

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 6:30 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING ON TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2020 AT 6:30 P.M. VIA VIDEO TELECONFERENCE (PER EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT)

Public access made available through live streaming on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4_xey3QjJmwe57R_6K94Dw

Public comments accepted at Comments@cheshirect.org and by voice mail message at 203 271-6638. Video will be available on Channel 14 and on demand at www.cheshirect.org as soon as possible.

Present

Robert J. Oris, Jr. Chairman; Timothy Slocum, Vice-Chairman; David Borowy, James Jinks, Sylvia Nichols, Sandy Pavano, Peter Talbot, David Veleber, Donald Walsh.
Staff: Sean M. Kimball, Town Manager; Arnett Talbot, Asst. Town Manager; James Jaskot, Finance Director

Public Hearing Subject Matter:

**Proposed Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Annual
Capital Expenditure Budget**

Chairman Oris called the public hearing to order at 6:30 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. READING OF LEGAL NOTICE

The clerk read the legal notice into the record.

4. PRESENTATION ON HEARING SUBJECT

Town Manager Kimball presented the proposed FY 2020-2021 Annual Capital Expenditure Budget. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

Mr. Kimball noted two significant long term initiatives of the Town – School Modernization Plan and Bartlem Park/Chapman Property Master Plan. Both of these are on hold at this time due to the COVID-19 situation.

Debt Service – There has been control of the debt service, careful planning, fiscal responsibility, use of reserve funds to bring down the impact of debt service. Capital projects will be funded through Capital Non-Recurring (CNR) or bonded over 20 years. The debt service allocation is down 6%; Cheshire has a AAA credit rating; there is strategic use of reserve funds; there is more debt service coming but not enough

reserve funds to supplement the debt. The debt service fund has \$716,000 of additional reserve funds.

Debt Service Analysis – FY 21 revised net debt - \$6,965,981; increase of \$325,795

Charts – showed the debt service (net), how the town approaches smoothing impact of added debt service (capital projects) and significant investment over the last few years. Ten year history & 5 years projected – still in manageable level of debt service, 2020 at 5.7%.

Five Year Capital Budget Plan – approved by August 30th for November referendum; includes Five Year Plan for Capital Expenditures; Year #1 is the only year appropriated.

- Department and BOE Requests - \$74,639,000
- Town Manager reduction of \$6,780,000
- Recommended - \$67,859,000 - increase of \$9,218,999 over last year's adopted five year capital plan
- Offsetting Grants & Available Cash Funding - \$7,728,000
- Reduces Net Capital Cost to \$60,131,000
- Adopted Five-Year CEPs have averaged \$53.64M (gross) and \$44.39M (net) over the past five adopted budgets.

Recommended FY 21 Annual Capital Budget – Project appropriations of \$12,110,000; an increase of \$598,000 over FY 20 adopted capital budget.

Town Manger Kimball read the list of FY 21 Annual Capital Budget projects into the record; proposed appropriation of \$12,110,000; bonded amount \$11,185,000.

Budget Highlights – Mr. Kimball reviewed the capital budget information as follows:

Administration/Finance/Technology -	\$ 3,668,000
Administration/Finance/Public Property -	\$ 3,890,000
Planning -	\$ 110,000
Public Safety-Fire	\$ 3,195,000
Public Works -	\$19,163,000
Water Pollution Control	\$ 6,140,000
Leisure Services-Recreation	\$ 6,115,000
Board of Education -	\$25,578,000

5. QUESTIONS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR.

6. PROPONENTS AND OPPONENTS STATEMENTS ALTERNATELY EXPRESSED.

Ms. Talbot read a letter from Tracey Jewett (in opposition to the Cornwall Avenue Extension Project) into the record of the meeting.

Chairman Oris stated that Ms. Jewett will get a response from the Town Manager's Office. He cited the fact that the Cornwall Avenue Extension project is in year #5 of the Five-Year CEP.

7. REBUTTAL AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Oris adjourned the public hearing at 6:54 p.m.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk