

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M. VIA VIDEO TELECONFERENCE (PER EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT)

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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, Sylvia Nichols, Sandy Pavano, Peter Talbot, David Veleber, Donald Walsh.

Absent: Jim Jinks

Staff: Sean M. Kimball, Town Manager; Arnett Talbot, Asst. Town Manager; Jim Jaskot, Finance Director; George Noewatne, PW Director

Chairman Oris called the meeting to order at 6:01 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. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RE: APPROPRIATION OF A TOWN WIDE STORM DEBRIS COLLECTION

MOTION by Mr. Borowy; seconded by Mr. Slocum

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #081120-1

RESOLUTION #081120-1

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council appropriates \$180,000 from fund balance for a Townwide curbside and Town right-of-way from storm debris collection and disposal program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes application for FEMA Public Assistance, if and when available, for reimbursement of this emergency expenditure, and authorizes the execution of all documents necessary for said application.

Discussion

Town Manager Kimball referred to his August 11, 2020 memo. He explained that the proposal is a team effort of Town employees working to get the Town back on-line as soon as possible. Many requests have been received for help with the debris collection, and the proposal is for curb side pickup only.

FEMA – It is possible Cheshire would be eligible for FEMA assistance. The estimated clean up expenses total \$180,000, and with a 75% reimbursement, the cost to the Town would be \$45,000. The State of Connecticut is in the preliminary process of assessing damage state wide on a county by county level. The FEMA application forms are due on August 19th to the Regional Coordinator who will take the forms and submit them directly to FEMA.

For the October 2011 snow storm and May 2018 tornado both qualified for public assistance and received 75% reimbursement. Mr. Kimball said he is reasonably confident that Cheshire will be eligible for assistance, but it is not a guarantee. He has requested Council approval of an \$180,000 appropriation for the storm debris pickup and disposal.

PW Director Noewatne reviewed his August 11, 2020 memo on the proposal for debris pickup and disposal. A copy of the proposal is attached to these minutes.

- The pickup and disposal will be for home and business owners.
- The program starts on August 17th until complete, about 4-8 weeks depending on the amount of debris.
- Collection method – two (2) crews with two (2) chip trucks and related equipment.
- The collection will begin at the south end of Town, work north, with a crew on each side of Route 10.
- There will be one pass through Town; the crew will not enter private driveways or condominium complexes; pickup is for brush only (no leaves or grass clippings); branch diameters must be 8 inches or less; brush must be at the curb.
- There is no pickup of bulky waste with this collection.

The Town has set up three (3) self-serve disposal areas, August 13th through August 29th, Monday-Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the following locations:

- Quinnipiac Park overflow parking, 1325 Cheshire Street
- Bartlem Park milling parking lot – 520 South Main Street
- Old Transfer Station – 1304 Waterbury Road

In response to questions about older trees, larger than 8 inch diameter, and self cut by property owners, Mr. Noewatne stated that a tree company is the best outlet for this situation. The Town cannot collect anything larger than 8 inches, and there must be a

manageable limit to what the PW crews can do. He noted many people cut the trees into smaller bits and use them for fire wood.

Chairman Oris stated it must be made clear to the public on the extent of what the PW crews and Town can do, with adherence to the 8 inch requirement, or the debris will not be collected.

There was a brief discussion on a mechanism in place to post a list of tree companies as information to the public for removal of trees on their property...and if there is a conflict with such a recommendation to the public. The issue of liability of the Town was raised, and suggestion to ask the Chamber of Commerce to undertake publicizing the list of tree companies.

Mr. Kimball will look into these issues, and said the Town might be able to publicize a list of local tree companies. He will inform Council on this issue.

In looking at the estimated costs for hauling contractor and grinding contractor, Mr. Noewatne explained the process the crews will undertake.

- Depending on the size of the wood, it will be chipped in the truck.
- Larger pieces will go to a disposal site.
- A grinding company must chip the larger wood.
- Branch hangers higher than 50 feet in the air still need a tree company as the Town crew can only cut lower branches.
- Anything left at the curb (less than 8 inches diameter) or in the right-of-way will be taken by the Town crews.

Mr. Noewatne has canvassed the Town and advised there is lots of work to be done over the next few weeks for this pickup and disposal program.

Councilors commended PW Director Noewatne and the PW Department crew members for doing a great job, and expressed appreciation on behalf of the Cheshire community.

PW Department Crews – it is expected there will be 10 hour days for 6 days a week which equals 60 hours per week; on hot days the crews will work 8 hours; overtime will be \$1,000 per employee per week;
8 weeks = 10 people/2crews - \$80,000 overtime costs.

Estimated Costs – Mr. Noewatne reviewed these costs.

PW Overtime	\$80,000
Fuel	\$ 5,000
Chipper Maintenance	\$ 5,000
Hauling Contractor	\$15,000
Grinding Contractor	\$40,000
Tree Removal Contractor	\$10,000

Police Traffic Control	\$ 5,000
Contingency	<u>\$20,000</u>
Total	\$180,000

The Council was told by Mr. Kimball that he will submit a completion report with information on costs and work performed for this program. He cited some of the information required in the FEMA submission...overtime costs, machines used/run times/all Town owned equipment used, direct costs, and indirect control services.

For the drop-off locations, Mr. Noewatne advised this begins on August 13th, with three (3) Saturdays starting August 15th; and there will be people on site during the open times. The outside estimate for completion of the pickup and disposal is eight (8) weeks.

If things go according to plan, Mr. Kimball estimates it could be a four (4) to five (5) week time frame.

Councilors thanked Mr. Kimball, Ms. Talbot, Mr. Noewatne and Public Works and Town staff for their work on this project and doing a great job in getting everything done.

Chairman Oris expressed appreciation and thanks to Mr. Noewatne and PW staff for doing a phenomenal job, and representing the community so well. He cited his support for the expenditure for this service to the community and moving forward for the betterment of everyone. Mr. Oris is confident the Town will receive the FEMA reimbursement.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

4. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOVED to adjourn the special meeting at 6:35 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk