

**APPROVED  
REGULAR MEETING**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on July 18, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

Present: Councilors Bello, Hemmann, Hurley, Latina, Martino, Rell, Spinella, Deputy Mayor Barry and Mayor Montinieri.

Also present: Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks & Recreation; Mike O'Neil, Director of Finance; Fred Bushey, Director of Maintenance & Operations; Police Chief James Cetran; Christine Fortunato, Chair of the Building Committee; Frank Dellarippa, Building Committee member; Carlos from Fuss & O'Neil; Gus from O & G and Rusty Malik, Architect for the Committee; Jeff Bridges, Town Manager and Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk.

All stood for the pledge of allegiance to the flag which was led by Councilor Latina.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HEARING - NONE

GENERAL COMMENTS

Gus Colantonio of 16 Morrison Avenue stated that he has been told that he has got all the answers to the questions that he has been asking from the past four years and he indicated he will continue to come here until he gets the answers that make sense to him. He continued to discuss his stop sign issue.

Mayor Montinieri commented that it is a bit unorthodox for him to comment during public comments but he needed to make some points. Mr. Colantonio has indulged them with his comments for several years and the Mayor and Town Manager have been to his house to look at the issue of the stop sign. He realizes he has a very strong opinion about this topic and has spoken to the Council very forcibly about your opinion. There are two things he wanted Mr. Colantonio to think about before he continues to come to every Council meeting: One being that they have reviewed all the documentation on this question. The Police Department has also provided a detailed report as to both the local and state requirements for us to examine the question of a stop sign. It is not this Council's prerogative or authority to overrule those two positions that have been shared with Mr. Colantonio several times. Mr. Montinieri commented that it is completely within his rights to continue to come every council meeting and speak on this topic. He doesn't think that anybody at this dais has any ability or intent to challenge what's in front of us in terms of our authority or lack thereof to do anything different. It is a bit of an exercise and frustration for him to come up and speak on this topic. He has shared several times that he thinks that the Council's unwillingness to change our position is an indication of our sense of lack of caring. It is not an issue of not caring, it is simply an issue of recognizing that this topic is something which we do not agree on. This Council does not have the authority to change either a local or a state requirement with respect to the stop sign. Given the nature of the work done by the Council at each meeting and are asked to do as volunteers he is asking with due respect that Mr. Colantonio please consider and to recognize that it's not necessarily the best use of our time when we can clearly tell you that this is not going anywhere. He certainly appreciates all that Town Manager Bridges has done on this topic and he understands that they are now pushing themselves to the limit of their patience. He would ask that Mr. Colantonio think about that.

Robert Young of 20 Coppermill Road commented that in defense of Mr. Colantonio he believes he has every right to continue to talk about his stop sign. It takes a lot of time on his part but Council could have put a sign up a long time ago to slow down the traffic in his neighborhood. Safety is all that he cares about. He finds it hard to believe that Council doesn't have any authority to have a stop sign put up. He noticed several articles in the Hartford Courant as well as the Wethersfield Life regarding the Republicans criticizing the budget and he knows he has criticized the budget as well, but he didn't go and print it in the newspaper. He thinks it's wrong and it rings hollow and it is the same idea with the Bonding Commission where they are constantly bonding and people continue to keep voting for it and then in the newspaper they disagree. It's more senseless spending.

George Ruhe of 956 Cloverdale Circle commented that he is concerned about this election year having a tremendous impact on our lives. He is a firm believer that if you don't vote well then you can't do much complaining. He also commented on his neighboring pond situation. A large machine arrived and is cutting down the growth. He wanted to know when it would be started and completed, this year or next. He would like a hard copy the 2016 profiling book if possible.

Town Manager Bridges indicated that it does look like next season on the pond. The loss of Town Engineer Mike Turner set them back six weeks. In the construction season we didn't have the money adopted in the budget. They knew the budget would be adopted with the money in it mid-May. They have to do soil samples on the sediment to make sure it is not hazardous; then design it so they can build this during the low water season next August. They just didn't have time to bid this and get a contractor under contract. The best time to do it is when the water is at its lowest, August, but they are committed and the money is in the budget. It's in the capital budget so once the transfer from the general fund to the capital fund is made that money will be there forever until they spend it.

## COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Martino reported that there was a Budget & Finance Committee. They reviewed: The IRS payroll audit, the underground fuel tank replacement project and the vacant lots in town. The IRS has done their audit and found several people they felt should have been paid under W-2 versus a 1099. They are making the necessary corrections on that. We have a large capital project coming and the Mayor wanted to talk to the Finance Committee on which direction to go with the underground tanks. It has to be done by 2018 per DEEP. He has given us some ideas and guidance. There are some vacant will be voted on lots in town where they have reduced the value of those lots to zero. We want to take the uncollected taxes which are for the current year and waive those fees to bring things in balance.

Councilor Bello reported that she attended the Library Board meeting where they reappointed their officers. Lead by Dorene Ciarcia, that team does a great job with the Library Board. They are in the middle of their summer reading program; they have an adult program. She also attended a Public Safety Committee meeting where Chief Cetran came in and spoke about fixed license plate readers. They will be paid for out of asset forfeiture funds not out of town budget monies. They will be set up in two different places in town.

Deputy Mayor Barry attended a couple of Building Committee meetings and things had been moving along relatively smoothly until the last meeting. They learned that there is some asbestos in the pool area. There was a special meeting tonight, just before this meeting, trying to get information on the cost to remediate and what affect that would have on the schedule. The Building Committee did not act on that because from a timing standpoint, the abatement contractor needed to know when the scaffolding individual could get in so that triggers when he could get going. But the plan would be to get that done before school starts. Unfortunately it will have an impact on the overall budget. Town Manager Bridges has a plan in place should it create problems. The plan is to address that in a special meeting on Thursday.

## COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Montinieri invited the Building Committee up to the podium. Christine Fortunato, Chair of the Building Committee explained that they just met prior to this meeting so they have their consultants to provide some additional information that just came in to them at their meeting about testing results and their next steps. They have recessed their meeting and will reconvene on Thursday and make a recommendation at that point about remediation. Carlos from Fuss & O'Neill stated that they did some testing of plaster, the plenums and the ceilings, the concrete Ts in the pool area. These items were not tested prior and they were doing some work and some of the subcontractors requested that testing be done. Both the plaster and the plenums and the coating dryvit on the concrete Ts indicated that they had chrysotile asbestos - one at 3% and one just over 2%. So the plan is to get the abatement contractor to come in and abate these materials before the start of school. Gus, Construction Manager from O & G stated that they are waiting to hear back from Southern Middlesex, their abatement and demolition contractor on the schedule and will report back on Thursday.

Councilor Latina asked why this wasn't test for before subcontractors brought it to our attention.

Carlos replied that initially the consultant who was on the site doing the testing did not test these materials. They did test other materials in the pool but at that time they did not test anything above the ceiling so it was unknown until now.

Councilor Latina asked if that was a normal course of action to not test the ceiling.

If at the time the consultant did not know that that material was going to be impacted then they would not test. If it was not deemed to be renovated or impacted then it would not be reason to test for asbestos.

Councilor Latina asked if they were painting it and that was what launched the subcontractors.

Town Manager Bridges replied yes and that they were adjusting the plenums for some new air handling grates as they were going to disturb the plaster on it, that's when they got into it. Originally they weren't going to do any work in the pool area so that is why it was never tested.

Chairwoman Fortunato indicated that they have received two bids to do abatement work that just came in and so O & G will be reviewing to make certain that those bids are thorough and then we will make a recommendation Thursday night to proceed. The unofficial vote of the Building Committee at this point is to remove all of the asbestos.

Town Manager Bridges indicated that as a query the staff is asking that Council meet Thursday night briefly to do this because it is going to be well over \$200,000 threshold that the Building Committee has for a change order.

Mayor Montinieri stated the Building Committee is meeting at 6:00 so he would get a notice out about that.

Councilor Rell wanted to commend Chief Cetran and the entire Wethersfield Police Department with everything that is going on right now nationally and looking a number of posts on social media the police department does an excellent job of keeping us informed of everything that is happening. More importantly the public is keeping "us" informed on everything that they are doing on behalf of the police department. He sees a number of comments of how great our police department is with the public and they are being commended left and right with flowers, cookies, donuts and fresh coffee. We do have an excellent police department led by a great chief. He wanted to commend them for everything they doing

in this difficult time.

Councilor Hemmann commented that she did see Chief Cetran on the news talking about risks. He did a very fine job of outlining those risks while really speaking very positive. It was nice to see our Town represented on the news.

Councilor Hurley stated the Ridge Road apartments that were approved. He thinks the residents were forced into a deal because of a lawsuit. He thinks it is a bad idea to give tax abatement for residential properties. It should be for businesses and mixed use. He thinks we should look at the vote again on the tax abatement because of the change of scope. Days before the last election it was said that Weight Watchers is being torn down and that Ashley Furniture is coming. Promises made, promises kept. Democrats probably won the election with that fabrication. And he would say that Ashley Furniture is not coming. He would hold off on any other premature deals until something is signed.

### TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Bridges stated that for this past year our Finance Department has been awarded the Government Finance Officers Association Award for Financial Reporting. He congratulated Mike O'Neil and his crew for putting together another very well documented consolidated annual financial report. Less than 10% of communities in the country get that award. This is a big feather in Wethersfield cap particularly when we go out to bond markets. On Wednesday CIRMA will be presenting an equity distribution, a return on our premiums, for about \$44,000. We did not budget that money because they were unsure if CIRMA would be able to do an equity distribution. This is good news. We did receive our records management grant of \$5,000 so the Town Clerk can continue her Historic Preservation program. Town Engineer Derrick Gregor did hear back from CRCOG. Our Middletown Avenue accident reduction program grant was not pushed on to DOT. They moved two projects forward in CRCOG, both having a higher accident and incident rate than the Middletown Avenue project. We will continue to look at how we make improvements there particularly when MDC digs that up to replace the sewer lines. On the podium is the new Food Bank logo. There is a new hunger action team for Wethersfield and that team working with Social & Youth Services has put together a new logo for the Wethersfield Food Bank. Director Bagley and her crew have been working hard in terms of hunger throughout Wethersfield. It is very important in the community.

### TOWN CLERK COMMUNICATION

Town Clerk Sassano stated that there will not be primary in August in Wethersfield. We have no challenges to either of the major parties. We still do not know the full slate for November. Minority parties and partitioning parties have until early September to submit everything to the State. Between August 1<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup> if people are unaffiliated or a member of a minor party and would like to be a Justice of the Peace they should file certain forms with her. To qualify you cannot have been in a party since May 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. We have about four or five already, but room for more so check with her office if interested.

### COUNCIL ACTION

### ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR ACTION

Councilor Hurley moved to **“APPROVE THE APPOINTMENTS OF THE FOLLOWING BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**, seconded by Councilor Rell.

### BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

George W. Cote (Alternate)	R	131 Charter Road	7-18-16 to 6-30-19
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### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Leslie C. Cole, Chairman	R	69 Boulter Road	7-18-16 to 6-30-18
Stuart Temple	R	317 Brimfield Road	7-18-16 to 6-30-18

### CONSTABLES

George W. Cote	R	131 Charter Road	7-18-16 to 6-30-18
Steven A. McFarland	R	80 Farmingdale Road	7-18-16 to 6-30-18
Sebastian Dignoti	R	75 Westwood	7-18-16 to 6-30-18

### BOARD OF ETHICS

John Adamian (Alternate)	R	86 Watersview Drive	7-18-16 to 6-30-19
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### FAIR RENT COMMISSION

Robert A. Garrey	R	10 Morrison Avenue	7-18-16 to 6-30-18
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### FENCE VIEWERS

Peter E. Gardow	R	60 Griswold Road	7-18-16 to 6-30-18
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### FLOOD & EROSION CONTROL BOARD

Wesley E. Sargent	R	39 Randy Lane	7-18-16 to 6-30-19
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### HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Damien Cregeau (Alternate)	U	493 Main Street	7-18-16 to 6-30-19
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### HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION

James Pelletier	R	61 State Street	7-18-16 to 6-30-19
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### INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION

David Herold	R	54 Old Mill Road	7-18-16 to 6-30-19
Lew Michaels (Alternate)	R	305 Garden Street	7-18-16 to 6-30-19

### INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Paul D. Meade	R	373 Main Street	7-18-16 to 6-30-21
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### PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

Stathis Manousos	R	136 Windmill Hill	7-18-16 to 6-30-19
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PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

Antonio L. Margiotta, Secretary	R	155 Stockingmill Road	7-18-16 to 6-30-19
David R. Edwards, III (Alternate)	R	200 Windmill Hill	7-18-16 to 6-30-19

SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Christine Taylor	TE	505 Silas Deane Hwy.	7-18-16 to 6-30-18
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SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Bruce Graver	U	55 Round Hill Road	7-18-16 to 6-30-19
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TRANSIT DISTRICT, GREATER HARTFORD

Peter Gardow	R	60 Griswold Road	7-18-16 to 6-30-20
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YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

Barbara Ruhe	R	79 Main Street	7-18-16 to 6-30-19
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ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Michael Vieira (moved from Alt.)	R	116 Black Birch Road	7-18-16 to 6-30-21
John D. Gustafson (Alternate)	R	182 Amherst Street	7-18-16 to 6-30-19
Mary Pelletier (Alternate)	R	61 State Street	7-18-16 to 6-30-19

WETHERSFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Christine Taylor	TE	505 Silas Deane Hwy.	7-18-16 to 6-30-18
Joselyn Valente	R	55 Old Common	7-18-16 to 6-30-18

Change to correct term ending:

Sue Buckland	D	766 Wolcott Hill Road	7-20-15 to 6-30-17
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**Vote:** All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Bello moved to **“ACCEPT THE GRANT FROM THE HARTFORD FOUNDATION FOR PUBLIC GIVING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$62,000 FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS PER THE GRANT PROPOSAL”**, seconded by Councilor Spinella.

Town Bridges stated that as discussed during the budget process there was a desire on behalf of the Wethersfield Early Childhood Collaborative to enhance the early childhood programs as a collaboration between the Board of Education and the Town and this grant was submitted by those parties to provide funding for that effort.

Councilor Hurley asked if this was for salaries.

Director Bagley explained that this is a three year grant and the first year it's about \$6,000 for some programming and the second and third year is some programming and mostly towards salaries.

Councilor Hurley asked what happens to the \$25,000 that we put in.

Director Bagley indicated that it's in budget for this year to potentially, depending how we move along, there might be request for that additional money in the future. The salaries are all three years.

Councilor Hurley asked if we brought early childhood development into town have they looked at all the different private businesses that do some of these things already. What is going to happen to them if programs are being put in by a town instead of as a private industry.

Director Bagley stated that we would look to include that as part of the process to take advantage of the private businesses in town.

Councilor Latina stated if initially these jobs would be part time, would the hope then be after the three years when things get solidified that they would then be expanded.

Director Bagley responded that we have always looked at them as part time jobs. We have never talked about full time jobs. People might want to consider that but it's not anything that has been discussed within the early childhood collaborative. We have always looked at the three years as part time jobs.

Councilor Latina was concerned because we talk about budgetary issues and staffing. She wanted to make sure that we didn't promise something we couldn't follow through on. She inquired if they would be getting reports to Council on progress as the program continues.

Director Bagley responded that they would be happy to give Council reports on the progress.

Councilor Rell asked what the original line item was for this in the previous budget. Has it always been \$12,500?

Director Bagley indicated no that this fiscal year is the new year for \$12,500.00. In previous years it's been \$2,500 from the town and \$2,500 from the Board of Education for \$5,000 total.

Councilor Rell wanted to understand and stated this year we moved it up \$12,500 each from the Board and \$12,500 from the Council for \$25,000. The grant is for \$62,000 on top of that over the next three years. After that grant is up in three years, would you be looking to keep that \$87,000 possibly for a line item in the budget or would you continue to look at \$25,000.

Director Bagley responded that they would probably continue to look at the \$25,000 because part of the process is to look at other avenues that may be out there for funding.

Mayor Montinieri commented that when we talked with the Hartford Foundation in the fall and spring in response to this grant application, it was originally \$50,000 that we applied for and they actually gave us more which is good, but the intent is ultimately to lead to the larger source of funding from the Hartford Foundation that reflects what they did in Glastonbury and East Hartford as comparable towns. If he recalled, East Hartford got a grant for \$330,000 after they successfully went through the three year pilot program. Rich, from the Hartford Foundation, shared with us that this would be an entrée into

consideration. Towns of our similar size are expanding this program and they want to support that under the Hartford Foundation. Just in response to Councilor Rell's point, ultimately while we might have great success for three years through the support from the Hartford Foundation our intent would be to produce results that get their attention for a much larger support for a program. He understands the concern at budget time that if we create this opportunity and we don't get that sort of support, we would then need a discussion on whether or not to continue the program at the same level. That is very much on people's minds. He supports that effort in that regard. Hopefully we will have the expected results with much larger support from the foundation. Then we won't have that burden on the budget for the town. He thanked Director Bagley for her work on this program. He thinks it's a terrific step in the right direction and the Hartford Foundation is very excited to support Wethersfield.

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

Councilor Martino moved to **“SUSPEND THE UNCOLLECTABLE TAXES ON THESE IDENTIFIED LOTS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE WETHERSFIELD TAX COLLECTOR”**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Barry.

