

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2019 AT 6:30 P.M. IN ROOM 207 TOWN HALL, 84
SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

Chairman Timothy Slocum; Jeffrey Falk and Sylvia Nichols

Staff: Town Manager Sean Kimball; Finance Director James Jaskot; Tax Collector William Donlin; Shelia Adams, Pool Coordinator

Budget Committee Chairman Slocum opened the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

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 of kiosk on Linear Trail constructed by Eagle Scout Robert Beloin.
4. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$2,000 donation from Stephan Nigro to the Recreation Gift Account for a memorial bench in honor of Frank and Lucy Nigro.
5. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$70 donation to the Youth Services Gift Account from the Yellow House Glow in the Dark, Capture the Flag event, to be Used for Youth Services programming.
6. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$500 donation from Mary Hyson in honor of Staff to the Human Services Gift Account to be used for purchase of a TV display In the Senior Center Lobby.
7. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$900 donation from the Cheshire Senior Center Membership Association to the Human Services Gift Account for reimbursement of the Association's portion of the My Senior Center annual maintenance fee.
8. Authorization for application, acceptance and appropriation of a \$750 Communities Talk Town Hall Meetings to Prevent Underage Drinking grant For an underage drinking prevention event.
9. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$50 donation from an anonymous donor To the Human Services Gift Account to be used for general purposes.

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Falk

MOVED that the Budget Committee approve and accept agenda items #3 through #9 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

10. Discussion and possible approval of Friends of Boulder Knoll lease extension for Boulder Knoll property.

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

MOVED that the Budget Committee approve and accept agenda item # 10 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

Town Manager Kimball explained there was an issue with water access to the property due to tenant house rental through Cheshire Housing Authority (CHA), and the tenant paying the electricity costs. There is a dispute over this issue, and the town is looking at a solution. The recommendation is to extend the lease for six (6) months (to October 11, 2019) rather than a five (5) year lease. The Friends group is making alternate water arrangements for the farm property.

Ms. Talbot reported that if the Friends group puts in a well, this should be included in the lease agreement.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

11. Approval of assignment of tax liens.

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Falk

MOVED that the Budget Committee approve and accept agenda item # 11 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

Mr. Donlin explained that there was an RFP to select the firm for the tax lien assignment, and there were two (2) respondents. One bidder, RAM Financial Group is new to lien assignment, and has no Connecticut experience. The second bidder, FIG Capital Investments, LLC has been serving Cheshire for two (2) years, and reference checks received favorable responses. The Marcus Firm is legal counsel for FIG, and will support and advise the Cheshire office during the process. The lien list has 22 properties.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

12. Approval of transfer of uncollectible property taxes to the Suspense List.

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

MOVED that the Budget Committee approve and accept agenda item # 12 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

Town Manager Kimball informed the committee that this is an annual reporting of uncollectible property taxes to the Suspense List.

Mr. Donlin stated the Suspense List is undertaken in accordance with CGS Section 12-165, with submission of the list to the Town Council for approval to transfer to the Suspense Tax Book. The taxes are unpaid; they are turned over to a collection agency; the property owner will have a 15% charge from the agency; and a payment plan can be worked out. Mr. Donlin explained that property owners receive a delinquent notice and demand notice on a monthly basis about uncollected taxes. There is always the option for a payment plan with the Tax Collector's office.

The committee was informed by Mr. Donlin that the responsibilities of the Tax Collector are defined by State statute and Town Charter and he is bound by these requirements.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

13. Amendment to FY 18-19 Community Pool Operating Budget and Subsidy. Mr. Jaskot explained that the pool budget was \$634,000 for FY 2019, and it was hoped to reach \$600,000. He is confident the budget will be at \$580,000. The Council is requested to appropriate an additional \$100,000 to the pool operating budget subsidy. The expenditures were under-budgeted (gas, electricity, water), and revenue had a shortfall.

Mr. Kimball stated there is close monitoring on the expenditure side of the budget, and with the combined heat and power the electricity is budgeted less in FY 19-20 budget.

There was an exterior pipe placement issue from CFD, and Ms. Adams said Eversource visited the facility, and lots of work has been done.

Bleachers – Ms. Adams reported on many swim organizations wanting to hold meets at the Cheshire pool, with six (6) meets requested for next year. All these meets cannot be undertaken as it would mean closing down the pool to the public for too many weekends.

The new inflatables are in for the next full year, and Ms. Adams reported the pool was very busy last weekend.

Mr. Jaskot outlined the \$100,000 subsidy request - \$50,000 for revenue shortfall and \$50,000 for expenditure overage.

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

MOVED that the Budget Committee approve and accept agenda item # 13, with a \$100,000 increase to the pool subsidy to cover the revenue shortfall of \$50,000 and expenditure overage of \$50,000, and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

Ms. Adams commented on the lead which added to the water utility expenses, and said it has been fixed. When the pool is busy there is more water use and utility expenses.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

14. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk