

REGULAR MEETING
May 5, 2014

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, May 5, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield.

Present: Councilors Hemmann, Hurley, Kotkin, Manousos, Martino, Rell, Roberts, Deputy Mayor Barry, and Chairperson Montinieri. *Absent: Councilor Roberts.*

Also present: Peter Gillespie, Planning, Lorel Purcell, O&G Associates, Sally Katz, Director Physical Services, Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, Deborah Tawrel, Assistant Town Clerk.

Deputy Mayor Barry led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Mayor Montinieri invited Peter Gillespie to present the Economic Report.

Mr. Gillespie reviewed some of the highlights in the report. Mr. Gillespie mentioned that we have issued a building permit to the CREC Magnet school at 176 Cumberland Avenue. The value of that project based on the building permit submitted is \$16,000,000 so they are making great progress there and we look forward to seeing that project through the final permit processes. Mr. Gillespie pointed out the list of new businesses that have opened in the past few months. He commented that a building permit has been issued for the Golf Brook Shops for the Chips Restaurant. He stated that Comstock Ferre has recently started to work on parking lot and garden improvements. He commented that the Veterinary Clinic on 106 Nott Street is planning an addition. Mr. Gillespie commented that the Planning & Zoning Commission rejected the proposal to amend the zoning regulations for the licensing of medical marijuana dispensaries. That application had been submitted by a private party who was interested in a particular location here in town. He stated that their State License did not get approved so the Commission felt that at this point in time it was appropriate to deny that and further study the issue so they will be meeting at some point in the future to discuss that further. Mr. Gillespie stated that in terms of economic development activity, we have issued a couple of façade funding projects and stated that 20-30 Beaver Road is going to redo their exterior façade so we provided some assistance to that. He added that we are providing some funding to the mixed use building located at the corner of Hartford Avenue and Main Street as well. He stated that the Chamber of Commerce is having their Annual Meeting at the Wethersfield Country Club on May 14th and they are recognizing a number of town and community volunteers. He stated that they successfully filed the three STEAP applications and met the deadline for that and are waiting for word on whether any of those projects are going to be funded by the State. Mr. Gillespie pointed out a typo in the report and stated that the Farmers Market will be opening on May 15th. He stated that the Tourism Commission is working hard redesigning their promotional rack card which will be distributed in hotels and visitor centers throughout Connecticut. He stated that they have designed a new monthly newsletter to keep visitors and residents informed of activities going on in Old Wethersfield. He stated in the packet there is a flyer that is promoting the weekend of May 24th and May 25th as Heritage Weekend. There are activities being partnered by the

Historical Society, the Webb Deane Stevens Museum and Comstock Ferre on that weekend and there is also a parade on that weekend and will be a busy weekend in Old Wethersfield.

Councilor Manousos asked about the parking area where Chips is going in and asked if the site plan includes the adjacent shopping center. He understood that maybe they purchased the neighboring property and then they were going to join them. Mr. Gillespie responded that the owner of Goff Brook Shops has recently purchased the property to the south which has the YMCA and the Hardware Store. He is going to be coming in at some point in the near future to interconnect the parking lot so that both the shopping center and that business can share parking. He stated that there is a curb line there now and there was recently boulders there to kind of block that but he is going to interconnect those. He hasn't submitted that yet, but that is his plan.

Councilor Kotkin commented that there was something about they were redoing the ~~Mobile~~ *Mobil* Station and asked if it is anything dramatic? Mr. Gillespie responded that we have had some preliminary discussions with an interested party. He may be selling that site and having it redeveloped a little bit, so we'll see what happens with the plan. Councilor Kotkin asked how big a site is that. Mr. Gillespie responded that most of the parking in the rear is owned by the utility company and they are going to probably give that back to the utility company and just put it back into grass. So the property is, I think, less than ¼ of an acre. A relatively small site.

A copy of the Economic Report will be attached to these minutes.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Mike Cuddigan, 49 Westlook Rd., commented on the lack of details that were mentioned in the minutes taken for the April 12th and April 24th budget meetings. Mr. Cuddigan pointed out that since last year, detailed minutes of budget meetings have not been recorded as they had been in the past 20 years. He urged the Council to reject those meeting minutes and to go back to create more detailed minutes.

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Ave., commented on a couple of Wethersfield Life articles regarding foreclosures in Connecticut. He commented on the revaluation and the drop in property values. To make up for that the Town Manager is proposing to increase the mill rate from 33.46 to 37.05 an increase of 3.6%. He stated that to his knowledge if the mill rate goes to 33.46 to 37.05 it's not an increase of 3.6% but it is much more. He stated that his property taxes have never gone ~~down~~ *down* in the 41 years that he has lived in Wethersfield. Mr. Colantonio questioned the increase in pay and benefits for the Board of Education.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Rd., also agreed that there was not enough detail in the April 12th and 24th budget meeting minutes. He stated that the Board of Education does not use their money wisely. He commented that the Board of Education and the Town failed to combine the Finance Director position and this shared services position could have increased transparency and efficiency but instead the taxpayers are getting beaten up. Mr. Young cited several newspaper

articles regarding increased taxes and State spending. He commented that we have no business owning property that we do not use and then end up maintaining it.

David Caruk, 149 Broad St. commented that our population in schools is changing and there is an increased at risk population in our schools and that happens. He commented that we are very close to Hartford and we have more students who need extra help and that can affect our scores and that's not an area that you want to cut back on, it's an area that you want to increase on. He stated that if Wethersfield goes down in education, people will not want to move into Wethersfield. No one wants to move into a town that's failing. He urged the council to not cut back on the education budget. Mr. Caruk also commented that people do leave Connecticut but oftentimes come back. He commented that people who grew up in Wethersfield want to stay here because it's a nice town to live in and they stay until they die. He stated that we are one of the oldest average populations in the State. He commented that we don't want our schools to go downhill.

George A. Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle commented about some large and dangerous trees that he took down on his property and commented that there are large and dangerous trees that are on town property that should be taken down because of the liability exposure. Mr. Ruhe stated to do stuff before it happens as preventative maintenance. He stated that he is annoyed and offended regarding the inactivity at the pond near his property.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Deputy Mayor Barry reported that he went to the Building Committee meeting last week and there was a tour of the Wethersfield High School and stated that it was impressive and encouraging to see the progress that is being made. He stated that it seems things are on schedule and the new construction should be in place by Thanksgiving so all looks good in terms of the construction progress right now and it was exciting to see the work that is being done there.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Manousos commented that at some previous council meetings, he mentioned that he was going to create a Committee to look at the Deming-Standish House situation and he is happy to announce tonight that he is establishing this Committee with a great group of volunteers. He stated that the charge, the purpose of this Committee is simply to review the existing circumstances around the lease of the Deming-Standish House and to develop some potential solutions and alternatives to meet the Committee's objectives. He stated that those objectives are three-fold at this point. First, maintaining funding for the Historical Society, 2) to preserve the structure, and 3) to protect taxpayers. He stated that at the end of the Committee findings the outcome will result in a report that will be presented to the council at some future council meeting. He stated that there is a great group of individuals that come from different backgrounds and work experiences and political parties. He stated that other than himself chairing the Committee, John Mullen, who is currently a member of the Town Capital Improvement Advisory Committee, he has been in the property business for 20-30 years and

brings that property management experience to the Committee. Paul Copp is the Chairman of the Independence Party in town, Robert Garrey, who is a resident will also be a member of the Committee. He is the current Chair of the Historic Commission and works at ING. Helena Reilly, she is an Old Wethersfield resident and works at the Travelers and does some work with the Colonial Dames of America who own the Webb-Stevens Museum in town. Jennifer Wolf, she is an attorney and a former member of the Historic District Commission and the last member is Claire Mead who is an Old Wethersfield as well, former Board Member of the Historical Society and former Chair of the Historic Commission and the Library Board, a member of the CT Trust for Historical Preservation and a member of the Beautification Trust. He commented that it is a great group of volunteers who I believe will be very open-minded and objective, otherwise I wouldn't have invited them to the Committee and they wouldn't have accepted and I think they are up for the task at hand for the betterment of the town. I would like to include the Town Manager to sit on the Committee, but I am not sure how that would work so I defer to Jeff. Mr. Bridges responded that he doesn't believe that he would serve on that as a town official; this is not a Council Committee. He can provide information as he would to any resident on any topic the town has in its possession. Councilor Manousos asked if there are any alternatives.

Councilor Rell commented that it would be an Ad Hoc Committee versus a Standing Committee or a Council Committee. Would you be able to serve as a member from the town if it was a Council Committee? Mr. Bridges responded yes, if it was endorsed by the council.

Councilor Rell commented that he would like to make a motion that this Committee that Stathis had assembled be a Standing Council Committee.

Mayor Montinieri asked if he was adding it to the agenda and stated that according to Roberts Rules of Order we would have to entertain a motion to add an agenda item for procedure.

Councilor Rell moved **“TO OPEN THE AGENDA TO INCLUDE THIS COMMITTEE THAT STATHIS HAD PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED”**, seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

Councilor Rell commented that we make it a Councilor Committee so that somebody from the town could sit on it as staff, provide assistance, guidance and answers of any Committee Member who would be asking the town for information on the Deming-Standish House.

Councilor Kotkin commented when you say a Standing Committee so we would have like Infrastructure, Finance, Public Works, and this would be an additional committee, like we have four or five, six committees, this would be a seventh or sixth. Councilor Rell responded that we would leave it up to the Council to decide whether or not a Standing Committee would be appropriate or just a simple Council Committee, but I would like to get as much input from the town as possible so if it's somebody from the Department of Public Works to talk about the work that has gone on or will go on at the Standish House or someone like Peter, who would be discussing economic development, whether it's feasible for the town to own versus the town to lease out, or a private citizen to own. I would defer to the council whether or not it would be a Standing Committee or a Council Committee.

Councilor Kotkin commented aren't Council Committees usually made up of Council members?

Councilor Manousos asked didn't we have a committee for the Wilkus Farm that was appointment by the Council? Mr. Bridges responded that that was an Ad Hoc Committee. Councilor Manousos commented but still they had the resources of the town if needed, right, and even if it didn't conform to that, I don't see what the difference is, we have a great group of people, that shouldn't matter unless you don't trust this group of people. Councilor Kotkin responded I don't think that's the question. I guess the question is what is it that you are forming. Councilor Manousos responded that we will call it the Deming-Standish House Committee and a Standing Committee would be great just like any other committee. If there is something to report, it would get reported on, if not, then there wouldn't be a report. Councilor Kotkin asked what is the motion that is on the table.

Councilor Hemmann responded to add it to the agenda.

Mayor Montinieri commented that he knows that there has been discussion about this and there is interest on the part of members of council on the Standish House and understands that. He stated that he has made some public comments about his concern about the topic relative to existing agreements which are being looked at and I voiced objection to the thought process that we would consider selling the Standish House and/or opening up a lease that's been drafted. That resulted in some comments from members of our public after a fairly strong response from the public in the first wave that led this majority to believe that there was not impetus or thought that we should move forward with that and I said that publicly, but at the same time, I don't want to be perceived in the majority as stonewalling or blocking interest on the part of members of our council to look at this topic, but I will tell you that I think if we are going to entertain any kind of formal process through the council, it should be introduced in the proper way and that would include a motion and an agenda item being presented to the majority in advance allowing us to look at it, looking at the composition, the objectives of this Ad Hoc Committee if that's the proposal and allowing the majority to weigh in on it, and again, it's not a delay tactic. I think there is a perception, partly influenced by my comments publicly or resistance to the thought of selling one of our properties. I have made that comment publicly without hesitancy based on the public reaction. So with respect with this item being added to the agenda, my objection would be that we are being asked to do that on the fly which, with no disrespect to the thought process that I think Stathis is offering, I would object to doing it in that fashion. I would ask that the members of Council who want to look at it, Mike and Mike and Stathis and anyone else for that matter to formally present an agenda item to us in advance, let us look at it. I would even tell you that since no one from your group has approached me to talk about this, just so you know, I don't think I am hard to reach, or hard to discuss matters with. I think as Chair of the Council, it's a basic respect to reach out and say, here's something that we are still stuck on. We disagree with your position publicly and we would like to further have discussion. Those are basics for me of respect so that is part of my objection to it so what I would tell you again is my preference would be to take a step back. If you want this to be an Ad Hoc Committee that is either a part of an existing committee or folded into an existing committee or separate body, let's have that

discussion outside of council and present a formal document for review. Short of that, I would object to doing it on the fly so I would be opposed to doing it this evening.

Councilor Kotkin added that is also doesn't give the public an opportunity to comment on it because it wasn't on the agenda at least 24 hours in advance. Any two council people could file a motion, so add it *to* the next agenda.

Deputy Mayor Barry commented that doing it as an Ad Hoc implies that folks weren't looking into the questions that were raised already and I know people were looking into questions that had been raised prior and that process is ongoing so I guess I think we need time to sort out how this is done. Is it Council or Ad Hoc but I do think raising it on the fly is not the way to do it.

Councilor Manousos stated that this is hardly on the fly and stated that this has been talked about for several council meetings that I have brought it up. I wouldn't call that first wave of people that were opposed to it a wave at all. In fact, one is here that actually changed his mind after reviewing everything. So this has clearly been out in the public and if you feel like it was disrespect, Paul, I'm sorry, but it was clearly out there. You didn't reach out to me, you dug in your heels and said that you weren't even going to look at it. This group is not considering whether to just sell it or not. There are three objectives that I laid out and if alternatives meet those objectives if at the end of the day, the decision is that it's not sold, then it's not sold, but you have an experienced group of people who are volunteers in town that have been on some of the important committees in town and I've got full faith in them, so I would just continue on an Ad Hoc basis if you're not going to consider. Our plan tonight is just really we need support from Jeff so if there is anything that he couldn't provide to the general public that we would be privy to some of that. I think everything that he has is available and we might not need anything.

Mayor Montinieri commented that he thinks the decision to dedicate town resources of any fashion to an initiative has to be done in concert with the full council. That's the issue here. You are free to have an Ad Hoc Committee without formal council support and no resources of the town and explore it all you want and report back, if you want to do that, there is no reason you can't do that. I heard about it last week and I said, free to meet, but if you want the resources of the town, if you want to look at or examine the lease, the documentation, perhaps a legal opinion, perhaps Jeff's time looking at documentation. Those are resources of the town that I think our residents have an obligation to weigh in on before we vote on something like that because we are asking them to use their tax payer dollars to look at a question.

A discussion then ensued regarding the formal process for agenda items to allow for public comment.

At the end of the discussion, Councilor Manousos stated that he will continue as an Ad Hoc Committee and if at the next council meeting the group decides we want to present it to the council, we will do so.

Councilor Rell moved **"TO WITHDRAW HIS MOTION"**, seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

Councilor Kotkin commented that he regrets being away during the budget hearing meeting and stated that he read the meeting minutes and thanked all the folks who took the time to come out and comment and will take those comments into account when they go through the budget.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Bridges reported that on May 31st, there will be fireworks at Cove Park. Food and fun will be available starting at 5:00 p.m. Family can come and picnic at Cove Park and then wait for fireworks after dark.

Mayor Montinieri announced that Dolores Sassano, who is our Town Clerk, her mom passed away this week and there is a service tomorrow at Corpus Christi after a 9:30 a.m. wake at D'Esopos on Folly Brook. He stated that there is an obituary in the paper and directed members of the public who know Dolores and/or her family members to take a look at that. Rose Gagliardi is the obituary name of Dolores' mom, who by the way was 103 which is an impressive thing although obviously we do feel bad for Dolores and her family.

TOWN CLERK COMMUNICATIONS

None.

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Hemmann moved **"TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF PENNY STANZIALE FROM THE LIBRARY BOARD EFFECTIVE 4-20-2014, YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD, PENNY STANZIALE, EFFECTIVE 4-20-2014, PERSONNEL APPEALS BOARD JOE KONESKI EFFECTIVE 4-25-2014 AND THE SHADE TREE COMMISSION, JOE KONESKI, EFFECTIVE 4-25-2014"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Barry.

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

Deputy Mayor Barry moved **"TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION FROM THE LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS, STEPHANIE MCKENNA, 66 HARDING STREET, EFFECTIVE 5-4-14"**, seconded by Councilor Martino.

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

Councilor Hemmann moved **"TO APPOINT PAUL T. CLOONAN, 668 RIDGE RD. TO THE CENTRAL CONNECTICUT HEALTH DISTRICT, EFFECTIVE 5-5-2014 TO 6-30-2016 TO FILL A VACANCY"**, seconded by Councilor Rell.

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

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

BIDS

Councilor Martino moved **“TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF POOL CHEMICALS AS REQUESTED FOR \$31,500 BASED UPON BIDS CONDUCTED BY THE CAPITOL REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS”**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Barry.

Mr. Bridges explained this is an annual expense budgeted in the Park and Recreation fund just for the chemicals for the pools and as the motion says, these are bid out from the Capital Region Council of Governments as their purchasing pool. Mayor Montinieri asked how does this compare to our budget. Mr. Bridges responded that we are spending what we budgeted.

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

Councilor Martino moved **“TO ACCEPT THE BID OF BAY STATE ELEVATOR COMPANY FOR \$205,790”**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Barry.

Mr. Bridges explained that we have the bid results for the elevators for the high school renovation project. Lorel Purcell with O&G is here to answer any questions but these are the holeless hydraulic elevators that we have been talking about and they have come in under the budget amount and the Building Committee recommends approval.

Councilor Hurley asked what is the difference between the hydraulic and holeless? Is it a cheap way out and are we taking a risk with new technology.

Ms. Purcell responded that it is not a new technology. It is the same elevator electric traction. It's just a new way of how they do it. It's a holeless hydraulic. In other words, it doesn't require a machine room. It actually puts the components of the elevator motor in the shaft of the elevator so it actually eliminates the use of having to have a machine room. So that helps with space inside the school. We don't have to build a closet for it anymore and this is the same type of elevator that has been around for a long time. She stated that each of the main elevator manufacturers, Otis makes this elevator, it's called the hydrofit. Bay State is actually a Thyssen-Krupp. She stated that Kone also has this type of technology as well so it's just a different

technology. It's the same type of elevators.

Councilor Hurley asked if it costs more for maintenance of this type of elevator. Ms. Purcell responded that it is actually cheaper to run and it is more energy efficient to run this than the electric traction.

Mayor Montinieri asked what was this under, the ballpark this was under for the budget? Ms. Purcell responded that the budget amount that we were carrying for the elevator was \$309,000. Mayor Montinieri responded o:k, so about \$60,000.

Councilor Kotkin commented that he noticed there was alternate 17A and 17B, but couldn't tell from the chart what the alternates were. Ms. Purcell responded that the base bid was the originally specified electric traction elevator and what we wanted to do was instead of changing the base bid just to make it holeless hydraulic, we gave them the option of giving both prices. So the other two bidders didn't propose the cheaper prices for that option. So it was in the option to give it for pricing. Councilor Kotkin commented that because we are so far below budget, we are fine with the \$259,000. Ms. Purcell responded correct and you are actually better off than the \$205,000.

Councilor Rell commented that he does like the fact that we went with Otis Elevator CT company, subsidiary of UTC. Ms. Purcell responded that Otis is not being awarded the bid. Bay State is going to be awarded the bid. Councilor Rell commented that he will rescind that and apologized for his comment.

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

Councilor Martino moved **"TO AWARD THE WETHERSFIELD GENERATOR REPLACEMENT PROJECT TO CUSTOM ELECTRIC"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Barry.

Mr. Bridges explained that the town through hard work, Physical Services, Engineering, Emergency Management put together a grant proposal for replacement of eight emergency generators at various town facilities. We were awarded the grant and we have spent some time on the Architectural and Electrical and Mechanical design and have bid out the project. The bid came in very favorable to us for those eight facilities and we recommend taking the bid of \$387,700 from Custom Electric. Mr. Bridges stated that Sally is here to answer any questions that you may have.

Councilor Hurley commented that it looks like they have two choices to give us Detroit Diesel or Kohler generators. Are either of them worse off than the other. Ms. Katz responded no. They are comparable. We have given our recommendation for the Atlantic Detroit Diesel and they feel that there is no problem with being able to access them. Councilor Hurley commented, o:k so you gave the recommendation for them. Ms. Katz responded yes.

Councilor Kotkin asked if all of these facilities currently have generators or some do and some don't. Ms. Katz responded they do. We are changing a couple of them. She stated that the generator right now at the Nature Center, part of the process was to be able to turn the Nature Center into a shelter for people who want to bring their animals because that was an issue that we found the last time we wanted to open a shelter. So that changed the way that the Nature Center generator would need to be sized and placed. We also found during our investigation that the generator at the town garage was undersized and really does not function throughout the entire building so that needed to be changed and so there were these changes that caused the size of the generators to be increased. Councilor Kotkin asked for those two, the other six are pretty much the same. Ms. Katz responded they are pretty comparable.

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

Councilor Martino moved **"TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT BETWEEN CAPITOL CLEANERS AND THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD FOR ONE YEAR AT CURRENT YEAR PRICING"**, seconded by Councilor Manousos.

Mr. Bridges explained we bid this last year and the cleaning company that we believe everybody is satisfied with is asking to renew with current year pricing and we recommend doing so. They have done a very good job and are very familiar with the buildings and we recommend that you extend it.

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

MINUTES

Councilor Martino moved **"TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 17, 2014"**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin. Councilor Kotkin commented that the word "magnate" on pages 3 and 4 should be changed to "magnet".

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

Councilor Martino moved **"TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 7, 2014"**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

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

Councilor Martino moved **"TO ACCEPT THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 12, 2014"**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Mayor Montinieri commented that he spoke briefly with the Town Manager about that meeting. If you recall that was a 1/2 - 3/4 day on the budget that we had at the Fireside Lounge over at the Community Center and different from our normal meetings for council. Obviously, that lengthy

meeting on a weekend, part of it is the cost recognition of bringing in the Town Clerk. With respect to the public comment on it, I would suggest to any member of the public who is interested in getting additional information on it, I am happy to provide a little bit more detail looking back to what we covered that day. I think it's a cost savings for us not to have a staff tied up all day with details. He stated that the point was well taken by the members of the community so we can follow-up with that.

Councilor Rell added as a follow-up because he wasn't there at the meeting and asked would there be a way where we could record some of these meetings. Mr. Bridges responded sure. Councilor Rell asked if you could look into that. He stated with digital recording now you don't have to have an audio cassette anymore and I don't believe there would be too much cost into doing something like that. Maybe we don't even need anybody to transcribe the minutes but to make it available to the public. Mayor Montinieri commented that it was a good point and thanked him.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-2. (Councilors Rell and Manousos abstained).

Councilor Martino moved **"TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2014"**, seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-1. (Councilor Kotkin abstained).

Councilor Martino moved **"TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 24, 2014"**, seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Caruk, 149 Broad St., commented that it was an interesting conversation about the Standish House and supports the Mayor's position that it is a historical home and once you lose it, you never get it back so I don't agree about the money, how much we can make here or there, how many pennies. If you lose the Standish House, you are never getting it back and you have to look at long-term consequences here. Despite that, I will tell you, I watch the town council on TV for a while and I'm happy to see that Councilor Rell, took a position that was a bold move and even though he withdrew it, it's admirable to stand up for what you believe even though I don't agree with you.

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Cir. commented that councilors should speak up in the microphones. He commented that the discourse on the Standish House was interesting and he urged the Council to not tap into town resources regarding the Standish House. He stated that the Ad Hoc Committee, be my guest. He suggested to list the bid amounts alongside the agenda

items. He commented that at one time all the meetings were available to sign out from the Library to take home and listen to.

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Ave. commented about the stop sign issue on Morrison Avenue. He commented that it is sad and frustrating that last year he paid \$6862.00 for property taxes and yet he cannot get a stop sign that is warranted by Connecticut standards and yet some streets have multiple stop signs that are not needed or warranted. Mr. Colantonio commented on stop sign placement around the town. He commented that the Council should care about the concerns and the well being of all the residents and stated that all the years that he has been complaining about the safety of the street, the Council would do something about it but not even a word. He stated that the safety of the street in town is not on their agenda.

Robert Garrey, 10 Morrison Ave. stated that as President of the Wethersfield Village Improvement Association, just to thank the town for another great Arbor Day celebration. He stated that our Arbor Day Celebration is one of the components that is required to receive our continuing Tree City USA designation. He stated that the reason why there were six trees planted on the Broad Street Green this year is because two were donated by the Association and four replaced by some badly damaged “pruned” trees. Mr. Garrey stated that the Tree Warden felt that the current disease-resistant Elm trees would survive so we planted one there and we are also replacing, at some point this year, the plaque that was stolen off the stone that marks the original Elm Tree. Mr. Garrey commented that they have spent several years donating crab apple trees to Cumberland Avenue between Silas Deane Highway and Wolcott Hill Rd and they should be in bloom and you should take a look at that because it is pretty remarkable. He thanked Councilor Kotkin for the Arbor Day Proclamation and Kathy Bagley and Phil Smithwick on the tree team and the tree crew as well.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Rd., commented on the safety of tree trimming. He commented that he doesn't think we are wasting money on education, he thinks that the money we are putting into education is being wasted. He stated that we are not getting any results in the last 13 years and have seen our CAP test and CMTs and CAPT scores just stagnant year-after-year. The results that we have gotten from our students have been flat and in the last year, we saw them go down. He stated that our school system is not delivering, yet year-after-year our Town Council keeps giving them more money. As taxpayers we are getting less and less value year-after-year because our school administration is not getting results. Mr. Young commented on the Standish House and asked why do we continue to own property like that. We don't need it. Give it back to the people who had it before or sell it to the Historical Society. Let them become property owners like the rest of us. We have no business using taxpayer money. Mr. Young commented that he disagrees with buying another fire engine.

At 9:03 p.m., Councilor Kotkin moved “**TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**”, seconded by Councilor Martino.

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

At 9:30, Councilor Martino moved to **“EXIT THE EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE THE REGULAR SESSION”**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Barry.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:32 p.m., Deputy Mayor Barry moved **"TO ADJOURN THE MEETING"** seconded by Councilor Martino. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk
Approved by Vote of Council
June 2, 2014

Minutes have been amended on pages 2 and 6 to correct typographical errors.