

**REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 4, 2010**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, October 4, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield.

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

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

Councilor Kotkin led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

PROCLAMATIONS

Fire Prevention Week – Presented to Captains Ambrozino, Wilson, Roberts and Fire Marshal Dignoti.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

ECONOMIC REPORT – Presented by Peter Gillespie.

TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD
Planning and Economic Development Department
MONTHLY REPORT
October 2010

A Monthly Report From The Planning and Economic Development Department

Prepared By Peter D. Gillespie, Town Planner and Economic Development Manager
Phone (860) 721-2838 e-mail peter.gillespie@wethersfieldct.com

RECENT PROJECTS

- Webster Bank 1039 Silas Deane Highway has completed interior remodeling and renovations.
- Exterior façade and Interior improvements are complete by the owner of 526 Silas Deane Highway (Ritz Camera). Funding assistance is being provided by the Town.
- Crown Colony Construction has moved into the building at 376 Silas Deane Highway.
- Best Logic Staffing has moved into space at 48 Silas Deane Highway.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

- 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.
- Sapporo Restaurant in the Goff Brook Shops has temporarily closed for remodeling and will reopen in the Fall.
- A building permit has been filed for a medical testing lab LabXpress at 898 Silas Deane Highway (next to Pelton's).

- Red Lobster has been issued approval and construction work has started for a new façade for their location at 1324 Silas Deane Highway.

OTHER NEWS AND INITIATIVES

Developer/Tenant Contacts

- Discussed plans for reopening 1295 Silas Deane Highway – Angelino’s.
- Working with the owner of the Wethersfield Shopping Center for reuse of the remaining vacant space formerly occupied by CVS.
- Working with local realtor looking for redevelopment site for tenant.

Economic Development and Improvement Commission

- The 21st Annual Salute To Business is scheduled for Thursday evening December 9 at 5:30 pm at the Wethersfield Country Club.
- **Wethersfield Shops Local** program hosted a booth at last month’s CornFest to spread the word about the program. A new brochure has been developed listing the 100 participating businesses. A \$1,000 Holiday Gift Certificate drawing is planned for the Salute to Business event, the drawing is being funded by participating businesses.

Planning and Zoning Commission

- On September 21 the Commission approved changes to the regulations regarding commercial vehicles.

Tourism

- 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. The Fall ad which appeared in September generated 1,000 information requests the first week.
- Attended a grant funding workshop hosted by the CT Comm on Culture and Tourism. Several programs have potential value for Wethersfield.
- The Commission is working on a promotional piece that will be printed and appear on its website listing all local businesses and contact information for those who provide wedding related services in Wethersfield (Churches, Hotels/Motels, Banquet Space, Restaurants, Caterers, Bakeries, Florists, Rentals, Photographers, Transportation etc...)

Meeting/Event Schedule October

October 5	PZC 7 pm
October 6	Design Review 6:30 pm
October 7	Chamber 8:30 am
October 13	Shops Local 8:30 am
October 14	EDIC 12 noon
October 19	PZC 7 pm
October 20	Design Review 6:30 pm
October 26	Tourism Commission 5:30 pm
October 27	Shops Local 8:30 am

Councilor Drake asked for the status of the apartments behind 1280 Berlin Turnpike.

Peter Gillespie responded that the site plans are still being worked on and the scope is similar to what was previously presented.

Councilor Kotkin inquired about the assisted care facility off of Ridge Road and the development on the Newington side of potential commercial development.

Peter Gillespie responded that this project is not dead yet but believes they are looking for new financial partners and added that there is nothing official with the Newington projects.

Councilor Roberts asked if any marketing is being done for the Olson House.

Peter Gillespie responded that Mr. Clynch has not come to the EDIC for any assistance but the property is listed on the monthly available property report.

Councilor Roberts inquired as to whether the Olson House is zoned for office space.

Peter Gillespie responded that it is not zoned commercially but Mr. Clynch could consider the property for pre-existing non conforming use.

Councilor Roberts asked about the Ritz Camera building and the Fun Zone.

Peter Gillespie responded that no one has approached him with regards to renting the Ritz Camera building. With regards to the Fun Zone property, he noted that he has met with the owner recently, but there is nothing to report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, spoke about the Town's request for payment of the lights at Cottone Field. He stated that he was offended by Dan O'Connor's remark about the vocal minority. George Ruhe reviewed the history of the Cotton Field lights situation. The Town spent \$1 million for the turf on the field but did not follow the Town charter which required that this matter go to a referendum. The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association brought the matter through the courts which resulted with the Town having to put the matter through referendum. The position supported by the Tax Payer's Association failed at referendum. George Ruhe summarized the issues post referendum and noted that Dan O'Connor was not able to privately raise the funds needed as he had promised. George Ruhe recommended that the Council reject this issue.

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Avenue, noted that he is presently unemployed. He recently took a walk and noted (1) at the intersection of the Silas Deane Highway and Wells Road, there are only 7 handicapped ramps when there should be 8; (2) there is a street light out on Wells Road; (3) turning onto Wolcott Hill Road, he was almost poked in the eye with a pole that is identifying a fire hydrant and recommended that the pole should face away from the sidewalk; (4) on Wolcott Hill Road near Cottwell Road, there are three separate properties that have bushes growing over the sidewalks; and (5) noted that the grass height on town owned property on Ridge Road was

very high and asked why homeowners are expected to keep their lawns mowed but the Town's property remains unmowed.

Dan Griffin, 474 Church Street, commented that Church Street has a lot of pot holes that need attention. Dan Griffin also spoke on behalf of the lights at Cottone Field. He noted that he moved to Wethersfield for his children because of the opportunities the Town has to offer to children. Where he grew up in New Hampshire, there wasn't a football field, track field or swimming pool. He noted that Wethersfield is a community where there are children and there should be the realization that with children there are schools and sports activities.

Peter O'Keefe, 7 Clove Hill, urged his support to the lights at Cottone Field. He felt that the issue is about the community and how events can add to the sense of community. He commended the Council for bringing this matter up to have a committee appointed to look into the matter. Peter O'Keefe also indicated that he did a search of girls' soccer teams in other communities in Connecticut that play under lights and there were 133 communities in Connecticut that girl's soccer games are played on under the lights. He noted that a community is about building a sense of what may be good for one, may be good for another. There should not be the mindset that if you don't have children in the school system, you shouldn't have to pay for the schools. Taxes are paid even if the individual is not using all the services that taxes cover. He urged the committee to get the facts and move forward.

Rob Garrey, 10 Morrison Avenue, gave his support on the lights for Cottone Field. He questioned if there will be adequate parking for night games, adequate bleachers for night games, sufficient lighting for parking lots, sufficient lighting for paths for safety. He noted that large decisions should be voted on by all residents and follow the proper process.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Hurley reported for Shared Services and noted that the Board of Education hired a Finance Manager so the Town will not be combining finances with the Board of Education but will continue to look into whether payroll can be shared. The Town Manager and the School Superintendent will continue to look into whether there are other areas that can be shared.

Councilor Drake reported that the Library Board together with Friends of the Library had a business after hours event with the Chamber of Commerce to introduce the Library to realtors and other businesses. Councilor Drake reported that the Wilkus Farm report is almost complete. Councilor Drake also reported that the Infrastructure Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, October 5 to finish up with the quality of life issues. Councilor Drake also reported that Jeff Bridges is working on the existing ordinances and how to enforce the ordinances.

Councilor Roberts reported that she attended the 20th anniversary of the Kenney Center and it was a wonderful event.

Councilor Manousos reported that he attended the Wethersfield Historical Society Board meeting and noted that they are looking for some additional board members that have a marketing background. He also reported that the Taste of Wethersfield has been scheduled for April 9, 2011.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Drake asked Councilor Hurley if the Board of Education had an explanation as to why the decision was made to hire a Finance Manager.

Councilor Hurley responded that the Board of Education said that they didn't have enough time to wait.

Councilor Roberts noted that both parties have been talking about Shared Services and this would have been a prime time to combine the Town and the Board of Education Finance Manager positions and to her it felt like the rug was pulled out from underneath the Town. She noted that she found out that the Board of Education had filled this particular position from a newspaper article after the fact and commented that their colleagues on the other end of town should not be conducting business this way.

Deputy Mayor Console commented that the Town is stepping over dollars to pick up pennies. No one has looked at the long-term effect to having the Town saving money over time.

Councilor Roberts commented that it is a power issue and no one wants to give up power.

Deputy Mayor Console commented that the matter of the Board of Education hiring a Finance Director should have gone to Council first.

Councilor Kotkin commented that he was at the meeting that was being referenced and noted that he felt the Board did hire a joined personnel director/business manager. Councilor Kotkin noted that at this meeting, he wanted to ensure that the policy makers (four from the Council and five from the Board) were committed to, even if there wasn't one business manager for both sides, there were other areas that could be combined and felt the Board needs a personnel director. He noted that they are very committed to combining services. The Board was very reticent about committing too much and he felt that it was important for the Board to recognize that in addition to potential cost savings, there are improvements to the process and accuracy. He felt that the Board members didn't close the door and it is for the Council to make sure that the Town

Manager does what he can to keep the door open. It is important to Council that the Board instruct the Superintendent that it is important to them to combine services. Councilor Kotkin also commented that the Craft Fair was very well attended. He also noted that he asked the Town Manager for the Town's response to the wind issues on Thursday and Friday and whether the Town is going to pick up any debris from people's yards. Councilor Kotkin also questioned whether Pocket Wireless, who is withdrawing from the Hartford market, rented space on the Town's towers, and if so, would they continue to be paying their lease fees

Jeff Bridges responded that he will ask Mike Turner to respond to the debris issue. With regards to Pocket Wireless, Jeff Bridges responded that Pocket Wireless is in bankruptcy but have assigned their lease to another company who is continuing to pay the rent.

Deputy Mayor Console referenced a Hartford Courant article about President Obama's view on the schools in the United States. The United States ranked 21st with science and 25th with math in the country. He researched the Wethersfield school system and which is in the same range and Deputy Mayor Console commented that there are things that need to be done with the Town's school system. Deputy Mayor Console also commented on an article in the Hartford Courant regarding no-layoff provisions in Plainville. Deputy Mayor Console also commented on a letter sent home from the Superintendent of Schools regarding the schools' request for the parents to purchase school supplies for their children. Deputy Mayor Console tallied the cost which was approximately \$25/per student and if multiplied by the number of students which is about 3,800, that is approximately \$95,000 that parents are spending on school supplies for their children. The Superintendent thanked the parents but noted that the school system is responsible for providing the children with school supplies at the beginning of the year and throughout the year. Deputy Mayor Console noted that he is keeping track of these numbers so that when it comes time for the budget talks, he can show that there is \$95,000 that has been spent by the parents and \$486,000 the Town received from the federal government for hiring laid off teachers, when Wethersfield did not lay off any teachers. The Town should then be receiving \$581,000 back from the Board of Education because the parents have purchased supplies when they don't have to and money was received for laid off teachers when no teachers were laid off. Deputy Mayor Console also commented about lights at Cottone Field and referred to a May 24, 2005 meeting when then council member Andy Adil noted that he was in support of the petition and would like to see it passed but does not want to see future council abuse their privilege. In December, 2008, then-Deputy Mayor Montinieri stated that he had conversations with the Superintendent of Schools and the Athletic Directors regarding the cost of lights. Then-Deputy Mayor Montinieri also stated that the intent was that any of the construction costs should not come from the Town budget.

Deputy Mayor Console also reported that there is an Infrastructure Meeting on Tuesday, October 5 at 7:30 p.m., Budget & Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday, October 6 at 7:30 p.m.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Jeff Bridges reported that the Mayor attended the MDC clean up of the Wethersfield Cove over the weekend and a lot was accomplished. Jeff Bridges also reported that during the last rain storm, at one point CL&P reported there were 1300 residents without power and by 4:00 p.m. there was one resident without power.

Mike Turner reported that the Town was monitoring the storm before, during and after. Most issues were temporary flooding of roads and not so many downed tree limbs. No debris pickup is planned.

COUNCIL ACTION

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS FOR ACTION

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO ACCEPT THE APPOINTMENT OF BARBARA HIGBEE AS PRESIDENT OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE from 10-04-2010 to 06-30-2012,”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

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

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO ACCEPT THE APPOINTMENT OF MILDRED COURNEYER TO THE SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FROM 10-04-2010 TO 06-30-2012,”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

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

Councilor Manousos moved **“TO TAKE OFF THE TABLE THE RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF A PORTION OF THE COSTS (CURRENTLY SET AT 25%) TO THE PROPERTY OWNERS ADJACENT TO THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO MORRISON AVENUE,”** seconded by Councilor McAlister.

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

Councilor Hurley moved **“TO AMEND THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF A PORTION OF THE COSTS TO HAVE A FLAT FEE OF \$500 PER PROPERTY (PARCEL) OWNERS ADJACENT TO THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO MORRISON AVENUE,”** seconded by Councilor Drake.

October 4, 2010

Page 8

Councilor Drake noted that the original suggested motion is incorrect in that the 25% assessment is for the curbing not for the entire project. He also commented that he realizes that the residents of Morrison Avenue do not want to pay for the assessment. He wants to be fair with the other residents in town who are responsible for repairing their own sidewalks and he supports the motion.

Councilor McAlister inquired as to the cost to repair one square of a sidewalk.

Mike Turner responded that the cost is \$150/square.

Councilor McAlister commented that the residents of Morrison Avenue did not ask to have the entire sidewalk in front of their property replaced and he is not in support of the \$500 assessment because in his view it is a new installment of a sidewalk and the residents do not have a choice.

Councilor Kotkin asked for clarification that the \$500 would be applied to 28 residents.

Jeff Bridges responded that the \$500 would be applied to 28 residents and there is a portion of sidewalk that may or may not be installed depending upon the engineering.

Mike Turner reported that at the intersection of Orchard Street, there is one home with a sharp bank that is being considered not to have a sidewalk installed.

Councilor Kotkin asked if the 27 residents who already have sidewalks are going to have sidewalks redone and the question is whether the 28th resident is going to get a sidewalk.

Mike Turner responded that the 28th property is a business.

Councilor Kotkin requested clarification that \$13,500 to \$14,000 of the cost will be raised from the residents and the balance will be paid for by the Town.

Mike Turner responded that was correct.

Councilor Kotkin asked if the south side of the road will be parking.

Mike Turner responded that this determination has not been made yet.

Councilor Kotkin commented that it was his recollection that when the sidewalks and roads were replaced in other areas of town (Two Rod and Mapleside), it was done through a referendum and the voters voted and it passed. He noted that Council is making the decision that the voters do

not have a say in this matter and the voters as a whole are going to pay and he feels it makes sense for the Morrison Avenue residents to pay the \$500/each.

Councilor Montinieri asked for clarification as to the cost to replace a sidewalk slab.

Mike Turner responded that the cost is \$150 to replace the concrete and the base.

Councilor Kotkin asked for the average number of slabs in front of each house.

Mike Turner responded that it varies by the footage of the home but a slab averages approximately 5 feet in length.

Councilor Montinieri noted that when the issue of the sidewalks for Two Rod were voted on, it did not include Amato Drive because Amato Drive was new construction and the sidewalks were part of the design plan.

Councilor Drake noted that he isn't sure whether this matter would pass in referendum.

Councilors Roberts and Hurley asked what the options were for payment.

Jeff Bridges responded that it could be paid now, paid over time or put as a lien on the property.

Councilor McAlister asked if historically new sidewalks were paid for by the town and repaired sidewalks were paid by the resident.

Mike Turner responded that new sidewalks are typically paid for by the developer in a new development. The last time the Town did new sidewalks was the bond project in the early 2000's and prior to that, early 1980's with Middletown Avenue.

Councilor McAlister asked if the Town wanted to put new sidewalks in at an existing neighborhood would the Town pay.

Mike Turner responded that the Town would pay but have the ability to assess the property owners 50%.

Councilor Drake clarified that the sidewalks are not new, but existing sidewalks that are being replaced.

Councilor Manousos agreed that it was a good compromise.

Deputy Mayor Console commented that he felt it was the Town's fault for the damage done to the sidewalk and doesn't support charging the residents of Morrison Avenue.

Deputy Mayor Console asked for a roll call on the amendment.

Councilors Drake, Hurley, Kotkin, Manousos, Montinieri and Roberts voted AYE. Councilors McAlister and Deputy Mayor Console voted NAY. Absent: Chairperson Hemmann. The motion passed 6-2-0.

Councilor Hurley moved **“TO AMEND THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF A PORTION OF THE COSTS TO HAVE A FLAT FEE OF \$500 PER HOUSEHOLD OF THE PROPERTY (PARCEL) OWNERS ADJACENT TO THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO MORRISON AVENUE,”** seconded by Councilor Drake.

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

Councilor Drake asked Mike Turner what the schedule was for this project.

Mike Turner responded that the design is being updated and once the design is 30% completed, there will be another public informational meeting where the residents of Morrison Avenue can come in to review it and see how it will impact each individual property. He stated that he expects to have something to review by November.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jeff Bridges reported the Town of Wethersfield has participated in the creation of the Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA). The purpose of the Authority is to combine the tonnages of the solid waste in the member communities to seek proposals on solid waste disposal options due to the fact the current contracts with all members with CRRA are expiring in 2012 (strength in numbers).

The Town has provided \$500.00 in funding to date to cover the costs of organizing the Authority. Now the Authority is seeking additional funding to operate and conduct the Request for Qualifications in the vendor selection process. (A report done by CRCOG in 2009 states that there are other options for solid waste disposal other than CRRA. That report is included in the packet). Now the CCSWA is seeking the funding from its member Towns for operations expenses and the expenses related to soliciting an Request for Qualifications (preferred over and RFP) and negotiations of the terms and conditions of the contract with the final vendor. Wethersfield's share of these costs is a not-to-exceed number of \$16,460.57. This number is based on the total dollar amount needed and the number of votes Wethersfield gets as a member of the Authority according to the bylaws. The spreadsheet showing how the costs are allocated is included with this memo. We would pay this out of the solid waste budget and if necessary seek a transfer of funds from the contingency account later in the year.

October 4, 2010

Page 11

The Town's contract with CRRA does expire in 2012. It would be necessary for Wethersfield on its own to conduct some type of review of solid waste disposal options and provide for some negotiation with a vendor. To date we have used CRCOG and attorney's working with the CCSWA to review to propose new Municipal Service Agreements from CRRA. Halloran and Sage, the Town Attorney, represents CRRA so there is a conflict. Jack Bradley's office has done a little work on this. So as a member of the CCSWA we benefit from having conducted some review of options and having solid waste consultants manage the negotiations with a vendor.

The other alternatives are to conduct a review on our own and negotiate on our own. The least expensive option is to accept the proposed Municipal Service Agreement from CRRA.

If the Town wishes to proceed as a member of the Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority then approval of these funds would be appropriate.

Councilor Manousos moved **“TO AUTHORIZE AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$16,460.57 FOR ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRAL CONNECTICUT SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY WHICH INCLUDE THE SOLICITATION FOR AND NEGOTIATION OF A NEW AGREEMENT FOR SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL SERVICES,”** seconded by Councilor Drake.

Councilor Montinieri noted to Jeff Bridges that he is concerned with the projected expense of the line item for \$176,000 as it has very little detail.

Jeff Bridges responded that this line item for the technical portion is the retention of solid waste experts non-attorneys to deal with the issues related to qualifications and negotiation of the contract.

Councilor Montinieri asked if Jeff Bridges knew who are these people, what are they being paid and how many hours will they be working.

Jeff Bridges responded that he will forward that information to Councilor Montinieri.

Councilor Montinieri responded that before he feels comfortable giving \$16,000 of the Town's money that will only cover until June, 2011, he would like to review the information and stated that there is an obligation to understand this issue.

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

BIDS

Jeff Bridges reported the current year Capital Budget includes \$30,000 of funding for the replacement of a skylight at the Charles Wright School. At the request of the Board of Education, Town staff solicited sealed bids for the work and received two responses, both of which exceed the funds budgeted. The School Board is requesting award of the bid to the lowest responsible bidder, Allied Restoration Corporation in the amount of \$39,244. The additional funds will come from the School Budget. The attached memorandum from Fred Bushey, Director of Maintenance and Operations, provides more information and confirms that the Superintendent of Schools approves the use of \$9,244 in funds from the School Budget to complete the work. Mr. Bushey will be at the meeting to answer questions.

Councilor Hurley moved **“TO AWARD THE BID FOR REPLACEMENT OF A SKYLIGHT AT THE CHARLES WRIGHT SCHOOL TO ALLIED RESTORATION CORPORATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$39,244, UTILIZING \$30,000 FROM THE CAPITAL BUDGET AND \$9,244 FROM THE SCHOOL BUDGET,”** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Councilor Kotkin asked why only two bids were received.

Fred Bushey responded that there were eight different firms that looked at the project and only two companies put a bid in for the project.

Councilor Kotkin asked if Fred Bushey inquired as to why the other companies had not put a bid in.

Fred Bushey responded that he had called a couple of the companies to find out why they hadn't bid and the responses were that there was a time constraint on their side.

Councilor Kotkin asked if there was certain written language in the document stating that it had to be done by a certain time.

Fred Bushey responded that there was no certain language within the specified document stating that it had to be completed within a certain time.

Councilor Roberts asked where the leak is located.

Fred Bushey responded that the skylight is located in the media center. The leak has been fixed at least four times in the past eight years.

Councilor Drake asked if the skylight can be removed and the area covered with something.

Fred Bushey responded this is a request by the parents and the school personnel to have an open air media center.

Councilor Drake asked the size of the skylight.

Fred Bushey responded that it is eighteen feet by eighteen feet.

Councilor Kotkin noted that he would feel more comfortable if the project went out to bid again.

Deputy Mayor Console and Councilor Hurley both agreed with Councilor Kotkin.

Councilor Manousos asked if the skylight is presently leaking and would he consider it an emergency at this time.

Fred Bushey responded that the leak has been stopped for now. There is presently no natural light in the media center. He noted that he agreed with Councilor Drake's suggestion to cover up the skylight but the staff and parents are requesting to keep the skylight.

Councilor Drake asked if there is only one manufacturer of this particular skylight.

Fred Bushey responded that the design was bid out with the specifications that the present criteria be followed.

Councilor Drake asked if he knew the value of the skylight.

Fred Bushey responded that he would need to review the paperwork.

Councilor Manousos asked if the natural light from the skylight helped to reduce the energy costs.

Fred Bushey responded that at the present time it is covered and the lighting there is adequate for learning.

Councilor Manousos asked how long it would take to have the project put out to bid again.

Fred Bushey responded that it would take a couple of weeks to put out the specifications and it has to be put for 10 days. The manufacturing the skylight is from 6 to 12 weeks.

Deputy Mayor Console asked if this project would need to wait till Spring.

Fred Bushey responded that the preliminary work can be done now.

Councilor McAlister asked if the skylight is a single glass of 18 feet by 18 feet.

Fred Bushey responded that there are four panes that stretch across the span of it.

Councilor McAlister asked if there are other design options.

Fred Bushey responded that the design is like a roof covering, and is not a bubble.

Councilor Drake voted AYE. Councilors Hurley, Kotkin, Manousos, Montinieri, Roberts and Deputy Mayor Console voted NAY. The motion fails 1-7-0.

MINUTES

Councilor Kotkin moved **“TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2010”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Martha Kealey, 12 Fairmont Street, Co-President of the PTO at Charles Wright School, commented that she was disappointed that Mr. Bushey has left. She noted that she has had numerous emails with Mr. Bushey and noted that this was not a new bid for the skylight, but added to the Capital Improvement Plan from 2008 and that the school was told twice that this would be part of summer renovations. She noted that the skylight has been covered for several years and there are no other windows in the media center.

Robert Garrey, 10 Morrison Avenue, commented that he hopes that skylight at Charles Wright can be replaced. He also commented on the issue of shared services with the Financial Manager. He also thanked the Council for the work that was put into the Morrison Avenue project.

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Avenue, commented on the Morrison Avenue matter.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, commented on the Morrison Avenue matter and noted that he was disappointed that the residents of Morrison Avenue are going to be charged a portion of the cost for the sidewalks. Robert Young also commented on the artificial turf and proposed lighting at Cottone Field and his opposition to the lights. He noted that the Town is paying \$166,000 a year for five years and it was refinanced by Bonnie Therrian.

Jeff Bridges stated that the turf was not refinanced, but that it is leased and said he would confirm this information.

October 4, 2010

Page 15

Robert Young commented that the turf will deteriorate before it is paid off. He also noted that the residents of Wethersfield should not have to pay again for the turf.

Balou Tooker, 65 Harmond Place, noted that other speakers have basically said what he came to say but wanted to leave with one thought and that was "is this a want or a need."

Dan Griffin, 474 Church Street, commented that all sidewalks and streets should be safe and that the sidewalks and streets are for the community. He also noted that the lights at Cottone Field are for the children and it would make it more pleasant for the community. He also commented that in addition to the three Council members that have already voiced their opinion on the lights, that the remaining Council members voice their opinion also.

Dave Kuruck, 149 Broad Street, commented that the residents of Morrison Avenue should not have to pay the sidewalks themselves and that they did not have a choice as to whether or not the sidewalks were to be replaced. Dave Kuruck also supports the lights at Cottone Field and felt the Town should pay for the balance of the cost of the lights.

George Ruhe, 966 Cloverdale Circle, commented on the Charles Wright skylight issue and suggested replacing the skylight with translucent panels. He also commented on the Morrison Avenue sidewalks and the assessment of \$500 and felt it was a reasonable approach. He noted that a statement made by Councilor Drake that \$500 is a gift from the community to the Morrison Avenue residents and noted that the Council should be consisted with what they do.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:30 p.m., Councilor Kotkin moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Hurley. 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 18, 2010