

REGULAR MEETING JULY 7, 2003

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

Present: Councilors Cascio, Fitzpatrick, Flynn (8:05), Gardow, Morin, Deputy Mayor O'Connor and Chairperson Czernicki.

Absent: Councilors Hemmann, and Sassano

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

Chairperson Czernicki announced that an Executive Session would take place at the end of the regular meeting to discuss pending litigation on the matters of Pyquaug Village Open Space and Union Negotiations.

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO ADD THE ITEM OF PENDING LITIGATION ON WINDING BROOK TURF FARM TO THE EXECUTIVE SESSION"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor O'Connor. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Councilor Fitzpatrick moved **"TO REMOVE THE PYQUAUG VILLAGE OPEN SPACE FROM THE TABLE TO WAIT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION"**, seconded by Councilor Gardow. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

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

Chairperson Czernicki asked the members of the Charter Revision Commission to step forward to accept their charge from the Council. She thanked the members for volunteering to serve on the Commission. She asked members of the Council if they had any items for the charge.

Councilor Cascio asked the Commission to see how, if we can, we can change the days of the Council meetings from Monday to Tuesday, and also schedule one monthly or quarterly informal meeting to allow the citizens to have better interaction with the Council.

Councilor Gardow asked the Commission to split the Planning & Zoning Commission into two groups. This way we could have a Planning Commission that plans, and a Zoning Commission that zones. Secondly, he asked to have the Library Board be put underneath the Town Council as opposed to the autonomous Board that it currently is. Thirdly, he asked to have the current minimum bid amount changed from \$5,000 to an amount that is more in tune with today's economy.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor thanked the Commission and asked that they consider eliminating all paid political appointments. He'd like to see an open hiring process and take the politics out of political appointments. Secondly, he'd like to see the minimum bid requirements state that we have to receive at least three responses before a bid can be accepted. Thirdly, he'd like to change the Council meetings to Tuesdays and that no votes are taken past 10:00 p.m. Fourthly, he'd like to see preference given to internal candidates who are certified and qualified when promotions come about. An internal candidate would eliminate the costs associated with the job search and interview process. Lastly, he'd like to see a "Mayor only" election.

Chairperson Czernicki said that she'd like the Commission to consider the entire Chapter 6 of the Charter. This Chapter deals with the administration and formation of departments. This would provide for greater efficiencies with regard to reorganization. Also, Chairperson Czernicki would like the Commission to look at the possibility of starting the budget process earlier. She'd like the Commission to consider a zero-based budget every third year and to review the current policy for ordinance and resolution introduction and the time that it takes. With regard to the Town Meeting once per

month, she'd like to limit comments/discussions to five minutes. She also agrees with the Deputy Mayor with regard to the 10:00 p.m. vote limit at Council meetings. In this, she asks that the Commission consider that the opposite meeting each month be limited to agenda items only.

Councilor Gardow verified that members of the Commission who were on other Boards or Commissions have resigned from them.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked the Commission to allow for the procurement of Town items through the internet. The current Charter prohibits such. Also, to be considered would be the ability to use a credit card to expedite the process. He'd like to also see the posting of jobs on the internet and one day in the newspaper.

Chairperson Czernicki introduced Richard LeBorius who is an intern who will be serving as Town liaison to the Charter Revision Commission. She said that Richard Roberts will be serving in Duncan Forsyth's absence this evening at the Charter Revision Commission meeting. She dismissed the Commission to their meeting in the Town Manager's Conference Room.

Chris Healy asked the Mayor if the Commission would be receiving some sort of communication from the Councilors who are absent this evening. Chairperson Czernicki said that the Town Manager will inform them of the opportunity to do this.

The Town Clerk informed the Commission that they will be given a detailed time frame. The latest that they have to submit a draft proposal for the Charter will be October, 2004. This gives the Council time to have two public hearings and act on the revised Charter. Chairperson Czernicki corrected the October date to be July, 2004 so that there is time to get the Charter Revision proposals on the November, 2004 ballot.

Councilor Cascio moved "**TO REMOVE ITEMS C.2.b, c, d, f, h, i, j and l FROM THE TABLE**", seconded by Deputy Mayor O'Connor. The motion passed 6-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HEARING

Resolution Accepting Wintergreen Woods Park Trail Improvements Grant

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

GENERAL COMMENTS

Ed Kardas, 850 Cloverdale Circle, asked that the June 16, 2003 minutes be amended to the statement he is submitting to the Town Clerk.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, spoke of the cutbacks in the State budget which will affect the Rocky Hill/Glastonbury ferry. He said that although the ferry is not a part of the Wethersfield community, it should be looked at as an asset to our area. He hopes that the Town Council and its officials will support keeping the ferry running. Mr. Young stated that he is still opposed to the Federal U.S. Department of Justice grant which will put Police Officers in the schools. Mr. Young commented that the picture of Chief Cetran in a recent issue of Wethersfield Life was an unimpressive photo. It portrayed a tough "Billy the Kid" image that is a poor one to be sending out. Mr. Young said that he read that a competing cell tower company is interested in putting equipment on Wethersfield's cell tower at Kelleher Court. If they can't put it on our tower, they will build their own tower. Mr. Young urges the Wethersfield officials to look into this, attend the appropriate meetings, and oppose the proposal.

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. He said that there have been many articles written lately about union negotiations. One of the articles in the Hartford Courant stated that "local officials ought to more actively engage unions in a dialog about another solution - givebacks vs. layoffs. By agreeing to pay freezes, unpaid furloughs, and other concessions, unions representing general government and education

employees help break the spiral of more taxes for fewer services. They will also be keeping their colleagues employed and protecting important programs." The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. urges the Council and Wethersfield's chief negotiator to keep these ideas in mind and to bargain hard for the Town of Wethersfield. Mr. Orsini said that he is aware that the Dial-A-Ride contract has expired. East Hartford's Dial-A-Ride program is cutting the free ride it once provided for those who sought trips out of town, including those who went for medical trips not in East Hartford. Because of that, the program will be able to increase rides inside East Hartford. Those who use the Dial-A-Ride for out of town business can fall back on other transportation services. There are many organizations out there that provide Dial-A-Ride-type services. Those with disabilities can get Americans with Disabilities Acts rides from the Greater Hartford Transit District for a cost of \$2 each way. Disabled American Veterans have a ride program to and from the VA Hospital in Newington. Cancer patients can look to the American Cancer Society. Medicaid patients can look to the State Department of Social Services. Town officials in East Hartford said that their move makes Dial-A-Ride more cost effective, serving more people. Each out of town ride costs on average \$17 of the program's cost of \$198,000 per year.

