

[NOTE: These minutes are made available to the public prior to Town Council acceptance.]

JANUARY 20, 2004 REGULAR MEETING

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on January 20, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

Present: Councilors Adil, Cascio, Czernicki, Forrest, Fortunato (7:05), Hemmann, Montinieri, Deputy Mayor Karangekis and Chairperson Morin.

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

Chairperson Morin announced that an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters will be held after the regular meeting tonight.

All stood for the pledge of allegiance to the flag which was led by Councilor Forrest.

Presentation: Revaluation

Jan Neumuth, Town Assessor, was unable to attend the meeting due to a family emergency. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien stated that the valuations that were sent out reflect the time period of October 1, 2002 through October 1, 2003. She apologized for Vision Appraisal's error in the first mailing of revaluations which reflected a wrong old assessment amount. The valuations were corrected by Vision Appraisal and they sent out second notices. The Town Manager reviewed the process for Town property owners to appeal their assessment which would be to first meet with a representative from Vision Appraisal and if not satisfied with the outcome, to schedule a meeting with the Board of Assessment Appeals. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien stated that The Vision Appraisal Company has a website which can be accessed by residents to compare valuations of properties similar to theirs. The website address is www.visionappraisal.com. The Town Manager stated that the overall average real estate increase is 41% for the time period October 1, 2002 to October 1, 2003. Condominiums and planned development communities increased 70%. Historic properties show an average increase of 54% and single family homes an average increase of 45%. Multi-family homes increased 35% and vacant land showed an increase of 40%-50% depending on its use. The commercial and industrial average increase ranged from 16%-20%. The State of Connecticut issues specific standards to be followed for the calculation of assessment ratios, and Wethersfield is right in line with the requirements.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HEARING

None.

GENERAL COMMENTS

A resident spoke on behalf of Adam Godlewski, 97 Wells Road, regarding a problem with the Town Ordinance pertaining to the Town Engineer's ability to issue a bond against the completion of construction of a home. If not completed, the Ordinance does not allow for the Town Engineer to do anything but return the money to the builder or the Town cashes the bond to complete the work. The resident would like to see a revision or addition to the Ordinance enabling the Town Engineer to give the deposit to the person who purchased the house or have the Town complete the construction themselves.

Barbara Ruhe, 79 Main Street, spoke on behalf of the Underage Drinking Task Force and the Ordinance they have proposed. They believe that this is a very important issue and the Task Force would like to see the Council take the Ordinance very seriously.

Phil Knecht, 100 Executive Square, thanked Council members who have participated in recent Economic Development Improvement Committee events. With all of the events occurring, it is a concern of the Committee that the Town Planner, Mr. Gillespie, will become bogged down with all of the paperwork involved. The Committee would urge the Council to seriously consider a secretarial position for Planning & Development.

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. They support the payment of a small salary to the Wethersfield Tree Warden as his responsibilities justify such. The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. does not support the appointment of Insurance Agents of Record. Mr. Orsini asked Chairperson Morin to share the amounts to be paid to the Town Attorney and Assistant Town Attorney. Chairperson Morin said that the Town Attorney's flat fee is \$40,000 and the Assistant's flat fee is \$36,000. The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. does not feel that an Assistant Town Attorney is necessary and that the fee paid is a waste of taxpayer's money. The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. is concerned with the revaluations and the proposed hiring of new employees.

No one else wished to speak and the Chairperson declared the General Comments segment closed.

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Adil moved **"TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF PATRICIA M. STRONG FROM THE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE - SILAS DEANE AND WEBB, STILLMAN, & PHYSICAL SERVICES"**, seconded by Councilor Czernicki. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Adil moved **"TO APPOINT JOHN LEPPER AS TREE WARDEN FOR THE TERM 1-20-04 TO 12-31-04"**, seconded by Councilor Czernicki. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Adil moved **"TO APPOINT THOMAS O. ANDERSON AND JEFFREY R. KOTKIN TO THE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE - SILAS DEANE AND WEBB, STILLMAN & PHYSICAL SERVICES FOR THE TERM OF 1-20-04 TO COMPLETION; JOHN B. TOOMEY, JR TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE TERM 1-20-04 TO 6-30-06; RICHARD LEPORE AS AN ALTERNATE TO THE RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD FOR THE TERM 1-20-04 TO 6-30-06; AND JOHN F. BAKER TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES FOR THE TERM 1-20-04 TO 6-30-04"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE.

The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Cascio suggested that the appointment of Mr. Anderson and Mr. Kotkin to the School Building Committee be postponed. He is concerned that these new appointed members are unaware of the time commitment facing them as this is a very active committee. Chairperson Morin said that he appreciates Councilor Cascio's concern and is very confident in the appointments.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien recommended that the Council postpone the appointments to the Citation Hearing Board as the proposed appointees are all registered Democrats and there must be minority representation as well. She reported that interviews were held for the Advisory Committee on Information and Technology and that she was impressed with all of the candidates and that the choice of only seven members was very tough.

Councilor Adil moved **"TO ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS MADE BY THE TOWN MANAGER TO THE INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE:**

William John Giuliano, Jr	R	340 Main Street	1-20-04 to completion
Donna D. Brown	D	39 Dudley Road	1-20-04 to completion

Peter R. Kuzma	R	101 Two Rod Hwy.	1-20-04 to completion
Jeffrey J. Rotatori	R	3 Penwood Lane	1-20-04 to completion
Brian J. Clement	U	45 Westwood Dr.	1-20-04 to completion
Anthony Teti	D	159 Windmill Hill	1-20-04 to completion
Thomas Lenair Brown III	D	15 Harding Street	1-20-04 to completion

", seconded by Councilor Fortunato.

Chairperson Morin thanked all for their interest in the Committee and wished the members of the newly formed Committee well and success on behalf of the Council.

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

Councilor Montinieri moved "**TO REMOVE ITEM B.2.c FROM THE TABLE**", seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bunce Road Sidewalks

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien reported that the residents of Bunce Road have requested that their sidewalks be repaired as soon as possible. She suggested that the former Council hold off on the request until she could investigate how the repairs of sidewalks in Town are prioritized. The Town Manager met with the Director of Public Works and reviewed with him the criteria for new sidewalks and for sidewalk repair. There are a lot of sidewalks to be repaired throughout Town and she recommends that Bunce Road take its place on the priority list of repairs to be done. The Town Manager stated that the Bunce Road sidewalks would probably see repairs in approximately two years.

Councilor Cascio expressed his concern over the current software program used for repairs of roads throughout Town and asked the Town Manager if this same program is used for sidewalk repair. The Town Manager said that this same software is not used for sidewalk repair, but rather repairs are recommended by the staff through visual examination each year. Councilor Cascio asked if Mr. Turner could provide the Council members with a current inventory of projected road repairs and the time frame for such.

Councilor Forrest asked if the sidewalks could be analyzed in a Town-wide manner rather than District-wide. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this could be done; however this approach would center repairs in and around Old Wethersfield for a long time and would neglect other areas. The current policy allows for the funds to be moved around throughout Town more.

Councilor Forrest moved "**TO REFER THE BUNCE ROAD SIDEWALK REPAIR TO THE TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE FOR AN ANALYSIS**", seconded by Councilor Adil.

Councilor Fortunato asked the Town Manager if there are four or five districts in Town. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien answered that there are five. Councilor Fortunato asked if there have been any injury claims filed due to the deterioration of the sidewalks on Bunce Road, or if there is a safety issue involved. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she is unaware of claims on Bunce Road, but that there have been many claims filed on sidewalks in Town. The number of claims filed is not a criterion for repair; however the inspector considers this when making his decision. Councilor Fortunato asked the Town Manager to explain the \$25,000 balance in CIP. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the \$25,000 is solely for sidewalk maintenance which will begin in the Spring.

Councilor Cascio clarified for the public that the Town has a chart that indicates that the monetary responsibility for installation is 50/50 for the Town and the property owner. The responsibility for repairs and maintenance of sidewalks falls solely upon the owner. He said that this message needs to be made clear to residents. Councilor Adil said that an exception to this is if there is a Town tree whose roots affect the sidewalk.

Councilor Montinieri said that she drove down Bunce Road and noticed that the sidewalk is patched. She is unaware of whether the Town or the homeowner did the patching. Councilor Cascio said that the Town goes out to bid for a contractor to make such repairs. The contractor bills the homeowner for repairs to their sidewalk. Councilor Cascio wonders if the inspection process needs to be revised so that a whole neighborhood of sidewalks does not again fall into such disrepair as those on Bunce Road.

Chairperson Morin feels that by sending the issue to the Traffic & Transportation Committee, Mr. Turner could review and explain the process for inspection and repair.

Councilor Czernicki suggested that information on sidewalk inspection and repair be made available to members of the Committee before they meet. She also suggested that the meeting be a joint one between the Traffic & Transportation Committee and the Public Safety Committee.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO AMEND THE MOTION TO INCLUDE AN ANALYSIS OF CURRENT PROCEDURES FOR SIDEWALK INSPECTION AND REPAIR"**, seconded by Councilor Fortunato. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion to amend passed 9-0-0.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Insurance Committee - Three Year Renewal of CIRMA Insurance for Liability and Workers' Compensation

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that the Insurance Committee met recently and recommends to the Council that a three-year renewal for liability and auto insurance with CIRMA be approved. The three-year renewal will reflect a 5% decrease in premiums over each of the three years which equates to an annual savings of approximately \$33,000.

Councilor Cascio commented that a 5% savings is good and asked what the actual cost will be. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the current premium is \$658,000 which would be reduced by \$33,000 to approximately \$625,000 for liability and auto insurance.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis moved **"TO ACCEPT THE INSURANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION FOR A THREE-YEAR RENEWAL OF CIRMA INSURANCE FOR LIABILITY AND WORKER'S COMPENSATION"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Insurance Committee - Renewal of Contracts for Insurance Agents of Record

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that the Town currently has two agents of record. Bank North/Watson Group handles liability, auto, property, and worker's compensation issues and R.C. Knox & Company handles the health insurance issues. The Insurance Committee recommends that these agents be renewed for one year. These agents are willing to keep their fees at \$35,000 and \$25,000 respectively.

Councilor Hemmann asked if the Town has ever gone out to bid for insurance. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien deferred the question to Insurance Committee Chairperson Polly Moon. Ms. Moon stated that the Town has gone out to bid in the past. The selection of the agent of record is done each three year period and the selection in the past has been based on bid submissions. Currently there are not a significant number of markets available in the State who write municipality insurance.

Councilor Cascio asked why the Insurance Committee recommended this renewal of only one year. Ms. Moon said that the agent is renewed on a three-year basis, but that the fee is renewed annually.

Councilor Czernicki verified that the Council is approving that the fee be renewed for one year and that the agent of record be renewed for three years. Ms. Moon said that this is correct. Councilor Czernicki asked Ms. Moon if the Committee met with other agents and he said that they did not. Councilor Czernicki stated that she feels that this

should be going out to bid to make sure that the Town is getting the best deal for their money.

Councilor Adil asked Ms. Moon why the Committee chose to stay with the current agents of records and not go out to bid. Ms. Moon said that the decision was based primarily on the limited market and the current agents' level of experience with Wethersfield and municipality business as a whole. Councilor Adil asked Ms. Moon about the experience levels of those serving on the Insurance Committee. Ms. Moon explained that most of the members have been on the Committee for five years or more. The members offer a variety of insurance and business backgrounds.

Councilor Montinieri clarified that this will go out to bid again in three years. Ms. Moon said that this is correct.

Councilor Cascio asked if the Council could lock in both the fees and the renewal of the Agent of Records for only one year, rather than one year for the fees and three years for the Agent of Records. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this could be done. Chairperson Morin pointed out that the recommended motion is to renew both for one year.

Councilor Fortunato commented that she has worked very closely with Chris Monroe of R.C. Knox during her tenure on the Board of Education. She has always found him to be very responsible and has saved the Town a lot of money.

Councilor Fortunato moved "**TO RENEW THE AGENT OF RECORD CONTRACT FOR ONE YEAR WITH BANK NORTH/WATSON GROUP FOR \$35,000 AND R.C. KNOX & CO. FOR \$25,000**", seconded by Councilor Adil.

Councilor Czernicki clarified again that the motion is for the expenditure for one year and the contract for the agents of records for three years. Ms. Moon said that both are for one year. Councilor Czernicki also noted Councilor Montinieri's comment that this would go out to bid again in three years and clarified that this should actually be one year and not three years.

Councilor Forrest asked how many other agencies for this particular market are out in Connecticut. Ms. Moon said that there are approximately three to five and probably only two who would actually be interested in this type of market. Councilor Forrest asked if the Town could look for an agent outside of Connecticut. Ms. Moon said that it is best to stay inside the state and that the Insurance Committee would not suggest otherwise.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien clarified that there are three insurance companies available and that when she went out to bid two years ago for an agent of record, she received seven bids.

The following roll-call vote was taken:

Councilor Adil	AYE	Councilor Hemmann	AYE
Councilor Cascio	AYE	Councilor Montinieri	AYE
Councilor Czernicki	NAY	Deputy Mayor Karangekis	AYE
Councilor Forrest	NAY	Chairperson Morin	AYE
Councilor Fortunato	AYE		

The motion passed 7-2-0.

Insurance Committee - Recommendation on Health Insurance for Volunteer Fire Fighters

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that the State Statutes were changed last year giving municipalities the option to allow their volunteer firefighters to pay 100% of the costs of the Town's health insurance if they were in need of health insurance at the group rate. One Wethersfield firefighter was approved by the Council who then referred the item to the Insurance Committee. The Insurance Committee is recommending that the Town not get involved in this for a number of reasons including the increased cost to the Town and also risk considerations.

Mr. Chris Munroe, the Town's Agent of Record, addressed the Council and stated that he has a number of concerns relative to how the Town will be exposed to adverse claim fluctuation as well as the negative financial impact associated with offering this coverage. An individual with poor claim activity would have a future impact on the Town's bottom line. Part-time employees could eventually request the same coverage offered to them. Mr. Munroe applauds the intent of the resolution; however he recommends that the Town does not move forward with the offer of this coverage.

Councilor Adil stated that the Council wants to do everything they can for the Town's volunteers, especially the volunteer firefighters, but it appears that the risks outweigh the reward.

Councilor Cascio asked if the Town currently has one volunteer firefighter enrolled. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this is correct. Councilor Cascio is concerned that others will claim discrimination by not being allowed to enroll. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she will check this with the Town Attorney.

Councilor Fortunato is also concerned that the opportunity has been extended to one firefighter already. She asked the Town Manager if she monitored the legislation when it was introduced as she is interested to know the intent of the legislation. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she was unaware of the resolution until it came out in the CCM bulletin. Mr. Munroe stated that the Town approached Blue Cross to see if they would offer a fully insured contract just for the firefighters. Blue Cross took the position of discomfort in taking the risk of insuring the firefighters. He is unaware of any other carrier who is entertaining this type of coverage. Councilor Fortunato feels that the Insurance Committee could look into alternative ways for firefighters to obtain coverage and that the Committee should meet with the Fire Department Staff to obtain their input.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis cautioned the Council in moving forward with this coverage as the other part-time workers in Town may look to be enrolled as well.

Councilor Czernicki understands that because one firefighter has been allowed enrollment into the program, a precedent has been established. She said that the Public Act specifically states that the program is for firefighters and this makes exempt any other Town part-time employees. She agrees with Councilor Fortunato that this should go back to the Insurance Committee to investigate any other means of insurance coverage for firefighters. Councilor Czernicki stated that she believes that employees are hired by the Town of Wethersfield regardless of their pre-existing condition(s). Mr. Munroe said that there are safeguards to protect the employees from discrimination due to any pre-existing condition(s).

Councilor Fortunato moved **"TO REFER THE INSURANCE FOR FIREFIGHTERS RESOLUTION BACK TO THE INSURANCE COMMITTEE FOR ALTERNATIVES OF INSURANCE COVERAGE AND TO SURVEY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFF FOR INTEREST IN SUCH COVERAGE"**, seconded by Councilor Czernicki. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

STP Urban Funding for Roads

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the application grant period has begun for the Federal STP Urban Program which is administered by CRCOG each year. The Town would like to apply again and would like to have this referred to the Traffic & Transportation Committee.

Councilor Adil moved **"TO REFER THE STP URBAN FUNDING FOR ROADS APPLICATION TO THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present voted AYE. Chairperson Morin ABSTAINED. The motion passed 8-0-1.

Local Accident Reduction Grant

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that this is a State Department of Transportation grant available for road construction costs up to \$200,000. This is a competitive process and she recommends that the application be referred to the Traffic & Transportation Committee to look at the realignment of the entrance of Mill Woods Park for safety purposes.

Councilor Adil moved **"TO REFER THE LOCAL ACCIDENT REDUCTION PROGRAM ROAD APPLICATION TO THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Councilor Hemmann asked if there are other intersections identified for review based on accident reports. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that there does not appear to be, but she will check with Mr. Turner.

Councilor Adil applauds Mr. Turner in his recommendation of the realignment of the entrance of Mill Woods Park and he is happy to see that Mill Woods Park and the Moeller Home are a priority.

All Councilors present voted AYE. Chairperson Morin ABSTAINED. The motion passed 8-0-1.

Blasting - Nott Street Road Construction

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that the Nott Street project was being constructed last Fall and at a certain point it was felt that blasting needed to be done in order to remove a crest from the road. It was felt both by the Local and State Fire Marshal that the blasting should not occur due to problems in other sections of Town due to blasting. The project was shut down and the issue is now being brought back to the Council. Public information sessions had been held about the project before it began and blasting was discussed. The Council must now decide whether to continue with the project as originally designed; hold another public hearing on the blasting technique; or finish the project as is and perhaps be liable for State and Federal expenses already incurred.

Councilor Cascio asked two years ago if all residents in the neighborhood had been notified of the project and he was under the impression that they were. At subsequent meetings he asked about the blasting issue and was told by Mr. Turner that the project was reviewed and that no blasting would occur in the neighborhood.

Councilor Fortunato asked what the response was from the residents regarding the blasting in the area. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she does not have this information, but will look into it.

Councilor Cascio said that over four years have lapsed from the original informational meeting in 1999 to when the project began in 2003. This is why he asked the questions he did about the neighbors being notified of the project.

Councilor Fortunato asked if it has been indicated what hours of the day the blasting will occur. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the blasting will take place for 2-3 hours every day for approximately two weeks. She said that there will be Local, State and construction company representatives present at blasting times.

Councilor Adil asked the Town Manager how many residents have been surveyed for blasting damage. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she remembers seven or eight and that she can check this number with the DOT. Councilor Adil recommends tabling this until a representative from the DOT can speak on any changes that may have taken place since the original talk of this project.

Councilor Hemmann asked who would be liable for damages that occur along the ridge due to blasting. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she believes that the construction company would be liable. The Town Manager also offered the correct numbers to Councilor Adil for the question he asked previously about the survey of the neighbors.

Councilor Czernicki commented that she was in attendance at some of the meetings with the DOT and the blasting company. She said that the DOT has a map showing the ledge and its depth. The problem seems to be that the blasting company cannot extrapolate exactly how far the reverberations of the blastings will go which was a big part of the problem when blasting for the Colonel Chester development occurred. Councilor Czernicki cautioned that the Town be fully aware of any of the blasting affects before going into any other blasting project.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis asked to clarify that the blasting company will incur the expense of damage to any properties that they had previously inspected. Councilor Czernicki said that that is the intent; however the scope of homes involved in the pre-blast survey is not large enough. Deputy Mayor Karangekis questioned whether the blasting

company would be willing to widen the scope of homes surveyed. Chairperson Morin suggested that the DOT, the design company, the blasting company, and the affected neighbors be invited to an informational presentation as soon as possible.

Councilor Czernicki suggested that the Town Manager examine the DOT map and recommend that the survey go out a mile from the blasting site.

Chairperson Morin moved **"TO SCHEDULE AN INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE INVITING THE DOT, THE DESIGN COMPANY, THE BLASTING COMPANY AND THE AFFECTED NEIGHBORS OF THE NOTT STREET ROAD CONSTRUCTION"**, seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present voted AYE, except for Chairperson Morin who ABSTAINED. The motion passed 8-0-1.

Mailbox Policy for Damaged Mailboxes

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that the Town does not have a clear policy for the replacement of mailboxes due to damage caused by snow and ice. She had asked Mr. Turner to research how surrounding Towns handle this and a recommendation has been provided for the Council which states that if a Town plow hits a mailbox, the resident will be reimbursed a flat amount of \$25 for the post and \$15 for the box. If the mailbox is damaged due to the snow hitting it, the Town will not reimburse for the damage. The full text of the policy is as follows:

"TOWN COUNCIL POLICY MAILBOX DAMAGE BY TOWN SNOWPLOWS

In order to provide a fair and uniform resolution to disputes involving mailboxes damaged by Town snowplows and snowplows contracted by the Town to plow town roads, the Wethersfield Town Council approves the following policy concerning repair/replacement of mailboxes.

- A. All mailboxes should be securely fastened to a sturdy post which is sufficiently anchored in the ground to resist the impact of plowed snow. Information on proper installation is available at the Town of Wethersfield or Physical Services Division or the town web site.
- B. In accordance with current guidelines, the mailbox should be at least nine (9) inches from the curb or edge of pavement in order to prevent contact by the snowplow itself. The height of the bottom of the mailbox should be between 42" and 48" from the road surface.
- C. If it is determined a mailbox was struck by a Town snowplow, the Town will reimburse the owner \$25 for the post and \$15 for the box. The Town will not repair or replace any mailbox.

No mailbox or post will be considered for the damage reimbursement if the post shows dry rot or is otherwise unstable.

The Town will reimburse the owner for damage to the mailbox and/or post when the Town's snowplow is found to have made direct contact with the mailbox, not when the box is knocked over by snow or slush that is pushed by the plow.

The Town Manager or designated representative is authorized to use reasonable discretion in resolving disputes involving unusual circumstances."

Councilor Cascio asked if the owner is responsible to reinstall the mailbox and Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this is correct. Councilor Cascio asked how the determination will be made as to whether the damage was caused by the plow itself or the snow. The Town Manager said that there will be some type of orange or yellow marking if the box is hit by the plow itself. Councilor Cascio is concerned that the resident will not receive mail until the box is replaced and questions why the Town will not perform the actual replacement. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this policy is a starting point and at least provides more than nothing at all for damage replacement.

Councilor Fortunato asked if the Town Manager has a dollar amount of what the Town has spent in the past for the reimbursement due to damage. The Town Manager said that she could obtain this information and get it to the Council

members. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the dollar amount isn't as important as the fairness that this policy will insure. Councilor Fortunato would like to see the policy extend the Town's service to perform the replacement for residents with physical hardships.

Councilor Adil said that there is a staffing issue with regard to the replacement of the mailboxes. With the reduction of staff, there is not time for mailbox replacement. He believes that the policy is designed more to make the reimbursement fair and equitable.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO APPROVE THE 'POLICY FOR MAILBOX DAMAGE BY TOWN SNOWPLOWS AS OUTLINED IN THE POLICY"**, seconded by Councilor Fortunato.

Councilor Montinieri is concerned that residents are unaware of the fact that per postal policy, mailboxes are to be at least twelve inches from the curb. She has noticed that many mailboxes throughout Town do not adhere to this policy. Councilor Montinieri believes that if a plow hits a resident's mailbox, the Town should pay to replace the mailbox according to the cost of the damaged mailbox. She appreciates the goal of the policy; however she does not feel that it is equitable.

Councilor Cascio said that he is aware of residents in Wethersfield whose mailboxes have been damaged and these residents are elderly and cannot get out to replace the boxes. He agrees with Councilor Fortunato that there should be a provision in the policy to aid those with hardships with the replacement of their box. Councilor Cascio also agrees with Councilor Montinieri that many residents do not have their mailboxes at least twelve inches away from the curb. Because of sidewalks in many neighborhoods, it is not possible to dig in the proper place in order to have your mailbox twelve inches from the curb. Councilor Cascio believes that the policy needs to be refined.

Councilor Forrest believes that the policy is fair and that the reimbursement amount is equitable.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Cascio and Councilor Montinieri voted NAY. The motion passed 7-2-0.

Part-Time Assistant to the Town Manager

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that the Town Council voted to reduce the hours of the Director of Human Resources from full time to nineteen hours per week, at a cost of \$38,379 per year. The Town Manager has yet to fill this position and is now requesting that instead of filling this position, she hire a part-time Assistant to the Town Manager.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis moved **"TO ALLOW THE TOWN MANAGER TO HIRE A PART-TIME ASSISTANT TO THE TOWN MANAGER IN LIEU OF A DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES, AND TO ADD THIS TITLED POSITION TO THE PAY AND CLASSIFICATION PLAN"**, seconded by Councilor Adil.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis asked if the \$38,379 falls in line salary-wise with such a part-time position. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this amount is a maximum and she will not need the total \$38,379. Deputy Mayor Karangekis asked what percentage of the work of this position would actually be focused on human resources. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the human resources work would actually be approximately 30%-40% of the position.

Councilor Czernicki stated that this position is a good idea and that the Town Manager did a great job in discerning that her need is for more than just a human resource position. Councilor Czernicki is concerned that the past Council, on the recommendation of the Town Manager, increased the salary of the Administrative Assistant and she wonders if this will now be changed. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she will be adjusting this according to the salary amount of the new position and bring it back to Council.

Councilor Forrest left the meeting at this time (9:00 p.m.)

Councilor Fortunato asked that the Town Manager, in light of consolidation of services, possibly discuss the Town and

Board of Education's Human Resources needs at an upcoming Shared Services Meeting. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this has been discussed and that the Board of Education has not responded positively as they have at least twice the number of employees. She can put it on the agenda for Shared Services. Councilor Fortunato asked the Town Manager if the grant writing portion of the part-time assistant's position will overlap that of the Town's Grant Writer position. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that many tasks are listed in the job description, but that does not mean that this position has to do each of them.

Chairperson Morin stated that he is excited to move forward with this position as he knows that the need is there in the Town Manager's office.

Councilor Forrest returned to the meeting at this time (9:03 p.m.)

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

Acting Town Managers

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that as per the Wethersfield Town Charter, the Council is supposed to approve anyone who would serve as an Acting Town Manager in her absence. She provided the names of Police Chief Cetran, Mike Turner, or Peter Gillespie as potential staff members for the Council to approve.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis moved "**TO ACCEPT FROM THE TOWN MANAGER THE NAMES OF CHIEF JAMES CETRAN, MIKE TURNER, AND PETER GILLESPIE AS THOSE WHO CAN SERVE AS ACTING TOWN MANAGER IN THE TOWN MANAGER'S ABSENCE**", seconded by Councilor Czernicki.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis said that this is consistent with past practice and that it worked out very well. As former Chief of Police he has acted as Acting Town Manager as has Mike Turner. Deputy Mayor Karangekis also believes that Peter Gillespie would be an appropriate appointee as well.

Councilor Forrest stated that it should be designated in what order these three staff members are in charge.

Councilor Czernicki clarified that in the Town Manager's absence one of the three would be appointed; not all three.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis stated that Chief Cetran would be the most available as he lives in Town and is actually on call twenty-four hours per day anyway.

Chairperson Morin stated that the Town Manager would notify the Council of any absence she anticipates and who she appoints as Acting Town Manager in her absence.

Councilor Forrest moved "**TO AMEND THE MOTION TO STATE THE ORDER OF WHO WILL BE APPOINTED AS ACTING TOWN MANAGER IN THE TOWN MANAGER'S ABSENCE**", seconded by Councilor Adil.

Councilor Czernicki understands Councilor Forrest's concept; however, the appointment will be for only the set period of time that the Town Manager will be absent.

Councilor Forrest stated that a chain of command is set forth for the President and the Governor and he would like to see this done locally as well. He does not like the idea of a random selection for Acting Town Manager.

Councilors Adil and Forrest voted AYE to the amendment. Councilors Cascio, Czernicki, Fortunato, Hemmann, Montinieri, Deputy Mayor Karangekis, and Chairperson Morin voted NAY. The motion to amend failed 2-7-0.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE on the original motion. Councilor Forrest voted NAY. The motion passed 8-1-0.

Secretary for Planner/Economic Development

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that one of the Council's priorities has been the improvement of economic development. The Economic Development and Improvement Commission (EDIC) has been extremely busy developing plans, holding meetings, preparing business meetings, looking at developable land, and developing financial incentives to attract businesses to Wethersfield. This has added a lot of work to Peter Gillespie, Planner/Economic Development Coordinator and the EDIC has agreed to utilize some of their money to pay for a part-time secretary from March 1, 2004 until June 30, 2004 to assist Mr. Gillespie. Additional hours will also need to be added for the Town's Grants Administrator to work on developing new programs and support some of the EDIC Committees. The EDIC has also recommended that the Town Council fund a full-time Secretary II position for Mr. Gillespie's office starting July 1, 2004. The total cost, with benefits, for an entry level Secretary II position will be \$52,350. At this time, the Town Manager feels that Mr. Gillespie could get by with a part-timer which will be paid for by the EDIC. The full-time position could be discussed during the budget sessions.

Councilor Adil moved **"TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL HOURS FOR THE GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR AS LONG AS IT STAYS WITHIN THE BUDGET ALLOCATED FOR 2003-2004 AND TO ALLOW FOR THE ADDITION OF A PART-TIME SECRETARY II FOR THE PLANNER/ECOMONIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR TO BEGIN MARCH 1, 2004"**, seconded by Councilor Montinieri.

Councilor Hemmann appreciates the intent of this motion; however, she would rather see this postponed until the budget sessions. She can understand the increase for the Grants Administrator due to the time of year she was hired, but she does not support the secretarial position at this point. The whole structure should be looked at during the budget sessions.

Councilor Adil has endorsed in the past additional grant writers and does not believe that the Town's Planner/Economic Development Director should be doing secretarial work. He needs to be out marketing the Town instead. If the EDIC is offering to fund the part-time secretary and there is money in the budget for the grant writer, then the Council needs to move along with this now.

Councilor Fortunato agrees that Mr. Gillespie needs additional support staff and asked if the position has to be a Secretary II or if the option of Secretary I was considered. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this was considered and that the difference between the two positions was that the Secretary II could be assigned projects rather than just typing.

Councilor Cascio said that he would rather see this motion separated into a separate motion for each position and he asked what the dollar amount will be for the secretarial position through June 30, 2004. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the amount will be approximately \$7,500 for 19-hours per week. Councilor Cascio asked what the amount will be for the grant writer position. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that would be under \$1,500-\$2,000.

Councilor Czernicki agrees that the expenditure will be in the best interest of the EDIC and the Town Planner's office and clarified that presently the Council is approving the part-time secretary position and then will look at budget time to hire a full-time Secretary II. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that Mr. Gillespie will report back to the Council at the end of June to indicate whether or not the Secretary II position is necessary. Councilor Czernicki asked if the full-time position is approved for the 2004-2005 budget, if the application process would start fresh and re-open for candidates. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this is so.

Councilor Hemmann asked if the part-time position will be eliminated with the appointment of a full-time secretary. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the part-time position would be eliminated. Councilor Hemmann would also like to see the motion separated and suggested that the part-time position be categorized as temporary rather than part-time for benefits reasons. The Council needs to concentrate on structure and how to make the Town's organization functional, efficient and productive.

Councilor Adil said that the EDIC has looked at many options and that the Planner's office has gone from three secretaries to one. The Town's focus is on development and this needs to be a priority to the Council. Mr. Gillespie indicated that at budget time the Council can look at continuing the part-time position, go to full-time, or possibly even job sharing. Councilor Adil believes that this is a great opportunity to evaluate the work load so that the Council will have a better picture of the situation at budget time.

Councilor Cascio informed the Council that the reduction of the secretarial staff to one was a recommendation made by former Finance Director Joe Swetcky. The Council was told that the department would be able to function in the present capacity. The Council is now seeing that it can't and Councilor Cascio supports additional staff, but that they need to look at the full picture. The idea of job sharing of positions that could cover various offices in the Town Hall has also been discussed by prior Councils. This would allow for the coverage of certain offices during peak times.

Councilor Montinieri said that it appears that the proposed Secretary II level would be the type of position that could provide for the coverage of which Councilor Cascio spoke. Councilor Montinieri said that the biggest talk about Town is economic development and the Council needs to do all they can to support Mr. Gillespie in his efforts.

Chairperson Morin said that he is looking at the big picture for Wethersfield and especially for the Planning Department. He said that it makes no sense for Mr. Gillespie to be doing administrative work when he has such great experience and knowledge of economic development.

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

Subsurface Investigation - Cottone Field

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that, as a part of the artificial turf project, Kaestle Boos architect Richard Webb has requested \$4,500 to conduct a subsurface investigation of Cottone Field. This investigation will provide information as to just what type of surface will be required. The Town Manager spoke to Dr. Dest about this and he said that he would not be able to do the work, but recommends that it be done. There is no money budgeted for this and the \$4,500 would need to come from the Contingency Account.

Councilor Adil moved "**TO TRANSFER \$4,500 FROM THE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT TO THE COTTONE FIELD RENOVATION ACCOUNT FOR THE SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATION OF COTTONE FIELD TO BE DONE BY DR. CLARENCE WELTI FOR KAESTLE BOOS ASSOCIATES, INC.**", seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Councilor Hemmann said that she is concerned about the balance of the Contingency Account due to possible future snowfalls. She said that there are projects in Town other than the football field that she regards with a higher priority.

Councilor Adil asked if the DiCicco field will also be investigated. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this would cost additional funds of approximately \$5,000. Councilor Adil asked if preliminary testing could at least be done on DiCicco field.

Chairperson Morin said that it has been determined that the footprint of the existing track is not the appropriate size.

Councilor Cascio agrees with Chairperson Morin about the size of the field inside the existing track. This was a good option for an alternate site but the size is not appropriate.

Councilor Fortunato asked if the \$4,500 amount is all inclusive. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the \$4,500 includes the charge for locating piping, but that the amount could be as low as \$4,000. Councilor Fortunato asked if it is anticipated that future studies will follow this one. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this should be the only study necessary to provide preliminary figures. Councilor Fortunato asked if there is a timeline that could be developed in order to provide information to the Council and other groups relating to this project.

Councilor Czernicki asked the Town Manager for the amount spent to-date on the football field. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the amount is \$7,500 of which not all has been spent. Councilor Czernicki agrees with Councilor Hemmann in her concern about the contingency fund balance and impending snowfalls. Councilor Czernicki said that the Council appears to be on a course that will install an artificially surfaced field at Cottone Field (probably with lighting), yet she has yet to hear from where the funds to do so will be coming. She said that there does not seem to be a well thought out plan for the project and what the final cost will be.

Chairperson Morin said that the previous Council moved going forth with the renovation of the field and once a better idea of the scope of the work and the total cost is established, there will still be many steps to take. He believes that this investigation is part of the steps to be taken to move along correctly with the project.

Councilor Czernicki said that she agrees that this project has been addressed improperly in the past which is why the Town is in the present situation. Her concern is over where and how this project will proceed. Councilor Czernicki said that residents need to have the ability to weigh in on the project.

Chairperson Morin said that this investigation needs to be done in order to determine dollar amounts for the project and at that time the Council and the public will have the opportunity to further debate the project and its funding.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis stated that regardless of the Council's approval of the renovation, this investigation will provide valuable information about the field and its possible remedies. He believes that this \$4,500 will be well spent.

Councilor Montinieri said that it is very clear that the Council is going forward in looking at an artificially surfaced field with lights. She feels that the community has weighed in very clearly and overwhelmingly wants this to happen. The Council is simply taking the preliminary steps to make it happen.

The following roll call vote was taken:

Councilor Adil	AYE	Councilor Hemmann	NAY
Councilor Cascio	AYE	Councilor Montinieri	AYE
Councilor Czernicki	NAY	Deputy Mayor Karangekis	AYE
Councilor Forrest	AYE	Chairperson Morin	AYE
Councilor Fortunato	AYE		

The motion passed 7-2-0.

Mid-State Collaborative Legislative Agenda

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the Mayors and Town Managers of Berlin, Rocky Hill, Newington, and Wethersfield meet once per month to discuss common issues, regional problems, and to combine efforts in saving money. At the last meeting, the legislative priorities were adopted and all agreed to pass these along to their Councils and then, if agreed upon, on to the State Legislators as a mid-State group. The four issues are: Reformed Binding Arbitration, Reformed Prevailing Wage Law, Emergency Volunteerism Legislation, and Reformed Recreational Pre-School Programs.

Councilor Montinieri asked for clarification of what is being proposed under Binding Arbitration. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that there has been talk of eliminating binding arbitration and this is not realistic. The group came up with some reforms that will start to address municipality issues. One suggestion is to have more than one member (a minimum of two) of the Council sit in on Board of Education negotiations. The group feels that the Board of Education should not adopt their tentative agreement, but rather recommend it to the Council. Other proposed reforms deal with a municipality's undesignated fund balance not being considered in the binding arbitration process and also that the binding arbitration process shall award contracts on a total package basis rather than taking items separately.

Councilor Adil asked if Wethersfield proposed the Reformed Recreational Pre-School Programs. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said we did as Wethersfield has had licensing problems in this area.

Councilor Fortunato wanted to stress that with the action taken earlier by the Council regarding the extension of insurance coverage to firefighters does not in any way cloud the Council's support of the spirit of the law in which that Public Act was created. The Council fully embraces the opportunities for volunteerism.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO ACCEPT THE MID STATE COLLABORATIVE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES SET FORTH FOR THE 2004 SESSION"**, seconded by Councilor Czernicki. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

BIDS

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR EQUIPMENT RENTAL TO BIDDER #3 UNITED RENTAL - IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,000"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

Town of Wethersfield Underage Drinking Ordinance

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that there is a conflict with the appeal process being with the Police Department since they are the investigative authority. It has been suggested by Town Attorney Bradley that the Council not set a hearing date until an appropriate appeals processor is designated.

Councilor Forrest asked if there will be a full analysis of this ordinance by the Town Attorney. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the Town Attorney has already reviewed the ordinance and provided comments. Councilor Forrest feels that there are major implications with regard to the U.S. Constitution laws and he would like the Town Attorney to provide his legal advice on the ordinance. Councilor Forrest suggested that the Citation Hearing Board may be an appropriate appeals processor. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the Citation Hearing Board would be perfect so that the Town could keep any fines collected rather than the money going to the State.

MINUTES

December 18, 2003

Councilor Adil moved **"TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 18, 2003"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

January 5, 2004

Councilor Czernicki amended page 16380 to include her comment that one of the principals of the selected Assistant Town Attorney is the spouse of the largest single campaign contributor to the Democratic election.

Councilor Adil reminded Councilor Czernicki that the minutes are to be a brief synopsis of Council meetings and that there is a record available for the public to view. He feels that the minutes are fine as is.

Councilor Forrest stated that if the tape reveals that Councilor Czernicki made the above stated comment, then they should be included in the minutes.

Councilor Fortunato said that she would like the minutes to read that the above stated comment was Councilor Czernicki's "opinion". Councilor Czernicki said that the comment is not her "opinion", but rather based on factual records.

Councilor Fortunato moved **"TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 5, 2004 AS AMENDED"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Cascio ABSTAINED. The motion passed 8-0-1.

GENERAL COMMENTS

REPORTS

Councilor Cascio reported that he attended a meeting of the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee on January 15 at which the Committee's goals for 2004 were reviewed. A suggestion was made that the Committee appear on Channel 14 as a vehicle to communicate their programs with the public. The Committee would also like to appear before the Town Council quarterly to review and update their activities. Councilor Cascio also attended the Chamber of Commerce's Business to Business meeting. Councilor Cascio recognized the loss of Rose Sipala who was a significant volunteer to many community causes in Wethersfield.

A moment of silence was observed for Mrs. Rose Sipala.

Councilor Cascio requested that a time line for reference be developed for current and future projects within the Town.

Councilor Fortunato said that she attended the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee meeting and the Town's projects were discussed including road repairs and building projects. She reminded the Council that the next Shared Services meeting is February 10.

Councilor Hemmann left the meeting at this time (10:00 p.m.).

Councilors Cascio and Czernicki left the room at this time (10:00 p.m.).

Councilor Forrest moved "**FOR A FIVE MINUTE RECESS**", seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

All Councilors except for Councilor Hemmann returned to the meeting at this time (10:05 p.m.).

Councilor Adil reported on a number of EDIC-related committees. He said that the EDIC is moving forward with façade improvements for the Silas Deane and Berlin Turnpike. The EDIC has also met with the Silas Deane Improvement Committee regarding beautification of the Silas Deane Highway to insure shared priorities. The EDIC is also moving forward with their Business Visitation program and pre-visit surveys, sample questionnaires, and post-visit questions have been discussed and reviewed.

Councilor Montinieri attended her first CRCOG meeting at which Connecticut Labor Law was discussed. Also discussed were strategies to deal with dog complaints, the collection of delinquent motor vehicle registration fees, and the cost of continued development in Connecticut. The Blue Ribbon Smart Growth group is looking to take the burden off of the property tax owners. Councilor Montinieri reported that the Land Use and Open Space Committee met previously this evening and they, along with the Conservation Commission, will be working to identify properties in Town to be considered.

Councilor Forrest reported that the Conservation Commission has received a grant to extend the Heritage Bike Trail. The Trail currently runs from Greenfield Street to Mill Woods and the grant will extend the trail from Greenfield Street to the Wethersfield Cove and from Mill Woods to the Old Reservoir. The total cost will be approximately \$50,000, of which \$40,000 has come from the State. The remaining \$10,000 is expected to be put forth in next fiscal year's budget. At the most recent Conservation Commission meeting, an energy audit was discussed in order to save money for the Town. As Chairperson of the Space Needs Committee, Councilor Forrest will be holding a meeting which will address the Channel 14 location, as well as any space needs of the Town and Board of Education staff.

Councilor Czernicki corrected her announcement at a previous meeting stating the location of Channel 14's Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held on January 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Manager's Conference Room, not at the Police Facility as previously stated.

Chairperson Morin reported on a letter received from Anne Riccio thanking the Council for the recent appropriation back to the Board of Education and also a letter from Senator Dodd regarding a letter sent to him from former Mayor Czernicki regarding the condition of the Wethersfield Post Office. Chairperson Morin agrees with Councilor Czernicki's concern of this issue and said that he and the Town Manager will continue to pursue it. Chairperson Morin reported that the Town Manager is working with the Superintendent of Schools to coordinate a date for the annual Fireside Chat.

COUNCIL - None

PUBLIC

Barbara Ruhe, 79 Main Street, commented on the importance of the Ordinance for Underage Drinking.

Jim Clynch, 903 Ridge Road, commented on the damaged mailbox situation and the proposed blasting on Nott Street. Mr. Clynch also commented on the wonderful contributions that Rose Sipala made to this Town and how much she will be missed.

Judy Emmick, 88 Westway, commented on the Cottone Field Committee and on Councilor Montinieri's statement that the "majority of Wethersfield residents are in favor of the lights and restoration of Cottone Field". Ms. Emmick stated that she wonders who Councilor Montinieri has spoken with or where she obtained this information. Chairperson Morin said that Ms. Emmick is free to discuss this with Councilor Montinieri outside the Council meeting. Ms. Emmick also commented that she would like a copy of the report on the subsurface investigation of Cottone and also the findings regarding the size of DiCicco field.

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, also spoke of Councilor Montinieri's comment regarding the community weighing in in favor of the lights and restoration of Cottone Field. Mr. Ruhe said that the community will only have weighed in once there is a referendum.

Paul Flannery, 382 Ridge Road, commented on the proposed blasting on Nott Street. He questioned the benefit that the project will provide for the residents on Nott Street and why their properties are being put at risk for what benefit, if any. He said that everyone in the neighborhood needs to receive a notice of any scheduled informational meeting.

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. and commented on the new tax assessments. He urged the Council to stick to the 3.5% tax increase road map established four years ago.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:35 p.m., Councilor Adil moved "**TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS**" seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

At 10:49 p.m., Councilor Adil moved "**TO ENTER BACK INTO THE REGULAR MEETING**", seconded by Councilor Montinieri. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

At 10:50 p.m., Councilor Adil moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**", seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk