

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2017 AT 6:30 P.M. IN ROOM 207, TOWN
HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

Timothy Slocum, Chairman; Michael Ecke and Sylvia Nichols
Council Chairman Robert J. Oris Jr.

Staff: Michael A. Milone, Town Manager; Finance Director James Jaskot; Assistant
Town Manager Arnett Talbot; Fire Chief Jack Casner.

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. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$20 donation from Linda Wallinger in memory Of Betty King to the Cheshire Human Services Jitney Bus Fund.
4. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$159.43 donation from the Greater Waterbury Transit District-DAR to the Cheshire Human Services Jitney Bus Fund.
5. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$1,368.60 donation from Collette Travel Service Inc. to the Human Services Gift Account for the Senior Center.
6. Appropriation of \$1,000 from the Jitney Bus Fund for the Greater Waterbury Transit District Dues for Non-ADA Service for FY 17-18.
7. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$50 donation from an anonymous donor to the Human Services Gift Account for general purposes.
8. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100 donation from Dr. Peter Bauer to the Parks Gift Account for a memorial bench in honor of Judge Oberst.
9. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$1,400 donation from Cheshire Dog Park Inc. to the Parks Gift Account for a bench in honor of Bob Ceccolini.
10. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$20 donation from the Yellow House Event to the Youth Services Gift Account to purchase PJs for the Pajama Project.

MOTION by Ms.Nichols; seconded by Mr. Slocum.

MOVED to approve agenda items #3 through #10 and forward them to the full Town Council for approval.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

11. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$400,000 grant from the State of Connecticut Department of Housing and subsequent income to support The housing rehabilitation projects of the Small Cities Grant SC#1602501 Housing Rehabilitation Program.

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Ecke.

MOVED to approve agenda item #11 and forward it to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

Mr. Milone reported that this grant resolution for \$400,000 was previously approved by the Council, but it must be modified per the consultant. The resolution was re-drafted and reformatted on this approval for appropriation of the funds. Applications were received from 28 qualified individual homeowners, to receive a 0% deferred loan, which is collected at the time of sale of the property, or the homeowner can make payments on the loan. As of September 30th, 12 property owners were approved; 4 projects are completed; 3 projects are underway; 2 projects are out to bid. \$108,000 has been disbursed to people with projects underway. When the next run of opportunities for the grant come forward, Mr. Milone will request the Council to again apply for the grant. The scope of project work includes HVAC, boilers, roofs, electrical upgrades, windows, vinyl siding, water heaters, fire safety improvements, plumbing upgrades

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

12. Authorization to apply for an Emergency Management Performance Grant For generator re placement at the Youth Center.

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Ecke.

MOVED to approve agenda item #12 and forward it to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

Fire Chief Casner advised there is no generator at the Youth Center at this time, but there was one on site many years ago. There is a no match grant available from Homeland Security for \$29,000. At the Youth Center building a transfer switch has been installed in the basement, gas line is in place, there is concrete pad at the site, some cleanup will be done without any excavation, inside wiring has been done, and some of the infrastructure is already there for installation of the generator outside the basketball court, at minimum cost.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

13. Approval of Regional Water Authority road repair compensation agreement.

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Ecke.

MOVED to approve agenda item #13 and forward it to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

This road repair work is specific to Verbena Court, and the project will be reviewed in detail at the Council meeting by Town Engineer Gancarz. The RWA payment of \$29,069 represents about 50% of the cost to repave Verbena Court.

Mr. Milone stated this agreement is similar to prior agreements between the Town and RWA. A value is stated for the job by RWA, the town takes the money and applies it to the repaving of the road, curb to curb, 22,000 sq.ft. This work would be done next year, and it requires Council approval. It was noted by Mr. Milone that Cheshire is one of a few towns which RWA authorizes for this agreement because RWA knows how the money will be used. The program works well, and RWA is receptive to giving the town the funds for the actual paving work. Until the road is repaved next year there will be some patching done to get through the winter season.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

14. Discussion re: Commercial Sewer Rate Adjustment.

Mr. Milone informed the Committee that WPCA is holding a public hearing on the rate increase at its November 15th meeting. With this adjustment the burden of cost will be shifting, and this is detailed in the analysis prepared by Town Engineer Gancarz.

Analysis – page 2. The information shows the percentage of flow to the plant. Commercial – 23.0% of plant flow; Prison – 26.6% of plant flow; Residents – 50.4% of plant flow.

2017 percentage of revenue – The information shows Commercial at 19.4% of revenue (\$673,194.86); Prison – 21.4% of revenue (\$741,383.87); Residents – 59.2% of revenue (\$2,046,613).

The analysis indicates the residents are paying an equitable portion of the sewer use fees, and that more financial responsibility should be borne by non-residential users. There should have been shifting to commercial/industrial a long time ago, but adequate information was needed to support this change. WPCA is in total support of the changes in rates for commercial/industrial users. The analysis includes the list of major payers in town who have not been under-paying for usage.

Mr. Milone pointed out that the analysis shows Cheshire's rates are still below surrounding towns (Southington, Meriden, Wallingford). These towns have not yet done their phosphorous improvements, and when this is done their rates will further increase. It is expected there will be some contact with Council members from the major users on the rate adjustments for commercial/industrial rates. It was stated by Mr. Milone that this has been well thought through, is rationale and equitable.

15. Approval of Campion Ambulance Service Inc. contract.

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Ecke.

MOVED to approve agenda item #15, Campion Ambulance Service Inc. Contract as presented, and forward it to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

Chairman Slocum stated the recommendation on this contract is go move forward with approval.

Mr. Milone advised the resolution is for the entire remainder of the five-year contract. With the extension of the contract, there was a recommendation from Councilor Bowman for another ambulance in Cheshire, and he asked about the cost. It is the recommendation of Town Manager Milone to extend the contract for the five year period.

Town Council Chairman Oris stated he is uncomfortable going five years with this contract.

In the contract there is a 60-day clause for either party to get out of the contract, and Chief Casner said this would be done with written notice. The contract was sent to the Town Attorney for approval. Chief Casner advised that AMR is the largest service in the country.

Mr. Slocum commented on there being concerns about Campion being capable of serving the community. He noted that Campion is the designated carrier for the Cheshire area, and the contract has been extended twice. The Budget Committee agrees this contract should go forward to the full Town Council.

The contract has more reporting requirements, and Mr. Milone noted the most recent monthly report is in the Council packets. This report will be revised for easier reading.

The issue of termination requirements for cause was raised by Mr. Oris, who said the contract defines 8 or 9 reasons for cause, as reasons to withdraw from the contract. He the town must be clear about the termination of the contract. In reading the contract, Mr. Oris said the Town is not getting out of this contract for five years.

Chief Casner stated the Council must do something...extend the contract, or approve the contract.

This contract can be cancelled for failure to provide adequate services, and Mr. Milone explained there is now more detailed reporting information from Campion. This information will be broken down and made easier to understand, and if the Town is not satisfied, it must notify Campion.

Chief Casner reported that Campion is meeting the terms of the contract relative to increasing insurance from \$10M to \$20M.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

16. Approval of Ricci Tax Incentives.

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Ecke.

MOVED to approve agenda item #16 and forward it to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

This matter has been discussed by Mr. Sitko with the Council, in executive session.

Mr. Slocum commented on the incentive being for the entire property real estate taxes, with Mr. Ricci paying the real estate taxes, tenants paying personal property taxes.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

17. Board of Education Administrators' contract

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Ecke.

MOVED to approve agenda item #17 and forward it to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

Mr. Slocum stated the Council can ignore or accept this contract. He is comfortable moving this matter to the full Council for discussion.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Impact of the State budget on the Town operating budget.

Mr. Milone commented on the follow-up on Council concerns, how to proceed, be cautious, and information has been compiled for Council to know where the Town is on the expenditure side of the budget. The quarterly report is positive. There will be an

outline to freeze money, and have funds set aside, if necessary. Mr. Milone noted there was announcement today of a State deficit of \$110M.

Mr. Slocum reported the State budget impact will be a Council agenda item for monthly meetings.

18. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Ecke; seconded by Ms. Nichols.

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk