

SPECIAL MEETING

June 16, 2004

The Wethersfield Town Council held a special meeting on Wednesday, June 16, 2004 at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Managers Conference Room in the Town Hall, 505 Silas Deane Highway..

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

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Morin. The purpose of the meeting was to change the date of the Referendum.

The warning for the original date was posted but did not make it into the paper to have 30 clear days between the announcement and the actual date of the referendum.

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Forrest moved "**TO RESCIND THE TOWN COUNCIL VOTE OF JUNE 7, 2004 SETTING THE DATE FOR THE REFERENDUM AS JULY 14**", seconded by Councilor Fortunato. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Hemmann asked for clarification as to why the date has to be changed. Town Clerk Sassano said that the warning did not appear in the paper on time. There was a time lag between when it was sent out and when the Courant received it. The legal ads are e-mailed to the paper. It was not discovered until the day after it was sent and then it was resent. There was a computer problem which Data Processing did come to fix. The paper did not receive it until 3 days later. To print it then would not allow for 30 clear days warning required by statute.

Councilor Adil motioned "**TO SET THE NEW DATE OF THE REFERENDUM TO WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2004 AND THE QUESTION SHALL READ AS FOLLOWS:**

'SHALL THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD APPROPRIATE \$790,000 TO BE FUNDED BY GRANTS FOR RENOVATIONS TO THE WETHERSFIELD TOWN HALL, WETHERSFIELD LIBRARY AND THE PITKIN COMMUNITY CENTER'" seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Fortunato wanted to be sure the entire question did not have to be reread into the minutes. Town Manager Therrien said it did not because it was just setting a new date. Chairperson Morin added it was still going to be the one polling place and the same hours. Town Clerk Sassano said it would be in the paper on Friday, June 18, 2004. When the Town Clerk cancelled the previous notice due to the timing, she asked the Courant to hold the space until after the Town Council voted on the new date tonight.

Chairperson Morin wanted to know if there are safeguards now in place so this will not happen again as it is an inconvenience to the Council.

Councilor Fortunato asked if the explanatory text is ready and when it will be sent out to the voters. Town Manager Therrien said it is not yet ready. It is currently at the State Elections Enforcement Commission to be sure it is in compliance with their guidelines. She also said she does not have the money to send it out to all voters' residences.

Councilor Fortunato said she thought information was always sent out and questioned how the information will get out to the voters.

Councilor Cascio stated that the Chamber of Commerce has a newsletter going out, the deadline being next Tuesday.

He suggested that information on the referendum be included in that mailing.

Town Manager Therrien said information could be included in the tax bills going out soon.

It was asked if a notice of the Referendum could be sent home with the children on the last day of school. Town Manager Therrien said that this is not possible as it would be a violation of regulations.

Councilors wanted to know if a simple majority of the electors voting is required to have the referendum pass. The Town Manager said if ten people vote and nine of them vote yes, then it would pass.

Councilor Fortunato thought there is a required percentage of voters having to turn out. Town Manager Therrien said she would check on this.

Councilors brainstormed other ideas for getting the information out to the public, such as newspapers, TV, Senior Bingo, Newsletter and the Friday Night at the Movies on the Green.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:55 p.m., Councilor Hemmann moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk

Approved by vote of Council 6/22/04