

**REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 17, 2012**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, September 17, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield.

Mayor Hemmann announced that an Executive Session on the Town Clerk's evaluation will take place after the regular meeting.

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 and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

Deputy Mayor Console led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Hemmann presented a Proclamation to Beverly Manning recognizing Constitution Week.

Mayor Hemmann next introduced Amy Wittorff and Candace Holmes with a presentation of the Red Onions of the Wethersfield Historical Society. Ms. Wittorff explained the programs that are offered by the Historical Society to Wethersfield residents. She invited Wethersfield residents to join them for the Historical Society's 80th Year Celebration to be hosted by Lucky Lou's Bar & Grill at the Historic Demming Standish House on Monday, October 1, 2012 between 5:00 and 9:00 p.m. and stated that 25% of the menu proceeds will be donated to the Society. Ms. Wittorff then presented Mayor Hemmann with a rope of red onions as a monetary lease payment for the Cove Warehouse.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Hemmann asked if anyone wished to speak at the hearing concerning the resolution and ordinance for the creation of an OPEB "Other Post Employment Benefit" Trust Fund.

Seeing no members wished to speak on the hearing item, she declared the hearing closed.

GENERAL COMMENTS

John Miller, 45 Highland St., thanked the Fire Dept. for their assistance during an emergency call at his place of business and stated that he was impressed with their performance. Mr. Miller again questioned the design of the parent drop off location that is being proposed as part of the Wethersfield High School renovation and stated that things should be looked at more thoroughly to see if the design on the north side of the building will actually work. He also suggested to

have parents actually use the proposed route for a couple of weeks to see if it will work. Mr. Miller commented that we should maintain the emergency access route along Wintergreen Woods and hopes people take another look at it.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Rd., commented on the borrowing that the town has been doing will continue to hurt us in the long run and urges the town not to buy things that we don't have money for and asked the council to vote "no" on the new vehicle purchase bid. Mr. Young believes that the citizens should see a payment schedule as money goes out.

George A. Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle suggested that permanent ink be used on signs that are posted around town. He commented that the blighted property next to him is getting worse with garbage being dumped and the brush is now overgrown and looks like a swamp and stated that it is a disgrace to the town and wanted to bring it to the attention to the council.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Manousos reported that EDIC met last week and mentioned that they were looking for more volunteers and members to participate in the commission to eventually start taking some leadership roles so if there is anyone out there in the public that might have an interest, let Peter know or let the Town Manager know.

Councilor Manousos reported that the Farmer's Market will be moving indoors to the Trinity Episcopal Church in October.

Councilor Roberts asked Councilor Manousos asked if all the Commissioner's positions are filled on EDIC.

Councilor Manousos responded that there were two Alternate positions right now, but they want people to participate Hughes are not looking to be there forever because there are a few members who would like to leave.

Mr. Bridges stated that he has two applicants already.

Councilor Roberts reported that some time ago, Marie Massaro came here representing the Wethersfield Early Readiness Council and did a presentation to the Town Council on the work that they were doing to try and get Wethersfield children more ready for school. Councilor Roberts stated that they have been working for several years now and there have been many members of the community involved and have put together a plan and have received funding from the Silas Deane Memorial Foundation as well as the State Department of Education and the Children's Fund of Connecticut. She reported that Marie will be coming to the Town Council Meeting on October 1st to update the Council. Ms. Roberts stated they have done phenomenal work and have analyzed all sorts of data and metrics and believes the Council should be impressed. She announced that they will be presenting their kick-off event on October 11th from 5:30 to 7:30 at the Community Center and there will be community-wide invites and

will be looking for people to get involved in developing strategies to assist with improving prenatal care, healthy eating and physical activity for children and reading strategies. Councilor Roberts reported that people have been involved from the Library, the Board of Education, the Health District and various PTO's, the YMCA, the YWCA, and wanted people to be aware of the topic.

Councilor Drake reported that the Building Committee for the High School met last week. They are working hard on the first pass at a hard budget based on the design and they are also working on the logistics of the whole project. He stated that one of the things that came up was the high school football field replacement. Based on where they are right now, holding the field renovations off as long as possible, they are looking at about 3 ½ years from now. No matter what happens, high school project or not, that would be about the right time to be ready to do this football field. Councilor Drake thinks we need to think harder about putting some money away to get this funded to be ready one way or another in 3 ½ years. His thoughts were we since we had some money left over from the various capital improvement projects that we were going to go back to Infrastructure and the Capital improvements group to see if they want to put some priorities together and go back to Finance Committee to see if they want to put a little bit of the \$130,000 into a fund over the next 3 ½ years. I think we need to do it.

Councilor Manousos agreed that it is a good idea but one of the things that Budget and Finance talked about at one point was, now that the lease payments on the field are up, we may keep some of that programming in the budget. Once we get to the budget process we can talk about whether that is feasible or not.

Mr. Bridges stated that we already allocated those funds with other projects so we would have to add it back in.

Councilor Drake stated that he thought we would do that next year when the time comes, but some of this capital money [\$130,000] maybe \$50,000 to put a dent into the total field cost.

Mr. Bridges stated that we can look at it.

Councilor McAlister asked if we know the total amount for the cost of the field.

Councilor Drake responded that we don't know exactly but approximately \$800,000 and again, it is 3 ½ years from now.

Councilor McAlister asked so if we wanted to pay it off in full, it would be \$300,000 per year that we would have to save?

Councilor Drake stated three years from now, we may turn around and say we don't want to do it, but we would be naïve not to start thinking about it real hard. We have plenty of time, we just don't want to forget about it, what we want to do and maybe some of it can be picked up in the project towards the end if it makes any sense.

Deputy Mayor Console asked when the Building Committee was in discussions, was Jay Cottone involved in any of the planning of this or the field studies and things of that nature.

Councilor Drake responded absolutely and stated that the school administration spent a lot of time on this renovation.

Councilor Drake stated that he understands that Jay is no longer with us and that is why Deputy Mayor Console is asking. There was a lot of documentation from his point of view of what was needed.

Councilor Drake stated that as of right now, his understanding is the fields are in good shape right now but they are showing a little wear and the 3 ½ years seems about right. No matter what we have, with or without the High School, we will be having the conversation about replacing the field. The field is in good shape right now, but there is some wear in the seams. Again, the idea is to have a conversation to see if we could fund a little bit and we could always make that decision a little farther along, but we do not want to forget about it.

