

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

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## **REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 17, 2003**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on November 17, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

Present: Councilors Cascio, Fitzpatrick, Flynn, Gardow, Hemmann, Morin, Sassano (8:15), Deputy Mayor O'Connor and Chairperson Czernicki.

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 Chairperson Czernicki.

Certificate of Appreciation - Tourism Interns - Tourism Booklet

Dr. Richard Benfield, an Associate Professor of Geography at Central Connecticut State University introduced Katie Weber, Alex Galaza and Margaret Smith who are students in his Tourism Marketing class. Both Ms. Weber and Mr. Galaza were asked to do an inventory of the Town of Wethersfield's tourism resources. The two of them did extensive work on the project so that the Town now has a complete inventory of all of its tourism resources indexed in a binder and also available on a CD. Their work provides the resources for the Town and the Tourism Commission to move forward with the development of tourism for economic purposes. The Tourism Commission, seeing how much effort went into the project as well as the benefits of it, asked that the Town Council recognize these two students for their work. Dr. Benfield said that his Spring semester class will include the development of two walking tours of Wethersfield which will include activities available at each of the tourist stops in Town. Ms. Smith will be working on this project in the Spring. Chairperson Czernicki presented Certificates of Commendation from the Town Council to both Katie Weber and Alex Galaza for their research, organization and assembly of a CD and tourism information notebook for the Wethersfield Tourism Commission.

Chairperson Czernicki recognized that some of the Councilors present will not be returning for various reasons and she thanked each of them for the time dedicated to the Town Council on behalf of the citizens of Wethersfield. She urged them to stay involved in the Wethersfield community and to enjoy time with their families. Chairperson Czernicki presented plaques of appreciation to Councilor Fitzpatrick who served from 1995 to 2003, Councilor Gardow who served from 2002 to 2003, Councilor Flynn who served from 1995 to 2003, Deputy Mayor O'Connor who served from 1999 to 2003. Chairperson Czernicki chose to hold off on the presentation to Councilor Sassano who would be arriving shortly.

Councilor Fitzpatrick thanked all of the Councilors present. He has enjoyed his tenure as Councilor and thanked his wife and his daughters Maggie and Allison for their support. Councilor Fitzpatrick recognized the talents and insights of Councilor Sassano, Councilor Flynn, Deputy Mayor O'Connor, and Councilor Gardow. Councilor Fitzpatrick hopes to continue serving the Town in a different capacity.

Councilor Flynn said that he has served on the Council with some extraordinary people including the eight colleagues surrounding him this evening. He has told people that the reason he became involved in politics has been to give back to the community which has given him so much. Councilor Flynn believes that community service is not only honorable, but essential. Councilor Flynn thanked his wife, Nancy for her love, patience and encouragement over the past eight years. He also thanked his parents and in-laws. He thanked the voters of Wethersfield for electing him four times to serve on the Council. He will forever treasure the fact that he was elected a leader in his home town.

Councilor Gardow stated that he has done the best he could for the Town of Wethersfield over the past nineteen months. He thanked Chairperson Czernicki for her leadership, Deputy Mayor O'Connor for his passion, Councilor

Fitzpatrick for his years of experience, Councilor Hemmann for her steadfast beliefs, Councilor Cascio for making the task fun even when it wasn't, Councilor Flynn for his thoughtful opposition, and Councilor Sassano for serving the Town well. Councilor Gardow wished Councilor Morin the best of luck during his next term. Councilor Gardow thanked both Ed Fenton and George Ruhe for their support and encouragement. He also thanked Dick Lasher and Tom Wraight for encouraging him during his tenure on the Council. Councilor Gardow thanked the Republican Town Committee for putting their faith in him when the vacancy occurred on the Council. He has met many people in the community as well as in government; many of whom he now considers friends.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor thanked all the voters who he's never even met who took a chance by pulling his lever and voting him into office. Deputy Mayor O'Connor said that he has learned that if people are held accountable and are made to justify their actions, better results occur. He has had a great experience serving under Councilor Sassano and learned a lot from it. He recognized the amount of hours put in by Wethersfield's current Mayor Czernicki. He thanked all for a great experience in serving the Town of Wethersfield.

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

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

### HEARING

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 70, DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS, PUBLIC REGULATIONS OF THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD, CONNECTICUT

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE CREATION OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY

James Grise, 455 Wolcott Hill Road, said that he is a member of the ad hoc committee formed to integrate technology into the school system. They have encouraged the Board of Education and School Administrators to better plan and incorporate technology into the school district's infrastructure and curriculum. He is in favor of the creation of an Advisory Committee on Information and Technology. The committee would provide the leadership in developing a long-term integrated technology plan for the Town, the school system, and the library. The committee would also provide standardizations for platforms that work in application software and a consolidation of services for the Town, school system, and library. The bottom line is to produce a long-term technology plan providing the service required by all at a low cost.

George A. Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. in support of the proposed Dog Ordinance. The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. appreciated the presentation given by the Town Manager regarding the necessity for the proposed information and technology resolution. The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. feels that the resolution is positive, constructive and sets an appropriate tone for the Town to go ahead with.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, supports the resolution to create an advisory committee on information and technology and with the comments made by both Mr. Grise and Mr. Ruhe.

### GENERAL COMMENTS

Penny Stanziale, Chairperson of the Board of Education, 15 Harold Street, thanked Councilors who will be leaving the Council after this evening for their dedication and commitment to the citizens of Wethersfield. She encouraged them to continue serving Wethersfield in some way.

Shirley Steinmetz, 375 Brimfield Road, stated that she has always believed that the word "politician" is a good word. Those who run for office do so to serve their Town, State or Nation. She wished well to all exiting Councilors and thanked them for their service to Wethersfield.

Rick Garrey, 35 Harding Street, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Community Television in thanking Councilor Gardow for his service as liaison and advocate for the volunteers at WCTV. He also thanked Chairperson Czernicki for her service as liaison. Mr. Garrey personally thanked all of the exiting Councilors for their hard work and service to the Town of Wethersfield.

Rich Roberts, 60 Highview Avenue, thanked the exiting Councilors and wished them the best in their future endeavors. He also wished the best to the remaining Councilors over the next two years.

George A. Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. said the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. does not support the installation of artificial turf at the WHS football field. It does not make sense to significantly reduce the school budget and then turn around and spend so much money on a project of this sort.. The Wethersfield Taxpayers Association, Inc. urges that this project not go forward. Mr. Ruhe commented on the drainage problem priority list. He questions whether the list is accurate.

Jim Clynych, 903 Ridge Road, spoke as the Chairman of the State of Connecticut Homeless Disabled American Veterans. He said that there are 275,000 homeless Veterans in the United States on any given day. Most have either drug or alcohol related problems which can be traced back to their service days. He stated that the tax exemption would be provided to only low-income Veterans in Wethersfield who seem to him to be at the bottom of the Council's priority list. The issue has been continually tabled by the Wethersfield Council. He urges the Council to approve an increase in the Veteran's tax exemption.

Councilor Sassano arrived at this time (8:15 p.m.).

Chairperson Czernicki presented Councilor Sassano with his plaque of appreciation for his service to the Wethersfield Town Council from 1993 to 2003.

Councilor Sassano said that despite any negative publicity, the long hours, frustrations, the never-ending challenge to do more with less, public service holds enormous potential for office holder and constituent alike. Improving the quality of life in Wethersfield is particularly satisfying. He has enjoyed his sixteen years as an elected official in Wethersfield and hopes that he has been a voice of fairness, reason and intelligence. He thanked the citizens of Wethersfield for electing him seven times to public office. He will always treasure their trust and confidence. He thanked his family for accepting the time he has devoted to the Town. He considers public service a noble enterprise.

### COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Gardow moved "**TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF CLARE MEADE FROM THE WETHERSFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION AND CHRISTINA K. STAMOS FROM THE YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD**", seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

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

#### **WETHERSFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Robert A. Garrey	R	54 Main Street	11-17-03 to 6-30-08
Alternate: Paul E. Courchaine	R	481 Main Street	11-17-03 to 6-30-05

#### **BUILDING COMMITTEE TOWN HALL/LIBRARY**

David R. Edwards III	R	200 Windmill Hill	11-17-03 to completion
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#### **WETHERSFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

Christine Taylor	TE	505 Silas Deane Hwy.	11-17-03 to 6-30-05
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", seconded by Councilor Morin. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Flynn moved **"TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF MATTHEW CHOLEWA OF 90 OX YOKE DRIVE TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF 11-17-03 TO 6-30-04"**, seconded by Councilor Gardow. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Fitzpatrick moved **"TO ADD TO THE AGENDA THE APPOINTMENT OF DAVID R. EDWARDS III AS AN ALTERNATE TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor O'Connor. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Gardow moved **"TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF DAVID R. EDWARDS III OF 200 WINDMILL HILL AS AN ALTERNATE TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF 11-17-03 TO 6-30-06"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor O'Connor. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor moved **"TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 70 - DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Sassano requested that the Town Manager explain how this differs from the existing ordinance.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the present ordinance targets the breed of rottweiler dogs and the new ordinance will cover dogs in general and it defines what is considered to be vicious or dangerous. The new ordinance also provides for new repercussions for the owners of dogs who are deemed vicious or dangerous. The new ordinance is much more extensive than the one currently standing.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE CREATION OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor O'Connor.

Councilor Gardow said that the issues of technology arose during the rebuilding of the Silas Deane Middle School. There has been a lot of input provided by Principal Menzo and the ad hoc committee. A report was provided by Walker Services along with add-ons by Town Staff. The proposed Tech Committee will focus on the integration of the Town, Board of Education and Library. There are many Wethersfield residents who could offer wonderful insight and would be a big asset to this committee.

Councilor Gardow moved **"TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION LANGUAGE TO READ THAT THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS BE APPOINTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER RATHER THAN THE TOWN COUNCIL"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### Artificial Surface - High School Football Field

Councilor Morin moved **"TO SELECT KAESTLE BOOS ASSOCIATES AS ARCHITECT/LANDSCAPE ENGINEER FOR THE ARTIFICIAL SURFACE AT THE FOOTBALL FIELD PROJECT AND TRANSFER \$15,000 FROM THE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT TO THE TOWN COUNCIL CONSULTANT ACCOUNT"**, seconded by Councilor Fitzpatrick.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that the Council had requested that an architect be chosen to expedite the project. She and staff contacted our on-call engineering firms as well as Kaestle and Boos, our current architect for the Mill Woods Park Expansion project. It was determined that Kaestle and Boos provided the most information. They would like the time to make an in-depth investigation and report back to the Council as soon as possible to get the

field repaired by the Fall of 2004. They would make recommendations as to what type of surface will be appropriate to resolve the problems.

Councilor Sassano asked how it was determined that \$15,000 is a fair price. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the other pricing she received was \$19,000-\$20,000. When she worked in the Town of Berlin, they were quoted \$50,000 for the entire design specs. The Town Manager has concluded that \$15,000 is an appropriate price.

Councilor Flynn asked to clarify the letter from Kaestle Boos which refers to the running track at the WHS. He wanted to make sure that the work scope is for Cottone Field and not the track.

Councilor Gardow supports the resolution. He thinks that Kaestle Boos and Dick Webb did a fine job on the Mill Woods Master Plan and he has full confidence in their performance on this project as well.

Councilor Hemmann supports going forward to determine the design costs; however she still has reservations regarding the funding. The amount has not been appropriated, nor has the project appeared at the top of the priority list.

Councilor Fitzpatrick reminded the Council of Dr. Dest's study focusing on the drainage of the area and the reports of such should be reviewed.

Councilor Cascio verified that this motion is to accept Kaestle Boos Assoc. as the architect/landscape engineer for the football field project.

Councilor Sassano stated that the letter from Kaestle Boos refers to the running track several times and he hopes that this is not an oversight on their part. The letter seems to indicate that they have not looked as closely at the project as the Council would expect that they have. He wants to be sure that everyone is on the same page regarding the scope of the project.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor agrees with Councilor Sassano's concerns and stated that he checked with the Town Manager to verify that Kaestle Boos has actually visited the field and she said that they have.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Sassano voted NAY. The motion passed 8-1-0.

## OTHER BUSINESS

### Social Services Block Grant

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this is an annual block grant and this year's amount is \$9,823 which is used entirely as salary support for the Elderly Services Coordinator.

Councilor Morin moved "**TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT**", seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

### Meeting Dates for Town Council 2003-2004

Councilor Cascio moved "**TO APPROVE THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR 2003-2004**", seconded by Councilor Flynn. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Deputy Mayor O'Connor ABSTAINED. The motion passed 8-0-1.

### CCM Intervention - DPUC Rate Setting

### CCM Intervention - AFSCME Lawsuit - Anthem Demutualization

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the DPUC is appearing in front of the State Utility Control to try to raise the

rates, especially those for street lighting. The CCM has contacted member towns to see if they would want to participate in challenging those rates. The cost to participate will be \$850 which will come from the Legal account.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that AFSCME has sued municipalities concerning the Anthem/Blue Cross/Blue Shield demutualization feeling that all of the money received from the demutualization should be going to union retirees. The cost to participate will be \$1,000 which will come from the Legal account.

Councilor Flynn left the meeting at this time. (8:30 p.m.)

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO JOIN WITH CCM FOR THE DPUC RATE-SETTING CASE AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$850 AND ALSO TO JOIN WITH CCM FOR THE AFSCME LAWSUIT TO CAPTURE ANTHEM DEMUTUALIZATION PROCEEDS AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$1,000"**, seconded by Councilor Flynn.

#### Non-Emergency Interagency Agreement

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien stated that the communities of Wethersfield, Berlin, Cromwell, Newington, and Rocky Hill have been meeting to work together on similar projects and services. One area of discussion has been to enhance the ability of each Town's police department by cooperating jointly in regional investigations, rescue efforts, and the sharing of the expertise of each Department's officers to assist one another. This joint effort will save money as well.

Councilor Flynn returned to the meeting at this time (8:35 p.m.)

Councilor Flynn moved **"TO APPROVE THE NON-EMERGENCY INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORT BETWEEN THE TOWNS OF BERLIN, NEWINGTON, WETHERSFIELD, ROCKY HILL AND CROMWELL"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Gardow asked the Town Manager what Wethersfield Police Chief Cetran's opinion is of this agreement? Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the Police Chiefs of each Town involved drafted the agreement. Councilor Gardow asked if any member Towns have acted on the agreement yet. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she believes that Newington has and that all Towns are expected to act on it around the same time.

Councilor Sassano asked who will initially be the lead agency. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that this will depend on the current issue. At this time there is not really a lead. Councilor Sassano referred to paragraph seven of the agreement which makes reference to a "lead agency". He wonders if this involves added liability, responsibility, or costs. The Town Manager is not aware of any additional liability or responsibility, but said that she will look into this.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

#### Resolution - Volunteer Fire Fighters

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that this resolution strongly asks the State Legislators to become involved in the matter. This past week, a Senator from Branford introduced a Bill to the State Legislature stating that any municipalities banning the use of paid firefighters as volunteers will suffer appropriate consequences. On the Federal level, a Bill has been introduced stating that any municipality including such language in their contracts will not be eligible for homeland security Federal funding. This resolution is another way for Wethersfield to say that we are on board with all other municipalities attempting to stop this ban.

Councilor Flynn moved **"TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION OPPOSING ANY COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT CLAUSE RESTRICTING PAID FIREFIGHTERS FROM SERVING IN ANY CAPACITY ON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS IN THEIR HOME COMMUNITY"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

#### Request for Proposal

Councilor Morin moved **"FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF WETHERSFIELD TOWN ATTORNEY"**, seconded by Councilor Flynn.

Councilor Sassano asked if this was advertised two years ago. The Town Manager said that there was a request for qualifications and she asked Town Clerk Sassano if it was advertised or just sent to certain firms. The Town Clerk said that it was not advertised in the paper. Councilor Sassano asked the Town Manager what she feels is the best procedure to take. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that a request for qualification would be advertised. This can be done in a timely manner.

Councilor Fitzpatrick commented that this selection process is a great idea. This is a better process than making the position a political appointment.

Councilor Cascio also agrees with this idea; however he is concerned about the section of the resolution stating that the Town Council adopt this policy for the selection of the Town Attorney and Assistant Town Attorney. He said that during the past budget session it was discussed that there is no need for an Assistant Town Attorney. Councilor Morin said that the Town will be looking at hiring both.

Councilor Flynn suggested that the Town keep its options open by soliciting for both a Town Attorney and Assistant Town Attorney. He said that there will be situations where a firm that is selected as Town Attorney will be conflicted out and we will need back-up representation. By soliciting RFQ's the Council can decide at the appointment time whether to fill the position of Assistant or not.

Councilor Cascio asked about the time frame for the current Attorneys. He was told that by Charter the date is December 15.

Councilor Gardow asked about the dates for interviewing. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that, by Charter, the Town needs ten days to advertise. She will remind Council to set the date when necessary. She said that this resolution is the exact same one as two years ago. She suggested that the line stating when interviews will be held be stricken from the resolution.

Councilor Sassano moved **"TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION TO ELIMINATE THE INTERVIEW DATES"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

### BIDS

Councilor Flynn moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR STORM DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS TO CHURCH STREET FROM THE SILAS DEANE HIGHWAY TO MAIN STREET TO BIDDER #1 COUNTRY STONESCAPES OF MARLBOROUGH - IN THE AMOUNT OF \$70,658.50"**, seconded by Councilor Morin. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Flynn moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR QUARRY AND BITUMINOUS MATERIALS TO BIDDER #1 DRVN ENTERPRISES, INC - AT THE PRICES QUOTED IN THEIR BID"**, seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Gardow asked if the numbers are consistent with those spent by the Town in the past. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that she will have to check on this.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Hemmann moved **"TO AWARD THE BID FOR ENGINEERING WORK FOR THE KASPER GROUP PLAN RECONSTRUCTION TO DECARLO & DOLL, INC - IN THE AMOUNT OF \$86,500"**, seconded by Councilor Sassano.

Councilor Flynn stated that the amount of \$86,500 is for the BL Companies and that the amount for DeCarlo & Doll is for \$38,650.

Councilor Flynn moved "**TO AMEND THE MOTION TO CHANGE THE AMOUNT TO \$38,650**", seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Councilor Hemmann stated that the list of drainage projects went to the Flood and Erosion Board last Spring for review. She asked that they re-prioritize the list if necessary, and they did. The money from the sale of the two lots is leveraging the cost for the two drainage projects.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked the Town Manager to explain the definition of on-call engineer. She said that they are available immediately for a project without going through the whole RFP process. Deputy Mayor O'Connor said that the on-call engineers were called upon to respond to the synthetic turf surface and it was difficult to obtain their response. We should not award a contract to one of those on-call engineers. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that DeCarlo came in on time with their response and that it was the other vendor who did not. Deputy Mayor O'Connor stated that he had to ask the Town Manager to become involved due to the lack of responsiveness. He is concerned about this example of their responsiveness.

Councilor Hemmann clarified that this bid is to finish the design proposals for the projects that got lost with the Kasper Group since they went bankrupt. The ongoing attempts to get these documents from the Kasper Group have failed to this point. Chairperson Czernicki stated that the matter is in the Town Attorney's hands at this time.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Deputy Mayor O'Connor voted NAY. The motion passed 8-1-0.

#### ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

### **RESOLUTION OPPOSING ANY COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT CLAUSE RESTRICTING PAID FIREFIGHTERS FROM SERVING IN ANY CAPACITY ON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS IN THEIR HOME COMMUNITY**

WHEREAS, the Wethersfield Volunteer Fire Department has served the town of Wethersfield and its residents with distinction as a volunteer organization since 1803; and

WHEREAS, members of the Wethersfield Volunteer Fire Department receive outstanding training and go on to proudly serve surrounding communities as career firefighters; and

WHEREAS, volunteerism in emergency services is a long-standing valued tradition in the Town of Wethersfield; and

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut and the Connecticut General Assembly have recognized the value of volunteerism in emergency services through legislation enabling municipalities to establish tax incentive programs for such volunteers; and

WHEREAS, over the years, a number of communities across the State and nation have implemented contract language prohibiting career firefighters from engaging in volunteer fire service; and

WHEREAS, a contract recently negotiated between the city of Hartford and International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) will prohibit its career firefighters from serving as active members of volunteer fire departments effective June 30, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the existence and implementation of such contractual provisions undermines the rights of individuals to serve as volunteer firefighters in the Town of Wethersfield at a time when efforts to increase the ranks of volunteer fire departments become more difficult;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wethersfield Town Council hereby opposes the inclusion of any

clause within a collective bargaining agreement which is intended to or does prohibit or hinder any paid firefighter from serving in any capacity on volunteer fire departments in their home community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Town Manager are hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Mayor, Manager and Council of the City of Hartford to seek their assistance in removing the contract provision that will prohibit Hartford firefighters from serving in any capacity on volunteer fire departments in their home community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Town Manager are further directed to forward a copy of this resolution to Wethersfield's legislative delegation urging the Connecticut General Assembly to introduce legislation that will prohibit the enactment, enforcement or implementation of any contractual provision which restricts paid firefighters from serving in any capacity on volunteer fire departments in their home community.

### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Manager, Bonnie L. Therrien, is empowered to execute, amend and deliver in the name and on behalf of the Town of Wethersfield a certain contract for \$9,823 with the Department of Social Services of the State of Connecticut for a SSBG Social Services Block Grant and to affix the town seal.

### MINUTES

Councilor Flynn moved "**TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 29, 2003 SPECIAL MEETING**", seconded by Councilor Gardow. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Sassano and Deputy Mayor O'Connor ABSTAINED. The motion passed 7-0-2.

Councilor Flynn moved "**TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 20, 2003 REGULAR MEETING**", seconded by Councilor Hemmann. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Cascio ABSTAINED. The motion passed 8-0-1.

### GENERAL COMMENTS

### REPORTS

### COUNCIL

Councilor Cascio thanked those Councilors not continuing their service for their time and efforts for the Town of Wethersfield. He thanked Chairperson Czernicki for her commitment as Mayor for the past two years.

Chairperson Czernicki stated that it has been both a pleasure and an honor to serve as Chairperson of the Council and to represent the Town of Wethersfield in an even larger, expanded area. She thanked all Councilors for their advice and even their dissension when necessary. She especially thanked Town Manager Bonnie Therrien for a wonderful six months under her leadership as the Town's top-paid employee. The Town Manager wants to be proactive and believes passionately that you have to be a great communicator to be successful and affective.

### PUBLIC

George A. Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle cautioned the Council about the power abuse potential of the Non-Emergency Interagency Agreement. He also is concerned that there may be financial implications. He wants to be sure that the agreement has been reviewed extensively. Mr. Ruhe commented to Councilor Hemmann that the detention ponds that were sold had a higher priority than they currently do. He asked that she verify this as it is a concern to him.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:00 p.m., Councilor Flynn moved "**TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**" seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

At 9:26 p.m. Councilor Cascio moved "**TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**", seconded by Deputy Mayor O'Connor. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Cascio moved "**TO APPROVE THE POLICE CONTRACT AS PRESENTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER**", seconded by Councilor Flynn. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

At 9:32 p.m. Councilor Flynn moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**", seconded by Councilor Gardow. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano  
Unapproved