

Approved
REGULAR MEETING
July 20, 2015

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, July 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield.

Present: Councilors Hemmann, Hurley, Kotkin, Martino, Manousos, Rell, Roberts, Deputy Mayor Barry, and Chairperson Montinieri.

Also present: Mike Turner, Town Engineer, Kathy Bagley, Director Parks & Recreation, Social & Youth Services; Mike O'Neil, Finance Director, Sally Katz, Director, Physical Services, Peter Gillespie, Town Planner, Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, and Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk

Councilor Hemmann led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HEARINGS

Mayor Montinieri asked for any public comment on the resolution making a supplemental appropriation of \$196,000 to the fiscal year 2016 budget of the Town of Wethersfield for additional capital improvements.

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle asked if this resolution has any relationship to the bids on the second page of the agenda for the evening. Town Manager Bridges answered \$94,000 is for the Francis Street item and the rest is for repairing the Mill Woods parking lot in the Fall. Mr. Ruhe asked if this was money that the town was able to find in the treasury someplace. Town Manager Bridges answered yes.

As there was no further public comment, Mayor Montinieri closed this hearing item.

GENERAL COMMENTS

PUBLIC

Jim Woodward, (no address given), said he came to support the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Board eliminating the charges for launching of car-top boats (canoes and kayaks) at the Wethersfield Cove, but the Board decided to postpone this discussion. At the last meeting on June 25th, he and other residents made a presentation to the Board as to why these fees should be eliminated. Canoes and kayaks are classified as small boats and the charge is \$7.00 for residents and \$15.00 for non-residents even though they don't use the boat launch, take up half as much space in the parking lot, and the fee applies even if you walk your boat down to the cove. This fee was imposed over 30 years ago to prevent the overload of cars and trailers in the

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cove; but in 30 years the world has changed. He feels these fees are preventing taxpayers and visitors from around the region from enjoying the cove. With the obesity epidemic and concerns about the environment, healthy outdoor activities are now a public health goal. Connecticut Outfitters is a local business that can't offer service to people in the cove because of the fees. Launching canoes and kayaks is free at 2 launches in Hartford, 1 in East Hartford, the ferry landing in Rocky Hill and the new boat launch in Glastonbury. There is no service provided for the fee other than maybe watching your car in the parking lot. He has been trying to change this for 15 years. He collected 70 signatures on a petition at the farmer's market and Keeney concert.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, said that at the last meeting there was discussion on the removal of an oil tank at the high school. He read in the paper that the removal took more time than was originally thought and at a greater cost. Applying for grants and buying more equipment is on tonight's agenda; he would like the Council to consider that times are still tough for a lot of people. Repair and sealing of cracking asphalt for \$50,000 is on the agenda. He stated that cracking asphalt is an indication of poor workmanship when the job was done. Senate Bill 1 was discussed at the last meeting. No one thought it was going to pass, but it did pass. Launching a boat into the cove for \$7.00 is a lot of money and people are not going to come back. Thinks there are many things going on in the town and state that are unfriendly to people (e.g. soaring probate fees) and he thinks people should come to the council and complain or vote out council members next election.

Steve Kirsche, 11 Goff Road, Vice Chairman of Charter Revision Commission was impressed with the people he served with. He stated that the Commission was non-political and hardworking. Thinks the biggest thing they did was what they didn't do. They have been criticized for not adding a budget referendum to the Charter, but only 4 people spoke in favor of it the public hearing. He weighed that against the referendum vote 20 years ago when a budget referendum was voted down 3-2. His philosophy is the Town Council is the budget referendum every 2 years; knows the councilors agonized over every line item. The Commission eliminated frivolity from ethics code violations and conflict of interest was discarded. The decision on section 5.10 (Advisory Park and Rec Board) was not a personal thing but made as a governing control; the Commission talked to the members of the Park and Rec Board who wanted to keep it as advisory. He would like the Park and Rec Board to have the ability to make decisions on things such as kayak fees.

Linda Case, 103 Park Avenue, spoke about the proliferation of traffic signs in a nonsensical fashion, especially looking down Wolcott Hill Road onto Nott Street near Wright School. She thinks the green crossing signs that are high in the air are ugly. The chaotic visual pollution does have an impact by taking away attention. Asked if there any guides or town planning as to how these signs are placed. She stated she thinks the blue-white outdoor led lights that she has been seeing lately are cold and ugly and she does not want to see them throughout Wethersfield.

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Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Avenue agreed that there are too many signs, especially near the high school and the pavement there is also atrocious. Thanked the Mayor for coming by his street and showing that he cares. The curbing on his street has been replaced and is correct now. He received a letter from the Town about a lien on his property because of failure to pay the \$500 the Council decided Wethersfield residents need to pay for new sidewalks. The sidewalk is public and the reconstruction was necessary because of mistakes by the town overlaying the street. He read from minutes of a 1982 Council meeting about traffic patterns, lack of sidewalks, which recommended reconstruction of sidewalks on the entire street. Two Rod and Hartford Avenue just received new sidewalks and nobody had to pay so there is no good reason why the residents of Morrison Avenue should have to pay for their reconstructed sidewalk.

Tom Mazarella, 600 Wolcott Hill Road, spoke about letters written to the editor from Democratic Town Council members in the July issue of Wethersfield Life. In the letters the members wrote about the good job that was done on the budget. The budget was reduced by \$360,000, which comes out to be less than 3/8th of 1%. He does not think the Council should take credit for rebidding of a trash contract, lower energy costs and retirement of school employees. In the same paper was an article about the Wethersfield food pantry and how the past 8-10 years have been difficult for many because of job losses, illness and how people who used to be donors are now clients. He has noticed foreclosure signs up, lawns not being taken care of, maintenance on properties is declining and thinks a lot of people who are under the radar are having trouble paying their taxes. In Windsor, which has the same form of government as Wethersfield except that they do have a referendum requirement, they are on their 4th referendum, and this one was just defeated also. Thinks the Wethersfield council doesn't understand what the majority of taxpayers are really looking for. Need to solicit more input and discussion from the town for next year's budget. Stated that there is a new law which will go into effect starting fiscal year 2018 in which a cap will be placed on municipal spending. General budget expenditures will be capped at 2.5% over the previous year or the rate of inflation whichever is greater. The penalty for exceeding the cap will be a \$.50 for every dollar of municipal spending over the cap.

John Console, 38 Ivy Lane, thinks one of goals for Council should be to revamp each department and come up with ideas to reduce each department's spending by 5%-10%, with the exception of the police department. Decisions need to be made on what will be done with Hanmer School and the council needs to let people know what the debt service will cost. He has noticed changing demographics in town: cars on lawns, boats in driveways and nothing has been done in an efficient and effective manner for dealing with this blight. He said it is not right for the town or the value of people's properties. The vote on adding a referendum requirement to the Charter was over 20 years ago and times and financial situations for a lot of people have changed. To a lot of people, having to pay a couple of hundred dollars more in taxes is detrimental.

Approved

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, said he has great regard for the citizens who come to the meetings. He is offended when someone says, 'only 3 or 4 people' spoke against the Charter revision. This doesn't mean there are only 3 or 4 people who have this opinion and is someone who has been given this responsibility can only see the 3 or 4 then they are missing something. Frustration and concern brings people to the podium because stuff isn't happening. He noticed that the Chamber of Commerce meeting is no longer on the Town calendar and asked if this was because the Chamber no longer meets on a regular basis with elected officials. The Town Manager answered that the Chamber of Commerce meetings are open to anybody. Mr. Ruhe stated the Chamber of Commerce is a lobbying group and questioned the wisdom of elected officials meeting with them.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Martino reported that the Economic Development Committee met last week and Peter Gillespie will give report later in the meeting. There a lot less empty store fronts along the Silas Deane Highway.

Councilor Kotkin reported that the Insurance Committee met in late June. Through May, healthcare costs are above budget and thinks the Council did the right thing by boosting the amount that was put into the budget. Work continues on going out to bid for the healthcare audit. Committee will have an auditor for the Council to approve by August or early fall.

Deputy Mayor Barry reported that the Building Committee met last Monday. There is a significant amount of work happening at the high school over the summer. Will have a better sense of where we are schedule-wise at the end of the summer.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Bridges asked Director of Economic Development, Peter Gillespie to come up to speak about the Economic Development report.

Mr. Gillespie summarized from the July 2015 Planning and Economic Development report. Reported that there are 24 businesses referenced in the report; about half are new businesses and half are businesses under construction and opening soon or relocated and stayed or expanded in town. EDIC has awarded 2 façade program grants; one to The Corner Store and one to the former Amici's restaurant space which is going be an urgent care facility. The EDIC, in partnership with local realtors and the Chamber of Commerce is working on a version of the Welcome Wagon to reach out to new residents and businesses to Town. This will be an

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information packet. There have been 5 or 6 ribbon cuttings in the last couple of months and he thanked those who attended. The CREC magnet school will open in 5-6 weeks, they are working with the police department on traffic patterns. The Heritage Walk project is nearing completion. On Sat. Sept. 12th at 10am will be the unveiling, invitations will be forthcoming. Planning and Zoning Commission is working on two projects: have rezoned the former Harris property on Reservoir Rd/Back Lane. The Wetlands Commission approved a subdivision which will be an extension of Whippoorwill Lane. Combined, these 2 projects will add approximately 30 new building lots which the town has not happened in the last 20 years.

Councilor Kotkin asked what 1394 Berlin Tpke (Premier Rental) and 1420 Berlin Tpke (Falla's) were in the report. Mr. Gillespie answered this is the Stop and Shop plaza. Falla's went in to where the department store used to be and the rental store is in the space where a gym used to be.

TOWN CLERK COMMUNICATION

None

COUNCIL ACTION

Deputy Mayor Barry moved to “**ACCEPT RESIGNATIONS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS** (list below)”, seconded to by Councilor Kotkin:

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

William Leonard R 71 Center Street 7-1-15 to 6-30-18 (resigned 6-29-15)

INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION

Shanelle Spinella D 84 Round Hill Road 2-3-14 to 6-30-17 (resigned 6-28-15)

REPRESENTATIVE TO TOURISM (Weth. Hist. Society)

Lisa Walsh U 51 Center Street 3-3-14 to 6-30-16 (resigned 6-28-15)

All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Deputy Mayor Barry moved to “**APPOINT MEMBERS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS** (list below)”, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Anthony Homicki (Alternate) D 201 Cumberland Road 7-20-15 to 6-30-21

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BOARD OF BUILDING APPEALS

Joseph M. Hallisey	D	101 Sunrise Terrace	7-20-15 to 6-30-20
Basia Dellaripa (Alternate)	D	37 Robbinswood Drive	7-20-15 to 6-30-18

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Robert Turgeon	D	962 Cloverdale Circle	7-20-15 to 6-30-17
Michael Grabowski	D	46 Westway	7-20-15 to 6-30-17

MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR CHILDREN

Erica Texeira	Town Employee		7-20-15 to 6-30-17
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COX CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Richard S. Garrey	D	35 Harding Street	7-20-15 to 6-30-18
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ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Barbara Blejewski	D	4 Tabshey Court, A1	7-20-15 to 6-30-17
Phil Knecht	D	100 Executive Square	7-20-15 to 6-30-17
Sue Buckland	D	766 Wolcott Hill Road	7-20-15 to 6-30-17
Elaine Zieller	Town Emp, Library Rep		7-20-15 to 6-30-17

BOARD OF ETHICS

John O'Leary	U	PO Box 290002	7-20-15 to 6-30-18
Margaret L. Gustafson	U	182 Amherst Street	7-20-15 to 6-30-18

FAIR RENT COMMISSION

Phil Knecht	D	100 Executive Square	7-20-15 to 6-30-17
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HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Mark A. Raymond	D	323 Hartford Avenue	7-20-15 to 6-30-20
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Approved

Daniel Bucknam (Alternate) D 108 Garden Street 9-1-15 to 8-31-20

HOUSING AUTHORITY

George J. Kelly D 369 Hartford Avenue 7-20-15 to 6-30-20

HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELATIONS COMMISSION

Carolyn Owen D 32 Belmont Street 7-20-15 to 6-30-18

Shirley Steinmetz D 375 Brimfield Road 7-20-15 to 6-30-18

Debra Hammer (Alternate) D 65 Broad Street 7-20-15 to 6-30-18

INLAND WETLANDS AND WATER COURSES COMMISSION

David D. Ambrose D 119 Farmington Road 7-20-15 to 6-30-18

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

John F. Dolan D 560 Wolcott Hill Road 7-20-15 to 6-30-20

LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

George Kelly D 369 Hartford Avenue 7-20-15 to 6-30-18

Hannah Granfield D 79 Buckland Road 7-20-15 to 6-30-18

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Richard Lepore D 7 Jay Street 7-20-15 to 6-30-18

Thomas Mull (Alternate) D 159 Surrey Drive 7-20-15 to 6-30-18

PERSONNEL APPEALS BOARD

Brian F. Zito D PO Box 290001 7-20-15 to 6-30-18

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

Ryan Allard D 75 Somerset Street 7-20-15 to 6-30-18

SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Adele J. Antoniou	D	16 Bermuda Road	7-20-15 to 6-30-17
Joseph M. Mehan	D	34 Two Brook Road	7-20-15 to 6-30-17
Claire A. Mehan	D	34 Two Brook Road	7-20-15 to 6-30-17
Kathy Bagley	Town Employee		7-20-15 to 6-30-17
Lisa Galipo	Town Employee		7-20-15 to 6-30-17

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Mark A. Alpert	D	7 Morrison Avenue	7-20-15 to 6-30-18
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SOLOMON WELLES HOUSE COMMITTEE

Marilyn D. McPhee	D	102 Hillcrest Avenue	7-20-15 to 6-30-18
Gretchen Kelly	D	369 Hartford Avenue	7-20-15 to 6-30-18
Harry Lichtenbaum	D	10 Towne House Lane	7-20-15 to 6-30-18
Patty Tiberio	D	16 Somerset Street	7-20-15 to 6-30-18

TOURISM COMMISSION

Katie Sullivan	D	79 Wright Road	7-20-15 to 6-30-18
Ellen Spratlin	D	115 Broad Street	7-20-15 to 6-30-18

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Basia Dellaripa	D	37 Robbinswood Drive	7-20-15 to 6-30-20
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All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Martino moved **“TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING 2016 OF THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD OF \$196,000 FOR REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO MILL WOODS PARK PARKING LOT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$99,000 AND TO FRANCIS STREET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$97,000”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Approved

Town Manager Bridges stated that this was introduced at the last Council meeting and is a proposed supplemental appropriation in accordance with the Charter that would allow for the mentioned improvements. Mill Woods parking lot is used for snow storage and the paved area broke apart and is not salvageable. The full length of Francis Street, which runs adjacent to Hanmer School, would be repaved along with the basketball area/playground before school begins.

Councilor Rell asked if we would consider a new place to stockpile removed snow. Town Manager Bridges answered that we don't have another place that big in town to consider; Willard Pool and Mill Woods Park are the two areas we have.

All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Martino moved to **“ACCEPT THE CHARTER REVISION RECOMMENDATION CHANGES, WITH THE EXCLUSION OF CHANGES TO SECTION 510, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CHARTER REVISION COMMITTEE”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Mayor Montinieri stated that there has been dialogue back and forth between the Council and Charter Revision Commission and the Council did compile and submit recommendations and feedback. He thanked the Commission for tweaking some of the language and addressing some of the concerns that Council had. A lot of work has been done and he thinks the Council is comfortable with the changes.

Councilor Kotkin stated that he appreciates the changes made to the Charter that make it more workable. For example, indexing some spending thresholds as a percent of the budget rather than a hard number, which over 10 years time can be out of date. He said he had some qualms with some of the wording on ethics in the original Charter and these were 100 percent resolved by the changes that were made. He supports the motion on not changing the advisory nature of the Park and Rec Board. He questioned that there may be a typo on the bottom of page 20, dealing with the town budget, in the sentence that reads “probable cash deficit of unencumbered cash surplus”, thinks it may should say “probable cash deficit or unencumbered cash surplus”. It was stated that in the Commission's version it does say “or” not “of” and this will be corrected by the Town Clerk.

Councilor Hemmann thanked the Commission for their hard work and supports adding the ethics

Approved

language into the Charter.

Councilor Manousos supports Councilor Hemmann's comments and applauds the Charter Revision Commission for what they did. He stated there had been attempt to not put the ethics provisions in the Charter and keep it as an ordinance. He is glad the people who tried to do that are now supporting the Commission.

Deputy Mayor Barry stated also applauds the Commission; it was made up of people with a lot of experience who put in a lot of work. Supports the motion.

Councilor Manousos asked for clarification on what the Council is voting on regarding the Park and Rec advisory Board language. He thought Mr. Kirsche stated that the proposed changes do not change their advisory capacity. Councilor Martino stated that the only change is in the first sentence of Section 510 where the words "an advisory" have been stricken. The Council motion is saying to leave the language "an advisory" as is. Councilor Manousos asked the Charter Revision Committee members present if it mattered to them if the Council approves this or if it materially changes what the Commissions feelings were on it. Mr. Kirsche stated that if the Council doesn't do anything, Section 604 will continue to say "with the approval of the Park and Recreation, shall make rules for the use of parks,..." and this will be in conflict with section 510. He doesn't think Council should do this, but to be consistent, the Council should take the power away in Section 604 because it trumps what it says in Section 510. The way it was adopted by the Commission, the Parks and Rec Board would become a policy-making body rather than an advisory group and this is the issue before the Council tonight. Mr. Kirsche stated that the word 'advisory' in Section 510 suggests that the Board has no policy making power, but Section 604 says with the approval of the Parks and Rec Board. This motion does not solve the problem.

Deputy Mayor Barry said his personal belief is that the Parks and Recreation Board should be an advisory body not a policy-making body. Policy making side should be left to elected officials.

Councilor Hurley said that Section 604 states the Park and Rec Board is a policy-making body.

Councilor Kotkin stated he has been liaison of the Park and Rec Board and their input on things such as fees and programs in valuable. But ultimately it is the Council's decision, through the Town Manager, to set what the programs, judge fees, etc. He does not support the change, but even if it were accepted, Section 510 still says "shall confer with and advise the Director of Parks and Recreation". He can see that Sections 510 and 604 are ultimately in conflict but doesn't think at this point the Council is able to make any changes that weren't recommended by the Charter Revision Commission. He recommends adopting the motion that Councilor Martino made to leave in the words 'an advisory' at the top of Section 510.

Mayor Montinieri stated that the intent of the Commission was feel should be a policy board

Approved

which was brought to the Parks and Recreation Board and Kathy Bagley, Parks and Rec Director and was not supported by either; they prefer an advisory approach which has worked for many years. There is potential ambiguity in the wording of Section 604, but it says “with the approval of the Park and Rec Board”. The current Board and Director said ultimate decisions are made by the Director of Parks and Recreation in concert with the Town Manager. Feedback from current Board and Kathy Bagley said works well the way it is and provides a lot of direction as it is; becoming a policy-making body opens up potential structure that is not supported.

Councilor Hemmann stated that the Charter was there before her and will be here after her and is meant to be personnel-blind. There is still a potential conflict. The Commission approved a change to the language to clear up a conflict that exists between the two sections and the motion that is on the table leaves it conflicting. She does not see why we would do that.

Mayor Montinieri stated that what the motion is saying is that we do not think the solution to the confusion is to make it a policy board.

Town Manager Bridges stated that reading further into Section 604 it says “in accordance with ordinances adopted by the Council” this is where the policy comes in; final say is with the Council.

Councilor Hurley stated that Kathy Bagley does get votes from the Parks and Rec Board that then come to the Council.

All Councilors present voted, the motion passed 6-3-0 with Councilors Manousos, Hemmann and Rell voting NO

Councilor Martino moved to **“PLACE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WETHERSFIELD CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION, AS AMENDED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL, AND MOVE IT TO RESOLUTION IN THE NOVEMBER 3, 2015 BALLOT. THE QUESTION SHALL READ: “SHALL THE AMENDMENTS OF THE WETHERSFIELD TOWN CHARTER RECOMMENDED BY THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION AND FURTHER AMENDED AND APPROVED BY THE WETHERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL BE ADOPTED”. COUNCIL ALSO RECOMMENDS THAT THE TOWN STAFF PREPARE EXPLORATORY TEXT TO GO WITH THE RESOLUTION”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

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

Councilor Martino moved to **“AUTHORIZE THE TEMPORARY USE OF THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS MURPHY POND OFF CARRIAGE HILL ROAD FOR USE AS A TEMPORARY BYPASS SEWER LINE”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Approved

Town Engineer, Mike Turner stated that the town has been approached by a company called Allstate PowerVac who is a contractor for the MDC as part of their Clean Water Project. They would like to use land at Murphy Pond to run an overland bypass. The sewer flow would be intercepted at Coppermill Road and piped around Murphy Pond dam and discharged below Murphy Pond dam while MDC works on lining sewer pipes in the area. He stated that Mr. Doherty from Allstate is here to answer any questions. The Wetlands Commission was consulted because the Murphy Pond area is in the 100 year flood plain and Allstate was granted approval. There is no excavation or filling, the pipe is welded together and pulled over the ground and would be there for a maximum of two months.

Mayor Montinieri asked if this would affect residential access in any way. Tony Doherty from Allstate PowerVac handed out a map to Council members and said they are trying to limit the impact to residents. The bypass pipe will be a 12" HTP pipe which you can step over and will run at the rear of properties, along Murphy Pond and behind 375 Griswold. The two month time frame is from start to finish.

Town Manager Bridges stated that this is something that has to be done as part of maintaining a sewer system. He asked if they want to get it done before it gets too cold. Mr. Doherty answered that he would prefer the ground be frozen but are limited as to when they can get water by the MDC.

Mayor Montinieri asked what the inconveniences to residents would be. Mr. Doherty said 45 foot lengths of pipe will be unloaded from a truck and staged. A machine will hook the pipe together and pull it into the woods. Impact to residents will be limited. It will cross under the road at Coppermill.

Councilor Rell asked if any trees would be cut down. Mr. Doherty answered there would be no cutting of anything; the pipe is flexible and will be dragged into position by a cable.

Councilor Rell Fairlane is going to be paved soon and asked if there will be any digging on Fairlane. Mr. Doherty answered no; this is a no dig process unless something goes drastically wrong.

Town Manager Bridges asked if there was notification of the neighbors by the Wetlands Commission. Mike Turner said no, that Mr. Doherty is going door-to-door to private property owners to sign off.

Mayor Montinieri asked that since they will be going door-to-door will they have proper identification. Mr. Doherty answered yes and that all residents in this area have received an MDC mailing explaining what is going on.

Approved

Councilor Roberts asked if the two month time frame was approximate. The previous project in this area was only supposed to last a couple of months and it went well beyond that. Also asked how loud it is when the pipes are put together. Mr. Doherty said they use a small generator that is about as loud as a lawn mower and once the pipe is put in place there will be no more noise. The two month time frame is an estimate.

Councilor Kotkin asked if the area the bypass is going through is mostly town-owned. Mr. Doherty yes, there are about 12-15 private homeowners affected. Councilor Kotkin asked if there will be any need to restore disturbed vegetation. Mr. Doherty said not in the area around the pond. Restoration may be needed in the vacant lot where the fusing will be taking place and would be done by Stonehedge.

Councilor Kotkin asked what the alternative is if we don't use this method. Mike Turner said that we would still have to bypass the sewer while the lining is going on, so the pipes would have to be laid in the street with temporary trenches.

Councilor Martino asked if the pipe is going right at the edge of Murphy Pond. Mr. Doherty stated he wants to stay as close to the pond as he can.

Councilor Kotkin asked if Mike Turner's staff would be monitoring this process. Mike Turner answered yes, they are also in constant contact with MDC. MDC will be inspecting this as well.

Councilor Rell asked what the hours of operation would be. Mr. Doherty stated operational hours are 7am to 7pm for lining and he would like to have the same hours for this project.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Martino moved **“TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CREDIT INFORMATION BUREAU FOR DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION SERVICES”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Town Manager Bridges stated that this is a request engage a collection agency to collect delinquent personal property and motor vehicle taxes.

Tax Collector Marlene Desjardins stated this would be to go after older accounts of businesses or residents who are no longer in town. Most of the businesses have gone under but some have parent companies that are still around. Right now we do not have access to find out that information. Collection agencies have a skip tracing program to find people who leave the state. Would not be sending the collection agency anything current, the year 2000 would be the oldest

Approved

ones. Current taxes owed would still be handled in house with every effort made to work with residents.

Councilor Kotkin stated this was reviewed at the June meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee where it was unanimously approved.

Ms. Desjardins stated this has been done in other towns for a long time but she was hesitant to do it here. She wanted to see what the backlog was and try to work with the residents. The tax office has been notifying people that the town is considering using a collection agency and a lot of people have been responding to these notices. Rocky Hill referred this company and are very happy with them; turnaround time is quick and customer service is very good.

Councilor Kotkin asked how much in personal property taxes we annually write off as uncollectable. Ms. Desjardins stated that in total for the 10 years that we are looking at, for motor vehicle it is over \$1,000,000, for supplemental it is over \$100,000 and for personal property it is over \$800,000.

Councilor Hurley asked what other towns receive as a percentage of their collections from these agencies. Ms. Desjardins answered that it depends on the agency, she has heard as low as 35% and up to 75%.

Councilor Manousos stated that it looks like the fee is 15% unless it is forwarded to an attorney. Ms. Desjardins answered yes, this is state approved for collection agencies. We would have the same fee structure that Rocky Hill has.

All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Martino moved to **“AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A STATE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES GRANT OF \$7,800 FOR ASSISTANCE TO OUR JUVENILE REVIEW BOARD”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation stated that this grant would be to assist with our Juvenile Review Board to be used for the children and teens who go through the Juvenile Review Board system. The grant will help with tutoring and case management.

Councilor Kotkin asked if we have applied for this in the past. Ms. Bagley answered that it is a new grant and hadn't been available previously.

Councilor Hemmann asked if this grant was found or if the town has approached by someone. Ms. Bagley stated it was found through the State Youth Services Association and is a pilot

Approved

program for a certain area of the state.

All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

BIDS

Councilor Martino moved to **“AUTHORIZED THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO NEW LEASE PURCHASE SCHEDULES UNDER THE EXISTING MASTER LEASE AGREEMENT WITH FIRST NIAGARA BANK FOR THE FINANCING OF THE PURCHASE OF ROLLING STOCK AND EQUIPMENT INCLUDED IN THE FY16 CNEF BUDGET”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Finance Director, Mike O’Neil stated this item is for an invitation to bid issued on June 24th for rates to finance about \$500,000 of equipment. 8 responses were received, the 3 lowest were within \$20 of each other. The interest costs of the 3 lowest bidders were in the range of \$24,800. Town is currently doing business with First Niagara Bank and has an existing master lease agreement with them. They have been very accommodating and good to work with.

Councilor Montinieri commented that someone had mention Freightliner as top of the line equipment. He stated that Freightliner is considered middle market for municipal use, two other truck lines are above that and much more expensive.

All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Martino moved to **“APPROVE THE PURCHASE AND DISPOSAL OF FLEET VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Town Manager Bridges stated these are the equipment purchases that were anticipated in the budget. Some will be paid in cash, some will be financed. Disposal of old equipment will be via auction or trade-in, depending on the vehicle.

Councilor Rell said the Freightliner truck is replacing a 2004 dump truck and asked if Physical Services expects to get more than 11 years out of a dump truck.

Sally Katz, Director of Physical Services stated that they hope too, but they have had difficulties with breakdowns and getting parts for the Sterling trucks over the years; they have had better luck with Freightliner. The average life for a dump truck can be up to 15 years. These trucks are used 52 weeks a year so are under a heavy burden.

All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Approved

Councilor Martino moved to **“ACCEPT THE CRCOG BID FROM MULCHSEAL, LLC FOR COLD STREET MULCHSEAL”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Town Engineer, Mike Turner stated this is for the cold seal process on collector and arterial streets. This is the only bidder on the cold process. \$50,000 is budgeted this year for this type of crack sealing. Town has worked with this company successfully for the last 10 years.

Mayor Montinieri asked for a distinction between cold and hot crack sealing. Mr. Turner said the cold sealing is cold applied and then a mulch material is placed on top which has been more effective on high traffic roads. The hot seal is more for cul-de-sacs and local roads with little to no traffic because it tends to pull out.

Mayor Montinieri asked what this process adds to a road that has been fairly newly done. Mr. Turner stated that VHB, the pavement management consultant has advised him that crack sealing is the most effective way to extend the life of roads. Pavement is a natural material that will crack and contract and expand with temperature. Added life is typically 5-7 years.

All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Martino moved to **“ACCEPT THE CRCOG BID FROM SEALMASTER FOR HOT CRACK SEAL”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Town Engineer, Mike Turner said there were a couple of other vendors for this process, one of them had been disqualified by the Town 10 years ago for forging a bid bond. The other bidder is a firm which has not cooperated with scheduling in the past. This is the most responsible bidder and the prices are within pennies.

All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Martino moved to **“ACCEPT THE BID FROM AQUATURF, LLC FOR \$60,956.00 FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO MONTANARO FIELD IN MILLWOODS PARK”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Mr. Turner stated that the Engineering Department prepared a set of plans for bid for improvements to dry out the Montanaro soccer field. The plans are for curtain drains around the field and also down the middle. \$100,000 has been earmarked for this project. The area has been surveyed and the wet areas identified. 14 bids were received; the low bid vendor is AquaTurf from Orange, CT who we have never worked with before. References were good except for 1 negative comment from New London that the firm was too busy and were coming in on Saturday's and Sunday's to do work. The vendor would like to begin work at the end of August after the park closes.

Approved

Councilor Manousos asked how the surface would be redone. Mr. Turner stated there would be no change in surface. When completed the re-use of the fields would be almost immediate.

Councilor Hurley asked how long it will take to do the project. Mr. Turner said they gave them 30 days but the vendor has said it should be an 8-10 day project.

Councilor Rell stated it's a \$61,000 project using a \$100,000 STEAP grant and asked what would happen to the remaining \$39,000. Town Manager Bridges stated we would ask the State to re-purpose that money for another element of the STEAP project, for example the intersection project.

All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Martino moved to **“VOID THE INCREASES IN THE PURCHASE ORDERS MADE AT THE JUNE 15, 2015 MEETING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO FRANCIS STREET AND CONTRACT WITH GENERAL PAVING FOR THE ENTIRE SCOPE OF WORK FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$94,000”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Mr. Turner stated that at a previous Council meeting it was agreed to set aside approximately \$100,000 to re-pave Francis Street using purchase orders for milling and paving. It was determined that the milling companies could not start work until August 11th which left a short window of time to do work before school starts. General Paving had an opening and priced out the job at a savings to the Town. They can start by the end of the week.

Councilor Hemmann asked if this work would interfere with the camp that meets at Hanmer. Mr. Turner said no, they have already coordinating with the camps.

Councilor Rell said he appreciates the Council doing this; Hanmer is in need of repair before the Fall when school starts.

All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Martino moved to **“APPROVE THE USE OF THE CRCOG TRADE VENDOR SERVICE THROUGH TREMCO FOR THE REPAIR OF THE HIGHCREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ROOF FOR \$32,375”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Mr. Turner stated this is for the wood shingles on the roof peaks of Highcrest school. This is the remaining portion of the repair work that was done 10 years ago and was budgeted in the capital improvement budget. Tremco will manage the construction on a daily basis.

Approved

Mayor Montinieri asked what this will look like. Mr. Turner stated it will look like asphalt shingles, not wood.

All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Martinio moved to **“EXTEND THE CONTRACT WITH WESTPRO AT CURRENT PRICES FOR 2015-2016 FISCAL YEAR”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Mr. Turner stated last year’s operating budget for the Engineering Department included \$30,000 for sidewalk repair. The last bid happened in 2013 and Westpro has been the lowest bidder for the last 10 years and they have agreed to hold their prices. Ready mix concrete prices trends have been going up over the last 10 years. There used to be 22 suppliers which is now down to 4.

Mayor Montinieri asked how far \$30,000 will go for sidewalks. Mr. Turner stated a typical sidewalk slab costs the town \$200 to replace; \$250 in front of a driveway. In Wethersfield, property owners are responsible for sidewalks that abut their property. Where the town is a property owner we are the responsible party.

Mayor Montinieri asked Mr. Turner to explain the concrete cutting technology for toetrips (where one slab is raised up). Mr. Turner said he met a vendor at a trade show with new technology that can saw off displaced pieces of concrete so the whole slab does not need to be replaced. This would cost \$70-\$90 as opposed to \$200 to replace.

Councilor Rell stated he has seen some red numbers on the toetrips in Old Wethersfield and asked if this was the Town marking them. Mr. Turner answered yes, his department did an inventory to see how much work needs to be done.

Councilor Rell asked if the Broad Street Green would be the starting point. Mr. Turner stated they would like to start there to see how this technology works.

Councilor Rell asked that, with the cuts, would there would be any structural weakening of the slabs. Mr. Turner stated that the slabs are 5” thick, cutting off an inch would still leave the slab plenty strong for pedestrian use.

All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Martino moved to **“INCREASE THE PURCHASE ORDERS FOR GARRITY ASPHALT RECLAIMING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60,000 AND TILCON CT FOR \$320,000 FOR ADDITIONAL PAVING”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Approved

Mr. Turner stated this if for the fall paving program starting at the end of August/beginning of September. Streets would include Folly Brook Blvd (from Nott Street north to the Hartford line), William Street and Fox Hill Road (easterly section up to Maple Street). These have been previously approved by the Paving Committee.

Mayor Montinieri asked if there have been any changes to the program since the winter, as there were several roads mentioned during public discussions. Mr. Turner stated he is coordinating with the Town Manager's office to set up the program. He has a list of roads that have received complaints and will compare that with what Highway Department knows about/received complaints about.

Councilor Kotkin asked if the \$1.5 million for paving (including state money) was used in the past fiscal year. Mr. Turner stated that with these roads, we are still just under the \$1.5 million to close out the fiscal year. \$100,000 is set aside for Physical Services for general repairs, \$100,000 for hot and cold crack sealing and the rest for milling and overlay.

Councilor Kotkin asked if what is being approved today is coming out of the new fiscal year that just started this month. Town Manager Bridges said he thinks it is next fiscal year. Mr. Turner said it is a rolling fund; there was a balance that was carried forward and then new funds from the July 1st. More work is done in the spring than in the fall.

Councilor Kotkin stated it would be helpful to see how much is spent seasonally and how it corresponds to the \$1.5 million that is appropriated.

Councilor Martino asked if the amounts that in this request are decreased by the amounts from the Francis Street project that Garrity and Tilcon are not doing. Mr. Turner said he will do it whatever way the Finance office would like.

All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Martino moved to **“APPROVE PCO #390 WITH L&P GATE FOR STRUCTURAL STEEL FOR THE WETHERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$34,619.00”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Mr. Turner stated this is a proposed change order for the steel company that is under contract with the town. There is need for demolition of the south wall of the cafeteria and corridor separating the auditorium to add more cafeteria space. When prepping for wall demolition, realized there was no steel beam in the wall holding up the window. The contractor would build a steel beam in place using 2 c-channels of steel and bolting through the wall, then demolish the wall underneath. It is necessary in order to continue on with the demolition. This will increase the capacity of the cafeteria to 450 people.

Approved

Deputy Mayor Barry stated it is important to have this done for the cafeteria to be open in the fall.

Councilor Hurley stated that he saw that \$54,000 was spent on cleanup of PCB's and asbestos and asked why this wasn't brought to the Council. Mr. Turner stated that if it was approved in a lump sum it would have come to Council. Councilor Hurley stated it looked like it was approved in small pieces. Mr. Turner said they needed to PCB wall related to the cafeteria wall demolition and may have broken off smaller pieces so this project could move forward.

Deputy Mayor Barry stated there was nothing done totaling \$54,000, there were 3 or 4 spot cleanups.

Town Manger Bridges said there is about \$300,000 put aside in the budget for asbestos and PCB's and if it is found they cleanup. Councilor Rell stated that it would be in the best interest of the Building Committee not to break up jobs to avoid the \$20,000 threshold. Town Manager Bridges stated that there will be handfuls of PCB projects that would total \$400,000. Mr. Turner stated that as the schedule of work progresses they cleanup asbestos and PCBs as they hit them.

Councilor Rell stated that he would like to have the Building Committee come before the council through Deputy Mayor Barry as the liaison to give an update of summer projects. Deputy Mayor Barry stated that at the next meeting or two they will have a better sense of how far along they are. Mr. Turner said they are also looking to put together a small tour also.

Mayor Montinieri asked Town Manager Bridges to respond on the asbestos question in the Manager's Report.

All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Martino moved to **“EXTEND THE CONTRACT WITH CAPITOL CLEANERS FOR 2015-2016 FOR A TOTAL CONTRACT PRICE OF \$85,529.16”**, seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Town Manager Bridges stated that we contract with Capitol Cleaners to maintain the Town Hall, Library, Physical Services and the Police Station. They do a great job and have held their pricing for 3 years, but have increased their price this year by 3% due to labor costs. They know the building and understand our needs. This will have to go out to bid next year.

Councilor Hemmann asked if this was anticipated in the budget. Town Manager Bridges stated a 3% increase was not anticipated.

Approved

Councilor Manousos stated he would be more inclined to approve this if they held their price just as Westpro did. Town Manager Bridges stated that this is a different market. Councilor Manousos stated he doesn't see the benefit of approving this as opposed to going out to bid. Town Manger Bridges said the benefit is to us because we don't have to train a new person and Capitol got the contract 4 years ago by being aggressive with pricing and beat out the company we were using by a lot. Capitol originally asked for 5%.

All Councilors present voted. The motion passed 8-1-0, with Councilor Manousos voting NO.

Councilor Martino moved to **“ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL FROM LUCH’S ASSOCIATES FOR DAM INPECTION SERVICES”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Mr. Turner stated that last year CT DEEP deferred the inspection of all privately owned and municipally owned dams onto the owners. We do not have any dams considered high risk; the closest thing we have is Bell Pond dam. The town owns 9 dams we are required to survey their condition, develop maintenance plans. Bids were solicited during the capital improvement process and Luch's Associates is the low bidder.

Mayor Montinieri stated he thought this was somewhat controversial in that the State got behind on inspections so they transferred the responsibility to Towns and shortened the timeframe they had to complete the inspections. Mr. Turner answered they do not have all be inspected at once, he believes it is within 3 years. These funds are for an inspection and condition report of each dam. They will have to be re-inspected after the 3 year period.

Mayor Montinieri asked what the follow-up would be if one of the dams was found to be deficient. Mr. Turner answered any improvement would be budgeted into the capital budget.

Councilor Hurley asked why this did not go out to bid on this. Mr. Turner answered we used our on-call engineers, which did go out to bid; prices from 3 firms were solicited, 1 does not do this type of work, 1 did not respond to the RFP, this one did. Councilor Hurley asked why don't we get a comparison price from another firm that does this type of work. Mr. Turner stated that the solicitation process for the on-calls was to shortcut the selection process.

Mayor Montinieri stated that the on-call is for time-sensitive projects as opposed to built in to normal CIP

Mr. Turner stated we have 3 on-call architects, 3 on-call engineers and 3 on-call environmental companies. Within each category is a large, medium and small firm. Typically engineering costs are not bid; they are considered a professional service. The price of \$5,000 per dam did not seem out of line.

Approved

Councilor Rell asked if Mr. Turner had monitored the work that was done in the past by DEEP. Mr. Turner stated that DEEP did not do \$5,000 worth of work on these dams in the past, but they are now requiring a list of things reported to them. Mr. Turner stated he used to work for consulting engineering firms and did these types of inspections 20 years ago.

Councilor Rell said he feels this is an unfunded mandate from the State for a failure on their part to do a job they did in the past. Mr. Turner agreed but stated there is some value to do these reports and analyses.

Councilor Rell asked when the last inspection was done. Mr. Turner said it was around the year 2000.

Councilor Kotkin asked how often these would need to be done. Mr. Turner stated that after the first one which will include a lot of structural analysis, it's probably a cursory inspection as follow-up. The mandate is for inspection every 3 years, the cost in subsequent years should be about half the amount of this bid.

Councilor Kotkin asked when this new rule went into effect and how long do we have to complete. Mr. Turner said it was this year and we have 3 years to complete.

Councilor Hemmann asked what is expected from the State regarding private dams. Mr. Turner stated private owners are required to hire an engineering firm also. Councilor Hemmann asked about the \$180,000 in drainage money they have been waiting 8 years for the Bond Commission to act on it and release it. Mr. Turner stated that the last he heard a few months there was a resolution from DEEP to the Bond Commission to release these funds but it hasn't made it to the agenda yet.

Councilor Kotkin asked if the bid is good for a certain length of time. Mr. Turner said this quote is from January/February. Councilor Kotkin asked if we wanted to get another opinion how would we go about it. Mr. Turner we could either handpick firms or prepare a bid through the Finance office, it would just take time. Councilor Kotkin stated that from the State standpoint, we do have the time, 3 years, to do this.

Councilor Hurley stated that maybe we should go out to bid since this is going to be an ongoing service needed throughout the life of the dams. Councilors Manousos and Kotkin agreed.

Councilor Martino WITHDREW the motion. All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion to withdraw passed 9-0-0.

Approved

Councilor Martino moved to **“ACCEPT THE CRCOG BID FROM HI-WAY SAFETY SYSTEMS FOR LINE STRIPING SERVICES FOR \$40,000”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Mr. Turner stated we stripe the roads, crosswalks, centerlines paint the parking lots. We work with CRCOG for a regional bid. This is a new bid. They are our vendor this year and are the low bidder. The budget did increase slightly over last year, from \$38,000 to \$40,000.

All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

NONE

MINUTES

Councilor Kotkin moved **“TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 15, 2015 REGULAR MEETING”**, seconded by Councilor Roberts.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted. The motion passed 6-0-3.

Councilor Kotkin moved **“TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF JUNE 24, 2015”**, seconded by Councilor Martino.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted. The motion passed 6-0-3.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Avenue has been asking questions and never receives an answer. For instance, Charter Rd. has 3 stop signs Rocky Hill doesn't, asked why. Why is the speed limit on Collier Road 35 mph when it has no sidewalks. With all of the time he spends at the meetings he would like the decency of an answer to his questions. People do not come to the meetings because they do not think they will be listened to.

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle said there is validity to Gus's complaints. He asked how someone could be appointed to the Ethics Board with only a post office box, no street address. Town Clerk Sassano stated that he qualifies to use that as his address; he lives and works in town and his children go to school in town. His street address is not published. Mr. Ruhe stated that when people are appointed and not elected the citizens have a right to know where they live. Mr. Gillespie mentioned there are 24 new businesses in town and asked if the tarot card reading business on the Silas Deane Highway is one of them. He asked if the debt collection agency is

Approved

one that would buy debt and harass citizens to try to get them to pay. Town Manager Bridges answered that most of the time it is not citizens but people who have left town without paying their personal property taxes.

David Caruk, 149 Broad Street said that Wethersfield had the greatest number of participants at the Vermont soccer tournament. Said he was shocked to hear there is about \$2 million in unpaid taxes over the past 10 years that the Town of Wethersfield has forgiven. Town Manager Bridges stated that we are taking action to collect it through the debt collection agency.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:10 p.m., Councilor Kotkin moved "**TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**" seconded by Councilor Martino.

All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

At 10:38 p.m. Councilor Martino moved "**TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**", seconded by Councilor Manousos.

All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

At 10:38 p.m., Councilor Kotkin moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Roberts. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk

Approved by Vote of Council
August 17, 2015

Minutes were amended as follows:

Correct all instances of the spelling of the last name 'Kirsch' to 'Kirsche'

Page 3

Add '*with the exception of the police department*' to the public comment of John Console regarding the reduction of each department's spending by 5%-10%.