

**REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 20, 2010**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, December 20, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield.

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

Also present: Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, RaeAnn Palmer, Assistant Town Manager, Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation, Peter Gillespie, Director of Planning and Development and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

Councilor Roberts led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

PROCLAMATIONS – Richard Lasher was recognized for his contributions to the Town of Wethersfield.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rick Garrey, 35 Harding Street, commented on changes made by Cox Communication with the public access channels: there will be no changes to homes with digital cable from Cox with a box; homes with pre-1997 televisions will need to get a box from Cox, which will be free and will need to be done by January 15 in order to get the Public Access channels; homes with a new television with no digital cable, Public Access will be on Channel 117.170 (for channel 14) Channel 123.185 (for channel 15) and Channel 117.173 (for channel 16). For AT&T subscribers, there are no changes to access to the Public Access channels.

Deputy Mayor Console commented that it is his understanding that Cox is charging \$25.00 if a box needs to be brought to a house, but the box is free if it is picked up at the offices of Cox.

Rick Garrey explained he was told by Cox Communications that the installation would be free until January 15 and noted that if anyone has been charged to contact himself, any council member or Town Manager Jeff Bridges.

Phyllis Zerbini 35 Deerledge Lane, spoke in favor of moving forward with the installation of the lights at Cottone Field and noted that the lights are not only a consideration for high school athletics but a community project that is overdue. She noted that she has attended games that are played under the lights in other towns and has noticed a lot more spectators, including other Wethersfield parents at the game. She also noted that this is not only soccer, but for many other sports. She encouraged all Council members to consider all of the benefits the lights at Cottone Field will offer our town. She also commended the current Council for their efforts with the Town.

Ballou Tooker, 65 Harmund Place, wished everyone a happy Christmas and wasn't there is pick on any special interest group. He wanted to commend Harry, who has played Santa for the town for many years is recovering from surgery. He also spoke about George Wallace's experience in World War II, the Ethics decision and his hopes that the Council can come to a fair decision.

Matt McAlister, Danny Griffin, Chris Manousos all soccer players in Wethersfield, spoke in favor of the lights on Cottone Field.

Steve Belienda, 141 Fox Hill Road, member of the Wethersfield Youth Football Board, spoke previously about the business benefits of lights at Cottone Field and commented that the cost of the lights that were rented for two separate occasions cost \$8,000 and asked Council to move forward with the lights at Cottone Field.

Barbara Ruhe, 79 Main Street, commented that the children who spoke tonight on behalf of the lights are our future and that is what we all work for. She noted that the children sitting in the room tonight are extremely privileged and programs in Hartford are being cut because of the budget deficit. She understands that everyone wants what the neighbors have but the money received from the Legislature is money paid from our taxes. She commented that the lights at Cottone Field are a frill and not a necessity and this is not the right time to be spending money on lights.

Kevin Walsh, 18 Nathaniel Drive, spoke on behalf of the lights at Cottone Field. In 1975 the Wethersfield Soccer Club was created; in 1978 the George D. Ritchie Soccer Club was created and in 1995 they were consolidated to make one single club as they realized that creativity was required to work on the fields together and coordinate their efforts. Fifteen years later, there are additional demands on the soccer fields to include field hockey, football and soccer and the fields are being overplayed which are requiring additional maintenance from the town and at this pace the Town may need to consider developing additional fields at a greater cost to the Town. The option is one of creativity--by taking an existing infrastructure that the Town already has and use it more efficiently, thereby reducing the usage of the other fields by using this particular field better, more creatively. Second, the Club has been saving its pennies and nickels and is prepared tonight to offer the town approximately \$30,000 toward the cost of this endeavor. They are not looking for a handout, but to put money out for a creative solution to a problem.

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Avenue commented that at the last meeting he had mentioned that there were trash bags on the Silas Deane Highway and since then, the bags have been picked up and thanked the Town for their response.

Steve Clark, 83 Main Street, spoke on behalf of the lights at Cottone Field and was in support of money being transferred from Parks & Recreation towards the lights at Cottone Field.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, commented that everyone should be living within their means. He noted discussions on the Marsh Street fence, Morrison Avenue sidewalks, purchase of a police vehicle, auditorium seats at the high school, have all centered on where the money

would come from. Mr. Young also commented on the cost of lights at Cottone Field in the amount of \$305,000 and urged the Council to vote no on the lights.

