

WF Council Awards Contracts; Discusses Rec. Comm. Projects

By DOMINIC A. LAGANO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — At its regular meeting Tuesday evening, the Westfield Town Council passed resolutions awarding contracts to two businesses recommended by the council's Public Works Committee.

Rich Tree Service of South Plainfield was awarded the contract for tree removal services in town, while H.L. Petroleum of Linden was awarded a contract for professional engineering services.

According to Town Administrator Jim Gildea, the company will assist the town with complying with New Jersey Department of Environmen-

tal Protection (DEP) regulations.

The council also passed a resolution appointing another member to Westfield's Special Police Support Services Division, commonly referred to as "specials."

The resolution appointed Greg Baschko to the air traffic advisory board. The resolution stipulates the position's term will expire on December 31, 2014.

During the conference session of the meeting, the council discussed a variety of infrastructure improvements in the town.

Councilman Frank Arena, the council's liaison to the Recreation Commission, discussed field turf re-

placement at Houlihan Field and refurbishment of the tennis courts at Tamaques Park.

Mr. Arena first spoke about Houlihan Field stating, "Believe it or not, it's been 10 years since that turf went down and so we have bids coming out for the new turf. The turf quality has come a long way in 10 years. The turf we have down there did pretty well, but the new turf is even better."

Mr. Arena explained that Houlihan Field is used "all the time" with soccer and lacrosse being the primary sports played there. The project will be partially subsidized by a grant from Union County as well as a trust from the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Arena anticipates the contractors' bids to be out by February with the Recreation Commission awarding a contract sometime in March. The work of replacing the field would begin by mid-July and be completed by the end of August. He also stated the Recreation Commission is researching reusing parts of the old turf field with the Board of Education at some of their facilities.

Mr. Arena also stated the Recreation Commission is beginning preliminary discussions about resurfacing and possibly expanding the tennis courts at Tamaques Park.

"They've seen better days," said Mr. Arena. "Tamaques is the home court of the [Westfield High School] tennis teams. What we're trying to do there is they have to be widened a bit so they are the official size. We also want to try and put in additional courts so the varsity and JV (junior varsity) can have their matches at the same time. So that's another project."

Mr. Arena stated the Board of Education and the Recreation Commission would also contribute to the cost of the resurfacing and the new courts if the plan is approved. The commission is also exploring other organizations to assist with the funding such as the Westfield Boosters Association and the Westfield Tennis Association.

"We're looking to start that work in the fall, at the end of the season and it would be finished in the spring with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Betsy Burgdorf for The Westfield Leader
WISHING THEY HAD FLOWN SOUTH...Ducks who forgot to fly south for the winter enjoy the frigid water in Mindowaskin Park in Westfield on Tuesday.

MS Council Approves Purchase of New Ambulance

By KATE BROWNE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE — Members of the Mountainside Borough Council unanimously voted to authorize the purchase of a new ambulance for the Mountainside Rescue Squad and approved a 2-percent increase in membership fees at the Community Pool at its January 28 meeting.

In other business, the governing body appointed Councilman Robert Messler to serve as the community's representative on the Union County Transportation Advisory Board and confirmed the appointment of Councilman Rene Dierkes to replace John Tomaine as the borough's representative to the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA).

The RVSA is an autonomous agency that owns and operates a trunk sewer system and a wastewater treatment facility that currently serves more than 250,000 residents and 3,500 industrial and commercial customers in 14 communities

in central New Jersey. Mr. Dierkes will serve a five-year term.

Councilman Glenn Mortimer provided the public with a report on the activities of the Mountainside Public Library. According to Mr. Mortimer, in 2013 the library had more than 50,000 patrons who checked out more than 53,000 items. In addition, the library introduced several new programs including a Lego Club and a Friday Film series, as well as a new website and multiple mobile applications. In addition, more than 6,000 people participated in 396 programs. In 2014, the library will focus on improving its electronic technology.

The council also issued an appeal for financial support to help fund the annual holiday display. The council cannot use public funds to set up or remove the holiday decorations and urged individuals and community organizations to consider making a donation to defray the costs, which are approximately \$1,500.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Paul Lachenaer for The Westfield Leader
WINTER WONDERLAND...Cranford looks picture perfect on January 14 as the snow begins to accumulate causing numerous cancellations, including school.



Dominic A. Lagano for The Westfield Leader
DWC REORGANIZATION...The Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC) held its first board of directors' meeting of 2014 on Monday at which time appointments were announced. Pictured, left to right, are: DWC Chairman Dominick Verdic, Recording Secretary Lisa Bertone, DWC Executive Director Sherry Cronin and Frank Isoldi, business operator.

DWC Holds Reorg. Meeting; Names New Board Member

By DOMINIC A. LAGANO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC), management entity of the Special Improvement District (SID), held its first board of directors' meeting of 2014 this past Monday evening.

The meeting included the DWC's annual reorganization assembly in order to name the board's officers for the new year. During the meeting, it was determined by vote that all leadership positions would remain the same from 2013.

Dominick Verdic remains the board's chairman, with Alan De Rose retaining his position of vice-chairman. Shawn Hanna remains the board's treasurer, with Lisa Bertone retaining the recording secretary position.

Sam Della Fera remains the Westfield Town Council liaison to the board, with Stephanie Walsh serving as the mayor's designee. Robert Centrella will continue to serve as a

resident member of the board and James Gildea, town administrator, also will continue to serve as a liaison to the town council.

Sherry Cronin, executive director of the DWC, announced that Jaime Chaves' term as a board member expired on December 31, 2013. Mr. Chaves held one of the two business operator positions on the board since April 2008 and filled the unexpired term of David Martone. He was reap-

pointed by the mayor and council for a three-year term in 2010.

"Jaime was a great board member and supporter of the DWC," stated Ms. Cronin. "Even though he was busy running his successful Xocolatz restaurant, he often helped with promotional events especially. I expect that he will continue to do so, perhaps in one or more of our committees."

Ms. Cronin stated that the board

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Garwood Council Considers Hiring AFC Project Mgr.

By BRIAN TRUSDELL
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD — The borough council will explore hiring a construction or project manager to oversee the completion of the Athletic Field Complex (AFC), the \$3.2-million ball field that is nearly a year behind schedule.

Delayed two months at the start by Hurricane Sandy, the athletic field was to be finished by mid-2013, but has faced other delays due to weather, as well as soil disposal issues. While it now has a scheduled completion date of Tuesday, April 1, Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello said Tuesday that Sunday, June 1, was more realistic.

Council President Ann Palmer suggested the idea of a project manager, which drew immediate support from

council members Jim Mathieu and Sara Todisco. Councilman Louis Petruzzelli, the AFC committee representative, endorsed the idea out of simple curiosity.

With Councilman Mike Martin absent, only Councilman Bill Nierstedt voiced any opposition, siding with Mr. Guarriello and Borough Attorney Bob Renaud.

Both Mr. Guarriello and Mr. Renaud felt the recommendation would provide little value, since they said the project is nearing completion and it likely would be Saturday, March 15, at the earliest before anyone could be hired.

Mayor Pat Quattrocchi said she accepted the borough's professionals' opinions in the matter and Mr.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

County Applying For Grants For Bridge Repairs

By SONIA OWCHARIV
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

ELIZABETH — The Union County Freeholders passed last Thursday two resolutions for \$1,000,000 grant applications for bridge repairs in Springfield and Plainfield.

The first step is applying for the grant by the deadline of Friday, February 28. The grants would allow the county to repair bridges at Netherwood Avenue over Green Brook in Plainfield and Mountain Avenue Bridge in Springfield.

William Reyes, deputy county manager and Department of Economic Development director, submitted the plan with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) for Fiscal Year 2014 Local Bridges, Future Needs Program.

"We found these bridges to be in need of repair and were classified as in need of repair," County Engineer Tom Mineo said.

There is no set time frame, according to Mr. Reyes, to hear back from the state and start repairs if the county receives the grants. There is no guarantee that the county will get the grants.

Members of the public who attended Thursday's meeting included Summit Council President Robert J. Rubino.

"We hope this is the year for top zero-based strategy and get the county like Morris and Essex under 2 percent (in tax levy increases)," he said.

A resolution for a summer youth incentive program was passed Thurs-

day. Under the Workforce Investment Act Youth Program, it will be awarded in the amount not to exceed \$457,000 contracts from the county for a 12-month period from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014.

The program works year-round with youth programs that may include a paid summer work experience for youth ages 16 to 21. The four agencies are Borough of Roselle, Rahway Community Action Organization, Urban League of Union County and Work Force Advantage.

"Agencies are doing social media and training and these are year-round programs," Mr. Rivera said.

All youth ages 16 to 21 are eligible as long as they meet the income criteria for the poverty guidelines.

The freeholders also approved a resolution for a professional service contract with Funeral Services of New Jersey in Hillside. The amount is not to exceed \$75,000 for the contract period of January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014. The contract is for the services of medical examiners regarding the county jail and Runnells Specialized Hospital.

Freeholder Chairman Christopher Hudak congratulated Freeholder Angel Estrada on being elected as second vice-chairman of the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority.

"It's important for Union County and our transportation projects in Union," Freeholder Estrada said.



Christina M. Hinke for The Westfield Leader
PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE...Cranford Township Committee members discuss raising pool fees, the plan for pedestrian improvements to the North Avenue Plaza and Union County College's plan to construct a lacrosse and soccer field on Gallow Hills Road at its workshop meeting on Monday.

PAGE INDEX

Regional	2-3	Education	14-15
Editorial	4-5	Sports	9-12
Police	6	Real Estate	9-13
Community ...	6-7	Classifieds	13
Obituary	13	A&E	15-16



COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

EXTRAORDINARY PROFESSIONALS

Whether Your Real Estate Needs Are Local, National, or International
Your Move Is Our Move and We're Ready To Assist You Every Step Of The Way.

Westfield - West | 600 North Avenue West, Westfield | 908-233-0065 | www.coldwellbankermoves.com/westfieldwest