Chairperson Czernicki informed Mr. Orsini that Wethersfield will be receiving bids from the RFP on July 14, 2003.

Mr. Orsini said that the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. believes that if Wethersfield can find a competitive provider, we should drop the fee being charged. Regarding the automated pickup, the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. is in favor of it as there is a small cost reduction involved, it will beautify the Town, and Wethersfield is one of the last Towns in the area to embrace this concept. There will be problems and inconveniences, but they can be worked out. Regarding the Mill Woods Master Plan, the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. does not support the plan as it is flawed. The plan does not line up with the strategic plan, it is too expensive, and there is too much money in the plan for organized sports and asphalt.

Paul Courchaine, Main Street, spoke on the Historic District fee on tonight's agenda. Mr. Courchaine asked the Council to look at the proposal from the perspective of those residents living in the Historic District. These residents are bound by many constraints that most of the rest of Wethersfield is not. This burden does not apply to the rest of the Town. To apply the proposed fee is something that these Historic District residents should not be additionally burdened with.

Richard Toce, 951 Ridge Road, spoke in favor of the automated trash pickup. Mr. Toce is the Assistant Director of Public Works in East Hartford. East Hartford is fully automated and one of the positive features of this is neatness and cleanliness. The main issue for Wethersfield would be the savings provided to the Town. East Hartford realized a \$250,000 savings in Workman's Compensation in its first year of automated pickup. Further savings were realized because of the reduction of staff required (these reductions in East Hartford were through attrition).

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

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO ACCEPT THE WINTERGREEN WOODS PARK TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS GRANT"**, seconded by Councilor Gardow.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that Wethersfield has been awarded a State grant for the Park Trail in Wintergreen Woods through the Friends of the Nature Center. The resolution authorized the Town Manager to sign the grant and move forward with it.

Councilor Gardow thanked the Friends of the Nature Center for their \$2,200 of matching funds.

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

Councilor Gardow moved **"TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF DAVID E. HEROLD FROM THE INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION(ALTERNATE) AND THE EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor O'Connor.

Councilor Gardow moved **"TO APPOINT THE FOLLOWING TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**

BUILDING APPEALS, BOARD OF

John A. Adamian	R	86 Waters View Drive	7-7-03 to 6-30-08
Alternate: Steven L. Andrea	U	430 Main Street	7-7-03 to 6-30-06

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Leslie C. Cole	R	69 Boulter Road	7-7-03 to 6-30-05
Stuart Temple	R	317 Brimfield Road	7-7-03 to 6-30-05

DISABILITIES, WETHERSFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH

Joan Haines	R	516 Highland Street	7-7-03 to 6-30-05
James F. Grise	D	455 Wolcott Hill Road	7-7-03 to 6-30-05
Mary-Beth Dobmeier	D	42 S. Pembroke St.	7-7-03 to 6-30-05

ENVIRONMENTAL CODE APPEALS BOARD

James Woodworth	R	5 River Road	7-7-03 to 6-30-06
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ETHICS, Board of

Keith A. Latulippe	U	33 Woodland Street	7-7-03 to 6-30-06
Alternate: Penrose Wolf	R	23 Cheston Circle	7-7-03 to 6-30-06

FAIR RENT COMMISSION

Robert A. Garrey**	U	54 Main Street	7-7-03 to 6-30-05
Matthias J. DeAngelo***	R	16 Dennison Ridge	7-7-03 to 6-30-05

**Landlord
 ***At-large

FLOOD & EROSION CONTROL BOARD

David L. Drake	R	14 Quail Hill	7-7-03 to 6-30-06
Mark Kulmacz	R	37 Old Pewter	7-7-03 to 6-30-06
			7-7-03 to 6-30-

Alternate: Robert A. Garrey U 54 Main Street 06

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Clare W. Meade D 373 Main Street 7-7-03 to 6-30-08

Alternate: (3yr) Eric Hart R 9 Fernwood Street 7-7-03 to 6-30-06

HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELATIONS COMMISSION

Richard B. Troutman R 70 Griswold Road 7-7-03 to 6-30-06

INLAND WETLANDS AND WATER COURSES COMMISSION

David D. Ambrose D 119 Farmingdale Rd. 7-7-03 to 6-30-06

Louis Sanzaro R 41 Robeth Lane 7-7-03 to 6-30-06

Alternate: Antonio L. Margiotta R 155 Stockingmill Rd. 7-7-03 to 6-30-06

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Christopher Bazinet R 161 Garden Street 7-7-03 to 6-30-08

RECREATION & PARKS BOARD, Advisory

Gregory M. Even U 142 Windmill Hill 7-7-03 to 6-30-06

Peter N. Kalousdian, Jr. R 154 Griswold Road 7-7-03 to 6-30-06

SOLOMON WELLS HOUSE COMMITTEE

Patricia L. Kupper U 71 Silo Drive 7-7-03 to 6-30-06

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Morris R. Borea D 112 Bittersweet Hill 7-7-03 to 6-30-08

Alternate: Gina P. Deangelo R 16 Dennison Ridge 7-7-03 to 6-30-08"

", seconded by Deputy Mayor O'Connor. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Councilor Morin moved "**TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF MARILYN Z. SHEEHAN FROM THE COMMISSION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS**", seconded by Deputy Mayor O'Connor. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance Amending Chapter 139 Streets and Sidewalks Regulations of the Town of Wethersfield, Connecticut

Deputy Mayor O'Connor reported that the Traffic and Transportation Committee met on June 19 and it was a unanimous recommendation of the Committee that there be no action taken on this issue; therefore passing no further liability on to homeowners. There is no Council action required at this point.

Request for Purchase of Town Property Abutting 642 Maple Street

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the Planning & Zoning Commission approved and made an advisory opinion for the abandonment of a portion of Palmer Drive which abuts 642 Maple Street to Mr. Luis Gonzalez, Jr. The conveyance is subject to any and all utility easements and rights which may exist at the time of conveyance.

Councilor Cascio moved "**TO APPROVE THE ABANDONMENT OF A PORTION OF PALMER DRIVE ABUTTING 642 MAPLE STREET TO LUIS GONZALEZ, JR. SUBJECT TO ANY AND ALL UTILITY EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS WHICH MAY EXIST AT THE TIME OF CONVEYANCE**", seconded by Deputy Mayor O'Connor. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Request for Abandonment of Town Property on Columbus Street

Deputy Mayor O'Connor reported that this request was discussed at the Traffic and Transportation Committee of June 19. Some of the information provided to the Committee was inaccurate and it is requested that the issue be again referred to Traffic and Transportation with the updated information.

Councilor Fitzpatrick moved "**FOR A SECOND REFERRAL TO THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE OF THE REQUEST FOR ABANDONMENT OF TOWN PROPERTY ON COLUMBUS STREET**", seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Automated Refuse Pick-up

Chairperson Czernicki said that this issue was discussed on June 30 at the Council's goal setting meeting. She asked Mr. Paine to come forward to answer any further questions by the Council members.

Mr. Paine said that two questions were asked at the June 30 meeting for which he now had information. The first question was whether there is any documentation of a reduction in the trash tonnage amounts. Mr. Paine has an article pertaining to the city of Rochester, NY and he will obtain the required information from the proper official in that city. The other question was whether there is any documentation of a change in the recycling tonnage. Mr. Paine will also obtain this information from the Rochester city official and pass it along to Town Manager Bonnie Therrien.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor said that Mr. Paine's company will incur savings similar to those of East Hartford's \$250,000 and yet the Town of Wethersfield will only realize an \$8,000 savings in the first year. The bulk of the savings seems to benefit Paine's Refuse rather than the Town of Wethersfield. Mr. Paine said there are differences between Wethersfield and East Hartford. East Hartford is self-insured and Paine's pays Worker's Compensation. By going to automated pickup, private companies save by their actual experience with workers injuries.

Councilor Fitzpatrick understands the issue of Worker's Compensation; however there should be more of a significant savings than previously stated. He asked Mr. Paine if he would be willing to share his savings in Worker's Compensation insurance with the Town of Wethersfield. Mr. Paine said that he will figure out a way to do this. He wants to be fair and come up with something that will work for everyone.

Councilor Gardow said that this issue will be sent to the Town Attorney tonight to work out a contract. There was a lot of discussion on June 30 with Mr. Paine and that meeting will be shown on Channel 14. He asked Mr. Paine if he had brought someone tonight to discuss the size of the barrels provided for automated pickup. Mr. Paine said that he

brought a representative with him tonight and he also brought barrels with him so that Council could see their size. Chairperson Czernicki asked Mr. Paine to leave the barrels so that residents could see them. Mr. Paine brought into Council Chambers a 35-gallon, a 65-gallon, and a 95-gallon container. He said that in another municipality that he services, residents are each given a 95-gallon container. If residents want another container, they are charged \$120 per year to obtain it. Some Towns offer second containers if residents can provide proof of a large family.

Councilor Morin clarified that the contract that Wethersfield has with Paine's will need to be redesigned. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the Town Attorney has been asked for a legal opinion as to reopening the current contract and extending it. The Town Attorney said that there will be no problem with this. Councilor Morin asked where the containers are to be put for dumping. Mr. Paine said that they are to be within three feet of the edge of the road. Councilor Morin understands that this is certainly better administratively; however it seems to be an inconvenience to the Town residents, especially in the winter. Councilor Morin has heard many more people say that they don't like the containers than those who like them. He feels that residents should not be charged a fee for an additional container.

Councilor Flynn arrived at this time (8:05 p.m.).

Councilor Fitzpatrick asked how much trash would fit into each container. Mr. Paine said that an average, legal garbage can holds 32 gallons. A 95-gallon container is more than adequate to hold 3-4 garbage cans of garbage. Very few people need a second container. Mr. Paine noted that CRRA can change the rules as to what they'll accept for solid waste at any time.

Councilor Gardow explained why this discussion is taking place. It is because the Town has put into the 2003-04 budget a change of recycling pickup from weekly to biweekly. This will save the Town \$8,800. Mr. Paine said that it is a better option to continue to recycle weekly and move to automated pickup. This would save the original \$8,800 plus an additional \$1,200. The automated pickup saves in tipping fees. The current rate for tipping is \$63.75 per ton and is expected to continue to increase. The automated pickup provides for cost savings as well as smart 21st Century trash removal. Councilor Gardow has lived in Simsbury where they had automated pickup and he loved it. He supports automated pickup.

Councilor Gardow moved **"TO HAVE THE TOWN MANAGER WORK WITH MICHAEL PAINE AND THE TOWN ATTORNEY TO RENEGOTIATE THE PRESENT CONTRACT AND EXTEND THE CONTRACT WITH PAINE'S RECYCLING AND RUBBISH REMOVAL FOR AN ADDITIONAL FOUR YEARS WITH THE INTENT OF OFFERING AUTOMATIC REFUSE PICK-UP IN LIEU OF MANUAL REFUSE PICK-UP. SUCH CONTRACT SHALL THEN BE BROUGHT BACK TO THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THEIR FINAL APPROVAL"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Morin voted NAY. The motion passed 6-1-0.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the containers will be kept in the Town Hall hallway near the Town Clerk's Office for approximately one month. Residents can feel free to inspect them. Mr. Paine said that a sticker will be put on each to indicate its size.

Millwoods Master Plan

Councilor Morin moved **"TO REFER THE MILL WOODS MASTER PLAN TO THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION FOR AN 8-24 REVIEW"**, seconded by Councilor Flynn.

Councilor Gardow asked that the Planning & Zoning Commission take note of page 44 of the Plan of Conservation and Development as we move forward with this process.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor said to Director of Recreation and Parks Kathy Bagley that the plan seems to be catering to Little League with a lighted baseball field. More residents would be served by lighting a soccer field which could also accommodate a football field. Soccer is very big in Wethersfield and Deputy Mayor O'Connor would rather see a lighted soccer field than a Little League field. Also, by referring this plan to Planning & Zoning, the Council is by no means saying that they are prepared to throw this on a referendum and vote on it. Deputy Mayor O'Connor understands

that Planning & Zoning will look at the plan and come back with recommendations and information. Now is not the time for an additional referendum for the Town.

Councilor Fitzpatrick said that he supports the referral because there are still opportunities to refine the plan. This allows for the sports organizations in Town and the Recreation & Parks Department to apply for grants because they have a plan to refer to. Ms. Bagley said that there are organizations that provide grants for the improvement of ball fields.

Councilor Cascio said that he is happy to see that the Recreation & Parks Board will be meeting with the Friends of the Nature Center to formally discuss the Mill Woods Plan. Councilor Cascio would like to see the Mill Woods Plan be a part of the August 22 meeting regarding the Strategic Plan for Wethersfield. Councilor Cascio verified that this referral will be on the Planning & Zoning agenda for their July 15 meeting. He asked Ms. Bagley if she could place the recurring costs for maintenance for the facility if it were to be passed on to the Nature Center. Ms. Bagley said that she could provide those numbers.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

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

Councilor Cascio said that the Public Safety Committee met earlier this evening to discuss the resolution. The Board of Education will be meeting with the Town Manager, the Police Chief, Kevin Dillon, and Andy Powell at their next meeting to provide a formal presentation of this particular program. At this time, no action is required of the Council.

Animal Control Ordinance

Councilor Cascio reported that the Public Safety Committee met on this issue and an additional meeting has been called for July 15 at 7:30 p.m. The Committee has requested information from the Town Manager pertaining to a similar ordinance in Rocky Hill and Berlin. Informally discussed was something that can be enforceable rather than just a plan on the books.

Scope of Services/Fee - Town Hall/Library Renovations

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this item was tabled at the last Council meeting so that staff could answer several questions on how the architect's fees were determined. She feels very comfortable with the percentage of dollar amounts that the architect is looking for based on what the State averages are.

Councilor Flynn moved "**TO ACCEPT THE SCOPE OF SERVICES AND A NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$180,000 FROM THE FIRM OF TUTHILL & WELLS FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE TOWN HALL /LIBRARY RENOVATIONS**", seconded by Councilor Morin.

Councilor Fitzpatrick asked the Town Manager about the State guidelines as opposed to industry standards. He would like to know if we are meeting the State guidelines as opposed to industry standards, as we will be looking for reimbursements based on the State guidelines. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she understands that we need to look at this in terms of the State guidelines. Secondly, Councilor Fitzpatrick referred to the memo from the Chairman Joseph Coombs who indicated that the budget will be tight. Councilor Fitzpatrick asked if the Committee has put together a priority list of items to be accomplished should there be additional funds. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she will suggest this to the Committee. Councilor Fitzpatrick said that a letter from Tuthill & Wells states that they understand that a considerable amount of redesign will be needed due to changes in the building program. Councilor Fitzpatrick asked for an update of the changes that have come up. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the changes have to do with the entrance way and where the Library entrance will be. Should the Council pass the motion amount for \$180,000, the fee will stay at that amount. Councilor Fitzpatrick said that there is \$150,000 in the budget for the elevator and minor repairs and asked if this amount takes into consideration the ADA grant that Wethersfield will receive. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the amount will be offset by the ADA grant. Councilor Fitzpatrick is concerned that there is 20% for the contingency of the project. He is not comfortable with this

amount. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that contingencies tend to run 12% to 15% and that she will double check this number. Councilor Fitzpatrick said that furniture was an issue for the Police Facility and asked if furniture needs could be determined early on in the current project. He would like to see the budget refined and identify where the money is going. This is a general budget and money ends up being moved all over to complete the project. He does not think that this is a good way to do a project.

Chairperson Czernicki asked the Town Manager where the Town stands with the communication system. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she has a meeting this Thursday with Motorola, the Wethersfield Police Department, and the Wethersfield Fire Department. There are still a few concerns that the Fire Department has and she wants to make sure that everyone is happy before she starts to turn things over. Chairperson Czernicki asked if testing has begun yet with the Physical Services Department. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she will double check this.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Change Orders - Silas Deane Middle School

Councilor Gardow moved **"TO ACCEPT THE CHANGE ORDERS FOR THE SILAS DEANE MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR ASBESTOS ABATEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,857, AND FOR GYM DIVIDER CURTAINS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,323"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor O'Connor.

Chairperson Czernicki said that both David Drake and Charlie Viani are in attendance to answer any questions.

Mr. Drake said that he has provided an improved Executive Financial Summary for the Silas Deane Middle School project. He said that the change orders include asbestos abatement in the stair towers and elevator lobbies in the amount of \$5,857 and gym divider curtains in the amount of \$17,323. The Committee made the decision not to conceal the sprinkler piping in the auditorium for \$9,589.89 nor install volleyball inserts in the gym for \$11,098.

Councilor Gardow asked Mr. Drake if the dividers will hang from the ceiling. Mr. Drake said that they are standard dividers that will hang from the ceiling and will curb against the wall. These will not be electric dividers.

Chairperson Czernicki asked if the alternatives to concealing the sprinkler piping in the auditorium would be as aesthetically pleasing. Mr. Drake said that they will not be as nice looking as total concealment. The ceiling will be painted and finished, but the pipes will show.

Councilor Morin asked if the volley ball inserts were to provide for the expansion of the volleyball program. Mr. Drake said that the principal of the school, Mr. Menzo, suggested the inserts as eventually the school will want them. The middle of the gym floor already has basic inserts that the committee decided is adequate. The proposed inserts were to be more elaborate.

Councilor Flynn asked Mr. Drake to verify that the current asbestos was found after the asbestos abatement program last summer. Mr. Drake said that multiple tests were done and one test showed it was fine and another showed there was asbestos in there. Time is running out to do more testing so the Committee decided to go ahead with the asbestos removal.

Councilor Gardow verified that the project is on schedule at this time. Mr. Drake said that the project is looking pretty good; the only problem has been the concrete because it was wet outside for so long. Project completion is scheduled for October.

Mr. Drake commented that it is recommended that the public stay out of the building for the rest of the summer so as to expedite the project. The Board of Education has taken steps to communicate this as well.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Mr. Drake said that he is looking to invite the Webb Architect and Construction Managers to the Council's August 4 meeting. He will speak with Town Manager Bonnie Therrien to have this put on the agenda for that date.

Transfer of Funds from Dump Truck CNEF Account to Signage for the Showmobile

Councilor Flynn moved **"TO ACCEPT THE TRANSFER OF \$4,850 FROM THE CNEF DUMP TRUCK ACCOUNT TO A CNEF SHOWMOBILE GRAPHIC IMAGE ACCOUNT"**, seconded by Councilor Morin.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked if the transfer is to pay for a decal to put on the Wethersfield Showmobile. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the funds are for the decal as well as artwork on the Showmobile. Deputy Mayor O'Connor thought that the Chamber of Commerce, the EDIC, and other groups were going to donate funds and sell decals to be put on the Showmobile. He asked if this has been forgotten about and now the Town is going to fund this.

Ms. Bagley said that many donations have been received for the purchase of the Showmobile and Recreation & Parks is looking to the Town to fund the graphics on the Showmobile. As part of the graphics, those businesses and organizations who donated funds will have their name on the side of the Showmobile. A quote was recently received and the department is currently working on a design. The cost is actually closer to \$8,000, but the department received the bid in the amount of \$4,850. Deputy Mayor O'Connor said that he feels more comfortable having Ms. Bagley look first to the community for the funds before hitting up the Town for funds which were so hard to find during the budget session. He'd love to see the decal on there, but feels there are much better uses for \$4,850.

Councilor Fitzpatrick said that since we have the Showmobile we need to see that it looks nice. If the funds can come from outside donations, that would be great. If not, the Town needs to do what it has to in order for a nice presentation of the Showmobile. Councilor Fitzpatrick said that John Oldham has been very generous and he has no problem giving the funds for the graphics should there not be adequate outside funding.

Councilor Flynn said that the Showmobile is an expression of pride in the Wethersfield community and agrees with Councilor Fitzpatrick that John Oldham and his company have given so much to our community. This proposal itself is a generous gift from him. The Showmobile will be the centerpiece for countless Town events for years to come and it needs to look nice. Councilor Flynn thinks that this is a worthwhile use of funds.

Councilor Gardow said that he believes that if this request had come up during a budget session, the Council would have rejected it because it is not a core service. He will not support this transfer of funds. He suggests that the Recreation & Parks Department follow Deputy Mayor O'Connor's suggestion to seek outside donations.

Councilor Morin said that Deputy Mayor O'Connor made some good points. He agrees that John Oldham has done a tremendous amount for Wethersfield and he is doing it again with this proposal. Councilor Morin also agrees that the Recreation & Parks Department should look for other means of funding first.

Councilor Cascio said that the Showmobile is a wonderful thing to have for the Wethersfield community. The Showmobile symbol will be on the back part of the vehicle rather than the open, interior part of the stage. Ms. Bagley said that the wings will show the groups who have donated funds for the Showmobile. Councilor Cascio is in favor of seeking other outside funds first only because when he asked at a previous meeting what additional funds would be required to make the Showmobile complete, the decal was never mentioned.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked if the Showmobile will be traveling all over the State as a symbol of Wethersfield's pride in its community. Ms. Bagley said that it is not planned for the Showmobile to be traveling outside of Wethersfield, but the option of renting it out to other communities in the future has been discussed. Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked if the Towns renting it will want a Showmobile with decals for Wethersfield all over it. Ms. Bagley said that this does not seem to be a concern with other Showmobiles that are rented out. Deputy Mayor O'Connor said that John Oldham has been incredibly generous to Wethersfield and it is clear that he is willing to do the decal at a loss, so he'd rather see the Recreation & Parks seek other funds.

Chairperson Czernicki said that Wethersfield was able to get the Showmobile through the help of Representative Doyle who secured the funds. There was a request of the Chamber of Commerce, the WACPD, the Senior Citizen Advisory

Group and others to make contributions. She asked what those contributions were for. Ms. Bagley said that there were several options above and beyond the basic Showmobile and some of those were chosen in addition to the basic package. One was the ADA handicap lift. Chairperson Czernicki agrees with other Council members that other community resources should be tapped into before Council decided on this transfer. She also agrees that John Oldham has been very generous both publicly and privately. She thinks that as the Showmobile goes out this summer, there could possibly be a "passing of the hat" for donations for the decal.

Councilor Cascio moved "**TO TABLE THE TRANSFER OF \$4,850 FROM THE CNEF DUMP TRUCK ACCOUNT TO A CNEF SHOWMOBILE GRAPHIC IMAGE ACCOUNT**", seconded by Councilor Gardow. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Morin voted NAY. The motion passed 6-1-0.

Sponsorship of Program - Wethersfield Medical Equipment - Refer to Public Safety

Chairperson Czernicki asked if this is equipment that is currently being stored at the Moeller Home. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that is correct and that residents can borrow the medical equipment for use in their homes. Chairperson Czernicki said that Jean Jagel from the Equipment Committee is present in the audience to comment and answer any questions.

Ms. Jagel said that she represents the Wethersfield/Rocky Hill Graduate Nurses Association and medical equipment has been loaned for a number of years. The equipment is stored in a Town building and is free of charge for residents. Most requests come from Christine Taylor who works in the Wethersfield Elderly Services Department. It is a service that the group enjoys doing for the residents and would like to see continue. The liability of the insurance is a concern and there has to be ownership. The group is requesting that the Town assume ownership and therefore liability for the equipment.

Councilor Cascio asked if anyone has done a recent inventory of the equipment to possibly discard any equipment that is unsafe. Ms. Jagel said that the equipment is checked when it is loaned out and instructions are given out at that time. There is a Town resident who repairs the wheelchairs free of charge. Once the equipment leaves the Moeller Home, there is concern that it is used properly. To date there have been no incidents, but the group is concerned should there be one. Councilor Cascio asked if this goes to Public Safety if it could be on their agenda for their next meeting on Tuesday. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this is possible. Councilor Cascio asked if we should also get some type of legal opinion as to whether this should be done. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she brought it up at the Insurance Committee meeting and she would be glad to speak with the Town Attorney.

Councilor Fitzpatrick asked if this issue is time sensitive because he'd like to have not only the Insurance Committee, but also whoever the Town's liability insurer review this matter. They would have a risk manager who could come out and set some guidelines that would minimize the cost of the liability insurance. Ms. Jagel said that there is no time frame. The group is simply concerned about the matter and would like someone to look at it.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor thanked Ms. Jagel for the valued service that her organization provides. He asked if the equipment is provided to residents of the Town of Rocky Hill as well. Ms. Jagel said that the service is offered to Rocky Hill but that there are very few demands from that Town. Her organization does not seem to have as close of a relationship with the Social Services Department in Rocky Hill as it does in Wethersfield. Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked if Wethersfield would want to be liable for something that occurs in Rocky Hill. Perhaps Rocky Hill should be involved in the liability as well. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she spoke with the Town Manager of Rocky Hill and was told that Rocky Hill has their own Town program and that is why they do not take advantage of this program. Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked if the group should direct Rocky Hill residents to that program and provide the service to Wethersfield residents only. Ms. Jagel said that she could look into doing this.

Councilor Cascio moved "**TO REFER THE TOWN SPONSORSHIP OF THE WETHERSFIELD MEDICAL EQUIPMENT PROGRAM TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**", seconded by Councilor Gardow.

Councilor Fitzpatrick asked if the motion is to include the review of the Insurance Committee as well. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the Insurance Committee does not meet until September, but she can have the Town's Risk Manager look at this and attend the Public Safety Committee meeting.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Transfer of Funds from Dump Truck CNEF Account to Computer Network Study

Councilor Cascio moved "**THAT A COMPUTER SYSTEMS NETWORK STUDY BE DONE, AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$5,950 AND THAT THE FUNDS BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE CNEF DUMP TRUCK ACCOUNT TO A CNEF COMPUTER STUDY ACCOUNT, AND THAT THE BIDDING PROCEDURES BE WAIVED AND WALKER SYSTEM SUPPORT BE AWARDED THE CONTRACT FOR THE COMPUTER SYSTEMS NETWORK STUDY**", seconded by Councilor Gardow.

Councilor Fitzpatrick asked if the Town Attorney has looked at this agreement. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that he has not. Councilor Fitzpatrick noticed that Walker is limiting its liability to the total amount paid and if we implement a change recommended by them and lose data, the Town will need to pick up the tab beyond the \$5,950 paid to Walker. He wonders if we should just pay the \$15,000 and have an employee from Walker available to us. Chairperson Czernicki said that a representative from Walker is in attendance to answer any questions.

Josh Rappaport, Senior Account Manager with Walker, said that the \$15,000 violation fee is put in the contract to discourage clients from hiring engineers that Walker puts out on site. This is a standard process in all of their contracts.

Councilor Fitzpatrick asked if it is assumed that Walker has professional liability for their work product.

Mr. Rappaport said that Walker plans to do an assessment and recommendation. If they are to do the work and there are problems or issues in the work, they would remedy them. They would not be held responsible if work is performed incorrectly by users. Councilor Fitzpatrick commented to Town Manager Bonnie Therrien that, if Council looks at this proposal, he is concerned about combining systems with the Board of Education and the incompatibility of their systems with those of the Town. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she will discuss this with Mr. Rappaport.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked Mr. Rappaport if this is a fixed bid and Mr. Rappaport said that it is. He asked what the Town will get with the assessment. Mr. Rappaport said the bid includes a formal, detailed assessment recommendation document which will contain at least two recommended options to upgrade the existing firewall and e-mail solutions; quotes for software, hardware and service time will be included. Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked how many municipalities Walker has done this for. Mr. Rappaport said that they have worked in various ways with New Britain, Bloomfield, South Windsor and West Hartford. Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked about the System Support Agreement which states that a minimum of one-hour of phone support will be charged. Mr. Rappaport said that the System Support option includes an on-call department manning the phones. There is no charge for the first fifteen minutes of a call. The fee is prorated after this amount of time. Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked if there are people available at Walker right now to do this. Mr. Rappaport said that they will have people available within the next three to five weeks. He will make every effort to have someone available as soon as possible. Walker is very pro-active with customer support.

Councilor Gardow commented that Walker has worked with the Town before and knows our system. Because of this, he asked if Walker already has a solution. Mr. Rappaport said that Walker works with the Town on an as-needed basis and they have not been involved in a system support program with the Town. Councilor Gardow asked how much the recommendation options typically cost. Mr. Rappaport said that he could not comment on that as there is a lot involved. There is new hardware, new software, and licensing requirements. Councilor Gardow is concerned that \$5,950 will be spent for a recommendation the Town can't afford.

Paul Dudley, Wethersfield's Data Services Information Specialist, said that a new server on which to run this program would be part of the picture, as well as an updated release of the operating system and e-mail handling software. A replacement of the firewall device would be required and up to 50% of the PC's would need to be replaced or upgraded. There are too many variables to estimate a cost.

Councilor Morin said that it makes sense to have the Town Attorney look at the agreement. He is interested in hearing

what Town Manager Bonnie Therrien says the needs are.

Chairperson Czernicki said that the Town Manager has been very frustrated with the current system which is "way less than good". Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that Department Heads are not receiving her e-mails for 2-3 days. E-mails come in from the outside four days after they're sent. Many e-mails come back as undeliverable. This makes for great inefficiency. The Data Services Department, which is very talented, has to waste their time constantly tending to staff's e-mail problems.

Councilor Fitzpatrick suggested that Town Manager Bonnie Therrien also look at the Board of Education as to consolidation of services.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Historic District Application Fee

Deputy Mayor O'Connor moved "**TO APPROVE A \$25 APPLICATION FEE FOR ALL APPLICATIONS FOR THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION BEGINNING AUGUST 1, 2003**", seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor agrees with Mr. Courchaine's earlier comments; however he supports the motion as it was the Historic District Commission who requested the fee. The Commission felt that this will streamline the number of requests they receive and would help them in the process. There is a substantial cost in the process as far as mailings and notifications.

Councilor Morin said that he understands Mr. Courchaine's concerns and this fee seems to be nickel and dime-ing residents. He'd like information proving that it is really necessary to charge \$25 to those appearing before the Commission. The fee should be consistent with the expense. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the expenses are very close to \$25 between the postage, the paper, the envelopes, the copying, etc. She said that this fee may actually be on the low side.

Councilor Gardow said that there was a breakout of this amount that derived this amount.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilors Flynn and Morin voted NAY. The motion passed 5-2-0.

Support of the Restoration of Full Operation Hours for the Glastonbury/Rocky Hill Ferry

Chairperson Czernicki said that both she and Town Manager Bonnie Therrien were notified by the Mayor of Rocky Hill and residents of both Rocky Hill and Wethersfield concerning the full operation of the Ferry. Council tonight would be voicing their approval of the Rocky Hill resolution to restore full operation hours of the Ferry.

Councilor Cascio moved "**TO SUPPORT THE ROCKY HILL RESOLUTION TO RESTORE FULL OPERATION HOURS FOR THE GLASTONBURY/ROCKY HILL FERRY**", seconded by Councilor Morin.

Chairperson Czernicki asked Town Manager Bonnie Therrien to convey to the Town Manager or Mayor of Rocky Hill that the Wethersfield Council also views this as part of Wethersfield tourism.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor said that Town Manager Bonnie Therrien could ask the Town of Rocky Hill to be supportive of Wethersfield's efforts with the MDC to clean up the Cove.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

BIDS

Councilor Flynn moved "**TO AWARD THE BID FOR FY 02-03 BALANCE OF MILLING ROAD WORK TO STATE BID GARRITY ASPHALT RECLAIMING - IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000**", seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR FY 03-04 BITUMINOUS CONCRETE TO TILCON-BALF OF NEWINGTON - IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000"**, seconded by Councilors Flynn and Morin. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR FY 03-04 MILLING ROAD WORK TO STATE BID GARRITY ASPHALT RECLAIMING - IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,000"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor moved **"TO TABLE FOR DISCUSSION THE BID FOR FY 03-04 MULCH SEALING TO STATE BID MARINO BROTHERS OF N.E., INC. - IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35,000"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Cascio said that last year when the mulch sealing was done, Council said that they wouldn't do it again.

Councilor Morin asked what would be done in lieu of the mulch sealing. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she would check out the options.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR REAL PROPERTY INSPECTION SERVICES - ASSESSOR'S OFFICE TO BIDDER #2 VISION APPRAISAL TECHNOLOGY - THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000"**, seconded by Councilor Morin.

Jan Neumuth, Acting Town Assessor, said that Vision Appraisal was chosen because they have done a lot of work in Wethersfield. They are currently the appraisal company for Wethersfield's revaluation. Vendor #1 was cheaper, but Vision Appraisal included data entry. Vision appraisal has promised two experienced appraisers whereas vendor #1 is currently training someone.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Gardow moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR FUEL OIL BID TO CRCOG'S LOW BIDDER DIME OIL COMPANY - FOR THE FIXED PRICE OF .86 FOR #2 OIL AND .6428 FOR DIESEL"**, seconded by Councilor Morin.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

None

MINUTES

Deputy Mayor O'Connor moved **"TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 7, 2003"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Town Clerk Sassano said that on page 16028 in the second paragraph the word "on" should read "only".

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor moved **"TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 16, 2003"**, seconded by Councilor Morin.

Councilor Cascio noted that Councilor Sassano has not been noted as either present or absent. Town Clerk Sassano said that he was absent and that this will be noted in the minutes.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

GENERAL COMMENTS

REPORTS

TLC Early Child Development Program

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the State Department of Mental Health received a complaint concerning a few of Wethersfield's recreational programs. The programs have been investigated and the State is considering them daycare programs; therefore they must be licensed as such. Ms. Bagley and the Town Attorney appealed this at the State as they feel this is incorrect information. The State sent a letter back saying adamantly that these programs are daycare and must be licensed. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien strongly urges that we appeal and go through our State Legislature as 168 other Towns offer these types of programs. Ms. Bagley, Town Attorney Forsyth and Town Manager Bonnie Therrien have a meeting this week to prepare for the appeal. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien will be asking that neighboring Towns appear with us for support at the appeal. The only other option to the requirements of licensing would be to have the Board of Education sponsor the programs as they are exempt under State Statutes. The Superintendent is willing to take a look at this for the Fall programs.

Councilor Fitzpatrick said that the Town was notified in March that we have an illegal daycare. The issue was referred to the Town Attorney who addressed it with the State and on April 14 sent a memo indicating that he disagrees with the State ruling. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that if we comply right now with the Board of Education, there will be a \$500 fine. If we do not sign the consent order or get a license and continue appealing, there could be a fine of \$10,000 per day until the issue is resolved. She said that the program does not run during the summer.

Councilor Fitzpatrick asked if the program was continued up through the end of the school year even though we knew we were in violation. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the initial hearing wasn't until the beginning of May. We did not continue operating the program after June 9. This is a very popular program and if the Board of Education does not agree to sponsor it, we will have to cancel it and give residents ample notification.

Councilor Cascio asked if we know who filed the complaint. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that we do not and that it is not information that we can receive. Councilor Cascio asked which staff person oversees this program. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that Recreation & Parks Director Kathy Bagley does. The Town Manager spoke with other Town Managers about this issue and none of them were aware of the stakes involved. All Municipalities offer programs like this and could be in for a big surprise.

Chairperson Czernicki asked if the solution is as simple as changing the hours of operation or if the State will find other areas that need to be addressed as well. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she believes that the State will require changes to the building which will be very expensive.

Connecticut Siting Council - Sprint Request for Installation on the Kelleher Court Tower

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the Connecticut Siting Council will notify her of any hearings as well as any written and verbal testimony they are receiving. Once the Siting Council makes a decision the issue is over.

Hartford's Prohibition of Volunteer Firefighting Service

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she found out through the Wethersfield Fire Department that the Union and Management in Hartford have signed a contract that states that eight years from now no paid Hartford Firefighter can volunteer for any other municipal fire department. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien as well as the Managers of Newington and Rocky Hill felt that they should have been notified by someone other than hearing it through the grapevine. The prohibition was proposed by Hartford's Management; not the Union. They said that they would be able to save a lot on Workers Compensation. The concern is that if every Town in the State did this, the volunteers would have a huge problem. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien, in conjunction with the Town Managers of both Newington and Rocky Hill, has sent a letter to Mr. Erdmann, City Manager of Hartford.

Councilor Fitzpatrick said that over the last year or two, Wethersfield has donated services to Hartford in the spirit of regionalism and he'd like Town Manager Bonnie Therrien to share his disappointment that this sharing of resources is apparently a one-way street. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that many towns surrounding Hartford provide backup.

COUNCIL

Councilor Cascio stated that the updated Library hours seem to be working out.

Councilor Gardow said that he is pleased with the Town Manager's choices for the positions that needed to be filled. The new Town Planner will be Peter Gillespie whose first day will be September 1. He comes from New London. Councilor Gardow also congratulated Brian O'Connor who is the new Chief Building Official. Previously, he was the Assistant Building Inspector in Wethersfield and Rocky Hill. He wishes them both well.

Chairperson Czernicki noted that Jan Neumuth who spoke previously will be filling the position of Town Assessor. She said that three positions have been filled and she commended the Town Manager for taking swift action and providing the Town with quality people.

PUBLIC

Ed Kardas, 850 Cloverdale Circle, said that he attended the goal setting meeting last week and was interested in the comments made this evening relating to technology and enhancing the use of the Town website. He was recently on the Town website and not finding the information he needed, he went onto a site called webnet. The phrase Civic Radar sparked his attention as Wethersfield had been selected to be one of the Towns in Connecticut to try the Civic Radar procedure. He wonders what the status of this program is. Chairperson Czernicki said Wethersfield was one of three communities chosen for the program which is being used only for the Physical Services Department. The program is a grant and there will be an opportunity to apply to have the Civic Radar expanded in Wethersfield so that it will apply to all Departments. Mr. Kardas thinks that the Civic Radar icon should appear on the Town website.

Ballou Tooker, 65 Harmond Place, spoke on the bids approved this evening. He thinks that it would be beneficial for the Council to mention where the paving, etc. is to take place. He asked about the \$20,000 to be spent by the Assessor's Office for reevaluation. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this amount is for inspections and to look for any new permits or lack of permits with businesses and residences. The total cost will be close to \$250,000 for the entire revaluation. Mr. Tooker thinks that the price of the oil with reference to the bid should be stated out loud for those in the audience and those watching at home.

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, spoke again on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. He agrees with Mr. Tooker that more information should be provided to the audience either present or watching at home. He asked that information could be shared as to the location of the daycare center considered to be in violation of State statutes. Chairperson Czernicki said that there is a daycare housed at the Wethersfield Community Center that provides a two-day per week morning session and a three-day per week afternoon session. The program is called "TLC", The Leaning Circle, and is a recreational program, not a daycare. There are approximately eighty children in the program. Mr. Orsini said that the State is well aware of the Statute and they don't seem to be backing off. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that Wethersfield will go to the next step which is the Commissioner. Mr. Orsini congratulated Town Manager Bonnie Therrien for filling the positions of Building Inspector, Town Planner, and Assessor. He asked what positions are left to be filled. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the Finance Director position is down to two candidates, the Police Facility Secretary tests have been given, the part-time Dispatchers interviews are next week, and Sunday's paper will advertise the positions of Assistant Assessor and Assistant Building Inspector. The Grant's part-time position will be filled once the new Town Planner is on board. She is on hold right now with the personnel part-time position as she is discussing combining the position with the Rocky Hill Town Manager. The tests for the Maintainer I position will be given within the next two weeks. Mr. Orsini asked who will be heading up Physical Services. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that on a trial basis, Mike Turner, Town Engineer, and Jim McDonald, Assistant Physical Services Director are heading up the Department and will report back to Council in October. Mr. Orsini asked about the part-time positions at Physical Services. These part-timers have been seen painting fire hydrants. The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. has often asked why we need this summer help. They've been

told that the summer help is required to fill vacation time taken by the full-timers. The private sector does not do this during the summer. Why do we have to? The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. recommends to the Town Manager that there be a plan put forward to fully utilize the incremental manpower. Lastly, Mr. Orsini said that the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. has noticed a great difference in the amount of information provided by the Town Manager and they appreciate it.

Paul Courchaine, 481 Main Street, spoke on the passage of the Historic Commission fee. He thanked Councilors Flynn and Morin for not supporting the fee. He informed Deputy Mayor O'Connor that he had inaccurate information relative to the Historic District Commission and how it is set up. Mr. Courchaine said that the Historic District Commission, under the former Chair of Lee Kuckro, felt very strongly that they did not want to impose an additional financial burden on residents living in Old Wethersfield. The former Mayor referred to residents as "those people down there" as if they were from another planet, didn't pay the same taxes, and weren't part of Wethersfield. Council's vote to impose this additional \$25 requirement reinforces that they believe these residents are different. More importantly, although \$25 is not a lot, residents may now not even bother with restorations or do them and let the Historic District chase after them.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:20 p.m., Councilor Flynn moved "**TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PENDING LITIGATION ON WINDING HILL TURF FARM AND UNION NEGOTIATIONS**" seconded by Deputy Mayor O'Connor. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

At 10:45 p.m., Councilor Cascio moved "**TO COME OUT OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION**", seconded by Councilor Gardow. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Gardow moved "**TO RATIFY THE 818 UNION CONTRACT FOR ONE YEAR WITH A 0% SALARY INCREASE AND TO ADD TO THE CONTRACT THE INTERNAL POSTING OF ALL POSITIONS FOR FIVE BUSINESS DAYS** ", seconded by Deputy Mayor O'Connor. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Flynn voted NAY. The motion passed 6-1-0.

At 10:50 p.m. Councilor Flynn moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**", seconded by Councilor Gardow. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk

Approved by vote of Council 7/21/03