Councilor Kotkin asked that just as a reminder the money that we get that we receive from rental and emissions for events there, is that going to lights to repay some of the money that we spent on the lights.

Mr. Bridges stated that it did, but over time that will build back up, but it is not going to accumulate to \$100,000, maybe \$30,000 over four or five years.

Councilor Kotkin asked if there a set-aside account in the Recreation Department?

Mr. Bridges responded yes, the Cottone Field Maintenance Fund.

Deputy Mayor Console commented the he did go down to the High School over a two-day period just to see how the drop off goes in the morning and stated that it is quite congested the way it is now and will there will be a lot of changes made but he brought up an interesting topic tonight and asked Councilor Drake if it is possible for us to do a test drop-off like he is asking for to see what the traffic flow is going to be like because road is going to be basically the same from what I saw.

Councilor Drake responded the bus drop off is going to be back where on the south side of the building and the parents are going to be on the door side so what we have right now has no bearing on what we are doing.

Deputy Mayor Console asked can we do that type of test?

Councilor Drake responded that he can ask them but don't know if you could do something that is realistic. I guess the question can be asked but don't forget we are going to have a big parking

lot that is going to be going in the back, we are adding 150 spaces and John is mistaking, the emergency thing is still there, it has not disappeared.

Councilor McAlister asked if Councilor Drake can bring in something that will show how the emergency thing is set up?

Councilor Drake responded that as soon as the budget thing is done, they are going to come in and do a presentation for you guys, but I'll ask them specifically about that.

Deputy Mayor Console stated that some of these questions may have some validity about them.

Councilor Drake stated that yes, you are absolutely right, but the question that he asks is, who do we ask and stated that we are sitting there with a bunch of architects, the police staff, and all kinds of people and when we are all done, and we look at it and ask is there a mistake being made? I guess there is the possibility, but I'm not sure who else you ask. Councilor Drake explained that we've asked all the professionals and we're paying them and this is the concept-- with the busses in the front, the parking in the back, and we are adding 150 spaces. I don't know what else you do. He stated that there will be a layout and when the time comes and they do a presentation, we'll make sure the professionals address that a little bit more.

Deputy Mayor Console commented that the idea may not be too far off to do a test, if we can do it now.

Councilor Drake responded the emergency access is there and is not taken away and that the whole north side of the building will be substantially changed and stated that Stathis and I have talked about it and he has a concern, like John, about adding some parking on the West side across from Folly Brook. He added that we talked a little bit about it a couple of weeks ago at the meeting and stated that it is not on town property, it is not reimbursable, and it is really not part of the project. He stated that he talked a little bit about this with Jeff and maybe with the next Infrastructure meeting, we can kind of review this a little bit and maybe we can come up with a way to come up with a rough idea of what kind of costs this would be and what we would need to do and get a rough idea of the costs and send it to the Capitol Improvement Committee and see if there is anything that makes any sense. Councilor Drake stated that one of the things we don't want to do is pull a project out of something and stick it in front of everything else we have, just because of a bunch of emotions because the high school is being done, but I think it is worth the discussion. He stated, again, with what John says, could we end up with a problem at the end. I guess, but we have a lot of people being paid a lot of money who have done a lot of studies who have said that this is the way to do it and I am not in any position to doubt them and that is where we are at.

Councilor McAlister stated that he is very appreciative of the Committee and all of the hard work that they have done and knows that it is not easy being a volunteer on the Committee and having thrown stone at you and stated that we experience the same thing, but that is what we volunteer for. He stated that his point is that he appreciates all their hard work and am not criticizing them.

Councilor McAlister stated that he understands that there is a traffic study being done and was wondering, what are we designing for, are we designing for peak are we designing for average and asked what numbers are they using, what numbers were they given by us. He stated that he recently went to a football game under the lights and there were people all over the place in every single parking lot and it was overflowed into the side streets and over into Wintergreen Woods parking lot. He stated that it's a good thing for the town and was a well-attended football game. He added that long-term, if we are going to spend this money, I know it is not reimbursable and that it is not part of the project, but let's do it right and let's talk about the options, like you said with other parking areas. He also stated that for short-term, we should be opening up the other gates for different access for other roads because, right now, everyone is parking all along the side roads by the other side of the school. So, there are people being inconvenienced when you live near a school and people work there, so I'm not sure why we are not entertaining opening up those gates on Church Street to relieve some of the parking issue that we have.

Councilor Drake stated that there was an agreement with the people not to open those because of the lights back then.

Councilor McAlister stated that he would like to see that agreement and stated that he has seen people park there and watch games through the fence and then they would be told to move and stated that there are no "no parking" signs there, so legally, you can park there. He commented that he is not really clear on it and it seems like that might alleviate some of the issues and doesn't understand why we are taking care of people on Church Street with the agreement, where all the people on the other side of the school have cars parked up and down their side streets. Councilor McAlister stated that that would be an easy solution to alleviate the problem that we have week-to-week right now.

Councilor Drake stated again that his suggestion is if the town wants to do something, let's go to the Infrastructure Committee to see what it looks like for dollars and if it approaches to the top as a high priority, then we figure out how to do it. He stated that he has no idea how much something like that would cost, but to put the Building Committee in their situation, they are adding 150 more parking spots than they have now, they have asked the Staff, the Board of Ed, the Athletic Dept. , "Do you have enough spaces?" and everyone said, "yes."

Councilor McAlister stated that if the town needs to do something that is out of the scope of that project, let's take advantage of the construction time and everything to do it right. He also stated that he would like to understand if there was an actual agreement and what that agreement was for not opening those gates.

Councilor Roberts responded that at the time, there was at least a promise along with a pretty serious commitment that the town would not open those gates. She stated that she didn't know if it is memorialized in writing or if you would find it in the minutes going back, but that was one of the conditions of putting the lights on the field.

Deputy Mayor Console reported that there were a bunch of articles in the paper regarding Cedar Mountain and some approvals that were passed through Newington and invited Peter Gillespie to speak about them.

Peter Gillespie reported that we received a legal notice today from the Newington Wetlands Commission and explained that the project received Planning and Zoning Commission approval from the Town of Newington last year, however, did not get the Wetlands decision and that it was actually denied and, therefore, were not able to go forward in terms of construction activities. He explained that they have now come back with a revised plan and that the subdivision is down now to 43 lots from 63, so the plans have been revised. He stated that he was talking to the State Archaeologist today and is going to be reviewing the plans as well because they have some concern about cultural resources on the property. He stated that it is going to the Wetlands Commission in Newington to receive the application tomorrow night and they will have their hearing and their review of it next month so there is a month delay for that Wetlands Application. He reported that he has received some emails from some residents inquiring about that because they heard it was back on the table again. He stated that he hasn't seen the plan, but it looks like they have changed to some extent which sort of implies that they would have to go back to the Planning and Zoning Commission as well, and that would be our practice, and assumes that that would be the same case over there.

Deputy Mayor Console reported a house at 83 Cedar Street and he had mentioned it several times and 77 has been cleaned up and is looking pretty good, but 83 Cedar Street was a very well kept house when the original couple owned it and now that it has been sold, it looks like a commercial site. He stated that there are three pickup trucks in the backyard, at least four different trailers, and there are barbecue pits in the front yard, it is a disaster. He stated that he has received many calls from neighbors in that area and we really need to get the town out there to crack down on these guys. They have cleaned it up a little bit, but it is right back to where it was before, if not worst, so if you can check into that, he would appreciate it.

Deputy Mayor Console asked that for the Safety Committee meeting for the 24th, is it possible that we can put on our agenda the four-way intersection on Church St. and Main St. and the way the traffic study is done there as far as putting in a four-way stop sign instead of two-way. He stated that he has received a bunch of calls about people not being able to drive their cars from Church over to the other side of Main Street because there are signs that are put there from the walk ways and people think there is a stop sign there now and are stopping when they shouldn't be stopping and there is a bunch of chaos going on.

Mayor Hemmann commented that there is actually something in the agenda in regards to a grant.

Deputy Mayor Console reported that on September 12, 2012, there was an article in the paper regarding an \$8,000,000 bond fund for the Clean Water Project and stated that he has been doing some research on it and urges everyone in town to look on the website which is www.voteyesforleanwater.org because it has a lot of interesting information on why we should be moving forward with this Clean Water Project. He stated that when you start to realize the

age of the pipes and how many millions of gallons of water we are using per day just in this town alone and what the project is going to do, the end result is beneficial to everyone, so it is something that our town, being one of the district towns, should really be active in between now and November 8th for the vote on this. I would strongly urge everyone to look at that website and to read a little more about it because it is very interesting in what they are doing.

Councilor Roberts wanted to take a moment to say also that on September 12th, there was an article in the paper that the former Honorary Mayor of Griswoldville, Dick Lasher and his wife Jean celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary and on behalf of the Town Council she would like to wish them a Happy Anniversary. She stated that he is 93 and she is 91 and even though they live at Avery Heights now, he will always be the Honorary Mayor of Griswoldville.

Councilor Kotkin commented on an article that was in the morning paper regarding the government looking into complaints about Ford Crown Victoria's that were built between 2005 and 2008 because of complaints about possible defective steering columns. He stated that the federal government is looking at it so he doesn't believe there is anything immediate for the town to do but advised that since we have a lot of those on the road from those years, it might be worth monitoring. He next commented on the Town Clerk's monthly report for August and how the conveyance tax collected seemed to be up and wanted to know if it is just that last year we had virtually no property sales, or if there is any sort of trend that we are actually seeing more property sales in town. He asked if we are seeing a trend.

Ms. Sassano responded we have been collecting more and we have a lot more homes being sold so that we are processing more on the land records; they are selling in the neighborhood of \$300,000 - \$500,000, so it is a good sign.

Councilor McAlister reported that he sent a note to the Town Manager stating that Mike Turner really did a great job recently in helping out a resident that actually took the time out to call me up and tell me to express her thanks to Mike, so good job for him in helping her out in the system because it is not always easy to find your way and manage your way through the town codes.

Councilor McAlister next commented how this town and this Council has given a lot to the Board of Education and when we approved the town High School Renovation and the full-day kindergarten, they told us they were going to be doing a full-spectrum of services in a very comprehensive approach in terms of making sure we don't have fade-out with all this initial investment. Councilor McAlister requested if it would be possible to get an update from them on that comprehensive plan and would be specifically interested to understand what their summer programs plans are. He stated that as he understands it, the summer programs have been taken off their program in the past years, maybe because of budgetary reasons or something. He commented that he thinks that has a lot to do with the fade-out as well, and is wondering that at some point to have them report what they are doing with all this investment that we are giving them.

Councilor Manousos reported that last week, he attended Winton, Keene, Bittner Soccer Jamboree at the High School and stated that it stands as a Memorial to the three Wethersfield residents, David Winton, Richard Keene and Jeffery Bittner, who were killed in the attacks at the World Trade Center. Councilor Manousos stated that the three of them were linked by this common soccer connection in this jamboree and how it is created in their honor. He explained that the Jamboree is a preseason round-robin tournament of some of the best girls and boys soccer teams in the State. He noted that it was a well attended event and always a great time to be a part of it.

Councilor Manousos asked the Town Manager where we are as far as the public response system website.

Mr. Bridges asked Rae Ann Palmer to respond to the question.

Rae Ann Palmer responded that they are working on and implementing it as we speak and stated that they have the draft of the website done and are looking to implement it in October.

Councilor Manousos asked if the idea is that a resident can plug in or make a comment on something and it will be routed to the appropriate department or person and then there is a follow-up procedure in a way to kind of track the closure of that comment.

Mayor Hemmann reported on some communications that she had received and wanted to share with everyone. She stated that one was from the MDC at the September 5, 2012 regular Board of Commissions of the Metropolitan District and reported that the Board voted to call for a district-wide referendum considering an additional appropriation of \$800,000,000 to fund Phase II of the Clean Water Project. The referendum will be held in conjunction with the November 6, 2012 general election and will appear on the ballot in the eight-member towns served by the districts. Mayor Hemmann stated that the question will read as follows:

“Shall the appropriation of an additional \$800,000,000, to be financed, in part, by the issuance of bonds and Clean Water Fund grants and loans, for Phase II of the Metropolitan District’s combined sewer overflow, sanitary sewer overflow and nitrogen removal programs to decrease levels of pollution in Metropolitan District member towns, the Connecticut River and its tributaries, and Long Island Sound to comply with a consent decree of the United States District Court of the District of Connecticut and a consent order of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, be approved?”

Mayor Hemmann next reported on a letter dated September 14th received from the Town of Newington Conservation Commission regarding an Application for Property that lies within 500 feet of the Wethersfield town boundary, Application 2012-22, Russell Rd., North of Old Highway proposed 48-lot subdivision by Toll Brothers. The letter stated that a complete set of materials associated with the above stated applications are available for inspection at the Town Engineer’s Office, 131 Cedar St., Newington. Mayor Hemmann stated that questions pertaining to the Application may be directed to the Newington Town Engineer.

Mayor Hemmann reported that there was a display at the Keeney Center on Wethersfield Weddings. She stated that she attended the event on opening night and stated that it is very impressive with some of the gowns and the folks that wore the gowns. She stated that there were pictures from Wethersfield families who were married and were very nicely done and it was a very nice evening.

Mayor Hemmann noted two communications from Mr. Warren, one dated September 10th and the other dated September 14th and noted that copies are available for those who wish to read them.

Mayor Hemmann reported that she attended the Roar of Thunder Motorcycle Ride that was in support of the Special Olympics and noted that it was a very well attended event.

TOWN CLERK COMMUNICATIONS

Dolores Sassano reported that she has received communication from the Secretary of State's Office on the ballot order; they are still not sure of how the party order on the ballots will read, so until we find out and get something from the CT State Supreme Court, they will be doing things alphabetically. So any blank ballots that we send out now, which is what we do for our military and our residents overseas that are just for federal elections will just be given lists of people running for the different positions in alphabetical order.

Dolores Sassano next reported that AT&T for emergency management, they are changing how they will address and be more prepared for emergencies that come along during the storms.

Dolores Sassano next reported that if people have questions about the gas pipelines, the people who are responsible for the gas pipeline is Tennessee Gas and Natural Gas Transmissions. She stated that they have an 800 number for emergency and nonemergency numbers if people had questions about gas safety.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Bridges had nothing to report.

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Montinieri moved **“TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF GRETCHEN SCHULZ, 64 SPRINGDALE RD., FROM THE YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE TERM 1-18-11 TO 6-30-13”**, seconded by Gerri Roberts.

All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Montinieri moved **“TO REAPPOINT PATRICIA TIBERIO, 16 SOMERSET ST., SOPHIE FORTUNATO, 28 FAIRMONT ST., AND NANCY FLYNN, 109 SPRINGDALE RD., TO THE YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE TERMS 9-17-12 TO 6-30-15”**, seconded by Councilor Manousos.

All Councilors present voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Hurley moved **“TO APPROVE A SYSTEM FOR ADMINISTRATION OF RETIREE BENEFITS AND TO APPROVE THE CREATION OF AN OPEB TRUST FUND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ATTACHED DOCUMENTS”**, seconded by Councilor McAlister.

Mr. Bridges asked Susan Smith to present the agenda item.

Susan Smith, Finance Director for the Town explained the council’s packet includes a resolution which approves the system for administration of retiree benefits along with the latest actuarial evaluation report by Milliman that was dated July 1, 2011 and the ordinance which establishes the OPEB system and the trust and finally the Trust Agreement. She explained that there have been many drafts of this Trust Agreement since 2008 and she is hoping that tonight we can move forward with the adoption. She stated that this trust agreement is all about governmental accounting standards board’s number 45. The town implemented GASB 45 back in June 30, 2009, and what GASB did was force governments across the country to learn both about its liabilities and also its normal costs of retiree health care and other post-employment benefits such as life insurance. Once the government learns what its liability are from the evaluation, then the government needs to develop an approach to comply with this GASB. She explained that currently, the town spends approximately \$2,500,000 annually on current retiree benefits. This is what I call the pay as you go amount. We have to put that money in the budget every year to pay those bills. The OPEB accrued liability associated with current and future retirees as of July 1, 2011 is approximately 65 ½ million dollars. The annual required contribution is about \$2.5 million dollars on top of what we are already paying. So, while current employees do contribute to their future benefits, it is only a small contribution of approximately \$250,000 per year towards that liability, which is why the town needs to develop a funding plan. She stated that one of the vehicles to do that and manage the OPEB assets is the establishment of the trust fund so that we can deposit and invest the money similar to a pension plan. She explained the pension plan allows us to invest in certain investments that you would otherwise be able to under State statutes. GASB 45 nor the establishment of the trust requires you or mandates you to fund it, however, by prefunding it, the liability, if you don’t do anything. is going to continue to grow exponentially and possibly impact our future bond ratings and is going to wind up being the largest number in your operating budget. She explained that once this trust is adopted, we can then move on and get our Trustees on board, we still need two more, which is the recommendation of Jeffrey Kotkin to have two town residents that are not town officials to be on board with preferably money management skills in addition to the town manager, myself, Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee and Superintendent of Schools. Once we do that, we can move on and get a funding methodology in place and get our investment policy in

order. She stated that she is also working on a couple of RFPs, RFQ's. One is for our financial advisor and the other one is for the custodian of these trusts. She explained that we currently have about \$3.7 million in reserves for retiree health. She stated about \$2.6 million of that cumulatively came from town employee contributions that we are setting aside for their future benefits. As far as developing a funding methodology, we have worked with the town actuary on different models. Do we put all of it in the first year, do we take some of it, do we spread it out and then try to get the general fund to match up. Over time, you start to build up that line to where it really should be. Becky might be able to give you a more technical aspect of the numbers there and how it would impact our liability. Susan Smith introduced Becky Sielman, who is the Principal and Consulting Actuary at Milliman, the Town's Pension Actuary and your Actuary for the OPEB Benefits. Ms. Sielman asked if there were any questions regarding what the OPEB liabilities are and why we are establishing a trust to begin with.

Councilor Drake commented that now that we are contributing about \$2.5 million dollars a year towards the pensions, now that we started this real accounting method, where do you expect next year to be at, is that \$2.5 million dollars going to do it or are we is it going to be a big jump?

Ms. Sielman responded that she has a somewhat higher number than what Sue gave you, and stated that her number was more in the \$3,000,000 range is the cost on a year-in year-out basis of providing retiree medical and dental and life insurance benefits to those that are already retired. Those numbers will grow over time. They would have grown over time had GASB never been dreamed up. GASB 45 the requirement for you to measure those liabilities. You are contractually obligated to provide certain levels of benefits to different employees. There are different contracts that govern that and over time that number will grow both because Health Care costs themselves are climbing quickly and also because there are more and more employees retiring every year so you have a growing body of people receiving these benefits.

Councilor Drake again asked how much more this year do you think it is \$500,000 or a larger number?

Ms. Sielman responded that we do evaluations every other year for the town to determine the total amount that you would put into a trust if you were fully prefunding the benefits, not just for existing retirees but for existing active employees, which is where you want to go, so the number for the current physical year if you were doing that is \$5.6 million. She added to remember that you are already paying your physical 2013 budget already includes about \$3,000,000 to pay benefit for the retirees, so new money is \$2,500,000. She explained that if you were fully prefunding the OPEB benefits, that is you were paying the full amount, it is \$2,500,000 in excess of what you already have built into your budget.

Deputy Mayor Console commented that it is almost double.

Ms. Sielman responded yes, in very round numbers, yes, it's almost doubling it. That is the cost of setting aside money to pay future benefits.

Deputy Mayor Console asked with regards to investment income, what would you be investing in from growth with the fund with the principle amounts.

Ms. Sielman responded that that is an important decision for the Trustees to make. Assume that you have a relatively conservative investment allocation such that long-term, your expected return on investments will be 6.5 percent, which is pretty conservative for long-term.

Deputy Mayor Console asked what is long-term.

Ms. Sielman responded long-term is about 80 years.

Deputy Mayor Console asked what is our current liability?

Ms. Sielman responded \$65,500,000.

Deputy Mayor Console commented so we are negative \$65,500,000 at this point.

Ms. Sielman responded, yes.

Deputy Mayor Console asked how do we compare to other towns in this State?

Ms. Sielman responded that there is a very big variability from community to community in terms of the retiree medical benefits that you are contractually bound to provide. For instance, Newington has much, much lower liability per employee bases. That is a function of what they have bargained over the years. The State of Connecticut has a much higher liability per person than the town of Wethersfield because the state provides much more generous retiree medical benefits. She stated that Wethersfield is somewhat in the middle and have been working to bring the number down. She stated that in terms of setting up a trust, there are quite a number of communities that have already set up trusts and that West Hartford and Avon had set aside well before this was on any else's radar screen.

Deputy Mayor Console asked what happens over the next 20 years with this modeling if we cannot meet these demands.

Ms. Sielman stated that if you have a well-funded plan, the money exists within the trust to pay benefits. If you drain that trust and have little or no assets, then you have to pay the benefits out-of-pocket. Long-term it is part of financial health of the community to have well-funded pension and OPEB benefits, long-term it helps your bond rating. Will the sky fall if you don't have a well-funded OPEB trust 20 years from now? The biggest impact would be your bond rating. Bond ratings are relative to similar communities. If other communities are doing a better job than Wethersfield, then you will suffer by comparison.

Deputy Mayor Console commented that his concern is that the population of the amount of employees retiring now and in ten years is quite a substantial amount compared to what it was 25 years ago which will then balloon the entire payments, correct?

Ms. Sielman responded as of July 1, 2011, there were 539 employees of the Town and the Board of Education that are in benefits-eligible positions. There are another 450 retirees receiving benefits. She stated that the number of retirees will climb for a while. Now you have been bargaining with some of the unions to reduce or eliminate these benefits, especially in the situations where you have eliminated these benefits for future employees, you have a fixed and shrinking number of people who will get these benefits. Over the very long term, you are taking steps to reduce and whittle down the problem.

Councilor McAlister asked if we wanted to do a one-lump sum today, a deposit, approximately \$36,000,000, we would basically take care of all the current retired people for the remainder of their lives.

Ms. Sielman stated yes, you are correct.

Councilor McAlister then asked if we deposited another \$29,000,000 that would take care of our current members when they retire. Is that for the life?

Ms. Sielman responded that \$36.3 million dollars is the value today of future benefits for retirees assuming that that money earns 6.5 percent. For the active members, when we calculate the liability for an active employee, we are looking at the total benefits that they will earn over their working lifetime and we are allocating that across all of their years of service, past and future, just on a pro rata basis. They are going to work 30 years, they have already worked 10 years. Ten thirtieths of the value today is their future benefits is what we call accrued liability. So 29.2 million dollars represents the portion of the cost of their benefits that we have attributed to past years. She stated that it is not the total bill for all of the benefits that will be earned by active employees. It is just what we have allocated to their prior years.

Councilor McAlister had a question regarding the report of the benefits of those employees who are age 65.

Ms. Sielman explained what those headings mean in the report regarding under age 65 and over 65.

Councilor Drake asked if it is \$36,000,000 to fully fund what we owe, why don't we just borrow it at 3% and if it costs \$900,000 a year, instead of spending \$2.5 million per year.

Ms. Sielman responded that that is an Obligation Bond. She stated that they are more common in the Pension World. A Pension Obligation is just that and you borrow money, at today's very attractive low rates, not maybe 3%, they are taxable, so a little bit higher. She explained that you issue bonds, you take the proceeds and you invest them in the Trust and earn 6.5% or 7.5%, on

paper, you should come out ahead. She stated that that concept has been around for a while. She explained that is a way of borrowing money and then putting it at risk by investing it. It has some attractive features, but on the other hand, you need to think long and hard about the risk that that entails.

Councilor Drake asked if that would be on the list of discussion if we were to do this.

Councilor McAlister stated that he's not sure that that is the road they want to go on and stated that he doesn't believe we are in that bad of shape when we see that \$65,000,000 and stated that we need to get that money working for us now. It's going to improve our bond rating and it also protects those funds from being raided, which is something that we talked about with future counsels, if they decide to do something else with the funds that are there now. Councilor McAlister noted that we have some available funds from the surplus from the Health Account that we can get started and I think that is what we need to do. Becky is getting an idea how it looks and we kind of played with those numbers in Budget and Finance and I think that is what we are going to have to nail down.

Councilor Roberts asked that if we didn't borrow the huge pot of money, we would have to put in the \$2.5 million that we are already paying plus an additional \$2.5 million over the long-term which could be 20 or 30 years, so that is \$5,000,000 a year, for how long?

Ms. Sielman responded the total amount \$5.6 million dollar figure is two pieces. One piece, \$1.9 million is called the normal cost, that's the cost of benefits that are being earned this year by active employees. The second piece, which is the bigger \$3.3 million is a catch-up payment to pay off the unfunded liability. Ms. Sielman explained in detail the payoff method of unfunded liability.

Councilor Montinieri asked a follow-up question about fully-funding the obligation. He commented that you would reach a point somewhere down the road, if we did this, where the obligation going forward for the foreseeable future would be funded and sitting in this trust account, so the Town of Wethersfield at that moment, if we ever achieved that point, would have the funds equal to the obligations going out whatever period in time, and this catch-up period over the next 20 years would be designed to get you to that point, and if that were the case and we reach that point, would we not in the sense be taking out all the bumps in the highs and lows during that period of time and then getting this pool of money that protects employees and benefits for the future so then this drop off, so if that's true, how do we say to taxpayers who are paying for that fund for the next foreseeable future that you are not picking up an unusual burden, so that down the road the taxpayers fifteen years, would be relieved of that burden, and therefore we have put a greater basket on the backs of taxpayers today. Councilor Montinieri then asked Ms. Sielman for a response.

Ms. Sielman responded that we have a situation right now where, from a philosophical point of view, the wrong generation of taxpayers are paying the bill. Today's taxpayers are paying for the benefits for people that worked many years ago. What full-prefunding, getting to that point 26

years from now, means that the correct generation of taxpayers from that point on will be paying the bill. She explained that the taxpayers each year will be paying the benefits associated with people that are working on their behalf in town right that year. The benefits for everyone that has already retired in the past have already been paid for. She added to get from the wrong generation to the right generation, you have a generation in the middle of a 26-year period where that generation is catching up. You have 65.5 million dollars of liability that hasn't been funded by past generations, so you have a transition time, where you are asking those taxpayers to pay catch-up, so the generations thereafter are paying the right amount. She stated that she doesn't know of any way other than have the generation in the middle playing catch up.

Councilor Kotkin commented on retiree health benefits for new employees, teachers, and Police Officers. He also commented on how the town is restricted in how it can invest its cash. He stated that the town has cash but because we have to be so ultra safe in how we invest it, we get virtually no interest right now, and if we set the money into a trust, there are two benefits. The benefit to the employees is that the town can never go in and get that money back and yank it out because it is an irrevocable trust. The advantage to the town is that you can invest to get a better return than the .1% or so that we are getting on our cash investments right now, so this pot of money can grow faster, and that is one of the more important parts of the trust. Councilor Kotkin stated that he is fully supportive of this, but questioned who appoints the two members of the Managing Committee. After some discussion, it was concluded that the resolution stated that the Town Council will appoint these two members and that the guidelines for the Managing Committee will be set at another time.

A discussion then ensued among the Councilors and Ms. Sielman regarding a funding strategy and policy down the road for the Trust.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Hurley moved **“TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT IF AWARDED, A MAIN STREET INVESTMENT FUND GRANT APPLICATION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$500,000”**, seconded by Councilor Drake.

Mr. Bridges asked Mr. Gillespie to present the agenda item.

Mr. Gillespie stated that, in summary, this is potentially a one-time opportunity, the State of Connecticut through Public Act 11-1 has agreed to set aside \$500,000 to eligible municipalities and, of course, Wethersfield being one of those municipalities for implementation of a Master Plan for your community. He stated that in this particular case, we have chosen to pursue funds to implement the Old Wethersfield Master Plan that we adopted in 2008 and stated that plan is to contain a whole host of potential projects. He explained that we want to focus on a couple and would like to pursue the funding for some streetscape improvements, like crosswalks, sidewalks,

street furniture, benches, planters, those kinds of things. He also commented that we would like to fund some of the intersection improvements that were identified in that plan and additionally, there were a couple of gateway areas similar to the improvements that we made at Marsh Street that we would like to fund. He added that there is a series of interpretive historical signs that the plan actually recommended that we pursue, and then lastly, we would like to ask for some additional façade improvement money which would only be eligible for properties located within Old Wethersfield. He explained that communities can request up to \$500,000, but didn't know that we would receive that much money. He believes this to be an extremely competitive Grant Program, and mentioned earlier that it is a one-time opportunity and there is no guarantee that the funding would be available again next year. Mr. Gillespie stated that, in summary, that is how we intend to use the funds and that he would be happy to answer any questions. He also added that there is no match, which is also very attractive and we have spent quite a bit of money in Old Wethersfield over the last few years and we intend to include that in the application to show our previous commitment and that we have been putting money into the area which we think will also help us in terms of potentially being a priority community for the grant.

Deputy Mayor Console stated that at the last meeting we discussed the \$50,000 for just specific areas, and asked if the two cross over in any way.

Mr. Gillespie responded that we would use that grant as identification of our commitment to the area so we would use that, not necessarily to match, but just to show that we have been contributing funds to historic Wethersfield as support for the area, but it is a separate grant--The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation Vibrant Grants Community. He explained that the \$50,000 is to come up with a strategy for the vacant properties at the corner of Main St. and Church St. and the space that is available in Comstock Ferry and that actually, those proposals are due later this week so we are making progress on that.

Deputy Mayor Console commented that when you speak of these streetscapes and the gateway and stuff, we put a lot of effort into the Marsh Street area with the better guardrails and things of that nature, but have noticed that when this is all said and done, maintenance is another key here and I've come off Marsh Street quite a bit and it is looking pretty shabby and he noted that there are a lot of weeds and trash where the sign is and the flowers are all wilted, so if we go doing all of this, is there going to be a plan in place to make sure we take care of all these things.

Peter Gillespie responded that just like any improvement that we make, it's got to be supported by our maintenance activities and I will go point that out and bring it to their attention. He stated that the intent is to make whatever improvements we implement as low maintenance as possible so we would certainly work with the Department of Physical Services and the Town Engineer as we specify these improvements to make sure our commitment for maintenance is as minimal as can be.

Councilor Drake commented that his only thought is that we seem to do a lot in Old Wethersfield all the time and I know that we have a Silas Deane Master Plan, why don't we look at that. He stated that he has no problem with Old Wethersfield, but they continuously get so much of this

towns' funds with façade. Councilor Drake added that if you threw \$500,000 in the Silas Deane Master Plan, I think you can make a pretty good dent pulling some wires down or doing something and I think that that would be way better off for the town doing something there versus more bricks and stuff on Main Street in Old Wethersfield. Old Wethersfield has received plenty of money in the last ten years.

Mr. Gillespie stated that we discussed that both at the Tourism Commission and the Economic Development Commission level and when you look at the numbers, particularly for our Façade Program, primarily all of those funds have gone to the Silas Deane Highway business properties to a significant extent and that very few properties have been able to take advantage of the Façade Improvement Program.

Councilor Drake commented that we haven't invested anything on the Berlin Turnpike.

Mr. Gillespie commented that one of the requirements of this grant is that you have a recently adopted a Master Plan and if you look at this Master Plan for Old Wethersfield, there is a whole host of things that we really haven't done to implement that plan, so that's another reason we felt Old Wethersfield. He stated that we put a couple of these projects on the Capital Improvement project list and they have not been funded yet, particularly, the intersection improvement, so we feel this was an ideal opportunity to pursue those projects and stated that we did discuss it and felt that this was, at this point in time, the way to go and, obviously, as more grant opportunities present themselves, we will be trying to pursue some of those other areas as well.

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

Councilor Manousos moved **“MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF \$81,248.74 FROM THE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT TO VARIOUS ACCOUNTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ATTACHED BUDGET TRANSFER REQUEST”**, seconded by Councilor Hurley.

Mr. Bridges explained that this transfer request is the final balancing of expenditures for fiscal year 2011-2012. He explained that in every instance where a department exceeded its appropriation, it was with prior knowledge of the Manager's office and required in the provision of services for Town residents. In accordance with § 709 of the Town Charter, all transfers must be completed by September 30th. The attached transfer request form provides information regarding each transfer. He stated that the Staff is requesting that unexpended funds from the Data Services and Planning & Zoning Budgets in the amount of \$5000 each be transferred to the Technology Reserve Fund for future use in implementing technology improvements and that the Finance office anticipates a surplus in the amount of \$1,326,918. He also stated that the Preliminary Fiscal 2011-12 reports prior to year end transfers, are attached and noted that this will not be final until the annual audit is completed.

Councilor Kotkin commented that it seems that the town had a good year.

Mr. Bridges commented that with the reimbursement from FEMA, the adjustment of the fund balance due to some prior year capital items, the money that came in for the extra money from the state for the revenue sharing all came together to really provide a very good year-end balance for us. Mr. Bridges stated that it was a positive year for us, plus the expectation that the winter storm would blow us out of the water, with FEMA funding, and the way we did it using local contractors and really monitoring how we got that done, it really helped. He also mentioned that Sue's staff and Rae Ann monitored the Departmental budgets and really squeezed the dollars.

Councilor Kotkin stated that in difficult circumstances, he thinks Mr. Bridges did very well in monitoring the finances of the town.

Councilor McAlister asked what percentage did we get reimbursed from FEMA.

Mr. Bridges responded 75 percent.

Councilor Montinieri asked Mr. Bridges if he could address the two line items about excess legal services.

Mr. Bridges responded that the Labor Relations had an original appropriation of 10. We have the arbitration case that's consuming a ton of time on one of the union issues and we paid for the legal fees for the bond attorney to draft up the redevelopment referendum, and we had a couple of issues where we had to go through the weeds and backtrack several years to figure out where that all came from plus the normal activity reviewing contracts and every claim that came and stated that it was a busy year on the legal side.

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

Councilor Manousos moved **"TO MOTION TO TRANSFER \$820,678.11 FROM DISASTER RECOVERY FEMA GRANTS TO COVER STORM ALFRED AND HURRICANE IRENE COSTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ATTACHED BUDGET TRANSFER REQUEST"**, seconded by Councilor McAlister.

Mr. Bridges explained that this is where we apply the FEMA reimbursement back to the budget that was expended.

Deputy Mayor Console asked if part of the money from FEMA used to cover the Jordan Lane extension?

Mr. Bridges replied that we put in for that but it wasn't funded because it wasn't deemed applicable because it was a substandard road to begin with.

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

Councilor Manousos moved **“TO TRANSFER UNEXPENDED FUNDS OF \$5,000 FROM DATA SERVICES AND \$5,000 FROM PLANNING & ZONING TO THE CNEF TECHNOLOGY RESERVE FUND”**, seconded by Councilor McAlister.

Mr. Bridges explained that we have identified some funds left over that would be helpful as we go forward with our technology enhancements, in particular, the fiber and the handheld devices, the mobile computing, the upgrade to the website, and all the technology we are deploying to have some reserve funds available to keep those devices active and replacement value and upgrades as necessary.

Councilor McAlister commented that both those departments had \$5,000 extra and as a comparison asked what was the Board of Education extra this year?

Mr. Bridges replied that we have not received a formal number yet.

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

Councilor Hurley moved **“TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO WRITE OFF \$12,204.88 IN REAL ESTATE TAXES FROM THE 1996 GRAND LIST”**, seconded by Councilor McAlister.

Mr. Bridges explained that in accordance with State Statute after 15 years, we write off the taxes that are owed to the town. He stated that you can see the list of the properties that it is applicable to dating back to 1996 at this point. He added that one of the things that the staff is working to develop is a policy where we would be more aggressive in going after delinquent property taxes. We have been working with the town attorney to do this and we hope to have a draft to Budget Finance in the next 30 days or so to get that done so that this would not be an issue going forward. He stated that the town never really had a policy on tax sales or foreclosure sales for long-term delinquent taxes and we are talking going into the 3-5 year past due issues.

Councilor Roberts asked what are we supposed to have attached, you said a list of the properties?

Mr. Bridges responded yes, that is what we are writing off.

Councilor Roberts stated that in other years, we received an actual list of the properties.

Rae Ann Palmer stated that the attachment is incorrect and that we actually have a list of the properties so we can tell you what they are right now or we can give it to you in your packets

next week.

Deputy Mayor Console asked should we hold off on this until we see the list?

Ms. Palmer responded that we really have to write them off and that at this point, we can't collect them and offered to give a quick synopsis. Rae Ann explained that the biggest one is our properties that are basically not saleable because they are land locked and wet and inaccessible.

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

BIDS

Councilor Drake moved to **“AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MUNICIPAL MASTER LEASE AGREEMENT WITH FIRST NIAGRA BANK FOR THE FINANCING OF FOUR POLICE INTERCEPTORS, TWO DUMP TRUCKS WITH PLOWS AND A TREE TRUCK”**, seconded by Councilor Hurley.

Mr. Bridges explained that as part of the Budget Process and as part of the CNEF Fund, we identified certain fleet vehicles replacements that we would include in the budget. A portion of which would be paid for through a lease finance Lease-to-Own Program. Mr. Bridges stated that the Finance Director and Rae Ann Palmer are here this evening to answer any questions, but this is within the budget and within our plan replacement schedules.

Councilor Montinieri asked if it's really not a lease?

Mr. Bridges replied that at the end of the three years we own it outright and at the end of 5 years we own it outright.

Councilor Montinieri asked if these are just financing purchases that we approved in the budget.

Mr. Bridges replied, yes, and all this was approved and anticipated in the budget.

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

Councilor Manousos moved **“TO AWARD BIDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF FLEET VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT TO:**

- *Crowley Ford for a Ford Fusion Hybrid in the amount of \$27,328 and for four Ford Police Interceptor in the amount of \$114,321;*
- *Altec Aerial for a Tree Truck in the amount of \$156,234;*
- *Nutmeg International/Equipment Services for two Dump Trucks in the amount of \$335,446;*
- *Manchester Honda for two natural gas Honda Civics in the amount of \$51,950;*
- *Interstate Ford for two natural gas Ford Transit Connects in the amount of \$76,730;*
- *Midstate Tractor & Equipment for a Kubota Tractor in the amount of \$29,040.*

seconded by Councilor McAlister.

Mr. Bridges explained that these purchases were approved during budget adoption and this is the bid award for the various vehicles that will be purchased using State of Connecticut bids. He commented that this is somewhat exciting for the town and realizes the dollars seem high, but we are looking at hybrid vehicles, natural gas vehicles and thanks to the Energy Committee and the Chairman's here this evening, we have received significant grant funds to help offset the cost of those. Mr. Bridges stated that this is the next generation step for the town for a lot of these fleet vehicles and a positive step for the town.

Councilor Drake asked if we are moving to use the four old cruisers or are we phasing them away?

Mr. Bridges responded that we are phasing those out. He added that if there was a Crown Victoria that we couldn't replace this year with the new fleet vehicles, we probably would look to see which one of those other four from the Police Department coming off-line that can replace them because the Crown Victorias that we have are pretty worn out. He stated that the idea is to remove, once they come off-line from the Police Department is to not use them at all, but if there is a need we will take the best of the ones coming off-line and replace the old ones.

Rae Ann Palmer explained that we are actually trying to transition all of the police vehicles out of the fleet because by the time we get them and use them, they've been used by the Police Department for seven or eight years and while they might have low mileage, they have long engine hours on them and so they are very expensive to maintain and very expensive to run and they are really costing us a lot of money to replace parts and keep them on the road. She explained the reason we went with the Ford Fusion Hybrid is because the nature of Kathy's business, Parks & Recreation, and special events, they needed a bigger vehicle that would also accommodate more than 3 or 4 passengers. So, we went with the most energy-efficient reasonable vehicle that we could find to replace the Crown Victorias.

Counselor Roberts asked what other Department's will be getting the other four natural gas vehicles?

Ms. Palmer informed the Counsel of who the vehicles will be assigned to.

Councilor Roberts commented that she thinks we are long overdue in downsizing and getting rid of the gas guzzlers and thinks the staff should be commended.

Mr. Bridges commented that Rae Ann has done a great job along with Sally and if you look outside, the natural gas filling station is 90 percent complete.

Ms. Palmer explained that we need to get the plumbing work done and the technician will be up on Wednesday to put the hoses in and once the plumbing work is done, we'll be ready to have a grand opening.

Councilor Montinieri commented that normally we have the attachment for the bids requested and asked if we can get that at a later date.

Mr. Bridges responded that these are all State bid prices.

Ms. Palmer stated that we go off the State list because we get the best pricing from them and we don't have to invest the time and money in going ahead and bidding it ourselves. She stated that we are not going to get a better price than the vendors bid to the State, so this saves us administrative time and staff.

Councilor Montinieri asked how do we determine the models for the specific hybrids that we are picking. Does the State list have just one or two options? I'm looking at, for example, a Honda Civic Hybrid or natural gas, is that the only natural gas option?

Ms. Palmer responded yes. The Energy Committee submitted a grant on the town's behalf last year and they submitted the grant for two electric hybrids which we chose not to get because we are going with natural gas technology and two Honda Civics. She explained that if we want to take advantage of the grant that is what we have to get and stated that they spent a lot of time looking for natural gas vehicles and there really aren't a lot of them out there right now and the Honda's are a great buy and a great vehicle.

Mayor Hemmann stated that we did not get the grant from CROG for the tree trucks so this is what we had allotted and it looks like the bid is less than what had been budgeted initially.

Mr. Bridges stated that may still be alive, so if we do get it we'll just pay it off. Pay ourselves back.

Ms. Palmer stated that they extended the deadline for submitting on that grant, so they have not awarded it to us, they just haven't awarded anything.

Councilor Drake asked if the grant number is subtracted from the amount?

Ms. Palmer responded that is correct. We have to award the full amount because that is what we have to pay and the grant will pay us back.

Councilor McAlister asked just to make it clear we are basically financing about \$579,000 at around 1.5% interest and then the remainder for those large trucks and the police vehicles and the remainder for the hybrid cars is about \$178,000.

Ms. Palmer responded yes and we are actually paying for that out of the budget in cash.

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

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

None introduced

MINUTES

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2012”** seconded by Councilor Manousos.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-2. Chairman Hemmann and Councilor Kotkin abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Ave. commented on the lack of a stop sign on Morrison Avenue.

Barbara Ruhe, 79 Main St., commented that there should be a four-way stop on Main St. and Church St. and stated that it is a terrible intersection and that a four-way stop would be extremely beneficial. Ms. Ruhe urged the use of irrevocable trusts for money that is left over.

Harry Lichtenbaum, 16 Townhouse Ln., commented about the overabundance of fisherman fishing at Beaver Brook Pond and how a baby swan was injured with a fish hook in his leg. Mr. Lichtenbaum is concerned about the number of people fishing there and requests something be done next year to control the fishing situation.

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, commented on the pension funding and urges the council to start thinking about the priorities for the town.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Rd., commented on the MDC referendum and the amount of money associated with it. He commented on borrowing money from other projects to complete existing ones, and the money being spent to purchase new vehicles.

David Caruk, 149 Broad St., commented on the redesign of the parking area at the High School and how it should accommodate not just student parking but parking for big events as well.

AT 9:55 p.m. Councilor McAlister moved **“TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION”**, seconded by Councilor Montinieri.

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

AT 9:55 p.m. Councilor McAlister moved **“TO LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PUBLIC MEETING”**, seconded by Councilor Montinieri.

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

Councilor Manousos recommended the approval of a change in pay for the Town Clerk from \$65,000 to \$66,900, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:04 p.m., Councilor Hurley moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Deputy Mayor Console. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk

Approved By Vote of Council
October 1, 2012