

**REGULAR MEETING
JULY 16, 2012**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, July 16, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield.

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

Also present: Jeff Bridges, Town Manager; RaeAnn Palmer, Assistant Town Manager; Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk; Mike Turner, Town Engineer.

Mr. Matt Forrest led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Mayor Hemmann started the meeting with a presentation from Direct Energy and introduced Matt Forrest and Mr. Richard Suchant.

Mr. Suchant explained that the discounted energy program is designed to save you on your energy costs versus your electric utility company. Mr. Suchant explained that as we entered a second year, we have set up a Civic Contribution that goes back to the Green Energy Committee. Mr. Suchant then presented a civic contribution check to the Mayor for \$10,895. He stated that the program now has over 2,000 plus customers who are now able to save close to \$12 or \$13 a month on your energy bill as opposed to CL&P. He explained that it is very simple to participate by going to DirectEnergy.com and enter the promo code is Wethersfieldct. He again stated that on behalf of Direct Energy, I would like to present the check to Matthew Forrest.

Mayor Hemmann next introduced Terry Perry from CIRMA who is the Town's Property and Risk Insurance Company.

Mr. Perry stated that he represents Connecticut your Local Risk Management Agency. He stated that we insure the Town and Board of Education for Wethersfield for Worker's Compensation and Liability Auto Property. He commented that we insured the Town and Board of Education since 1991 for Worker's Compensation and since 2002 for Liability Auto Property. Mr. Perry explained that for the second year in a row the CIRMA Board of Directors has issued what we call member equity distribution and explained that we are wholly-owned by our members so any excess capital that we have, we return and refund to our membership. So, for the second year in a row, I am glad to present a check in the amount of \$49,302 to the Town of Wethersfield and the Board of Education.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Hemmann next presented a Proclamation to the Girls U11 Division Soccer Team for their accomplishment in winning the prestigious State Cup for the spring 2012 season.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Hemmann asked for any public comments on the Hearing on Resolution Amending the Resolution Awarding Pre-Referendum Work of Wethersfield High School. Hearing none, Mayor Hemmann declared the hearing closed.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Frank Sorano, 102 Jameswell Rd., made a brief statement on the issue of Jameswell Rd. and appreciates the efforts made so far, but wanted to take a cue from what Bonnie Therrien had done about 4 years ago. He stated that she had a questionnaire handed around to the people about the water issues. He stated that things have happened in the past few years. He thinks it would be good to get an idea what the people in the area want to do as far as testing or not. He thinks it would be a good idea for the town.

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Ave. commented that there is no accountability in government on the State or Federal level. He also commented on the lack of a stop sign on Morrison Avenue. Mr. Colantonio also commented on the request of a written explanation of the arguments regarding installation of the new sidewalk on town property. He asked why the property owner should pay for a public facility of the town. He commented on the letter that he received on April 20, 2012 which states that an assessment be levied to each of the 28 adjoining property owners who abut the project limits. He explained some of his issues regarding this assessment. He spoke of the intersection of Church Street and Main Street being very dangerous not being able to see approaching cars and suggested a four-way stop sign be placed in the area.

Jim Clynch, 903 Ridge Rd., commented on the lack of information regarding the Wilkus Farm property. He spoke of a referendum years back where people were for buying this property. He stated that the Council is going against the will of the people in this town by proposing to add more land to this property to sell it. He spoke of one proposal to knock down the barn and build 12 or 15 houses there. Mr. Clynch also commented on the lack of response from the Council to the townspeople.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Rd., commented on the Wilkus Farm stating that the Council is changing the rules. He also commented on the lack of information provided regarding the offers made on the property and the dollar amounts associated them. He stated that since the town assessor indicated earlier that the property was worth \$310,000, the town should not take anything less than that. He also suggested that there should be some rights on the property that it should not be buildable with X amount of building lots. Mr. Young commented that he was at the Farmer's Market recently and didn't understand why people were parking on the grass and commented on the lack of respect for public property. He suggested that the Farmer's Market should be responsible for putting up no parking signs so people don't park on the lawn. Mr. Young commented that there are still campaign lawn signs on peoples' properties that haven't been picked up and feels that these signs cheapen the town. He commented on the July 12th

Wethersfield Life article regarding CREC paying the town a one-time payment of \$2 million dollars in lieu of property taxes and commented that he thought that money was supposed to come from the seller of the property. Mr. Young commented on the road repair priority list; stating funding for these roads being spent on other items instead.

COUNCIL REPORTS

None.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Deputy Mayor Console suggested the town send out a questionnaire to the people on the block as Mr. Sorano suggested in an attempt to move forward and put this issue to rest.

Deputy Mayor Console commented that he has received calls from some residents about the truck traffic along the bike routes in the Highland Street area. Some residents believe there is a station point in the area to work being done by the MDC. Deputy Mayor Console stated that he would like to know, if possible, what roads the trucks are using, how long the roads are going to be used for, and to perhaps change the bike route. He also suggested calling the Department of Motor Vehicles because from what he has been told, some of the trucks look like they are in pretty bad shape. He doesn't want to see anyone get hurt.

Mr. Bridges asked Deputy Mayor Console to clarify the bike route. A discussion then ensued with Mike Turner regarding the bike route and the trucks that are using Keisha farm as a base.

Deputy Mayor Console next commended CL&P regarding the landscaping that was installed around the power station on Wells Road and thought that they did a very nice job. He suggested to Jeff that we do something like that around the tennis courts.

Deputy Mayor Console also mentioned an article [7-11-12] regarding the Glastonbury Town Council; they approved the purchase of a used ladder fire truck for the Volunteer Fire Department. He stated that it was very interesting how the Fire Chief of Glastonbury, thinking out of the box, discovered a township in Pennsylvania that was going through some hardship and sold a ladder and tanker truck for half the price to the Town of Glastonbury. He reported that Glastonbury will now have two ladder trucks. He added their old 1979 ladder truck was being replaced with the used fire truck that is only a couple of years old, but was purchased for half the price, thus saving over a half of a million dollars. Deputy Mayor Console suggested that the town create a program where if an employee comes up with an idea where they can save quite a bit of money for the town and taxpayers, that they can receive a percentage of the savings by thinking out of the box.

Mayor Hemmann commented on a thank you note that she sent around from the Turner family. She also wanted to let the public and Council know that there will be no meeting on August 6th, but if there is need for a meeting, she will call a special meeting.

Mayor Hemmann read a letter that she received on July 12th from Senator John Fonfara in response to a letter that they had sent regarding Jameswell Rd. She reported that she received a letter from Congressman Larsen's aid, and stated that we sent the same letter that we included to the other legislative delegation to Congressman Larsen for his review and the same materials.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Bridges reported on a letter from CROG regarding the changes to the CT River Assembly staffing and status. He reported that according to the letter, the Connecticut River Assembly is going to shut down their operations due to a lack of activity on their part and will be contacting our representatives, Joe Smith and Lee Standish, to talk about where we go from here; to see if there is any action necessary from the Council.

Mr. Bridges reported on the savings report. He stated that today we did the refunding of the 6M plus general obligation bonds that we have been discussing. He noted that the overall savings totaled \$611,000. The estimate was around \$400 to \$490,000 so we hit the market just right today. You can see the savings per year that were realized or will be realized; we had a very good refunding today. Mr. Bridges thanked Sue Smith, our Finance Director, for putting all of that together.

Mr. Bridges next reported on the latest paving study done by our consultants that will be used as the basic framework for the Road Maintenance Program which will be discussed later on with the Paving Policy.

Mr. Bridges reported that Town Engineer, Mike Turner, has been working with the DEEP Staff. As you know there has been some outstanding bond money available for quite a while and he has worked with DEEP to free up about \$900,000.

