

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY,
MARCH 10, 2020 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 7:00 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING IN
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

Robert J. Oris, Jr. Chairman; David Borowy, James Jinks, Sylvia Nichols, Timothy Slocum, Peter Talbot, David Veleber, Donald Walsh.

Staff: Sean M. Kimball, Town Manager; Al Smith, Town Attorney; Arnett Talbot, Asst. Town Manager; Police Chief Neil Dryfe; Fire Chief Jack Casner; George Noewatne, PW Director; Maura Esposito, Director of Chesprocott.

Dept. of Education – Supt. Jeff Solan and COO Vincent Masciana

Guests: Julie Anderson, Cheshire Academy

Chairman Oris called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

Chairman Oris commented on the Town of Cheshire taking the COVID-19 virus seriously, and public service and health district staff are present at this meeting to provide information to the community.

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

A. Land Acquisition

(moved to later in the agenda)

4. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

A. Recognition of Elim Park

Chairman Oris recognized Elim Park administration for their generosity to the Town of Cheshire Fire and Police Departments. As a non-profit group, Elim Park is not obligated to pay taxes in the community, but the facility makes significant annual donations to the Fire and Police Departments. This year Elim Park donated \$195,000 each to the Fire and Police Departments, which goes a long way to support their endeavors. Public safety is one of the top priorities in the community. Mr. Oris thanked Elim Park for the donations, and their understanding of having top quality public safety services in Cheshire.

B. Chesprocott COVID-19 status report

Maura Esposito, Director, Chesprocott Health District, members of her staff, and Julie Anderson from Cheshire Academy, were present to inform the Council and community

on the status of the COVID-19 virus. Flyers and other information were available for the public.

Ms. Esposito stated that, worldwide, there are 118,000 cases; 4,262 deaths; 64,000 people recovered in a three (3) month period. Connecticut has two (2) confirmed cases; three (3) hospital incidents; as of today, two (2) school closings of Region 14 and Stratford school districts.

The time line of the virus and where Chesprocott has been was cited by Ms. Esposito.

- December 2019 – many cases of pneumonia in China; Chesprocott reached out to Cheshire Academy staff due to their student population.
- January 2020 – surveillance and monitoring the situation; DPH and CDC started up weekly conference calls, and Cheshire Academy was directly included in the calls.
- January and February – started updates to Town Manager Kimball and Supt. Solan.
- Last week in February – started contacting EMD, got town command staff together; held meetings with schools (public and private) and long term care partnership; EMD met with all three town staff (Cheshire, Prospect, Wolcott); held long discussion on the role of Chesprocott, and future potential; these conversations have been ongoing for 2 to 3 weeks.
- March 11, 2020 – there will be another updated meeting; everyone is working together as a whole partnership.

Role of Chesprocott – Ms. Esposito explained that Chesprocott is in the mitigation state, and is past containment...the virus was not contained. China was trying to contain the virus but as soon as cases came up in Italy, travelers came back to Connecticut and were contained. The California person became a positive patient with no known travel history or exposure to anyone, and this was called community spread.

The job of Chesprocott is to educate the public on prevention. There is emphasis on hand washing, cough etiquette, providing lots of outreach on cleaning of frequently touched items, working very closely with the schools, insuring school cleaning products are correct to protect school children. This is all done with mass e-mails, flyers, Facebook and Instagram posts, press releases, interviews and monitoring.

Monitoring – This would occur when a visitor comes back from China mainland into the community, is asked to self monitor for 14 days, with temperature checking and review of any symptoms. Ms. Esposito said Chesprocott is working with that population. Currently, there is no monitoring of anyone from any other tier 2 or 3 country (Iran, Italy, Japan, South Korea). People coming back are being told to self-monitor under guidelines, i.e. temperature below 104 degrees. If someone does develop symptoms there are clear protocols of what the health department does...call EMS and coordinate

with hospitals for decisions on transporting a patient to the hospital, or if they do not need to go.

Cases will be identified. As positive cases come back Chesprocott will be doing contact tracing, questioning people (names of contacts), and possible spread of the disease.

Ms. Esposito reported the Governor has declared this a state of public health emergency which changes protocols and procedures for health departments. At the present time the State has two (2) kits; each kit has 600 people able to be tested; this is a total of 1,200 people to test. There are only two (2) people in the State lab capable of doing these tests, but seven (7) more are being trained. Only 50 people a day are able to be tested. The health care industry is running low on protective equipment (i.e. masks); more respirators are needed, and those on hand must be tested to insure they are working; and the State was notified there are not enough to go around. Staff is working with DPH to determine if older ones can be used.

As of March 10th, the Governor has recommended mass gathering, more than 100 people, be postponed. Nursing homes and long term care facilities received DPH notice that visitors are not longer allowed, unless under extreme circumstances such as end of life. Ms. Esposito commented on the need to be sympathetic to patients and family members and work around this restriction...i.e. bringing patient to a window or use cell phones or have a video. If there are general questions, people can call 211 which is the number set up for calls.

Ms. Esposito reiterated that anyone with flu like symptoms should not drive to a doctor's office. They should call the doctor's office and calls will be triaged outside. Some things will be happening such as flu clinic drive-through, and it works.

Julie Anderson, Cheshire Academy representative, stated the Academy's Director of Health, Deb Bond, is working with Ms. Esposito on this health situation.

Ms. Anderson cited the following:

- Many of the Academy students cannot leave campus if they are ill.
- The school has about 45 students from Korea or mainland China who do not go home for spring break, and they are in the dorms under faculty supervision.
- Students from China have been on campus since January 2, 2020. Two (2) students went to China for the Lunar New Year, will not return to campus, and staff is working with them to complete their school year.
- Families in China are cooperative and grateful for the community support.
- Cheshire Academy has an emergency response team working closely with Chesprocott, Ms. Esposito and campus health care providers.

