

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2020 AT 6:45 P.M. VIA VIDEO TELECONFERENCE
(PER EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT)**

Public access made available through live steaming on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4_xey3QiJmwe57R_6K94Dw
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Video will be available on Channel 14 and on demand at www.cheshirect.org as soon as possible.

Present

David Borowy, Chairman; Jim Jinks and Tim Slocum
Staff: Sean M. Kimball, Town Manager; James Jaskot, Finance Director; Bill Donlin, Tax Collector.

1. ROLL CALL

Chairman Borowy called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.
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 and appropriation of a \$9.70 donation from CAF America to The Parks and Recreation Gift Account to be used for the dog park.
4. 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 Mr. Slocum; seconded by Mr. Jinks.

MOVED to accept agenda items #3 and #4, and forward them to the full Town Council for approval.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

5. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$78,211.09 PEGPETIA grant for technical enhancements to meeting facilities and television and internet broadcasting capabilities.

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Mr. Jinks.

MOVED to accept agenda item #5, and forward them to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

Ms. Talbot reported on this grant application for enhancement of broadcasting capabilities and needed technology for municipalities. Cheshire received a grant a few years ago. A new round of grants was recently opened, and Mike Solimine assisted with the grant application. With receipt of this grant the Town will be reimbursed for improvements to Room 207 for live filming, enhancement of equipment and allow for roaming to live broadcasting. The grant funds will enable the Town to finish up this project.

Mr. Jinks asked about usage of the prior grant funds and purchases, and the funds were only for the Town government side.

All of the funds have not been utilized, and Ms. Talbot advised only \$12,000 of funds has been used to date. Some of the larger items have been held off pending receipt of the additional grant funds. The money is being used only for government side, not the school system, and has to do with public communication and public meetings.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

6. Discussion and possible action re: Adoption of the property tax deferment Program and/or low interest rate program as authorized by the Governor's Executive Order 7S.

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Mr. Jinks.

MOVED to accept agenda item #6 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

Mr. Jaskot reviewed the costs for one or both of these EO7S programs. A cash flow analysis has been done for the program to extend tax payments for 90 days...to on or before October 1, 2020. This program will not include any of the escrow (bank) payments, about \$16.5M, estimated to be paid on July 1st. Extending the payment for an additional 60 days, the Town will get July and August payments by September (estimate of \$37.645M). Mr. Jaskot explained that all the cash is pooled, and at the lowest point in August the cash balance will be about \$21M. If this program were extended to all taxpayers, he does not expect things, from a cash standpoint, to have any difficulty.

Regarding income from the interest, Mr. Jaskot said a minimum amount of interest would be involved, with some payments from delinquent accounts in August and September. This was not taken into consideration due to the negligible amount. There is a separate program involving reduction of delinquent accounts for April, May and June. The 18% interest is reduced to 3% for three (3) months for delinquent accounts.

The caveat is that taxpayer must make partial payments to receive this benefit. The cost to the Town would be about \$25,000.

Mr. Jinks asked about guidance on these programs from the State or CCM on the increase in delinquent accounts from the turndown and what the rate might be.

According to Mr. Jaskot there is no information from the State on this issue. His assumption is that by the program rolls around the Town would be where it normally would be. This is a deferment program, giving people an extra few months to pay taxes without late fee payments. In being conservative, Mr. Jaskot said he believes people will pay in July, as usual, and delinquent accounts would be the worst case scenario.

The issue of doing both EO7S programs was raised by Mr. Slocum. He asked about the benefit of doing both programs, if staff recommends this option, and noted the late fee total would be 13% annually.

Mr. Donlin, Tax Collector, said this is extension of the grace period; it is a deferment program; and the deadline is defined. People are getting the ability to pay taxes due over a three (3) month period. In October we would be back to the normal cycle for resumption of payments.

Mr. Borowy stated the cost would not be significant, and the programs would show support and empathy taxpayers. He believes the Town can go with the option of providing both programs.

Town Manager Kimball agreed, and he pointed out the interest rate only effects current delinquent taxpayer, and applies to the payments in April, May and June.

The committee members discussed the 90 day extension and deferment program, and extension of these programs to all Cheshire taxpayers. Mr. Borowy, Mr. Jinks and Mr. Slocum agreed to extend the programs to all taxpayers. This will be the Budget Committee recommendation to the full Town Council.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

7. Discussion and possible approval of multi-year Site License Agreement with AT&T Corp. for cell tower at 751 Higgins Road.

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Mr. Jinks.

MOVED to accept agenda item #7 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

At the Council meeting, Police Chief Dryfe will update everyone on this Agreement.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Jinks; seconded by Mr.Slocum.

MOVED to adjourn the Budget Committee Meeting at 7:02 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk