**Council OKs more money for cemetery** February 10, 2016

WALLINGFORD - The Town Council approved an ordinance Tuesday night authorizing a $340,000 bond to pay for the construction of the Center Street Cemetery maintenance and administration building.

Tuesday's vote was an amendment to a previously approved $30,000 bond ordinance. The $30,000 bond was approved for the architectural costs.

"The vast majority is covered by a grant," said Steve Lazarus, the project architect. "The town needs to come up with the money first to offset the grant."

The 1,800-square-foot building, designed to look like a Victorian-style barn, will be used to store equipment for managing the **cemetery**. It will also include a small office and meeting room.

The town purchased two houses on Prince **Street** to make way for the new building. The **cemetery** dates back to the 1670s and is the burial site of many influential figures in the town's history.

Town officials decided to go back out to bid for the project after five companies submitted bids during the first round in November 2015. The bids were significantly higher than what was expected. At the time, Garsan Construction Inc., of **Wallingford**, quoted the lowest price, $391,256. With three possible deductions, the project would cost $382,905.

While the project went out to bid for a second time, the design of the building was not altered significantly, according to Lazarus, of Lazarus & Sargeant Architects. The changes made to the design, Lazarus said, were done for cost savings.

"The building has not functionally changed," he said.

Bob Devaney Jr., superintendent of the **Center** **Street** **Cemetery**, said he was "very happy" the bond authorization was amended and that he was looking forward to the construction of the new building.

by ***Eric Vo* PUBLICATION: Record-Journal (Meriden, CT)**
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