Dan Griffin, 474 Main Street, commented that he is for the children and helping them to have a positive future. He noted that people pay taxes in Town for things that they may or may not use.

Robert Melillo, 18 Cricket Knoll, spoke on behalf of the lights on Cottone Field and commented that he is a coach for football and baseball and thanked all the volunteers who have helped coach the kids in Town and the primary objective of sports is to teach the children a team sport, character building and how to be a team player.

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, commented that there should be concerns with elected officials on private committees and there should be a differentiation between the wants and needs of the town.

Craig Saharek, 36 Blueberry Hill, spoke on his support of the lights on Cottone Field.

Dan O'Connor, 374 Main Street, spoke on his support of the lights on Cottone Field.

Frank Ragonese, retired Wethersfield Police Officer, and noted that he was involved in coaching for minor league midget football and baseball and spoke on his support of the lights on Cottone Field.

Anthony Patrizzo, 50 Stilwell, spoke on his support of the lights on Cottone Field.

Melanie Wolf, 345 Wolcott Hill Road, sophomore at Wethersfield High School, spoke on her support on the lights on Cottone Field.

### COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor McAlister moved **“TO MOVE OUT OF ORDER ITEM B.3a OF THE AGENDA”** seconded by Councilor .

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

Councilor Manousos moved **“TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF UP TO \$20,000 FROM THE COTTONE FIELD RENTAL FUND TO COMPLETE INSTALLATION OF THE LIGHT TOWERS AT COTTONE FIELD,”** seconded by Councilor Hurley.

Jeff Bridges reported that the attached memorandum from Parks and Recreation Director Kathleen Bagley provides information about the fund raising efforts to install lighting at Cottone Field. Also attached to the memorandum is a current budget to complete the installation of the light towers. The Town's legislative delegation has recently secured a grant of \$100,000 from the State of Connecticut for this project. The final budget for this work is \$175,369, and the

Committee, through grants and donations, has raised \$159,132, leaving a balance of \$16,231. Staff, on behalf of the Cottone Field Lights Committee, is requesting authorization to utilize up to \$20,000 from the Cottone Field rental fund for the light tower installation. The Cottone Field rental fund currently has a balance of \$22,241. The fund consists of proceeds from field rentals.

Councilor Drake asked for verification from Kathy Bagley that Cottone Field will be accessible to all taxpayers in Wethersfield and not only organizations.

Kathy Bagley responded that both organizations and individuals can use the field.

Councilor Drake asked if insurance would be needed for both organizations and individuals.

Kathy Bagley stated that only organizations will need to get insurance.

Councilor Roberts asked who would be liable if 25 individuals rent the field and someone is injured.

Kathy Bagley responded that as in the case with the people renting out the gymnasium at the Community Center, it will be the individual's insurance covering that person/people.

Deputy Mayor Console asked Kathy Bagley if the pledges received in the amount of \$51,627 includes the \$30,000 received tonight.

Kathy Bagley responded that the \$30,000 is included in this amount.

Deputy Mayor Console asked if the balance of \$21,627 is solid pledges that will be collected.

Tom Ragonese, 140 Black Birch, chair for the Cottone Field Committee, noted that there has been a tremendous amount of support and is confident that the money will be collected in a short amount of time. In addition to the youth soccer and youth football clubs, donations have been made by the Wethersfield High School booster clubs for soccer and football, field hockey, band, Men's Softball, Wethersfield Athletic Hall of Fame and matching donations from companies.

Deputy Mayor Console asked if all these donations totaled \$51,627.

Tom Ragonese responded that it did.

Deputy Mayor Console asked if the entire \$51,627 is collected, will the Committee still need the \$20,000 from the Town.

Tom Ragonese responded that if the entire amount is collected, there is hope that the \$20,000 will not be needed.

Councilor McAlister asked if the all the money is collected, will the \$20,000 be returned to the Cottone Field fund.

Tom Ragonese responded that it will be.

Councilor Kotkin asked Kathy Bagley if she was comfortable with working with the \$40,000 number and the \$8,300 contingency fund for the cost for the installation of the lights and towers.

Kathy Bagley responded that when putting together the budget for Phase II of the project, calls were made to contractors and a range of costs were collected.

Councilor Kotkin asked if the contingency amount is a normal amount for a project this size.

Kathy Bagley responded that there was a need to have a comfortable amount in the contingency account.

Deputy Mayor Console asked if the structural damage to the base of the lights has been corrected.

Kathy Bagley responded that the work is proceeding and explained that when the holes were dug for the bases, a ledge was hit so the contractors were instructed to dig a different way that was approved by engineers.

Deputy Mayor Console asked if there are any present problems with the bases.

Kathy Bagley responded it is moving forward.

Councilor Manousos noted that he appreciated the time and work that was put into the committee.

Councilor Roberts noted that she has supported the lights since day one, and a commitment was made not to use town money and she would be happy to authorize the use of the \$20,000 if the money will not be needed.

Councilor Montinieri noted that he reviewed previous Town Council minutes and it was noted that no tax dollars from the Town would be used and wanted to thank the efforts of Senator Fonfara for his work in getting grant money for the project.

Councilor Drake commented on his support of the lights on Cottone Field but he was disappointed on the process and the grant received from the State of Connecticut due to the financial state of Connecticut.

Deputy Mayor Console agreed with Councilor Drake and added that this is not tax dollars that taxpayers have paid into the State, but is deficit spending.

Chairperson Hemmann commented that she was not against the lights but against the process and agreed with Deputy Mayor Console and Councilor Drake that this wasn't the time for the State to go out and borrow money.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Deputy Mayor Console abstained. The motion passed 8-0-1.

### COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Drake reported for the Library Committee meeting and provided them with guidance with regards to budget issues. He also reported that training has started for the Radio Frequency Identification program.

Councilor Hurley inquired as to once the system is in place, will there be a metrics system in place to track theft.

Councilor Drake responded that he will look into it but didn't think there was a big issue with theft. He also noted that the Library will be able to do more with less people.

Councilor Drake reported that the Capital Improvement Committee will be meeting on January 5, 2011 and Chairperson Hemmann has been invited to attend the meeting. If anyone has something to bring up for the meeting, it can be forwarded to Chairperson Hemmann.

Councilor Kotkin reported for the Insurance Committee. He noted that as of November, there were 9 employees and 6 dependents who have incurred over \$50,000 in medical bills. The trend is not as good as compared to last year and added that at this point they are \$80,000 over budget. A suggestion from the Insurance Committee would be to suggest to the union to implement a healthy living habit incentive for their members. Another item of concern was workers' compensation and noted that overall the police, fire, maintenance and custodian employees work very safely, with the exception of non-custodial maintenance staff (teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals) at schools where it is well above normal.

Councilor Manousos reported for the Budget and Finance Committee and reviewed the auditor's report for the financial statements for 2009. The report received a clean opinion and no material adjustments were required to properly represent the Town's financial position. The General Fund Balance for fiscal year ending June 30, 2009 was \$9.4 million, of which \$7.9 million represented unreserved balance, or about 9.2 percent of total expenditures. He also reported that there was a collection rate of 99 percent and it is expected that 2010 financial records will be reviewed shortly.

### COUNCIL COMMENTS

Deputy Mayor Console reported that he attended the Fire Department's Awards Dinner and it was very impressive. He also reported that he visited ShopRite Hardware on the Silas Deane

Highway and he noted that the owner will be applying for the facade improvement program. Deputy Mayor Console reported also that he attended the ribbon cutting ceremony at Best Logic Staffing on the Silas Deane Highway. Deputy Mayor Console commented on the safety issues in our school system, most particularly with the recent bomb threat. He wants to know who is responsible, who is accountable and who needs to take action. As Chairperson of the Safety Committee he commented that he wants to be part of the upcoming special meeting to discuss the entire process. In the past there were concerns of gas leaks and the Town was promised by the Board of Education that going forward all procedures would be adhered to. He noted that the Board of Education did not follow the procedure books, safety for the evacuation of the students was not handled properly, police and fire were not called until 45 minutes to an hour-and-a-half later, and evidence is no longer useful because so many people had handled it. Students were told to leave the building with no coats, keys or cell phones and were told to go home. He found it appalling that the Board of Education let this happen.

Councilor Manousos asked Deputy Mayor Console if the local businesses told him what the Town is or is not doing to help them stay in Town.

Deputy Mayor Console responded that the businesses state that they do not hear anything from the economic development in Town.

Councilor Montinieri commented that in the past, EDIC commission members had four businesses a year to visit and asked if this was still being done. He also noted that the last survey done by the Chambers was Spring-- 2009.

Councilor Manousos responded that he wasn't sure it that was being done but would check into it. Councilor Manousos asked if Peter Gillespie could report on business visitation through the EDIC.

Councilor Montinieri asked Peter Gillespie if the Business Visitation Program done through the EDIC is still being done.

Peter Gillespie commented that they have struggled to get volunteers. Primarily it is being done through the Shops Local program.

Councilor Montinieri noted that the Business Visitation Program was designed to identify any mechanisms the Town could use to keep businesses in Town.

Peter Gillespie responded a breakfast meeting was suggested to reach out to see what issues face the community. The challenge is to find the best way to have the interaction with the business community.

Deputy Mayor Console commented on the passing of Ray Esposito, who was instrumental in giving to Wethersfield in various sports programs.

Councilor Montinieri reported on the trolley program that ran from Wethersfield to Bushnell Park. A total of 482 riders took advantage of the trolley rides. He also noted that there were will be two trolleys and two double decker buses for New Year's Eve running from 4:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. to and from Bushnell Park.

Councilor Manousos reported that he attended the Salute to Business Awards Dinner held at the Wethersfield Country Club for businesses that have been in town over 30 years. He also attended the Wethersfield Fire Department Awards dinner and also attended the Winter Concert at the Silas Deane Middle School. He also noted that the event has transformed from a Christmas Concert to a Holiday Concert to now a Winter Concert and he has heard people complain that there are no longer Christmas songs and hoped that there can be some non-secular songs included in the future.

Councilor Roberts also reported that she also attended the EDIC dinner and the Fire Department Awards dinner. She reported that she attended the Carol Sing and noted that it didn't seem as well attended as in the past and suggested more advertisement for next year. She also congratulated the Xavier High School Football team on winning the Class LL 2010 state football championship and its quarterback, Pat D'Amato, who is a Wethersfield resident.

Chairperson Hemmann thanked family, friends, fellow Councilors, Town Manager, town staff and the community for everyone's support during her health issues in September and October. She also reported that progress has been made this year. The Gateway Entrance to Wethersfield on Marsh Street is coming along, taxes did not rise. She also attended the Salute to Businesses and noted that there were 20 new businesses in Town along with the existing businesses. Quality of life issues have been addressed and will be begin to be enforced in February, 2011 and there will be a period of warning to service education. As part of the budget process, there will be neighborhood meetings to discuss town services and prioritizations. The budget will be a challenge and gaps and needs that will require difficult decisions. Lastly, she wished council members, town staff, Town Manager, Board of Education members and staff a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year.

#### TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Jeff Bridges reported that a letter was received from the MDC informing the Town that MDC is seeking a site plan and Design Review and a Special Permit for the installation of an emergency generator system located on Howard Avenue.

#### COUNCIL ACTION

Deputy Mayor Console moved **"TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF JOHN C. LEPPER, 932 RIDGE ROAD, AS A MEMBER OF THE ETHICS BOARD,"** seconded by Councilor Drake.

Councilor Roberts noted she had a concern about John Lepper's letter of resignation in that it noted that the term was for six years and he was appointed in 2002. Her concern was that he was reappointed last July and it sounds like his term should have expired under custom and provisions in 2008. Her concern was his role on the Ethics Board and as a voting member of the Ethics Board. She did review the Town Code which talked about regular members who serve on the Board for six consecutive years would be ineligible to serve on the Board.

Dolores Sassano noted that he has been an alternate.

Deputy Mayor Console noted that John Lepper was an unaffiliated alternate from 7/1/10 to 6/30/13.

Councilor Hurley moved **"TO ACCEPT THE REAPPOINTMENT OF BARBARA J. RUHE, 79 MAIN STREET, TO THE YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE PERIOD 12-2-2010 TO 6-30-13"** seconded by Deputy Mayor Console.

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

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Hurley moved **"TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF \$11,059 IN FUNDS FROM THE 2010-2011 PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT BUDGET FOR A MATCH TO TWO CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON CULTURE AND TOURISM 2011 CO-OP MARKETING GRANTS, IF SO AWARDED,"** seconded by Councilor Manousos.

Jeff Bridges reported that the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism is offering Co-Op Marketing grants to municipalities for the promotion of tourism. The Town, in partnership with the Wethersfield Historical Society, has previously applied for and received grants from this program. Previous grants have included billboard advertising as part of the state-wide Connecticut Tourism program, inclusion in the Connecticut Gateway Guide and funds to prepare a Collaborative Marketing Plan.

At their last meeting, the Tourism Commission voted to partner with the Historical Society to apply for two grants in 2011. One grant would be for inclusion in the Connecticut Gateway Guide created to promote Connecticut as a vacation destination and the second would be for the design and production of a new promotional brochure/mailer for the Town. The attached memos from Planning/Economic Development Director provide specific information about each of the grants. The lead applicant of the grant will be the Historical Society. As in the past, there is a match for each grant. The Tourism Commission is requesting authorization to re-program funds allocated for ad placement and brochure distribution for the match. The promotional brochure development and printing grant requires a match of \$7,500 and if awarded, will result in a grant of \$7,500. The grant for inclusion in the Gateway Guide requires a match of \$3,559 and will result in a grant of \$11,864.

The Town was included in the 2010 gateway guide and has received over 7000 requests for information to date. The production of a new brochure will result in a two sided promotional card that will be less costly to distribute in response to requests for information.

Councilor Montinieri inquired to the reference on tourism and asked if it referred to the tourism budget that has in it the flyers for the hotels and additional funding for billboards.

Peter Gillespie responded that there is a budget line item for distribution of \$6,000, and there is another line item of \$7,500 for display advertising.

Councilor Drake inquired as to why this is on the Town's budget and not on the Historic Commission's budget.

Peter Gillespie responded that he would be happy to discuss it and that it was a complicated series of answers.

Councilor McAlister asked if marketing and promotions are done for other businesses that are not in Old Wethersfield.

Peter Gillespie responded that they promote the Wethersfield historic brand and don't necessarily define it as Old Wethersfield but instead the whole town.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. Deputy Mayor Console voted NAY. The motion passed 8-1-0.

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO RECEIVE THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WETHERSFIELD BOARD OF ETHICS AND TO REFER SAID FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE TOWN ATTORNEY FOR REVIEW AND CONSULTATION TO THE TOWN COUNCIL”** seconded by Councilor Manousos.

Jeff Bridges reported the Wethersfield Board of Ethics has finished its hearings in regards to the Michael Kohlhagen and Stacey Hodges case. The findings of the case are included in the packet.

According to the Code of the Town of Wethersfield, the Town Council has 30 days to “consider such findings and shall determine within 30 days what disposition shall be made and shall notify the Board (of Ethics) and all interested parties”. As you can see from the findings, the Board found that Stacey Hodges did violate the Code of Ethics in the receipt of the class for her son and that Michael Kohlhagen also violated the Code of Ethics by granting special consideration to a former student in altering his grade. The findings also include recommendations to invoice Stacey Hodges the \$400.00 for the class and to direct a letter of reprimand to Michael

Kohlhagen. It is staff's and the Town Attorney's recommendation to receive the findings and recommendations and forward to the Town Attorney for review and consultation to the Town Council.

Councilor Hurley commented that it would need to be done at the January 3, 2011 meeting or by Special Meeting.

Jeff Bridges responded that was correct.

Councilor McAlister asked how long it would take the Town Attorney to review the matter.

Jeff Bridges responded that it is presently being worked on.

Councilor Drake inquired that when the Town Attorney comes back with a recommendation or direction and the Council needs to decide to agree or not agree based on the Ethic Committee's decision, how Council members gather the information to understand the decision.

Jeff Bridges responded that this is the nature of the discussion with the Board members as to how far back it wants to go back into the issue to vote on the findings.

Chairperson Hemmann commented that Code 10-74 states the Board reports to Council its findings. The Ethics Board has submitted its findings to the Town Council as to any violations to any codes of ethics and has filed a recommendation as to the disposition that needs to be made. The Council shall consider such findings and shall determine within 30 days what disposition shall be made and notify the Board and interested parties.

Councilor Kotkin asked if there are written minutes of the Ethics Hearings.

Jeff Bridges responded that there are transcriptions and videos of the hearings.

Councilor Kotkin noted that in the December 7, 2009 minutes, the Council agreed to provide the Ethics Committee with legal resources, which was done and also to provide appropriate police staff, and asked if there were any consultation of the Ethics Committee with the Police Department.

Jeff Bridges responded that he hadn't heard of anything but will confirm with Chief Cetran.

Deputy Mayor Console asked if there will be a total tally of the cost to the Town for this matter.

Jeff Bridges responded that there would be.

Deputy Mayor Console asked if any estimates would be available before the next meeting.

Jeff Bridges responded that it was unclear whether the school has received bills based upon the presumption of indemnification of Mr. Kohlhagen and Ms. Hodges.

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

Councilor Hurley moved **“TO ADD THE HANMER SCHOOL FIRE ALARM SYSTEM REPLACEMENT PROJECT TO THE SCOPE OF THE WETHERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL AND HANMER SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE,”** seconded by Councilor Manousos.

Jeff Bridges reported the current year Capital Budget includes funding to replace the fire alarm system at Hanmer School. The existing fire alarm system is past its useful life and repair parts are difficult to find, thereby creating a safety hazard. In order to request and receive eligible reimbursements from the State of Connecticut for school projects, a Building Committee is required. Staff, therefore, is requesting that a School Building Committee be appointed. On March 3, 2008, Town Council appointed a School Building Committee for Wethersfield High School and Hanmer School Renovations. Since the School Building Committee is in place, Town Council can add the fire alarm system replacement to the scope of the Committee.

Councilor Montinieri asked if the fire alarm system was urgent that it could not wait for the renovations.

Jeff Bridges responded that it was urgent.

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

### **ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION**

Councilor Drake noted that there is something missing in Section 7.

Jeff Bridges recommended holding this matter until the next meeting.

### **MINUTES**

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

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

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Barbara Ruhe, 79 Main Street, commented on a statement made that the lights were right for the kids in town. She wanted to point out that the budget cycle before last, \$200,000 was removed from the Youth Services Bureau budget which gutted the summer programs, councilor programs and ROPE program and affected kids that may not play football, soccer or lacrosse. They are kids in need and kids that may not be as fortunate as others. There also was a successful program run by the Youth Services Bureau for job preparedness and it was run by a \$15,000 CREC grant, which is no longer available. It was a six week course, 20 hours/week for youngsters in danger of failing school, been in trouble or coming from families in great need. It had a 100% success rate. She asked the Council that when the budget process starts, could they consider \$14,500 towards this program.

Ballou Tooker, 65 Harmund Place, noted that he was disappointed on the vote regarding the lights. He also mentioned the Ethics issue and the 3-2 vote and couldn't reason how it happened.

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, commented that Donna Hemmann should get involved with the upcoming budget, and complimented her comment of "rest up, speak up, we will be listening." With regards to the Ethics issue, George Ruhe noted that a decision was made and it's time to put it behind us. He noted that he is comfortable with how the Council is working.

Rick Garrey, 35 Harding Street, commented on his support of the lights and his opinion of Councilor Drake and Deputy Mayor Console's remarks on the assistance from the State Senators. He noted that an AP class at the High School is unable to dissect a pig this year because of inadequate facilities but there will be football games at night. The things that need to get done are not going to get done. He pointed out that the auditorium was so hot for Mr. Wethersfield and he was told by the custodians that they were not allowed to turn on the air conditioner, even though it had just been installed for that purpose; children are sharing textbooks, AP students can't do their work; priorities need to be adjusted.

Dan Griffin, 470 Church Street, responded to Mr. Garrey's comments regarding the dissection of pigs and noted that it can be done if people work together, nothing is impossible.

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Avenue, agreed with Mr. Garrey's comments.

Martin Walsh, 15 Laurel Way, extended best wishes to the Council and thanked them for their time. He also agreed that there is a need for renovations at the high school. As a Board of Education member he heard the problem with floor outlets have been fixed. With regards to the air conditioner, he was told it cannot be turned on unless it is a certain temperature outside.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, commented on the Ethics issue and believes there should be a full accounting of all vendors for this matter to show the cost of democracy. He also commented on the changes in the world and feels it is changing for the worst. He also

commented on Connecticut not being included in the State tourism guide because \$100,000 was not paid by Connecticut, but \$100,000 was given to Wethersfield for lights. Robert Young also commented that there should have been a 10% reduction in taxes last year. He also asked where the money will come from to replace the turf on the football field when it will be needed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:40 p.m., Councilor Manousos moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Drake. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano

Town Clerk

*Approved by vote of Council*

*January 19, 2011*