

## January 29, 2007 SPECIAL MEETING

The Wethersfield Town Council held a special meeting on January 29, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Manager's Conference Room, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT 06019.

Present: Councilors Cascio, Drake, Forrest, Kotkin, Montinieri, Walsh, Deputy Mayor Fortunato and Chairperson Adil. Absent: Councilor Kirsche.

Also present: Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, Mike Turner, Engineering, James Cetran, Chief of Police and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

Chairperson Adil called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. stating the reason for the meeting was to award the bid for the HVAC System, High School Swimming Pool and to address the booking issue for the Police Department. He noted that Mr. Turner was here to answer any questions and asked Town Manager Bonnie Therrien to comment.

Town Manager Therrien stated that the HVAC bid was tabled from their previous meeting to be sure the questions as to the bid were answered. Ms. Therrien stated that the questions pertained mostly to the number of replacement units required. The two unit system would improve the environment without a third unit at this time. Also, it looks like the town will qualify for an energy rebate from CL&P. She does not want to deplete the Capital Reserve Account. Her recommendation is to go forward with the two (2) units at this time.

### 1. HVAC System, High School Swimming Pool

Councilor Kotkin made the motion, **"TO REMOVE ITEM 1, MOTION TO TRANSFER \$61,000 FROM THE CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT TO THE HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING POOL/HVAC REPLACEMENT PROJECT ACCOUNT AND TO AUTHORIZE THE BID AWARD TO TITAN MECHANICAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$283,350"** seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Town Manager Therrien stated that there would be a rebate from CL&P, but at this time they do not know the amount. She asked Mike Turner, Town Engineer, to discuss the issue with the Council. Mr. Turner explained that the bid was done two ways-first for replacement of all three (3) HVAC units for the pool area of the high school. They came in substantially higher than expected. The consulting engineering firm recommended that they go with replacing the two (2) units, north and south on the roof since the middle unit, the newest, could be replaced later somewhere between 5 and 10 years. It is a cost of \$100,000 to replace the two units, which Council already transferred into this account. They decided to go with Titan Mechanical, replacing one unit at each end which would dehumidify the room and have piping for heat recovery to heat the pool water. It dehumidifies the entire area. In the future, probably within 5 years, they will have to replace the center unit.

Chairperson Adil asked Councilors if they had any questions.

Councilor Cascio wanted to know if the third unit would be compatible with the two new units. Mr. Turner answered that it would be tied to the same control system, but it works independently. Mr. Cascio wanted to be sure that the area required three units because at the previous Council meeting they were led to believe that only two units were required for the pool area. As long as the third unit was compatible he was satisfied.

Mr. Turner commented that CL&P would be taking an inventory of what they now have in use to compare it with the new units as to the usage required to determine the amount of the rebate. They have been told they will receive a rebate by using the new units; the amount of the rebate has yet to be determined as they

have to calculate the percentage of savings. The Town definitely qualifies for a rebate.

Councilor Drake had thought they were buying one out of two and wondered if it would be worth getting a bigger one at this time. Did you look at going with two bigger ones? Mr. Turner said they did look at it but decided to go with only two. Now he understands better that it was not worth going for a third unit.

Councilor Walsh wanted to know if, ultimately, when they get the third unit, if all units would be able to work together. Mr. Turner confirmed they would.

Councilor Kotkin asked if the two new units would heat as well as dehumidify the area with the remaining unit. He asked if the one left there also dehumidifies? Mr. Turner said no but the two new units could handle the whole area until a third one is added.

Councilor Drake questioned if what we were buying was essentially just an air conditioner and asked what was there before. Mr. Turner said this is a heat recovery system, the new units specify a dehumidifier. They will be able to handle the entire area. Mr. Drake continued that we should save energy. Mr. Turner added that, according to Maurice McCarthy, School Maintenance Supervisor, they expect to save even more in fees for electricity not just is less energy consumption.

Councilor Kotkin stated that when they first saw this project it was thousands of dollars in electricity and he thought it was both gas and electric; he agreed that they should be able to save quite a lot.

Deputy Mayor Fortunato asked about the life expectancy of the third unit and Mr. Turner replied 5 years. She then asked about a warranty and Mr. Turner said there is a one year requirement in the base contracts but the actual length of time varies for each vendor. If the Town goes with two units, the low bidder is one vendor and if it goes with three units, the low bidder is a different vendor. Warranties depend on the vendor.

Councilor Cascio wanted to know the time frame they are speaking about. Mr. Turner said he has to coordinate it with Mr. McCarthy as they are working on the roof now. It has to be unoccupied; they were originally planning on when they were working on the drain, but they were not ready with the bids. There is structural work being done to the roof and not just to support the units. Mr. Cascio wanted to know if they know the condition on the roof as far as leaks. Mr. Turner said the recent inventory does not list any leaking and the company would be expected to not cause any leaks after they complete installation. Part of the bid specs is to maintain the integrity of the roof. Mr. Cascio was concerned that the Town be covered if a leak occurred. Chairperson Adil asked who did the inspection and was told it was our consulting engineering firm.

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

## 2. Booking System Software

Councilor Kotkin made the motion "**TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF SOFTWARE UPGRADES AND RELATED SERVICES FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S BOOKING SYSTEM FROM MOBILE TEC,**" seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Town Manager Therrien said the Police Department received a new fingerprinting system, AFIS, through the Homeland Security grant. In order to use it with another system they need an interface to transfer information between differing systems electronically. She asked the Chief to explain the situation and answer Councilors questions. Chief Cetran stated that the system they use is 11 years old, developed by two Bloomfield Police Officers, and was state of the art in 1996. It had been modified and updated to meet the changing requirements, especially with accreditation. It generates reports for the many standards the police must comply with in accreditation. They have 11 years of data to protect and for the last 2 years they did not have any maintenance contract as the original company folded nor were they able to update or modify either. He recently learned that Mobile Tec had acquired the licensing rights for the software but they had modified it. They were fortunate not to have any crashes. They also had the option to start booking arrestees in our Records Management System but VisionAire did not and could not generate the reports they would need and they would lose the old booking system's data.

Mobile Tec offers a one time cost to upgrade the software, develop the interface and train users for \$15,474.40. He said he could pay for it with savings in the Police Departments payroll accounts due to the absence in the sworn vacancies account. The department budget already has funds for the software maintenance contract. He was requesting that Council authorize the Town Manager to approve the purchase of the new software that the upgrade and interface would allow them.

Councilor Montinieri requested a review of the price proposal breakdown. Chief Cetran stated the new system is slightly different and has more to offer than before and that they did not want to go backwards. Mobile Tec used discounts, such as the first year maintenance free; implementation/installation services and the data conversion to entice him to perhaps, when the Police change their system, they might migrate to the Mobile Tec RMS (records management system). Mr. Montinieri thought the software package was being replaced. Chief Cetran said that it was and everything they currently had (11 years worth) will be converted, not archived, but be in a usable language to interface with the systems. Otherwise the systems would not work together and the Police Officer would be off the road for approximately 30-45 minutes to enter data twice.

Councilor Forrest wanted to know if it was a license to use the system, support and maintenance. Chief Cetran stated that the cost of the maintenance contract is approximately what they had paid before. Rocky Hill uses the system which is how he found out about Mobile Tec. Southington also has it in use.

Councilor Drake asked who the big guys were in the field and how does he know they will still be around. Chief Cetran stated that this company is bigger than the 2 man operation from Bloomfield who developed the system they were using all these years with approximately 600 police forces using it across the country. VisionAire cost \$15,000 just to implement the interface. Currently we book people twice because they do not have an interface and they are keeping men off the road while they do the booking. With the updated system the information is automatic from one program to the other and the men would be back on the road. The company is hoping that the Police Department sees how great they are and that eventually we switch over to them.

Chairperson Adil asked the Chief if he had an idea as to the saving in terms of time. Chief Cetran stated that it could be anywhere between 15-45 minutes per arrest depending on the type of arrest. The Police Department does 1,500 arrests per year. Fingerprinting has already started to save police staff time, no ink, and the scanner also saves money and effort. Previously it took two to three weeks to get information back from the FBI, now it takes four (4) minutes. Technology is phenomenal and expensive. Unlike other communities, we did not purchase AFIS from our own budget. The \$42,000 for AFIS (fingerprinting machine) was received from the Homeland Security Grant.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:59 p.m., Councilor Cascio moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Forrest.. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Respectively submitted,  
Dolores G. Sassano  
Town Clerk

*Approved by vote of Council February 20, 2007*