

JULY 6, 2004 REGULAR MEETING

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on July 6, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

Present: Councilors Adil, Czernicki, Forrest, Montinieri, Deputy Mayor Karangekis and Chairperson Morin.

Absent: Councilor Cascio, Councilor Fortunato, and Councilor Hemmann.

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

All stood for the pledge of allegiance to the flag which was led by Deputy Mayor Karangekis.

Economic Development Report

Town Planner Peter Gillespie gave a presentation of the May, 2004 Economic Development Report. The report included the following changes for June:

- Bed, Bath & Beyond, 1065 Silas Deane Highway, discussing grand opening
- Mercury Fuel Service, Inc., 151 Silas Deane Highway, building demolished and foundation work underway.
- CVS Pharmacy/Starbucks, 1080 Silas Deane Highway, building permits issued, site work underway. Talking to individual tenants for space.
- 82-86 Wolcott Hill Road, new medical office, building permit application submitted.
- Mozzicato Family LLC, 38-46 Wells Road, building plans submitted for code review.
- Cumberland Farms, 1855 Berlin Turnpike, Planning & Zoning Commission granted approval on June 15
- 61 Arrow Road, former Arrow Tool building, developer interested in complete interior and exterior renovation of building and site. Likely to appear on August PZC meeting agenda for approval.
- Bob's Fruit, 1825 Berlin Turnpike, application filed with PZC for demolition of existing building, construction of new building and parking improvements.
- Goff Brook Shoppes, met with owners to discuss necessary approvals for minor site improvements.
- Progress/Commerce Drive Industrial Park, met with owner, John Kulesza, to discuss possible prospects for use of the four remaining lots.
- 1912 Berlin Turnpike, met with property owner and interested business person to discuss possible redevelopment.
- Met with an engineer looking to locate a site in Wethersfield to build three soccer fields and associated parking area.
- Met with business person pursuing permits to construct BMX/Motocross track in Rocky Hill. No activity will occur in Wethersfield. Property acquired is in Rocky Hill.

Mr. Gillespie said that a considerable amount of time has been spent revising various sections of the Zoning Map and that the review of the Zoning Regulations has been finalized. The public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, July 29, 2004. Mr. Gillespie reported that the Silas Deane Highway Revitalization Committee met twice in June and discussion at the next meeting will center on how quickly the Committee can provide a preliminary report to the Council as to how the Committee will proceed with actions. Mr. Gillespie reported that the Tourism Commission is in the beginning stages of developing a tourism master plan. Mr. Gillespie said that the Towns of Wethersfield and Rocky Hill have spent time researching available funding through the STEAP Grant to support the work of the EDIC and Silas Deane Highway Revitalization Committee. Mr. Gillespie said that there has been discussion regarding possible USDA Grant funds to assist with improvements to the Elm Street extension which has washed out in several places. Mr. Gillespie reported that the Business Visitation continues with second notices being sent out to businesses along the Silas Deane Highway. He said that letters have been sent out to banks along the Silas Deane Highway seeking their support of the Town's Express Loan Program. There is discussion of scheduling a breakfast meeting and inviting all of the banks to participate. Mr. Gillespie reported that both his secretary and the grants person resigned within the past month and this

has impacted the Department's work load. He is in the process of seeking replacements for both positions. Mr. Gillespie said that there has been significant progress made on the Council's request for a space inventory of available properties in Town. Mr. Gillespie said that this will be forthcoming at the next Council meeting.

Councilor Czernicki asked if Wethersfield was on the list of possible relocation spots for WFSB. Mr. Gillespie said that he has reached out to them and made the Town's interest known to them. He said that he will continue doing this, but the Town does not have the sites that they are looking for. He is trying to be creative and come up with some ideas that may work for WFSB. Councilor Czernicki asked Mr. Gillespie to update properties on his monthly report and eliminate any old news. She thanked Mr. Gillespie for all of his hard work, especially with his current understaffing situation.

Councilor Adil asked Mr. Gillespie if the developer interested in the soccer field is looking at the Elm Street area. Mr. Gillespie said that they are looking in the Meadows on Elm Street. He said that those he spoke with are engineers who understand the limitations and the seasonal nature of the Meadows area. He said that there would be a significant permitting process with both Wethersfield and the State of Connecticut. Councilor Adil asked Mr. Gillespie to review his memo of the Economic Development Statutes. Mr. Gillespie said that he has prepared a preliminary memo of comparisons between two different development statutes. Councilor Adil asked him to summarize a few of the differences between the two. Mr. Gillespie said that the Municipal Development Statutes are relevant to the Town of Wethersfield. He said that the Redevelopment Statute policies specifically target slums and blighted properties. These involve areas of significant size which are not appropriate in Wethersfield. The Municipal Development Statutes address commercial, industrial, and job creation issues which are more in tune with Wethersfield at this time. Councilor Adil thanked Mr. Gillespie for doing a great job and providing information to the Council.

Silas Deane Community Center Report

Judy Keane reported that the Board of Education recently approved the project between the Keane Foundation and the Silas Deane Middle School for a temporary facility for the Keane Foundation's 911 Memorial Sports Center. Mrs. Keane, whose husband Richard was killed in the World Trade Center, created a foundation to provide funds to create a sports center for the youth and families of Wethersfield. Mr. Keane was very active in Wethersfield youth sports, both as a coach and as a parent of five sons. He believed that sports taught life's lessons and that everyone on the team should get to play. She said that a sports center in the names of all who died on September 11 would be a wonderful way to remember them as well as the two other men from Wethersfield, David Winton and Jeffrey Bittner, who died in the attacks. Mrs. Keane said that the community support for the endeavor has been overwhelming; however, it will be many years before fund-raising efforts can realize the goal of an intergenerational sports center. Mrs. Keane said that the sports center mission is comparable to those of Sal Menzo, Principal of Silas Dean Middle School and Charles Viani, Building Committee member. This suggested an opportunity for collaboration to expand the current partnership between the Keane Foundation and the Town of Wethersfield. She said that this collaboration would provide for immediate sports and computer programming and would, hopefully, enhance the Keane Foundation's ability to qualify for future public and private funding. Mrs. Keane said that there will be a program facilitator who will work ten hours per week and will be a liaison to the Silas Deane Middle School and the Keane Foundation. She said that the facilitator will coordinate all programs and transportation as well as develop initiatives within the program, market and implement them. Mrs. Keane said that the goal is to fill gaps that exist in current programs and she outlined some of the proposed programs. Mrs. Keane said that, for insurance purposes, the Keane Foundation has voted to provide funding to the Town for the program in the form of a grant. She said that there will be little cost to the Town; mainly in-kind services, and that students will be asked to pay a \$15 fee for the program per trimester. Participants will also be asked to do some type of fund-raising. A volunteer base will be developed to assist with programs. Mrs. Keane said that funds for a boxing program have been donated in the name of Anthony Pandolfe. Mrs. Keane said that she sees the program as a win-win for all involved.

Councilor Czernicki thanked Mrs. Keane for coming to the meeting to provide the Council with information on the project.

Councilor Montinieri asked Mrs. Keane to elaborate on her comment relating to public funding. Ms. Keane said that the Foundation will pursue some grants to sustain the program.

Chairperson Morin thanked Mrs. Keane and said that the project is an exciting prospect. He said that the seniors and youth in Wethersfield will be very fortunate to be involved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HEARING

PROPOSED BLASTING ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE 26, SECTION 97 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE

Anne Kuckro, 471 Main Street, Chairman of the Tourism Commission, explained that the reasons for the amendment are to include more members of the business community on the Commission and to provide for staggered terms.

Thomas Wraight, 22 Coleman Road, commented that the blasting ordinance should include clear provisions that final authority for approval of blasting shall rest with the Town Council, and that citizens need to be notified, and a public hearing held before any blasting is approved. He said that there has been some question as to whether the former Town Manager took it upon himself to approve the blasting at Nott Street. Mr. Wraight said that he is convinced that the Town Council was brought into the matter after the Town Manager approved the project. Mr. Wraight said that the affected citizens were not given proper notice before this action was taken and this is wrong.

Margaret Hunt, 26 Westlook Road, commented on Section 2.A Guidelines of the proposed blasting ordinance. She said that one member of the Town Council should be present at some time each day during the blasting in order to monitor the situation. She said that the blasting last Friday became stronger as the day progressed and she called the Town Manager to inform her of this. The Town Manager then informed Fire Marshal Gary Santoro who agreed to charge two holes instead of four per blast. She said that the Town Council needs to protect the residents of Town by monitoring the situation. Ms. Hunt said that the ordinance should state that copies of pre-blast and post-blast surveys, and seismograph records shall also be made available to the public. Ms. Hunt said that the blasting charges need to be monitored so that they do not exceed the limits set forth in Section 2.F Guidelines of the proposed ordinance. Ms. Hunt also commented that 4:00 p.m. is rather late in the day for blasting to occur. She prefers that the blasting cease at 3:00 p.m.

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

GENERAL COMMENTS

Thomas Wraight, 22 Coleman Road, spoke in honor of William Mislick, a valuable advocate and activist for Wethersfield, who passed away last week. He requested a moment of silence in remembrance of and thanks to Bill Mislick. Mr. Wraight commented that over the past seven year period his income has decreased 2%, the cost of his out-of-pocket health care has increased 53%, and his local property taxes have increased this year by 22.5% and by 56% in the past seven years. Mr. Wraight said that senior citizens in Town cannot afford for this tax increase and tax burden to continue and believes that Bill Mislick would agree.

Fran Nikides, 40 Byrd Road, commented on her concern over vehicles parking on the snow shelf of Town roads. She said that the vehicles obscure the view of oncoming traffic when attempting to exit the side street onto Wells Road. She said that the vehicles should be required to follow the same provisions of the Town Code that restrict tree branches from causing sightline hazards. Ms. Nikides was told by the Wethersfield Police Department that these vehicles were not found to be a sightline hazard. Ms. Nikides then contacted the Mayor, Town Manager, Tax Department, Assessor, and Engineering Department to resolve the problem. She said that she, through the Town Clerk, sent an e-mail to each Council member, but has yet to hear a reply from anyone. Ms. Nikides is concerned for the safety aspect of this problem and has received contradictory information. She read from a letter she received from Police Chief Cetran and requested that the letter be entered into the record. The letter states that the Police Chief believes that the snow shelf is owned by the person whose property it abuts and that he is powerless to enforce a parking prohibition. Ms. Nikides said that per Wethersfield's Public Works Director, the snow shelf is part of the Town street, not owned by the property holder. Wethersfield's Assessor verified that property owners are taxed by what is described in the boundaries of their

deed. Shortly after this, Ms. Nikides received a phone call from the Town Manager who stated that she spoke with the Assessor who informed her that residents do pay taxes on the right-of-way. This caused even more confusion as there is a difference between a Town right-of-way and a right-of-way as an easement. Ms. Nikides said that when her property was surveyed last year, the map of her property line did not include the sidewalk or snow shelf in front of her home; therefore she does not own nor pay taxes on the Town right-of-way. Ms. Nikides said that private citizens do not own the Town right-of-way, nor do they pay taxes on it; therefore those who park on it should be given a warning and ticketed.

Margaret Hunt, 26 Westlook Road, read from a letter she sent to the Council regarding the blasting at Nott Street. She stated that the blasting charges should not only start at the lowest reasonable point, but should remain at this point. Ms. Hunt stated again that she would like the seismograph readings to be public information. Ms. Hunt requested that a speed limit sign of 20 mph be posted on Westlook Road as cars turning off of Nott Street because of the detour are exceeding the current speed limit of 30 mph on Westlook Road. Ms. Hunt is especially concerned for the children in the neighborhood. Ms. Hunt agreed with Mr. Wraight that the public must be informed before the Town Council votes to approve any project that includes drastic steps such as blasting.

Cathy Boyes, 20 Westlook Road, commented that her neighbors have stated that the blasting has not been that bad. Regarding the recent Wethersfield tax increase, Ms. Boyes said that her salary has not increased 18%, yet her taxes have. She also commented that she is concerned over the tension among the Council members. She feels that there is a strong, obvious division between the Council and the members need to concentrate on their purpose which is to help Wethersfield. She finds the bickering childish and immature.

George A. Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, quoted Thomas Jefferson's comment on the will of the people and free expression. Mr. Ruhe read a note he sent to Councilor Adil regarding citizens' right and responsibility to keep an eye on government officials, to which Councilor Adil responded by applauding Mr. Ruhe's efforts to uphold citizens' rights. Mr. Ruhe said that he would like to see the Council, led by Councilor Adil, rescind their decision to do away with the public comment segment at the end of Council meetings. Mr. Ruhe said that he has received a number of calls and spoken with numerous Wethersfield residents who are all unhappy with the increase in their tax bills. Mr. Ruhe commented on the July 21 referendum, stating that the process has been made very confusing and difficult for residents. Mr. Ruhe also commented on the hiring of the Police Dispatcher stating that it was an unwise decision. Mr. Ruhe said that he took a walk through Mill Woods Park on July 4 and found a tractor, a pump, and piping going underground on Town property. He said that this appears to be an illegal operation and a dangerous safety issue.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, commented that he had a \$960 increase in his tax bill which equates to an increase of 23%. He said that the state of the economy is bad and interest rates, taxes and insurance rates are all on the rise. Mr. Young stated that he is not in favor of the upcoming referendum.

Councilor Montinieri left the meeting at this time (8:20 p.m.).

Ron Rodd, 88 Westway, stated that his taxes increased \$1,248 which represents a 31% increase. He provided an update of the Cottone Field project. He said that the recent rain appears to have already created a problem with the continuation of the project. Mr. Rodd said that he is concerned that there is still a lot unknown about the effort to light Cottone Field.

Councilor Montinieri returned to the meeting at this time (8:23 p.m.).

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. He commented that Bill Mislick was a quality, smart individual who was a member of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. since 1991 and will be sorely missed. Mr. Orsini said that he has spoken with many residents who are unhappy with the childish, immature behavior of the Council. He said that, as Councilor Forrest stated, the Council needs to get along in a nonpartisan manner to do what is best for Wethersfield. Mr. Orsini commented on the significant tax increases to residents which he described as "way out of whack". Mr. Orsini also commented on the draft report of the revised Wethersfield Town Charter. He said that the large tax increase and numerous calls have reenergized the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. to push for Wethersfield residents' right to vote on the budget. This budget referendum would provide for a public check and balance of the budget.

Ken Sokolowski, 79 Main Street, commented on the July 21 referendum stating that the bond counsel who drafted the original referendum made a mistake. He said that it is costing the Town money to rectify this mistake. He said that the upcoming referendum is to correct the error. Mr. Sokolowski said that a "yes" vote will allow the Town Hall and Library renovations to proceed without any significant delay and will not cost the taxpayers of Wethersfield more money. He said that a "no" vote will stop, temporarily, the Town Hall and Library renovations and will cost more money.

COUNCIL REPORTS & COMMENTS

Chairperson Morin reported that he attended an MDC meeting and said that it is a long process to depict possible solutions to eliminate combined sewer overflows to the Cove and the costs to do such are quite daunting.

Councilor Forrest asked the Town Manager to provide any information and/or ordinances regarding line of site hazards and provide a legal explanation of the current situation regarding parking on the snow shelf. Councilor Forrest also asked for an update on the removal of water from the pond in Mill Woods Park.

Councilor Czernicki said that she is astounded by the costs associated with the MDC and the Cove. She asked if each scenario proposed would lead to zero CSO's into the Cove. Chairperson Morin said that this is correct. She asked if other member Towns of the MDC have been involved in any of the meetings. Chairperson Morin said that Hartford has been involved and that all member communities are invited to participate in the Advisory Committee meetings. Councilor Czernicki asked to what storm is the zero discharge goal. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that it is a 20-30 year storm. Councilor Czernicki asked what happens next. The Town Manager said that committee members will go back to their respective Towns and give an update of costs and the State and Federal Legislators will need to help with obtaining funding for the project. Councilor Czernicki asked the Town Manager to clarify if the number of blasts or the intensity of the blasts will be lowered on Nott Street. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that there will be two holes blasted instead of four each time which will lower the intensity of the blast. Councilor Czernicki asked if this will result in more blasts to get through the rock. The Town Manager said that this is correct and that the blasting may last longer. Councilor Czernicki asked the Town Manager for results on whether Ravizza had any current judgments or suits in which they are involved. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that it has been reported that there are none and the entire insurance forms are with the State DOT. She has requested a copy of the forms. Councilor Czernicki asked the Town Manager if she has obtained any further clarification of the former Town Manager's authority to sign off on blasting before the issue went before the then Council. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that Town Engineer Mike Turner told her that some of the phases did not require Council approval. Councilor Czernicki commented on the additional traffic to Westlook Road and Crest Street and that this traffic is unaware that the speed limit on Crest Street is 25 mph. She requested that the machine identifying the current speed of a vehicle be positioned on Crest Street to hopefully slow down the traffic. Councilor Czernicki said that she understands that there was a current ground-breaking for the Cottone Field project to which not all Councilors were invited. She asked for clarification of this. Chairperson Morin said that there was an invitation to some Councilors by those raising funds for the lights. He said that it was not a Town-sanctioned activity. Councilor Czernicki asked if there is a current total of funding raised for the lights. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the last bank statement showed a little over \$25,000 and that the installation costs associated with the lights are approximately \$200,000 which does not include ongoing costs. Councilor Czernicki said that she received a request that those in attendance at an Executive Session be listed in the minutes. Councilor Czernicki asked if the Board of Education has actually voted to accept the lighting of Cottone Field. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she is aware that they voted to allow lighting of the field and that she will provide the Council with a copy of the minutes.

Chairperson Morin urged all citizens to come forward and vote on the referendum on July 21.

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Forrest moved "**TO MOVE AGENDA ITEM 3.a.ii, APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS TO AFTER ITEM 3.a.iv, TOURISM COMMISSION CHANGES**", seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Blasting Ordinance

Deputy Mayor Karangekis distributed to Council members a memo from Town Attorney Bradley listing appropriate language changes to the ordinance. He suggested that the ordinance be tabled to a future Council meeting.

Chairperson Morin recommended that the ordinance be referred to the Public Safety Committee for review.

Councilor Czernicki moved **"TO REFER THE BLASTING ORDINANCE TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW AND THEN TO THE TOWN ATTORNEY FOR HIS FURTHER REVIEW"**, seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Chairperson Morin said that any specific questions by the Council need to be submitted to the Town Manager to be forwarded to members of the Public Safety Committee. He asked that the Public Safety Committee meet in a timely manner.

Councilor Forrest asked that the concerns of residents also be passed along to the Committee.

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

Tourism Commission Changes

Councilor Adil moved **"TO APPROVE (OR AMEND) THE PROPOSED TOURISM COMMISSION ORDINANCE CHANGES"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis.

Councilor Adil asked that the regional Tourism District title be verified.

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

Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Councilor Adil moved **"TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING TO THE TOURISM COMMISSION:**

George Botini	Chamber of Comm.	-	1330 Silas Deane Highway	7-6-04 to 6-30-06
Charles F. Ford	Shopkeepers Assoc.	U	249 Ridge Road	7-6-04 to 6-30-07
Charles E. Forsdick	Resident at large	R	18 Monticello Drive	7-6-04 to 6-30-05
Anne C. Kuckro	Cent. Reg. Tourism	D	471 Main Street	7-6-04 to 6-30-06
Paul F. Montinieri, Jr.	EDIC	D	43 Amato Circle	7-6-04 to 6-30-05
Elaine R. St.Onge	Historical Society	R	101 Boulter Road	7-6-04 to 6-30-07
Patricia M. Warner	Webb-Dean-Stevens	D	290 Wolcott Hill Road	7-6-04 to 6-30-07
Alternate:				
V. Ellen Goldberg	At large	D	246 Broad Street	7-6-04 to 6-30-06

", seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Montinieri ABSTAINED. The motion passed 5-0-1.

Chairperson Morin said that at the last Council meeting the appointment to a Committee was made of a current member of the Charter Revision Commission. Mr. Camilliere cannot serve on the Building Committee while he is a member of the Charter Revision Commission; therefore his appointment to the Building Committee will need to be rescinded.

Councilor Adil moved **"TO RESCIND THE APPOINTMENT OF DANIEL CAMILLIERE TO THE BUILDING COMMITTEE TOWN HALL/LIBRARY"**, seconded by Councilor Czernicki.

Councilor Montinieri asked for clarification of the need for the rescission. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that the Charter provision allows for only two people on the Charter Revision Commission to serve on other additional boards and commissions and Mr. Camilliere would have been the third member doing this; therefore, until the Charter Revision is complete he cannot serve on another board or commission.

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

Councilor Czernicki moved **"TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS:**

Selectmen/women

George A. Ruhe	R	956 Cloverdale Circle	7-6-04 to 6-30-06
Judith P. Whitehead	R	54 Tifton Road	7-6-04 to 6-30-06

Transit District, Greater Hartford

Richard L. Dobmeier	R	42 South Pembroke Street	7-6-04 to 6-30-08
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Constables

Albert G. Kaeser, Jr.	R	77 Westway	7-6-04 to 6-30-06
Steven A. McFarland	R	80 Farmingdale Road	7-6-04 to 6-30-06
Frederick H. Rackle	R	14 Pebble Road	7-6-04 to 6-30-06

", seconded by Councilor Adil. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Report from the Charter Revision Commission

Charter Revision Commission Chairperson Geraldine Munroe addressed the Council and said that the Charter Revision Commission has finished the final review of the Wethersfield Charter and requests that the Council review it. She said that the Commission has tried to be fair in doing what is best for the residents of Wethersfield. She thanked all of those on the Charter Revision Commission and said that the members enjoyed their appointed task. Ms. Munroe said that many ideas suggested by the public were incorporated into the Charter revision. Ms. Munroe presented an overview of the changes, additions, and deletions made to the Charter by the Commission.

Councilor Adil thanked Ms. Munroe and the Commission for their hard work. Ms. Munroe said that all members of the Commission offered fine expertise and experience to the revision process.

Chairperson Morin also extended his appreciation to Ms. Munroe and the Commission for their efforts.

Councilor Adil moved **"TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION CONCERNING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE REVISED WETHERSFIELD TOWN CHARTER TO BE HELD AT THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON JULY 19, 2004"**, seconded by Councilor Czernicki. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Proposed Light Schematic - Cottone Field

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that the Council voted previously to send the proposed lights for Cottone Field to Planning and Zoning for an 8-24 review. She spoke with Town Planner Peter Gillespie who said that a concept

cannot go to Planning and Zoning. He said that there has to be an actual schematic plan. Town Manager Therrien said that she requested that Town Clerk Sassano hold up sending the 8-24 resolution to Planning and Zoning until plans are received. She said that she has since received a tangible proposal and requests that it be reviewed by the Council before it is sent to Planning and Zoning.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO SEND THE PROPSAL FOR LIGHTING AT COTTONE FIELD TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR AN 8-24 REVIEW"**, seconded by Councilor Adil.

Councilor Forrest suggested that the vote on the proposal be tabled until the next Council meeting at which, hopefully, Ms. Suppicich could be in attendance to answer questions. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that Ms. Suppicich has said that she could be available to answer questions at the Council's July 19 meeting.

Deputy Mayor Karangekis also suggested that the proposal be tabled until Ms. Suppicich is in attendance to answer questions.

Councilor Montinieri asked the Town Manager to explain the Zoning Board of Appeals requirements pertaining to the two hundred feet for any allowable use other than a dwelling or municipal building. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the proposed size for the light poles will require a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals in a residential area. Councilor Montinieri asked what the proposed height of the lights will be. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that it is seventy feet. Councilor Montinieri asked what the two hundred feet under requirement refers to. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the proposed lighting is not considered an allowable use in the area; therefore a waiver will be required.

Councilor Czernicki agrees that Ms. Suppicich needs to be present to answer questions before the Council votes on the lighting. She said that the Council needs to be provided with an overview before they can even decide on questions to be asked.

Councilor Forrest moved **"TO TABLE THE PROPSAL FOR LIGHTING AT COTTONE FIELD UNTIL THE JULY 19 MEETING WHEN MS. SUPPICICH CAN BE IN ATTENDANCE TO ANSWER COUNCIL QUESTIONS"**, seconded by Councilor Czernicki. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Social Security Alternative Plan

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that she has been approached by Mr. Garrett Hughes of ING about a Social Security Alternative Plan which can save the Town approximately \$60,000 per year. The Plan will allow part time and seasonal employees to drop out of Social Security and go to an annuity plan which earns the employee interest and acts as a retirement plan. The Town, therefore, does not have to match the Social Security amount for employees taking part in the plan. A meeting has been held with part time employees and none expressed a concern with switching programs. Any wishing to continue with Social Security can elect to do so within the initial 30-day window.

Councilor Montinieri moved **"TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION OF A SOCIAL SECURITY ALTERNATIVE PLAN FOR PART TIME AND SEASONAL EMPLOYEES WORKING FOR THE TOWN"**, seconded by Councilor Czernicki.

Councilor Adil asked Mr. Hughes how the program has come to ING and to explain the program.

