

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

REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 6, 2003

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on October 6, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

Present: Councilors Cascio, Fitzpatrick, Flynn, Gardow, Hemmann, Morin, Deputy Mayor O'Connor and Chairperson Czernicki.

Absent: Councilor Sassano

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

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

Chairperson Czernicki requested that a motion be made to allow the Director of the Wethersfield Historical Society and the Fire Chief to be put at the top of the agenda for the evening.

Councilor Flynn moved "**TO ALLOW THE DIRECTOR OF THE WETHERSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE FIRE CHIEF TO SPEAK AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING**", seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Judy Parker, 366 Pine Lane, spoke as President of the Wethersfield Historical Society. She reported that after an extensive search a new Executive Director has been hired. His name is Doug Shipman and he will start in November.

Proclamation: Fire Prevention Month

Chairperson Czernicki read the Proclamation declaring October to be Fire Prevention Month. This year's theme is "When Fire Strikes: Get Out, Stay Out". Wethersfield is the oldest volunteer fire department in New England in continuous existence and its volunteer members continue to learn and to train in order to insure the safety of Wethersfield residents, employees, and property owners. The Proclamation reminds citizens to change their smoke detector batteries when they change their clocks back on October 26. Citizens are encouraged to follow fire safety rules and the Mayor, on behalf of all the residents of Wethersfield, thanked the Fire Marshal, Fire Chief and all volunteers of the Wethersfield Fire Department for a job well done.

Fire Marshal Gary Santoro and Chief Will Clark, joined by "Sparky" the fire dog thanked Chairperson Czernicki for the Fire Prevention Proclamation and the recognition, appreciation and support of the Wethersfield Fire Department.

Public Awareness Officer Frank Falana, on behalf of the Fire Department and the members of the Fire Convention Committee thanked the Town for the great support they provided for the Fire Department's Anniversary weekend. To show their appreciation, a statue of a firefighter holding an axe was presented to the Town. Chairperson Czernicki acknowledged how much the Town appreciated such a great weekend put on by the Fire Department. The Town really respects, appreciates and admires the work of the Fire Marshal and the Fire Department.

Councilor Cascio moved "**TO REMOVE ITEM C.2.h FROM THE TABLE**", seconded by Councilor Fitzpatrick. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HEARING

ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING \$790,790 AMONG VARIOUS ACCOUNTS

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR A 2003 AMERICA-THE-BEAUTIFUL GRANT

RESOLUTION - ARTIFICIAL TURF AND NIGHT LIGHTING FOR HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL GAME

The following spoke in favor of the Resolution for Artificial Turf and Night Lighting for High School Football Games:

Chuck Priore, 110 Valley View Drive

John Miller, 375 Pine Lane

Michael McKenna, 100 Gristmill Road

David Brickley, 80 Sunrise Terrace

Danielle Cottone, 37 Drummer Lane

Jon Cathcart, 23 Wolcott Hill Road

Paul Camarco, 413 Church Street

Bill Dest, 53 McMullen Avenue

Demetrios Triantafylidis, 39 Robbins Drive

Steve Carlone, Pres. of Wethersfield. Football Boosters

Patrick D'Amato, 45 Country Club Road

Brian Burke, 16 Jay Street

Dan Fox, 34 Belcher Road

Bruce Cutkomp, 332 Hartford Avenue

Bob Pandolfe, 570 Wolcott Hill Road

Diane & Tony DiCicco, 30 Summerfield Dr.

Donna Schilke, 220 Maple Street

Leigh Standish, 278 Hartford Avenue

Ralph Karanian, 21 Amato Circle

Nancy Anderson, 27 Olney Road

Kelly-Ann Clark, 54 Hillsdale Avenue

Jay Cottone, 37 Drummer Lane

John Thibeault 898 Cloverdale Circle

Dave Lynn, 34 Hayrake Drive

Kevin Kirby, 425 Coppermill Road

Peter O'Keefe, 7 Clove Hill

Bob Peters, 175 Coppermill Road

Al Kaeser, 77 West Way (artificial turf only)

The following spoke in opposition to the Resolution for Artificial Turf and Night Lighting for High School Football Games:

Shirley King, 43 Westway

Judy Emmick, 88 Westway

Al Kaeser, 77 Westway (against lighting)

Ron Rodd, 88 Westway

Gary King, 43 Westway

Carol & Mark Skarzynski, 456 Church Street

John O'Leary, 27 Coleman Road, thanked the Fire Department and all of the volunteers in Wethersfield for their efforts to make this a wonderful Town in which to live. He spoke of the beautification of the Town and the residents, such as the Adils, who step forward to do such a great job to enhance the appearance of Wethersfield. Lastly, Mr. O'Leary said that he feels that the Town needs to do something to correct the High School Football field. He thinks that artificial turf and night lighting sound like good ideas.

Gina Carbone, 468 Wells Road, supports the resurfacing of the field provided the band, cheerleaders, and other non-athletes get use of the field as well. She'd like to see younger groups be allowed to use the field without being warned about ruining the surface before the High School players have used it. She'd like to see the newly formed dance team and drill team make use of the field at games. Ms. Carbone thinks that we may not need the lighting at this time, but in the future we may not have the scheduling choices we have now and the lighting installation costs will be more expensive at that time.

Ed Kardas, 850 Cloverdale Circle, suggests that the Town look into building a sports complex for football and soccer along Burbank Road, near the Putnam Bridge. Such a location would be independent of any given school in Town. Other events, such as the Cornfest, could be held at this location as well. This complex would complement the park

land planned to extend from Hartford along the River to Wethersfield. Mr. Kardas strongly supports an alternative location for the football field.

Mike Grabowski, 46 Westway, is concerned about the lighting and the safety of the children on his street. He feels that the location of the field should be changed if there is and have been so many problems with its condition. He doesn't feel that the installation of turf will require that a lot of money first be spent on the drainage problem in the field. He is in favor of the turf being installed, but a lot of study should first be done to insure that the drainage problem is solved. The costs to correct the drainage are going to be very expensive. Mr. Kubowski is in favor of fixing the field if it can feasibly be done, but he is not in favor of the lights.

Christine Fortunato, 28 Fairmont Street, Wethersfield Board of Education member, agrees that the problem at Cottone Field needs to be corrected and appreciates all of the public's input this evening. Her concern deals with the process by which this resolution has come forward. As a candidate for Town Council, she received information about the resolution which as a Board of Education member she did not. The Board of Education was not informed of this resolution or of the meeting tonight until last Friday. The resolution was introduced on September 15 and yet the issue was not raised at the Shared Services meeting on September 14. She is concerned about the communication as the testimonies given tonight may need to be repeated at a Board of Education meeting. She believes that it would have been a good idea to have school administrators and the Chairperson of the Board of Education present at tonight's Council meeting. This resolution seems to be put on the fast track to have a decision by Council's next meeting, and this is not realistic for the Board. She recommends that a transcript of tonight's meeting be provided to the school administration and Board of Education. Ms. Fortunato has questions regarding the scope, cost, and time frame of the project. She would like to know how the \$700,000 to \$1 million costs break down. She thanks the Football Boosters for the work they do to raise funds for sports programs, but does not think that it is their responsibility to help pay for the maintenance of the new field. She would like to obtain information on the proposed donators and the amounts to be donated. She would also like to know if the Town is looking for funding through Capital Improvement dollars or Referendum. Information on all of these items would help the Board of Education in making their decision.

Chairperson Czernicki said that the agenda for the September 14 Shared Services meeting had already been set by the time the resolution was introduced on September 15. She said that the October 14 Shared Services meeting will include the resolution on its agenda. Chairperson Czernicki asked Ms. Fortunato if the condition of Cottone Field has been made public to members of the Board of Education and if the Board is aware of the poor condition of both Cottone and DiCicco Fields. Ms. Fortunato said that she is aware; however, the current Board may not be aware of the conditions or the history of the fields. The Board's Capital Improvement list does not currently include the improvement of these fields and the Board has not recently discussed such. She believes that because this is a big ticket item, it may be more appropriate for referendum. Deputy Mayor O'Connor said that the funding for Cottone Field is the responsibility of the Town and is not part of the Board of Education's Budget. The Town is responsible for the preparation, maintenance, and repairs of that field. By State Statute, the Board has approval rights; however final decisions on the maintenance of the field are the Town's. Ms. Fortunato believes that a resolution to this matter could have been more expedient had the Board of Education been included in the communication loop. Ms. Fortunato also added that the Board of Education is aware that there are limited funds for Capital Improvements and this matter is a big ticket item. Town projects need to be prioritized and if the matter of Cottone is taken on, there is concern about what other projects throughout Town will not be addressed.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, said that he does not agree with the fast track pace that this resolution is taking. He thinks that there needs to be more research done on the durability of the artificial turf. He has not made a decision as to whether or not he supports the resolution; however, if the Town decides to do it, it must be done right.

Joyce Pieciewicz, 309 Hang Dog Lane, stated that her mother, Mary Zavarella, lives at 83 West Way. She said that she is not opposed to the resolution; however, if it passes she'd like to see the gate at West Way closed so that the traffic will be minimized.

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. He stated that the packet gives the estimated capital cost for the artificial turf, but no estimate for the lighting. Deputy Mayor O'Connor said that the field will not cost \$1 million. The Town Manager canvassed the area to obtain costs incurred by other towns having completed installation. On average, it costs \$200,000 to prep a field. The average turf cost is

approximately \$3.00 to \$3.50 per square foot. Wethersfield's cost based on 68,400 square feet will be \$239,400 based on \$3.50 per square foot. At \$4.50 per square foot the cost would be \$310,000. The cost of the lights, installed, runs from \$40,000 to \$100,000. The total cost of the installation would run between \$550,000 and \$575,000 to fully complete the field. Shelton High School just completed the task for \$425,000 and they have a larger field. Mr. Orsini mentioned that there is also concern for the recurring costs associated with the new field. Deputy Mayor O'Connor said that the Booster Club is willing to cover these costs. He said that the current maintenance of Cottone Field is costing the Town \$20,000-\$25,000 per year. The average maintenance cost of an artificial field is \$2,000 per year. Mr. Orsini asked if the Nike donation is for communities within just Connecticut or within the U.S.A. Deputy Mayor O'Connor said that the donation is within the U.S.A. and that Mr. DiCicco sits on the organization that is funding the donations; therefore there is a good chance that Wethersfield will receive a donation. Mr. Orsini asked if the funding for the field will come out of the Capital Improvement Budget or if it will be a bond. Deputy Mayor O'Connor said that his recommendation to the Town Manager is to have the first year taken out of the Contingency Account and then to budget for the rest over the remaining years. The funds can be financed over an eight to ten year period. The amount budgeted would actually be any amount over the \$20,000 already budgeted. Mr. Orsini said that the three issues involved are the project's cost, the fact that it is an emotional/special interest issue, and this is a quality of life issue. The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. urges the Council to proceed cautiously. This project is not a priority on any of the Town's Plans. The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. suggests that the present location of Cottone Field be left behind and that Mill Woods be considered as a new location for the field.

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, is undecided about his support of this resolution. He reminds the Council that they are the Council to all citizens of Wethersfield, not just a limited group of sports-interested residents. The taxpayers are the ones who will be paying for this resolution should it pass. The costs of this project will be substantial by the time it is completed. Mr. Ruhe said that more facts need to be presented for or against the resolution. Repetition and anecdotes do not make for facts. The Council needs to consider the impact on the entire community. Further study is warranted.

Six letters were also read into the minutes by the Town Clerk. The letters were submitted by the following:

Daniel Maselli, 62 West Way (opposes)
David Dion, WHS Director of Instrumental Music (supports)
Mary-Ellen Rogers, CEO, Work/Life Innovations (supports)
Lou Laccavole, 247 Ridge Road (supports)
Dan, Mary & Danielle Daversa (support)
Mark J. Skarzynski, 456 Church Street (opposes)

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

GENERAL COMMENTS

Jim Clynych, 903 Ridge Road, said that he is concerned about the MDC's request for permission to go before the Inland Wetlands Commission regarding work to be performed in the Thornbush Wildlife Refuge Preserve on Wells Road. He does not think that there was an accurate representation of the Council's views at the September 17 meeting of the Inland Wetlands Commission.

Walter Shicko, 6 Lantern Lane, spoke of a piece of property next to his that abuts a brook. He inquired of the MDC who is responsible for the maintenance of this property and they said that the Town is responsible. The property is part of "the village". Mr. Shicko then called Town Manager Bonnie Therrien and asked her to look into the situation. She told him that she would look into it and get back to him. Mr. Shicko waited two weeks and received no return call. He'd like the Council to do something about the situation.

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. He said that the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. sympathized with Town Manager Bonnie Therrien regarding the computer system upgrade at Town Hall. The best move to take is to step back and look at the entire situation including the Town

side, the Library, and the Board of Education. We need to conduct a broader study so that the technology plan will include all three entities. The Town needs to provide employees with the tools required for efficiency. The Town Manager or Finance Director should have access to a lap top computer. He agrees with Councilor Fitzpatrick's request to increase the current fees at the Town Transfer Station as does the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, believes that the Town owes an obligation to its citizens to take all actions necessary to make the MDC comply with its responsibilities to keep the Cove free of sewage. He urged the Council to go forward with any legal actions necessary. The legal matter with a Wethersfield teacher which, as resolved, will now cost the taxpayers \$200,000. He was annoyed at the lack of parking spaces around the Police building. He does not think Spring Street is a good location for the new home being built there.

George A. Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, reported the dead crow found outside his home tested positive for West Nile Virus. He hopes his situation will change the manner in which a resident is responded to and guided by Town Staff. He asked if the issue of the Police Resource Officer at the High School has been abandoned. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the Federal Government has put the funds on hold. He suggests that the Town let the issue die. He asked if the pumping at Mill Woods has stopped and if the fire truck has been removed. He was told that it has and that the fire truck is no longer on Town property. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that there is still a lease agreement being resolved. He would also like to see this issue dropped.

Leigh Standish, 278 Hartford Avenue, stated that he will attempt to gather as many people as possible to speak at the next Council meeting regarding the issue of the MDC litigation. He feels it is time for the Council to take a leadership position to fulfill its previous commitment for a complete solution to overflows in the Wethersfield Cove.

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

COUNCIL ACTION

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS FOR ACTION

Councilor Morin moved "**TO TAKE ITEM C.1.e OUT OF ORDER**", seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Resolution - Artificial Turf and Night Lighting for High School Football Field

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked the Town Manager to explain the process of what the next logical steps will be for the Council to take. He understands that the Council, at this point, is to vote either for or against the resolution being referred to the Board of Education for approval. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that if the resolution is referred, it must be approved by the Board of Education and also go to the Planning & Zoning Commission for an 8-24 review. The resolution would then come back to the Council. Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked that the Council not refer the resolution to the Board of Education if it has no intention of supporting it. If it is referred, the Council should support the resolution.

Councilor Flynn fully supports the proposal, but is not sure why this resolution would need to go to the Planning & Zoning Commission at this point. The field is already municipal property and there is yet to be a design for the project. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the referral can take place at any time. Councilor Flynn said that he'd like to defer the P & Z Commission referral until there is a definite concept in place. Councilor Flynn asked Deputy Mayor O'Connor to share his thoughts on this. Deputy Mayor O'Connor said that, based on Council action tonight, the resolution could be referred to P & Z in time for their meeting on Wednesday. There is really no change that will be made to the size of the field. Councilor Flynn said that his concern is that the referral to P & Z will run the risk of a negative referral which will require a two-thirds majority vote of the Council to get back on track.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that any time there is a renovation to any field in Town there must be an 8-24 referral to P & Z.

Chairperson Czernicki asked if the grant can be applied for without the aforementioned steps being completed. Deputy

Mayor O'Connor said that the idea of fast-tracking doesn't seem to make sense as this field has needed attention for the past ten years. Ten years is a long time to wait to fix the problem. He said that there are time-sensitive issues involved when applying for a grant; therefore, there is a sense of urgency. He'd like to see the field available for use for the Fall 2004 season.

Councilor Flynn said that the Planning & Zoning Commission will want to see schematics and maps to accompany the referral and the Council runs the risk of a negative referral if enough information is not provided. Deputy Mayor O'Connor said that he has the schematics for the lights but not for the field as he assumes the Town already has these due to past work on the field.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that in order to apply for the grant, it is necessary to receive the approval of the Board of Education as they are the owner of the property.

Councilor Cascio said that he supports the motion to refer the resolution proposal to the Board of Education for their approval. He said that since 1995 the athletic use of the field has increased significantly and the use time of the field is taken up. The Council needs to follow the process which allows for quality of life for all Wethersfield citizens. He feels that it is important that P & Z review the proposed resolution. He agrees with Deputy Mayor O'Connor that this issue is not being fast-tracked as it has been an ongoing situation for so many years. Councilor Cascio would like to be sure that there will be a maintenance budget set up for the field.

Councilor Morin said that his vote will not be swayed by the ground swell of support shown this evening. He would like to see the issues of those in the surrounding neighborhood addressed. These issues include traffic, noise, parking, and lighting. The benefits to the athletes seem to outweigh any of the negative issues that have been voiced. Councilor Morin has supported the athletic programs in Wethersfield for many years. He is pleased to see the partnership of the sports groups in Town and thinks that the sports teams deserve a safe, top-notch facility.

Councilor Fitzpatrick said that he sees the artificial turf and night lighting as two separate issues. He thinks that the Town needs to take a serious look at the current location and may need to look at a different field location. The cost of the two issues is the key factor. A big question is how the projects will be financed. He does not have a good understanding of how the field will be leased. There needs to be a firm proposal for the lighting and what is entailed. It is necessary to obtain the Board of Education's input and feedback and address the safety concerns.

Councilor Hemmann supports sending the proposed resolution to the Board of Education through Shared Services. She said that services in Town, such as Dial-A-Ride, have been cut due to Town and State budget cuts. There are roofs throughout Town, such as Highcrest School and Charles Wright School that need repair. There are roads that are in desperate need of repair. Space needs at the High School need to be addressed. All of these things cannot be ignored. The renovation of Cottone needs to be put into a plan that fits.

Councilor Gardow asked where the practice field is located. Deputy Mayor O'Connor said that the practice field drains better than any of the other fields and will not be resurfaced with artificial turf. The practice field currently is nothing but dirt. Councilor Gardow asked about the lease situation. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the lease/buy situation is like a credit card purchase of the field. The Town will never lose ownership of the field; it will lease it at a low interest rate. Councilor Gardow asked if the ten-year lease period includes only the turf or if it includes also the infrastructure as well. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she will need to acquire this information. She said that this type of leasing is not unusual. Councilor Gardow believes that the football field area cannot be abandoned as playing fields. He supports the resurfacing of the field, but cannot support lighting the field at this time.

Councilor Flynn said that he respectfully disagrees with Councilor Fitzpatrick that the resurfacing of the field and the lights are two separate issues. He cannot see making the investment to the field without putting in the type of lights required for night usage of the field. This facility could be the crown jewel of Wethersfield's recreational system. It could be used by every segment of the community. Councilor Flynn does not believe that the funds should come from the Contingency Budget as the winter storm season has not yet even begun. The Council has the power to make a supplemental appropriation of up to \$100,000 from the unappropriated fund balance. The focus needs to be on the value that the renovated facility will bring to the community. Councilor Flynn supports the proposed resolution with the lights and looks forward to attending a game at the new facility in the Fall of 2004.

Chairperson Czernicki stated that there are eight Council member/parents before the public tonight; four of whom have seen their own children involved in sports in Wethersfield. This speaks well of the Council's commitment to children's involvement in athletics. She is concerned with priorities and the order in which things need to be done. Chairperson Czernicki would like to be provided with more information regarding the safety of the field. She wonders if the grant application should also include funds to improve DiCicco Field as well as Cottone Field. She also wonders if the present location of Cottone Field is the best location due to drainage issues. She is in favor of having a new and improved turf field for Wethersfield High School students, but has issues with parking, lighting, frequency of use, and the placement of the field. She has no hesitation referring this proposal to the Shared Services Committee and on to the Board of Education for review.

Councilor Cascio commented that Mr. Dest said that the current field is adequate for turf installation. Mr. Dest's understanding is that there is a drainage problem because it was not done properly to begin with and that placing turf on the field is a better idea than any other option. He recommends that the field be abandoned and a new location found. The Mill Woods Master Plan should provide for an alternate field.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor addressed the issue of the field location. He is the person who suggested that the Mill Woods Master Plan includes a lighted football/soccer field. This idea was vetoed. Cottone Field is a problem today and needs to be fixed today. Moving it somewhere else will involve bussing costs. Deputy Mayor O'Connor is sympathetic to the neighbor's concerns with the lighting. The lights today are completely different and can be aimed better to avoid spillover. Traffic has never been an issue with any other High School function. Deputy Mayor O'Connor expects that traffic issues will be discussed and resolved before any function takes place at the field. By installing artificial turf, resources will be freed up to be used at other fields throughout Town.

Chairperson Czernicki stated that this issue needs at this time to move either to Shared Services or directly to the Board of Education.

Councilor Morin moved **"TO SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION - ARTIFICIAL TURF AND NIGHT LIGHTING FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IT BE REVIEWED BY THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION AND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Fitzpatrick asked if he has questions about the lights should he then not vote to approve the motion. He feels as though he is being boxed into a corner. He is comfortable with the field resurfacing, but not with the lighting. Councilor Fitzpatrick still has many questions and concerns; therefore, he would have to vote no to endorse the whole package.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked if there are so many other issues in Town that are so important, why resolutions aren't being introduced at this time to remedy them. He said that he has public commitments to fund the lighting.

Councilor Gardow said that he has the same concerns as Councilor Fitzpatrick. He wants to make sure that the issues regarding the lighting are resolved before he supports the motion.

Chairperson Czernicki said that she also cannot support the motion at this time because of the lighting issues. She has received calls from residents complaining about the lights at Maxwell Park. She stated that although the Council and the Board of Education are two separate bodies, they need to work together to come to an informed decision. She is bothered by feeling that she is being forced into a decision tonight that may convey the opinion that she does not want the field updated. She does want the field resurfaced but needs answers to other key issues. She will not be bullied into making any decision.

The following roll call vote was taken:

Councilor Cascio	AYE	Councilor Hemmann	NAY
Councilor	NAY	Councilor Morin	AYE

Fitzpatrick		Deputy Mayor	AYE
Councilor Flynn	AYE	O'Connor	
Councilor Gardow	NAY	Chairperson Czernicki	NAY

The motion failed.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that unless a resolution is reintroduced, it will not continue.

Councilor Fitzpatrick moved **"TO SEND TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, FOR REVIEW, THE CONCENSUS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL THAT THE COTTONE FIELD ISSUES NEED TO BE ADDRESSED IN TERMS OF THE INSTALLATION OF ARTIFICIAL TURF"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Flynn made a point of order as to whether this motion has already been made and defeated.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this issue can be moved forward to the Board of Education as a proposal for artificial turf only or it can be provided to the Board as information only for them to review.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked if this is being sent to the Board of Education to get their opinions on the issue or if this is being sent to the Board of Education stating that the Council, as a body, supports the installation of artificial turf?

Councilor Fitzpatrick said that the purpose of his motion is to send the concerns on the issue to the Board of Education to get their response to the issues.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked what the Council's next move is should the Board of Education send back a favorable response for installation of artificial turf?

Chairperson Czernicki said that the next move would be to refer the proposal to the Planning & Zoning Commission for approval.

Councilor Cascio said that he'd request that the proposal be placed on the upcoming October 14 Shared Services agenda so that there could be a discussion of the item between the Town Council, Town Manager, Board of Education, and Superintendent of Schools.

Councilor Flynn restated his concerns about investing in the upgrade of the field without also installing lighting. He feels that without the lighting the community would not get full use out of the field.

Councilor Gardow disagreed with Councilor Flynn and feels that upgrading the field is a good investment considering the fact that the Town is spending \$20,000 per year to maintain the current field.

The following roll call vote was taken:

Councilor Cascio	AYE	Councilor Hemmann	AYE
Councilor Fitzpatrick	AYE	Councilor Morin	AYE
Councilor Flynn	AYE	Deputy Mayor O'Connor	NAY
Councilor Gardow	AYE	Chairperson Czernicki	AYE

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-1-0.

Both Deputy Mayor O'Connor and Councilor Flynn stepped out of the meeting at this time.

Councilor Gardow moved **"TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF RICHARD GIBILISCO FROM THE**

SCHOOL PROJECTS BUILDING COMMITTEE - WEBB, STILLMAN, PHYSICAL SERVICES AND DIANE M. FITZPATRICK FROM THE POLICE FACILITIES BUILDING COMMITTEE", seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Fitzpatrick abstained. The motion passed 5-0-1.

Councilor Gardow moved **"TO APPOINT TO THE YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE TERM OF 10-6-03 TO 6-30-05 MATT DASKAL AND CAITLIN DRAKE; TO CORRECT THE JULY 7, 2003 APPOINTMENT OF MARY BETH DOBMEIER TO THE WETHERSFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TO INSTEAD BE TO THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS FOR A TERM OF 10-6-03 TO 6-30-05; AND TO APPOINT DIANE M. FITZPATRICK TO THE SCHOOL PROJECTS BUILDING COMMITTEE - WEBB, STILLMAN, & PHYSICAL SERVICES FOR THE TERM OF 10-6-03 TO COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Fitzpatrick abstained. The motion passed 5-0-1.

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING \$790,790 AMONG VARIOUS ACCOUNTS"**, seconded by Councilor Gardow.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that these are the transfers from the last fiscal year which will result in a fund balance of 6.7%.

Councilor Gardow asked how this information is used as a lesson for future budgeting. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she uses it when meeting with Department Heads for development of a five-year overview. Councilor Gardow asked if the amounts transferred reflect any surprises. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that it is difficult for both her and the new Finance Director, Rob Buden to know this as they were not in Wethersfield during the development of the 2002-2003 budget. She can notice some items that need to be looked at so that they are closer to their actual budgeted amounts.

Councilor Flynn returned to the meeting at this time.

Councilor Cascio said that this transfer is a tool to use when reviewing and revising the budget format.

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

Councilor Flynn moved **"TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR A 2003 AMERICA-THE-BEAUTIFUL GRANT "**, seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

Councilor Gardow commented that this resolution is good for the infrastructure of the Town with regard to its trees. The Wethersfield Tree Warden has reported that many more trees in Town have been taken down than those planted. Councilor Gardow supports this resolution as it works to enhance the Town.

Councilor Cascio said that recognition should be given to the Charles Wright Elementary School community and the leadership of Marguerite Albert who put this grant into motion.

Chairperson Czernicki said that this also honors Botanist Charles Wright by the planting of the trees.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Computer System Upgrade - Walker Systems, Inc.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she has met with Town Staff and together they have prioritized the categories most needed at the Town Hall. The E-mail system and the Assessor's servers are the most important services needing upgrading. Governor Rowland has instructed his staff to make less use of paper and Town Manager

Bonnie Therrien feels that it is also important for Wethersfield to make more use of the e-mail system.

Councilor Cascio asked the Town Manager if she has a dollar amount for the proposed upgrades. She said that the amount is approximately \$98,000 for the two items stated. Councilor Cascio asked what the upgrades will do to improve job efficiency. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the improved e-mail system will allow for less paper memos, it will allow for better bidding, and the internet services will be much quicker. The upgrade to the Assessor's servers will enhance the efficiency of the upcoming Wethersfield revaluation.

Councilor Flynn moved **"TO APPROVE THE COMPUTER SYSTEM UPGRADE OF THE E-MAIL SERVICES AND ASSESSOR'S SERVERS - WALKER SYSTEMS, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$98,896"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Gardow said that an efficient work environment is essential. Wethersfield needs to move forward so that the Town Hall and the Library infrastructure needs are met so that they can also interface with the Board of Education.

Councilor Fitzpatrick said that the proper tools need to be provided so that the Town can maintain and increase the existing grand list.

Councilor Hemmann suggested to the Town Manager that a better inventory be kept so that Department Heads always have an accurate listing of their current technology. With this information, staff needs can be better assessed. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this is very important for building on the ten-year plan.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Architect Contract - Friar and Associates - Physical Services Building

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the Architect Contract for the Webb building was passed; however not for the Physical Services Building. The wording regarding the ownership has been revised and she forwarded the revision to Council members. The new language has been approved by the Town Attorney.

Councilor Flynn moved **"TO APPROVE THE ARCHITECT CONTRACT WITH FRIAR AND ASSOCIATES FOR THE PHYSICAL SERVICES BUILDING"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor returned to the meeting at this time. (11:05)

Change Orders - Silas Deane Middle School

Mr. Drake, Chairman of the School Projects Building Committee - SDMS, said that a list has been made of final major additions to the project. A memo was also provided as to the current status of the schedule and budget of the project. Mr. Drake said that a fair amount of money will be returned to the Town once the project is complete at the end of November. The items requested are the second half of the technology upgrades, new maintenance equipment, the remaining teachers' furniture, and additional project management services to complete the project.

Chairperson Czernicki asked what is being done to the entrance on the Silas Deane Highway. Mr. Drake said that there will be a 15'x 20' entrance way which will be covered. There will be a drawing and schematic finalized next week.

Mr. Drake also explained that the southwest corner of the site will need repaving. The Committee agreed that the area can be patched for a cost of \$12,934.80 rather than totally repaved at a cost of \$36,000.

Councilor Cascio asked if an open house will be planned similar to that held for the opening of the new Police Facility. Mr. Drake said that a school open house was held for the parents last week. The Committee is open to whatever the Council deems appropriate.

Councilor Flynn moved **"TO APPROVE THE CHANGES ORDERS FOR THE SILAS DEANE MIDDLE SCHOOL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$82,085 FOR ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT HOURS; \$12,934.80 FOR PATCHING THE PAVED AREA AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE SCHOOL; \$35,187.56 FOR FURNITURE ALTERNATES; \$160,000 FOR PHASE 2 TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES; AND \$17,097 FOR MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT"**, seconded by Councilor Fitzpatrick. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Fees for Transfer Stations

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that Councilor Fitzpatrick requested that the Transfer Station tipping fees be reviewed. She said that she believes that user fees should cover as close to 100% as possible of services. The proposal is a five year plan to get the amount up to the 100% and she recommends that the proposal be sent to a joint Refuse Disposal and Budget & Finance subcommittee.

Councilor Flynn moved **"TO REFER THE TRANSFER STATION TIPPING FEE PROPOSAL TO A JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING OF REFUSE DISPOSAL AND BUDGET & FINANCE"**, seconded by Councilor Fitzpatrick.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor said that the fees were raised just last year and he need to be clearer on the proposal in front of him. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that it is proposed that the fees be raised again as users are paying only 43% of the costs. The increases will get the fees up to 100% coverage of the costs.

Councilor Gardow said that there were discussions regarding the fee increases during the 2002 budget session. It was decided that the rates would be raised on September 1, 2002 to the current fees.

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

Volunteer Fire Fighting - Support of State Help

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO SUPPORT THE BERLIN RESOLUTION OPPOSING ANY CONTRACTURAL PROVISION IN ANY COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT THAT PREVENTS ANY PAID FIREFIGHTER FROM SERVING ON VOLUNTEER FORCES IN OTHER COMMUNITIES"**, seconded by Councilor Flynn. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

BIDS

Councilor Flynn moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR PAVEMENT CRACK SEALING - VARIOUS STREET TO BIDDER #1 A & A ASPHALT - AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$17,605"**, seconded by Councilor Morin.

Councilor Flynn verified with the Town Manager that there will no longer be mulch crack sealing. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that A & A Asphalt has been used previously by the Town. They are reliable and came in with the lowest bid amount.

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

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE WETHERSFIELD COVE AND REMEDIATION IN THE FORM OF INJUNCTIVE AND OTHER RELIEF

WHEREAS, the MDC has allowed for, on a continual basis, an ongoing and vast amount of unreasonable and egregious human sewage flows into the Wethersfield Cove,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Wethersfield immediately commence action for the redress in Superior Court of the State of Connecticut, in the form of injunctive relief and other remedies made available to it under the Connecticut

Environmental Protection Act.

MINUTES

Councilor Fitzpatrick requested that the motion on page 16233 be revised to indicate that the property is on Columbus Street.

Councilor Hemmann requested that page 16245 be amended to include in her comment that the architect fees for the roof are "yet another unfunded State mandate"

Councilor Cascio moved "**TO ACCEPT AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2003**", seconded by Councilor Flynn. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Fitzpatrick abstained. The motion passed 7-0-1.

GENERAL COMMENTS

REPORTS

Silas Deane Middle School Update

COUNCIL

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked the Town Manager to give him an update on the status of the drinking fountain at Mikey's Place. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she is unaware that there is a problem, but that she will now look into the situation. Deputy Mayor O'Connor said that the water line is in place but that the MDC is waiting for the Recreation & Parks Department to make this a priority.

Councilor Cascio asked the Town Manager to provide an update of C.2.d, f, and g which address the Increase in Veteran's Exemption Allowance, the Animal Control Ordinance, and the Community Center Dance Floor respectively. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that regarding the Veteran's Exemption Allowance, a meeting of the Budget & Finance Committee needs to be scheduled. Regarding the Animal Control Ordinance, she spoke with Attorney Forsyth who is waiting for additional information from the Town of Berlin. This should appear on the next Council agenda. Regarding the Community Center Dance Floor, the Recreation & Parks Department is still looking into a flame-retardant, quality floor. This should also appear on the next Council agenda. Councilor Cascio noted that he will not be at the next Council meeting as he will be out of Town on October 20.

Councilor Gardow asked for a copy of the contract resolutions presented at the Special Meeting on September 29. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she will provide this to him.

Councilor Hemmann reported that she attended the Wethersfield Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities meeting and there is an open session regarding the changes to the Dial-A-Ride program and the ADA. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 6, at First Church Village on Wells Road.

Councilor Cascio asked the Town Manager for an update of the Wethersfield High School lecture hall. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she will obtain this information from the Superintendent.

Chairperson Czernicki asked the Town Manager when the Nott Street blasting is scheduled to take place. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the State Fire Marshall is still not sure if he will grant the permit. If he does, the blasting will commence in approximately two weeks. The project will take 1 1/2 to 2 weeks to complete. The blasting will occur twice per day. Chairperson Czernicki asked if the Town Manager has yet written to State Legislators. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that a draft has been written. Chairperson Czernicki asked if the letter could indicate that the last time blasting occurred on the ledge, a number of homes suffered substantial damage. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she will include this point.

PUBLIC

Ballou Tooker, 65 Harmund Place, commented that the Building Committee has done an outstanding job and they should be publicly commended. Chairperson Czernicki said that there is a way that this can be done. Mr. Tooker said that he is alarmed at how the issue of the football field has come out of nowhere and has been suddenly put on the front burner. He commends the Council for compromising on the situation.

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, also complimented Mr. Drake and his Committee for a job well done. Mr. Ruhe is concerned that November 3 is inappropriate for a decision to be made on the football field. He is concerned that this type of expenditure will be made on a "credit card". He wonders if this type of payment is a scheme to bypass a referendum. Mr. Ruhe said that he wishes the type of discussion held this evening and the fervor shown by the Council would be applied to academic excellence. He wonders if the Council's priorities are straight.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:34 p.m., Councilor Flynn moved "**TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**".

Chairperson Czernicki announced that the Town Manager informed her that the full concentration of the Council will be required for the issues to be discussed during the Executive Session. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien suggested that the Executive Session be postponed until the next meeting.

Councilor Flynn withdrew his motion to move into Executive Session.

Chairperson Czernicki announced that the Executive Session will be held prior to the next Council meeting.

At 11:35 p.m., Councilor Flynn moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Fitzpatrick. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk