

**REGULAR MEETING
JULY 19, 2010**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, July 19, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield.

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

Absent: Councilor Montinieri.

Also present: Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, RaeAnn Palmer, Assistant Town Manager, Mike Turner, Director of Physical Services, Fred Bushey, Supervisor of Maintenance and Operations, and Dolores Sassano, Assistant Town Clerk.

Councilor Kotkin led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Presentation from the Energy Challenge Winners – Nancy Kiely, Wethersfield Green Energy Committee.

**GREEN SUMMIT COMMITTEE
Summary of Conservation Challenge**

Green Summit I, coordinated by Matthew Forrest, provided a very successful forum for residents to express their ideas on how Wethersfield could become a green community. The Green Summit Committee was formed and successfully executed Green Summit II-Energy Fair, an event hosted by the Board of Education, Town Council, Interfaith Green Committee and Citizen's Energy Advisory Committee on November 8, 2008. This event was attended by over 1,000 people from all over the Greater Hartford area. People of all ages had the opportunity to learn about cutting edge green technology, gardening, rain barrels, hybrid & hydrogen vehicles, and renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydro. In addition, attendees obtained information about decreasing energy costs, green concepts and issues, lowering their carbon footprints, and protecting the environment. This was accomplished by having 65 exhibitors provide products, services, and information on these topics. Lively and informative discussions and workshops on public and private energy initiatives also took place at the Energy Fair.

Because of the success of Green Summit II-Energy Fair, the Green Summit Committee decided to have the Wethersfield Conservation Challenge. We modeled the Challenge after the Town of West Hartford, who had a very successful Conservation Challenge in all of their schools in November of 2009, saving over \$30,000 in electricity bills. We expanded upon this idea and decided to make it town-wide to include schools, residences, commercial and industrial businesses, municipal buildings, and faith congregations and we added water conservation.

The goals of Wethersfield Conservation Challenge were to: a. Reduce electrical consumption and water usage by at least 10% in participating schools, residences, businesses, municipal buildings, and faith congregations. b. Change behavior toward energy consumption in the Wethersfield community as a whole. c. Help conserve vital resources, positively impact our entire community and the environment, and save money for the Town and its residents.

The actual Challenge was over a three month period commencing March 1, 2010-May 31, 2010, and preceded by a two month community-wide campaign to educate, publicize, and solicit participation in the event. Participating in the Challenge were 335 residents; 17 municipal buildings; 10 schools, including Corpus Christi School and Preschool; 4 Faith congregations, including, Corpus Christi, Temple Beth Torah, Wethersfield United Methodist, and Church of Incarnation; and 2 businesses, Wing Crazy and Narcissus Chocolate Café. We achieved 100% participation by municipal buildings and schools.

We applied for two grants, one from Northeast Utilities and one from the New England Grassroots Environment Fund. We were denied both, but the grant to NU was forwarded to the Conservation Load Management Office and we were put in contact with Rebecca Ann Meyer who was a tremendous resource. We partnered with Northeast Utilities and The Metropolitan District in executing the Challenge and are very appreciative and grateful for these partnerships and for their assistance.

Two Educational Forums were held on Jan. 13th and Feb. 11th, 2010 in the Town Council Chambers from 7-9 pm. The forums covered the following topics, with the majority of the program speakers arranged for by Rebecca Ann Meyer of NU.:

- a. Explanation of Green Summit III Conservation Challenge by our committee.
- b. DVD entitled, "Live Green, Save Green" that gives energy saving tips and information on clean renewable sources.
- c. Information on NU's Residential Programs, specifically the Home Energy Solutions through CT Energy Efficiency Fund.
- d. Renewable energy
- e. Info on CT Clean Energy Options Program and the Solar PV Program.
- f. Small Business Energy Advantage Program: this will be presented by a small business engineer.
- g. How to read your electric bill
- h. The introduction of the Wethersfield Direct Choice Program

Through Northeast Utilities, we were linked with two vendors, Lantern Energy and Competitive Resources, Inc. for the Home Energy Solutions Program. For every resident who signed up for an energy audit through one of these two vendors, the Town of Wethersfield receives \$25 and this money will go into an energy savings account. We will excited to learn from CL & P how much the Town has earned through this effort. For those people who signed up for an energy audit prior to March 31st, the cost was \$25, a savings of \$50. It was possible for hundreds of dollars of energy improvement measures to be conducted at each one of these audits, a tremendous saving for home owners, plus the future savings in energy bills.

Northeast Utilities also arranged for the donation of 500 Conservation Kits through the CT Energy Efficiency Fund, each valued at a minimum of \$15, for distribution to the first 500 participants who registered for the Challenge. Each kit was assembled and delivered to Wethersfield by TechniArt, Inc. and contained: 10 outlet and 10 switch gaskets; 1 door sweep; 1 STOP in time shower timer; CFL bulbs; 1 refrigerator/freezer thermometer; 1 LED night light; 18 child safety caps; 1 DAP insulating foam sealant; 1 Energy Saver Calendar and a few brochures. Every person who signed up for the Challenge received a Conservation Kit and a coupon for two free rain barrels. 130 kits were left over, which were given to the Nature Center and the rest distributed at the Farmer's Market in early June.

Also, through the CT Energy Efficiency Fund, 30 SMART power strips were donated for use in schools and town buildings and 20 Kill-A-Watt meters were donated for distribution to the schools and Town library. Six copies of the DVD entitled, "Live Green, Save Green" were donated to the schools for classroom instruction.

The Metropolitan District purchased 2,400 rain barrels from The Great American Rain Barrel Co. and generously donated 750 to Wethersfield. The first 500 were delivered and distributed in 2 tractor trailers to the Physical Services building on Sat., May 15th. Supervisor, Jim McDonald, allowed two Town employees, Gerry Santerre and Art Caruso, to assist in the barrel distribution from 8 am to 4 pm. Heather Vargus was very helpful in arranging this. 99 rain barrels were delivered and installed by the Nature Center, who charged \$10 for delivering one barrel and \$15 for delivering two barrels. Residents who could not make the May 15th delivery were able to pick up the barrels at either the MDC facility on June 11th or at the Nature Center on June 18th. We are still receiving calls from residents interested in the rain barrels. MDC will distribute more rain barrels in the near future and may have contractors drop them off at resident's homes. MDC is including Wethersfield in a pilot project on one or more trunk lines to hopefully reduce water flow by using rain barrels.

Andy Komar, Vice Principal of Wethersfield High School coordinated the school participation in Conservation Challenge. He met with all of the principals to discuss the Challenge and the principals were the building leaders. Andy put together ideas for them on how to incorporate the Challenge into the curriculum. The emphasis was in grades 4, 5, & 6. Energy Conservation was discussed in general in all these classes and integrated into their science and social studies curriculum. Other things took place in all grades of the elementary schools, science classes at the middle school, and the Eco Club at the high school.

We publicized The Conservation Challenge in the following ways:

- a. Our website www.greensummitwethersfield.org was beautifully designed by Alicja Komar.
- b. A press release was emailed to New Britain Herald, Wethersfield Post, Wethersfield Life, Rare Reminder, Lite 100.5, Town of Wethersfield website, Hartford Courant I Towns, and Channel 14 on Dec. 18th.
- c. The press release was submitted online to the following websites: Hartford Courant, CT website: ctvisit.com, and WFSB.
- d. Bruce Bockstael distributed about 50 fliers at the Dec. 8th, 2009 Salute to Business at Wethersfield Country Club.
- e. A letter informing all Wethersfield CL & P customers of the Challenge was mailed out by CL & P, at no charge, the beginning of January 2010.
- f. A letter was mailed to all faith congregation leaders informing them of the Challenge. This letter included a resource list on energy conservation and environmental issues and suggestions for bulletin notices.
- g. A separate letter was sent home with all school children.
- h. A double-sided flier was beautifully designed by Phil Lohman, along with the program for the Educational Forums.
- i. Andy Komar and the High School made coverings for the 4' x 8' signs used for the Energy Fair and these signs were displayed in strategic locations throughout Town.
- j. Wethersfield Post did 2 articles.
- k. Wethersfield Life did one article.
- l. Matthew Forrest spoke at Russ Morin's Meet & Greet on 1/28/10.
- m. WFSB Channel 3 did a spot on 2/11/10 with Matthew being interviewed primarily about the Direct Choice program.
- n. Matthew was on 2 talk shows: WTIC 1080 Face CT, which aired on 3/7/10. The second one was Gary Ginsberg's talk radio show on 2/27/10.
- o. Hartford Courant did five articles, four of which were in I Towns.
- p. The taping from the 1/13 forum was shown on Channel 16 and was broadcast live on 1/13/10, with the taping of the 2/11 forum shown in February and March.
- q. Andy and the High School Tech Dept. developed excellent coverings for 6- 4' x 8' signs from the energy fair to publicize the Challenge and these were displayed around town.
- r. Howard Greenblatt contacted and emailed a press release to the Chamber of Commerce and encouraged all businesses to participate in the Challenge.
- s. A follow-up letter was emailed to all parents of school age children in Feb. 2010.
- t. Matthew Forrest spoke several times to the Town Council about the Challenge.
- u. A scroller announcement was shown repeatedly on the Wethersfield Community Television Station.

- v. Notices appeared in the bulletins of faith congregations.
- w. The Town of Wethersfield's Website publicized the event.

The prizes for Conservation Challenge were as follows:

SECTOR	HIGHEST % ELECTRICITY SAVED	HIGHEST % WATER SAVED
SCHOOL	TREE & CERTIFICATE	TREE & CERTIFICATE
MUNICIPAL BUILDING	TREE & CERTIFICATE	TREE & CERTIFICATE
FAITH CONGREGATION	TREE & CERTIFICATE	TREE & CERTIFICATE
BUSINESS	\$100 CHECK TOWARDS CL & P BILL	\$40 CHECK TOWARDS MDC BILL
RESIDENT	\$100 CHECK TOWARDS CL & P BILL	\$40 CHECK TOWARDS MDC BILL

The trees will be purchased from the Village Improvement Association.

The winners of the Challenge are:

SECTOR	HIGHEST % ELECTRICITY SAVED	% OF SAVINGS	HIGHEST % WATER SAVED	% OF SAVINGS
SCHOOL	Emerson Williams Elementary School	19.64%	Corpus Christi School	14.81%
MUNICIPAL BUILDING	Webb Deane Stevens Museum	53.30%	Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center	35.71%
FAITH CONGREGATION	Corpus Christi Church	18.65%	Church of Incarnation	11.76%
BUSINESS	Narcissus Chocolate Cafe	58.82%	Narcissus Chocolate Cafe	5.07%
RESIDENT	Arylene Cartelli	63.48%	Arylene Cartelli	68.75%

Electrical savings were achieved by being more aware and shutting off lights and appliances when not in use, using only one TV, getting rid of an extra refrigerator, powering up the computer less frequently. Water savings were achieved by flushing less, watering less, and not running the dishwasher.

These are the statistics for all of the municipal buildings entered in the Challenge. The period of time measured for electricity usage is March 1, 2010-May 31, 2010 as compared to the same time period in 2009. For water, the time period is January 2010 – April 2010 as compared to the same time period in 2009. The +’s indicate increased usage

in 2010 as compared to 2009.

Building	% ELECTRICITY SAVED	% WATER SAVED
Nature Center	+20.89%	35.71%
Webb Deane Stevens	4 separate accounts with savings of 53.30%, 36.83%, 28.83%, and 2.21%	30.00%
108 Marsh ST.	5.01%	28.75%
Ambulance Building	0.76%	25%
Solomon Welles	13.73%	23.53%
Keeney Center	6.89%	18.92%
Police Dept.	+5.32%	12.12%
Fire House #1	+6.41%	9.09%
Fire House #3	+10.90%	+4.35%
Town Hall	3.17%	+14.29%
100 Marsh St.	10.58%	+19.72%
Little Red School House	6.72%	+44.44%
Community Center	1.94%	+80.00%
Fire House #2	18.60%	No data

The following is the data for all Wethersfield schools with the same time periods as noted above:

NAME OF SCHOOL	% ELECTRICITY SAVED	% WATER SAVED
Emerson Williams	19.64%	10%
Silas Deane Middle	10.81%	8.66%
Hanmer Elementary	4.53%	No data
Stillman Building	4.31%	6.67%
Corpus Christi School	0 %	14.81%
Webb Elementary	+1.44%	+10.24%
Corpus Christi Preschool	+8.12%	No data
Charles Wright Elementary	+10.68%	+4.60%
Wethersfield High School	+27.65%	+54.17%
Highest Elementary	No data	0 %

The committee recommends investigating the significant increase in water usage at the high school to determine if there are any leaks throughout the school.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mary Dobrunk, 689 Folly Brook Boulevard, spoke regarding the Energy Management Committee and the lack of action being taken to date. She also referred to Bob Moore's presentation of the Clean Water Project in early June of this year and the issues with MDC.

Geoge Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, spoke regarding the issues concerning the docks at the Cove and the police and fire SUV vehicles from the last Town Council meeting and compared these issues with the issues that Ms. Dobrunk brought up this evening.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Drake spoke on behalf of the Infrastructure Committee meeting and noted that the issue of the Energy Plan is on their list and making its way up for action. Councilor Drake noted that the Morrison Avenue issue will be brought to a vote tonight for direction along with the Marsh Street entrance project. He also brought up the issue of the street light proposal brought to the Committee by the Engineering Department, which could potentially save the town between \$200,000 and \$300,000 annually. He noted that the public needs to start thinking about a dialogue to discuss this matter because he knows that it will affect people in town. The Spruce Street water problem was also discussed and CNP funds are available for the \$25,000 project and it was voted on to move forward to look into installing a drainage system. There was also discussion on the STEAP grant regarding the issues at Millwoods and the Committee for the Wilkus Farm has met.

Councilor Manousos reported for the Budget and Finance Committee and the process that is in place formulating what is done with savings from energy projects and how the funds will be treated and allocated for future projects. He also reported that monthly meetings will be set up with the Library and the Board of Education to start discussing budget planning for next year. He noted that he attended CRCG Transportation Committee meeting and they are working on a 29 year strategic plan and a second round of grant funding for rail line improvements for a regional line between Boston and New York City; there is a long range plan for a rail line from Brattleboro to Montreal. Councilor Manousos also noted that he attended the EDIC meeting and had asked them to look into a tenant improvement program that mimics the facade loan improvement program to use to fund tenant improvements or build out retail or office space to help attract businesses to town.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Hurley noted that a meeting will be set up for any business in Town that wants to come in within the next month, to see what can be done to make Wethersfield more business friendly. Councilor Hurley also noted that he and Councilor Manousos attended a golf tournament today for the K-9 Unit of the Wethersfield Police Department to raise money for a new dog and that it was well attended.

Councilor Roberts commented that the facade being done to the former Ritz Camera building is looking very nice and is a nice improvement.

Deputy Mayor Console noted that he has received numerous calls regarding Cedar Mountain and the hospital being closed; received an email from Gayle Racucha about the non-activity on the part of the Town to do some research on the benefits of what can be done with the land in that area. Deputy Mayor Console stated that he would pass this information to the Economic

Development Committee to see what, if anything can be done. He also discussed the drainage issues on Jameswell, Midwell and Hopewell Roads. Deputy Mayor Console inquired about the status of the Narcisis Chocolate Café and asked if there were issues with regards to the facade program and the owner's obligation to replace trees that were taken out

Jeff Bridges responded that it is the owner's intention to sell the property and that the Town has reached out to them.

Deputy Mayor Console commented on the water barrel challenge and how it has been working at his household. Deputy Mayor Console noted the CMT scores for the Town of Wethersfield and that in 2003 the Town was ranked fifth in the State and now the Town is ranked last and feels that Wethersfield should be doing better.

Councilor Roberts clarified that the Superintendent and the Board of Education will also be doing comparisons on the CMT scores and that should be coming out in September/October. She also noted that comparing 2003 to 2010 is unfair because the "No Child Left Behind" requirements have changed dramatically during that time as it now includes special needs students, special education students and students with English as a second language.

Councilor Kotkin noted that the Town Manager has been with the Town for almost a year now and is looking forward to the process of setting goals and objectives for the next 12 months.

Chairperson Hemmann noted that she attended an Eagle Scout ceremony for Justin Ruddy who achieved the rank of Eagle Scout through a project for the Conservation Commission by clearing a path at the meadows. She also commented on the Golf Tournament for the K-9 Unit, the Wethersfield Teen Theater production of Footloose on July 22, 23, 24 at the Silas Deane Middle School, the Fifth Annual Roar and Thunder Motorcycle Ride to benefit Special Olympics on July 25, the Governor's Prevention Partnership has moved to 30 Jordan Lane and will have a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 28, the Wethersfield Police Department will sponsor "America's Night Out Against Crime" on August 3 and the Farmers' Market will be open from 3:00 to 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Jeff Bridges reported that material was included in Councilors' packets regarding saving MDC's trails. Due to recent litigation, MDC is contemplating closing access to the public and there will be public hearings on this issue. Jeff Bridges also reported that a donation was received from the Save the Farm Group in the amount of \$1,000 for the Open Space Acquisition Fund. He also noted that Planning and Zoning will be reviewing the commercial vehicle parking ordinances and this information has also been included in councilors' packets. Jeff Bridges also noted that staff and the Town Attorney are working on an update to the Volunteer Ambulance Association's

contract with the Town and once that is complete it will be brought to the Public Safety for review and discussion. The Town Attorney is also updating the adult entertainment ordinance and a review of all other quality of life ordinances.

Chairperson Hemmann asked if Councilors who have questions on the Planning and Zoning material should attend the Planning and Zoning meeting to ask those questions during the public comment section.

Jeff Bridges responded that there is a public hearing on July 20 and councilors could also send their questions to RaeAnn Palmer.

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Roberts moved **“TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF FREDERICK E. PETRELLI, JR., 70 WELLS ROAD, ON THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD,”** seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

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

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO ACCEPT THE APPOINTMENT OF COLLEEN SHERIDAN, 31 STATE STREET TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FROM 7-6-10 THROUGH 6-30-2015,”** seconded by Councilor Drake.

Councilor Roberts asked for background information for Colleen Sheridan.

Chairperson Hemmann responded that Ms. Sheridan is a commercial real estate agent and is known in the business community with her involvement in commercial real estate. She also noted that the Town Manager has interviewed Ms. Sheridan for the skills she will be bringing to the Redevelopment Agency and recommended that she be put on the committee.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“ACCEPT THE BID FROM TOTAL FENCE LLC OF NEW HAVEN, ALONG WITH A CHANGE ORDER TO SUBSTITUTE A PORTION OF THE 3 CABLE GUIDE RAIL AS DEPICTED ON THE MEMO AND MAP FROM MICHAEL J. TURNER, TOWN ENGINEER, DATED JULY 14, 2010, WITH STEEL BACKED WOOD TIMBER RAIL (MERRITT PARKWAY STYLE) IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$153,958,”** seconded by Councilor Drake.

Councilor Drake commented that the Infrastructure Committee met last week and reviewed the

map and asked if Deputy Mayor Console had a sketch of the wood rail project.

Mike Turner responded that the wood timber guide rail would run from the west side of the project sign and past 105 Marsh Street and on the east side 100 feet of wood guide rail to the MDC pumping station with the balance going north 625 feet and explained that there was no net increase in the budget project.

Councilor Manousos asked if the bid went out only to the one bidder or all three bidders.

Mike Turner responded that the bid went out to all three bidders for the wood guide rails.

Councilor Kotkin complimented the staff for the work done on the wood guide rail project.

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

Deputy Mayor Console moved to accept the purchase the police sergeant vehicle.

Jeff Bridges noted that there was no suggested motion on the agenda. If Council chooses to purchase the vehicle, a bid can be brought back. Information had been requested and supplied.

Deputy Mayor Console noted that he would like to go out to bid on the police vehicle.

Councilor Roberts noted that she felt the vehicle was necessary for the department.

Councilor Drake commented that he felt the Council was going in the wrong direction and he would vote against the matter. He also felt the vehicles for all departments should go in the direction of smaller not larger.

Councilor Kotkin commented that in general the fleet of vehicles should be looked at to determine utilization, fuel economy and cost and noted that once the Energy Committee report comes to the Council, perhaps there will be guidelines that can determine whether hybrids can be used for certain departments. He also noted that he hoped that this issue would become part of a broader discussion that includes town facilities.

Deputy Mayor Console reported that in response to an issue Councilor Drake brought up at an earlier meeting regarding the Town of New Britain utilizing smaller cars for the Fire Marshal's department, Deputy Mayor Console noted that New Britain has a staff of seven or eight people and six small cars for inspections and one tactical vehicle. Wethersfield has a staff of one.

Jeff Bridges noted that from an operational point of view, the Town should match the vehicle to the mission and find vehicles that meet goals and expectations in terms of energy use but still accomplish the mission. If that is not possible, then the mission would need to be refined and go with a vehicle that is not ideal but will accomplish the mission

Chairperson Hemmann noted for the public's information, that the new police vehicle would be used as a command post for the first ranking officer at a scene. The vehicle will also contain equipment for crime scenes investigation and will be equipped for four wheel drive for certain areas in town, such as the Meadows. The older police vehicle will be passed down to DARE and the present DARE vehicle will be sold at auction. She also highlighted that the cost of the SUVs has gone done in price and the fuel consumption is minimal between the Crown Victoria and the Expedition. Chairperson Hemmann asked if a motion was needed to go out to rebid on the vehicle.

Jeff Bridges responded that he knew that the vehicle would be brought back but will there be a quote for consideration back also.

Deputy Mayor Console responded that yes, a quote will be brought back.

Councilor Drake moved **“TO ACCEPT OPTION 4b, AS THE RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE MORRISON AVENUE SIDEWALK PROJECT,”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

Jeff Bridges reported that the Town has solicited votes and input on the improvements to be made on the Morrison Avenue project. As of the writing of this letter 22 of the 28 residents have responded. The requested response date was July 15. Right now the vote is split between option 4b (narrow the street, snow shelf, new sidewalk, \$210,000) and a new option 12 (new concrete curb and sidewalk adjacent to street, \$260,000 to \$290,000). Staff will be reaching out to the residents we have not heard from to gather their input. At the conclusion of this meeting we would anticipate a determination of the improvements to be made. Later in the agenda, you can see a resolution calling for an assessment of 25% of the costs of the improvements. The Infrastructure Committee recommended this so when the public hearing is held there is some flexibility in what the Council can assess if they so choose. Many of the residents will be attending to discuss or provide their input on the assessments. The Council will have to have a formal public hearing on a later date for the assessments (August 2).

Councilor Kotkin asked if a description of option 4b could be given.

Councilor Drake responded that the vote came back from the residents of Morrison Avenue 12/12. He explained that the plan is to shorten and narrow the street by two feet on each side and parking will be limited to one side of the street. There will also be a two foot snow shelf with a raised concrete sidewalk and noted that this is technically a proper fix. There will be a discussion regarding the assessment with a resolution at the end of tonight's meeting.

Councilor Kotkin asked if there was going to be a sidewalk on both sides of the street or just one side.

Councilor Drake responded that that there would be a sidewalk on each side of the street from Wolcott Hill to the Silas Deane Highway with the exception of a couple of areas.

Deputy Mayor Console asked for clarification of the final vote.

Mike Turner responded that as of last Friday there were five people that hadn't responded so ballots were personally delivered and to date only one ballot was returned.

Councilor Roberts inquired to how many times this matter has been voted on.

Mike Turner responded that it has been voted on three times.

Councilor Manousos asked why the process was opened again.

Councilor Drake responded that as the matter moved forward, additional ideas were brought up as to how people wanted things done.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Deputy Mayor Console abstained. The motion passed 7-0-1.

OTHER BUSINESS

Deputy Mayor Console moved to **“TO AUTHORIZE THE SUBMISSION OF TWO STEAP GRANT APPLICATIONS, EACH FOR \$500,000, FOR THE PURPOSES RECOMMENDED BY THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE,”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

Jeff Bridges reported that the State of Connecticut is once again soliciting projects for Small Town Economic Assistance Program funding (STEAP). These funds have been used most recently for the Town Hall / Streetscape Improvements and the Facade Loan Program. Staff reviewed some proposed project applications with the Infrastructure Committee and they have recommended two grant applications of \$500,000 each.

One \$500,000 application will be paving and pool improvements to Mill Woods Park. There is a memo from Kathy Bagley, Parks and Recreation Director fleshing out the details of the grant.

The second application will be for the completion of the Silas Deane Streetscape project and some additional funds for the facade loan program. There is a memo from Mike Turner, Town Engineer, regarding that application.

Chairperson Hemmann asked if the STEAP grant would be allocated for next year.

Jeff Bridges confirmed that it would be for next year.

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

Councilor Manousos moved **“TO APPROVE THE YEAR END BUDGET TRANSFERS AS REQUESTED BY THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT,** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

Jeff Bridges reported that at the end of each fiscal year, a certain amount of budget transfers must be done to “true up” accounts that had greater than anticipated expenditures. Monies are generally taken from the contingency account, however, in other instances some other operational accounts may have funds that we use to transfer to other deficient lines. Lisa Hancock has prepared a series of memos and budget transfer request forms. Preliminarily we have collected 100.6% of the anticipated revenue and spent approximately 98% of the total budget. Once we close the year final numbers will be given to the Council.

Councilor Hurley asked if the Town spent more than what was budgeted for.

Jeff Bridges responded that in those particular line items, more money was spent.

Councilor Kotkin inquired whether there was still a contingency plan from last year.

Jeff Bridges responded that \$700,000 was not spent.

Councilor Drake inquired about the amount of legal fees.

Jeff Bridges responded that there were union contracts, employee disciplinary issues and attorney fees.

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

BIDS

Councilor Drake moved **“TO AWARD THE BID FOR PAINTING CONTRACTOR FOR THE WETHERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL GYM TO HARTFORD PAINTING COMPANY LLC,”** seconded by Councilor McAlister.

Jeff Bridges reported that the FY 2010/2011 Capitol Improvement Budget includes funds in the amount of \$30,000 for this project. The current condition of the gym walls is poor, with paint peeling off the walls and ceiling. Painting is needed to improve the aesthetics of a facility that is used daily, and to improve the image of a facility that is seen by both residents and out of town visitors at the various games played in the Facility. BOE Director of Maintenance & Operations Fred Bushey recommends Hartford Painting Company LLC from quotes received on a list of pre-certified bidders from a State Bid process.

Deputy Mayor Console asked for clarification as to whether the town was responsible for the outside of the buildings, and the Board was responsible for the inside of the facilities.

Jeff Bridges responded that a submission was received by the Board to the Capital Advisory Committee who chose to fund it this year.

Chairperson Hemmann asked if the money was received from the Capital Improvement's Budget.

Jeff Bridges responded that the Town is responsible for major capital items and the Board is responsible for the day to day maintenance.

Deputy Mayor Console asked if the Board pays the air conditioning.

Jeff Bridges responded that the Board is paying for the air conditioning.

Councilor Manousos inquired about the 10-15 pages of contractors and asked if the Town received a number of bids for this particular project.

Fred Bushey explained that they were not bids because it was done in the interest of time. The money had been appropriated for this matter and explained that going out to public bid would have caused a delay in getting the project done. He stated that he used the state board process.

Councilor Manousos stated that the information given to Council stated that Fred Bushey recommended Hartford Painting Company LLC from quotes received from a list of pre-certified bidders from a State Bid process when in fact that wasn't the process followed.

Councilor McAlister questioned whether it was known three months earlier that the school needed to be painted and questioned who is watching this now so that this doesn't happen again.

Fred Bushey responded that until he was able to get onto a lift to examine the upper portions he did not realize the severity of the situation. There were certain spots of the walls that just needed to be scraped and repainted but not this particular section.

Councilor Manousos asked if there is a process in order to go back to other vendors and get a competitive bid.

Fred Bushey responded that he has checked with one other state qualified vendor on the list but they were not able to do the work.

Deputy Mayor Console stated that he will vote yes to the project because of the deplorable conditions but felt it should have been the Board of Education's responsibility because they are

lacking in their responsibility to keep up with the day to day maintenance so the matter wouldn't have gotten this severe and they now expect the Council to take care of it.

Chairperson Hemmann noted that items that are \$30,000 or greater are placed for consideration and potential funding on the Capital Improvement Budget. The Capital Improvement Advisory Committee chose to fund this project which would have been part of the overall budget option on May 15 as part of the Capital Improvement budget

Councilor Manousos inquired as to how long the painting project will take to complete.

Fred Bushey responded that it will take three weeks.

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

Deputy Mayor Console moved to **“AWARD THE BID FOR PRINTER TONER, AS NEEDED, TO THE TWO LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDERS, CLICKINKS.COM AS PRIMARY AND LD PRODUCTS AS SECONDARY FOR ITEMS THAT ARE NOT AVAILABLE THROUGH CLICKINKS.COM FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2010 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2011,”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

Jeff Bridges reported that each year Town departments expend approximately \$20,000 for printer toner. In April, when this item was first bid, printer repairs were included in the pricing. Town Council requested clarification regarding vendor pricing, and rejected the bid, asking for bids that are just for toner and as an alternate, for toner and printer services. Twenty-nine vendors responded, with pricing on the toner cartridges, six bidders included printer repair with their bid. The attached memorandum from Finance Director Lisa Hancock provides the bid analysis information. Staff is requesting that the bid be awarded to the two lowest responsible bidders, CLICKINKS.COM as primary and LD Products as secondary for items that are not available through CLICKINKS.COM for the period, July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

Councilor Manousos asked how the cost compared to last year's cost.

Jeff Bridges responded that unit prices should be looked at and that approximately \$20,000 was spent on printer toner last year.

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

Councilor Hurley moved to **“AWARD TRAFFIC LINE PAINTING SERVICES TO ATLANTIC PAVEMENT MARKINGS FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$28,347, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011,”** seconded by Deputy Mayor Console.

Jeff Bridges reported the FY 2010-2011 Adopted Budget includes \$33,000.00 of funding for line striping of Town streets. The Town participated in a competitive bid process with CRCOG and recommends award to the low bidder, Atlantic Pavement Markings for \$28,347.

Jeff Bridges stated that although the recommendation is for \$28,347, he noted that the Town can use this vendor up to \$33,000 so that the balance can be used for smaller jobs.

Councilor Hurley moved **“TO AMEND THE MOTION TO AWARD TRAFFIC LINE PAINTING SERVICES TO ATLANTIC PAVEMENT MARKINGS FOR THE AMOUNT UP TO \$33,000, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011,”** seconded by Deputy Mayor Console.

Councilor Kotkin asked what work was being done this year.

Mike Turner reported that the striping is for all town roads and town parking lots.

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

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Councilor Drake moved to **“SEND NOTICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 139 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD TO THE RESIDENTS ALONG MORRISON AVENUE NOTIFYING THEM OF PROPOSED ASSESSMENTS FOR SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS AND THE DATE, TIME, AND PLACE FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING ON SAID ASSESSMENTS,”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

Jeff Bridges reported in accordance with Chapter 139 of the Code of the Town of Wethersfield, if the Council wishes to assess a property for sidewalk improvements a notice and hearing must be held. This resolution calls for assessing the property owners 25% of the costs of the project costs and having a public hearing on August 2. If the Council wishes to lower the assessment or require none at all, that can be done at the conclusion of the hearing.

Councilor Drake reported that the residents are being asked to pay 25% of the cost of replacing the sidewalks.

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

MINUTES

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 6, 2010”** seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Chairperson Hemmann noted a correction on page 10 regarding her vote to reallocate \$180,000 to maximize the use of wood guide rails and she noted that she had voted against.

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 6, 2010 AS CORRECTED,”** seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Councilor Hurley abstained. The motion passed 7-0-1.

PUBLIC COMMENT

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle commented on the painting issue that did not go out to bid. He also commented on the improvements along the Silas Deane Highway and questioned why the residents on Morrison Avenue are going to be assessed \$1,000 each for the sidewalks when taxpayers paid for the sidewalks installed on Two Rod Highway and surrounding streets. Mr. Ruhe also commented on people stating that the Board of Education should be under tighter control but cannot be given less money than last year.

Chairperson Hemmann responded that a formula is used.

George Ruhe also commented on the need for more cell phone enforcement by the police.

Jeff Bridges added to Chairperson Hemmann’s explanation on the money that the Board of Education receives through a formula and noted that with the stimulus money an adjustment needed to be made to the formula and once the stimulus money is not received, the formula will change again.

Gus Colantonio of 16 Morrison Avenue thanked the Council for getting a street light replaced on Morrison Avenue and also commented on the sidewalk issue.

Susan Butler of 8 Morrison Avenue commented on issues of Morrison Avenue regarding the sidewalks, the width of the street and the assessment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:10 p.m., Deputy Mayor Console moved **"TO ADJOURN THE MEETING"** seconded by Councilor Kotkin. Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk
Approved by vote of Council
August 2, 2010