- This team works with the Facilities Director, and the outside cleaning company for extra cleaning of school buildings with plenty of supplies and plans in place in the event of an outbreak on campus.
- Should this occur, there is one remodeled and vacant dormitory floor for quarantine of up to 20 students, one per room; there has been discussion with Ms. Esposito on providing health care to those students including meals.
- Beyond 20 students they would be quarantined to their room, with one bathroom for sick students, under the supervision of health center staff.
- The Academy has cancelled sport team trips and a trip to Tanzania.
- All boarding students are required to have the flu shot.
- Things are in place with faculty, dining service and cleaning service.
- The Academy is working on its on-line learning plan and it is ready to go.
- There will be a call to the Board of Trustees on Wednesday; another communication will go out regarding delay of school past March 24th for another 2 to 3 weeks.
- The delay will enable teachers to become familiar with the on-line learning platform.
- The concern is the safety and emotional well being of the students, particularly those from China; some students have received racial/discriminatory comments in town; staff wants students to feel safe, protected, and supported by Academy staff.
- Students come from 31 countries; many students did travel; some may remain home for a few weeks.
- Boarding schools are working together with plans in place.

Regarding limitation of visitors on campus, Ms. Anderson said this decision will be made shortly. ArtsPlace cancelled their event of March 15th; all events (college fair, prom, sports, etc.) are all being looked at each week; all vendors must have travel certification; there will be no live interviews/only through Skype; no hosting of students looking at the school; campus tours will be virtual tours; the school knows of family visits. It was pointed out by Ms. Anderson that the Academy is an open campus, with local people walking dogs and walking the campus.

Ms. Esposito said any international visitors have been monitored by the health department; they must stay in-house for 14 days with limited public access; and no one should be at risk.

Chairman Oris thanked Ms. Esposito and Ms. Anderson for their comprehensive update, and stated the community's full support of the Cheshire Academy students and staff.

Supt. Solan thanked the Town Council, Town Manager Kimball and Ms. Esposito and their teams for being a great resource to support the school system. Supt. Solan informed everyone there has been lots of correspondence and e-mails to parents and

noted there are resources on the BOE home page. The COVID-19 is being dealt with on a day to day basis; CIAC announced cancellation of all winter sports season; things are evolving and changing every day; and the team coordination is powerful with quick responses.

The effort is two pronged – prevention and how to respond with the right precautions to be taken if the schools must close.

Prevention – Supt. Solan explained there has been lots of education of students on proper hand washing techniques, facility cleaning has been upgraded, particularly in high contact areas (bathrooms, door handles, handrails), bus cleaning regimen has been enhanced. Table cleaning for lunch waves has been upgraded and enhanced; there are additional hand sanitizers; and all trips and events will be evaluated this week. International travel trips have been cancelled; the annual trips to Washington D.C. and New York City could possibly be cancelled due to high crowds of people. In-house events such as Statewide Math Tournament at CHS is coming up and will be evaluated. Decisions are being made in the best interests of the students' health and safety.

Precaution – Supt. Solan said there is hope for the best but preparing for the worst. In the event of closing school and/or State shutdown, the administration wants to be prepared to offer on-line opportunities/remote learning. The State has been clear that districts wanting to do this on their own can submit a waiver of the 180 day school year requirement...the days being offered for remote learning would be counted as school days. This has not yet been done. If it were done, there would be provision of remote access education; tool kits (more paper based) would be sent home for K-3 students; grades 4-12 students would have a Google classroom platform for engagement with teachers...visually, teachers posting videos, and provision of interaction opportunities with parents.

Part of the preparation process includes early dismissal on Thursday, March 12th, to insure staff is up to speed on the remote learning. Any documents to be migrated from a desktop computer to the cloud are migrated. Without a waiver from the State, the school closure days would be handled as snow days and added to the school year. The school days cannot go beyond June 30th. If more days are needed they would be taken from the last day of April vacation working backwards.

Supt. Solan stated this is the status of prevention and precaution protocols as of today.

Mr. Slocum asked what would trigger closing of schools.

In response, Supt. Solan said this is a unique situation, and the district is used to dealing with seasonal flu issues, the number of students out sick, and deciding on the need to close a school. The contagious nature of the Coronavirus is such is that one person could be the patient in the community spreading the virus. There is an emergency planning meeting on Wednesday morning...and due to the contagious

nature it is likely schools will be closed sooner than later depending on circumstances. If there was a confirmed case, that one school building could be treated. The cleaning company could bring in the fogging device and within 24 hours the building could be re-inhabited.

The issue of water fountains in the schools was raised by Mr. Walsh, and shutting them down and covering them up...and if this is being done in Cheshire schools.

Supt. Solan advised water fountains have been closed off throughout the school district.

Fire Chief Casner, Emergency Preparedness Director, explained this process started weeks ago. Plans are in place for the BOE, town agencies, and Cheshire is prepared as it can be...and everyone is on the same page. At this time, the town cannot even buy respirator masks, and half a dozen people with flu like symptoms have been transported in the last few weeks.

Police Chief Dryfe stated a number of steps are being taken, and the visible one is someone calling with flu like symptoms. Unless the symptoms include breathing or fell down the stairs, and people have presented themselves, against advice, at a medical facility, CPD is not sending a police officer into a house. If someone were already in a medical facility, the level of police officer training would not enable them to take over care of the person above that of a medical person. With a private residence, the EMS person goes in, makes the transport decision, and a police officer going in just exposes another person to the sick patient. CPD is making sure protective equipment is in all the police cruisers, and replacement equipment is difficult to get at this time. With a custody situation, CPD will evaluate with the State's Attorney for release with promise to appear...without transport and bringing them into the CPD building for process. All CDC guidelines are being followed; officers are told to be attentive to hand washing after contact with members of the public. Chief Dryfe had a request for a speaker today, but will wait a few days in anticipation of limiting the CPD non-emergency exposure to any type of crowd situation.

Town Manager Kimball echoed the comments and statements from the staff. He commented on the cooperative response to the matter, people using common sense as they interact and using good hygiene. Mr. Kimball reiterated the fact that the Arts Day has been cancelled, as there would be many people packed into one room, kids sharing art supplies. Everything being done is looked at to insure coordinated response.

Councilor Talbot thanked the presenters for the information to the Council and public. He said the Council's top priority for residents is public safety and public health, and cited the reassurance of the high level of thought and work that went into the preparedness. Mr. Talbot commended Chesprocott staff for the phenomenal job during normal times, but when it comes to crisis and preparedness, they showed true colors and are fantastic. A question was posed by Mr. Talbot regarding mixed messages the American public is hearing. On the national level we are hearing everything is okay,

plenty of test kits, and in Connecticut there are only 1,200 tests available for 3 million people. He calculates 56 were used; there are 19 in the queue; and asked about which end of the spectrum we are on with COVID-19...and if we are seeing the tip of the iceberg or entire iceberg...and what is coming down the road.

According to Ms. Esposito this has been watched since December and past diseases started in the late spring. The early outbreak of COVID-19 was in December, so there has been time to watch this grow in China. It is like the flu, spreads like the flu, and people still get the spread of the flu virus. We are at the tip of the iceberg. The Governor is taking a proactive approach; he is putting in mandatory recommendations to stop the spread; and the public health emergency has opened up more access to the test kits. The calls with CDC are about what more can be done, getting funds to the proper places and pushed out to the state levels.

Mr. Slocum asked about COVID-19 in China and the remarkable containment in China without any remedies. This is a problem with the disease; there is no vaccine for another year; there is no way to treat the disease.

From talking with people coming from mainland China, Ms. Esposito said they stayed in their house per the government, with no questions asked. She does not see this happening in the U.S. as people cannot be ordered to stay at home and away from the public.

Mr. Slocum stated we must take the abundance of caution but be practical and not fear-mongering. We want everyone to be safe, but we have seen a remarkable response across the world.

Chairman Oris thanked everyone who presented information the COVID-19 situation. He asked about the many seniors in town and those who have compromised immunities and getting the message to be extra safe, and out to those who are most vulnerable.

The Council was told by Ms. Esposito that Chesprocott has done presentations at Elim Park; Southwick has requested a presentation; there is a presentation at the Library on March 12th; there is lots of media coverage; handouts are being given out; there is sharing with senior centers; senior citizens like the newspapers and television reporting and are well educated on issues. The message is to be safe and use common sense; wash your hands; if not feeling well stay home; and don't be around people who have been traveling; and take lots of precautions.

Chairman Oris thanked everyone for the presentation. He stated the importance of the public knowing the community is taking the situation seriously; and there are no easy answers. There is comfort in knowing that Cheshire has excellent professionals and they will collaborate and work together on behalf of the town.

C. Proclamation for Girl Scout Week 2020

Chairman Oris read the proclamation for Girl Scout Day, March 1,2 2020, and recognized the organization for 108 years of service to young woman and changing the world.

D. Public Comments

Fiona Pearson, 100 Strathmore Drive, Co-Chair for Coalition Sustainable Cheshire read a prepared statement into the record. The group was formed to facilitate for collaboration between organization, government and citizens for implementation of environmentally sustainable, culturally vibrant, and socially equitable projects to improve quality of life for Cheshire residents. Ms. Pearson highlighted the goals of the organization related to action items related to the arts, economy, history, transportation, land use, education and equity. There are three objectives – recognize the value and support of continued development of creative, equitable and environmentally sustainable projects in Cheshire; facilitate collaboration between individuals, municipal employees, non-profits, local organizations, enhancing communications, developing capacity and encouraging innovations. Ms. Pearson stated support of the Cheshire community thanked the Council for consideration of registering with Sustainable CT and passing the resolution which will bring forward the thinking process for the town.

Karen Schnitzer, 18 Currier Place, Vice-President Cheshire Land Trust and Co-Chair of the Coalition for Sustainable Cheshire. On behalf of the Land Trust, she said they support Sustainable CT, and the Land Trust supports Sustainable CT. She requested the Council vote yes on the resolution. As projects of the Land Trust and other groups go forward as a result of partnering with Sustainable CT, they foresee numerable benefits which will enhance the community.

Anupa Simpatico, 40 Ridgeview Court, President of the Cheshire Garden Club encouraged passage of the resolution for Sustainable CT which supports projects of the Garden Club. The Club celebrates its 100th Anniversary this year, and plans to make a significant contribution to the town. It will be a benefit to the Club and the Town to tap into the funds made available by Sustainable CT if the resolution is passed.

Pat Mottola, 390 Maple Avenue, Poet Laureate/Author/Professor of Creative Writing, Co-President of the Connecticut Poetry Society, addressed the Council about Cheshire having a Poet Laureate. Connecticut has a Poet Laureate; 28 towns have a Poet Laureate; it is a free service designed to bring poetry to the community. Ms. Mottola said she has been encouraged by colleagues to serve as Cheshire's first Poet Laureate to bring prestige and culture to the town. Cheshire would be represented among the Poet Laureate in the State. The Poet Laureate organizes and participates in public meetings, writes poems about the community, promotes artistic endeavors, workshops, visits schools and work with students, and is a resource for the community. Ms. Mottola said a poetry showcase could be in Town Hall or the Library or poetry corner with donated books by Connecticut authors. She read a letter of support for a Poet Laureate from the Mayor of South Windsor CT into the record.

3. ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Land Acquisition

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

MOVED that the Town Council enter Executive Session at 8:11 p.m. to include Town Manager Kimball, Assistant Town Manager Talbot and Town Attorney Smith to discuss Land Acquisition.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular and Special Meeting of February 11, 2020

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

MOVED to approve the minutes of February 11, 2020 subject to corrections, additions, deletions, as attached.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION by Mr. Borowy; seconded by Mr. Slocum.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #031020-1

RESOLUTION #031020-1
CONSENT CALENDAR FOR MARCH 10, 2020

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the Consent Calendar for March 10, 2020 as follows:

- A. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$20 donation from Operation Fuel to The Cheshire Fuel Bank.
- B. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$15 donation from Rachel Chignisky In memory of Lu Demmons to the Human Services Gift Account for the Senior Center.
- C. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$400 donation from Tiffany Thompson in Appreciation of the Cheshire Senior Center to the Human Services Gift Account for the Senior Center.

- D. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$1,200 donation from The Hometown Foundation Inc. to the Police Gift Account to be used for the Police Explorers Program.
- E. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$1,000 donation from Elim Park Baptist Home Inc. to the Youth Services Gift Account for youth programming.
- F. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$19,932.89 Districted Driving High Visibility Enforcement Grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR - None

8. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and possible action re: registration for Sustainable CT**
(moved to later in the agenda)

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Election of Vice Chairman of Town Council**

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

MOVED that Timothy Slocum be elected Vice Chairman of the Cheshire Town Council to fill the vacancy of Paul Bowman.

Discussion

Chairman Oris explained that with the resignation of Paul Bowman, the Council must elect a new Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Slocum is the best person for the position. Mr. Oris stated that Mr. Slocum has great knowledge, experience and history in town government and has served as Budget Chairman, and will be a great Vice-Chairman. His willingness to step up into the position is greatly appreciated.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

- B. Appointment to the School Modernization Committee to fill a Town Council representative vacancy.**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #031020-3

RESOLUTION #031020-3

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council appoints Don Walsh to fill the vacancy of Paul Bowman as a Town Council Representative on the School Modernization Committee.

Discussion

Ms. Nichols noted the SMC has three (3) Council representatives and Mr. Walsh is being appointed to one of these positions.

Mr. Oris noted that Mr. Walsh has attended recent SMC meetings and will continue to do a good job as a Council representative.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

C. Authorization to apply for a 2020 Small Cities Program Application for Public housing safety and energy improvements and upgrades for the Cheshire Housing Authority's Beachport facility.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #031020-4

RESOLUTION #031020-4

WHEREAS, Federal monies are available under the Connecticut Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program, administered by the State of Connecticut, Department of Housing, pursuant to Public Law 93 – 383, as amended, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 127c and Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of Housing is authorized to disburse such Federal monies to local municipalities; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Cheshire make application to the State for \$1,500,000 in order to undertake a Small Cities Community Development Program and to execute an Assistance Agreement therefore, should one be offered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for State Assistance Imposed by Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statutes; and

2. That the filing of an application by the Town of Cheshire in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 is hereby approved, and that the Town Manager is hereby authorized and directed to file such Application with the Commissioner of the Department of Housing, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required by the Commissioner, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an Agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto, to carry out approved activities and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Cheshire.

Discussion

There was a public hearing on this agenda item and Mr. Oris said the housing will be greatly used for senior citizens. It is hoped Cheshire can take advantage of this grant and continue to modernize and improve the facility.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Chairman Oris left the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

D. Acceptance and appropriation of \$195,000 donation from Elim Park Baptist Home Inc. to the Cheshire Police Department.

MOTION by Mr. Borowy; seconded by Mr. Jinks.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #031020-5

RESOLUTION #031020-5

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts a \$195,000 donation from Elim Park Baptist Home Inc. to the Cheshire Police Department, and appropriates said amount as detailed in the attached budget outline.

Discussion

Mr. Borowy explained this is an annual donation by Elim Park in lieu of taxes, and Elim Park uses police and fire support and this donation shows their support.

Mr. Slocum pointed out that CPD identified some of the items for which the funds will be used...such as surveillance camera, mobile computers for cruisers.

Ms. Nichols stated recognition of the additional support of Elim Park for opening their facility to public events for the Town.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

E. Acceptance and appropriation of \$195,000 donation from Elim Park Baptist Home Inc. to the Cheshire Fire Department.

MOTION by Mr. Borowy; seconded by Mr. Talbot.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #031020-6

RESOLUTION #031020-6

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts a \$195,000 donation from Elim Park Baptist Home Inc. to the Cheshire Fire Department, and appropriates said amount as detailed in the attached budget outline.

Discussion

Mr. Borowy stated the gift funds will be used for significant amount of equipment for CFD, some training expenses, building improvements.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

F. Discussion and possible approval of bid waiver for Police Department tactical body armor for the SWAT Team.

MOTION by Mr. Veleber; seconded by Ms. Nichols

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #031020-7

RESOLUTION #031020-7

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds it is in the best interest of the Town to purchase five new ballistic vests for the members of the Wallingford-Cheshire Tactical Team that are the same brand and model of body armor used by the Team,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves a waiver of bid for the purchase of said body armor and approves the purchase from Lawmen Supply Company for \$20,795, funded by the Police Gift Account.

Discussion

Mr. Veleber said this is an issue of acquiring tactical body armor that is consistent for the members of the Wallingford-Cheshire SWAT team.

Chief Dryfe displayed a tactical body armor setup with plates that is worn by the SWAT Team and noted it weighs about 30 pounds, and is a high level of protection. There was grant funding available through Region 2, of which Cheshire and Wallingford are members. The grant funding was for regional SWAT teams...there are two teams in Region 2 – North Haven/Branford and Wallingford/Cheshire. The grant was applied for to get funding for all the vests needed, and there was funding for six (6) vests. Because Cheshire was accepting the grant funding, the same vests had to be purchased.

Cheshire and Wallingford each got three (3) vests; five (5) more are needed. The vests have Kevlar inserts that go down over the shoulders; the two plates (front and back) in each vest cost \$382 each; the inserts are capable of stopping rifle fire; vests should be replaced every five (5) years; newer models have advances of being lighter with a greater level of protection, and have more mobility. The gift funds will be used for the purchase of the vests.

Mr. Jinks asked how long Cheshire has had this kind of equipment.

Chief Dryfe has been with CPD nine (9) years and there has been a SWAT team all that time...historically, the team goes back 20 years. For towns the size of Cheshire a SWAT team is a must; it was regionalized about three (3) years ago; and serves a population of about 75,000 people. In the past year the SWAT team has had three (3) calls and was activated.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

G. Reassignment of the Town Hall Roof Replacement project to the Public Works Department.

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Ms. Nichols

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #031020-8

RESOLUTION #031020-8

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council reassigns the Town Hall Roof Replacement capital project to the Public Works Department.

Discussion

There was a review of projects before the PBC, and Mr. Slocum said some of these projects will be placed in the hands of the Public Works Department or Board of Education.

PW Director Noewatne explained the roof project will replace shingles on the Town Hall roof. Old shingles will be removed and replaced, and this is an in-house project.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

H. Discussion and possible approval of award to Wojas.Arch.LLC for \$114,000 for design/bidding/and contract administration of restroom upgrades at Quinnipiac Park.

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Mr. Talbot

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #031020-9

RESOLUTION #031020-9

BE IT RESOLVED, that, per the recommendation of the Public Building Commission (PBC), the Town Council approves the award of contract for design, bidding and contract administration for the Quinnipiac Park Restroom Upgrades capital project to Wojas.Arch, LLC for \$14000..

Discussion

Mr. Noewatne informed the Council that PBC met on this matter, and a number of parks received restroom upgrades this past year. Wojas did the design and construction administration on other bathrooms, and PBC was pleased with their work and wants to retain them for this last project. The two bathrooms will be at the park entry way, and one bathroom at the end of the parking lot. The work will be completed in Fall 2020.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

- I. **Discussion and possible action re: approval of design and authorization To go to bid for construction for the Cheshire High School ADA Code Compliance project.**

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Mr. Talbot.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #031020-10

RESOLUTION #031020-10

BE IT RESOLVED, that, per the recommendation of the Public Building Commission (PBC) the Town Council approves the final design for the Cheshire High School ADA Compliance capital project and authorizes the PBC to go to bid for construction for said project.

Discussion

Mr. Noewatne advised this project will correct some ADA compliant deficiencies in the high school. There will be replacement of a large number of interior doors which do not have handicapped access. \$1.2M has been allocated to this project, and it is hoped the work can be done over two (2) years.

With the ADA compliance issues at the high school over the years, Mr. Talbot asked about where this brings CHS, percentage wise, for ADA compliance at the high school.

Mr. Masciana explained this is a major portion of the project, and will be followed by the large cost piece of renovation of west gym lockers. Another smaller project is two sets of lockers for the boys' and girls' locker rooms. A grant has been applied for with 46%

reimbursement of the \$1.28M. BOE will return to the Council for the appropriation to complete ADA compliance work at the high school.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

(Mr. Oris returned to the meeting at 8:45 p.m.)

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion and possible action re: registration for Sustainable CT (moved to current status)

MOTION by Mr. Jinks; seconded by Mr. Talbot

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #031020-2

RESOLUTION #031020-2

WHEREAS, the Town Council supports sustainability efforts in the Town of Cheshire, and embraces the partnership of local volunteers and municipal government to pursue activities and funding opportunities to achieve a goal of a more sustainable community,

NOW, THEREFORE, BEIT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby authorizes registration for the Town of Cheshire for the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification Program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council establishes and will, by resolution, appoint a diverse advisory Sustainable Team, with membership as recommended by Sustainable CT guidelines, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes and appoints Assistant Town Manager Arnett Talbot as the municipal contact person from the Town of Cheshire for the Sustainable CT program.

Discussion

Mr. Jinks noted the Sustainable CT program was presented at the last Council meeting. It is an opportunity for local communities to focus on sustainable projects; it is a way to harvest energy and passions of different people in the community with sustainable efforts, and he requested Council support of the program.

Mr. Veleber stated his support of the resolution. He said it is a good opportunity; and he looks forward to working with sustainable projects already in place, successfully managed over the years, which could be further expanded in Cheshire.

Mr. Walsh supports the resolution and looks forward to the program which brings organizations together to help create a sustainable Cheshire, which will help the community.

Ms. Nichols is in favor of Sustainable CT, and said the Council has worked with many sustainable projects. She commented on the enthusiasm of the community to support these projects, working with the group, and the Council's commitment to doing sustainable projects.

Mr. Slocum stated the group needs to incorporate different types of interest in the town...the interest in the arts, trees and environment, solar panels, etc. Many non-profits have difficulty accessing funds, and with this program funds will be more available bringing benefits to the groups. The program brings more people into the fold working to enhance these efforts.

According to Mr. Jinks this program allows non-profits easier process to access funds with Sustainable CT kicking in matching grants. It is a more streamlined process, and will bring excitement to projects.

Chairman Oris stated his support of Sustainable CT, and expressed appreciation for the hard work to make the program work. The current and past Councils have led sustainability efforts over the years, and a partial list has been compiled. Sustainable CT will go a long way to meet the other projects with some funding; there are levels to be attained; and there are other projects that can be put in place through this effort with more people working for the same cause, pursuing external funds. Mr. Oris likes that this is all done without a financial drain on the community, without too much staff time.

Mr. Oris thanked Ms. Talbot for her willingness to be the connection between the Sustainability group and the Town.

Regarding the group already set up, Mr. Oris noted the resolution talks about the Council setting up the sustainability team, and this is a requirement of the Town Council.

Mr. Oris welcomes the current members as part of the team, but believes the group needs to be a broad based diverse group of the community. It is specifically laid out in the Sustainability CT document that the Town sets up the team, with at least three (3) members, one of whom must be an elected official or staff member.

Mr. Oris expects the group to be larger than three (3) people. He read excerpts from the group's registration information and membership requirements. The group must include representatives from Town boards, commissions, committees, community organizations, civic leaders and representatives from neighborhood organizations, seniors and youth, and community members impacted by public services and amenities,

stakeholders with expertise in cited areas. A copy of the registration information is attached to these minutes.

The Council will insure membership is a bipartisan group of the community with all factors of the community represented. Mr. Oris said by the next Council meeting there will be a collaboration on who will be part of the team. He thanked everyone for their support of the process.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

J. Call for public hearing re: reallocation of \$100,000 for the FY 19-19 Building Management System – Legacy Equipment Replacement Project to the \$310,000 FY 19-20 HVAC Improvements-Cheshire High School project for a total of 4410,000 for said CHS HVAC project.

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Mr. Walsh

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #031020-11

RESOLUTION #031020-11

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council calls for a public hearing for a reallocation of \$100,000 from the FY 19 Building Management System – Legacy Equipment Replacement project to the FY 20 HVAC Improvements – Cheshire High School project for a total appropriation for the CHS HVAC project of \$410,000.

Discussion

Mr. Masciana explained the funds are already appropriated. The projects will be combined. The work will be completed from the energy performance contract \$10.2M for infrastructure improvements. 50% of CHS was upgraded in terms of building controls; not much more could be done as many controls are decades old, run on air compressors as opposed to modern technology. The idea is to combine the two dollar amounts; go out to bid once for a full scope project with PBC recommendation; and some of the items covered would be replacement of control valves, mechanisms, elimination of air compressors, installing new controls, valves, upgrading of controls on the building automation software (complicated). This software allows staff to remotely see what is happening in a building, turning on and off different components...and the public hearing is required because it takes the project over the \$400,000 threshold.

Regarding the time frame, Mr. Masciana informed the Council it is uncertain if the project will be out to bid for the summer. It is the type of project which does not have to be done over the summer.

Chairman Oris talked about the School Modernization Committee (SMC) process for schools with HVAC issues and consistent management of air temperatures. He asked

how to measure feeling the difference in doing this project, prior to what school modernization needs to be. These dollars will make a difference for energy consumption and making schools more comfortable for teachers and students.

According to Mr. Masciana, this work will help; it will give greater control over different components in the building...either heat or cool; it will help with control of the systems. The energy savings will come from eliminating the three (3) air compressors and remote control. Another important and helpful component is window replacements. The internal controls will not fix the problem with any of the windows, which is a \$750,000 replacement project. From a management point of view, it gets the rest of CHS on line with the current building management system by replacement of these controls. Last summer the project was insulation of the steam tunnels and piping underneath the old part of the high school, which has helped with temperature controls. Mr. Masciana pointed out that all projects move things in the right direction.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

K. Reassignment of the Cheshire High School Window Replacement (South Elevation) project to the Board of Education.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #031020-12

RESOLUTION #031020-12

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council reassigns the Cheshire High School Window Replacement (South Elevation) capital project to the Board of Education.

Discussion

Mr. Slocum stated this is part of streamlining projects from PBC to the BOE.

Mr. Oris noted there are reassignments being dealt with for these capital projects to the Public Works and BOE, due to PBC being inundated with projects not as large in scope. This is streamlining the process, being more efficient and effective, getting projects moving forward faster.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

L. Reassignment of the Cheshire High School Window Replacement Project to the Board of Education.

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Mr. Talbot.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #031020-13

RESOLUTION #031020-13

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council reassigns the Cheshire High School Window Replacement capital project to the Board of Education.

Discussion

Mr. Masciana explained that Item K is a \$250,000 window replacement project ready to go out to bid; Item L is a \$500,000 window replacement to design before going out to bid.

Mr. Slocum asked about the resolutions citing the project costs.

These projects are on the record and Mr. Oris said they are being reassigned and are already public record. The point from Mr. Slocum is well taken, and in the future more detail can be added when projects are reassigned.

Ms. Nichols said these projects are approved and part of the capital budget, and are being reassigned.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

M. Reassignment of the HVAC Improvements at Dodd Middle School project To the Board of Education.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #031020-14

RESOLUTION #031020-14

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council reassigns the HVAC Improvements at Dodd Middle School capital project to the Board of Education.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

N. Discussion and possible approval of design and authorization to go to bid for construction for School Security Improvements – Districtwide project.

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Mr. Walsh.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #031020-15

RESOLUTION #031020-15

BE IT RESOLVED, that, per the recommendation of the Public Building Commission (PBC) the Town Council approves the design for the School Security Improvements – Districtwide capital project, and authorizes the PBC to go to bid for said project.

Discussion

Mr. Masciana stated this project is part of the \$1.090M approved in the FY 2019 capital expenditure budget and assigned to PBC. The cost estimate for this project is \$835,328.00. The project goal is to create “person traps” at the main entrance of CHS, Dodd, Highland, Chapman, Doolittle and Norton Schools. There is a 40% school security grant reimbursement which totals about \$320,000, and BOE will request these funds be appropriated for additional school security projects. The design is ready, but it is unlikely all these schools can be done over one summer. Everything depends on the bids coming back and what the time line is from the contractor. Mr. Masciana noted the Norton project requires an actual extension from the front of the building out into the parking lot area.

A question was raised by Mr. Slocum about the \$1.090M referendum approval for the project, the estimate of \$835,328, and more to come out of the original appropriation.

The \$1.090M had a scope of work just beyond the person traps, and Mr. Masciana said further improvements would be video cameras, door access control systems and the like. There is a longer list but the proposed project is the most expensive portion of the grant.

With that being said, Mr. Slocum asked about being able to fall within most of the scope of the work in the \$1.090M beyond the person traps.

If the \$320,000 reimbursement comes back, Mr. Masciana said more work could be done on school security.

Mr. Walsh talked about what cannot be done, and asked if there is priority of what will come first...which schools will be done.

In response, Mr. Masciana said priority would be the high school, Dodd, Highland, Doolittle...and Chapman in the 2nd year, then Norton. If SMC is underway in terms of initial discussions, there would be no firm decisions or work done for three (3) years. Mr. Masciana does not want to wait for some of these security improvements.

It was stated by Mr. Walsh that Chapman School probably needs this work the most due to the different levels in the school.

When bids come back and we see the contractor’s time line, Mr. Masciana said decisions will be made. The schools are not unsafe but will be made better.

Mr. Jinks commented on Chapman School's entry where the front door is far away from the office. From a safety or urgency standpoint he feels this is a dangerous setup and should be a priority in the elementary school schedule.

As part of the BOE operating budget, Mr. Masciana said there is approval of two (2) Hall Monitors for Chapman and Norton Schools with these staff members supervising those doors and entries.

Chairman Oris commented on these funds appropriated in the 2019 Capital Budget. When it comes to public safety, particularly in the schools and for staff and students, he wants to streamline some of these projects...and any public safety initiative should be completed as quickly as possible. Whether there is school modernization or not, the person traps are needed, and should not be put off. They should be authorized, done, making students and staff safe. He wants to deliver these projects quickly to the community and a way to do this must be figured out, as there is nothing more important. Mr. Oris totally supports implementation of all of these projects as quickly as possible, regardless of school modernization plans.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

O. Discussion and possible action re: Endorsement of Naugatuck Valley Council of Government's Regional Performance Incentive Program Grants Application.

MOTION by Mr. Veleber; seconded by Mr. Slocum.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #031020-16

RESOLUTION #031020-16

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council endorses the Naugatuck Valley Council of Government's Regional Performance Incentive Program proposal(s) listed below, referenced in Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-124s, (2014 Supplement).

- 1) Regional Open Space Summary
- 2) Statewide Municipal Boundary Survey (Class D) Update

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes Town Manager Sean M. Kimball to act on this endorsement by signing all necessary agreements and take all necessary actions related to this proposal to enter into a binding agreement with the Office of Policy and Management according to terms of the RPI grant program.

Discussion

Mr. Veleber stated this is supporting NVCOG program order to get grant funding for Class D survey of the region and inventory of regional open spaces. This would save towns significant amounts of money on these programs.

Town Manager Kimball said the statewide municipal survey is coordinated by Western COG, supported by NVCOG. It is a good regional program and something to be supported.

A question was asked by Mr. Talbot about this being the group on which Chairman Oris represents the Town Council.

Chairman Oris explained Cheshire is a member of the NVCOG, and senior elected officials meet regularly. When he cannot attend, Mr. Sitko represents Cheshire, so there is always a town member present at these meetings.

Observation #1 is the regional and space inventory of 150,000, and Mr. Talbot found it interesting that NVCOG plans to use Sustainable CT open space classification system and template as its guide.

Councilor Jinks commented on the value of doing this regarding open space, and Cheshire open space being used so little. With more regional resources, he said communities may establish trails across town lines and make the properties more valuable than they are currently.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

P. Discussion and possible action re: Memorandum of Understanding With the Regional Water Authority and the Cheshire Land Trust and The subsequent purchase agreement for land acquisition.

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Walsh

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #031020-17

RESOLUTION #031020-17

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves a Memorandum of Agreement between the South Central Regional Water Authority (RWA), the Cheshire Land Trust, and the Town of Cheshire memorializing contributions by the RWA and Cheshire Land Trust toward the Town of Cheshire's cost for acquiring real property and conservation easement interest in favor of the RWA and the Cheshire Land Trust, pursuant to the terms presented, and authorizes Town Manager Sean M. Kimball to execute said Memorandum of Agreement.

Discussion

Ms. Nichols explained Cheshire is working in collaboration with RWA and Cheshire Land Trust to purchase a piece of property. If an agreement is reached the three (3) entities will be contributing one-third (1/3) of the total cost of the purchase. Before the

agreement can be executed there must be execution of the Memorandum of Agreement.

Town Manager Kimball outlined the details of the \$675,000 purchase price. \$200,000 from the Land Trust grant; \$250,000 from Cheshire and \$225,000 from RWA.

Town Attorney Smith said this matter involves the purchase of the property conditioned upon receiving those contributions. Cheshire will be the sole owner of the property; RWA and Land Trust will each be beneficiaries of a conservation easement.

It was stated by Mr. Oris that this is another evidence of sustainable efforts of the town, many people working hard to protect and buy land, offer it as open space offered to the community...this is a tri-part agreement which worked well. He thanked David Schrumm from the Land Trust for the \$200,000 grant; thanked RWA for their interest, and noted they have interest in protection of the water; and it is a great project. Mr. Oris commented on Mr. Jinks' efforts on the need for more recreational open space and opportunities. Many open space issues will be solved with this purchase; the water shed will be protected; and there will be more recreational opportunities for the community.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #031020-18

RESOLUTION #031020-18

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves a Purchase and Sale Agreement between John Ricci and the Town of Cheshire for property at 257 Fenn Road, pursuant to the terms presented, and authorizes Town Manager Sean M. Kimball to execute said Purchase and Sale Agreement.

Discussion

The Council was told by Ms. Nichols that this piece of property has some historical significance and abuts other town owned land...the DiDominicus property. It was a wonderful collaborative effort and another example of working together.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

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’s Report is attached to these minutes

Town Manager’s Recommended Operating and Capital Budgets – These budgets have been submitted to the Council per the Town Charter.

FY 21 Operating Budget totals \$117,610,091; 2.97% over prior year’s budget; mill rate increase of 0.93 mills or 2.80% for mill rate of 34.15 mills.

Five Year Capital Plan and Annual Capital Budget totals \$67,859,000; first year appropriation is \$12,220,000.

This year the capital budget and operating budget will be discussed and reviewed together with adoption date of April 30, 2020.

The first budget workshop will be held on Monday, March 24th, at 7:00 p.m.

Status of Current Year FY19-20 Budget –

General Fund Revenues are projected to be \$779,000 favorable; expenditures are projected to be \$421,000 favorable; this results in a surplus of \$1,200,000.

Chapman Property/Bartlem Park South Public Meeting – The consultant, Weston & Sampson will present a proposed park master plan on Thursday, April 2nd, 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend and participate in this session; the meeting will be broadcast on the local government access channel and streaming on Facebook Live so residents can participate without attending in person.

Tennis and Basketball Court Upgrades – The upgrades are proceeding as planned; some trees will be removed due to safety hazards; construction completion date is mid-April to mid-May, and is weather dependent.

Kids in Motion Playground at Bartlem Park – This playground is set to receive much needed improvements thanks to the capital budget appropriation of FY2019. There will be improvements to the entire playground including replacement of six (6) pieces of equipment; replacement of the surface material with ADA compliant pre-engineered wood fiber mulch; PW will coordinate replacement of the signage.

Public Building Commission Close-out Reports – The list of PBC projects is cited in the report.

RWA Main Replacements and Upgrades – RWA sent notice regarding water facility upgrades on Brentwood Drive and Ridgecrest Drive; the notice is attached.

Beautification Committee Award Recipients and Adopt-A-Spot Participants for 2019 – The list is in the report. Mr. Kimball congratulated everyone for their contributions to beautifying Cheshire.

Annual ARTSDay Cancellation – Due to the COVID-19 outbreak this event has been cancelled, as it was deemed a high risk for attendees.

Additional upcoming Town events and meetings are being evaluated per the Governor's direction and DPH guidelines.

Upcoming Town Council and Sub-Committee Meetings -

The list of meetings was cited in this report which is attached to these minutes.

Councilor Talbot informed the Council that the Senate Bill 350 is out of the Labor Committee...this bill deals with prevailing wage, one of the top items in the Cheshire Legislative Package.

11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

A. Chairman's Report

Chairman Oris commended everyone involved in the project completion report; every project came in under budget; this shows care about spending taxpayer dollars, and using funds efficiently. Mr. Oris expressed appreciation to Town Manager Kimball, Finance Director Jaskot, and Asst. Town Manager Talbot.

Budget – Mr. Borowy said he is the new Budget Committee Chairman, and has heard feedback about budget meetings which conflict with some religious holidays. This issue will be addressed with staff.

B. Miscellaneous

12. MISCELLANEOUS AND APPOINTMENTS

A. Liaison Reports - None

B. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

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

MOVED that the following reappointments be approved by the Town Council;

Economic Development Commission – David Pelletier (R) term of office 3/10/20 to 1/31/24.

Beautification Committee – William Meyerjack (R) term of office 3/10/20 to 1/31/22;
Jane Presnick-Lyon (R) term of office 3/10/20 to 1/31/22;
William Bonaminio (R) term of office 3/10/20 to 1/31/22.

Environment Commission – Robert DeVylder (R) term of office 3/10/20 to 1/31/24.

Historic District Commission – James Vibert, Sr. (R) term of office 3/10/20 to 1/31/25.

Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission – Thom Norback (R) term of office 3/10/20 to 1/31/24.

Building Code Board of Appeals – George Bowman (R) term of office 3/10/20 to 1/31/24.

Library Board – Todd Dixon (R) term of office 3/10/20 to 1/31/24; Jodee Heritage (R) term of office 3/10/20 to 1/31/24.

Performing and Fine Arts Commission – Signian McGeary (R) term of office 3/10/20 to 1/31/23.

Public Safety Commission – Nick Cifarelli (R) term of office 3/10/20 to 1/31/24; Joseph Cassella Jr. (R) term of office 3/10/20 to 1/31/24.

Retirement Board – W. Dennis Flagg (R) term of office 3/10/20 to 1/31/24.

Water Pollution Control Authority/Flood & Erosion Control Board – John Perrotti III (R) term of office 3/10/20 to 1/31/23; James Urbano (R) term of office 3/10/20 to 1/31/23.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

13. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Attorney Smith informed the Council that he is tracking communications between CCM and the Governor's office regarding virtual meetings for government, and whether the Governor's authority under the emergency powers can lift some of the FOI requirements which would allow for virtual meetings during the COVID-19 virus situation. Mr. Smith will keep the Council updated on this matter.

14. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Letters to Council.

Chairman Oris read letters to Council from Haider D, Jennifer Dillon and Pamela Roach

Chairman Oris commended Eagle Scout Aiden Engels, CHS Class of 2022, for authoring a book with photos to commemorate "Cheshire at 325". Scout Engels gave the Council a short presentation on his project at a prior meeting, and a thumb version of the book is on the website.

B. Miscellaneous

Mr. Veleber called attention to recognition of Jeanne Chesnow, Town Historian, by the Connecticut League of History Organizations with an Award of Merit for her book "Glaciers to Greenhouses, Cheshire Then and Now". This is a tremendous read, and the book is available at the Land Trust and Historical Society.

Chairman Oris expressed congratulations to Ms. Chesanow on behalf of the Town Council and the Cheshire community.

Ms. Nichols noted that Ms. Chesanow was recently reappointed as Town Historian, and the community is proud of her and the wonderful job she has done in her position.

The Council was informed by Mr. Kimball the awards ceremony is scheduled for April 21st.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Borowy; seconded by Mr. Jinks.

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk