

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

REGULAR MEETING

AUGUST 19, 2002

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, August 19, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

Present: Councilors Cascio, Fitzpatrick, Flynn, Gardow, Hemmann, Morin, and Chairperson Czernicki.

Absent Deputy Mayor O'Connor and Councilor Sassano.

Also present Joseph Swetcky, Jr. Acting Town Manager and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

PRESENTATION: RELAY FOR LIFE - LAURA MAZZARELLA

Co-chairmen Lori Littman and Kathy Alexander of Relay for Life honored Laura Mazzarella and her teammates with a plaque for the Most Spirited Team. Laura Mazzarella, who is 15-years old, contacted Ms. Littman and expressed her desire to get involved. She put together a team of eight individuals called 'That 70's Team' and raised over \$1,000.

Mayor Czernicki presented Laura Mazzarella with a Certification of Recognition.

Acting Town Manager Swetcky referred to an on-line article, which indicated that the Hartford City Council had appointed Lee C. Erdmann as its new City Manager. Mr. Erdmann will begin his new position on September 1, 2002. Acting Town Manager Swetcky conveyed to the Council that Mr. Erdmann had left a voice message indicating that he would be submitting a resignation on August 20th.

Mayor Czernicki wished Mr. Erdmann well in his new position.

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

Councilor Flynn moved **"TO SUSPEND THE RULES"** seconded by Councilor Cascio.

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

Councilor Flynn moved **"TO CANCEL THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING ON TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2002 AND ADD A SPECIAL MEETING ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2002"** seconded by Councilor Cascio.

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

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO REMOVE ITEM C.2.K. MUNICIPAL PURCHASE OF STREETLIGHTS FROM THE TABLE,"** seconded by Councilor Morin.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HEARING

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT

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

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 136 SOLID WASTE REGULATIONS OF THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD, CONNECTICUT

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT.

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

GENERAL COMMENTS

Ballou Tooker, 65 Harmund Place, did not support a new contract for the Dial-a-Ride program. He mentioned a program called FISH, which was made up of 35 volunteers utilizing an answering service, which would receive calls from individuals needing a ride. The program was done without a charge. Individuals needing a ride to doctor's appointments mostly used it. The only drawback was that it could not accommodate wheelchairs. The service used the volunteer's personal vehicles and insurance. He also mentioned being on the Recreation & Parks Board in the 70's during which time a business organization had purchased a van and presented it to the Recreation & Parks Department. However, the town did not wish to accept the van for purposes of transporting individuals because it had a volunteer service already in existence. He mentioned that Thomas Lasher was involved with this program. He suggested a possible arrangement with a company that already transports individuals with wheelchair access. He also suggested that this program be run on a five-day and not a seven-day a week schedule. He also mentioned that local churches also provide transportation for their patrons.

Peter Maxwell, 117 Maple Street, commented on the status of the construction at the Silas Deane Middle School. He pointed out that the project was at least seven days behind schedule. He urged the public to visit the job site and see if the necessary materials had arrived at the site and work had begun. It was indicated that everyday missed would result in a two week window that would have to be added to the overall bidding process in the future. He was disappointed that a month had already lapsed with no work being done. He questioned the ability to attract a reputable bidder for Phase II in light of the fact that Phase I had not begun.

Jim Clynych, 903 Ridge Road, wished Mr. Erdmann well in his new position. He too felt the Dial-a-Ride program was costing the town too much money to run and did not support offering services on the weekend. He pointed out an increase in the amount charged was about \$11,000 from last year to this year. He felt the report presented was incomplete. He supported getting vans utilizing local grants similar to Rocky Hill and Southington. He supported using Yellow Cab for this service.

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers' Association, Inc. on the following:

- He asked why the Council meeting was changed from Tuesday September 17th to Monday, September 16th. Chairperson Czernicki said the Council had originally approved the 2002 Town Council Meeting date for September 17th in observation of Yom Kippur and pointed out the Town Hall and schools do not close, therefore Council could hold their meeting on Monday rather than Tuesday.
- He supported providing financial assistance to CCM towards the purchase of streetlights. He pointed out that a memo included in the Council packet did not include what the cost would be. Chairperson Czernicki said the Council did not have this information at this time.
- He did not support approving the Dial-a-Ride program without further study. He noted that the vehicles were virtually empty and did not feel the town was getting it money's worth. He urged the Council to have someone do an analysis on this issue.
- He said he was impressed with the Webb Building following a tour of it. He mentioned room for a media center, an oversized gymnasium, and large auditorium which was not used that much but was being rented out to private enterprises. He supported renting the auditorium when it is not being used.
- He felt if the Town Hall were renovated it would be putting money into economic development.

Harry Lichtenbaum, 16 Towne House Lane, pointed out that the topic of reducing the Town Clerk's salary was not on

tonight's agenda. He thought the reason was because the Council had listened to the speakers from the last Council meeting on August 5th. He asked if the subject had been dropped so that the Town could go about towns business. Chairperson Czernicki said the Council was waiting for an opinion from the Ethics Board, which was out of compliance, based upon the current political affiliation of the members serving on it. Mr. Lichtenbaum pointed out the opinion of the Town Attorney, identified that the action was not done properly. He asked what role the Ethics Board would play. Chairperson Czernicki said that Deputy Mayor O'Connor asked for a ruling from the Ethics Board and that the Council was waiting for its opinion. Mr. Lichtenbaum asked if the Ethics Board was a Town or State committee. Chairperson Czernicki confirmed it was a Town committee.

Aurelio Interlandi, 249 Willow Street, pointed out the Council needed to appoint a new Town Manager and did not want to see it delay this action. He mentioned that as a result of the last election, the voters elected a Republican majority Town Council. He asked what they had done. He asked who would pay for renovations to the Silas Deane Middle School and the other schools. He was concerned with raising taxes in order to pay for renovations to the schools.

No one else wished to speak and Chairperson Czernicki declared the Public Comments section closed.

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Flynn moved "**TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT**" seconded by Councilor Cascio.

Acting Town Manager Swetcky said this was a State Grant and would help the town purchase traffic control equipment.

Councilor Cascio asked about if the local match of \$5,000 could be identified in the police budget. Acting Town Manager Swetcky said each department is requested to identify monies not allocated in their budgets and if none is identified the money is taken from the Contingency Account.

Councilor Gardow mentioned residents from Longvue and Stillwold and asked if this equipment would be used in this area. Police Chief Karangekis said this would cover a variety of equipment used in traffic enforcement throughout Wethersfield. Since the last meeting, traffic enforcement on Longvue had been stepped up and several residents on that street had received tickets.

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

Councilor Cascio moved "**TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 136 SOLID WASTE REGULATIONS OF THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD, CONNECTICUT,**" seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

Acting Town Manager Swetcky said this would alter the original ordinance with regard to solid waste regulations in the Town of Wethersfield. This would increase the fees by \$5.00 for Commercial Haulers and the residential permit and increase the transfer station coupon by \$5.00. The Refuse Disposal Committee approved this recommendation.

Councilor Gardow asked if the ordinance included in the Council's packet contained the latest version this ordinance. Town Clerk Sassano confirmed this.

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

Councilor Morin moved "**TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION ACCEPTING LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT**" seconded by Councilor Flynn.

Acting Town Manager Swetcky said this was a Federal block grant for funds to supplement policing activities in the town.

Councilor Gardow asked Police Chief Karangekis what type of community outreach would be used with this grant.

Police Chief Karangekis said it would be used for programs such as 'Cops in Shops' in which police officers monitor liquor purchases made in package stores. This program is done on an overtime basis and the money would be used to pay for the overtime used. It would also be used for bicycle patrols as well as other programs.

Councilor Gardow asked about the annual night out. Police Chief Karangekis said it was suggested holding this event in Mill Woods Park this year; however, after reviewing the costs and other issues it was decided it should be held at the same local as in years past.

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

Councilor Cascio moved "**TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF DAVID E. HEROLD AS AN ALTERNATE TO THE INLAND WETLANDS WATERCOURSES COMMISSION FOR A TERM AUGUST 19, 2002 TO JUNE 30, 2004**", seconded by Councilor Fitzpatrick.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Hemmann ABSTAINED. The motion passed 6-0-1.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Municipal Purchase of Streetlights

Acting Town Manager Swetcky responded to questions from the previous meeting.

CCM had spent \$66,000 and was attempting to recoup about \$30,000 from member towns. Approximately 31 towns have expressed interest in providing financial assistance and 18 towns have made a commitment. Taking the population of the 31 towns and its population and dividing that by \$30,000 was how the contributions of \$1,300 were arrived at. The financial assistance ranges from \$400 to \$17,000.

Chairperson Czernicki asked if the Budget and Finance Committee was already looking into this matter. Acting Town Manager Swetcky confirmed this and recommended that the issue be referred to this committee.

Councilor Morin moved "**TO REFER THIS MATTER TO THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION,**" seconded by Councilor Flynn.

Councilor Gardow mentioned comments from a resident and asked for an approximate estimate. Acting Town Manager Swetcky said at the last Budget and Finance Committee meeting the staff was directed to ask CCM to get this information. The first step would be to obtain an inventory from CL&P, which was being done and then an acquisition price would be obtained. He indicated an estimate of about \$250,000 to \$300,000.

Councilor Morin mentioned serving on the Budget and Finance Committee in the past and remembered an issue that CL&P was trying to resolve so that it could participate in this program. He asked that the Town give CL&P an opportunity to bid on this project because it was a substantial taxpayer in Wethersfield.

Councilor Hemmann said representatives from CL&P was present at the last Budget and Finance Committee meeting to discuss proposals.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Cascio moved "**TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF LISA H. LEONARD FROM THE SHADE TREE COMMISSION,**" seconded by Councilor Flynn.

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

BIDS

Sale of Town-Owned Real Property Located at 1912 Berlin Turnpike, Wethersfield (\$75,000)

Acting Town Manager Swetcky said this property was obtained through tax foreclosure over a year ago. Previous attempts to sell it had been unsuccessful. The minimum bid price was lowered to \$65,000 and, four bids were received, with the highest bid being \$75,000.

Councilor Flynn moved **"TO AWARD THE BID TO BIDDER #1 - DINO KARABETSOS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75,000 FOR THE SALE OF TOWN-OWNED REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1912 BERLIN TURNPIKE AND THAT THE PROCEEDS BE DEPOSITED IN THE OPEN SPACE LAND ACQUISITION ACCOUNT"**, seconded by Councilor Morin.

Councilor Cascio asked if this it was normal procedure for the funds to be directed to a specific account or could it be used to offset money spent on this property. Acting Town Manager Swetcky said the town normally deposits funds in the Open Space Account from the sale of town-owned property. He said this was the town's first sale of property as a result of a tax foreclosure. He said when the foreclosure took place the Town had written off the taxes therefore the proceeds do not have to be used to satisfy the taxes.

Councilor Gardow asked if the town had paid for the tests performed on the property with regard to potential contamination on the property. Acting Town Manager Swetcky said a Phase I was done which cost approximately \$2,800 and had been paid.

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

Bid Waiver - Revaluation Services (\$80,000)

Acting Town Manager Swetcky said a statistical revaluation had to be performed every four years under State law and a physical Revaluation of all property located within the town every 10-12 years. In 2003 another statistical revaluation would be performed and the Town Assessor was requesting that the town award a contract to Vision Appraisal Technology. This is the same company, which had done the last appraisal. They were also performing about 500 physical inspections so that when the actual full-physical revaluation was required most of the inspections will have been completed. The other reason this company was being recommended is because the town had spent a great deal of money on software from Visions; which was used as part of the revaluation. Acting Town Manager Swetcky supported this recommendation and indicated it would be funded using \$28,000 in this year's budget, the balance would be budgeted for next year.

Councilor Morin moved **"TO APPROVE THE BID WAIVER FROM VISION APPRAISAL TECHNOLOGY FOR REVALUATION SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$80,000,"** seconded by Councilor Cascio.

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

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING \$393,752 AMONG VARIOUS ACCOUNTS

BE IT ORDAINED, that pursuant to Section 709 of the Town Charter, the unencumbered balance of appropriations in the Contingency Account, and the Patrol Bureau of the FY2001/2002 budget be transferred as follows:

Unencumbered Balance		Transfer To	
Contingency	\$117,582	Personnel	\$ 1,580
Patrol Bureau	276,170	Town Treasurer	125
		Tax Collection	11,110
		Central Office Services	13,985

Zoning Board of Appeals	970
Chief's Office	27,130
Detective Bureau	142,625
Support Services	106,415
Fire Facilities Maintenance	645
Emergency Medical Services	1,240
Traffic & Sidewalk Maintenance	1,430
Refuse and Recycling Services	5,200
Parks Facility Maintenance	3,597
Insurance & Risk Mgmt	77,700
Total	\$ 393,752

Total \$393,752

CERTIFICATION

I, Joseph Swetcky, Jr., Acting Town Manager, in accordance with Section 709 of the Charter of the Town of Wethersfield, hereby recommend that a portion of the unencumbered balances in the FY2001/2002 Contingency Account, and Patrol Bureau budget be transferred as follows:

Unencumbered Balance		Transfer To	
Contingency	\$117,582	Personnel	\$ 1,580
Patrol Bureau	276,170	Town Treasurer	125
		Tax Collection	11,110
		Central Office Services	13,985
		Zoning Board of Appeals	970
		Chief's Office	27,130
		Detective Bureau	142,625
		Support Services	106,415
		Fire Facilities Maintenance	645
		Emergency Medical Services	1,240
		Traffic & Sidewalk Maintenance	1,430
		Refuse and Recycling Services	5,200
		Parks Facility Maintenance	3,597
		Insurance & Risk Mgmt	77,700
Total	\$393,752	Total	\$ 393,752

I hereby certify that said transfers are necessary to cover insufficient balances in various accounts at June 30, 2002.

Joseph Swetcky, Jr.
Acting Town Manager

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE
GREATER HARTFORD TRANSIT DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the Town of Wethersfield wishes to engage the Greater Hartford Transit District for the provision of Dial-a-Ride services for the elderly and disabled as part of its special transportation consortium for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Wethersfield wishes to enter into agreement with Greater Hartford Transit District for Dial-a-Ride operating assistance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Wethersfield has appropriated the sum of \$185,473 which is the estimated total local share for the provision of said mass transportation services, said appropriation to be funded from the Social and Youth Services budget; and that the Contract covering the period July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003 is approved and the Town Manager is authorized to execute such Contract on behalf of the Town of Wethersfield and to take all necessary steps to complete and implement said Contract.

MINUTES

Councilor Cascio moved **"TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 31, 2002 SPECIAL MEETING,"** seconded by Councilor Flynn.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson, voted AYE. Councilor Fitzpatrick ABSTAINED. The motion passed 6-0-1.

Councilor Morin moved **"TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 5, 2002 REGULAR MEETING,"** Councilor Flynn.

Councilor Gardow mentioned the minutes were more verbatim and asked the reason for the change in scope of the minutes. Town Clerk Sassano indicated certain speakers asked that their comments be included in its entirety.

Councilor Cascio asked if this would be the format used in the future. Town Clerk Sassano said those particular minutes were more verbatim. Councilor Cascio asked if the minutes were done in-house. Town Clerk Sassano confirmed this.

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

GENERAL COMMENTS

Reports

- a. Public Access Television
- b. STP Urban Nott Street Project Update
- c. Enron Litigation
- d. Drainage Projects 95B-2 and 95B-1

Acting Town Manager Swetcky said he had received a notice from the Town Engineer that the State would be closing Spring Street effective Thursday, August 22nd. This was part of the renovations taking place with the realignment project of Middletown Avenue and Spring Street. Chairperson Czernicki confirmed it would be closed through Tuesday August 27th.

- e. Vacation
- f. July 31, 2002 Monthly Financial Report

Acting Town Manager Swetcky pointed out that this was the report for the current fiscal year as of July 31, 2002. The report shows that the town was doing well based upon revenue exceeding budget estimates by about \$400,000 and that

expenditures will be under budget by about \$350,000. He has projected about a \$730,000 surplus, if everything remains the same, for the end of this fiscal year. He cautioned Council it was the first month of the year and anything can happen in the next 11 months.

COUNCIL

Chairperson Czernicki mentioned receiving letters from the Offices of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and State Comptroller outlining services to be held on September 11th and requesting the Town of Wethersfield's participation. She requested that letters be sent to all the local churches requesting they ring their bells four times on the morning of September 11th. This was being requested to mark the times when the third plane hit the Pentagon, the collapse of the Tower 1 of the World Trade Center, the plane crash in Pennsylvania and the collapse of Tower 2 of the World Trade Center. The Comptroller has asked that school-aged children ring bells for one full minute at 8:46 a.m. to mark the time when the first plane crashed into the World Trade Center. This would be followed by a minute of silence throughout the State of Connecticut. She encouraged that people spread this to everyone. She confirmed letters would be mailed tomorrow to the Interim Superintendent of Schools and all the local churches.

Councilor Cascio mentioned the STP Urban Nott Street Project originally scheduled to begin on August 27th and commencing in September 2002 was now scheduled for March 2003. He asked if the residents on Nott Street could receive notification of this change. Acting Town Manager Swetcky said the memo indicated a meeting scheduled for August 27th in which this would be discussed. When it is decided when the project would begin, the town will send out notification of this change.

Councilor Cascio asked who was responsible for placing the school administration into a building. Acting Town Manager Swetcky said he had presented this question to the Town Attorney and was waiting for a response, which should be available for the next Council meeting.

Councilor Cascio spoke with Physical Services Director Hart prior to his vacation regarding the State-owned property on Goff Road/Prospect/Wells Road and Silas Deane Highway where the grass should be cut. He asked that it be maintained prior to the opening of school. He also mentioned speaking with Physical Services Director Hart about the Charles Wright sidewalk issue with regard to the accumulation of water due to insufficient drainage. One suggestion was to be proactive and develop a plan, which unfortunately would require substantial expense. He asked if anything could be done since the town was paving streets and possibly using paving materials prior to bad weather. Acting Town Manager Swetcky said he would look into this and have something for the next Council meeting.

Councilor Cascio mentioned the Emerson Williams parking lot was paved which would allow parents better access for parking and traffic concerns.

Councilor Cascio understood the Ethics Committee was to be made up of two Republicans, two Democrats, and one Independent. At the current time the committee was comprised of two Republicans and three Democrats. He asked to confirm that this committee could not meet until the committee is in compliance with the Charter with regard to political affiliation. Town Clerk Sassano confirmed this statement. Councilor Cascio asked what needed to be done in order to make this committee workable with the proper political mix. Town Clerk Sassano said she was looking at when the appointments were made and to see when the last individual was appointed and why they were assigned to it and then it will be changed. Councilor Cascio asked if there was a time frame as to when this will be done. Town Clerk Sassano said the town was working on it now. Councilor Cascio asked for a report for the next Council meeting on this issue.

Councilor Flynn asked Acting Town Manager Swetcky about concerns raised by a resident with regard to the construction timeline for the Silas Deane Middle School and the project being behind schedule. He requested the School Projects Building Committee to provide an updated construction schedule and when they anticipate going to bid for the next phase of this project. Acting Town Manager Swetcky said the town anticipated going to bid sometime next week for Phase II. The bids would be open either the third or fourth week of September. Councilor Flynn wanted to know if the project was on schedule in order to get the swing space open in mid-November and if not where does the town stand.

Councilor Morin asked for clarification with regard to the Ethics Board and asked what the Council was looking for from the Ethics Board. Chairperson Czernicki said that Deputy Mayor O'Connor requested an issue be referred to this board. Councilor Morin asked what their jurisdiction was and what they would be voting on. Chairperson Czernicki will ask Deputy Mayor O'Connor to contact Councilor Morin regarding this issue.

Councilor Morin wished Mr. Erdmann well and felt it was important to appoint a new Town Manager and how the work would get done with the school projects and possible referendum. He requested a timeline be developed as to when a new Town Manager would be appointed. Chairperson Czernicki indicated the Council had to wait until Mr. Erdmann submits his letter of resignation. She further said Personnel Director Pinette had advertised all the positions that have been vacated and the process was moving along.

Chairperson Czernicki asked Acting Town Manager Swetcky to have Social & Youth Services Director Stilwell update the report she provided to Council regarding Dial-a-Ride and include the cost associated with using other service providers. She asked that Social & Youth Services Director Stilwell identify how effective she felt the present service was and if there could be alterations made that would not severely impact the senior population with regard to getting to doctor appointments, etc. She also mentioned there was a guideline identifying which trips carry certain weight and asked that Social & Youth Services Director Stilwell provide this information also.

Councilor Gardow mentioned reading the Department Monthly Reports and was pleased to see users of the Transfer Station were pleased that transfer coupons could be purchased at the Transfer Station. He mentioned certain departments provide statistical data in their monthly reports and he wanted to see a similar format used by every department, which would provide this information. He hoped to develop suggestions at a later date on a more uniform monthly report format.

PUBLIC

Jim Clynych, 903 Ridge Road, he did not think the Greater Hartford District served other towns and was concerned with Mr. Erdmann now working for Hartford and wanted to see how much Hartford pays for this service. He did not support Mr. Erdmann signing this contract in light of his leaving.

Rocco Orsini, 95 Broad Street, spoke on behalf of the Wethersfield Taxpayers' Association, Inc. on the following:

- He asked about the Republic primary scheduled in September and who was running.
- He asked if the town had received Phase II from R2D. Chairperson Czernicki said it was at their place tonight. The report indicated it would cost \$5.1 million to renovate Webb.
- He requested the town crews clean up Savage Park and beautify it.
- He mentioned the faucet located on Broad Street was flooding. Chairperson Czernicki said she reported it last December. He felt someone had to fix the plumbing problems in light of the drought.
- He mentioned having obtained the salaries of all town employees and that Mr. Erdmann's annual salary was \$100,958, but his fiscal wages were \$102,219. He asked what the difference was between the two amounts. Acting Town Manager Swetcky said the \$100,958 was the budgeted salary and the \$102,219 was actual earnings, which included such items as his car, life insurance paid by the town, etc. or known as imputed income. Mr. Orsini mentioned Acting Town Manager Swetcky and Police Chief Karangekis also had imputed income reflected on this list.
- He mentioned an article in the newspaper about job site hiring and the amount of money paid an officer working a job site. He was concerned with the amount of overtime, paid town employees. He mentioned the list of salaries reflected one officer's base salary was \$61,000 and his take home pay was \$110,000 or \$49,000 more. He assumed the overage reflected overtime pay. He mentioned that the overtime pay would be reflected in the employee's pension, which the taxpayers pay. He did not understand why certain employees earn so much money in overtime. Police Chief Karangekis said construction companies and utility companies hire flagmen on non-dangerous streets and when an officer was needed, the construction and utility companies pay the officer's overtime pay. The town receives an administrative fee from each job. He pointed out when an employee earns more money, the employee is required to make a higher contribution towards their retirement plan.

Chairperson Czernicki asked how frequently does the town reassess the need for a police officer vs. a flagman. Police

Chief Karangekis said the Berlin Turnpike, Silas Deane Highway, Wells Road, Prospect Street and part of Jordan Lane which are the most traveled streets in town.

- Mr. Orsini did agree that employees pay more into their pension when they earn a higher salary.
- He was pleased to see the town has a surplus and hoped it would grow because he wanted the Council to honor the proposed 3.5% increase per year in taxes.
- He urged the Council to look at the overtime being paid and place this item on the agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:40 p.m., Councilor Flynn moved "**TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS ANTENNA TOWER LEASES**" seconded by Councilor Cascio. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0. Also present were Joseph Swetcky, Jr., Acting Town Manager, Dolores G. Sassano, and Town Clerk. No motions were made and no votes were taken during executive session.

At 9:05 p.m., Councilor Cascio moved "**TO GO OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**" seconded by Councilor Flynn.

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

Councilor Flynn moved "**TO APPROVE AN ANTENNA TOWER LEASE AGREEMENT**" seconded by Councilor Cascio.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:06 p.m., Councilor Fitzpatrick moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Morin. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk