

**Approved
REGULAR MEETING
September 19, 2016**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on September 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

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

Absent: Mayor Montinieri.

Also Present: Stephanie Askeland, Human Resources Manager; Sally Katz, Director of Physical Services; Fred Bushey, Director of School Facilities; 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.

A moment of silence was observed for Police Sargent Jack Goldberg who passed away over the weekend.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ginger Smith of 1 Morrison Avenue commented on being unfairly charged for sidewalks on Morrison Avenue. She disagrees on some explanations in a letter received from the Town Manager. The problem was created when the town milled and resurfaced this road over the years. As a result the town contractor removed the curbing. Then Morrison Avenue did not have any separation between the street and the sidewalk. Every time it rained the sidewalk was covered with water. It ran into people's basements especially on the odd side of the road. Town records indicate that in 1982 the Town Council suggested to reconstructing the sidewalks. Thirty years later it was done. A final solution was not exactly selected by the residents but rather by the Town. The concerns regarding the sidewalk, Orchard Street west to Wolcott Hill Road, was that it is the same elevation of the road. The south side of Morrison Avenue was in perfect condition and did not be reconstructed and for safety reasons the north side of the road where there was no sidewalk, one was put in. She is sure that when the road was constructed originally with the sidewalk and the curb being adjacent to the road it was approved by the town. Over the years the town resurfaced the road on numerous times allowing the road to be at the same level of the sidewalk and creating the problem. She feels the town needs to be more accountable for their actions. Residents should not have to pay. Recently, sidewalks have been constructed or reconstructed on Somerset, Middletown Avenue, Two Rod and the property owners have not had to participate in the cost. Why should she. She doesn't think this is fair.

Tom Mazzarella of 600 Wolcott Hill Road commented about an article in the Hartford Courant on September 8th with regard to Councilor Hurley and regionalization. This town should work on their own problems and coming up with solutions on how to reduce taxes. He doesn't want to see politics in this town. He was wondering what the effect of this Niagara [water bottling] project in Bloomfield is going to be when there is a severe drought. Also agrees there is an odor over highway 91 and someone should approach the MDC about it.

Gus Colantonio of 16 Morrison Avenue echoed what Ginger Smith said. How many times do they get charged to rebuild the sidewalk.

Mark Butler of 117 Wells Road #41 commented that past the Middle School in front of the Church there are a lot of deep cracks in the sidewalks, causing him to flip his chair over. He feels they need to be addressed.

Mike Orsini of 224 Highland Street commented about the turf at Cottone Field installed in 2004. He had the privilege of working on that project and saw how the drainage and field work was done. It has a lifespan of ten years and the warranty on the field is eight years. The field looks good but the field breaks down from the inside out. The black sand holds the weight of the field down but has washed away enough now to be noticeable. In the last four years there have more injuries at the youth football and soccer levels. He just wanted to bring this to everyone's attention.

David Decarli of 7 Monticello Drive commented on the article in the Hartford Courant and, in the Hartford Business Journal, John Horak, a lawyer at Reid & Riege in Hartford, wrote and described Hartford in four words: Sadness, Disorder, Bankruptcy and Leadership. 22.6 million dollars is the latest estimate of Hartford's budget deficit and it is expected to jump up with each year. Wethersfield has its own needs and has to be fiscally responsible to its residents. Hartford's financial obligations are not our problem.

Lee Sekas of 117 Wells Road commented that town projects need to be done better because sooner or later there could be a fatal accident. He knows of several people who use walkers and an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Last year there was supposed to be bus shelters near CVS and Town Line Road before Mr. Turner retired he said we were next on the list and nothing has been done. Why wasn't Cottone Field included in the renovation? Morrison Avenue is an issue of safety for the children.

Richard Hetherman of 322 Church Street wanted to propose the idea of growing hemp on the town properties where land is not being used. It would be a valuable resource for the town.

Robert Young of 20 Coppermill Road commented at the last town council meeting he suggested that they run a vote for Morrison Avenue and he is asking again. Ashley Furniture never happened and there should be penalties for that. There have been several discussions about the article in the newspaper which he made his opinion known. Then there is the State of Connecticut selling billion dollar bonds, why and for what? America got raises and the medium income rose in 2015 and fewer are living in poverty and our taxes are where they are and we are supporting those people. State of Connecticut employees got 5% raises and municipal employees got their big raises and the rest of us didn't get it. Grant money comes from borrowed money and you still keep going after it.

HEARING - NONE

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Martino reported at the first meeting of the Senior Citizen Advisory Commission they started planning for their next May event. The Housing Authority is starting the renovations at 60 Lancaster Court on September 27 with work expected to be done by the end of the year. There will be CRT Energy Blitz Oil Only on October 19 between 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. in Social Services for people to sign up and make an appointment for anybody who is eligible. They have arranged outreach schedules for the upcoming energy program. There are going to be two with one at the Nathan Hale Senior housing and one at Laser Court. Anybody looking for that should contact Social Services for more details. On September 23rd is the annual Stand-Down 26 for Veterans. It runs from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. by the Connecticut Veteran Affairs, at the Rocky Hill Campus on West Street. The Conservation Committee met last week, and they reviewed a few lots on the Tax Collectors role. They might be turned over to the Town for nonpayment for taxes. In the absence of the Deputy Mayor he went to the High School Building Committee meeting and they reviewed the budget adjustments coming up tonight for approval. They reviewed the status of the project. Everything except the punch list items will be completed by October 21st which is good news.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Hurley wanted to thank the people who came down to talk about regionalization. The Mayor made it more of a personal attack in the newspaper. The article produced a lot of calls in support of not helping out Hartford. Like he said in the article, if they wanted to do some contracts with us that benefitted us both that would be fine. But he doesn't believe that us giving them money will help their situation. They will just spend our money then move on and try to get somebody else's money.

Councilor Bello attended an informational meeting to gauge interest on establishing a community theatre in Wethersfield. There was a great turn out and there were many ideas and suggestions. Kathy Bagley is working with the Park and Recreation Advisory Board on this idea. Anyone interested should contact her for more information. She thanked the Chamber and town staff for another wonderful Corn Fest. She inquired if there was any contact with the MDC concerning the odor in Wethersfield.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Bridges stated that he did reach out to the MDC and they sent out a crew. There was a spill back in August which was cleaned up. The most recent odors seem to be, at least from the MDC, due to the lack of rain there is a lot more of stagnant algae water. There is also more exposed mud and muck so they believe that is the cause not sewage. We will find out in the next few days with the rains if that helps. On the bus shelters, we are going to move forward with those. That is a CRCOG project and it moves at the speed of CRCOG. It's been on the drawing board for about ten years. There is an issue with the landowner by Stop & Shop across the street who doesn't want a bus shelter on the condominium property so we are looking for another location. There is not enough right of way there to put the shelter and it has to be on some private property close to that area. The rest of them should be going in this fall. He will check on the sidewalk issue brought up by Mr. Butler and make sure that gets addressed. The sidewalk curb cuts being done now is all DOT money and there is no town money in that. The State will come back and reconfigure our sidewalks to take away those curb cuts that are at the

intersection. They are moving the crosswalks away from the intersection, moving them back.

TOWN CLERK COMMUNICATION

Town Clerk Sassano indicated the Flu Clinic schedule is available online, from our office and in the newspaper. The candidates list is almost ready for the election. We will have absentee ballots available for October 7 if people are out of town during all voting hours. We already have received a lot of applications.

COUNCIL ACTION

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR ACTION

Councilor Hurley motioned to **“ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF MARK ST. PIERRE, 182 CLEARFIELD ROAD FROM THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS EFFECTIVE 7-26-16”**, seconded by Councilor Rell.

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

Councilor Hurley motioned to **“ACCEPT THE APPOINTMENT OF JAMES PELLETIER, 61 STATE STREET TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS TO FILL A VACANCY FOR A TERM OF 9-19-16 TO 6-30-20”**, seconded by Councilor Latina.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Martino motioned to **“APPROVE THE BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS TO THE HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECT AS REQUESTED”**, seconded by Councilor Spinella.

Town Manager Bridges stated the focus is on the adjustments at the 9-12-16 Building Committee meeting. This trues up all the changes and numbers to the budget so we know what funds are left. After the adjustments are made, according to these line items, there will be \$98,000 left in the contingency fund and another \$200,000 to \$300,000 left in individual contract allowances. After the pool is taken care of and all the change orders are processed, there is still between \$250-350,000 overall as part of the project budget that is unallocated to any particular construction or soft cost.

Deputy Mayor Barry questioned about \$500,000 that we have put in our budget?

Town Manager Bridges indicated that the \$500,000 is not recognized in any form in this document. That is off on the side and untouched.

Councilor Latina commented they had a lot of discussion at the last town council meeting about projects the Board of Education may be lining up for some of those soft costs that have not been tied to anything yet. She was wondering if they got back to that.

Town Manager Bridges replied that the one singular outstanding project that needs to be addressed before any conversations can take place about new items is the screening of the roof top units. So everything else is on hold until we figure out the screening solution which could run several hundred thousand dollars to do. That is on every agenda. If you look at the school, we have installed a physical screen on one unit to take a look and we've painted another one tan the same color as the coping around the top of the building so we are evaluating a number of different ways to camouflage these. Once a solution is determined we will get the pricing and then we will really know what is left at the end of the project. The Building Committee will decide. There is actually a Wethersfield High School screening subcommittee meeting next Monday.

Councilor Bello indicated that they heard a lot from the swim team parents and they felt they were getting the run around. Have they met with the Building Committee?

Town Manager Bridges responded that they were at the last Building Committee meeting. They were brought into the pool area and they went over what their concerns were and explained to them the process of how a capital project gets to funding in the budget.

Councilor Bello stated that at the Town Council level had we gotten them to the right group for potential funding.

Town Manager Bridges indicated yes.

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

BIDS

Councilor Spinella motioned to **“AWARD THE BID FOR THE WILLARD POOL HOUSE ROOF REPLACEMENT TO EAGLE RIVER SERVICE CORP. FOR \$63,500.02”**, seconded by Councilor Bello.

Physical Services Director Katz stated that going to CIP (Capital Improvement Project) this year are asking for funding to replace the roof at Willard Pool which is in a significant deteriorated state. Tremco is their roof preventative management program. They have developed a collaborative where we will be utilizing their services as oversight to bid out and to manage these projects as a turnkey project for roofing. They are the experts in roofing. They have the ability to cast a wide net: to do the project management, to write the specifications, to be on site for oversight that the roof is being installed properly. They are acting as a project manager and this is a good size roof for them to test this process because if successful, we would like to see this move forward because it met all of our specifications and came in under the budget that CIP had allocated for this project with these added services which would be advantageous to the town.

Councilor Rell asked how old the building was, if the roof was the original to the structure and if there was any fear of asbestos that may be present.

Director Katz replied that it is over 25 years old and to her knowledge it is the original roof. There is no indication of asbestos there as they believe it was built after all the regulations were put into effect. Nothing with flat roofs, it does have a pitch. We will be installing skylights to allow additional light into the facility. You will see quite an upgrade to the facility by doing this. Part of the program is they will guarantee it, the flashing will be there and it will be watertight. Also, they will be onsite when these are being installed.

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

Councilor Martino motioned to **“MOVE \$9,290 FROM CAPITAL PROJECT #30391 SDMS AIR HANDLING UNIT TO CAPITAL PROJECT #30939 SCHOOL CAMERA SURVEILLANCE PROJECT”**, seconded by Councilor Bello.

Director Fred Bushey stated that this is for all of the district schools. A change order came forward to add another NVR and cabling at the Middle School; Highcrest, Emerson-Williams, Webb, Hamner and Charles Wright schools need to be added with further HDMIC cables and labor to make sure the software is operating in the proper fashion. He has waited on this to make sure as they got all the cabling done throughout all the buildings which has been completed that this would be the only thing to come back to council with.

Councilor Hemmann responded she remembered that he had help with the specifications and inquired if these were not picked up in that process. She is a little concerned that this wasn't part of the original scope.

Director Bushey replied that they were not picked up because of the complexity of the building and the amount of bandwidths that needs to happen there to make this happen. The additional licensing was for the cameras that are already there to be added to the scope.

Councilor Martino inquired that if this was approved tonight, how long would it take before this project is finished.

Director Bushey responded that between the Sonitrol IT folks and our IT people within the Board of Education they have been working on getting this together. Both Highcrest and Emerson-Williams should be online within the next week; cameras are installed and the installation of hardware is totally complete. Now it is just sitting down at the computers and making this happen. The whole project should be completed within four weeks.

Councilor Rell inquired as to the length of the HDMI cables. There are two of them to be installed.

Director Bushey remarked that some of them range approximately from 9 foot to over 30 foot.

Councilor Rell replied that it appears that no matter the length, they are \$150.00 each and he suggested they get a better breakdown on cost.

Councilor Hurley motioned to **"TABLE CAPITAL PROJECT #30391 SDMS AIR HANDLING UNIT TO CAPITAL PROJECT #30939 SCHOOL CAMERA SURVEILLANCE PROJECT"**, seconded by Councilor Rell.

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

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION - NONE

MINUTES

Councilor Bello motioned **"TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2016"**, seconded by Councilor Spinella.

Vote: All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-2 (Deputy Mayor Barry and Councilor Hemmann abstained).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gus Colantonio of 16 Morrison Avenue commented about his stop sign issue. Something needs to be done about the manhole on his street.

Tom Mazzarella of 600 Wolcott Hill Road stated that it appears there may be \$250,000 to \$300,000 that could possibly be remaining and plus \$500,000 in some contingency fund and was wondering if there is any requirement that we must spend that money. Maybe we could consider not spending that money. He wanted to know who is or would be monitoring the video cameras in all the schools.

Lee Sekas of 117 Wells Road asked is there land being purchased for the bus shelter on Town Line Road to go on or could we get a tax reduction because of that or how about eminent domain because that is where it is needed.

Robert Young of 20 Coppermill Road commented about the turf at Cottone Field. Wondering where the money would come from to replace it and how much revenue was brought in by collections/rentals sitting in the bank after all these years and thinks the public should be provided this information. There should be money in the bank.

Councilor Spinella motioned **"TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION,"** at 8:27 p.m., seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

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

Councilor Bello motioned **"TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION,"** at 8:47 p.m., seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:48p.m., Councilor Hemmann motioned **"TO ADJOURN THE MEETING"** seconded by Councilor Martino. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk

APPROVED BY VOTE OF COUNCIL
October 3, 2016
(8-0-1 Mayor Montinieri Abstained)