

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL AND BUDGET
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M. IN
ROOM 207-209 TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

Robert J. Oris, Jr. Chairman; Paul A. Bowman, Vice-Chairman; Jeffrey Falk, Patti Flynn-Harris, Sylvia Nichols, Timothy Slocum, David Veleber.

Absent: Thomas Ruocco

Staff: Sean Kimball, Town Manager; Gina DeFilio, Deputy Finance Director; Police Chief Neil Dryfe; Deputy Police Chief Brian Pichnarcik; Deputy Fire Chief Don Youngquist.

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. DISCUSSION RE: FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL
EXPENDITURE PLAN AND ANNUAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET**

Police Department – Chief Dryfe and Deputy Chief Pichnarcik

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The funding for this study was requested a few years ago and Chief Dryfe said it was never approved. He informed the Council that traffic related complaints – speeding and volume of vehicles – are the most frequent complaints relayed to CPD, along with requests for speed bumps on residential streets. The speed limits in Town are artificially low, about 25mph on roads which could have higher speed limits. The Town has never funded a comprehensive traffic study to address the issues cited by residents. Chief Dryfe explained that throwing in speed bumps or speed tables is a complicated process that would have many ramifications such as engineering studies, effects on storm water runoff, storm drains etc. Speed tables and speed bumps are not on the top five (5) measures to be implemented as traffic calming measures. The standard response to residents is that it cannot be done, there is no funding available, it's a complicated process...and the one tool is enforcement which is the only thing CPD can do. CPD puts out trailers with radar signs and counters to get a sense of speeds and vehicle volume.

Until there is an evaluation of the roadways, costs, viability of traffic calming measures, Chief Dryfe is not comfortable recommending installation of speed tables or speed bumps on certain roads to the Council or PW Department.

Chief Pichnarcik reported that studies show the town's average speed at 37 to 41mph on secondary roads. There can be a petition to the State Traffic Authority to re-evaluate; they would rubber stamp the Town's recommendation for posted speed limits; make recommendations for signage, and certify the CPD speed limits.

Signs can be put up now, and Chief Dryfe said CPD can provide increased enforcement.

Mr. Bowman questioned people being happy with increased speed limits on local roads and increased safety.

The speed limit is in keeping with the nature of the road and Chief Pichnarcik noted driver behavior is impacted with most drivers exceeding 10mph over the limit.

Accidents related to speeding are about 10% or lower in the total accidents in Town.

Town Manager Kimball stated his support of the traffic study. He also receives calls about speeding vehicles on local roads. There is a need for more information in order to determine what is appropriate in terms of traffic calming measures.

The issue of timing of traffic lights was raised by Mr. Veleber, who asked if the study looks at this, and makes recommendations on adjustment of lights and number of lights.

For \$70,000 Chief Dryfe does not expect that level of specificity. The study would provide data on traffic volume and speeding, how to proceed going forward, without an audit of every street in Cheshire. The layout of the State roads does have an effect on local roads.

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At this time CPD has a product in place (New World System) which works, installed in 2011, but it is expensive. Chief Dryfe is looking to replace this product from New World System with a product from Nexgen. As technology progresses, he explained that New World has lost its share of business in Connecticut with the exception of Cheshire and Berlin police departments. Nexgen, a company out of New Haven, now has 80% of the Connecticut police market including the State Police. The Nexgen product is significantly better than the New World product.

The CPD is in year #3 of a three year maintenance agreement with New World, at a flat fee of \$62,300 annual cost, with the agreement ending in June 2019. There must be 90 day notification of non-renewal of the contract or there is automatic renewal. The contract has a 2% to 3% escalator. Chief Dryfe does not know if the renewal is for one year or three years, but will determine this and inform Council.

Nexgen has a \$23,000 annual maintenance cost; it is a better and more developed product; its market share in Connecticut has grown; other police departments using the product like it; Wallingford Police Department just switched to Nexgen. With Nexgen there is opportunity for data sharing with other departments, which officers do not now have. The Chief cited the racial profiling form, which officers must fill out for traffic violations, and is part of the Nexgen system for access in police vehicles. New World wants \$20,000 to add this form to the CPD existing system.

Chief Pichnarcik stated that CPD is not getting its money's worth with New World; generation of reports requires a call in and help; and it is a difficult company to work with.

For FY 19 the Nexgen cost is \$185,000, and for FY 2020 to FY 2022 the annual cost is \$23,345 per year. For this time period, total cost would be \$255,035. New World has an annual cost of \$62,300 and total cost of \$249,200.

Chief Pichnarcik explained that trying to improve the product with New World has significant issues with costs up to \$40,000. The company recommends CPD upgrade to their "enterprise" platform to address many of the issues, i.e. calls not being tracked properly. This comes with higher annual maintenance costs.

With regard to the purchase of New World in 2011, the amortization and term, Mr. Kimball will get this information to the Council. Changing to Nexgen would not be in the C.N.R. and would be part of the 20 year bonding.

Chairman Oris commented on the significant investment with New World, being six (6) years into the investment, and the product would not be used for 20 years. He requested information on the real differences between the two systems for Council review. The outlay for Nexgen would be \$185,000 this year.

The Council was told by Mr. Kimball that there is also a Cheshire Fire Department (CFD) component with the New World System.

Chief Youngquist stated the product is also important to CFD, which deals with the technology aspect. He has also heard the \$20,000 number, and CFD is having more problems with New World than the CPD.

There are also problems with the GIS part of the system, and Chief Pichnarcik explained the confusion on data given to the Dispatchers, incorrectly citing names of town streets and intersecting roadways.

CPD Vehicles – Chief Dryfe announced to the Council that as of June 30, 2018, the revenue from vendors hiring police cars at extra duty job sites was \$77,750. This exceeded the estimated revenue.

Chairman Oris stated this revenue should be in a lock box for the use of the Cheshire Police Department. Council members agreed.

Chief Dryfe read a notice from MHQ about Ford Motor Company's announcement of a short production run for model year 2019 police utility vehicles, before making significant changes to the 2020 utility vehicles. These changes will affect the ability of transferring some equipment (i.e. cages) from a previous model Ford utility car. 2019 models will only be in production for a limited time, with orders only up to September

2018. Ford is coming out with a pursuit rated hybrid vehicle. Chief Dryfe said with changes there could be a cost effect for CPD. The life span of a CPD vehicle is 6/7 years old; the older cars are taken off the road and assigned to lesser users (SRO, extra duty on-site jobs); 6/7 year old cars are considered older. Newer vehicles are assigned on two 8-hour shifts a day, and are then rested.

The five-year plan requests purchase of four (4) vehicles per year. This year the anticipated purchase is two (2) unmarked and two (2) marked vehicles. The cost of a standard Ford Interceptor is \$29,800; installation of equipment is \$1,650; total cost for a new vehicle \$31,450.

Chairman Oris commented on the older vehicles at extra duty job sites with an officer as being a huge safety issue. He asked about CPD needing larger SUV's in the fleet, and if they are being considered at some point in time.

The older and larger SUVs (Expeditions) go with the School Resource Officer (SRO) and the Supervisor. Chief Dryfe explained that these larger vehicles and the Traffic Division pickup truck are used and driven during heavy snow storms. The Supervisor's vehicle is a larger SUV; it carries extra tools; and at an incident site can be used as a command center. CPD has smaller SUVs in the fleet.

Chief Dryfe advised that the BOE and CPD will be interviewing police officers this week for positions as School Resource Officers. Two officers will be selected – one for Dodd Middle School and one for Cheshire High School.

Cheshire Fire Department – Deputy Chief Don Youngquist

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Chief Youngquist reviewed the CFD capital expenditure requests. In FY 18-19 there is a \$640,000 request for a fire truck to replace the 1992 Pumping Engine #4. Earlier trucks were purchased 20 years ago and are at 25 years now. The new trucks are built better with all aluminum cabs and bodies.

Chief Youngquist explained that the buying consortium has stream-lined the process for purchase of a new fire truck without the 150 specifications document. CFD is comfortable with the manufacturer; the process has worked well; prices are good; agreements are simple; and it is a tariff free price on the truck. Most manufacturers increase the cost by 3% to 3.5%, and the \$640,000 is a solid number.

In FY 20-21 there is a request to replace Fire Truck Pumping Engine #7 at \$650,000. This amount was cut to \$500,000 by Town Manager Kimball. In 2023, Mr. Kimball recommended funding one of the trucks – a combined rescue/pumper truck.

Chief Youngquist explained that firefighting tools are changing; the Jaws of Life are run by a generator; and the rescue trucks bring lighting to a site.

On page 67, Ms. Flynn-Harris talked about the firefighting equipment in FY19-20, and bringing this into FY 18-19. She said that the gift account has been used in the past for purchase of equipment.

Chief Youngquist stated that CFD purchases equipment out of C.N.R. and what is worn by firefighters is of high priority.

Mr. Oris commented on equipment and clothing for firefighters being a high priority and purchases should be done consistently on a schedule to take care of this need. \$140,000 was approved in last year's budget.

There was a discussion about the purchase of a rescue truck in 2020 for \$650,000 and waiting until 2023 to purchase the combined rescue/pumper truck (\$875,000), and moving the combined truck up in the CEP.

In that regard, Chief Youngquist said CFD was waiting until two trucks are needed and then would request getting the combined truck.

Mr. Kimball stated this was a good point, and he will speak with Chief Casner about possibly moving the combined truck up sooner in the plan.

According to Mr. Oris, it makes sense to purchase the combined truck now for \$875,000, and eliminate the \$650,000 truck in FY 19-20.

There was a brief discussion on this issue, with Councilors in favor of looking further into it.

A question on equipment and clothing was raised by Mr. Bowman, who asked if each firefighter has an air pack.

In response, Chief Youngquist explained that there is one air pack for each riding position on each vehicle. There are spare air packs and bottles; there are enough air packs for 20 firefighters at a fire. CFD has enough masks; all equipment is serviced regularly and annually; there is hydro testing on the bottles.

CEP Meeting Schedule – Mr. Slocum reviewed the updated meeting schedule.

- Tuesday, August 7th, 6:30 p.m. - Board of Education
- Thursday, August 9th, 6:30 p.m. – Public Works/WPCA; Recreation; Admin./Finance/Technology/Planning/All others.
- Tuesday, August 14th, 7:00 p.m. Public Hearing (Regular Town Council Meeting)
- Wednesday, August 15th, 7:00 p.m. – possible workshop/recap
- Tuesday, August 21st, 7:00 p.m. – Capital Budget Adoption

4. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Flynn-Harris; seconded by Mr. Talbot.

MOVED to adjourn the special meeting at 8:38 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk