

Unapproved
WETHERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 2, 2010

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, August 2, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield.

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

Absent: Councilor Roberts.

Also present: Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, RaeAnn Palmer, Assistant Town Manager, Peter Gillespie, Town Planner, Mike Turner, Town Engineer and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

Councilor Kotkin moved **“TO ADD AN APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND TO ADD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO THE END OF TONIGHT’S MEETING TO DISCUSS LITIGATION,”** seconded by Deputy Mayor Console.

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

Councilor Montinieri led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

The Economic Development Report was presented by Peter Gillespie, Town Planner.

WELCOME!

- Omni Comics and Cards has relocated to 683 Silas Deane Highway.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

- Interior fit out is underway by the owner of 1260 Silas Deane Highway for renovation of remaining vacant space for to be used for additional medical office tenants.
- Exterior façade and Interior improvements are underway by the owner of 526 Silas Deane Highway (Ritz Camera). Funding assistance is being provided by the Town.
- Exterior demolition is underway for a new façade at 990 Silas Deane Highway (Next To Mila Fabric). Funding assistance is being provided by the Town.
- Plans have been filed for interior renovations for a new clothing store Red T at 150 Silas Deane Highway.
- Sapporo Restaurant in the Goff Brook Shops has temporarily closed for remodeling and will reopen in the Fall.
- Webster Bank 1039 Silas Deane Highway is in the midst of significant interior remodeling and renovations.
- A building permit has been filed for a medical testing lab LabXpress at 898 Silas Deane Highway (next to Pelton’s).
- Red Lobster has submitted plans for new façade for their location at 1324 Silas Deane Highway.

OTHER NEWS AND INITIATIVES

Developer/Tenant Contacts

- Working with a national restaurant chain looking at the region for possible sites.
- Met with tenant interested in vacant Omnis Comics property on Silas Deane Highway.
- Met with local property owner to discuss permit issues and processes for national restaurant chain.
- Met with development group exploring feasibility of redevelopment site on Silas Deane Highway.
- Met with realtor representing developer interested in multifamily development sites.
- Met with the owner of the Masonic Building on Main Street to address questions about zoning and marketing of the property.

Economic Development and Improvement Commission

- Wethersfield Shops Local program continues to develop momentum. To date we have signed up over 90 businesses to participate. On Wednesday July 28 the Committee held it's first community event at EB Gallery to spread the word about the program. A promotional video is in the planning stages.
- Filed a request for \$500,000 in STEAP funds with the State OPM for façade program and streetscape funding.

Planning and Zoning Commission

- On July 20 the Commission held a hearing regarding proposed changes to the regulations regarding commercial vehicles. The Commission requested staff to address some concerns and revise the proposal. The hearing will be continued to August 3.
- The Commission approved 2 roof top telecommunication installations for Clearwire at 100 Executive Square and 100 Great Meadow Road.

Tourism

- In partnership with the Wethersfield Historical Society and through a grant from the CT Commission on Culture and Tourism we have retained the **Pita Group** to evaluate our marketing efforts in order to determine opportunities to more cooperatively market programs and events with our other partners such as the Shopkeepers, the Historical Society, the Webb Deane Stevens Museum and others. A draft report has been received and is being reviewed by the stakeholders.
- Through an additional grant from the CT Commission on Culture and Tourism the Commission placed an ad in a magazine insert that appeared in a variety of newspapers in New Jersey, New York and Connecticut. To date, the Spring/Summer ad has generated over 3000 requests for information. A Fall ad is also planned.

Redevelopment Agency

- Continuing to look at development opportunities throughout the community. Meeting was held with property owner on Berlin Turnpike to discuss potential interest in partnerships.
- The agency presented a proposal from Bartram and Cochran to explore the redevelopment potential of a cluster of properties surrounding and including 1000 Silas Deane Highway the Former Foodways/Weight Watchers building. The agency met with the Town Council in May and agreed to pursue this project. The Town Attorney has prepared an agreement with the property owner to cost share.

HEARING

Chairperson Hemmann reported that there will be a hearing tonight on the resolution concerning the construction of sidewalks on the north and south side of Morrison Avenue from the intersection of Wolcott Hill Road approximately 1500 feet east to Silas Deane Highway.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Susan Butler, 8 Morrison Avenue, commented on the sidewalk issues on Morrison Avenue and noted that if Council wants to right the wrongs, the Town should allocate the money to finish the job and not tax the residents.

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Avenue, commented on the letter he received regarding the \$1,000 assessment.

Salvatore Falvo, 6 Morrison Avenue commented on the work being done on Morrison Avenue and noted that it should be graded every 50 feet.

Holly Colantonio, 16 Morrison Avenue, commented on the letter that was received by the residents regarding the potential assessment and noted that she contacted the neighboring towns and looked at their on-line codes for their policies and found that the neighboring towns assume full responsibility and costs related to the repair or replacement of their sidewalks in town. One Public Works Director noted to her that the assessment being considered would be double taxation. She also noted that several residents were listed on the correspondence who live on the corner of Tifton and Orchard and asked why new sidewalks were being installed where presently there is not a sidewalk and why were these residents being assessed.

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, commented on Morrison Avenue and noted that he is not an advocate for the Town to spend money, but there should be justice for all, as noted in the pledge of allegiance. He also noted that the Council should review what has been done in the past and suggested that the Town pay for the sidewalks on Morrison Avenue.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, commented on the proposed assessment to the Morrison Avenue residents and felt that the Town should step up and pay for the cost of the sidewalks.

Marguerite Alpert, 7 Morrison Avenue, commented that she felt very discouraged when she received the letter regarding the proposed assessment and asked why additional money was needed if in the past, there had been enough money to fix the sidewalks. She also noted that approximately 50 school age kids walk to and from school every day on Morrison Avenue.

Barbara Ruhe, 79 Main Street, commented that the Town is at fault for the Morrison Avenue sidewalk issue and the burden should not be on the Morrison Avenue residents.

Mark Alpert, 7 Morrison Avenue, commented that the condition of the sidewalks on Morrison Avenue was due to damage done by the contractors.

Ken Sokolowski, 79 Main Street, commented on Morrison Avenue and asked if anyone has made a recommendation to amend the assessment to zero and carry out the project with the Town absorbing the cost.

Chairperson Hemmann noted that that the hearing is closed at 7:35 p.m.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, commented on the CMT and CAPT test scores and distributed handouts regarding the scores. He noted that the Board of Education has been working diligently to increase the scores but the scores have increased only slightly over 10 years.

Susan Butler, 8 Morrison Avenue, thanked Deputy Mayor Console for coming to speak with some of the residents of Morrison Avenue, and also thanked Jeff Bridges and Mike Turner. She noted that that the whole picture needs to be looked at and the project should be done the right way. She also noted that she is concerned about the narrowing of the road.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Drake reported for the Wilkus Farm Committee. He noted that the Committee had recently met for the first time to review the ground rules of what is to be done with the land, basic concepts, and ideas for the land and educating themselves about the grant and its restrictions. It has been decided to hold a public hearing next Monday night, August 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall and he encouraged the public to attend. The presentation will focus on what the pieces of land look like, the grant restrictions and give the public an opportunity to suggest ideas. These ideas will be brought back to the Committee and then presented to the Town Council for consideration.

Councilor Kotkin reported on the insurance reports and noted that for the second straight year in a row the health of Town employees and their families has remained good. There is \$850,000 that was not spent that had been appropriated for health care. He noted that last year a pool for funds was set up for the Town and for the Board of Education so that if there was a surplus, the money could be set aside and used in the event that there is a bad year. At the time it was suggested to keep 10 percent balance in the account, which would be about \$1,000,000. He explained that now health insurance is provided for retirees. The Town will consider not providing newly hired employees with health insurance when they retire. The Town still has an obligation to the present retirees, but they need to keep the number from growing. The Town Manager has suggested that a fund be started to cover the \$64,000,000 obligation that the Town will have down the road.

Jeff Bridges commented that the Town's obligation is close to \$60,000,000. An OPEC trust needs to be set up in order to get credit for the allocations made to the retiree's benefits. If the money is put in a reserve fund then the Town does not receive any OPEC credit.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Deputy Mayor Console commented on the education system and noted that Hartford Magazine had an article on the CMT scores and it reflected where Wethersfield stood in the State. He noted that the economic growth of the Town is more than getting new businesses in Town. It is also about a good education system. If Wethersfield has an excellent education system, that is economic growth for the entire Town. Deputy Mayor Console also commented on the issue of the street lights and suggested that the Town Manager contact the Town of Suffield where a study was conducted on their Town's wattage usage and offsetting the lights. He noted that he has had discussions with several residents regarding the overgrowth on Griswold Pond. The pond was last dredged in 1980. He noted that the silt needs to be fixed, trees cut and salt removed. The overgrowth is also killing the fish. He also noted that he thought there was a company that was supposed to be handling the maintenance of the pond and asked that this be looked into. He commented on the Wilkus Farm open space. He noted that in addition to Griswold Pond, the Wilkus Farm needs maintenance too. Deputy Mayor Console also commented on the Shops Local Program that was mentioned earlier by the Town Planner. He noted that he thought it was a very good program. There is now an issue regarding one hour parking signs recently installed in Old Wethersfield and asked if the Town Manager could get businesses together to discuss this issue that will benefit the entire Town.

Councilor Kotkin commented that he spoke with a resident from The Crossings regarding the new recycling barrels and lack of space that they have to store the larger barrels. He asked if perhaps the barrels could be switched to the 35 gallon barrels so they can store them in their garages.

Jeff Bridges responded that he has spoken with the management company and they are willing to switch to the 65 gallon barrels and noted that if this solution doesn't work, it can be revisited.

Jeff Bridges noted that at this time, the resident have the 95 gallon barrels.

Chairperson Hemmann reported she attended the opening of the Governor's Prevention Partnership at 30 Jordan Lane along with Jeff Bridges, Kathy Bagley, and Chief Cetran. Chairperson Hemmann also reported that there was a successful motorcycle ride to benefit the Special Olympics with approximately 60 motorcyclists and that the event raised approximately \$5,000. Chairperson Hemmann also reported that the police are sponsoring America's Night Out on Tuesday, August 3 at Millwoods. Chairperson Hemmann also noted that there will be a Public Hearing on August 9 regarding the Wilkus Farm property regarding discussing the usage of the open space.

COUNCIL ACTION

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO APPOINT WENDI L. JOHNSON, 109 GOOSEBERRY HILL, TO THE WILKUS FARM COMMITTEE,”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

Chairperson Hemmann noted that a copy of Ms. Johnson’s resume has been given to each council member.

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

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF ANTONIO MARGIOTTA, 155 STOCKINGMILL ROAD, FROM THE INLAND WETLANDS AND WATER COURSES COMMISSION,”** seconded by Councilor McAlister.

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

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO APPOINT DAVID R. EDWARDS, III, 200 WINDMILL HILL, TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR THE TERM 8-2-10 TO 6-30-11,”** seconded by Councilor McAlister.

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

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO PROVIDE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SIDEWALKS ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH SIDE OF MORRISON AVENUE FROM THE INTERSECTION OF WOLCOTT HILL ROAD APPROXIMATELY 1500 FEET TO SILAS DEANE HIGHWAY,”** seconded Councilor Hurley.

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO TABLE UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING THE RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE CONSTRUCTION OF SIDEWALKS ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH SIDE OF MORRISON AVENUE FROM THE INTERSECTION OF WOLCOTT HILL ROAD APPROXIMATELY 1500 FEET TO SILAS DEANE HIGHWAY,”** seconded by Councilor Manousos.

Councilor Drake asked Mike Turner if Wethersfield was the only town that does not maintain and service the sidewalks.

Mike Turner responded that a survey was done several years ago and some towns include the cost of sidewalk maintenance in the base taxation brief.

Chairperson Hemmann asked Mike Turner when the current ordinance was put into place.

Mike Turner noted that the ordinance has been in place since he began working at the Town 15 years ago.

Councilor Hurley asked if the ordinance meant that new sidewalks that are installed are paid for by the Town and the residents are responsible for paying for sidewalk repairs.

Mike Turner responded that sidewalk repairs are at the owner's expense and the installation of new sidewalks the Council may assess up to a percentage.

Deputy Mayor Console asked Mike Turner if he could compile a list of the surrounding towns and their requirements as to sidewalk installations and repairs. Deputy Mayor Console also inquired about the sidewalks installed in new developments.

Mike Turner responded that with new subdivisions, sidewalks are included in physical improvements and the developer who subdivides the land, bonds for that and pays for it also.

Deputy Mayor Console asked if Mike Turner could compile a list of the surrounding towns and their requirements for sidewalks in new subdivisions.

Councilor McAlister asked, in terms of keeping the ordinance the same, and leaving the Morrison Avenue issue off the table, would he have an estimate of how much has been spent on sidewalks and sidewalk repairs in the past five to ten years.

Mike Turner responded that in past years, the Town would budget between \$15,000 and \$75,000 for sidewalk repairs for damage done by Town trees. He also explained that about ten years ago, the Town was on a 5 year return cycle so that \$250,000 to \$300,000 worth of work was done for town tree damage which is approximately 20%, so the Town is looking at \$1 million if the Town chooses to do everything.

Councilor McAlister asked if historically, have people repaired sidewalks on their own or has the Town notified the homeowner.

Mike Turner responded that four or five years ago, the budget adoption process changed and the Town continues to budget for repairs that need to be done for damage done by Town trees. Presently the Town will assess the sidewalk, mark the damage and notify the homeowner of the need to repair.

Councilor McAlister asked Mike Turner how many sidewalks has he marked for repair in the past five years.

Mike Turner responded that he has marked a significant number of sidewalks.

Councilor McAlister inquired about damage done about three years ago to sidewalks when roads were paved.

Mike Turner responded that the slabs were fixed.

Councilor Manousos noted that information needs to be reviewed and assessed.

Councilor Drake asked if the Council has some direction as to what is being looked at.

Councilor Hurley inquired as to whether there is a need for sidewalks on both sides of the streets.

Councilor Drake responded that it was determined that sidewalks were needed on each side of the street as it is a busy street.

Chairperson Hemmann noted that the present sidewalk ordinance has been in place since the 1970's.

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

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A FORD EXPEDITION TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT VENDOR, CROWLEY FORD LLC, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$26,589 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND SIGN A FINANCING/LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR THE VEHICLE WITH THE LEASE COMPANY THAT OFFERS THE MOST FAVORABLE TERMS TO THE TOWN,”** seconded by Councilor Manousos.

Jeff Bridges reported that this item was tabled at the July 6, 2010 Town Council meeting pending additional information. The information was provided at the July 19, 2010 meeting at which time staff indicated that the pricing provided by the low bidder was no longer valid because it was based on delivery of a 2010 vehicle. Since that time, the State of Connecticut contractor, Crowley Ford, has agreed to provide 2011 vehicles at the 2010 pricing. Staff solicited quotes from the three local Ford dealers and Crowley remains the lowest bidder. Therefore, staff is recommending that the purchase be awarded to Crowley Ford in the amount of \$26,589. The purchase will occur as part of the negotiated lease for all of the approved equipment. The lease will have a three year term and the Town will own the equipment at the end of the term.

Councilor Montinieri inquired if this was included in the Town's budget amount for the coming year.

Jeff Bridges responded that it is included in the coming year's budget.

Councilor Montinieri noted that this was just clarifying the value, and asked how this would interface with the lease.

Jeff Bridges responded that a fleet package was put together and estimated that the total lease package would be approximately \$366,000 which is made up of four patrol vehicles, five pick-up trucks, a vacuum trailer and the Ford Explorer for the Fire Marshal.

Councilor Montinieri asked if the lease is broken up or is it one lease package.

Jeff Bridges responded that it is one master lease.

Deputy Mayor Console thanked Chief Cetran for bringing the police vehicle down to Town Hall for inspection and for the demonstration.

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

Councilor Hurley moved **“TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO ACT ON BEHALF OF THE WETHERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL IN EXECUTING A MEMORADNUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY, FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE FY 2009 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANE GRANT PROGRAM AND FUTURE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT PROGRAMS,”** seconded by Councilor Manousos.

Jeff Bridges reported that each year the Town applies for and receives a State of Connecticut Emergency Management Performance Grant. This grant is Federal funding that the State receives to support the emergency management functions in communities with the purpose of sustaining and enhancing local emergency management capabilities. The award amount is based on a per capita formula and must be matched by the Town. Each year the application is based on a portion of the Emergency Management Director’s salary and cell phone service, both of which are already budgeted. Utilizing the Connecticut Economic Resource Center Town profile population data, the projected amount that the Town is eligible to receive is \$12,004. Town Council must authorize the Town Manager to apply for and accept the grant. This request is for two grant applications, one for the current fiscal year and one for the new Federal fiscal year which begins in October. The grant package for the next fiscal year is not available yet, staff will provide more information when it is available.

Councilor Hurley asked Jeff Bridges if this was revenue in our budget.

Jeff Bridges responded that yes, it was.

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

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Councilor Drake moved **“TO APPROVE THE YEAR END BUDGET TRANSFER AS REQUESTED BY THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT,”** seconded by Councilor Montinieri.

Jeff Bridges reported that at the last Town Council meeting, several budget transfers were approved 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 the Town uses to transfer to other deficient lines. Lisa Hancock has prepared an additional transfer for funds to the Town Attorney account to cover additional expenditures. The additional expenditures include \$7400 in expenses for assessment appeals, \$6900 in expenses related to the Wilkus property, \$4900 in expenses for the Ethics Commission and \$6501 in expenses for routine Town business requiring legal review. All outstanding payments for fiscal year 2009-10 will be completed this week and any additional transfers, if necessary; will be presented at the next Town Council meeting.

Councilor Drake inquired about whether the \$6,500 for routine town business is part of the retainer.

Jeff Bridges responded that a retainer is not paid.

Councilor Kotkin inquired that at last month’s meeting the Town Council moved \$80,000 into legal expenses.

Jeff Bridges responded that the Town Council did move \$80,000 for legal expenses.

Councilor Kotkin asked if there is any estimate for the Board of Ethics inquiry.

Jeff Bridges responded that the Town Council will be provided a listing of the ethics expenses and Wilkus Farm expenses.

Councilor McAlister asked to what date the transfers cover.

Jeff Bridges responded that the numbers are through June 30, 2010.

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

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO WAIVE THE BID REQUIREMENT AND TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF FIVE F350 PICKUP TRUCKS TO CROWLEY FORD LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$140,029 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND SIGN A FINANCING/LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR THE TRUCKS WITH THE LEASE COMPANY THAT OFFERS THE MOST FAVORABLE TERMS TO THE TOWN,”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

Jeff Bridges said that the FY 2010-11 CNEF Budget includes funds for the lease purchase of equipment. The appropriation includes authorization for five F350 pickup trucks which will replace existing equipment used by the painters, electrician, sign staff, parks staff and highway staff. Staff solicited bids from local Ford vendors and after receiving three quotes, was able to secure pricing that is equivalent to the State contract vendor who is located in Rhode Island. Staff is recommending award to Crowley Ford, the low bidder in the amount of \$140,029. The purchase will occur as part of the negotiated lease for all of the approved equipment. The lease will have a three year term and the Town will own the equipment at the end of the term.

Councilor McAlister asked if these trucks purchased today will have a similar life time of 10 to 19 years.

Jeff Bridges responded yes.

Councilor McAlister asked why there is a bid waiver if three bids were received.

RaeAnn Palmer responded that a formal bid wasn't done and each vehicle is over \$20,000.

Chairperson Hemmann asked why the State would take a bid from a Rhode Island company as opposed to a Connecticut company.

Jeff Bridges responded that he wasn't sure.

Deputy Mayor Console noted that the trucks are F350 and asked Councilor Drake about the fuel costs with the larger vehicles.

Councilor Drake noted that more efficient cars are being looked at.

Deputy Mayor Console asked if the present plows will be placed on the new vehicles.

Jim McDonald responded that the new trucks come equipped with plows.

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

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO WAIVE THE BID REQUIREMENT AND TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO CROWLEY FORD FOR FOUR POLICE CRUISERS IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$90,356 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND SIGN A FINANCING/LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR THE VEHICLES WITH THE LEASE COMPANY THAT OFFERS THE MOST FAVORABLE TERMS TO THE TOWN,”** seconded by Councilor Drake.

Jeff Bridges reported the FY 2010-11 CNEF (Capital Nonrecurring Equipment Fund) Budget includes funds for the lease purchase of equipment, including four new police vehicles. As discussed in more detail during the budget process, the annual purchase of four police cruisers helps to insure that the Town has safe, reliable vehicles for police staff. Staff is recommending that the State Contract not be utilized for this purchase. The total cost for the four vehicles is \$90,356, approximately \$2500 less than the last purchase from the State contractor located in Rhode Island. Staff solicited quotes from local Ford dealers and received three quotes, the lowest, Crowley Ford, resulted in the lower pricing. In addition, two of the vehicles will be painted black and white for marked cruisers, and the cost is included in the quote of \$90,356. The painting, aftermarket, generally costs around \$700. The two marked vehicles will be used by the canine officers and two will be used in the unmarked fleet. The funds for the light bars, sirens and radio/computer mounts are budgeted in the Vehicle Maintenance budget and there are sufficient funds to cover equipment for the new vehicles. The purchase will occur as part of the negotiated lease for all of the approved equipment. The lease will have a three year term and the Town will own the equipment at the end of the term.

Councilor McAlister asked if the Town is only able to use certain suppliers when an informal bid process is done.

RaeAnn Palmer responded that the Town starts with a State bid first because generally when they are bidding a large quantity, the Town is able to get a better price. To save the Town money and support local state vendors, Jim McDonald solicited the quotes. By Charter and State regulations, anything over \$20,000 should be bid out and as a general rule that is what is done, but in this instance, it was a better price.

Councilor McAlister asked if the Town bid it out, then they would have to go through the State bidding process.

RaeAnn Palmer responded that the Town can do a separate bid.

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

Councilor Hurley moved **“MOVED TO WAIVE THE BID REQUIREMENT AND TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO HRP ASSOCIATES, INC. TO CONDUCT GROUND WATER MONITORING AT THE WILKUS FARM SITE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ATTACHED PROPOSAL AND IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$54,350,”** seconded by Councilor McAlister.

Jeff Bridges reported that during the negotiations for the purchase of the Wilkus Farm, the Town amended the purchase contract to set aside \$55,000 for two years worth of post remediation monitoring of the site. HRP which has served as the Town’s environmental consultant has

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prepared a proposal (which is where the \$55,000 number came from). The money to pay for the services has been escrowed and HRP is ready to begin the process.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

MINUTES

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO TABLE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 23, 2010 SPECIAL MEETING,”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

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

Councilor Drake moved **“TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 19, 2010 MEETING WITH CORRECTIONS”** seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, commented on the cost of the ethics issue that was raised by Councilor Montinieri, bid waiver issues, problems with corruption, school scores and paying too much for what the Town gets. He also made note that the Economic Development Group should be working towards getting hi-tech jobs in town. George Ruhe also spoke that in addition to Griswold Pond, there are other ponds in Town that need attention also and he questioned the new trucks being purchased by the Town. He also inquired how the sidewalks on Two Rod Highway were handled and why the sidewalk situation on Morrison Avenue cannot be handled the same way.

Mark Alpert, 7 Morrison Avenue, wanted to clarify that the sidewalks that were broken by the contractor were not repaired, contrary to what Peter Gillespie had reported.

Marguerite Alpert, 7 Morrison Avenue, thanked the Town Manager for getting the date of ordinance for the sidewalks but noted that Morrison Avenue is not a “typical street.” It does not have drainage, curbing or a snow shelf. She also questioned the cost of an engineer consultant and why isn’t the Town’s Engineering Department being used instead. Margaret Alpert also noted that there were 72 sidewalk slabs that were damaged and there was no representative from the Town’s Engineering Department that were there that day.

Chairperson Hemmann noted that the cost of an engineering consultant is \$1,000.

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Avenue, commented that the MDC broke the sidewalk in front of his house and he was told by them that the sidewalk was owned by the Town.

Holly Colantonio, 16 Morrison Avenue, questioned why the matter was being tabled again as this matter has been going on for three years and she stated that she thought the issue tonight was about the assessment to the Morrison Avenue residents. On September 27, 1982 at a Special Town Council meeting, it was suggested by the Town Engineers that the sidewalks needed to be reconstructed at that time.

Michael Degruchy, 3 Morrison Avenue, noted that he would not support a 22 foot wide street.

Marguerite Alpert, 7 Morrison Avenue, thanked the Deputy Mayor on his ongoing help and support and wished that a vote could have been taken tonight, doesn't understand why there continues to be a wait and asked when the matter would be brought up again.

Chairperson Hemmann responded that it would be brought up again at the August 16th meeting.

Marguerite Alpert asked how the residents will be notified.

Chairperson Hemmann noted that it will be posted on-line or calls can be made to the Town Manager's office.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, commented on the ongoing issues of Morrison Avenue and hoped it would get wrapped up soon. He also commented on the Town employees' health benefits and the \$850,000 surplus. He also commented on the school system and the test scores and the inability of knowing how the schools are doing but for the test scores and felt that the Board of Education is not advocating for the children. He also questioned what the responsibilities were of the School Superintendent.

Robert Butler, 8 Morrison Avenue, commented on the issues of Morrison Avenue and the cost of repairs.

Colleen Sheridan, 31 State Street, suggested that the Council should have the engineering report in hand before the Morrison Avenue matter is brought back for discussion.

George Wallace, 22 Chesterfield Road, commented on the good and bad publicity of Morrison Avenue, CMT test scores and volunteerism in the Town.

Deputy Mayor Console moved **"TO ACCEPT ALL THE COMMENTS MADE ON THE MORRISON AVENUE MATTER BE ACCEPTED INTO THE MINUTES AS A PUBLIC HEARING,"** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

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

Councilor Hurley moved **“TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS LEGAL MATTERS,”** seconded by Councilor Montinieri. Jeff Bridges, Town Manager and Andy Houlding, attorney representing the Ethics Committee were present. No motions were made and no votes were taken during executive session

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

Councilor Manousos moved **“MOVED TO LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION,”** seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:09 p.m., Councilor Drake moved **"TO ADJOURN THE MEETING"** seconded by Councilor McAlister.

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

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk
Approved by vote of Council
August 16, 2010