Mayor Hemmann asked if this was the drainage bond money from the Milone & McBroom Study.

Mr. Bridges replied yes. He stated that he got DEEP to free up that money and it will be on the August bond agenda, about \$900,000. He stated that it is a pretty big windfall and pretty big deal for us.

Councilor Manousos asked Mr. Bridges to restate the CREC issue and where the \$2 million is coming from.

Mr. Bridges replied that the \$2 million is not coming from CREC. It is coming from the owner's that are selling the building to CREC. He stated that CREC is not paying us anything. We are getting a check from the proceeds of the sale of the building.

Councilor Manousos asked about the roadwork, the \$400,000 and if it were already in the budget.

Mr. Bridges replied that the Council did include an additional \$400,000 in this year's budget which forms the framework of the new Road Maintenance Program. He noted that the money is there and is available, and once you adopt the policy this evening, we are going to schedule a Capital Improvements Advisory Meeting to go ahead and get roads programmed and under construction this Fall.

Councilor Drake asked if this is an additional \$400,000 to declare.

Councilor Manousos responded that we were trying to get to the number of \$1.2 M per year which would be steady state maintenance.

Councilor Kotkin asked if there was a process to determine how to use \$900,000 that may be on the August Commission agenda.

Mr. Bridges replied that it has been programmed for the Murphy and Bell Pond Dam reconstruction and dredging so that is the project that the town has always anticipated using it for. We have match money of about \$188,000 available as required.

Councilor Kotkin asked if that was town money that we already set aside.

Mr. Bridges replied yes, we've already set it aside.

Councilor Kotkin asked if there is a schedule, assuming it gets approved, that you would assume people would likely see work going on?

Mr. Bridges replied in the summer.

Mr. Bridges asked for some clarification from the Council regarding if it is the will of the Council that we do a study of the Jameswell neighborhood or do we want to wait to get responses back from MDC and the rest of them before we consider it. He would probably refer it to Infrastructure to design the nature of the survey and the boundaries of it. Would Council be acceptable to sending it back to infrastructure to provide guidance?

Councilor Drake responded that he will have an Infrastructure meeting shortly and will put it on the agenda.

TOWN CLERK

Dolores Sassano reported that we received notification from State Elections Enforcement Commission that cleared the Town of any wrong doing for the complaint, filed April 12th for the language in the explanatory text provided for the Referendum question.

Councilor Montinieri asked Mr. Bridges the cost for legal fees to answer the complaint.

Mr. Bridges replied \$2,200.

Councilor Montinieri asked if we know what we spent on the other ethics claim that was not met on the Board side.

Mr. Bridges asked if he was talking about the ethics complaint.

Councilor Montinieri replied, yes.

Mr. Bridges stated that they are getting that number for him.

Councilor Montinieri asked Ms. Sassano if either of those resulted in having a hearing.

Ms. Sassano responded, no.

Councilor Montinieri noted that neither the State Elections Officials nor the Ethics Committee considered the claims worthy of a hearing, but we spent \$4,000 or \$5000 responding to them.

Mr. Bridges replied that if the Board spent equivalent to what we did, yes.

Councilor Montinieri commented that he feels that we should make note of this publicly and that it concerns him, especially in tight budget times. He commented that we all know what we did to squeeze money out of the budge this year. Councilor Montinieri noted that he certainly encourages the community to be able to respond to any questions about election laws, but when we have something come up that doesn't even get pass the speed bump and we spend thousands of dollars on it, it's a concern. People file these complaints when they do not really have any merit according to the response. We are a neutral party, but that's a lot of money spent in tight dollar times.

COUNCIL ACTION

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO APPROVE THE RESIGNATION FROM THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AS AN ALTERNATE, KEVEN P. ROGERS, 23 QUAIL HILL ROAD”**, seconded by Councilor Drake.

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

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO APPOINT TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONS OF THE BOARD OF ETHICS AS AN ALTERNATE, MARGARET L. GUSTAFSON, 192 AMHERST STREET, FOR THE TERM JULY 16, 2012 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2015”**, seconded by Councilor Drake.

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

Councilor Montinieri moved **“TO APPOINT ELLEN SPRATLIN, 115 BROAD STREET TO THE TOURISM COMMISSION FOR THE TERM JULY 16, 2012 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2015”**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

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

Councilor Drake moved **“TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AMENDING THE RESOLUTION AWARDED PRE-REFERENDUM WORK OF WETHERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL,”** seconded by Councilor McAlister.

Mr. Bridges explained that in this submission of EDO 49, the State Bureau of School Construction was reviewing the paperwork and asked that we clarify the original August 11, 2008 resolution and they provided the language that they were looking for that would clarify that, so this is that resolution.

RESOLVED, that the language of the prior resolution on pre-referendum services dated August 11th, 2008, be clarified to state that the Wethersfield Town Council hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the renovations and additions at Wethersfield High School.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Drake moved **“TO REJECT ALL PROPOSALS FOR THE PURCHASE OR ACQUISITION OF THE 1.86 ACRES OF WILKUS PROPERTY AND WE ARE GOING TO INSTRUCT THE STAFF TO SET UP ANOTHER MEETING FOR THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON THE TECHNICALITY”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

Mr. Bridges explained that the staff solicited proposals and we received three. Two for residential/agricultural purposes, one for developmental purposes and the Infrastructure Committee met and would like to send this back to Infrastructure for additional work, and/or possibly to redo the proposals and they would recommend rejecting them all.

Councilor Kotkin asked Mr. Bridges if he could list what the prices were.

Mr. Bridges responded that one price was \$190,000 for the parcel, the other price was \$162,000 and the third was a land swap which was the value provided for the acquisition of Wilkus property.

Councilor Kotkin asked how many acres is the property that we ask for an RFP on?

Mr. Bridges responded that we asked for an RFP on about 1.86 acres for acquisition direct with the option to lease an adjacent 10 acres for agricultural purposes.

Mr. Kotkin commented that one of the proposals says that it needs another 30,000 sq. ft. which would be $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre so that would be 1.8 plus or $\frac{3}{4}$ or an acre so that is what that proponent is looking for.

Councilor Drake commented clarifying that all the proposals are public and that every proposal we received was public. He explained that we had two proposals that were dollar figures and the third one which was a little bit outside the box which a person asked for some additional land we are going to go back and look at it, it is a land swap and it is interesting enough for the town that we would be doing the town a disservice if we don't go back and take a look at that proposal because that proposal actually affects a lot of people in town besides the people on Wilkus Farm property, so that is why we want to go back and take a look at it because it actually is a pretty interesting proposal. We are going to go back and take a look at it and then decide what we are going to do, so that is why we rejected all three proposals. Councilor Drake stated that the proposals were public, they were posted on the internet all the proposals are there and we are just trying to do the right thing for the town for everybody in the town so that is why we are going to go back and look at this

Councilor McAlister had a question regarding the Land Swap when it goes back and then goes out to RFP again. Councilor McAlister asked if we are going to get an evaluation of the property like a separate independent one or are they going to tell us how much they think it is worth?

Mr. Bridges replied that we would probably have the Infrastructure Committee review that.

Councilor McAlister responded that he would be curious if he was going to vote on that, that he would want to understand what the value of it actually was.

Councilor Drake agreed that it is one of those proposals outside of what we expected and that we

need to go back and take a second look at.

Councilor Montinieri commented to be the benefit of those listening in and trying to understand what is happening with the Wilkus Farm proposal. He stated that he agreed that it should go back for another look. He added that he believes that one of the things the Council is going to have to address in Infrastructure is getting our arms around the spirit and intent of the various options because they have economic impact to Jim's point if we talk about a land swap of the Goff property in exchange for a slightly enhanced parcel on Willow, but obviously for development purposes versus the other two proposals which talk about retaining the barn and some agricultural use. Councilor Montinieri stated that he believes it is going to be a value judgment on the part of the Council and probably the part of the public, so he encouraged Jim's point about communication and keeping the public informed on this. Councilor Montinieri stated that this is a big deal and there was a lot of energy put behind the funding of the open space. He spoke of the history behind the parcel of land including the town's liability concerns with the barn and house, and the issue of the public wanting to maintain it for open space. He also stated that he supports Councilor Drake's point that there has been a very open transparent effort on the part of the town. He commented that if we were to consider the land swap spec., which was a little bit off the screen, in absence of a rebid, it would be unfair to the two other bidders because they didn't respond to the bid that way. He noted that we have a technicality that we have to follow and allow the other two bidders to come back and change their bid if they wish. Councilor Montinieri urged people to come and reach out to the Councilors and have a chance to weigh in regarding this issue and wanted to make sure that the public understands what is happening.

Councilor Drake commented that he would like hear what the people think regarding the land swap bid.

Councilor McAlister wanted to make sure that people understand how much it would cost to keep the parcel and how long we can go before we have to tear down the barn because of the condition it is in and how much that would cost the town if we were to go that route. So let's put everything on the table, educate everyone on all the options including walking away from this completely, so people know that is going to cost us money if we walk away.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-1. Councilor Manousos abstained.

Deputy Mayor Console moved **"TO ADOPT THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT POLICY"**, seconded by Councilor Hurley.

Mr. Bridges explained that as we discussed during the budget process, the Town staff has prepared a pavement management policy which includes how roads are selected and the different levels of maintenance. The Town Engineer, Mike Turner, is here to talk about the policy and where we go from here.

Mr. Turner reported on working with the Mayor's Paving Committee which included a combination of folks from the Town Council, our Engineering Staff, our Physical Services Staff, VHB, which is the consulting engineer that the town uses, and two members of the Capital Improvements Advisory Committee. He noted that the town never had a written policy for road paving with regards to the selection of roads to be repaired, types of techniques that are used, and never a process to look at including public input into that process. Mr. Turner explained that the new policy lays out all the different types of repair strategies that the town has used in the past and going forward which is basically crack sealing, overlaying, milling and overlaying, reconstruction and reclamation. He reported that they have firmed up what types of strategies the town is willing to accept in repairing our roads and developed a procedure and timetable on how the process occurs each year. He stated that through the budget process, the utilization of input from the town maintenance staff, physical services division, complaints to the manager's office, and town councilors input to our office, have all been thrown into the mix that we can draw from to try and get what we think is a better program for our citizens in terms of what roads are selected, including putting money aside to address some of the short cul-de-sac repairs. He stated that all of this is written down into a policy and selection process and explained that whatever road selection we come up with, we would then go back to the Capital Improvements Committee and use that committee as the sounding board so that it's a public group that folks would have access to and be able to review the input and be able to comment on it.

Mr. Turner next commented on improving the coordination with utility companies and with those various developers that we know do 90% of the road cuts in town and basically giving them an opportunity ahead of time to review what it is we have on the table, to make adjustments to their infrastructure, so that we don't run into a problem of having to have a road be cut open six months after we have just paved it.

Mr. Turner explained a new restriction in the policy that would not allow utility company's any cuts on any newly paved roads if the road was paved within 5 years, with the exception of an emergency, like a gas or water leak. He also explained that if we determined that an emergency does not exist, then a heavy permit excavation fee would be given to cover our costs due to the acceleration of the deterioration of the road because of the work being done. Mr. Turner stated that there would be an appeal process for the utility company's should they disagree and if a hardship does exist and a cut still needs to be made and the hardship is taken care of, we are no longer going to allow them to just repair the trench. He stated that the policy is going to require them to repair the road to a minimum of a 25 to 30 foot section of road curb to curb repaired instead of little cuts along the way.

Councilor Roberts commented that she thought that this is a great improvement on what we've been operating on in the past. She also noted that the paint outlining the utilities in the roads should be covered up as well when a job is complete.

Deputy Mayor Console asked Mr. Turner that without a visual inspection, how we are going

about assessing the road conditions around town.

Mr. Turner responded that VHB travels every road and looks at all types of defects, like pot holes, cracks, transfers cracks, etc. and then categorizes these defects in their program and that computes the pavement condition index.

Mayor Deputy Console noted an incident and recurring problem on his road, Ivy Lane, where the road caved in after a vehicle struck a pothole and is continuing to sink in other areas. He commented that he doesn't understand how of rating of 54 can be issued on such deplorable road conditions and questions how the calculations are made.

Mr. Turner offered to pull the detailed report for Deputy Mayor Console. He noted to bear in mind that the pavement condition indexes numbers are only the starting point and that we do have staff to go out and physically confirm what the roads look like.

Councilor Kotkin commented that he is glad that there is a set-aside for smaller streets and cul-de-sacs. He also commented that there are a lot of people out there who now wanting to switch over from oil to gas heating and are going to have to dig that trench from the home into the street and they may be hit with a very large extra fee to do that. He stated that he understands where the town is coming from but is concerned about hitting the homeowner with the big fee and doesn't feel that we totally thought through that aspect of the policy.

Mr. Turner stated that what we are proposing here is going to be an improvement and stated that if we are nine months ahead of paving Church Street and we send letters to all of those homeowners saying we are considering paving Church St., then hopefully, the gas company will send out letters saying that if you are thinking about hooking up to a gas line this would be a good time to do it and will save you money by doing it now.

Councilor McAlister recommended to Deputy Mayor Console to go out and look at other street that are right around 52, 53, 54 to get other examples to see if it is consistent. Because if it is consistent, then we don't have an issue, but if it is not consistent, then we should probably revisit it.

Councilor McAlister commented that he was surprised to see that our current PCI is 76 when the highest we've ever been in 2005 is 80 and stated that he heard a lot of complaints about the street conditions being so horrible, especially the last year or two. He stated that it was a little surprising seeing that we were that high. He next asked if it's the same baseline we are measuring against so it is a comparable number?

Mr. Turner replied that it is the same baseline, and that the same firm has been doing the evaluations as well.

Councilor McAlister next asked do we know with \$1.2 million of funding what we will bring

that 76 up to as compared to \$800,000 in funding. Are we going to get to 79 versus 78?

Mr. Turner replied we will remain at 76.

Councilor McAlister stated \$1.2 will get us to remain at 76.

Mr. Bridges replied yes, that was the amount necessary to maintain the current level of streets.

Councilor McAlister commented so that if only had \$800,000 if we go down to 75 and the following year 74. So we were at 80 in 2005 and ever since then we've been slowly going down.

Mr. Turner replied that that is correct 2004 council had passed and voters voted on a referendum to input a lot of money into paving and that brought us up to the 80.

Councilor McAlister commented that so it sounds like a 4 point differential between 80 and 76 is pretty significant from a resident's observation of the road condition.

Mr. Turner replied yes.

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

Councilor Hurley moved **"TO AUTHORIZE TOWN STAFF TO SUBMIT TWO STEAP GRANT REQUESTS, EACH FOR \$500,000. ONE REQUEST WILL BE \$500,000 FOR LEVERAGE FUNDS FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE WEIGHT WATCHER'S PROPERTY AND FAÇADE LOAN FUNDS, AND THE OTHER \$500,000 FOR THE REPAVING OF THE WEBB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARKING LOTS AND REPLACEMENT OF THE WEBB TENNIS COURTS"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Console.

Mr. Bridges explained that the Infrastructure Committee reviewed the list that the staff maintains for possible STEAP projects which historically have been the façade loans, streetscape improvements to the Silas Deane Highway and, most recently, the pretty intensive anticipated repairs and upgrades to Millwoods Park. He explained that after review with the Infrastructure Committee, they are recommending two \$500,000 applications as the motion stated. One will be for leverage funds for the Weight Watchers property to work with the redeveloper to tear down the site, and additional money for the Façade Loan Program which has been extremely successful. Mr. Bridges stated that the other application will be for the Webb Elementary School parking lot when they repair the tennis courts. He stated the criteria state projects are based on is listed in the memo to the Infrastructure Committee. He noted that it is pretty broad, but there has been a relation to economic development, public facility usage and so forth, so it is broad, but we do need to show a broad public benefit or economic development.

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

BIDS

None.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

None.

MINUTES

Councilor Kotkin moved **“TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 2, 2012”**, seconded by Councilor McAlister.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jim Clynch, 903 Ridge Rd., stated that he doesn't understand the thinking of a land swap and it just doesn't make sense. He stated that the Wilkus Farm is part of town and to knock down the buildings and sell it to redevelop, just doesn't make any sense. He stated that if you are going to knock down the buildings, you might as well keep it for open space.

Frank Sorano, 102 Jameswell Rd., commented on CNG and lines along the street where work was done. He stated that there is a very long area where one person complained about where a landscaper was out sent to fill in the trench, and now you can see where the grass is all burned out. He stated that it happened last summer, and this summer, they didn't come back to reseed it and they didn't change the soil, so now you can see the exact pattern of where the pipes were put in and it looks really bad. He stated that he did call the town and they gave him the number for the landscaper for CNG. He said that all they did was reseed it, and he thought they would change the soil but it is all the way up the street, wherever the lines went on the snow shelf, and even though it is town property, it still looks esthetically bad. Mr. Sorano next commented that he did see Senator Fonfara's letter that was addressed and realizes that the EPA can't help with the situation with Jameswell Rd., but he thinks the Senator has to be brought up to snuff with regards to the road condition. He stated that it is not just his property, but the other thing is, it has been alluded to that he's been avoiding putting in a curtain drain, and stated that two or three years ago, he did try to put a curtain drain between his house and the house next door. Mr. Sorano stated that the problem is that none of the contractors will take the liability for the problem and they know what is there. He stated that he very recently had a contractor come out and give them an estimate to put in a 10 ft. deep drain 2 ft. wide going to one of the sanitary sewers, but they didn't want to take the liability and didn't want to touch the job. So part of the problem is that I can't get someone to do it.

Phillip Rouquie, 410 Church St., commented on the paving job that was done on Church Street by the Raferty Company. Mr. Rouquie stated that the company was nothing but a nightmare to them and had a couple of issues with the Engineering Department where they were doing an improper job. He noted that when it comes to the paving, to keep this company's name in mind and urged the council to go and check out the job that they did on Church Street. Mr. Rouquie then expressed his frustration with the bidding process on the Wilkus Farm land sale and the lack of communication that was shown to him as one of bidders. He also commented that some MDC sewer information that he received on the property prior to his bid was incorrect information and had he known that in the beginning, he would have increased his bid price to reflect that information.

Barbara Ruhe, 79 Main St., commented on the paving project that is going on around her office which is located at corner of Silas Deane Highway and Maple Street. She stated that for some extent they were trapped in their building because streets were closed around them because of the milling and the paving work that was being done. She asked that if there was some way that the DOT could give notice to the town and then the town could post on the town website when streets are going to be closed.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Rd., commented on the Wilkus Farm sale. He commented that the article in the paper didn't talk about any proposals or the dollar amount or that it was posted on the town website and suggested that the website be mentioned in future articles when certain information is available there. He commented on the lack of use of our \$1.2 million dollar fire truck and the costs associated with its upkeep. Mr. Young commented that the Town of Wethersfield does not have any business owning property that they are not going to use. He suggested doing more shared services amongst the surrounding towns to control costs. Mr. Young also commented on the taxes in Wethersfield.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:55 p.m., Councilor McAlister 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
August 20, 2012