

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL AND WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2017, AT 7:00 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

Council Chairman Robert J. Oris Jr.; Vice Chairman Paul A. Bowman; Michael Ecke, Jeffrey Falk, Patti Flynn-Harris, Sylvia Nichols, Timothy Slocum, Peter Talbot.

Absent: Thomas Ruocco

Staff: Michael A. Milone, Town Manager; James Jaskot, Finance; Gerald Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator.

Guest: John Perrotti, Chairman, Water Pollution Control Authority; David Pelletier, Chairman, Economic Development Commission

PUBLIC HEARING SUBJECT MATTER:  
**FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 ANNUAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET**

**1. ROLL CALL**

The clerk called the roll and a quorum was determined to be present.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

**3. EXPLANATION OF HEARING PROCEDURE AND AGENDA**

Chairman Oris explained the procedure for a public hearing of the Town Council.

**4. READING OF LEGAL NOTICE**

The clerk read the legal notice into the record.

**5. PRESENTATION ON HEARING SUBJECT**

Town Manager Milone stated this public hearing focuses on year #1 in the Capital Expenditure Budget, FY 2017-2018. Town Manager Milone stated this public hearing focuses on year #1 in the Capital Expenditure Budget, FY 2017-2018. The total capital budget for Proposed Appropriations is \$8,984,000; Amount to be Bonded is \$8,095,000; budget items #3, #8, #9, #18, #21 will be funded by the Capital Nonrecurring Expenditures Fund. The FY 2017-18 capital budget is about \$1.7M less than what was programmed for the capital budget this year, due to the uncertainty the Town is facing with the State budget and potential loss of revenue. Most of the projects will not be financed for a few years, and there will, probably, be further reduction of the appropriations by the Town Council.

Of the 22 projects, five (5) exceed \$400,000 which triggers a referendum; they total \$5.50M, or 62% of the total capital budget request.

#5 - Parking Area for Linear Trail near West Main Street, \$750,000. This is the parking area (Linear Trail and West Main Street); property to be acquired and

demolished for parking; the Town has applied for a \$500,000 STEAP grant for this project; if received, this item does not go to referendum.

#6 - Infrastructure Improvements for NW Quadrant of Interchange Zone, \$1.35M. This project is part of the initiative started by the Economic Development Commission (EDC) to bring water to the I-C zone which will be a catalyst for economic development.

#7 - Upgrade and Expansion of Public Safety Radio Communication System, \$1.313M. This appropriation is in addition to the \$3.163M approved at referendum in November 2016 for the first part of this project. The expenditure is for the entire internal communication system for the Town, BOE, Police, Fire, Public Works, WWTP and all Town departments. \$3.1M was approved for the hardware and infrastructure of the radio communications system, and total replacement of the Dispatch Center at police headquarters. The \$1.313M appropriation is for the mobile and portable radio systems for all associated departments.

#10 – Public Works Dump Trucks and Plows, \$442,000.

#12 – Road Repavement Program, \$1.7M. The road repavement program will do 5 to 8 miles of road...paving, chip sealing, milling.

These projects represent 62% of the total annual capital budget.

The annual capital budget includes 17 projects equal to or less than \$400,000.

- 3 projects for vehicle replacement totaling \$760,000 (1 vac truck in PW Dept; 1 dump truck in WWTP; variety of vehicles (Police Department, Parks Department).
- There are three projects associated with Town buildings, \$385,000 for general repairs, roof replacement, bathroom upgrades at Quinnipiac Park and Lock 12.
- Five projects are for school building improvements totaling \$860,000.
- The remainder of the projects total \$1.24M, and include technology for the Town and BOE, firefighting equipment and protective gear, removal of Ash Trees and other tree removal and replacement; \$100,000 for the Planning Account for the Chapman Property; \$200,000 school parking lots; \$400,000 for Cook Hill Road Pump Station.

**6. QUESTIONS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR.**

**7. PROPONENTS AND OPPONENTS STATEMENTS ALTERNATELY EXPRESSED.**

Councilor Bowman left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Cindy Kleist, 251 Lancaster Way, read a statement into the record. She requested there be no new cars to the Cheshire Police Department; CPD received five (5) new cars last year; CPD cars include 2007, 2008-2011 cars, several 2015 and 2016 cars in the fleet, and one (1) 2017 vehicle. Ms. Kleist said there will be 47 vehicles, one for each CPD member, and asked why. Half of these vehicles and take home cars are unnecessary and never used. She commented on the Wallingford Police Department's issues with a storage building and the storage of its car. All this CPD equipment is not needed, patrol cars are up and down Route 10 and West Main Street. She asked what happened to the gift account, and use of this \$160,000 to buy vehicles and equipment. Cheshire does not have a bulky waste pickup; there is reduction in school staff; there are sidewalk issues with people walking on Jarvis Street and Peck Lane to go to the Linear Trail, but there is no problem spending on the police department. There is no State budget, and there is cutting back on other departments.

Derf Kleist, 251 Lancaster Way, said if the Town Council chooses to have car, then who gets the cars. He talked about the need for safe cars patrolling, but not for officers to drive home. He wants to know who will get the new cars, and why...i.e. for safety reasons, patrolling the streets, or for officers to drive home.

David Pelletier, Chairman, Economic Development Commission, addressed the Council on the EDC support of capital budget items #5 Parking Area for Linear Trail and #6 Infrastructure Improvements in the I-C zone. At the current Trail parking there are only 10 spaces, and with acquisition of property in this area there would be 45 additional spaces. This will help the businesses in the area; take pressure off people using the popular Trail; and alleviate parking at business locations. The Town is seeking a \$500,000 STEAP grant for the parking project, and the EDC supports setting aside the \$750,000 for the parking project costs. Regarding the I-C zone infrastructure improvements, Mr. Pelletier stated this project brings water to this industrial zone, in all four quadrants. At the present time, there is no water running up Route 10 to East and West Johnson roads. With water available, it makes this area more shovel ready for potential development projects coming to Cheshire, and makes the area more attractive. The Council was informed by Mr. Pelletier, that Mr. Sitko is involved in discussions with the Regional Water Authority on potential cost sharing to bring water to this area of Town. In the Muldrow report undertaken by EDC and presented to the Council, there is mention of the importance of bringing water to the I-C zone if the Town wants to see real future development in this part of Town.

With regard to the CPD vehicles, Town Manager Milone clarified that the Police Chief requested four (4) vehicles in the capital budget – two (2) marked vehicles and two (2) unmarked vehicles. Two of these vehicles will replace the black and white cars on the street. At this time, Mr. Milone does not have the information on where the two (2) unmarked vehicles will go. He is certain two (2) of the vehicles will be in the fleet. Mr. Milone will have further detailed information on the CPD vehicles at the meeting of August 17<sup>th</sup>, and can e-mail it to Mr. Kleist.

Mary Corrigan, 101 Lanyon Drive, asked about the status of the sidewalk project for Lanyon Drive, and if a Council decision has been made on this project.

In response, Chairman Oris stated that this sidewalk project is not part of the FY 2017-2018 capital expenditure budget, and it was approved through a prior year's capital budget. Mr. Oris said the viability of the project is being worked on with the utility company. On the Town side, it was felt there is a financial viability to move forward with this project, but it will require relocation of some utility poles. The Town must go through the process with the utility company for this to be done, and, it has not happened yet. At this point, there is nothing definite to state other than the project was approved in a prior capital budget; it was deemed to be financially feasible by the people who did the due diligence on the project; but, it is uncertain when and how the project will move forward.

Town Manager Milone informed the Council and the public that it will be Spring 2018, at the earliest, when the Town Council can provide additional information on this project. The utility company will not do anything until Spring or Summer 2018. Once information is available, everyone will be advised whether the project is viable.

From his perspective, Chairman Oris said with this capital budget and prior capital budget items where funds have not been expended, there should be a look at all unnecessary expenditures. They should be put on hold due to the financial situation of the State, along with freezing of some things which are not critically important to the community. He said there must be a better understanding of the financial picture, and the sidewalk project falls into this category.

**8. REBUTTAL AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR.**

There were no further public comments or questions.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Oris adjourned the public hearing at 7:30 p.m.

Attest:

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Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk