

REGULAR MEETING
September 8, 2015

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield.

Present: Councilors Kotkin, Martino, Rell, Roberts, Deputy Mayor Barry, and Chairperson Montinieri. Councilor Hurley arrived at 7:05 pm.

Absent: Councilors Hemmann and Manousos

Also Present: Mike O'Neil, Finance Director; Sally Katz, Director, Physical Services; Mike Turner, Town Engineer, Stephanie Askeland, Human Resources Manager; Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, and Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk

Councilor Roberts led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Mayor Montinieri read a proclamation declaring September 15th through October 15th as National Hispanic Heritage Month on behalf of the Town Council. The proclamation was presented to Jessica Rivera, a member of Madres Latinas de Wethersfield. Ms. Rivera stated that the 15th is significant because it is the date of independence for many Latin American countries. Madres Latinas de Wethersfield has existed for 5 months, and its members represent at least 5 Latin countries. She thanked the Wethersfield Early Childhood Collaborative for their support, the library for expanding their selection of Spanish and bi-lingual books, Carlos Morero and the Latin Enrichment Organization, Janet Vasel, Maria Alphonso and all the members of the Wethersfield Town Council.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HEARINGS

None

GENERAL COMMENTS

PUBLIC

Patti Silva, 24 Hillcrest Avenue, has 3 children in the Wethersfield school system with one child who has received special education services since the age of 4. She is not in favor of the possible Wethersfield Transition Academy move to 898 Silas Deane Highway (lower rear of Pelton's Building). She cited problems with the area including heavy traffic due to the parking lot being used as a cut through and shipping/receiving area for businesses and no sidewalks for those waiting for public transportation. There is only 1 handicap accessible exit; the other exit is up a flight of 16 stairs and not an option for those with mobility issues. There are no windows to use as an exit in an emergency. There was no parent input sought during the administration's 3 year search for a new location. She requested that the Town Council make a motion to rescind the lease agreement for the 898 Silas Deane location. Not doing so will force families to look elsewhere for more appropriate programs for their children and increase outplacement costs

dramatically.

Bill Ford, 512 Nott Street, spoke regarding the road repair work done on Nott and Highland Streets. He did receive a letter that road work would be performed, but the letter did not address the fact that the traffic would create clouds of dust forcing homeowners to keep windows and doors closed during this time (inside of house along with his car was covered in soot). Stated his neighbor's window air conditioners were constantly getting clogged.

Dan Silver, 23 Orchard Brook Drive, currently serves on the Economic Development and Improvement Commission and on the Finance Committee involved in approval of applications for façade improvement. He was disturbed by the comments of some Town Council members at the last Town Council meeting regarding tax abatement for the development on Ridge Road. He stated that economic development should not be an issue for public debate; it is the key to relieving the tax burden on homeowners and placing it on commercial property owners. He stated tax abatement is a normal tool used by all developers and it does not signify approval of a project. Tax abatement only sends a signal to the developer that the Town is in the game. The developer then submits their proposal to the administrative bodies who have the responsibility to see if the project is a good fit for the town. He is not advocating approval of the project, but we are in competition with neighboring towns and need to move at the speed of business or developers will go elsewhere. He questioned why there was political discussion on granting tax abatement which is a normal course of business. The only reason he can see is that some members of the council are putting politics above economic development and he objects to this. Advised members of Council to come together to support economic development. This application will be referred to at least 3 separate agencies and public hearings will be held at each of those where the public will have full right to object.

Kathy Kanya, 27 Meadow View Drive, serves on the Wethersfield Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities and has twin sons in high school. Her son Brian is a non-verbal learner and communicator attends Wethersfield High School. He is an active member of the community who participates in the therapeutic recreation program, Challenger little league, horseback riding and roller blading. Her son has been in an inclusive education model beginning in pre-school. The family moved to Wethersfield when her sons were 3 years old because Wethersfield was a community that supported her child as he grew. She stated her concerns about 898 Silas Deane Highway as the future site for the Transition Academy –the proposed site is in a basement with one door and no windows, there are no typical peers which would create an inclusive environment which is what the students have been in through graduation at Wethersfield High School; no sidewalk to get from the Silas Deane Highway to the one back door. The interior doesn't require a lot of work from the Board of Education, but the location itself cuts those students off from their community. She asked the Town Council to rescind the lease agreement for 898 Silas Deane Highway site and hopes for a collaborative effort in finding an alternative site for the Wethersfield Transition Academy.

Lee Sekas, 117 Wells Road, serves on the Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities. The committee is lacking membership as are many other citizen-involved committees. He was told at one meeting that, without a quorum, there would be no meeting. There used to be a liaison from the Board of Education on the committee. He didn't know about the Transition Academy move

until the last Town Council meeting. Need more residents, parents and teachers to participate and not be afraid to get involved or attend a meeting.

Ethan Guida, 490 Nott Street, said the repaving of Nott and Highland Streets are an embarrassment and shameful to look at. This was a cheap fix and the roads look worse now than they did before.

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Avenue, stated that, to him, economic development means that the Town eventually gets money out of development. A few years ago the Town bought construction rights on Goff Road to prevent the construction of single family houses there. Now the Town is endorsing, through tax abatement, the construction of 70 apartment units which will bring in more kids at \$14,000 per year educational cost per child, as well as increasing policing and maintenance costs as well.

Charlie Epp, 11 Windmill Hill, spoke about the Wethersfield Transition Academy. He has a 19 year old daughter who is currently attending her first year at the Transition Academy at the Pitkin Community Center. He has no concerns about her safety when she gets on the van to the Academy knowing it is at the Community Center. He was surprised to hear the Transition Academy is being moved and is shocked that the location it is being moved to is in the basement of a building, facing train tracks and next to loading docks. One of the goals of the program was to have access to the bus line, but there are no sidewalks from the entrance of this building up to the street. If the one entrance is blocked in an emergency, there is no good way for the kids with special needs to escape. He asked the Council to rescind the lease of 898 Silas Deane so a better location for this program can be found.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, stated that, two meetings ago there was discussion about the contractor who wanted to use Savage Park for equipment storage, asked the Town Manager where has a place been found for that contractor. The meeting minutes from that meeting have yet to be posted on the website, only the motions. He drove to 898 Silas Deane Highway and agrees with what everyone is saying tonight. The Superintendent presented this site as one that is on the bus line, but it is not a usable bus line to get into the building if students are in a wheelchair or have trouble walking. Regarding the tax abatement for Ridge Road development, he thinks the public from the Ridge Road area should have been notified. The people involved in the Transition Academy move and the people living near Savage Park should have been notified as well. Agrees with Mr. Colantonio regarding the 70 apartment units and the real cost of them. At the last meeting, Councilor Martino said that the project would be vetted at the Planning and Zoning meeting, but the Planning and Zoning Commission is a charade that serve at the blessing of the Town Council. Read in the paper that SAT and new testing scores are down in Wethersfield. He stated that none of the Council should be re-elected.

Diane Silva, 148 Bunce Road, stated that she has a daughter with special needs who is non-verbal and in a wheelchair. Is upset that the building chosen only has one door to get in and 16 steps on the other side where someone in a wheelchair would be trapped in a fire or emergency. Asked the Council if they would put their children in that situation and asked them to consider rescinding the lease and find a safe place.

Carter Flynn, 19 Nathaniel Drive, is concerned about the safety of the 898 Silas Deane location, he has a son in high school who is in a wheelchair. Parents should have been notified but were not. Need other options to look at before this 10-year lease gets signed.

Margaret Plant, 452 Nott Street, said her son has a rare, neurogenetic illness who has been included in the town of Wethersfield since birth. Received birth to 3 services and then her son attended Soundbridge. The Wethersfield school system has done a great job educating her son to his potential. The Transition Academy does need to move current location as it is not appropriate but this new space is not safe. Even though parents have had multiple meetings with the Board of Education over other concerns, no one was ever notified about this location. A basement with no windows and no access is not safe. Bringing in kids from other towns to help cover tuition costs is a great idea, but no one from other towns will want to pay to send their children to this site as it is neither safe nor inviting. She is heartbroken that this location was thought to be an appropriate location for her son to transition into adulthood.

Amy Wittorff, 17 Center Street, is the Executive Director of the Wethersfield Historical Society which is an organization that was founded, is funded and is governed by community members. Their mission is to preserve and promote Wethersfield's history and culture to inspire people today and tomorrow. They are working on a special project through grants from Connecticut Humanities and the Robert Alan Keeney Memorial Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to plan a new, permanent exhibit that encompasses Wethersfield's whole history and all of its residents. They will hold a focus group meeting on Thursday from 6-8pm. Every address in town received a postcard invitation to come and give their opinion on what is important to include in this exhibit. She asked that everyone come out because they want to hear from you. The State Historian Walter Woodward will also speak about Wethersfield's place in the state's history at the meeting. Invited everyone to visit the exhibit on the Connecticut State prison that was located in Wethersfield from 1867-1963. This exhibit has won state and national awards. There is also an exhibit showing an evening out in Wethersfield which showcases 20th century fashion. The Hurlburt-Dunham House and Cove Warehouse are open on weekends from 1-4pm, free of charge. Craft fair is October 3rd at Cove Park. Tickets for the Oct. 16th and 17th Lantern Tours are on sale now on the website. Antique show is in November and Holidays on Main in December. Thanked Mayor Montinieri, liaison Gerri Roberts and members of Council for their support of the Historical Society's efforts to engage the community and highlight that Wethersfield is a great place to live.

Barbara Daly, 796 Ridge Road, spoke on behalf of her granddaughter who is a sophomore at WHS with autism and intellectual disabilities. Her granddaughter has been included in the community since the birth to 3 program and needs to be included with her peers. She spoke in support of rescinding the lease approval for the Transition Academy at 898 Silas Deane and was shocked to hear this has been in process for 3 years. Parents were not included and it is not fair for other people to make a judgement as to where our kids should go.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Hurley reported from the Recreation Board, the new docks and moorings are in at the cove and they look good. Work is starting on Montineiro soccer field at Mill Woods.

Councilor Roberts reported that she attended the opening of the Historical Society's exhibit on Wethersfield formalwear and it was very interesting. Councilor Martino's former Air Force uniform is there along with a picture of him wearing it.

Councilor Martino reported that he attended the last Business After Hours at Chip's which was well-attended by businesses in town. He heard from many business owners that business is improving and sales are up.

Councilor Martino reported that he attended the FOI workshop that was held for town employees last week. It was very informative and refreshed some memories on things he had forgotten.

Councilor Martino commended the Board of Education on the high school tour on August 31st; impressive progress has been made over the summer.

Deputy Martino commended Councilors Hurley and Manousos and the soccer group on the great soccer jamboree they put on over the weekend.

Deputy Mayor Barry commented on the high school tour; a significant amount of work was done over the summer. A lot of work still needs to be done but it is exciting to see the changes going on. Parent-teacher open house is tomorrow. A tour for the public is being held on Saturday, September 26th from 9-11am and information should be on the Board of Education website. There will be boxed lunches for a week or two more, but when the cafeteria equipment is fully done the cafeteria will be completely on-line.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Montinieri invited Council comments on the topic of the Transitional Academy. He stated that, at the last meeting, the Council was provided an agenda item to technically authorize the signature of the lease and the work that was done by the district. Council holds the technical authority to authorize the signature of a lease, which can't be done on the Board side. Since that meeting, Council has heard from concerned parents through emails and conversation. Spoke to the Superintendent, who agreed to hold on the lease and engage in dialogue about the site. It is his understanding that it is on hold. There was some discussion at the site about possible modifications but judging from the reactions tonight that may not be acceptable. The staff is listening to the concerns of parents and he suspects there to be continued dialogue. The Transitional Academy was not in existence 5 years ago prior to Superintendent Emmett's arrival and he and his team are committed to making it something special.

Deputy Mayor Barry stated that he was not able to attend the tour but has heard the comments and concerns from parents and shared the same concerns. Under these circumstances he believes we need to reassess the decision that was made.

Deputy Mayor Barry moved to **“ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA TO RESCIND COUNCIL APPROVAL OF THE LEASE AGREEMENT FOR SPACE AT 898 SILAS DEANE HIGHWAY”**, seconded by Councilor Martino.

Councilor Martino stated that he saw the site in the morning and later in the day the Fire Marshal and Chief Building Official were to go there and review and he would like to see those comments before voting on it.

Councilor Hurley said adding this agenda item is a great idea.

All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Hurley stated that he was at the site on Sunday and it looks like a bad situation with many City Fish trucks coming in and out.

Deputy Mayor Barry moved to **“RESCIND THE APPROVAL OF THE LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD (BOE) AND ORIGEN WETHERSFIELD LLC FOR APPROXIMATELY 7,500 SQUARE FEET OF SPACE LOCATED AT 898 SILAS DEANE HIGHWAY, LOWER LEVEL”**, seconded by Councilor Martino.

Mayor Montinieri reiterated that he spoke with Superintendent Emmett and it is his understanding that the lease agreement is on hold, but Council is required to make it formal this evening. Parent concerns are to be addressed by the Board, and this is designed to ensure that the conversation continues. It is important for the Council to continue to have a collaborative relationship with the Board and not convey a message that we don't understand that a lot of work has been done.

Councilor Roberts stated she was surprised when she received a call last week from a parent because the Council was given the impression that everything was in order and this was a great space. She went on the tour today and thought the inside space was great but the outside parking lot, sloping walks and egress are problems. Emily and staff have done a great job with the development of the program but does not understand why communication with parents continues to be a problem. Working in the public sector it is a duty to get input from people. It needs to be a place where people with mobility and intellectual challenges are able to get in and out. She will vote to rescind the lease.

All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Kotkin followed up on earlier comment by Councilor Hurley that the docks do look good. He stated that it appears that at least one of the two old docks is still there; asked what the plan for that is.

Town Manager Bridges stated it will remain as a fishing dock.

Councilor Kotkin asked if the fishing dock will need to be taken in and out of the water every year.

Town Manager Bridges stated that he will have to follow up on that.

Councilor Kotkin stated that one of the benefits of the new dock was that it doesn't have to be removed and will save time.

Town Manager Bridges stated that portions of that dock (public safety dock) will have to be dismantled because of rot, and a smaller version will be put back in place.

Councilor Kotkin asked Town Manager to get back to them on it. The reason new docks were approved is because the old docks were in bad shape but also it was taking a lot of time each year to put in and take out.

Councilor Hurley stated that the plan did include leaving part of the docks for fishing.

Councilor Roberts said she thinks the road repair system is new and innovative and saves money but she thinks it's atrocious. It looked like a dust storm for about 2 weeks where she lives and there are still sections where the gravel hasn't settled. Need to look at not using that technique in the future.

Mayor Montinieri stated that after receiving some emails on the roads, he met with Mike Turner and made the recommendation to go back to Public Works and look at some alternatives.

Councilor Hurley stated he would agree with that; he drives on Nott Street every day and sometimes couldn't see in front of him. Thinks the hot, dry weather was a contributing factor.

Councilor Hurley asked if any of the neighbors had reached out about the Ridge Road apartments.

Mayor Montinieri stated yes, and there will be a meeting next Wednesday or Thursday with neighbors from Toll Gate and Ridge Road about the design; he will get an email out to Council if anyone would like to attend.

Councilor Rell stated there will be a family picnic to honor the 3 Wethersfield residents who lost their lives on 9/11. It will be on the town green on Sunday, September 13th from 5-7pm and is sponsored by the Keane Foundation.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Bridges stated that VMS has not found a site but are working with a property owner on a site, but not looking at Savage Park anymore.

TOWN CLERK COMMUNICATION

None

COUNCIL ACTION

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS FOR ACTION

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Montinieri asked Finance Director, Mike O'Neil to come up to speak about fiscal year 2015 budget transfers.

Mr. O'Neil explained there are a series of proposed transfers on unexpended funds from the fiscal year 2015 which total \$618,136. They have largely completed the accounting for the fiscal year ended June 30th. The expenditure line items by department shows a surplus total of \$608,136, which is what is being proposed to transfer. \$10,000 will be left unexpended in the event there is any audit adjustments necessary. We did not have any audit adjustments last year. The fund balance at the end of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 was \$10.2 million, or roughly 10.5% of budgeted expenditures. Revenues for fiscal year 2015 were over budget by \$988,000, primarily due to collections on delinquent taxes, but this number also includes a \$600,000 fund balance appropriation, which was budgeted. Fund balance expenditures for fiscal year 2016 go up to 11.3% (from 10.5% of expenditures the previous year).

Deputy Mayor Barry asked what effect the increase in fund balance has on bonding for the high school. Mr. O'Neil answered it would be a positive effect. When he spoke with rating agencies last year, they said they would place no limits on the amount of fund balance they would want a city/town to have, so any increase is a positive as far as going out to sell bonds.

Councilor Hurley asked if the Data Services and Police Department savings were due to people costs. Mr. O'Neil answered yes, for Data Services it was due to one vacancy and also a \$25,000 piece of equipment that was budgeted for but not purchased yet.

Councilor Hurley asked what the legal services costs were due to.

Town Manager Bridges answered that there are appeals on commercial property revaluation that have taken considerable resources to go through the appeals process.

Mr. O'Neil explained the next page of his handout showed a series of transfers that would balance the departments (some over-expended, some under-expended). The surplus from the Board of Education would be transferred to the capital non-recurring expenditure fund for Board of Education projects. The latest estimate on this surplus is about \$150,000.

Mayor Montinieri asked if that comes over into the account that we have control over. Mr. O'Neil answered yes.

Mr. O'Neil stated that the last exhibit shows the unexpended \$608,136 from the first page and

proposes a series of transfers to redeploy that money (e.g. transfer to replace a truck that had been damaged, transfer to capital improvement reserve to deal with shortfall in funding from the CREC trust, transfer to technology reserve, radio reserve and transfer for the salt shed). All remaining funds after these transfers would go to the street improvement fund, approximately \$313,000.

Councilor Kotkin asked if the shortfall in funding from the CREC trust was a function of lower interest rates. Mr. O'Neil answered yes.

Councilor Martino asked what the total in the salt shed account will be after this transfer. Mr. O'Neil stated he doesn't recall off the top of his head. Town Manager Bridges stated that it is either at \$200,000 or \$250,000 and we need about \$400,000.

Councilor Roberts asked what kind of truck is Truck 60. Sally Katz, Director of Physical Services answered that Truck 60 is used transport the wood chipper during leaf cleanup.

Deputy Mayor Barry asked when the additional road work would be done using the \$313,000. Town Manager Bridges answered in the spring.

Councilor Martino moved to **“AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 UNEXPENDED APPROPRIATIONS BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS AND FUNDS PER THE ATTACHED TRANSFER REQUEST”**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Barry.

Councilor Kotkin stated that there is \$1.5 million going into the road fund through the regular budget and this would be an additional \$313,000. Asked where we are in terms of our roads and how much work is out there.

Town Manager Bridges answered that the roads have seen increased degradation due to severe winters and there is more need than we have funding at this point.

Council Kotkin stated that he recollects that we were targeting a rating of 70. Over the last few years, the Council has put more money in but it seems like we are doing more work and putting more resources toward the roads and we are getting further behind.

Town Manager Bridges stated that the roads are just wearing out.

Town Engineer, Mike Turner stated that our over Pavement Condition Index (PCI) was about 75, on a scale of 1-100. We are slowly decreasing about a point a year. We need to spend the \$1.2 million just to stay even. The \$313,000 transfer means 1 more mile of road.

Councilor Kotkin asked if the winter conditions have accelerated the deterioration. Mr. Turner answered yes, and programs like the crack sealing are what is holding us from plummeting.

Councilor Kotkin asked where work is currently being done and where work will be done next spring. Mr. Turner answered that the Pavement Advisory Committee has not met yet to determine spring paving. Work being done this fall is, Folly Brook Blvd. from the Hartford city line down to Nott Street; William Street from Cumberland to Hillsdale; and Fox Hill from Maple

to Coppermill.

Councilor Martino stated he is glad the Town Manager put the extra funds into the roads. He is glad to see that building permits are up 33% over anticipated, more commercial buildings are opening, expanding and remodeling and residents are improving their homes which shows that people are looking to stay here which is a good sign for our economy.

Councilor Rell stated that he received an e-mail from a resident on Fox Hill Road and asked if this is going to be the second time doing repaving on this road. Mr. Turner answered that a deep surface repair was done on a section.

Town Manager Barry stated that he is very pleased that the strong management of the Town Manager and Mike O'Neil have assisted in budgeting. Surplus is good news and the rainy day fund is at its highest level in recent memory. The \$313,000 in paving is critically important to try to catch up on the damage to the roads over the last few winters. Fully supports all these transfers including the salt shed and educational capital improvement.

Mayor Montinieri stated that Marlene has played a huge role over the last two years in securing additional tax revenue collections which accounts for a large portion of the surplus. The vast majority of this surplus is being put into safe place and not being spent. Reserves are over 11%, which will have a huge impact on our bonding for the next phase of the high school in the late fall. Appreciates the leadership of Town Manager Bridges and Finance Director O'Neil on this prudent list of choices.

All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

BIDS

Councilor Martino moved to **“ACCEPT THE BID FROM DICIOCCIO BROTHERS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO MAIN AND MARSH STREET INTERSECTION AND APPROVED PROPOSED CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR THE PROJECT”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Town Manager Bridges stated that the Main and Marsh Street intersection improvements were bid out with only 1 bid received. This bid exceeded the project budget. Town Engineer Turner has worked with the contractor and engineer to bring it back within budget while maintaining the integrity of the project.

Town Engineer, Mike Turner stated that he did meet with the engineer and Dicioccio Brothers and went through the bid by line item to see where costs could be cut without changing the scope of the project. They found that the 4 proposed light poles with wiring could be deleted from the project without changing the geometry while still maintaining sufficient lighting. The cost savings of deleting the light poles is \$64,000. Anywhere where there would have been proposed lighting, conduits would be added under the sidewalks for any future work done there. On Church Street there was a proposed textured asphalt island (not a raised island) to divert traffic on Church Street so it lines up, at a cost of \$16,000. Thinks we can achieve the same thing for

\$400 worth of paint. The total of those 2 items is a \$105,000 change order. Recommending the award of the base bid of \$369,790 and awarding change order #1 at the exact same time, which will bring us \$5,000 under what we have budgeted for construction. The contractor is ready to go and can get it done this fall.

Deputy Mayor Barry stated that he recollected that the public was not in favor of the island on the western side of the intersection. Mr. Turner answered yes, some people were not in favor of it which is why they changed it from a curbed island down to a flush texture on the pavement. There is only one firm in New England, out of New Jersey, who does this type of pavement texturing.

Councilor Hurley asked about safety concerns without the island; would traffic know where to flow with just painted lines. Mr. Turner stated there are different options if it became an issue. The DOT is advocating centerline rumble strips which are not a \$16,000 if we chose to add that back in or saw that it became an issue.

Councilor Hurley asked how we would know there was an issue; we wouldn't want to wait until there were accidents. Mr. Turner answered we would see how drivers react to the intersection as a whole as a 4-way intersection; speeds will be reduced coming into the intersection.

Mayor Montinieri asked if we are absolutely convinced we aren't sacrificing any safety in trying to get this to come in at budget. Mr. Turner stated that he really isn't that concerned about it nor was the design engineer.

Town Manager Bridges stated that, if it is a big concern, we could amend the prior motion and sweep funds from the paving account and put it toward this project.

Mayor Montinieri asked if it is set up that, if we learn that we need to ramp up that piece, does it lend itself to on the fly adjustment. Mr. Turner answered yes it was bid as a total unit line item so we can add it or delete it.

Mayor Montinieri stated that DiCioccio has a wonderful reputation, but this project has been on the table for so long he really wants to see it get done and a lot of residents want to see it get done but wants to make sure we have some flexibility as we go forward.

Councilor Martino stated that there are 1 or 2 outstanding capital improvement projects to finish replacing street lights on Main Street so that they are all the same. He asked if one of those capital improvement projects will now be increased to include these 4 streetlights that are being eliminated from the DiCioccio bid. Mr. Turner answered that the lights are being replaced in phases of about \$50,000 per year.

Councilor Rell asked if any new sidewalks at this intersection would be the brick pattern that is currently there. Mr. Turner answered yes, brick is going to be salvaged from any sidewalk removal and will be realigned to the new intersection.

Councilor Rell said he is delighted to hear that conduit will be run underneath the sidewalks so if

money is available in the future those streetlights could be put in without disrupting the design work.

All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Martino moved to **“PURCHASE FORD F550 TRUCK WITH PLOW AND DISPOSE OF WHAT IS KNOWN AS TRUCK #60 UPON CONCLUSION OF CLAIM PROCESS”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Town Manager Bridges stated this truck was damaged by incorrect part provided by Napa Auto. A claim has been filed with Napa through the town attorney for damages but the vehicle does need to be replaced.

Sally Katz, Director of Physical Services stated that the F550 is in between a heavy duty pickup truck and a dump truck. It is used quite often, during leaf collection, snow removal and to transport the wood chipper.

Mayor Montinieri asked what the extent of the claim might be. Town Manger Bridges stated that the engine was destroyed and the claim may be \$15,000-\$20,000. The truck was slated to be replaced anyway due to body rot.

Ms. Katz stated that truck #60 is a 2005 vehicle the body of which has been deteriorating due to exposure but they were unable to find a replacement engine for it. The fuel pump and many of the other interconnected components were affected along with the engine, and it became prohibitively expense to try to piece it back together.

Councilor Rell asked if the 2006 Ford that is currently going up for auction has a plow. Ms. Katz stated it does have a plow but they are not sending it to auction with the plow.

Councilor Rell asked if we are buying a plow for the new 2016 F550. Ms. Katz answered no, we will be able to use the old plow but the new truck does come with a plow. They will have to see if the old plow will fit dimensionally on the new vehicle, if it does, they would not have to buy a plow with it.

Councilor Rell asked if it turns out that we would not need to buy the new plow, would the bid be decreased. Ms. Katz stated she would have to go back and look at it to see if it is possible to decrease it, but the vehicle is priced out with the plow attachment.

All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Martino moved to **“ACCEPT THE BID FROM DBL CONTRACTING LLC FOR REPLACEMENT WINDOWS AT OLD ACADEMY”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Sally Katz, Director of Physical Services, stated the Old Academy windows are exceptionally old, non-functioning and inefficient.

Town Manager Bridges asked if HDC has signed off on this. Ms. Katz stated that HDC has been contacted about it.

Mayor Montinieri stated that lead abatement is built in to the bid but may come back to CIP if it's not needed. Ms. Katz stated that is correct.

Councilor Rell asked what the Old Academy is used for right now. Ms. Katz answered it is used for storage, meetings and functions run through the Historical Society.

Town Manager Bridges stated that the Old Academy is leased by the Historical Society and houses their main offices and main document collections.

Councilor Roberts stated that people go to the Old Academy to check their ancestry and ancient documents which are housed in a fireproof safe.

Councilor Martino said he is glad this is moving forward. He was there a few weeks ago and saw window screens falling off.

All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

MINUTES

Councilor Martino moved **"TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 17, 2015"**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Martino moved **"TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 31, 2015"**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Avenue, asked if we are satisfied to receive only 1 bid on a project and asked how we know we are not being overcharged. Said communication is the key to the success of every project. He was disappointed to hear tonight that the Board of Education had not contacted the families over the past three years about the Transitional Academy move. He thanked the Mayor for coming over a few weeks ago where he showed that the pavement on Hillcrest Avenue is 30 feet wide and 24 feet wide on Morrison Avenue. The snow shelf on Hillcrest Avenue is an average of 15 feet wide, while on Morrison Avenue it is 2-3 feet or non-existent. The distance from the curb to front of housing on Hillcrest is 60 ft; 35ft. on Morrison. Hillcrest has a good drainage system, Morrison does not. The intersectional site distance on Orchard at Hillcrest is 344ft to the east and 970 ft. to the west. From Tifton Road on Morrison Avenue, the intersectional site distance as measured by the Town is 232 ft. The CT DOT says that for 25mph you need 280 ft on a level road; Morrison Avenue is on a slope so would need

more. He has been communicating this to the Council but has not heard any answers and asked why he can't get a stop sign at Tifton Road.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, said he agrees with Mr. Colantonio regarding the Board of Education's non-communication with parents/citizens. He stated that the Mayor had already spoken to many of the people who came to the podium tonight and they already knew what was going to happen. What he saw was a staged deal to rescind the lease; he thinks it's a good idea to rescind it, but to him it was an orchestrated charade. Asked why the old docks are being left in the cove if they are in poor shape and still need to be removed seasonally. Thinks the road sealing that left ruts in the road was terrible. The \$30,000-35,000 that we got for the AT&T Verse box went to pay for lights that citizens had already agreed they were going to pay for; this money should have gone back into the treasury. The town receives \$1 a year rent for the Standish House, but the Historic Society collects about \$42,000 per year while the town pays for the maintenance. Saw the legal notice in the paper for the vote on the Charter revision coming up; he thinks the revision committee did not do their job and we should vote no. Thinks the charter should have included a budget referendum and also ordered the Town of Wethersfield to put its finances on-line and include the ability to recall elected officials. Thinks the town is lost under this management.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:10 p.m. Councilor Kotkin moved "**TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**", seconded by Councilor Martino.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

At 9:28 p.m. Councilor Martino moved "**TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**", seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Roberts moved "**TO APPROVE THE 2015 TO 2019 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD AND IBPO LOCAL 391 WETHERSFIELD POLICE OFFICERS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2015**", seconded by Councilor Martino.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

At 9:30 p.m. Councilor Kotkin moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Deputy Mayor Barry.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk