

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

REGULAR MEETING JUNE 16, 2003

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, June 16, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

Chairperson Czernicki stated that there will be an Executive Session to discuss the matter of Damiano vs. Darby following the regular meeting.

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

Present: Councilors Cascio, Fitzpatrick, Flynn, Gardow, Hemmann, Morin (7:40), Deputy Mayor O'Connor (7:05) and Chairperson Czernicki.

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

PROCLAMATION: Wethersfield High School Girls' Gymnastics Team

Chairperson Czernicki presented the Proclamation to the Team and their Coach, Sandra Byrne. Coach Byrne thanked the Town Council for this honor. She introduced the team members and the assistant coach. Coach Byrne said that the team set their goals and achieved them this year by working hard and never losing sight of them. Coach Byrne also thanked the Recreation and Parks Department for their support.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION: Clark Tomlinson & Jon Daly for Televising the Town Council Meetings.

Chairperson Czernicki said that Wethersfield residents are able to view the Town Council meetings at home on Channel 14 thanks to the efforts of Clark Tomlinson and Jon Daly. They have done a great service to both the Council and the Town.

Mr. Tomlinson thanked the Council and said that the experience has opened his eyes to how local government is run. Mr. Daly thanked all of the other volunteers around Wethersfield. He helps to continue to serve the Town by volunteering.

PROCLAMATION: Memorial Day Parade Support from Wethersfield Schools

Chairperson Czernicki said that Councilor Cascio decided that it would be a great idea for the schools in Town to advertise the Memorial Day Parade and Cemetery Service followed by placing signs outside the schools.

Marie Gray, Supervisor of Social Studies and the Arts said that the most important job that a teacher has is to help students put the pieces together; to integrate between one subject and another. When Councilor Cascio called her to ask if this project could be done, Mrs. Gray thought that it would be a perfect way for Art to be integrated with Social Studies. The project brought together talented students and the concept of Memorial Day. Mrs. Gray introduced Administrators from the schools who in turn introduced some of the student participants. Mrs. Gray said that the signs have been stored at the schools and can be updated for use next year.

PRESENTATION: Wethersfield Library New Hours of Operation

Greg Curtain, Chairman of the Library Board, explained that although the 2003/2004 budget amount for the Library is an increase over the current year, there have been several increases in expenses which net out to an actual decrease in available funds. More funds need to be spent on computers and related technology. The quality of the service that the Library delivers has improved and the Library did not want to let that quality degrade. Therefore, the Board had to cut

the library hours in order to decrease staffing costs. The Library will now be open every Saturday year round. In order to accommodate the Saturday hours, the week day hours had to be trimmed. The Library will still be open 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, but will close at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and at 1:00 p.m. on Fridays. The Council has asked that the Library Board review this in three months. Library use is way up and loans are up 49% in the past five years and new services are being provided. The Library Board thanks the Council for putting the funds back in the budget for allowing for the Saturday opening.

Councilor Cascio said that the new Library hours will be announced on Channel 14. He also said that Mr. Curtin overlooked mentioning the internet connection for the Library. Mr. Curtin said that although the Library will be closed at certain times, the website will be open at all times. Councilor Cascio said that the Library hours will coincide during the summer with the Town Hall summer hours.

Chairperson Czernicki asked where else the new Library hours are being publicized. Laurel Goodgion, Library Director, said that notices will be passed out at the Library as well as a press release to be published.

Councilor Cascio moved "**TO REMOVE ITEMS C.2.b and C.2.j FROM THE TABLE**", seconded by Councilor Flynn. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HEARINGS

Resolution Authorizing the Funding of the Wethersfield Board of Education to Initiate Roof Replacement Work at the Charles Wright Elementary School

Resolution Authorizing the Town Manager and Chief of Police to Apply for a Federal U.S. Department of Justice Grant for School Resource Officer

George A. Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, commented on the Resolution for the School Resource Officer. Mr. Ruhe is a 78-year-old, World War II Veteran whose life has been influenced a great deal by his service. It often affects the way he looks at government. He loves his country and his flag, but he is not always in agreement with his government. Mr. Ruhe cited a quote by John Adams in 1774. Mr. Adams, as well as Mr. Ruhe, showed concern with the intrusion of government into our daily lives. The Resolution being proposed allows for more intrusion of the Federal Government at the Town level. Mr. Ruhe feels that it smacks of Police State monitoring. He feels that it will have a negative impact on the young people at the school and is not in the best interest of the children. He is surprised that Superintendent Proctor is going along with this Resolution. This Resolution allows for creeping costs in government. If Wethersfield truly needs more Police for situations which require attention, Mr. Ruhe advises that we let Chief Cetran prove the need to the Council and let the Council act appropriately and sell the action to the taxpayers. In this case only, would Mr. Ruhe support the action.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, said that the U.S. Department of Justice Grant Resolution is too broad and vague; and he finds it to be an intrusion into people's lives. He does not think that we have a problem and that this Resolution is a way to fill up the underutilized Police Facility. The Grant is to be submitted by June 12 in order for us to be eligible, and here it is June 16 already. We need to ask ourselves if we want to follow the conditions that are tied into the Grant. Mr. Young does not approve of the Resolution and hopes that the Council will turn it down.

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. The Association is not in favor of hiring any more Police Officers; especially for the purpose of putting Officers into the schools. It breaks down the trust of the students in the Administrators. The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. would like to see proof that there is indeed a problem in the schools and what the cost would be for Officers in the schools. If there is a problem in the schools, we should handle it ourselves by having Chief Cetran send an officer out to the schools.

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

GENERAL COMMENTS

Penny Kolaczanko, 182 Forest Drive, is the owner of the two dogs who attacked a woman's dog on Forest Drive. She said that the article in the newspaper is an attack on her dogs and her family. She clarified that the Dog Warden was misquoted in the article. She said that her dogs have never attacked another dog before. Ms. Kolaczanko supports the dog ordinance and thought that she was doing a good job in containing her dogs; however apparently she is not because the dogs keep getting out. She called her vet and asked if she should have her dogs put to sleep and her vet said to inform the Dog Warden that the other dog was in her yard most times the dog is walked by Ms. Kolaczanko's property. She was told by the Dog Warden that she did not have to put her dogs to sleep. She was actually shocked that after her dogs attacking twice, she was still allowed to keep them. She has found placement for one of her dogs and if it doesn't work out, she will have the dog put down. Ms. Kolaczanko hopes to keep up with the new ordinance and follow it closely. She would like to be part of the development of the ordinance. Chairperson Czernicki said that the ordinance has been referred to the Public Safety Committee and that Councilor Cascio, through the Dog Warden, may contact Ms. Kolaczanko for additional information.

Jim Clynch, 903 Ridge Road, said that he spoke with the Assessor this afternoon and that he is recommending that the tax abatement for Veterans be tabled. Mr. Clynch provided Councilors with a handout he had written with regard to Public Act 03-44, Optional Increases in Veterans' Property Tax.

Rick Garrey, 35 Harding Street, spoke to remind Councilors that the Council meetings are televised on Channel 16, not Channel 14. He said this week will be the season finale of Wethersfield Live on Channel 14. He said that he agrees with Mr. Clynch regarding the Veterans' Property Tax abatement. Lastly, he said that in working at Wethersfield T.V., he has worked with Wethersfield students in the past and is very impressed with the High School students. He has sent letters to Dr. Proctor and Mr. Moore to express how responsible and fantastic Wethersfield High School students are. Anything we can do to show that we trust and respect them will go a long way. If we don't need an Officer at the school, let's not put one there and send the wrong message.

Bill Scully, 86 Forest Drive, said that the dog issue is about the responsibility of the owners of the dogs and not about the dogs themselves. Ms. Kolanchankle received only a ticket for the attack of her dog on another. Ms. Kolanchankle has been very cooperative; however there needs to be something done about dog owner responsibility.

Sandi Kendrick, 194 Forest Drive, has spoken to the past Town Manager, the Interim Town Manager and the current Town Manager to ask that the potholes in Timber Village be checked out and filled. She received a Town Engineer report stating that they were 52nd on the list to be done. Timber Village streets have not been repaved since 1974. When the sewers were installed, the street was only overlaid. This area looks like a shanty town in comparison to the more affluent sections of Town. The residents are being ignored. Ms. Kendrick has a petition with more than two hundred signatures requesting that the streets in Timber Village be taken care of. The conditions of these streets are a menace and a safety issue. She urged members of the Council to walk these streets and see for themselves the terrible condition they are in. Chairperson Czernicki said that she spoke with Ms. Kendrick once and at that time Mr. Hart went out to see the streets. She never received any further information other than the copy of the petition sent by registered mail last week. She cannot say why the streets have not been done. There is a system for repairing the streets and Chairperson Czernicki asked Town Manager Bonnie Therrien to speak on the matter. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that there is a pavement management program that grades each street depending on the street's usage. Griswold Road and Ridge Road have probably been maintained more often because they are main arteries and have higher traffic. The Timber Village section has a ranking of fifty-two; it is not 52nd on the list of areas to be maintained. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that vehicle taxes do not go exclusively to road repairs; they go into the Town's General Fund.

Richard Prescott, 44 Somerset Street, is concerned about the elimination of the grass clipping program as of July 1. He asked if the Council has done a study of charging residents for the service. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that there has not been a proposal put forward to charge for the service. Mr. Prescott handed out to Council members a study that he conducted regarding the cost of the service. He thinks that residents would be willing to pay for the service. He believes that grass disposal should be provided for homeowners to maintain beautiful yards and landscapes. Providing proper disposal means will eliminate improper disposal methods by some homeowners. He asked that the program be reconsidered.

Aurelio Interlande, 249 Willow Street, said that he would be willing to pay for the grass clipping service. He does not like to keep grass clippings on his soil. He said that what we need is organization, coordination and cooperation.

Morris Yondo, 84 Farms Village Road, corrected Ms. Kendrick by saying that he has lived in that area for forty-five years and as far as he knows the streets have not been repaved in that amount of time. They have been patched, but that is it.

Art Hudon, 23 Farms Village Road, has lived at this address for forty years and has been active in Town politics. He can recall the Republicans and Democrats putting into their platforms the beautification of the Silas Deane Highway. He would like to put in a plank for the beautification of Forest Drive. It is a disgusting mess. There are not sidewalks and people can get injured while walking, biking, etc. This is a very dangerous situation. Maintenance and safety are key issues that the Council should be responding to.

Pat Yagmin, 27 Jay Street, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Nature Center. As President she oversees many opportunities for the enhancement and growth of the Nature Center. Excellent programs are provided for Town citizens and the Center is also branching out to other communities as well. With a larger facility, bigger and better programs can be promoted. On Saturday, June 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the Center is holding an open house at the Moeller Home which will mark the beginning of an intense fund raising campaign. This project must be acted on before we lose funding.

Paul Courchaine, 481 Main Street, spoke as President of the Village Improvement Association, as President of the Wethersfield Preservation Trust, and as a member of the Wethersfield Tourism Commission. Each organization has different agendas, but the one thing they have in common is the appearance of the Town. These organizations are adding their voices to the appeal made by the residents of Spring Street/Middletown relative to mediating the recently completed work there. The site is appalling. Concerns to be addressed include the guard rail, the rip rap, the parking lot, screening trees, and water flow. One of the ways to address these concerns could be to organize a "Beautify Wethersfield" weekend and request the service of other volunteer groups in Town. We could get Physical Services to relocate the "Welcome" sign. The Town Manager has reviewed the process and claims that the contractors "followed the book". This is unacceptable. We did this to ourselves and we have to correct it.

Bill Haines, 516 Highland Street, spoke on behalf of the Friends of the Wethersfield Nature Center. He is excited to have the Council involved in the Nature Center program. He thanked Town Manager Bonnie Therrien for getting up to speed with the Center's thoughts and concerns about making this a first class nature center for this area. The Nature Center wants to acknowledge the contributions of Eleanor Buck Wolf to the Wethersfield Conversation Commission and for her dedication to the Friends of the Wethersfield Nature Center. Mr. Haines presented the new Nature Center logo which includes an owl in the corner. The open house is to involve more citizens in the fund raising concerns and efforts. Mr. Haines congratulated Chairperson Czernicki for being recognized as the Kay Feeney recipient for the tri-town YMCA.

John Callahan, 62 Forest Drive, has lived at this address for forty-three years. Before this he was residing on Nott Street. He is ashamed of the partnership between the Town and the citizens who live here. The homes in the Timber Village area are all well-kept and the streets are a mess. Mr. Callahan does not remember the Town doing anything to the streets except to fill potholes. The citizens are doing their part and the Town needs to do theirs.

Perry Cornwall, 61 Wells Road, said that prior to Eleanor Wolf's death, he, Skip McGurkin and Pemrose Wolf met at her home to discuss different possibilities for Eleanor's vision of having a single location for the Nature Center. It was suggested to add on to the Pitkin facility and Eleanor said that she'd withdraw her support. She wanted a single standing building. It was suggested that another look be taken at the Moeller Home and the idea has since grown to where it is today. It is a wonderful location next to Mill Woods Park. A Nature Center right on a main drag in Town would be great for tourism. It is very visible and would be a great attraction for Wethersfield. It is an ideal location with access to a beautiful park. The Center would be able to grow and continue to expand on their programs.

Ed Kardas, 850 Cloverdale Circle, addressed the selection and charge of the Charter Revision Commission. He read a quote from a speech which stated that we have become a nation of spectators not citizens. We need to define our purpose. We must understand what is desirable, what is good, what is beautiful, what we must have, what we merely

want, and what is the good life for which we all yearn. Who determines the answers and do they consider us pliable material to be simply molded into shape. People anywhere are more apt to become more fully involved in our governmental process if they are treated right and are given an opportunity to be responsible along each step of the process. The updated Wethersfield Town Charter could be used to enhance our current value system and bring us into the 21st Century.

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

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO ACCEPT THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FUNDING OF THE WETHERSFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION TO INITIATE ROOF REPLACEMENT WORK AT THE CHARLES WRIGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL"**, seconded by Councilor Morin.

Councilor Flynn verified with Town Manager Bonnie Therrien that the Town staff is very comfortable with the \$456,550 fee for repairs, yet the Board of Education staff has, as of May 27, renewed their opinion that the cost will be \$502,600. He asked why the Board is holding to this figure. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that perhaps it was not communicated to the Board that the Town feels strongly that the repairs can be done for the \$456,550.

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

Councilor Morin moved **"TO ACCEPT THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER AND CHIEF OF POLICE TO APPLY FOR A FEDERAL U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE GRANT FOR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER"**, seconded by Councilor Flynn.

Councilor Gardow is looking for something from the Board of Education with their need for this grant. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien suggests that Council tables this until they hear back from the Board of Education.

Councilor Flynn suggests that rather than tabling this resolution, Council refer it to Public Safety as there have been many questions raised by residents.

Councilor Fitzpatrick said that he supports this resolution and has first hand experience with this program. There is a concern with the intrusion of government and this resolution is similar to a time when Police Officers used to walk the beat and would visit stores and meet the people. At the school where Councilor Fitzpatrick teaches, children get to know the Officer and vice versa and talk to each other about issues. This is an important program and he encourages people to look at it in this way rather than as a breach to our First Amendment rights. Regarding the fiscal impact, the program in Manchester uses Officers that are on staff. They spend nine months in the schools and during the summer they cover overtime due to vacations. Also, we are constantly having turnover and it takes 6-10 months to bring a new Officer on. If this program doesn't work, we will still have trained Officers who can go out onto the streets. If this goes to Public Safety, Councilor Fitzpatrick encourages that these points are considered.

Councilor Morin agreed with Councilor Fitzpatrick and asked Town Manager Bonnie Therrien where we stand with the due date of the application. Chairperson Czernicki said that the department has already applied for the grant. Should the Council not approve the resolution; the grant application can be withdrawn. Chief Cetran said that there are no ramifications.

Councilor Hemmann supports the concept. She had a discussion with the Youth Officer regarding this type of program. It is more than just having an Officer at the school; it is looking at the Officer being used in an educational sense; it develops a friendship that could assist some youths who need it. It is a positive program.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked if this needs to go to Public Safety or should it go to Shared Services if what Council wants is input from the Board of Education.

Councilor Flynn said that he has no concerns either way.

Councilor Cascio said that this needs to be put on the agenda for the next Board of Education meeting so that they can vote on the issue.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she has spoken to Dr. Proctor and that she has requested a response by the Council's July 7 meeting so as not to hold up this resolution.

Chairperson Czernicki verified that what is requested is a response from the Board of Education rather than referring this resolution to Public Safety.

Councilor Gardow said that one of the concerns is the cost of this program. It is not 100% funded by the Federal Government. We would need to divide the salary costs and this may need to go to Shared Services. This is a program utilized by the schools and shouldn't be funded solely by the Town.

Chairperson Czernicki asked Councilor Gardow if he would be satisfied with the Board of Education taking this up at their next meeting and determining whether or not they felt there is a need for the Officer and also if they would be willing to fund the program. Councilor Gardow said that this would be satisfactory.

Councilor Gardow asked Chief Cetran if we would need to purchase a vehicle for this Officer. Chief Cetran said that we would not need to purchase an additional vehicle. Chief Cetran said that he would put an existing staff member into the school. This Officer would have shown a propensity to this type of service.

Councilor Cascio moved "**TO TABLE THE RESOLUTION FOR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER UNTIL INFORMATION IS RECEIVED FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**", seconded by Councilor Morin. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Regular Meeting, October 21, 2002

Chairperson Czernicki said that there are three versions of the minutes provided to Councilors.

Councilor Flynn suggested that Councilors bring their separate comments to the Town Clerk.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor said that this has already been done and the minutes were tabled.

Town Clerk Sassano said that the version reading "revised" contains the verbatim comments of the meeting.

Councilor Morin moved "**TO ACCEPT THE REVISED MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2002 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**", seconded by Councilor Gardow. Councilors Fitzpatrick, Flynn, Gardow, Hemmann and Morin voted AYE. Deputy Mayor O'Connor voted NAY. Councilor Cascio and Chairperson Czernicki abstained. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 5-1-2.

Mill Woods Master Plan

Councilor Flynn moved "**TO REFER THE MILL WOODS MASTER PLAN TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**", seconded by Councilor Morin.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked Director of Recreation & Parks Kathy Bagley if she has met yet with the Friends of the Nature Center concerning their plans for the Moeller Home. Ms. Bagley said that they have met numerous times over the past couple of months. Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked her if they are aware of part of the plan being that a road will go right through part of the parking lot. Ms. Bagley said that they discussed the master plan which includes the assumption that the Moeller Home may be a Park & Recreation building at some time. They will not lose any parking spots with the proposed road.

Councilor Cascio asked Ms. Bagley if all questions that were asked have been answered. Ms. Bagley said that to the best of her knowledge they have been. Councilor Cascio asked if the Town Manager could speak on any future

bonding for the Town of Wethersfield.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that we can do bonding up to a certain point and that it is her feeling that enough bonding has already been gone through. She recommends that the Financial Advisor for the Town do a long-range bonding plan to see how much more can be afforded. She would then present this information at a meeting in July.

Councilor Cascio asked if this is sent to Planning & Zoning, do they have a period of time in which to approve it. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that they have thirty days by State Statute to report out or it's automatically accepted.

Councilor Cascio asked if the plan submitted to Planning & Zoning is beyond the conceptual plan or is it close to the finished product. Ms. Bagley said that the plan is the Master Plan and it is a conceptual plan and is by no means a finished product. Councilor Cascio said that the Council will not be able to make any significant changes to the plan in the thirty days that Planning & Zoning has it. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this is correct. Councilor Cascio said that if Planning & Zoning does not act on it then the conceptual plan is what will be passed. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the plan can be refined and it can also be sent back to Planning & Zoning again. Councilor Cascio supports the plan but does not know if we have a process that can be followed.

Councilor Hemmann asked Ms. Bagley if Planning & Zoning will also be considering the appropriate number of parking spaces if the Moeller Home is used for a Nature Center. Ms. Bagley said that Planning & Zoning will look at parking and the use for the facilities. She believes that the parking was planned to allow for the Nature Center to be at the Moeller Home.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor had asked about retractable fencing to get a dual field out of the existing lighted field. He has not gotten any feedback on his question. Ms. Bagley said that the architect does not recommend retractable fencing for a stadium type of field. It is usually used on fields that are more open. Deputy Mayor O'Connor said that the idea was to construct a field that would be accessible to a number of different sports leagues rather than limited to just one. Ms. Bagley said that a full-length soccer or football field could not fit in the area where the little league field is. This could be looked at again. Deputy Mayor O'Connor is concerned that it can't be looked at again if this plan goes to Planning and Zoning and it is approved in its present conceptual state.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that an 8-24 referral can always be sent back to Planning and Zoning if there are significant additions made to the plan.

Councilor Gardow said that the plan has some nice features, but also adds two new fields but removes three fields. He thinks that we need to find more real estate in Town for ball fields. He supports the additional little league field and soccer field because they add usage to the Park. He's not enthralled with the rest of the plan. Councilor Gardow is concerned about the future additional capital costs. He supports parts of the plan and wonders what the process is to amend the plan. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien recommends that the Council make amendments and then send it to Planning and Zoning.

Councilor Fitzpatrick supports sending this to Planning and Zoning. The plan will be changed many times before work actually begins. We have a plan in place and organizations can start little pieces of it. Sports organization can begin to apply for grants. We cannot address everything tonight.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked Town Manager Bonnie Therrien if the Town can currently afford a \$7,644,048 bond. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she cannot recommend that.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor moved "**TO TABLE THE MILL WOODS MASTER PLAN**", seconded by Councilor Gardow. Councilors Cascio, Gardow, Hemmann, Deputy Mayor O'Connor, and Chairperson Czernicki voted AYE. Councilors Fitzpatrick, Flynn, and Morin voted NAY. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 5-3-0.

Chairperson Czernicki said that the motion to table indicates the need for more information in order to send a more accurate plan to Planning and Zoning. She also noted that memos from Kathy Bagley indicate that she will be seeking

private funding or grants. Ms. Bagley said that she cannot begin to seek funds without a plan in place. Chairperson Czernicki asked Councilors to get their questions to Ms. Bagley as soon as possible so that we can move forward with this plan. Chairperson Czernicki asked if the parking for the Moeller Home would be the same as Montanaro field. Ms. Bagley said that the master plan provides for a separate parking lot for the Montanaro field. Chairperson Czernicki asked how far the talks have gone in speaking with those interested in using the Moeller Home. Ms. Bagley said that the discussions have been just with the Department and the Friends of the Nature Center. The next Recreation and Parks Advisory Board meeting will be a week from Thursday and that Ms. Bagley said that she can add the Moeller Home on to the agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS

Moeller Home

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that moving the Nature Center to the Moeller Home has been an ongoing issue for quite some time. It was at one point even discussed to move the offices of the Parks & Recreation over to the Moeller Home as well. She and Chairperson Czernicki have spoken with the Friends of the Nature Center about doing fund raising to help with the cost of moving the Nature Center as well as ongoing costs. The Board voted that they would try to do some fundraising. The total on hand currently is \$500,000. The cost to move the Nature Center is approximated at \$655,719. The Friends are willing to allow funds for preliminary design for the renovations. This would not need to go to a further 8-24 referral.

Councilor Flynn moved **"TO ALLOW THE FRIENDS OF THE NATURE CENTER AND TOWN STAFF TO BEGIN THE PRELIMINARY DESIGN FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE MOELLER HOME TO BE USED BY THE NATURE CENTER"**, seconded by Councilor Morin.

Councilor Cascio asked if preliminary design plans have already been developed. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that there are some plans but adjustments need to be made to accommodate the Nature Center only. Councilor Cascio asked what will happen to all of the material currently stored at the Moeller Home. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that part of the renovations downstairs will take storage areas into consideration.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked if the storage is moved down into the basement, will an entrance into the basement be provided. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that some sort of access will have to be provided. It is proposed that the Friends of the Nature Center will not use the basement of the building.

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

Selection and Charge of Charter Revision Commission

Chairperson Czernicki moved **"TO APPOINT DAVID HEROLD, LEIGH STANDISH, CHRISTOPHER HEALY, GERALDINE MUNROE, DANIEL CAMILLIERE, DORCAS MCHUGH, AND GERALDINE ROBERTS TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION FOR A TERM BEGINNING JUNE 16, 2003 FOR NO MORE THAN SIXTEEN MONTHS"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor O'Connor.

Councilor Cascio asked that the Town Clerk explain the process as well as who could and couldn't serve on this Commission.

Town Clerk Sassano explained that the first step of the process was that the Town Manager requested that those interested in serving on the Commission submit their names. The names were then submitted to the screening committees who choose the members of the Commission. There can be two members of the Commission who also hold public office. Those two members are Geraldine Munroe who is a Justice of the Peace, and Geraldine Roberts who is a member of the Board of Education. Any other appointees who are currently holding public office will be resigning from their Board or Commission. Councilors cannot serve on the Charter Revision Commission.

Councilor Gardow asked if the members have to resign their current public office before Council appoints them to the Charter Revision Commission. Town Clerk Sassano said that she has already received some letters of resignation and

the others have said that they will resign should they be appointed.

Councilor Cascio asked if any of the appointees wish to run for Council, would this jeopardize their position. Town Clerk Sassano said that they would have to resign from the Charter Revision Commission if elected to Town Council. They could run, but they would make the commission out of compliance. Only two members of the Charter Revision Commission may hold public office and no one on Council may hold any other public office. Town Clerk Sassano will check the legality of this with the Town Attorney.

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

Chairperson Czernicki suggested that the Town Manager send each appointee a letter informing them of the Charter Revision issues already raised and that they be invited to the July 7, 2003 meeting to be officially appointed to the Charter Revision Commission, as well as being given the Town Council's charge.

Animal Control Ordinance

Chairperson Czernicki said that the Town Manager has provided information to the Public Safety Committee. Councilor Cascio said that a meeting has not been scheduled yet, but he is looking forward to holding a meeting to discuss this issue.

Councilor Cascio moved "**TO REFER THE ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE TO PUBLIC SAFETY**", seconded by Councilor Flynn. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

List of Blighted Properties - Property Maintenance Code

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that the Property Maintenance Code requires that she submit a preliminary list to the Council within thirty days. She has provided the list to Council and there may be more coming. The Town staff would like more time to review the list; therefore Town Manager Bonnie

Therrien suggests tabling this until July 7.

Councilor Cascio moved "**TO TABLE THE LIST OF BLIGHTED PROPERTIES**", seconded by Councilor Flynn. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Gardow voted NAY. The motion passed 8-1-0.

Chairperson Czernicki asked Town Manager Bonnie Therrien to explain the procedure for reporting a blighted property. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that a notification in writing should be sent to her and she will have it researched and brought to the Council.

Scope of Services/Fee - Town Hall/Library Renovations

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that a recommendation from Chairman Joe Coombs has been distributed to Councilors. The recommendation is to stay with the firm of Tuthill & Wells. The scope of services includes the items originally requested as well as the chimney work. The firm will also put together the ADA specs for the Small Cities grant. The Building Committee and Town Manager Bonnie Therrien recommend Council's endorsement of this scope of services along with the pricing so that the project can move forward. She said that Chairman Joe Coombs is in attendance if Council has any questions.

Councilor Morin moved "**TO ACCEPT THE FIRM OF TUTHILL & WELLS' SCOPE OF SERVICES AND FEES FOR TOWN HALL/LIBRARY RENOVATIONS**", seconded by Councilor Flynn.

Councilor Fitzpatrick said that there is a charge involved in doing the paperwork for the ADA Grant. He asked what the \$19,000 charge is for. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the \$19,000 is for Tuthill & Wells to do the schematics of the work, not to administer the Grant. The administration of the Grant and the labor will be done in-

house. The Small Cities regulations require that an architect put together the specs and schematics. Councilor Fitzpatrick asked if this budget presented is the one that Council will be required to follow. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she can provide a more detailed breakdown of the budget. Councilor Fitzpatrick was concerned with the Police Facility Grant that the budget was too general and that money was transferred back and forth between items. He'd like to have more information with this Grant to know when we are under and over in spending as we move along in the process. Mr. Coombs said that once the architect is on board, part of his task is to define the budget.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked about the letter from Peter Wells on June 12. Mr. Wells specifically states that a considerable amount of redesign will be needed due to the changes in the building program. This letter seems to indicate that there will be additional costs. Mr. Coombs said that he, Town Manager Bonnie Therrien and Town Engineer Mike Turner had a discussion with the architect and Mr. Wells will be advised that he has to stick with the original program rather than make changes. We cannot keep modifying and expanding the program. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that once Council votes on the cap of \$180,000, Mr. Wells can be notified in writing that this is the amount he cannot exceed. Deputy Mayor O'Connor is concerned that there will be shortcuts taken to make up for the redesign that Mr. Wells states is necessary. Mr. Coombs said that Mr. Wells will not be taking any shortcuts as far as he is aware.

Councilor Gardow verified that the scope includes the chimney work and the work at the Community Center. He attended a recent Building Committee meeting and there was discussion about air conditioning vents that are falling apart. He asked if the repair of these is part of the scope. Mr. Coombs said that they are part of maintenance and capital improvements. Councilor Gardow asked why this couldn't be combined with the work on the chimney. Mr. Coombs said that the bond issued is for new construction and the air conditioners have been around for some time and are capital improvement/maintenance issues. The bond issue passed three years ago did not address these issues. Mr. Coombs forewarned Councilors that the work in the Town Hall will amount to discoveries. Many things have been done to the building that have not been recorded. We will be discovering these changes and we will need to see how much we can correct with the money we have.

Councilor Cascio said that the issue of wiring and technology came up at a Shared Services meeting. He asked if our technology level in the building is part of the scope of services. Mr. Coombs said that there will need to be additional wiring for computers. Councilor Cascio also said that electrical wiring needs to be looked at as well. He said that the paid staff needs to take ownership of the project and not leave it all on the shoulders of Mr. Coombs and his committee.

Councilor Fitzpatrick asked what the 9.4% for construction is for. Mr. Coombs said that it is for both projects. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the 9.4% is for the entire project, 12.2% is for the library, and 6.9% is for the renovation of the Town Hall. She also said that she would clarify Councilor Fitzpatrick's debt issuance concern. She said that we pay on the contingency, but not on the debt. Mr. Coombs said that the money issued is getting old. Inflation and wage increases set in and the longer we wait, the more the project will cost. Councilor Fitzpatrick said that he does not want to delay the project, but he doesn't like being made to feel like he has to vote on this or he will be causing problems. He doesn't like being put in this position.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor said that he does not necessarily agree with Mr. Coombs' comment on inflation and wage increases. In today's economy, he does not think that time will cost us money, but rather it could actually save us money. Mr. Coombs said that the prevailing wage law comes up every July and if there are any increments due, we must pay them.

Councilor Hemmann asked that close track be kept of any Town Hall "discoveries". If there are recommendations that the architect can make at the time the designs are developed, this would be helpful information to the Council.

Councilor Gardow feels that this is the second time in as many meetings that Councilors have been put in this position of being backed into a corner to approve. He would feel more comfortable waiting to get information on the "discoveries" in the building before moving forward with this.

Chairperson Czernicki agreed that there is a lot of information being presented to Councilors this evening. The information did not go out on Friday afternoon, as the Town Manager had hoped it would, because the Town copy

machine had broken down. She asked Mr. Coombs what a two-week delay would mean to the project. Mr. Coombs said that it would put off hiring the architect and he would not commence his work until Council approves. There is a tremendous amount of logistics that has to be addressed by the architect. The delay could be critical in the overall project. An active plan has to be adopted to move departments around as well as items being stored at the Moeller Home. Mr. Coombs said that the "discoveries" will not be found until we commence with demolition.

Councilor Fitzpatrick doesn't like that it will be Council's fault that this does not move forward. The process of choosing the architect has already been delayed by the Building Committee because they changed the way the architect was chosen. This already has added time to the process and it was O.K. If Council asks for two weeks to think about it, there is suddenly a problem.

Councilor Morin asked Town Manager Bonnie Therrien if she is comfortable with the proposal and she said that she is. He said that Councilor Fitzpatrick not only seems angry, but almost paranoid. Council receives change orders all the time on other projects and there is no problem voting on them. It seems that every time something comes up on this project, Councilor Fitzpatrick has an issue with it. Councilor Morin said that at some point, we have to move on.

Councilor Fitzpatrick does not believe that by simply questioning something that he should be labeled as paranoid. He is asking for additional information and does not want to be at fault for delaying projects. If Councilor Morin considers this to be paranoid, then so be it. He would like time to read the paperwork presented this evening before voting on this proposal.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor moved **"TO TABLE THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE FIRM OF TUTHILL & WELLS' SCOPE OF SERVICES AND FEES FOR TOWN HALL/LIBRARY RENOVATIONS"**, seconded by Councilor Fitzpatrick. Councilors Flynn, Gardow, Hemmann, Deputy Mayor O'Connor, and Chairperson Czernicki voted AYE. Councilors Cascio, Flynn, and Morin voted NAY. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 5-3-0.

Councilor Cascio asked if the amount of Town Hall upgrading of "discoveries" could be provided now rather than waiting three or four months down the road.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she will need to check the wording of the State Grant and the bonding because all of the funds could easily be spent just to address the current issues with the Town Hall, never mind any capital improvements. She will report back to the Council.

Acceptance of the Resignation of Joe Hart as Tree Warden

Deputy Mayor O'Connor moved **"TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF JOE HART AS TREE WARDEN"**, seconded by Councilor Flynn. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

BIDS

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR A DUMP TRUCK TO BIDDER #1 INTERSTATE FORD"**, seconded by Councilor Gardow.

Councilor Hemmann asked Town Manager Bonnie Therrien why the amount is a significant difference from the budgeted amount. The Town Manager said that she was not part of putting the bid together, but that she can find out why there is such a difference.

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

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT - GREENFIELD PLAYGROUND TO CREATIVE RECREATION COMPANY - IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,123"**, seconded by Councilor Gardow. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor moved **"TO APPROVE THE SILAS DEANE MIDDLE SCHOOL CHANGE ORDERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$34,592"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING WINTERGREEN WOODS PARK TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS GRANT

Councilor Gardow moved **"TO APPOINT BONNIE THERRIEN TO THE CENTRAL CONNECTICUT HEALTH DISTRICT FOR THE TERM OF JULY 1, 2003 TO JUNE 30, 2006"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Gardow moved **"TO APPOINT BRUCE W. GRAVER TO THE SHADE TREE COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF JULY 1, 2003 TO JUNE 30, 2006"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Gardow moved **"TO APPOINT JOHN C. LEPPER AS WETHERSFIELD'S TREE WARDEN FOR THE TERM OF JULY 1, 2003 TO DECEMBER 31, 2003"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Gardow moved **"TO APPOINT JOHN HALLISEY TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF JULY 1, 2003 TO JUNE 30, 2006"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Gardow moved **"TO APPOINT THERESA A. FORSDICK TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF JULY 1, 2003 TO JUNE 30, 2006"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Gardow moved **"TO APPOINT SCOTT MURPHY TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF JULY 1, 2003 TO JUNE 30, 2006"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Gardow moved **"TO APPOINT MATTHEW CHOLEWA AS AN ALTERNATE TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF JULY 1, 2003 TO JUNE 30, 2006"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

MINUTES

Deputy Mayor O'Connor moved **"TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2, 2003 SPECIAL MEETING"**, seconded by Councilor Gardow.

Councilor Flynn amended the minutes on page 16091 to read "to allow for increased participation including allowing for the public to comment".

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

Deputy Mayor O'Connor moved **"TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2, 2003 REGULAR MEETING"**, seconded by Councilor Gardow. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 19, 2003 REGULAR MEETING"**, seconded by Councilor Fitzpatrick. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

GENERAL COMMENTS

REPORTS

Silas Deane Middle School Renovation Project

Police Facility

Chairperson Czernicki asked Town Manager Bonnie Therrien to report on the progress of the radio system. The Town Manager said that it is ready to be turned over to Motorola by the end of this month. Chairperson Czernicki said that there is something additional on the tower at Kelleher Court and she asked if the Town Manager knows what it is. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she does not know, but she can find out. Mr. Coombs said that microwave dishes are being installed on all three towers. This was part of the initial plan. The microwave dishes complete the triangle of the three towers. Mr. Coombs said that Wethersfield will be fully functional by the end of June to mid-July.

COUNCIL

Deputy Mayor O'Connor said that there is a scheduled meeting this Thursday of the Traffic and Transportation Committee. He asked if the Forest Drive issues could be added to the agenda for this meeting. He would like information on the paving history of the area and also any scheduled future paving.

Councilor Cascio said that at the Shared Services meeting last week, three items addressed the traffic issues at the Hanmer and Charles Wright Schools. Both are still under review and it was suggested that the issues be addressed at the Traffic and Transportation Committee meeting. Councilor Cascio asked that the issues be added to the agenda as well. Another item addressed was the Munis System for the Town Hall. This has been looked at for 10-12 years. The initial cost to the Town was expected to be \$20,000 and the new proposal indicates that the cost will be \$40,000. The Committee has requested that the Town Manager work with David Whall to determine if this is something that we need to continue to pursue or not. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she was surprised about the extra dollars, especially because we don't even know if the System will work 100% on both sides. A representative will be at the next Shared Services meeting.

Councilor Gardow verified that the blighted properties list is of District 2. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that it is. She said that there could be missing pages of the list. She will get them from the Police Department and pass them along to Councilors. Councilor Gardow said that there will be a Refuse Committee meeting on June 17 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss ways of saving money by removing the weekly recycling pickup. Being that it is too late to add the grass clipping issue to that agenda; Councilor Gardow said that the topic will be discussed at another meeting.

Chairperson Czernicki pointed out that a farewell reception will be held for Bob Buganski and that Councilors are invited. Also, Councilors are invited to the Colonial Revival Party on Sunday at the Webb Deane Stevens Museum.

PUBLIC

Jim Clynch, 903 Ridge Road, said that the Towns of Enfield and East Hartford have acquired vans through a Grant. Mr. Clynch has lived on Ridge Road for twenty-seven years and remembers it being repaved approximately ten years ago. Mr. Clynch thought that the Town had hired consultants a few months back to keep track of the need for paving and resurfacing Wethersfield roads. Chairperson Czernicki said that there is a system for this. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien has had conversations with Miss Kendrick prior to this evening.

Paul Flannery, 382 Ridge Road, saluted Councilor Fitzpatrick for standing up and saying no to items that Council is being pressured to approve. Mr. Flannery said that we may not be able to do the Town Hall and Library all at once. He suggests the passage of a resolution that the Council must have documentation in their possession for two weeks before they are asked to vote on an issue or proposal. There would no longer be the pressure that has been currently put on Council members.

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. He agrees with Mr. Flannery that Council members need time to review and analyze proposals and that an immediate answer cannot be expected of them. Wethersfield's contract for Dial-A-Ride runs out on June 30 and Mr. Orsini wants to know if a plan

is ready. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the contract is being extended for thirty days until the requests for proposals are submitted from outside firms. This could continue for more thirty-day extensions depending on when the RFP's are returned and an analysis received from Major Contracts. Regarding the Grant for the Police Officer at the High School, the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. has concluded that there are 26,000 residents in Wethersfield and that we need 46 Officers to protect the citizens. There is concern that we keep piling on expenses. It is fine to get the Grant from the Government, but all of the incremental costs should be absorbed by the remaining 45 Officers. We do not need to hire another Police Officer. Mr. Orsini said that the Charter Revision Committee is a "business as usual" list of members. Four to five of the seven are parts of political parties, bureaucrats. The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. was looking for fresh faces; people with new ideas. They were looking for people with Finance and IT experience; as well as small business owners, to get a new take on looking at Charter revision. The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. will be very active in the Charter Revision. The Animal Control Ordinance is a very important issue. More and more people are buying dogs. A big dog is hard for an owner to control. This is a quality of life issue. Dangerous dogs change the character of a neighborhood. The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. is not in favor of spending \$25,000 for grass clippings; however, Council may want to consider keeping the service for citizens who are willing to pay \$2 per bag. Our road budget has been cut because of reduced funding from the State, but we must think of public safety and tend to the paving and maintenance that needs to be done to our roads. Finally, Mr. Orsini said that the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. thanks all of those who worked hard on the budget and brought in a 3.1% budget tax increase. The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. is excited about the budget and also about where the Town is heading. We have done a lot in this Town and kept our taxes at 3.1%. We must always look at next year and the year after. There needs to be a moratorium on bonding until Wethersfield starts to manage its debt.

George A. Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, echoed Mr. Orsini's thoughts that he is disappointed with the Charter Revision Committee. There are no fresh thinkers. All of the members have close ties to Government. Mr. Ruhe said that the issue of an Officer at the High School has nothing to do with the Police. The issue has to do with taking Federal funds with strings attached that will work to the detriment of our society. Mr. Ruhe complimented Deputy Mayor O'Connor and Town Manager Bonnie Therrien for the way they moved to table the Mill Woods issue. It should be tabled and forgotten until the taxpayers and citizens want to come out and support it.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Attorney Jim Talberg and Chief Cetran left the Executive Session at 11:25 p.m.

At 11:26 p.m., Councilor O'Connor moved "**TO GO OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**" seconded by Councilor Fitzpatrick. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

At 11:30 p.m., Councilor Flynn moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Morin. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk