

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 (RESCHEDULED FROM SEPTEMBER 11, 2019)  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 7:00 P.M. PUBLIC HEARINGS IN COUNCIL  
CHAMBERS, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

Chairman Robert J. Oris Jr.; Vice-Chairman Paul A. Bowman; Council Members – Jeffrey Falk, Patti Flynn-Harris, Sylvia Nichols, Thomas Ruocco, Timothy Slocum, Peter Talbot, David Veleber:

Staff: Town Manager Sean Kimball; Asst. Town Manager Arnett Talbot; Finance Director James Jaskot; Town Attorney Patti Boye-Williams; Fire Chief Jack Casner; PW Director George Noewatne; Human Services Director Michelle Piccerillo; Chesprocott Director Maura Esposito.

Dept. of Education – COO Vincent Masciana; BOE Chair Kathy Hallen

Guest: Bob Dionne, Trinity Health Care

Chairman Oris called the meeting to order at 7:18 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. ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION  
(moved to the end of the meeting)**

**A. Personnel Matters**

**B. Pending Litigation**

**C. Land Acquisition**

**4. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Cheshire 325<sup>th</sup> Eagle Scout project presentation by Aiden Engle.**

Eagle Scout Engle, Troop 92, gave a presentation on Cheshire and how it has changed over 125 years. In his presentation, Mr. Engle noted that Cheshire was founded in 1694, and is celebrating its 325<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2019. His slide presentation included views of historic maps of the Town Green, photographs of the First Congregational Church, Civil War Monument (the first in Connecticut), Town Hall (1/1/1868), historic buildings in the Town Center, Cheshire Cinema (1935), Bishop, Casertanto and Ives Farms. The entire presentation is available for viewing at the Cheshire Library, Historical Society, Town website and Cheshire Public Access channel.

On behalf of the Town Council and the Cheshire Community, Chairman Oris thanked Scout Engle for the educational and historical presentation. Mr. Oris commended Mr. Engle for the hard work and effort he put into this wonderful project. He cited Mr. Engle as an example of the great young people in Cheshire who give back to their community, and are an important component of the community.

Council members personally congratulated Scout Engle on his wonderful presentation.

**B. Community opioid response update and recognition of Chesprocott**

Ms. Esposito, Director of Chesprocott, acknowledged the community health and disaster team who were present at the meeting, and thanked the Council for the recognition. The community emergency/disaster exercise was held June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>; Cheshire High School is the pod site for Cheshire; volunteers had the pod site operational within 24 hours; and in a real emergency more volunteers would be needed.

Chairman Oris presented a Certificate of Recognition to Maura Esposito, Director of Chesprocott and the department staff, and commended them and the team of volunteers who participated in the successful June Emergency/Disaster Exercise. Mr. Oris stated the Council will work with and support future endeavors with Chesprocott.

A copy of the Chesprocott Health District planning, training and collaboration to address the substance abuse and mental health concerns of the community were distributed to the Council. A copy is attached to these minutes.

Ms. Esposito gave a brief history of the federal government implementation of programs for substance abuse, and cited the many accomplishments for Cheshire (listed in the handout). Pages 2 and 3 cite the Cheshire opioid fatalities and overdose data for 2019, age distribution for overdoses, age and sex for overdoses. Funding has been received through CDS (\$10,000) for purchase of marketing materials and there are available resources to assist communities with applications for funding. Chesprocott has strong relationships with the Cheshire School System, Police Department, and Human Services Department.

Human Services Director Piccerillo talked about the comprehensive approach to opioids in the community, which affects all ages - young people to senior citizens. There are programs to educate people on the appropriate use and disposition of medications, prevention/treatment/recovery programs, Narcan training for the public, giving prescribers information on prescribed drugs to people, ongoing work to reduce substance use, and grant funding to bring education to the community. Ms. Piccerillo reported there are programs for 16 to 18 year olds, family and friends groups, newspaper ads, education on opioids and misuse of prescription drugs. There is a substance abuse program scheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup> at Cheshire Town Hall. Ms. Piccerillo commented on the goal of looking and applying for grant funding for Cheshire.

Mr. Slocum noted the statistics of 2016 show Cheshire as high ranking for substance abuse, and asked if this mirrors what is happening in the State.

According to Ms. Esposito, Cheshire is down in ranking and the goal is 0%.

(Mr. Veleber entered the meeting at 7:45 p.m.)

Ms. Flynn-Harris commended everyone involved on the creative way of getting out the message and the many public places available.

Words of appreciation were stated by Mr. Talbot for Ms. Piccerillo and Ms. Esposito and their staff for their work. He asked about the number being "11 people of 8-3 female to male" and if this is atypical for Cheshire.

The opioid and drug use is stemming from mental health and suicide, and Ms. Esposito said the females are using it for emotional issues, and Cheshire is in line with State numbers. The goal is to combine municipal sectors to work as "one", and bring down the female numbers.

The importance of focusing on the positives was cited by Ms. Nichols, and the great job being done to bring awareness to the community. There are efforts to get the message out there, and it is creative and positive.

Mr. Bowman thanked Ms. Esposito and Chesprocott staff and volunteers, Ms. Piccerillo and Human Services Department staff for their hard work and dedicated efforts. He will support the initiative to bring addictive issues to the community.

Mr. Falk thanked Ms. Piccerillo and Ms. Esposito and their staff, and said the list of accomplishments is heart-warming. There is Council support and appreciation for this monumental task being undertaken by so many.

#### Public Comments and Questions

Breina Schain, 62 Hilltop Road, appreciates the recommendations and work of staff and volunteers. Ms. Schain suggested having one Town Council person to link up with Chesprocott and report to the Council on public safety and health and security.

Chairman Oris stated that there is a national opioid epidemic and Chesprocott is making a difference in our Town. He said this epidemic should be treated as any other medical issue in the community and support and treatment provided to those in need. Mr. Oris offered anything that is needed from the Council to staff to continue this important work.

#### **C. Public Comments**

Mr. Slocum talked about the recently published book "Glaciers to Greenhouses" authored by Town Historian Jeanne R. Chesnow. The book is on sale at the Historical Society for \$20, and proceeds will benefit the Cheshire Land Trust and Historical Society. Copies of the book were gifted to Town Council members.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
Public Hearings and Regular Meeting of August 13, 2019;  
Special Meetings of August 14, 20, and 27, 2019.**

MOTION by Mr. Talbot; seconded by Ms. Nichols

MOVED to approve the minutes of Public Hearings and Regular Meeting of August 14, 2019, and Special Meetings of August 14, 20, and 27, 2019, subject to corrections, additions, deletions.

Corrections: August 20, 2019, #4 Capital Project Management Services-**\$106,000**;  
CPD Lower Level Project **\$800,000 in year #2.**

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #091719-1

**RESOLUTION #091719-1  
CONSENT CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 17, 2019**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the Consent Calendar for September 17, 2019 as follows:

- A. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$9.70 donation from CAF America to The Parks and Recreation Gift Account for the Dog Park.
- B. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$5,887.25 donation from the Cheshire Police Union for the purchase of gymnasium equipment.
- C. Authorization to apply for a \$53,342 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Local Prevention Council Grant for youth substance Abuse prevention programming.
- D. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$50 anonymous donation to the Human Services Gift Account for general purposes.

- E. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$25 donation from the Cheshire Senior\ Citizens Club in memory of Enis DellaCamera to the Human Services Gift Account for the Senior Center.
- F. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$350.75 donation from the Yellow House End of Summer Party to the Youth Services Gift Account for Youth Services Programming.
- G. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$250 donation from the Thursday Evening Setback League to the Human Services Gift Account for the Senior Center.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR - None**

**8. OLD BUSINESS - None**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Discussion and possible approval of the amendment to extend the Unsafe Premises Ordinance for one year.**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #091719-2

**RESOLUTION #091719-2**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves an amendment to extend the Unsafe Premises Ordinance one year, to sunset on September 30, 2020, as recommended by the Ordinance Review Committee. Said amendment shall be effective October 1, 2019.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**Public Comment**

Paul Michalowski, 25 Gateway Court, addressed the Council on the Unsafe Premises Ordinance, and requested the Ordinance Review Committee look into adding some "blight" issues into the ordinance. He informed the Council he has a serious situation in his neighborhood with a neighbor having two couches in the backyard and the front yard rotting away. Nothing can be done because there is no blight in the ordinance. Mr. Michalowski brought the matter to the attention of Fire Marshal Andrews, who wrote a letter to the homeowners without a response. The letter was read into the record. Mr. Michalowski believes there should be more teeth in the ordinance with inclusion of blight

issues, and suggested a committee to look at situations and decide whether there is blight and if something should be done.

Chairman Oris stated the Council just approved the amendments to the ordinance. He noted that ORC did not receive much public input on the blight issue, but now input is forthcoming. The question is how far to go without violating people's rights to use their property. Mr. Oris said the matter will be discussed through the ORC.

**B. Discussion and possible approval of the proposed new Illicit Discharge And Connections Stormwater Ordinance.**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #091719-3

**RESOLUTION #091719-3**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the Illicit Discharge and Connections Stormwater Ordinance, as recommended by the Ordinance Review Committee. Said amendment shall be effective October 1, 2019.

Discussion

The issue of enforcement of this ordinance was raised by Mr. Slocum.

Attorney Boye-Williams explained the ORC authorized the enforcement authority through the Town Manager. The Town has enforcement discretion.

Mr. Veleber stated this is another ordinance and law passed down by the State, and it is an unfunded mandate with the town bearing the cost and burden.

VOTE The motion passed 7-2; Mr. Slocum and Mr. Veleber opposed.

**C. Discussion and possible approval of the Solid Waste Ordinance Amendments.**

MOTION by Ms. Flynn-Harris; seconded by Ms. Nichols

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #091719-4

**RESOLUTION #091719-4**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves amendments to the Solid Waste Ordinance, Section 7, as recommended by the Ordinance Review Committee. Said amendment shall be effective October 1, 2019.

Discussion

Ms. Flynn-Harris stated this is an update to the ordinance with language changes and information referencing the town issued containers, and definitions.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**D. Discussion and possible approval of award of contract for the Fire Headquarters and Annex Boiler re placements project.**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #091719-5

**RESOLUTION #091719-5**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the final design and authorizes the Public Building Commission to go to bid for replacement of the boilers at Fire Headquarters and Fire HQ Annex.

Discussion

Mr. Bowman reported that the PBC approved this bid at the September 4, 2019 meeting, and forwarded it to the full Town Council for approval.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**E. Discussion and possible approval of bid and award of contract for Design of Library Roof HVAC project.**

MOTION by Mr. Bowman; seconded by Mr. Veleber.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #091719-6

**RESOLUTION #091719-6**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council, pursuant to the recommendation of the Public Building Commission, approves the bid waiver for the design and utility rebates for the HVAC portion of the Roof Replacement at the Library, and further approves the award of contract for said work to Jon Petersen LLC for \$7,000.

Discussion

PW Director Noewatne informed the Council that the Library roof project also became a partial HVAC replacement project. The PBC wanted the designer to look at, inspect and pursue rebates for the project through Eversource. PBC is requesting approval of \$7,000 for the designer's work, which Mr. Noewatne believes is money well spent.

Chairman Oris commented on this bid waiver for a small amount, and the town having past good experience with this company.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**F. Discussion and possible approval of award of contract for design, bidding and construction administration for the entryway portion of the School Security Improvement Project.**

MOTION by Mr. Bowman; seconded by Mr. Talbot.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #091719-7

**RESOLUTION #091719-7**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council, pursuant to the recommendation of the Public Building Commission, awards the contract for the design, bidding and construction administrative services for entryway security improvements at Cheshire Public Schools to Friar Architecture for \$44,650.

Discussion

Mr. Bowman stated this is for school security at the entrance to each school, which is lock box security. It is a large expenditure – a \$1.090M funding appropriation.

Mr. Noewatne explained the PBC vetted the RFP responses, interviewed several firms, and negotiated the price down with Friar Architects. The firm is a good choice and fit for the town.

With this expenditure, Mr. Slocum asked about some schools posing more difficult security than others, and if these security improvements address all of the schools.

In response, Mr. Noewatne said this firm will address all the schools, and some are more simple than others. The firm's budget and timeline were very impressive, and took into account the different schools and security issues. All buildings will be looked at, and some may require a small addition at the front entrance, and others will use the existing structure.

Chairman Oris commented on school security being of utmost importance to the Council and BOE. The Council and BOE work collaboratively to insure security of Cheshire's students, and he will support the contract approval.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**G. Discussion and possible action re: the establishment of a School Modernization Plan Study Group.**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #091719-8

**RESOLUTION #091719-8**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby establishes a collaborative Town Council and Board of Education Study Group charged with developing a School Modernization Plan for the Cheshire Public Schools facilities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said School Modernization Plan Committee shall prepare and conduct a Request for Proposals seeking consultants to assist the Committee in determining a strategy and developing plans based upon the specifications established by the Committee, and shall present the resulting plans and their recommendations to the Town Council as soon as completed but not later than September 15, 2020.

Members of said Committee will be appointed by Council resolution, and will include three representatives from the Town Council, three from the Board of Education, and five from the public. Appropriate staff will provide support as needed.

Discussion

Chairman Oris stated that the Council and BOE have been discussing this for some time. The first attempt did not go forward for a variety of reasons, and the Alexion property in the north end did not happen. In the capital budget there is an approved appropriation of \$150,000 to the BOE to work collaboratively on the next step of the modernization plan. He supports the modernization plan based on reality and fiscal prudence and what the community can afford. Mr. Oris said the process must begin because it is important to the children and future property values of the community. This committee will be a collaborative effort between the Council, BOE and members of the community. Mr. Oris understands that the BOE has a similar resolution to be approved at the next BOE meeting. Names of the committee members will be decided by the Council and BOE, and interested members of the community are welcome to bring forward their names for membership.

Ms. Flynn-Harris was pleased to second the motion because this is an important step, and Council and BOE have been criticized for not being proactive on the plans. The plan must be looked at proactively, and looked at from both sides from a collective group. She said people can come forward with their expertise, and there can be a resident from each of the schools to give input on the needs of the schools. Ms. Flynn-Harris hopes for a successful committee.

Ms. Nichols agreed with the statements made by Ms. Flynn-Harris, and the group working collaboratively will come to a conclusion to present realistic expectations to the consultant. Much has already been done, and this time the focus will be on a collaborative effort for the consultant to come back with a realistic plan within the budget. She hears that older community members could object to the plan, and they should be represented. With realistic expectations there will be support from all ages in the community. Ms. Nichols supports the resolution for a committee made up of people with varied areas of concern and expertise.

It was stated by Mr. Ruocco that this proposal came to Council two years ago with no fiscal sense, and there should be parameters for the study group, i.e. option to consider school consolidation or closing some facilities. He said there should be a mandated option for the committee to undertake, setting a limit on spending, but he does not see this happening. Mr. Ruocco will not support the resolution.

Mr. Slocum supports the resolution and believes the charge of the committee will be broad and include options cited by Mr. Ruocco. The Council has talked about not investing in the older buildings, and the focus with the BOE has been on cost management.

According to Mr. Bowman, everything must be on the table with people on the committee thinking out of the box, and coming up with a solution for the problems we have. There should be no limitations on the committee. He said there are many components to the process and the committee should be as large as possible because the issue is a heavy lift, and is complicated. Mr. Bowman noted it will take a lot of work and due diligence to come up with a sensible and affordable plan for the community. It is important to build a foundation, as was built many years ago, to insure our children and grandchildren are represented in their education experience going forward.

VOTE           The motion passed 8-1; Mr. Ruocco opposed.

## **10. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

### **A. Monthly Status Report - in Council packets**

### **B. Department Status Reports: Police, Fire, Fire Marshal. In Council packets**

### **C. Other Reports**

Town Manager Kimball highlighted his written report to the Council. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

- Fall Festival Appreciation – Mr. Kimball expressed appreciation to the Chamber of Commerce, Director Auger and her team, Cheshire Fire, Police, Public Works Departments, Jerry Sitko and Cheshire Library Team (for hosting the 325<sup>th</sup> Anniversary tent), and Mr. Gawlak, Parks and Rec staff, and Weston & Sampson for staffing the table dedicated to gathering input on the future of the Chapman Property. The fireworks show was on Sunday night and it was fantastic.
- Bulky Waste Collection – the collection begins next week over a six week period, with one week scheduled for each collection day route; makeup week is October 28<sup>th</sup>.
- DPW Road Treatment Updates – the previously submitted list of paving program streets has been completed; DPW will submit a paving report at the end of the season.
- Farmington Canal Trail Patching – 245 cracks will be patched along the Trail; work started on September 16<sup>th</sup>; the Trail will remain open while the work is done.
- Eversource Reliability Improvements – the company has been doing reliability upgrade work in town, primarily in the North and South Brooksvale areas; the improvements are to 3-phase power facilities and new sectioning devices to allow Eversource to automatically limit the effect of a tree on a wire or car vs. pole singular outage without impacting the entire circuit and all adjacent customers. The technical summary was cited in the report.
- Chapman Property Citizen Survey – the Town is gathering citizen input to determine the best use of the 10-acre parcel of land adjacent to Bartlem Park. The Town engaged with Weston & Sampson to guide the development of the master plan, and develop a survey through September 28<sup>th</sup>. The link can be found at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WDBCS89>.
- Town Council Meeting – Tuesday, September 24, 2019.

In response to some Council questions about the bulky waste collection pickup dates, PW Director Noewatne explained the recommendation for everyone is to have the bulky waste items out on Sunday night of their collection week. There is a map on the web site for the pickup. He noted that “pickers” must be licensed by CPD. Mr. Noewatne reported that 29 condo complexes received a letter from Public Works advising on either curb pickup or dumpster pickup. When a dumpster is filled it will be removed and replaced by A.J. Waste. Apartment type properties with more than four (4) units are “commercial” and not eligible for the bulky waste pickup.

Mr. Noewatne briefly went over the multi-process for road pavement, which is a hot in place recycling on some roads. Public Works received some calls about the process, but when completed, there were no complaints.

Regarding the Eversource reliability information, Mr. Slocum reported that he (and other residents) received a five hour shut-off notice for October 1<sup>st</sup> as the conversion takes place.

Town Manager Kimball explained that every customer will receive this notice about the conversion and shut down, which will be mid-day, 4 to 5 hours.

## **11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL.**

### **A. Chairman's Report**

#### **i. September 11<sup>th</sup> Recognition**

Chairman Oris held a moment of silence in recognition of the people lost in the 9-11 attack and reaffirmation of dedication to our country.

#### **ii. Referral of naming of section of the Linear Trail to the Planning Committee**

Chairman Oris read letters into the record in support of naming the Farmington Canal Trail between Cornwall Avenue and West Main St. **“The Trail of Hope”**.

Letters were received from Don Walsh and Jenifer Walsh, President and Vice President of Lights of Hope, Ali Tyler, Vice President CHS Lights of Hope Club, and Kathy Kirby.

It was explained by Mr. Oris that there is a process and procedure to be undertaken for naming anything in the community, and he will support this naming request. He commended Don and Jenifer Walsh for what they have done for the Cheshire community through this charity.

Doug Noble, 30 Jesse Court, Vice President of the Farmington Rail to Trail Association, addressed the Council with the organization's support of naming this section of the Trail as “The Trail of Hope”. Mr. Noble expressed appreciation to the Town for everything it does for the Linear Trail and the opportunity to show off the Town of Cheshire. The proposal to name a section of the Trail is an opportunity to show appreciation to the Lights of Hope organization.

### **B. Miscellaneous**

**12. MISCELLANEOUS AND APPOINTMENTS**

**A. Liaison Reports**

Parks and Recreation Department – Mr. Talbot thanked Director Gawlak for his work and efforts at the Fall Festival, soliciting input for the Chapman Property as the Town moves forward on developing or not developing this strategically located property. Mr. Talbot also thanked Weston & Sampson (consultants) for soliciting input, and a survey will be on the web site for public response.

**B. Appointments to Boards and Commissions - none**

**13. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS – no report**

**14. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Letters to Council.**

Chairman Oris read an e-mail letter into the record from Marcy Vasquez on the Town issuing a blight ordinance.

Chairman Oris read a letter from the Drust Family (Shop Rite owners) citing September as National Hunger Month” and their recognition program on September 20<sup>th</sup> at Shop Rite stores.

**B. Miscellaneous -none**

**3. ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A. Personnel Matters**

**B. Pending Litigation**

**C. Land Acquisition**

MOTION by Mr. Talbot; seconded by Mr. Veleber.

MOVED that the Town Council enter Executive Session at 8:57 p.m. to include Town Manager Kimball, Asst. Town Manager Talbot, Fire Chief Casner, Town Attorney Boye-Williams and Bob Dionne, Trinity Health.

Mr. Dionne left executive session at 9:20 p.m.

MOTION by Mr. Talbot; seconded by Mr. Veleber.

MOVED to exit Executive Session at 10:22 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mr. Talbot; seconded by Mr. Veleber.

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

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Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk