

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL AND WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2011 AT 7:30 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410

Present

Town Council: Chairman Tim Slocum; Vice Chairman David Schrumm; Steve Carroll, Michael Ecke, Patti Flynn-Harris, Andrew Falvey, Sylvia Nichols, Thomas Ruocco, James Sima.

WPCA: Tim Pelton, Chairman; Commissioners Eberle, Gancarz, Korman and Perrotti. Staff: Town Manager Michael A. Milone; Dr. Greg Florio, Supt. Of Schools; Vincent Masciana, Director of Management Services, Dept. of Education; Dennis Dievert, Supt. Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Public Hearing Subject Matter:

FISCAL YEAR 2011-12 ANNUAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET

1. ROLL CALL

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

2. EXPLANATION OF HEARING PROCEDURE AND AGENDA

3. READING OF LEGAL NOTICE

The clerk read the legal notice into the record.

4. PRESENTATION ON HEARING SUBJECT

Chairman Slocum stated that the public hearing is for a purpose of discussion of the five year capital budget. The proposed appropriation for FY 2011-12 is \$38,003,000; and the amount to be bonded is \$37,445,000.

Town Manager Milone explained that this is the capital expenditure budget for FY 2011-12; the five year plan expenditure is \$80.5 million; and for this public hearing the Council is deliberating the first year for which there is the actual appropriation of funds. The adoption of the CEP will take place on Monday, August 29, 2011.

There are 21 projects in the first year of the proposed CEP, and the Council will modify this proposal over the next 13 days. The amount to be bonded is just under \$37.5 million, with anticipation of grants and offsetting revenue items of about \$8 million, and the actual bonding expenditure will be about \$29 million. There are a wide range of projects. One project is \$60,000 for design for bridges, to \$30 million for the treatment plant upgrade. If the proposed CEP holds form, only three projects would go to referendum – the Waste Water Treatment Plant Project at \$30 million; \$1.5 million for road repavement; and \$2.5 million for extension of the Linear Trail.

In developing the CEP, Mr. Milone said he tried to address the more immediate concerns of the Town, and the treatment plant upgrade represented about 78% of the appropriations. Other projects for FY 11-12 have been deferred, reduced or eliminated.

Dr. Florio stated there are significant items in the CEP for school facilities. He noted that the newest school building in Cheshire is 40+ year old, and all the school buildings are aging and there is a need to invest in the infrastructure over the next few years to maintain the quality of these buildings. Over 90% of the BOE's request for the CEP are for building infrastructure items. These projects were reviewed, in detail, with the Town Council during the CEP budget meetings. The "Civil Rights Compliance", preventative maintenance on roofs, HVAC unit replacement have all been reviewed with the Council.

The importance of investment in technology was raised by Dr. Florio, and he asked the Council not to overlook this expenditure. He said it is important for the school system and community to continue with the 21st Century Classroom initiative for Smart Boards. There must be an up grade of technology infrastructure, which is several generations behind in terms of the backbone for the network for the schools and the Town. Dr. Florio commented on the need to change what is happening in our classrooms in terms of a one-to-one computing initiative. This investment will have a payback.

Dr. Florio requested that the Town Council give strong consideration to continue to invest in the educational issues which are in the capital plan. Those that are not included in the capital plan will be back, because they must be addressed.

Regarding the "Civil Rights Compliance" Dr. Florio explained that the Office of Civil Rights does evaluations of buildings and did one at the high school. This is not related to the civil rights issues of the 1960's. It is more focused on the American With Disabilities Act and compliance in that regard.

Tim Pelton, Chairman WPCA, reviewed the WPCA capital expenditure project for upgrade of the waste water treatment plant. This has been a four year effort by the WPCA to design the next utilization of the plant. The previous upgrade was done in 1990.

The WPCA looked at how much more capacity the Town needs over the next 20 years – i.e. residential and commercial hook-ups, areas with chronic septic system failures, potential growth issues, and input from Chesprocott. The end result of all the analysis is that the plant does not need to be expanded, as current capacity is sufficient to meet the needs over the next 20 years. The infrastructure of the plant needs to be upgraded. New DEP regulations will be integrated into the plant. There is a large environmental push by DEP to protect Long Island Sound, and more sophisticated treatment level is needed.

At \$30 million, the WPCA looked at options, design of the plant, best return on investment, external funding for the project, all of which is moved forward in a \$30

million project which will protect the public safety. Mr. Pelton noted that the plant operates 24/7/365, and can never go out of service.

5. QUESTIONS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR.
6. PROPONENTS AND OPPONENTS STATEMENTS ALTERNATELY EXPRESSED.
7. REBUTTAL AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR.
8. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Slocum adjourned the public hearing at 7:52 p.m.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk