

**REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 3, 2012**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield.

Present: Councilors Drake, Hurley, Kotkin, Manousos, McAlister (7:30), Montinieri, Roberts, Deputy Mayor Console, and Chairperson Hemmann.

Also present: Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, RaeAnn Palmer, Assistant Town Manager, Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation, Judy Keane, Keane Foundation and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

Councilor Kotkin led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Larry Spellacy, 215 Pine Lane, commented on the renovation funding for the Wethersfield High School and hoped to gather information on the cost of the renovation and what the cost to the average taxpayer will be on an annual basis. He noted that he felt that high school education is the absolute foundation for a person's life.

Doreen Garcia, Sherburne Rd, Wethersfield, commented that she is against the Council's support of the \$74 million high school renovation. She felt that Wethersfield cannot afford to add onto its current long term debt.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, commented that he does not support the Wethersfield High School renovation project.

Barbara Ruhe, 79 Main Street, commented on the renovations to Wethersfield High School that in addition to the maintenance issues, there are federal and state regulations and major infrastructure issues that need to be addressed.

Martha Conneely, 12 Fairmont Street, commented that she is a supporter of the Wethersfield High School referendum. She noted that currently the technology in the classrooms and the science labs are antiquated and there is a need to provide equal access to all members of the community.

Mike Grabowski, 46 Westway, commented that he is part of "Yes to WHS" and supports the Wethersfield High School renovation project and noted that by renovating the high school as new, it will meet the educational needs of the students which in turn will enable our children to be competitive with students from other towns, states and countries when applying for jobs, scholarships and colleges.

Martin Alvarenga, 20 Highland Street, commented that the Town needs to look to the future and that a good school system is the backbone of a community.

Paul Copp, 100 Executive Square, introduced himself as Chair of the Independence Party and noted that he has received many calls from residents about the Wethersfield High School renovation project.

COUNCIL REPORTS

None.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Deputy Mayor Console reported he was notified by the Governor's office that a \$500,000 STEAP grant, awarded from the State of Connecticut, is earmarked for improvements to Millwoods Park.

Councilor Manousos noted that comments made tonight about the renovations to the high school reflect that people want as much information as possible about the project; and want to know what taxes are going to be next year and subsequent years if this project is approved. He added that this is a project that cannot wait to be done and it's in the best interest of the Town.

Chairperson Hemmann commented that at the last meeting, Councilor McAlister had asked for plans with regards to meeting with the Board of Education and noted that she has spoken with the Board of Education Chairperson. They plan to speak every two weeks and more often as needed and there will be a quarterly joint meeting of both the Board and the Town, and have proposed January 23, 25 and 26 for the first one.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Jeff Bridges reported that there is a final list of Council liaison positions and Committee assignments available at the podium. Also included at the podium is the Introduction of the Ordinance regarding the Wethersfield High School renovation project. He noted that the final budget figure is \$74,816,617, with the Town's share of \$44,609,622. He noted that there will be additional financial information distributed, and the Budget & Finance Committee has agreed on a bonding plan which is a combination of total lowest interest cost and total lowest mill rate, and a information sheet will be prepared regarding the various costs per average household.

COUNCIL ACTION

Deputy Mayor Console moved **"TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF MATTHIAS J. DeANGELO, 16 DENNISON RIDGE, FROM THE INSURANCE COMMITTEE,"**

seconded by Councilor Drake.

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

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF MATTHIAS J. DeANGELO, 16 DENNISON RIDGE, FROM THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS,”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

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

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF CHARLES T. CAREY, 358 NOTT STREET, FROM THE YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD,”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

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

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO APPOINT PENNY STANZIALE, 15 HAROLD STREET, TO THE YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE TERM 1-3-2012 TO 6-30-2012,”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

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

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO APPOINT DANIEL M. LOGAN, 35 NOTT STREET, TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS FOR THE TERM 1-3-2012 TO 6-30-2012,”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Hurley moved **“TO ACCEPT THE DONATION FROM THE KEANE FOUNDATION TO PROVIDE THE FUNDS TO PURCHASE AND INSTALL THE AIR CONDITIONER UNIT IN THE 9/11 SPORTS CENTER GYMNASIUM IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER”** seconded by Deputy Mayor Console.

Jeff Bridges reported that the Keane Foundation has offered to fund the cost of air conditioning the gym. This is a building improvement that will not have to be funded by the Town.

Judy Keane, 126 Broad Street, thanked past and present council members for their support during the fundraising and construction over the years. She noted that the air conditioning will provide a safe environment for the children who use the facility during the summertime. It is also an opportunity for the Town to rent out the facility as it is the only gymnasium in Town that is air

conditioned.

Kathy Bagley commented that Parks & Recreation is very appreciative for the Keane Foundation's donation.

Councilor Kotkin thanked Judy Keane for the offer and asked Kathy Bagley how much of the building will be air conditioned after the air conditioner is installed.

Kathy Bagley responded that the gymnasium is the only room not air conditioned at this time.

Councilor Kotkin asked if the Community Center generator able to run the air conditioner in the gymnasium.

Kathy Bagley responded that the generator system is designed so that if the power is off, the air conditioning in the gymnasium automatically shuts off unless staff chose to put it on.

Councilor Drake thanked the Keane Foundation for their donation and for the work that has been done at the Community Center.

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

BIDS

Councilor Manousos moved **“TO APPROVE THE ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF THE STREET SWEEPING & STORM SEWER CLEANING SERVICES CONTRACT WITH WETHERSFIELD SWEEPING SERVICE AT THE PRICES QUOTED IN THEIR DECEMBER 21, 2009 BID”** seconded by Councilor Hurley..

Jeff Bridges reported The bid specs for the street sweeping services indicate that the “contract is for a one year period with the option to renew for two additional years upon the mutual agreement of all parties.” This contract was originally awarded for the 2010 calendar year and was extended for the 2011 calendar year. Mr. Lamore from Wethersfield Sweeping Service was contacted and has sent back written confirmation that he agrees to a one year contract extension for the 2012 calendar year at the prices quoted in his December 21, 2009 bid. It is staff's recommendation that this be accepted.

Councilor Kotkin noted that this particular bid was dramatically lower than any other bids received and considerable money is saved.

Jeff Bridges responded that this was correct.

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

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO AWARD THE CRCOG BID #567 FOR UNLEADED GASOLINE TO DIME OIL CO.”** seconded by Councilor McAlister.

Jeff Bridges reported as a member of the Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), the Town participates in the Capital Region Purchasing Council, which improves our chances of receiving lower pricing due to the combined volume of goods or services being purchased by the 30 participating member Towns. The Town bids gasoline through CRCOG to improve its pricing and this year, we are able to lock in a price of \$2.7719 per gallon for regular grade gasoline. Last year’s price was \$2.5006. The lock in price is firm for the purchase of 73,500 gallons. The bid allows each municipality to choose between a differential rate and a firm rate. Due to continued fluctuations in the price of gas, staff recommended a firm rate. The bid price does not include the fees/taxes from which the Town is not exempt.

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

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

Councilor Drake read into the record:

ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING SEVENTY FOUR MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTEEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SEVENTEEN DOLLARS (\$74,816,617) FOR COSTS WITH RESPECT TO THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPPING AND FURNISHING OF ADDITIONS AND RENOVATIONS TO WETHERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE PORTION OF SUCH APPROPRIATION NOT DEFRAID FROM GRANTS

BE IT ORDAINED;

(a) That the Town of Wethersfield appropriate SEVENTY FOUR MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTEEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SEVENTEEN DOLLARS (\$74,816,617) for costs with respect to the design, construction, equipping, and furnishing of additions and renovations to Wethersfield High School. The project is contemplated to include: (1) approximately 26,000 square feet of additions to accommodate the music program including a band room, instrument and uniform storage, practice rooms, general storage, music library and department office/workroom space; a media center infused with technology, including instruction and computer workstation space, storage, an office and a workrooms; and a gymnasium including storage, concession, team rooms, trainers workroom, public toilets, and a health classroom; (2) improvements within the existing building including fourteen fully renovated science classroom laboratories; eight additional academic classrooms; electronic music and a recording studio space; updating of language laboratory and classrooms; integration of the art and technology program in a fully renovated space; full renovation of the auditorium including additional seating, control room and expanded stage; renovation of all physical education spaces; renovation of all classrooms; renovations, and improvements at the natatorium/pool and locker

room facilities; renovations associated with the family and consumer science, business and special education programs; renovations associated with the nurse/health clinic, administrative and guidance offices; and expansion and renovation of the cafeteria and kitchen; (3) various building systems improvements including replacement of all mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire protections systems and infrastructure; security and communication systems upgrades; energy conservation improvements including exterior wall, door, window, and roof replacement or updates; central air conditioning system installation throughout the building; and installation of an emergency generator and alternative energy systems; (4) various site improvements including separation of the bus/parent/student/parking and circulation; increased parking spaces; accessibility to all site facilities; track and tennis court upgrades; bleacher replacement; pavement resurfacing; physical education and athletic fields; and building access improvements; updating the site utility and drainage infrastructure; and (5) related improvements and work. The appropriation may be spent for design, construction, acquisition, and installation costs; site improvements; infrastructure improvements; equipment, furnishings, and materials; architectural, engineering, consultant, and other professional fees including legal fees; administrative costs, including costs related to the application for and acceptance of grants; the payment of net temporary interest and other financing costs; and other expenses related to the project or its financing. The Building Committee, School Projects -- Wethersfield High School and Hanmer School established by the Town Council for the project shall determine the scope and particulars of the project. Said building committee may reduce or modify the scope of the project if funds are not sufficient to complete the entire project, and the appropriation may be spent on the project as so reduced or modified. Said building committee may expand the scope of the project if the appropriation plus any other funds appropriated for the project are sufficient to complete the entire project substantially as described above and to pay for any added items. The Town anticipates applying for and receiving a grant from the State Department of Education to defray in part eligible costs of the project.

(b) That the Town issue bonds or notes, in an amount not to exceed SEVENTY FOUR MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTEEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SEVENTEEN DOLLARS (\$74,816,617) to finance the aforesaid appropriation. The amount of bonds or notes authorized to be issued shall be reduced by the amount of grants received by the Town and applied to defray the aforesaid appropriation. The bonds or notes shall be issued pursuant to Sections 7-369 and 10-289 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the Town secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town.

(c) That the Town issue and renew its temporary notes from time to time in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds or notes and the receipt of grants to finance the aforesaid appropriation. The amount of the notes outstanding at any time shall not exceed SEVENTY FOUR MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTEEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SEVENTEEN DOLLARS (\$74,816,617). The temporary notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-378 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, or any other enabling acts. The temporary notes shall be general obligations of the Town and shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town. The Town

shall comply, to the extent applicable, with the provisions of Section 7-378a of the General Statutes if the notes do not mature within the time permitted by said Section 7-378.

(d) The Town Manager and the Treasurer of the Town shall sign the bonds or notes by their manual or facsimile signatures. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds or notes. The Town Manager and the Treasurer are authorized to determine the amounts, dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds or notes; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds or notes; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds or notes; to designate a financial advisor to the Town in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes; to sell the bonds or notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes.

(e) That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that costs of the aforesaid project may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the project. The Town Manager and the Treasurer are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

PURPOSE: To appropriate SEVENTY FOUR MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTEEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SEVENTEEN DOLLARS (\$74,816,617) for costs with respect to the design, construction, equipping and furnishing of additions and renovations to Wethersfield High School, and authorizing the issue of Bonds and Notes to finance the portion of such appropriation not defrayed from grants.

Chairperson Hemmann noted that the Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 17.

MINUTES

Councilor Manousos moved **“TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 5, 2012”** seconded by Councilor McAlister.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilors Kotkin, Montinieri and Chairperson Hemmann ABSTAINED. The motion passed 6-0-3.

Councilor Kotkin moved **“TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF**

DECEMBER 19, 2012” seconded by Deputy Mayor Console.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilors Drake and Roberts ABSTAINED. The motion passed 7-0-2.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Barbara Ruhe, 79 Main Street, invited everyone to take a ride down to the Spring Street pond and take a look at what a beaver has been working on at the pond. Beavers are no longer seen and to see what they have done to some of the landscape is exceptional.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, commented on the two choices people have to vote on the referendum, which is either YES or NO. He also commented on a Hartford Courant article.

Larry Spellacy, 215 Pine Lane commented that Judy Keane recognizes the importance of the developing the young people in the community and turning the Community Center into the facility it is today. He noted that the high school project is another opportunity for the Town to do something for the young people.

Pete Baranowski 65 Westway, commented that one of his daughters in elementary school is using the smart board, and in the high school, chalk boards are still being used and urged that technology needs to come first.

Joe Garcia, Sherburne Rd, Wethersfield, commented that it is not the quality of the facility, but how each student is motivated by parents and teachers to do well.

Christine Fortunato, 28 Fairmont Street, noted that based on comments made at tonight’s meeting, the individuals involved in the present Building Committee have not been involved in prior projects that involve refunds back to the State.

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Avenue, commented that he has concerns with construction at the high school while classes are being held. He also commented that he feels that too much money is being spent on the project.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:25 p.m., Councilor Manousos moved **"TO ADJOURN THE MEETING"** seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

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

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk
Approved by Vote of Council
January 17, 2012