Town Manager Bridges stated that for years the town has struggled with various parcels throughout the community that have no real ownership, no real value but are in private hands in some form or fashion which means they are taxable. Working with the Tax Collector, with the Finance Department and the Town Assessor, we have identified a collection of those that should be devalued to the point of no tax bill or no impact on the grand list. Suspending the taxes which we have done on these parcels probably since forever so this would be the last time we would have to suspend these taxes and these particular parcels would no longer impact the grand list or the tax roles. Then the question becomes what do you do with them. Most of these are private open space which in the original subdivision development, the developer was required to put aside an X amount of acres or portions of the developed property for open space. Those with the cessation of a homeowners association, where the developer going away, those become orphans and unowned and uncollectable taxes. That's what happened to most of these. The first step would be to get these off the tax role so we don't continue to have the impact on the grand list with this false value. It's not much but it cleans up at least these lots.

Councilor Rell commented that speaking of cleaning up these lots and in the sense of getting them off the list but physically cleaning these lots up. In particular the one on Hang Dog that is surrounded by at least a dozen houses. Neighbors are complaining of some type of bamboo growing or some unsightly conditions, who would be responsible for any of the cleanup.

Town Manager Bridges stated that a lot of these open spaces have gone back to nature and that is probably where they will stay.

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

Councilor Spinella moved to **“CORRECT THE ANNUAL COMPENSATION FOR THE AGENT OF RECORD FOR LIABILITY, AUTO, PROPERTY AND WORKER'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE TO \$32,550 WITH AN ADDITIONAL \$4,000 IN ANY YEAR THE INSURANCE IS FORMALLY BID”**, seconded by Councilor Bello.

Town Manager Bridges stated that at the June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting we approved the renewal of the agent of record, Chris Wardrop of USI. The agenda memo had his incorrect compensation. We actually compensate him at \$32,550 now and it said \$31,000 which was the first year of the last contract so we are just asking to correct it. He is holding his current year pricing for the next three years which accurately is \$32,550. This is just a technical correction.

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

### BIDS

Councilor Bello moved to **“APPROVE THE PURCHASE REQUEST PER BRITE VENDOR QUOTE #Q66429 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$215,495.00 TO BE PAID FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT ASSET FORFEITURE FUND”**, seconded by Councilor Spinella.

Chief James Cetran stated that there would be no budgeted funds involved now or for the maintenance in the future which is relatively insignificant. We get a replacement for the License Plate Readers (LPR's) that are already in the cruisers that have been in there since 2008. We had three initiated pursuits just this past weekend. We have been having a lot of car breaks, a lot of car thief's and a lot of thief from vehicles, especially in the higher density areas in the northern part of Wethersfield, Folly Brook Blvd. being in particular of attention. We had an officer watching that area on the midnight shift and saw a car pull into a parking lot off of Folly Brook. The officer made a mistake and got out on foot to watch what these individuals were doing but the individuals spotted him and drove at him with their car. Fortunately they missed him. The second cruiser that had come to back him up went after the car and stopped pursuit when the car hit 100 mph on Campfield Avenue going back into Hartford. The next night the officer is pulling into the parking lot and sees a car that is backed in a parking space and goes to check it out. The car came at his cruiser we have this all on video and actually rammed the cruiser to get by him and around him and took off. Again, the pursuit was broken off when it hit close to 100 mph so these people are completely reckless, completely no value whatsoever to human life or property. However, we were able to identify the car from the video and the cruiser and matched it to the fixed LPR's that are on Park Street in Hartford. So we got the marker plate off the car and it turns out that it was stolen out of Glastonbury but at least we know what we have here and those LPR's can be extremely invaluable to us in investigating these serious types of crimes. He is hoping that if they are successful, which he thinks they will be, that they would like to add some more in the future to other locations.

Councilor Hurley stated that in the packet it says two locations – it has the Silas Deane Highway (5 cameras), Berlin Turnpike (3 cameras) and then is the Wilbur Cross Highway the same as the Berlin Turnpike for another 4 cameras.

Chief Cetran replied that it is the same location but to get the south bound traffic they had to put onto the overpass and to get the north bound traffic is on Nott Street where the intersection is located. It's the same basic location but they had to put it in two separate locations to get the traffic.

Councilor Hurley asked if this company Brite have access to the data also or just the Police Department and is there privacy concerns and can they use it for other means.

Chief Cetran responded that Brite has access to the data because right now we are going onto the CRCOG server and they maintain that server. He was not sure and he didn't believe that they use it for anything else. It's just the marker plates that are going by and it's not to look at people in cars. They would have to have access to motor vehicle records and he doesn't believe they have that. It has never come up as an issue before and we have had them since 2008 and since we started we all went onto that CRCOG server. Brite has the fixed LPR's on Park Street too.

Deputy Mayor Barry asked if this was linked to other towns.

Chief Cetran replied yes the CRCOG server. Right now they are separated into two different servers – one in Newington and one is at CRCOG. We are trying to get them both together, all of them and

hopefully get them onto the LEARN servers statewide and that would incorporate everyone. There are a number of Fairfield County departments and also in this area; the more you have the better off we are. In fact when we first got the LPR's in the cars Hartford had a homicide and we were able to track it from Hartford through Wethersfield, Newington and into New Britain.

Deputy Mayor Barry asked if this was more for after the fact investigations.

Chief Cetran indicated that there is no on-site monitoring of it at the time. It is just something that they can go back to and view the cameras.

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

Councilor Martino moved to **“AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MASTER LEASE AGREEMENT WITH TD EQUIPMENT FINANCE INC. FOR THE FINANCING OF THE PURCHASE OF ROLLING STOCK INCLUDED IN THE FY17 CNEF BUDGET AND TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE WHS REFERENDUM AUTHORIZATION”**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Barry.

Town Manager Bridges stated that this covers a couple of things. When the town adopted the referendum for the High School a portion of that funding was for new technology. Bonding a chrome book for 20 years is just plain wrong. We needed to come up with a way to do that and still provide the technology that was integral as part of the academic program related to the High School. Approved through the referendum, we are going to use a shorter term financing mechanism to purchase that technology. We are not extending the life of the bond past the useful of the life of the device. So we are purchasing the technology for a five year program rather than a 20 year program. In addition, the rolling stock, the police cars, the pay loader and the dump truck are part of this lease as well. We bid this out this year. We had a tremendous relationship with First Niagara but their total interest cost on all the equipment was much higher than the other bidders so we are recommending going with TD Bank.

Director of Finance, Mike O'Neil stated that there were seven banks and the lowest based on total interest cost was TD Bank. This project was estimated at \$890,000. Other than the IT equipment in conjunction with the High School, it includes: four police vehicles for \$115,000 and the truck and pay loader together \$350,000. Total amount of borrowing is approximately 1.3 million dollars and the total interest cost with the rates that we received from TD Bank was \$36,000. He apologized that there is a change his memo, the five year rate for technology you will see 1.27 % that should be 1.15% if you compare that to the next item the second is lower.

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

Deputy Mayor Barry moved **“TO TABLE THE WETHERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECT – POOL AREA ASBESTOS ABATEMENT”**, seconded by Councilor Martino.

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

Deputy Mayor Barry moved to **“APPROVE THE INCREASE IN THE PURCHASE ORDER FOR W.B. MEYER FOR MOVING AND STORAGE BY \$25,000”**, seconded by Councilor Martino.

Town Manager Bridges stated we pay for moving and storage of the Board of Education's property, desks, computers, equipment and machinery that needs to be moved off site to allow for the renovation of the building. The budget amount for this item was \$200,000 and we have expended \$189,000 and we

need about \$25,000 more so we will go into the contingency a little bit to pay for the final element of moving and storage but this will be the last item as we wind the project down in September.

Director Fred Bushey stated that we have gone a little longer than expected and the fact that there was some rigging involved that was not vetted out when they put together the budget.

Councilor Hurley asked how much was left in contingency after this.

Town Manager Bridges reported that roughly \$700,000 between the allowances and the contingency and that does not include the \$500,000.

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

#### ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION - NONE

#### MINUTES

Councilor Spinella moved **“TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 20, 2016”**, seconded by Councilor Bello.

**Vote:** All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-2 (Councilors Hurley and Martino abstained).

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gus Colantonio of 16 Morrison Avenue stated that as long as he pays taxes and he has the right to speak but he does appreciate the Mayor’s comments. He continued to remark about the stop sign issue.

Robert Young of 20 Coppermill Road commented that he was glad that there was discussion regarding the Wethersfield Early Childhood Collaborative yet he wonders how much they put into the budget for them. He understands there was money the year before we continue to see this “eternal life” as he has spoken about in the past. How can we keep going like this?

Town Manager Bridges reported that there was a pole down on Oldham and Eversource is there to replace it but the transformer has a leak so they are waiting for DEEP to clear it.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:25 p.m., Councilor Bello moved **"TO ADJOURN THE MEETING"** seconded by Councilor Spinella. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano  
Town Clerk

APPROVED BY VOTE OF COUNCIL (9-0-0)  
August 15, 2016