Mr. Hughes said that ING approached the Town during the 2003-2004 budget deliberations to explain the program. He said that between the Town's and Board of Education's part time and seasonal staff, a savings of approximately \$100,000 can be realized. He said that the product to fund the retirement plan is a fixed annuity requiring that monies placed into the fund by the employees has to be guaranteed. The chosen plan has a 3% minimum guarantee. Mr. Hughes has reviewed all of the plan specifics with Town Manager Bonnie Therrien and has met with part time staff and finds the program to be a distinct advantage for the Town.

Councilor Adil asked Mr. Hughes to explain the savings to the Town. Mr. Hughes said that presently the Town

contributes a matching 6.2% amount of the employees' social security tax. If the employee opts for the alternative plan, their social security amount goes into the annuity and the Town no longer has to match the amount. This accounts to approximately \$60,000 on the Town side. Mr. Hughes said that when a participating employee leaves employment with the Town they can withdraw the funds without penalty or keep it in the plan for the future. He said that the contract is with the Town and each employee has their own separate enrollment.

Councilor Forrest thanked and congratulated Mr. Hughes for coming up with this proposal that will benefit both employees and taxpayers in Wethersfield.

Councilor Montinieri asked the Town Manager if the Town Attorney has reviewed the contract. The Town Manager answered that the Town Attorney is presently looking it over.

Mr. Hughes said that this plan is not unique to the Town of Wethersfield. He said that the plan is offered in Towns throughout the State of Connecticut.

Chairperson Morin asked the Town Manager to explain what the next steps will be should the Council approve the Alternative Plan. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that, under the Wethersfield Charter, a request for proposal would have to be offered in case there are other companies interested in facilitating the Plan. Tonight's vote would be to approve or not the implementation of the plan. At a future Council meeting there would need to be a vote to award the plan to a particular facilitator.

Councilor Czernicki verified that the implementation would not occur until approval of the Town Attorney. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this is correct.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Deputy Mayor Karangekis ABSTAINED. The motion passed 5-0-1.

BIDS

Webb School

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that both Mr. David Drake, Chairman of the Building Committee - Webb School, and Mr. Thomas DiMauro, General Contractor are both present at the meeting to answer questions.

Mr. Drake brought forward the results of the Webb School Renovations Bid which has been reviewed and voted upon by the Building Committee. Mr. Drake said that the bids came in close to what was expected.

Councilor Adil moved "**TO AWARD THE BIDS FOR THE WEBB SCHOOL PROJECT AS FOLLOWS:**

ASBESTOS ABATEMENT	OSCAR'S ABATEMENT	\$140,950
GENERAL TRADES	ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTION	\$1,153,686
SITE CONSTRUCTION	PALAZZO CONSTRUCTION	\$419,050
ALUMINUM WINDOWS	SWI GLASS & METAL	\$128,800
ACOUSTICAL CEILINGS	CENTRAL CT ACOUSTICS	\$124,362
FINISH FLOORS	PRO. FLOOR COVERING	\$182,841
PAINTING	DEMONTE PAINTING	\$63,000
DRYWALL	DRYWALL ASSOCIATES	\$170,523
KITCHEN EQUIPMENT	WAREHOUSE STORE FIXTURES	\$108,000
FIRE SPRINKLERS	WETHERELL CORPORATION	\$66,910
PLUMBING	NETTLETON MECHANICAL	\$277,850
MECHANICAL	HHS MECH. CONTRACTORS	\$1,391,946
ELECTRICAL	T & T ELECTRICAL CONT.	\$655,795

AWARDS BASED ON LOW BIDDERS AFTER REJECTION OF ALTERNATES 3, 12 AND 13. ACCEPTANCE OF ALL OTHER ALTERNATES HAS BEEN DEFERRED BY THE BUILDING COMMITTEE", seconded by Councilor Montinieri.

Councilor Forrest asked what the General Trades bid includes since there are a number of trades listed as separate bids. Mr. Drake said that the General Trades bid fills in all the holes for work not covered by the other trades listed. Mr. DiMauro said that in this case the General Trades includes the concrete work, steel, doors and hardware, demolition, and general conditions items.

Councilor Montinieri said that the notes provided to the Council state that the bid prices do not allow for the complete renovation to take place. She asked for an explanation of this. Mr. Drake said that some of the bidders have been difficult and that there is only one bidder for some of the bid packages. He said that some items are being broken into smaller pieces to see how much money remains in the contingency fund down the road. He said that this pertains particularly to the windows.

Councilor Adil asked Mr. Drake what the plan is for the windows. Mr. Drake said that the plan is to get all of the windows on the Willow Street side done first and the rest of the windows will be addressed when it is determined what is left in the contingency fund. At that time he will address the Council again to either obtain more funding or leave the project as it is. Councilor Adil asked if the funding for the windows will need to be put into the 2005-2006 budget. Mr. Drake said that he may be able to complete the windows with the funding he has; however, some of the windows may need to be deferred. Councilor Adil asked if there are any other items that will need to be deferred until the end of the project. Mr. Drake said that the rest of the project looks O.K.

Councilor Czernicki thanked both Mr. Drake and Mr. DiMauro for all of the work they are doing. Councilor Czernicki asked if the Town has had a good experience with any of the contractors proposed. Mr. DiMauro said that many of the contractors have also worked on the Silas Deane Middle School project and the Town has had good experiences with all of them.

Councilor Forrest left the meeting at this time (9:30 p.m.).

Councilor Montinieri thanked the Building Committee for all of their hard work.

Councilor Adil asked Mr. Drake about the problem with the fencing at the Stillman Building. Mr. Drake explained that the parking lot size has been increased and a fence is needed to protect the baseball field. He said that this presents an issue with the Historical Society. Mr. Drake said that the project has been put off at this time.

Councilor Forrest returned to the meeting at this time (9:32 p.m.).

Chairperson Morin thanked Mr. Drake for his and his Committee members' hard work for the Town.

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

Heating Oil and Diesel Fuel

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the Town has the opportunity to either lock in to a rate or float. She considered locking into a rate; however they are currently very high. She advised the Council to float the heating oil and diesel fuel prices stating that the Town can lock in the rate at any time.

Councilor Forrest moved **"THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL VOTE TO FLOAT THE DIESEL AND HEATING OIL RATES UNTIL FURTHER ACTION BY THE TOWN COUNCIL, BUT AWARD THE BID TO DIME OIL COMPANY"**, seconded by Councilor Montinieri.

Councilor Adil suggested that the Council lock into a rate when there is a drop in the fuel rates.

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

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

RESOLUTION CONCERNING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE REVISED WETHERSFIELD TOWN CHARTER

WHEREAS, the Charter Revision Commission has completed its review of the present Charter, and has held a public hearing pursuant to Section 7-190 of the Connecticut General Statutes and Section 908 of the Charter of the Town of Wethersfield to receive additional input from the citizens of Wethersfield; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wethersfield Town Council will hold a public hearing on the draft report in accordance with Section 7-191 (b) of the Connecticut General Statutes at its regular meeting on Monday, July 19, 2004 to receive input on the revised Wethersfield Charter as presented to the Council.

ORDINANCE TO REPEAL SECTION 149-19, \$5 FEE CHARGED TO ANY MOTOR VEHICLE TAX ACCOUNT REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES OF UNPAID MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES

WHEREAS, pursuant to enacted legislation in the February, 2004 Legislative Session, Chapter 149 of the Municipal Code of the Town of Wethersfield, Connecticut be amended by removing the \$5 fee imposed to the taxpayer if the person had been reported delinquent to the Department of Motor Vehicles;

BE IT ORDAINED, that **LOCAL ORDINANCE SECTION 149-19 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD BE REPEALED AS OF JULY 1, 2004**

MINUTES

Councilor Czernicki moved "**TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 22, 2004**", seconded by Councilor Forrest.

Councilor Forrest amended the minutes to list Chairperson Morin as voting AYE and NAY respectively in the two roll call votes on page 16680.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:40 p.m., Councilor Forrest moved "**TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**" seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis.

Councilor Czernicki, noticing a number of people still in the audience, asked Chairperson Morin if it would be appropriate to make a motion to allow for a three-minute per person public comment period at the end of the Council meeting since it is still early. None of the Councilors expressed interest in this.

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

At 10:08 p.m., Councilor Adil moved "**TO ENTER BACK INTO THE REGULAR MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Councilor Adil moved "**TO ALLOW THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPAND THE NON-UNION MANAGERS SALARY RANGES BY 2%**", seconded by Deputy Mayor Karangekis. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

At 10:09 p.m., Councilor Adil moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Czernicki. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk