

**SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 4, 2009**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a special meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Manager's Conference Room, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT.

Present: Councilors Cascio, Forrest, Hemmann, Kotkin, Walsh, and Chairperson Adil.

Absent: Councilors Console and Roberts and Deputy Mayor Montinieri

Also present: Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager and Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the Planning and Zoning Commission met on March 3rd and gave a positive referral for the purchase of the Wilkus properties. The Planning and Zoning Commission did have a lot of suggestions for the Town Council. She said that she was at the meeting and answered the Commissioners' questions but they still wanted to outline them in a memo. They are very concerned with using the State grant and having the Town box itself in so that the land can never be used for anything besides open space. The Planning and Zoning Commission is recommending that the Town not take the State grant. Lisa Bassani, from the Trust for Public Land was also at the meeting last night and said that the Wilkus' will probably pull the deal if the Town doesn't commit to keeping the property as open space.

Councilor Kotkin said that the open space bond sets guidelines.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that the bond is much broader. The land could be used for other things based on the bond, like fields.

Councilor Cascio said that there was talk about active recreation.

Chairperson Adil said that not taking the grant may end the deal.

Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, said that by not taking the grant, the Town will need to come up with \$500,000 more and the Wilkus' may withdraw the whole deal.

Councilor Walsh said that the Town was the only group looking at keeping it open space. Developers would build on it.

Chairperson Adil said that the land is not suited for fields and that is not what the Council intended anyway.

Councilor Forrest said that a lot of people spoke about the bond and said that property bought with the bond money could be used for other things, even a fire house if one was needed. But the intent that was sold to the public was for the bond to purchase land for open space.

Bonnie Therrrien, Town Manager, said that the last concern was the potential future extension of Old Reservoir Road. This proposed road would not be able to happen. She said that she needs to speak with Dave Styger at the Department of Environmental Protection and see if that is active construction and if that would affect the bond if that were done. This is not saying it will be done right away but it would leave it open to push the road right through in the future. There were always plans to continue that road. She said there were about 12 supporters of this purchase at the Planning and Zoning meeting. Tonight, the Town Council is here just to set the date and time of the public hearing on this bond purchase.

Chairperson Adil said that once the Town Council chambers are completed, he would like to start the Town Council meetings at 7:00 p.m. and asked for Councilors feedback. He said that if an executive session is needed, it can be held prior to the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Councilor Forrest agreed.

Councilor Kotkin moved **“TO SET THE PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR MARCH 16, 2009 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE SILAS DEANE MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTIES FOR \$3,500,000 – PROPERTIES LOCATED ON THE EAST AND WEST SIDE OF WILLOW STREET AND ON THE WEST SIDE OF THORNBUSH ROAD”** seconded by Councilor Forrest.

All Councilor present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:45 p.m., Councilor Kotkin moved **"TO ADJOURN THE MEETING"** seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk
Approve by vote of Council
March 16, 2009