, to name just a few.

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Deputy Mayor Barry toured the Wethersfield High School and said it was impressive and exciting to see the amount of work going on currently.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Roberts thanked the town workers for the snow cleanup, cleaning up the storm drains and clearing the cul de sacs, well. Thanks to Sally Katz and Jeff for their direction.

Deputy Mayor Barry reminded everyone of the Coffee Hours to meet with the Mayor and other Councilors at businesses around Wethersfield. Councilor Roberts said she would be hosting the next coffee.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Information on the agenda tonight.

TOWN CLERK

There were going to be 2 more Coffee, the Mayor just agreed to having one on April 14 in Old Wethersfield. They are posted online.

COUNCIL ACTION

Ordinances, Resolutions and Appointments for action: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Martino, “**Motion to approve a Resolution applying the 2015 allocation of Local Capital Improvement Funds (LOCIP) to the reconstruction of Fairlane Drive**”, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Manager Bridges stated LOCIP guidelines require the community to pass a resolution determining the use of the funds. This project was bid last year and the bid came in higher than the LOCIP funds available at the time.

He then called on Mike Turner, Town Engineer, to comment. The Town has been accumulating monies in its LOCIP account for the reconstruction of Fairlane Drive. Grant we get is explicit as to how we can use that money. Staff is requesting that this year's allotment be dedicated to the project so that construction can take place this season. Usually have to save up money to get the

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larger projects accomplished. This entitlement every March, with LOCIP money we have to make a special request of the Council.

Councilor Kotkin asked about reconstruction. Mike Turner replied basically it is a total rebuild.

Councilor Hurley asked what other roads were up against it to have reconstruction. Mike Turner stated there are many on the list, but this is the one in most need now, that fits within this time frame.

Councilor Roberts stated this will hit up to Fox Hill Road, which is also scheduled to be done this year. It is falling apart and should be closed to all be the locals that live there. Mike Turner responded it is going to be done this fall.

Estimated cost of the reconstruction project is \$433,735.

Town Manager Bridges asked Town Engineer Mike Turner to speak to this bid. It was put out to bid last year but it was postponed to this year to use the LOCIP funds.

After questions, they decided to move the action until the next Council meeting.

Councilor Martino, "MOVED TO TABLE TO APRIL 6 2015", seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

All Councilors present, including the Acting Chairperson voted AYE to TABLE

Councilor Martino, "Motion to approve of a Resolution authorizing the application for a Historic Document Preservation Grant, from the Connecticut State Library, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Town Manager Bridges asked Town Clerk Sassano to speak on this grant.

This is a targeted grant for Historic Document Preservation from the Connecticut State Library. It enables Towns to get back some of the money collected on behalf of the Public Records Division of the State Library. It is only available if the legislative body votes to allow the Clerk to apply for it. This year, it will be for \$4000. I expect to use most of it for another map cabinet and for replacing some books in the vault.

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

Councilor Martino, "Motion to approve a readjustment to personnel classification, from March 2, 2015 Agenda: Maintainer I to Maintainer II, Physical Services Step A Class 5" seconded by Councilor Kotkin. [TO CORRECT STEP INFORMATION, LAST MEETING]

Approved

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

Councilor Martino, “Motion to approve Small Cities – Community Development Block Grant resolution authorizing the Town Manager to submit a grant application with the Department of Housing on behalf of the Wethersfield Housing Authority for \$800,000 for improvements to the James Devlin Senior Housing Apartments, seconded by Councilor Kotkin .

Town Manager Bridges stated that the approval of a resolution of support of the legislative body, Wethersfield Town Council, authorizing the submission of a Small Cities Grant, for \$800,000 for improvements to the James Devlin Senior Housing Apartments is required for the grant.

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

Councilor Martino, “Motion to approve a Sub-recipient agreement between the Town of Wethersfield and the Wethersfield Housing Authority for a Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant, seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

Town Manager Bridges recommends the approval of the agreement. It provides a legal framework for the administration of the grant between the parties.

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

Councilor Martino, “Motion to approve the selection of *Community Consulting* to administer the 2015 Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant Program with the Wethersfield Housing Authority, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Town Manager Bridges and the Wethersfield Housing Authority is recommending Community Consulting to administer the grant. They are a Connecticut based organization with very positive references. They are currently doing work for the Town/Housing Authority on previous Small City Grants.

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

Councilor Martino, “Motion to approve a resolution adopting a Fair Housing Plan 2015, seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

Town Manager Jeff Bridges stated it has to be adopted in order to apply for the grant.

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

Councilor Martino, “Approval of a resolution for the use of Small Cities Community Development Block Grant program income funds, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Required for the application for this grant, we need to have a plan and know how to use the

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money.

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

Councilor Martino, “Approval of a resolution amending a Small Cities Community Development Block Grant program income use plan, seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

The Town had participated in re-hab homes, we no longer offer it. We propose to use monies from those loans, as applicable under guidelines, as re-purposing the money.

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

BIDS

Councilor Martino, “Motion to approve proposal from Rampage LLC for \$37,395 for the repairs to the Mill Woods Skate Park”, seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

Director Bagley, this is to repair the skate park, while we have doing minor repairs, it is crumbling a bit at the base. We did a request for proposal to have it done. It is different to replace a sidewalk than repair of a skate park. We have checked Rampage LLC with other communities and they are looking to hire them again.

Councilor Kotkin, did you get references and speak to them. Yes we did, they have done work in Simsbury, Farmington and Acton MA, both above and below ground skate parks.

Council Hurley stated there are three companies bidding less than them. What happened to them?

Director Bagley, none of them had specific skate park experience. There are various differences in type and use of concrete.

Councilor Roberts stated that the Town specifies a 3 year warranty on the work but Rampage has only 12 month listed.

Councilor Rell stated Rampage only bid without a completion date on it.

Director Bagley, stated there is a complete date, depending on the start. They will have to wait for the weather, right temperature for the pouring on the concrete. Rampage does know and has agreed to the 3 year warranty. They will secure it during the process of curing of the concrete.

Councilor Roberts asked if it still gets a lot of use? Director Bagley said it is very busy, this is the only winter they did not shovel it out.

Councilor Manousos asked if it were so different than say smooth surfaces in garages and other places. He would like to see the money match one of the low bidders, who was from Wethersfield.

Director Bagley stated they were not required to go with low bid because it was done under a Request for Proposal, unless the Town Council would require it.

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Councilor Rell asked about the bids and the differences with products listed. Director Bagley stated that most of the other products would be used depending on the type of weather when the repair is done. They could do it now, when the snow clears but we will wait until spring.

Acting Chairperson Barry stated it was an important project as it is another outlet for folks of all ages. Getting it done and getting it done right is important.

All Councilors present, including the Acting Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed. 7-1-0 (Manousos, not against project but vendor)

Councilor Martino, “Motion to approve Roadway milling services, by increasing the purchase order for Costello by \$35,000 for milling services based upon 2015 State bid for the upcoming Spring paving program”, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

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

Councilor Martino, “Motion to approve increase the current purchase order for Tilcon by \$300,000 for paving services based upon State of Connecticut bid prices” seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

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

Councilor Martino, “Motion to approve Portable generator bid from Hertz Corporation for \$25,745.05” seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

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

Councilor Martino, Motion to approve the following Wethersfield High School Renovation Projects, approved by the Building Committee on March 9, 2015 at their meeting:

Keith Rafaniello, Director of Technology was available for questions.

“Motion for “Battery back-up system for computers / technology [equipment for use within the school to support the renovations]” seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

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

“Motion for “Proposed change order #118 with Southern Middlesex Industries for remediation work”, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

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

“Motion for “Proposed change order #116 moving the scope of work for a canopy installation from the United Steel contract to the L&P Gates contract” seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

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

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ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

Resolution endorsing and authorizing the Town of Wethersfield to participate in an Office of Policy and Management Regional Performance Incentive (RPI)

Councilor Martino, “Motion to approve Minutes for March 2, 2015, seconded by Councilor Kotkin”.

All Councilors present, including the Acting Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-2 (Councilors Manousos & Roberts)

Public Comments

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Ave spoke to the Board of Education budget. What he sees is they have large contract obligations and no increases for the kids. They need to reduce the power of the unions.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:45 p.m., Councilor Kotkin moved **"TO ADJOURN THE MEETING"** seconded by Councilor Martino.

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

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk

Approved as corrected by Vote of Council
April 6, 2015

Minutes were amended as follows:

Page 6, OTHER BUSINESS: *Councilor Martino, “MOVED TO TABLE TO APRIL 6 2015”,*