

## **ADJOURNED BUDGET MEETING MAY 10, 2004**

An Adjourned Meeting of the Town Council (adjourned from Thursday, May 6, 2004) was held on Monday, May 10, 2004 at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Town Hall with Chairperson Russell A. Morin presiding.

**Present:** Councilors Adil, Cascio, Czernicki, Forrest, Fortunato, Hemmann, Montinieri, Deputy Mayor Karangekis, and Chairperson Morin.

**Present from the Board of Education:** Claire A. Carney, Matthias J. DeAngelo, Stacey M. Hodges, Chairperson, Michael F. McKenna, Gerri Roberts, Vice Chairperson, Penny Stanziale, Martin Walsh, Dr. C. Patrick Proctor, Superintendent of Schools, Judith A. Golden, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Karen Baldwin, Personnel Director, Moe McCarthy, Supervisor of Maintenance & Operations, and David Whall, Director of Business Services.

**Also present:** Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager; Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk; and Lisa Hancock, Finance Director.

Town Manager Therrien indicated that the Board of Assessment Appeals had completed its hearings. The Town had initially adjusted the Grand List by \$3 million and following these hearings the Board of Assessment had reduced the Grand List close to \$8 million. She indicated that this would have a negative impact on the overall budget.

Board of Education member DeAngelo asked if this reduction was a result of individual appeals and not as a result of a reduction to every taxpayer's assessment. Town Manager Therrien confirmed that only individuals that appealed were a part of this, including one commercial property containing empty tanks which reduced the assessment by \$1 million. The decisions are still open to appeal by the courts if the property owners so choose.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION - 200 (C-46 to C-49)**

Chairperson Morin asked Superintendent of Schools Dr. Proctor if he wished to make any opening statements. Dr. Proctor made the following statements:

- The State had provided \$1 million additional funds which he felt was a wash because of the impact of the Board of Appeals' assessment decisions.
- State's Cap on the Education Cost Sharing Grant will be reduced in the future.
- Some additional retirements were anticipated.
- Employees hired at a lower wage would result in some savings in the future.
- Increasing oil prices could offset any savings.
- The largest concern to the Board was unanticipated special-needs children being placed in Wethersfield schools. Three additional children have already been placed which reduced monies for next year. He stated that this program was very sensitively balanced due to unanticipated fluctuation in enrollment.
- The State reduced the Town's excess cost by \$150,000 and added several millions of dollars to the overall number which would be reflected next year.
- The Board's current budget has been stabilized as a result of anticipating under funded accounts and bringing each account up to where it should be.
- The teachers negotiated a solid contract with increases of 4.68% for the first year; 4.32% for the second year and 4.28% for the third year. Each year's increase includes salary increases and steps. Dr. Proctor felt this contract made Wethersfield competitive with surrounding towns.
- The Board abandoned two higher cost health plans and moved its employees to the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Plan. Arbitration was also avoided when negotiating the teachers' contract.
- Employee Benefits represent 15% of the budget and is the next largest account - the retirement account was corrected to reflect deferment of payments until next year rather than this year. Health insurance has been historically underfunded; however, these two accounts have been corrected and the Board should not face budget deficits next year.

- Professional Services represents 1% of the budget and includes a range of contracted services including individualized tutoring for students who cannot attend school, specialized individual assessments, services for educational consultants, and legal services.
- Maintenance and Property Services represents 5% of the budget and will increase by 16.2% next year due to technology needs and rising energy costs.
- Transportation services represents 5% of the budget and includes a built-in \$2,000 anticipated cost for special education transportation based upon this year's budget experience. The Board anticipates four additional special education children this year. The remaining increase is based on the cost of doing business.
- Tuition & Other Services represents 4% of the total budget - the 3700 Pupil Tuition account includes (1) four special education students with a cost of \$40,000 per student and (2) a correction for the 30% reduction in state funding (Excess Costs Grant) for high-cost out-of-district placements; and contingency funds for unanticipated out-of-district placements.
- Supplies and Materials represent 2% of the total budget and included a 22% increase in the 4200 account for textbooks.
- Capital Outlay has been reduced by 52.4%.

Dr. Proctor confirmed Councilor Adil's question concerning the rebate from Northeast Utilities was a one-shot deal. Councilor Adil asked if the Town would receive another rebate from the Webb and/or Stillman Building Project similar to this one. Dr. Proctor indicated that he would not count on this due to the unique circumstances and the tight budgets and increasing oil and gas prices. Councilor Adil asked if the Town adopted the higher budget where did the Board anticipate redirecting the additional savings in the budget. Dr. Proctor indicated it would go back to the children, via materials and supplies.

Councilor Fortunato referred to the 2002 account - Retirement - under Employee Benefits and asked when an additional payment would need to be made. Dr. Proctor said two payments would be made after July 1st. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien stated that more pension contributions could be included next year if the Town does not make up the amount between the differential and the loss in investments which happened the last two years. Dr. Proctor indicated it expected annual contributions would be made in the future. Councilor Fortunato asked if increases were delayed in the first year with regard to transportation expenses. Dr. Proctor confirmed this. In response to Councilor Fortunato's question, Dr. Proctor indicated that the Board was anticipating 13 confirmed retirements. In response to Town Manager Therrien's question as to how many were budgeted for in this budget, Dr. Proctor indicated ten. Chairperson Hodges indicated that eight retirements were realized in the budget with a savings of a little

under \$20,000. Councilor Fortunato did not recall, based upon her past experience on the Board, the special education add adjuster account being so out-of-control. She understood that students were coming from out of this district to Wethersfield and asked what steps were being taken to determine whether these students could remain in the district. Dr. Proctor indicated that the PPT processor prescribed under by both the Federal and State requirements needed to properly diagnosis and place these students was based upon the team's recommendations. The district needs to be sure the children are either properly evaluated and their needs met in a regular classroom setting or provide the special education needs so that they can be incorporated into a regular classroom. He could not explain why this year was so phenomenal. Within the last several weeks three more children were added to the program and an additional four were added after the budget presentation. The process used for their placement is not made lightly and is made based upon the children and their parents' involvement. Councilor Fortunato was concerned with the rising costs. She pointed out that Wethersfield was cited several years ago for having too many out-of-district placements and being too restrictive. She felt the board had made tremendous strides to correct this, but was concerned with these numbers. She cautioned Dr. Proctor concerning the large number of out-of-district placements and urged him to be sure that everything possible was being done to return the children to their peers and home district as quickly as possible. Dr. Proctor agreed with Councilor Fortunato but felt Wethersfield needed more of a continuum of services for children who can no longer function in a regular classroom. He further stated that there were districts that have classrooms within their districts for children that don't need to be transferred out-of-the district. Savings of up to \$200,000 can be realized when children are returned to their own district. He did not feel the Town had sufficient services in-house to meet the needs of the children. Councilor Fortunato wished to clarify whether he was talking about emotional issues as opposed to physical issues. Dr. Proctor indicated he was addressing emotional issues and not physical ones. Councilor Fortunato stressed the need to make every effort to return children to their own district.

Councilor Cascio confirmed the Council supported education but also needs to support the Town's needs in order to make it a complete package. He understood the Board of Education's budget was pared down prior to presenting it to the Town Council. He asked what percentage would be needed in order to maintain the level of services already in place. Dr. Proctor responded that the Board would need 6.3% because the current budget includes corrective measures. Councilor Cascio questioned the renovation costs for the Board of Education. Dr. Proctor indicated the costs were relatively modest for the renovation. Councilor Cascio mentioned that Town employees had taken a 0% and asked if the Board of Education members were ever asked to also take a 0% increase. Dr. Proctor indicated that it had not come up and that pay increases were based upon what the market could bear and maintaining competitiveness between Towns. Councilor Cascio confirmed the teachers negotiated a 4.7% increase including steps and asked what the percentage of increase was for nurses and custodians. Dr. Proctor said he could provide a breakdown and deferred the question to Chairperson Hodges. Chairperson Hodges indicated that increases were based upon the contract and that a 3% was negotiated. The custodians also negotiated a 3% increase and the administrators' contracts varied by assignment and the step process was different. The nurses were not in a bargaining unit and were budgeted at 2%. Dr. Proctor explained the negotiation process and the desire to avoid arbitration. Dr. Proctor did not foresee a 0% increase for teachers.

Councilor Hemmann thanked Dr. Proctor for providing the materials discussed tonight. In response to Councilor Hemmann's question, Dr. Proctor indicated the increase was due exclusively to the 300 children the schools were anticipating to enter kindergarten. Councilor Hemmann questioned the difference in anticipated enrollment and the projected number of teachers and classrooms. Dr. Proctor indicated a class of 21 students per teacher without any aide was too much. He hoped to keep class sizes down. Councilor Hemmann recalled the desire in the past was for no more than 21 students in kindergarten and up to 22-23 after third grade. She asked what happened to this philosophy. Dr. Proctor felt if this was done there would be no flexibility. He also mentioned that next year was a transitional year and the children would be grouped with older children in the elementary schools. He felt this was a good argument for keeping the class sizes low.

Councilor Czernicki referred to a letter written by three teachers suggesting the elimination of one kindergarten teacher. Dr. Proctor did not recommend this because plans were already worked out in the fall which included three classrooms. However, seven classrooms are now needed which would include six kindergarten classrooms and one first grade class. He indicated he would get back to the three teachers in writing. Councilor Czernicki asked if staff members were encouraged to come forward with cost-saving ideas. Dr. Proctor confirmed he did encourage input from staff members and because of ideas presented, the Board of Education saved almost \$300,000. Councilor Czernicki questioned the difference in openings from ten to thirteen. Board of Education Chairperson Hodges confirmed the Board had received thirteen confirmed retirements. In response to Councilor Czernicki's question, Board of Education Chairperson Hodges confirmed more retirements could be forthcoming and further stated she anticipates two more bringing the total to 15. Dr. Proctor stated last year they anticipated ten and only received eight retirements. The budget had ten retirements built into it for 2004/05. Councilor Czernicki asked if the hiring process has begun to fill these vacancies. Dr. Proctor confirmed the process has started. Councilor Czernicki pointed out that the Board of Education presentation held on April 26th included the cap on the ECS and that in the past it had neglected to mention that the last three or four years there has been an increase in the ECS. Dr. Proctor confirmed this. Councilor Czernicki felt the presentation had a negative connotation and that everyone present at this meeting felt the Town should receive more money. Dr. Proctor reviewed the formula used when determining the ECS. He indicated that Wethersfield was the fourth highest district to receive a loss of revenue out of 85 districts. Councilor Czernicki pointed out that Wethersfield had a large number of students on reduced or free lunches as well as the lowest median income based on the 1999 census numbers and the largest number of residents 65 and older. She felt that Wethersfield was the poorest community included in a list of surrounding communities and that it could not be viewed similar to Simsbury and Glastonbury and that Wethersfield did very well with funding its schools.

Board of Education Chairperson Hodges wished to reiterate that staff members are requested for input with regard to the budget. She also wanted to clarify that the teachers with 15 or more years of service receive 10% of their final years' salary. The budget was based upon ten retirements or a little over \$70,000. When the budget was being prepared, eight teachers had submitted their intention to retire; five additional teachers had later submitted their retirement paperwork. The Board will try and replace these teachers in the future at a starting salary of \$48,000. Board of

Education Chairperson Hodges has requested all retirements be submitted in January, 2005 so that it can be formulated in the budget.

Councilor Adil asked what the primary concern is for a young family moving into Wethersfield as opposed to Glastonbury, Newington or Simsbury. Board of Education Chairperson Hodges said families looking into a community in which to live look at the school district first. She mentioned Connecticut Magazine is usually looked at because it does provide information on communities and its school system. Councilor Adil asked how the dollars spent per pupil is looked at from community to community. Board of Education Chairperson Hodges said people usually look at test scores, the number of graduates, SAT scores and scoring on standard tests. She usually recommends individuals thinking of moving into Wethersfield visit the school into which they wish to relocate. In response to Councilor Adil's question, Board of Education Chairperson Hodges usually tells potential new residents that Wethersfield has a great school system, a high rate of volunteerism, the fact that many residents are long-term residents, and for the educational programs in place. She indicated that in real estate she could not discuss diversity among communities, but relied upon the statistics provided. She indicated potential new residents are told about programs offered to gifted students and more foreign languages being offered as well as music and art programs. Councilor Adil asked if Wethersfield was still experiencing high enrollments which would result in large class sizes. Dr. Proctor confirmed stabilizing enrollments in the elementary schools, the middle school had steady enrollments with slight changes, but the high school was where there was the most fluctuation with higher enrollments. He indicated possible expansions being made to the high school in the future.

Councilor Cascio asked if there was a direct correlation between the dollars spent per pupil and school success. Dr. Proctor indicated that there was and explained the concept of class sizes and success. He also indicated the need to have qualified and caring teachers in place as well as the proper materials needed to teach the students. He said there was not a direct one-to-one and that it was a complex situation. Board of Education Chairperson Hodges stated that she had read the smaller the class size, the higher achievement is obtained for public schools. Councilor Czernicki mentioned the parochial schools would disapprove of this philosophy.

Councilor Montinieri asked what the number is of special needs children anticipated for next year. Dr. Proctor stated 37 were anticipated to be out placed for next year. She asked for more information on the ECS Grant and the fact that it was not helping Wethersfield. Dr. Proctor explained the ECS Grant and the expenditures and formulas used. Councilor Fortunato asked if this included transportation or just tuition. Dr. Proctor said excess costs could include transportation. He further stated Wethersfield should receive about \$600,000 but was only receiving about \$450,000 and last year it had budgeted for the entire amount which resulted in corrections to the budget. This year \$5-\$8 million was being placed in the excess costs account by the State and Wethersfield will benefit from this but he was unsure as to what extent. He felt it should be over 70% of the excess cost. Councilor Montinieri confirmed the Board was anticipating 33 students and now has 37 students. Dr. Proctor indicated that more children could be added to this program.

Councilor Hemmann asked if the surrounding Towns were realizing the same increases in special needs children as Wethersfield. Dr. Proctor felt 35-40% of the Towns were experiencing deficits similar to Wethersfield. Councilor Hemmann asked if there were programs opening up in order to accommodate the increase in children being removed from the classrooms and placed in special classes. Dr. Proctor indicated the board was doing its best to return these students to the classroom. Councilor Hemmann asked how many students were attending magnet schools. Dr. Proctor said approximately 61 children were attending four different magnet schools. In response to Councilor Hemmann's question, Dr. Proctor indicated the Greater Hartford school was up to 5th grade. Councilor Fortunato asked if the number included preschool children. Dr. Proctor confirmed that there were 31 students ranging from kindergarten through the 5th grade and all had a tuition impact and affected space. Councilor Hemmann asked if there had been an increase in the numbers for pre-kindergarten in the last several years. Dr. Proctor said it had not increased significantly. In response to Councilor Hemmann's question, Dr. Proctor mentioned the increase in oil costs based on \$1.20 per gallon which has increased. The utilities were under budgeted by about \$30,000.

Board of Education member McKenna stated that children that move to Wethersfield are already out-of-district for many different reasons. The Town is required to honor this program for children moving from another Town and the board has no control over this situation.

Councilor Forrest asked about the certification program and whether it applied to strictly teaching. Dr. Proctor said this particular entry applied to individuals that require certification in order to perform their functions. Councilor Forrest asked if there were certified teachers that do not teach. Dr. Proctor confirmed this statement. Dr. Proctor confirmed the Board had tutors that do not teach children. Councilor Forrest asked if it were possible to reduce the class size by utilizing certified teachers that do not already teach. Dr. Proctor indicated that there were a number of certified employees that provide other services such as the guidance department. He further stated that there was no simple answer to this question. Councilor Forrest hoped to reduce the class sizes and reallocate certified staff not being utilized to achieve this goal. Dr. Proctor was concerned with not being able to provide the services needed outside of the classroom by certain staff members. Mrs. Baldwin said it was critical to have small class sizes for reading and therefore the need to have reading consultants and tutors to provide extra attention to students. A lot of the tutoring is done through the Title 1 funding received by the Board. Tutors are not always certified teachers but college educated individuals and are hired to provide remedial services to literacy. The Board has seven reading consultants spread over the district to work with children in schools that are at risk of failure. Dr. Proctor pointed out that teachers are responsible for 20 plus students even when they are removed for extra tutoring of special needs. A discussion ensued.

Councilor Forrest asked if the Board of Education could utilize the Town Attorney rather than contract with a different attorney. Dr. Proctor indicated that historically the Board has also contracted with its own attorney. Councilor Forrest understood historically it has done this but wished to look into new concepts. Councilor Forrest asked if the Board needed to obtain portable classrooms due to the need for additional classes. Dr. Proctor said the Board was proposing the hiring of four additional teachers - two at the Silas Deane Middle School and two at the elementary level. The entire cost of adding seven classrooms at Emerson Williams would be about \$50,000. Councilor Forrest asked if the Town would be receiving any money back from the Board. Town Manager Therrien stated that the Town would not receive any money back from the Board of Education.

Councilor Fortunato stated the need for consolidation of services between the Town and Board of Education. She used technology as an example and asked if the Board and Town could create joint jobs and asked if there would be any drawbacks. Dr. Proctor mentioned that there were two problems - one issue involved supervision and the second issue was the lack of technical support. The Board has three individuals providing technical support. His feeling was if the Board or Town could not provide technical support it might not be worth investing in it until these issues can be resolved. Councilor Fortunato questioned the position of clerical support at the three elementary schools. Dr. Proctor said this position is to provide general clerical support across the board. He felt this position was important due to the fact that the school will now house kindergartners and the paperwork involved when registering children for the first time. Councilor Fortunato mentioned raising the issue of getting control over the tuitions by private providers and institutions such as Elm Crest or The Institute for Living with the Legislative Delegation during a meeting. She further expressed that such providers could announce an increase in costs with very little advance notice which makes it hard to budget.

Councilor Montinieri asked if the 8.7% requested in the Board's budget would address the need for textbooks. Dr. Proctor said the proposed budget would produce notable progress towards addressing this issue.

Councilor Cascio asked if the paperwork had increased when enrolling kindergartners in the school system. Mrs. Baldwin said it was less about paperwork but there were more safety issues regarding five-year olds. There are more students with special circumstances such as custody issues. In response to Councilor Cascio's question, Dr. Proctor indicated that Mr. Hogan will be at Emerson Williams. Councilor Cascio asked what initiatives the Board of Education was looking at towards the consolidation of the Board of Education and Town of Wethersfield and any anticipated savings. Dr. Proctor said the consolidation of the Maintenance Division was one initiative it was working on. Technology will be the other one it will look at. An Advisory Committee is in place to look at this issue. Dr. Proctor felt there will be improvement in the quality of services with the consolidation of the Maintenance Divisions. Councilor Cascio felt it was important to maintain the Town's facilities and asked if it anticipated any increase in staffing with regard to the Board of Education. Dr. Proctor said it was not changing its staffing.

Councilor Fortunato mentioned the installation of a new telephone system which would assist the staff.

The Board is putting together a long-range facility plan which will include upgrades and maintenance and asked that

the plan created by the Board include the Town Council or the Shared Services Committee with those plans.

In response to Councilor Hemmann's question regarding specialty kindergarten classes, Dr. Proctor said there are only two of them and they are housed at Webb. One is pre-school and the other is ESL.

Councilor Forrest asked if the support staff at the Webb Building would also move. Dr. Proctor said they will continue to service the children. The secretary presently located at the Webb Building will be relocating to the Emerson Williams School. The budget includes the addition of 3 part-time clerical positions at each of the three other elementary schools. The principals need this clerical staff and had requested it for several years. With the addition of the kindergarteners, the school needs clerical assistance at the elementary schools as indicated above. He explained that the activity budget was used for activities at the school level and was fund-raising dollars. The operating budget was used for supplies, materials, etc. Staffing is done centrally because the school budgets are relatively small. Mr. Whall explained that there were no contingency accounts for the Board. Councilor Forrest asked if money appropriated by the Town in the amount of \$98,000 was included in its budget. Councilor Forrest asked if the Board of Education was ahead by \$98,000. Dr. Proctor said it was not. Mr. Whall explained this issue.

Councilor Czernicki asked if there would still be a kindergarten center. Dr. Proctor confirmed that a mini kindergarten center would be operating at the Emerson Williams School for next year only. This was the only space available in order to place children.

Chairperson Morin mentioned receiving budget estimates for the telephone replacement system which would be \$17,500 per school or about \$70,000. He asked the Board how many lines it would need and where was this on its list of priorities. Dr. Proctor stated that when this was presented to the Capital Improvement Committee in March, there were several priorities and this was number one along with the roof at the High Crest School. Mr. McCarthy recommended using T1 lines to the High School which will result in a savings of \$2,800 per month in telephone line fees. The T1 lines are already in place and the Board is already paying for it. The new system would replace a 30-year old system and allow for voice mail and a better intercom system. Mr. McCarthy indicated that it was difficult to obtain parts for the current system due to its age.

Chairperson Morin thanked the Board of Education for answering its questions.

**Councilor Adil moved "TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING REVENUE INCREASES FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND HAVE THE TOWN MANAGER BRING TO THE TOWN COUNCIL ANY ORDINANCE CHANGES THAT MAY BE MADE TO ACCOMMODATE THESE INCREASES:**

<b>PARKING FINES</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>HANDICAPPED/FIRE LANE</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>
<b>VENDOR PERMITS (DOOR TO DOOR)</b>	<b>\$25.00 PER YEAR</b>
<b>VENDOR PERMITS (FROM VEHICLE)</b>	<b>\$50.00 PER YEAR</b>
<b>ACCIDENT/CASE REPORTS</b>	<b>CASE REPORT FREE FOR VICTIM ACCIDENT - FREE FOR ALL</b>
<b>PRECIOUS METAL LICENSE</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>MASSEUSE PERMITS</b>	<b>ELIMINATED-NOW LICENSED BY THE STATE</b>
<b>RECORDS CHECK</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
<b>LETTER FOR IRS AND IMMIGRATION</b>	<b>\$10.00/LETTER</b>
<b>OVERNIGHT PARKING</b>	<b>\$25.00"</b>

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

**Councilor Adil moved "TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING REVENUE INCREASES FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND HAVE THE TOWN MANAGER BRING TO THE TOWN COUNCIL ANY**



Cascio.

Councilor Fortunato asked if this reduction would have any impact on the users of this service. Town Manager Therrien said the service would remain the same but the rate may change.

Councilor Forrest moved "**TO TABLE THIS MOTION UNTIL THURSDAY**", seconded by Councilor Czernicki.

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

Councilor Cascio asked for clarification as to why the Town had decided not to rejoin CCM. Town Manager Therrien stated that the budget included dues for Council of Small Towns which provided a duplication of services except for research and felt that it was a lot of money to spend to remain a member of CCM.

Councilor Cascio asked if the reduction to the Culture and the Arts was being done at its request. Town Manager Therrien indicated that it was not being done at its request.

Councilor Cascio was concerned with the budget for the Senior Advisory Committee and mentioned that their committee was not in good financial shape. Funds were put into their budget for a clerk who has already been deleted. He recommended keeping their budget at \$3,000 because this particular organization services the majority of Wethersfield's population.

Councilor Cascio moved "**RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HERBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**TO INCREASE BY \$1,500 THE SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO BRING ITS BUDGET TO \$3,000"** seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

Councilor Fortunato asked if there would be a problem because the Wethersfield Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities budget was reduced in half. Councilor Cascio could not comment on this since he does not act as its liaison. Councilor Hemmann mentioned fund raisers that were done by this Committee for particular activities.

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

Councilor Adil moved "**RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HERBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**TO REDUCE \$7,526 FROM THE FINANCE PAYROLL - ONE PART-TIME POSITION AND ANY RELEVANT FRINGE BENEFITS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS POSITION AND A CORRECTION TO THE DIRECTOR'S SALARY"** seconded by Councilor Forrest.

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

Councilor Adil moved "**RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HERBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**TO ADD \$65,000 TO THE CENTRAL OFFICE SERVICES AND HAVE SHARED SERVICES REVIEW THE ISSUE OF HAVING A CONSOLIDATED CENTRAL COPY CENTER IN THE FUTURE"** seconded by Councilor Fortunato.

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

Councilor Fortunato moved "**RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HERBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**TO ADD \$1,200 TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO ELIMINATE THE EDIC CLERK AND TO**

**INCREASE THE PART-TIME GRANT WRITER'S HOURS UP TO 15"**, seconded by

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

Councilor Adil moved **"RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HERBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**TO ADD \$13,000 TO THE TOURISM COMMISSION BUDGET"** seconded by Councilor Forrest for discussion purposes.

Councilor Hemmann did not support this increase. Councilor Fortunato stated this amount would include postage for mailings, magazine advertising, etc.

Councilor Czernicki identified the following proposed costs:

\$1,650 for the brochure, \$2,000 for the design and layout, \$2,000 for printing, \$2,000 for advertising, \$4,100 for public relation press kits, \$600 Web site management, and \$3,600 for strategic plan process for a total of \$18,950

Councilor Czernicki indicated that Town Planner Gillespie had requested a total of \$7,000.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted NAY. Councilors Czernicki, Cascio, and Hemmann voted AYE. The motion failed 3-6-0.

Councilor Cascio moved **"RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HERBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**TO ADD \$3,000 TO THE TOURISM COMMISSION BUDGET"** seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted NAY. Councilors Czernicki, Cascio, and Hemmann voted AYE. The motion failed 3-6-0.

Councilor Fortunato moved **"RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HERBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**TO ADD AN ADDITIONAL \$5,000 TO BRING THE TOTAL FIGURE TO \$7,000 TO THE TOURISM COMMISSION BUDGET"** seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis.

A roll call voted was requested. Councilors Fortunato, Forrest, Montinieri, Deputy Mayor Karangekis and Chairperson Morin voted AYE. Councilors Adil, Czernicki, Cascio, and Hemmann voted NAY. The motion passed 5-4-0.

Councilor Hemmann stated the following concerns on the Board of Education's Budget:

- Elementary room sizes - she understood 20 to be the planning number for primary grades and 23 for grades 4 through 6.
- She was concerned with not knowing the number of rooms to be added at Webb school after it is completed. She was unhappy to learn that there was no information given for this issue.
- She mentioned recurring costs and the amount needed to reopen a school.
- She felt there would be a huge impact next year when the Webb Building is opened and no funds available to handle this transition.
- She also pointed out that the budget could not be adjusted and corrected in one year.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis asked what the dollar amount would be for a decrease of .7% in the Board of Education's budget. Finance Director Hancock indicated \$239,675.00.

Councilor Fortunato asked Town Manager Therrien about delaying pension payments by the Board of Education. She indicated it was because of financial problems and that two payments would be made rather than one payment right

after July 1.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis moved **"RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HERBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**"TO REDUCE \$10,000 FROM THE POLICE OVERTIME BUDGET"**, seconded by Councilor Adil.

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

Councilor Cascio moved **"RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HERBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**"TO ADD \$30,000 TO THE FIRE SUPPRESSION BUDGET"**, seconded by Councilor Hemmann. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Town Manager stated she would have authorization over all purchase orders done by the Fire Department in the future.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis stated the Police Department dispatches all ambulance calls. Councilor Hemmann asked if there was a need for the Police Department to communicate with CMED. Deputy Mayor Karangekis explained the procedures.

Councilor Forrest moved **"RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HERBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**"TO INCREASE \$1,500 FOR ENGINEERING IN ORDER TO PURCHASE A COMPUTER"**, seconded by Councilor Montinieri.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted NAY. Councilors Fortunato and Forrest voted AYE. The motion failed 2-7-0.

Councilor Adil moved **"RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HERBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**"TO ADD \$13,331 FOR ONE PART-TIME SECRETARY FOR 15 HOURS IN THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Fortunato moved **"RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HERBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**"TO REMOVE \$10,000 FROM THE CLEANING ACCOUNT IN PHYSICAL SERVICES"**, seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Adil moved **"RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HERBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**"TO APPROVE A STIPEND FOR THE TREE WARDEN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,230 TO BE ADDED TO THE PHYSICAL SERVICES BUDGET"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Adil moved **"RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HERBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**"TO ADD THE ACCOMPANYING FRINGE AMOUNT FOR THE WETHERSFIELD EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the

Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Cascio moved **"RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**TO ADD \$21,000 TO THE PHYSICAL SERVICES' BUDGET TO COVER MOSQUITO SPRAYING"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE, except Councilors Adil and Forrest voted NAY. The motion passed 7-2-0.

Councilor Cascio moved **"RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**REDUCE PHYSICAL SERVICES' VEHICLE MAINTENANCE REPAIR BUDGET BY \$27,000"**, seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Czernicki moved **"RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**TO REDUCE THE SALARY BUDGET IN SOCIAL & YOUTH SERVICES BUDGET BY \$5,000 WITH THE INTENT THAT THE ADDITIONAL \$5,000 BE PUT INTO THE INTERCOMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET"**, seconded by Councilor Fortunato. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Adil moved **"RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**INCREASE BY \$45,000 SOCIAL & YOUTH SERVICES BUDGET FOR THE DIAL-A-RIDE PROGRAM IN ORDER TO KEEP THE SERVICES AT THE SAME LEVEL"**, seconded by Councilor Fortunato. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Montinieri moved **"RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**ADD \$4,000 TO THE SOCIAL & YOUTH SERVICES' BUDGET FOR THE ROPE PROGRAM"**, seconded by Councilor Adil.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE, except Councilors Czernicki, Forrest and Hemmann voted NAY... The motion passed 6-3-0.

Councilor Czernicki moved **"RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**ADD \$2,000 TO THE SENIOR CENTER BUDGET SPECIFICALLY TO KEEP THE LOUNGE OPEN"**, seconded by Councilor Montinieri. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Adil moved **"RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**ADD \$37,500 TO THE LIBRARY BUDGET"**, seconded by Councilor Fortunato.

Councilor Cascio wished to add more and was concerned that needs in the future were not being identified and funded.

Town Manager Therrien indicated that the Library Board wishes to use the additional funds to purchase books and not

used to extend the hours that the Library would be open.

Councilor Adil wished to send the message that the Town Council supports additionally funding to be used for additional hours of operation.

In response to Councilor Czernicki's question, Town Manager Therrien indicated the Library's Trust contains \$125,827 as of December 31, 2003. Library Trusts are not be used for operating expenses.

Councilor Cascio was concerned that the Library was not at the status quo based upon funding provided. He felt that \$102,000 was needed in order to keep the Library at status quo.

Chairperson Morin indicated the Library had received \$1.08 million last year and if \$37,500 is added the Library would be at \$1.9 or an increase of over \$31,000 from last year.

Councilor Fortunato asked if there was support for an additional allotment for materials.

Councilor Cascio stated if an additional \$37,500 were provided, the Library would remain closed on Wednesday and Friday evenings.

Councilor Forrest suggested a total of \$50,000 added with a breakdown for materials and additional hours of operation.

No vote was taken.

Councilor Adil moved "**RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HERBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**ADD \$50,000 TO THE LIBRARY BUDGET AS FOLLOWS: \$31,500 FOR ADDITIONAL HOURS OPEN ON WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY AND \$18,500 FOR MATERIALS"** seconded by Councilor Fortunato. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Fortunato wished to have the minutes reflect a suggestion by Councilor Forrest requesting the Town Manager and Finance Director look at the feasibility of the Library keeping its revenue.

Councilor Forrest moved "**RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**INCREASE THE RECREATION & PARKS SALARY ACCOUNT BY \$10,964 FOR STAFF, EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, CHEMICALS, UTILITIES AND MAINTENANCE, AT MILL WOODS POOL UNTIL SCHOOL STARTS"**, seconded by Montinieri.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE, Councilors Adil and Fortunato voted NAY. The motion passed 7-2-0.

Councilor Montinieri moved "**RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**INCREASE THE COMMUNITY CENTER BUDGET BY \$1,528 FOR THE TEEN CENTER PROGRAM ON FRIDAY NIGHTS FOR 20 WEEKS"**, seconded by Adil.

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

Councilor Adil moved "**RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**MOVE \$10,000 FROM THE BIKE TRAIL AND ADD IT TO THE MOELLER HOME"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Adil moved **"RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**ADD AN ADDITIONAL \$40,000 TO THE MOELLER HOME IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR ADDITIONAL DONATIONS AND TO DIRECT THE TOWN MANAGER TO BE SURE THE ROOF IS REPLACED"**, seconded by Councilor Czernicki. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Czernicki moved **"RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**ADD \$1,500 FOR FACES"**, seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Fortunato moved **"RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**PLACE \$92,000 FOR TELEPHONES FOR THE FOUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS INTO THE CAPITAL BUDGET"**, seconded by Councilor Adil.

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

Councilor Fortunato moved **"RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**ADD \$80,964 FOR THE PARKING LOT AT CHARLES WRIGHT"**, seconded by Councilor Montinieri.

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

Councilor Cascio moved **"RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**ADD \$170,742 FOR A SEVEN YEAR LEASE FOR COTTONE FIELD"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis.

Councilor Hemmann stated she would like to see money added to the budget for road improvements. Councilor Czernicki agreed with Council Hemmann's comments and did not feel the field was the highest priority.

Chairperson Morin mentioned a suggestion by the Town Manager by going out to referendum for road repairs and improvements.

Councilor Adil wished to see drainage work done on Cottone Field and later add artificial turf to the practice field when the economy rebounds.

Councilor Cascio supported doing the fields correctly the first time and supported doing the project now. He mentioned the Town would receive additional funds if both fields were renovated rather than just doing Cottone Field only.

Councilor Montinieri remembered a conversation in which there would be savings of about \$100,000 realized by doing both of the fields simultaneously.

Councilor Forrest mentioned savings on maintenance by using artificial turf.

Councilor Fortunato asked how long the Town could bond this issue. Town Manager Therrien indicated if the Town was to go with a lease it would probably be over a period of eight years. The breakdown for \$1 million would be: \$194,238 annually over a six year period: \$170,742 over a seven year period and \$152,906 over an eight year period.

Councilor Cascio asked if there would still be a referendum after a petition which was submitted was certified and the number of names met the qualifications for an item to go to referendum. Town Manager Therrien confirmed this.

Councilor Montinieri questioned the validity of the petitions submitted regarding the renovation of the fields.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE, except Councilors Czernicki, Fortunato and Hemmann voted NAY. The motion passed 6-3-0.

Councilor Forrest moved **"RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**ADD \$5,000 TO THE CAPITAL BUDGET IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE REMOVAL OF THE ADAMS LANDING CUL DE SAC"**, seconded by Chairman Morin. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Cascio indicated the total amount reduced from the budget equaled \$65,000 and additions made to the budget equaled \$664,000. Town Manager Therrien indicated other changes would affect the bottom line. Councilor Cascio asked for the following for Wednesday:

- Grand List information
- Revenue information
- Total increase to the proposed budget
- Total reduction to the proposed budget

Chairperson Morin suggested having this information available to each councilor prior to Wednesday. He asked for information about the Board of Education budget, the dollar increase for a .07 decrease, and the information requested by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Czernicki moved **"RESOLVED, THAT THE BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER APRIL 12, 2004 BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**INCREASE THE INCOME LEVEL TO \$3.000 FOR THE VETERANS TAX EXEMPTION"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Czernicki moved **"TO TABLE THE MOTION TO INCREASE THE INCOME LEVEL TO \$3,000 FOR THE VETERANS TAX EXEMPTION IN ORDER TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Hemmann stressed the need for another revenue stream now that the motion to renovate the fields was passed. She suggested a fee for using Cottone Field for all sports by community groups.

Chairman Morin stated the priority for using the field was based upon the school's activities scheduled for the field during the school year.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 11:40 p.m., Councilor Cascio moved **"TO ADJOURN TO THE BUDGET WORKSHOP SESSION ON MAY 12 2004 AT 500 P.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE TOWN HALL"**: seconded by Councilor Czernicki. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Dolores Sassano

Town Clerk