

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY,  
DECEMBER 8, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**This meeting can be viewed live at  
[youtube.com/c/CheshireChannel](https://www.youtube.com/c/CheshireChannel) 14 or on Channel 14**

**Public comments can be made virtually via [zoom.us/my/townofcheshire](https://zoom.us/my/townofcheshire),  
via e mail at [Comments@cheshirect.org](mailto:Comments@cheshirect.org),  
and by voice message prior to the meeting at 203-271-6638.**

**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; Town Attorney Al Smith; Supt. of Schools Jeff Solan; Vincent Masciana, COO, Dept. of Education  
Guest: Jen Bates, SMC Chair; Maura Esposito, Health Director Chesprocott

Chairman Oris called the meeting to order at 7:00 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**

**A. Labor Negotiations**

**B. Contract Negotiations**

**4. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. COVID-19 Update from Chesprocott Health Director**

Chairman Oris thanked Ms. Esposito for attending the Council meeting, and extended appreciation to her and the health district staff for their ongoing hard work with the pandemic, and their service to Cheshire.

Ms. Esposito presented the update on COVID-19.

- November – 192 cases; highest age range 20 and 50 year olds
- First week of December – 181 cases in Cheshire; highest age range is 30-59; more school age children reporting positive; ages 0-5 had 5 cases; 6-12 had 13 cases; 13-19 had 14 cases.

- This does not reflect all students in Cheshire Schools impacted; many children attend out of town schools
- Chesprocott still doing contract tracing
- 90% of cases come from in-family (holiday/family gatherings)
- There is an uptick in medical personnel cases
- There are concerns about nursing staff shortages in hospitals, nursing homes and long term care facilities
- Chesprocott is getting ready for the vaccine; due date in Connecticut is December 14<sup>th</sup>.

There are different phases to the vaccinations:

Phase 1A – Health Care Personnel; residents of long term care facilities (Elim Park and Cheshire Rehab); medical first responders/EMS.

Phase 2 – Critical work force –Fire, Police, adults over 65, people in congregate settings (assisted living)

By June 2021 – public getting the vaccine

Vaccine Sites – Ms. Esposito reported the site must be large, have good ventilation systems, ability to space out, parking. Ms. Esposito worked closely with Town Manager Kimball and Fire Chief Casner, and the Cheshire Community Pool is the ideal site for Cheshire vaccine distribution.

CDC is training staff on the Vaccine Administration System (VAN) software; uploads on the first round is forthcoming for uploading information; hospitals will vaccinate health district staff; two (2) injections, 21 days apart, are required for the vaccination.

E-mail sent to all the schools on the vaccination process; e-mail to Elim Park whose nurses are working closely with the health district staff; these nurses will be needed for the vaccination program.

Chesprocott will get little amounts of vaccine over a long period of time; i.e. 3,000 people to vaccinate, and with 100 vaccines each week it will take 30 weeks x 2 injections.

The VAN system is complicated. Ms. Esposito will reach out to anyone in charge of a critical work force to upload the information on their people into the VAN system. Everything will be done on-line. People will go to the pool site, make a call, get a number, and then be called in for the vaccine shot. Chesprocott is ready to take on the task, with much to be done in the next few months.

#### Council questions/comments

Mr. Talbot thanked Ms. Esposito and health district staff for their work with the pandemic. He asked about two (2) shots 21 days apart, and if this is correct for all companies, and effectiveness of the vaccine after the first shot.

Ms. Esposito said “yes”...as of right now it is two (2) shots, 21 days apart. The Pfizer vaccine is 90% effective and this is great; Moderna is about 95% effectiveness; after the 2<sup>nd</sup> shot there is increased rate of fever.

Mr. Talbot talked about people thinking they are ok after the first shot, and do not need the booster. He also asked about the Cares Act money to reimburse for vaccination costs.

In Connecticut it is called ESF 15 public health communication link, and Ms. Esposito said they have a huge education campaign about the vaccine. The VAN system tracks everything, and people must get two (2) shots. Ms. Esposito advised that both shots must come from the same provider...i.e. Pfizer or Moderna.

According to Mr. Kimball there will be some potential reimbursement. For testing some Cares funds were available. Costs for traffic control, police department overtime, etc. will be reimbursable.

Mr. Jaskot believes Cheshire will qualify for some reimbursement, as with COVID-19 testing for positive people.

Chairman Oris has heard CVS, Rite Aid, and other pharmacies are rolling out the vaccine.

This is true, and Ms. Esposito said pharmacies will be involved, having problems with getting the vaccine as they are unregulated. The health district is regulated, has the refrigeration for the vaccine, and Elim Park has a refrigerator for extra storage of vaccine. After phase 1A is done the goal is to get the majority of the population vaccinated. Cheshire’s vaccination site will be the pool. Hospitals are getting vaccine for their medical personnel. Chesprocott staff, its vaccinators and EMS will be vaccinated by hospital nurses. If someone has had COVID-19 it is recommended they get vaccinated to build up their immunity.

School age children are at the tail end of the vaccination schedule. The testing process for children is more rigorous, and there is work ongoing for a vaccine for children up to 18 years old.

Once everything is set up for the vaccination site at the pool, Ms. Esposito stated the hours of operation will be discussed with Town Manager Kimball. There will be flexibility, one or two times during the day sessions; after work hours, or Saturday and Sunday one or two hour sessions. Fifty (50) people per hour were serviced with the drive-through flu clinic. All the checks and balances are done ahead; the health district nurses will be giving the shot; and can move people through quickly.

Chairman Oris thanked Ms. Esposito and her staff for their hard, thorough, responsive and compassionate work for the community.

**B. School Modernization Committee update**

Jen Bates, Chair, SMC, gave a short presentation on the status of the committee work and options on the table at this time. The SMC is analyzing 10-12 options with four (4) major options that need some tweaking. Committee members are working on feasibility, timing, costs and what will work best for the Town. SMC has a Facilities Subcommittee, Communications Subcommittee, Options Subcommittee, and will appoint a Finance Subcommittee at the December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. There are plans to undertake a survey through a professional company for community/public input on the SMC proposed scenarios. On March 1, 2021, the SMC will have school modernization recommendations to the Town Council and BOE. There will be collaborative work to figure out what is best for Cheshire. The grant application must be submitted to the State by June 30, 2021.

Chairman Oris stated the Council looks forward to collaborating with SMC, which is working hard to bring something to advance to the community.

In response to a request for information about benchmarks, a few targets, grant application etc. for the survey, Ms. Bates noted SMC is working with through options. At the end of January the list will be down to four (4) options; in February there will be final options; March 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for presentation to the Council; and this is followed by working with the BOE and Council on the plan. The school projects would go to referendum in November 2021.

**C. Public Comments – None.**

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Meeting, November 10, 2020  
And Special Meeting, November 24, 2020.**

MOTION by Mr. Talbot; seconded by Mr. Veleber

MOVED to approve the minutes of November 10, 2020 and November 24, 2020  
subject to corrections, additions, deletions.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

MOTION by Mr. Borowy; seconded by Ms. Pavano

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #120820-1

**RESOLUTION #120820-1**  
**CONSENT CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 8, 2020**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the Consent Calendar for December 8, 2020 as follows:

- A. Acceptance and appropriation of \$813.23 from The Chamber of Commerce Scarecrow Contest to the Human Services Gift Account for general purposes.
- B. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$7,000 Historic Documents Preservation Grant.
- C. Acceptance and appropriation of a donation of \$250 from Rosemary Hoffman To the Human Services Gift Account for the Adopt-A-Family holiday program.
- D. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$5,342 grant from the Western Connecticut Coalition Local Prevention Council for substance abuse prevention activities.
- E. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$30 donation from the Registrars of Voters To The Human Services Gift Account for general purposes.
- F. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$300 donation from Coldwell Banker to the Human Services Gift Account for the holiday program.
- G. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$170 donation from Town Hall Employees Dress Down Fund to the Cheshire Fuel Bank.
- H. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$10 donation from Elizabeth Agocs Holler To the Human Services Gift Account to be used for the Senior Center.
- I. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$40 donation from Severino Fasulo to the Human Services Gift Account to be used for the Senior Center.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**

**8. OLD BUSINESS**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$14,500 donation from Cheshire Lights of Hope to the Human Services Gift Account to help our Residents in need.**

MOTION by Mr. Walsh; seconded by Mr. Veleber

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #120820-2

**RESOLUTION #120820-2**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts and appropriates a \$14,500 donation from The Cheshire Lights of Hope to the Human Services Gift Account for residents in need.

**Discussion**

Mr. Walsh said he was honored to present this resolution. He stated that he and his wife, Jennifer, started Lights of Hope 16 years ago, and this year hit the \$1M raised mark...and, all the funds stay within the Town of Cheshire. The organization donated \$14,500 to the Cheshire Community Food Pantry, donated to the Petit Family Foundation, and will give two \$2,000 scholarships to students in the community doing lots of volunteer work. Mr. Walsh said the Lights of Hope could not function without the help of residents, businesses, volunteers, its Executive Committee. An additional \$5,000 was donated to Human Services in April 2020. On behalf of the organization, Mr. Walsh thanked the town residents and businesses for their support.

Chairman Oris thanked Don and Jennifer and the Lights of Hope volunteers for their hard work on behalf of the community. All the money raised goes directly to great use in the community. Mr. Oris is pleased to accept the donation on behalf of the Town of Cheshire. He stated Mr. Walsh gives back to the community with his charity and his work as a Town Councillor.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**B.     Approval of 2021 regular Town Council meeting schedule**

MOTION by Ms. Pavano; seconded by Mr. Veleber

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #120820-3

**RESOLUTION #120820-3**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the following meeting dates for the 2021 Town Council Regular Meetings. All meetings are held in Council Chambers on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise indicated

January 12, 2021

February 9, 2021

March 9, 2021

April 13, 2021  
May 11, 2021  
June 8, 2021  
July 13, 2021  
August 10, 2021  
September 14, 2021  
October 12, 2021  
November 9, 2021  
December 14, 2021  
January 11, 2022

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**C.     Discussion and possible approval of legislative recommendations**

MOTION by Mr. Veleber; seconded by Mr. Walsh.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #120820-4

**RESOLUTION #120820-4**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the Legislative Recommendations as presented.

Discussion

Mr. Veleber reported the Legislative Recommendations were reviewed and discussed at the last Council meeting. These are the recommendations to be submitted to the State Legislators.

General Legislative Requests

1.     Concerns with the 2020 Police Accountability Bill
2.     Juvenile Justice Reform
3.     Prevailing Wage
4.     Binding Arbitration
5.     Enabling Legislation for Community Choice Aggregation for Energy

Cheshire Specific Requests

6.     Transfer of School Bus Depot property from State to Town of Cheshire
7.     Upgrading Route 68/70

Mr. Jinks asked that two (2) more items be added to the list – Crosswalk Legislation and Speed Limit Legislation. He said both are important measures to reduce pedestrian fatalities, and nine (9) items are okay for submission.

MOTION by Mr. Jinks; seconded by Mr. Talbot.

MOVED that the Town Council add two (2) more items to the Legislative Recommendations...Crosswalk Legislation and Speed Limit Legislation.

Discussion

Stating he understands these items, Mr. Borowy explained that Chief Dryfe was not in favor of them, and Council conceded to his experience. Seven (7) items are a lot to present, and he questions how much Cheshire will get out of seven (7) rather than nine (9) items.

Mr. Jinks said Chief Dryfe cited the speed limit option as fine. Mr. Jinks wants Cheshire to have this option which is in other communities.

Following dialogue and discussion at the last Council meeting, Chairman Oris stated the consensus was to go forward with seven (7) items in the package. He commented on Mountain Road at 25mph and no one following this speed limit...and reducing it to 15mph will not have people adhering to this speed limit. Regarding crosswalk changes the question is enhancement of safety or causing more traffic scenarios. Chief Dryfe did not see these as safety issues. The Council decided to limit the number of items so legislators pay more attention to the Cheshire specific recommendations. Mr. Oris will not support adding these two (2) items to the recommendation list.

Mr. Veleber agreed with Mr. Oris, understands the concept behind the two (2) items, and believes they will come up in some way during the session. The legislative recommendations should have items affecting Cheshire as a town, and focus energy on the smaller list of items.

VOTE           The motion failed to pass. In favor – 2 (Jinks and Talbot)  
Opposed – 7 ( Oris, Slocum, Borowy, Nichols, Pavano, Veleber, Walsh).

VOTE           The motion on the resolution passed unanimously by those present.

Chairman Oris moved agenda item 9F to current status on the agenda.

**F. Discussion RE: Parks and Field use charges**

Chairman Oris commended Mr. Gawlak for the great job he is doing as Recreation Director.

Mr. Gawlak expressed his appreciation, and said it is a team effort with cooperation of Rec team, Town Council and Town staff.

Recreation Director Gawlak talked about modification of the fee schedule for ball field use, specifically for commercial and non-resident organizations. Since his arrival in Cheshire 19 months ago, Mr. Gawlak has looked for ways to increase revenue in the Recreation Department. He recommends increasing Cheshire's fee structure to that of similar towns. Currently, the town's fee structure is very low; there is no component to charge renters for overtime costs for field prep or having a PW Maintainer present; and the increased fees would include maintenance, utilities, insurance and administrative oversight.

The rental requests come from commercial entities, sports teams, Quinnipiac University and many other groups. Under his proposal, Mr. Gawlak has a "Priority 4" category for non-profit non-resident groups. For one (1) field the rate would be \$75 per hour (vs. \$25) and one (1) field with lights the rate would be \$90 per hour (vs. \$40).

Mr. Gawlak cited fee structure comparisons with surrounding towns, with Cheshire on the low end. He said the market bears increasing fees for commercial and non-resident entities. During a non-typical season (spring, summer, fall) the department collected \$8,200. Under the proposed new fee structure the revenue would have been \$24,600...\$16,400 positive differential. Mr. Gawlak talked about creation of an Enterprise Fund to handle the rental income, which would be used to maintain and upgrade ball fields. Any account balance at end of the fiscal year would go into the General Fund. \$75 an hour is reasonable, and he said people will still rent Cheshire fields, and the department will see a spike in revenue. Mr. Gawlak noted all fields are used...Cheshire Park, Bartlem Park, MacNamara Park, and some fields at Quinnipiac Park, which has five (5) multi-use fields.

With additional revenue in the department, Mr. Gawlak explained there would be extra money for Public Works and park improvements or facility improvements. These improvements could be grass seed, fencing, clay, signage etc.

From his experience, Mr. Gawlak said teams will still come to Cheshire, and there is an opportunity to create field revenue. This money would be used for field improvements. He reported that the Commission supports the fee structure increase, and voted unanimously on the issue at the last meeting. Mr. Gawlak reported there is no mechanism in place to recoup PW charges for maintenance...and funding could go back to PW Dept. for the overtime account.

This matter was discussed in the earlier Budget Committee meeting, and Mr. Borowy said it puts Cheshire in a reasonable rate structure; it is not exacerbating of programs like travel basketball. He supports consideration of raising fees. Mr. Borowy noted that Mr. Gawlak needs a Council decision/approval by end of January in order to begin field use rental sessions.

Chairman Oris said this matter needs further deliberation by the Council. The proposed fee structure is for out-of-town renters, and will not affect Cheshire based groups. The plan will offset some of the Town costs for park and field maintenance. He would support this proposal.

The Parks and Recreation Commission has vetted this matter and unanimously approved the proposed fee structure.

The Councilors agreed the new fee structure requires more review and discussion before approval. The matter will be on the agenda of the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**3. ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A. Labor Negotiations**

**B. Contract Negotiations**

MOTION by Mr. Veleber; seconded by Ms. Pavano

MOVED that the Town Council enter Executive Session at 8:06 p.m. to discuss labor negotiations and contract negotiations, to include Town Manager Kimball, Asst. Town Manager Talbot, Attorney Dugas, Attorney Smith, Mr. Zullo, Mr. Sitko, Supt. of Schools Solan and COO Masciana.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

The Council exited Executive Session at 9:10 p.m.

**D. Discussion and possible action RE: BOE teachers' labor agreements**

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Slocum

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #120820-5

**RESOLUTION #120820-5**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the Education Association of Cheshire Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Discussion

Ms. Nichols said this four (4) year contract has had much discussion by the Council.

Chairman Oris reviewed some of the contract provisions.

Four Year term from 7/1/21 to 6/30/25.

Wage Increases:

Year 1 – 1.75% “all in” with no step advancement

Year 2 – 2.56% “all in” (1.23% GWI and 1.33% Step)

Year 3 – 2.79% “all in” (1.50% GWI and 1.29% Step)

Year 4 – 3.02% “all in” (1.75% GWI and 1.27% Step)

62% of teachers are at the top step; 6.2% is the four (4) year wage increase. With attrition over the four (4) years, costs will be less.

Ms. Pavano stated she is not happy with the contract. The teachers have been going through a lot with the pandemic. She will reluctantly support the contract.

Chairman Oris commented on the medical benefits plan with HSA core plan staying the same. HSA Deductible - \$2,250 individual; \$4,500 for 2-person and family. The BOE contributes one-half (1/2) for the HSA Plan; the deductible is the same as in the current plan; the co-share increases by 1% each year to 18% in year #4, with a savings of \$55,000 annually. There are 80 teachers in the PPO and HMO plans, and 250 in the HSA plan.

The contract ending 6/30/21 totaled 11.94% increase with 2.44%, 3.1%, 3.2% and 3.2% in each year of the contract; the proposed contract is 10.11% total.

Ms. Nichols will support the teachers’ contract. With the steps, she noted 62% of teachers will be at the top step, and 72% at top step by end of the contract. Ms. Nichols commented on the teachers working very hard in recent months. This is not the best contract, but something to be done without going to arbitration.

Chairman Oris understands many teachers are at the top step now, and by the end of the 4-year contract 72% will be at the top step. He understands teachers have been doing much more this year due to the pandemic. In years 2, 3 and 4 these teachers will only be getting 1.23%, 1.5% and 1.75% in general wage increases, no step increases. The HSA plan contributions are increasing, saving of \$55,000 per year, and deductibles are market driven. Mr. Oris is not satisfied with the wage increases but the risk of going to arbitration is great. There are economic and financial hardships in the community which must be recognized.

It was pointed out by Mr. Slocum that the past teacher contract was 12% over 4 years including an arbitration award on behalf of the Town. This contract is less over 4 years, just under 11%. There are 10 fewer teachers in the school system, and this reflects how complicated teaching has become over the last 10 years. Cheshire’s school district has many special needs, special education programs, and Mr. Slocum said the increase is modest and he will support the contract.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**E.     Discussion and possible action RE: BOE administrator’s labor agreements**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #120820-6

**RESOLUTION #120820-6**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts the Cheshire Public Schools Administrative Personnel Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Discussion

Chairman Oris reviewed parts of this contract.

Wage Increases - Year #1 – 1.75% “all in”; Year #2 – 2.50% “all in”; Year #3 – 2.65% “all in”. The contract has six (6) steps. Total increase over three (3) years is 6.9%; average increase is 2.5% a year; the agreement is in line with other administrative contracts settled this year.

Medical Benefits – The HSA is the core plan; administrators can buy up to the PPO and HMO plans; the contract covers 17 administrators, and three (3) participate in the PPO and HMO plans.

HSA deductible - \$2,000 individual; \$4,000 – 2 person and family coverage; in the new contract administrators will pay a co-share of 11% in year #1, 12.5% in year #2, and 14% in year #3. The administrators agreed to drop PPO and HMO plans in year #2, and it hoped the teachers will do the same, with savings in administering three plans. There are savings of \$4,000 in year #2, and in year #3 the savings is \$3,000.

This is a three (3) year contract; projected salary is \$2,597,357, which is the budget value in the contract for 17 administrators.

Total dollar increase in year #1 wages only is \$44,672; year #2 is \$65,221; year #3 is \$71,068.

Annuity - \$6,000. The administrators have a contribution towards a retirement plan, 403B form, and the annuity contribution goes from \$5,000 to \$6,000 a year. It stays at \$6,000 per year in each of the three contract years

Mr. Borowy pointed out that the resolution should say “reject”; without approval the time runs out on the contract...it is not rejected.

Attorney Smith agreed with Mr. Borowy, and the resolution should read “reject”.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #120820-6

**RESOLUTION #120820-6**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council **rejects** the Cheshire Public Schools Administrative Personnel Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Discussion on the new resolution

Mr. Walsh is not in favor of the contract, and cited the \$1,000 annuity as being high, and 14 out of 17 administrators are at full step. There is a small step increase and this is why there is a larger general wage increase. He agreed about sending a message to the citizens of Cheshire that the Council stands behind them, many are suffering through the pandemic, out of work or on pay freezes. Mr. Walsh will vote to reject the contract.

Chairman Oris will vote to reject the contract. He commented on general wage increases, and little increases in the steps. The teachers' contract was split more appropriately. With the economy and private sector suffering, there is a request for an additional \$1,000 annuity contribution for 403B, which Mr. Oris cannot support. The HSA co-share remaining at 11% and only going up to 14% is low. There is need to send a message to the community that the Council understands the plight of people out there in today's environment. There is enough difference, for him, to go to arbitration and not accept this contract. Mr. Oris said he respects and admires the work of administrators but cannot support this contract as a member of the fiscal authority of the Town.

Mr. Talbot will vote to reject the contract. He is not convinced 14 out of 17 people at top step are out of line with DRG peers. Actual salaries are close to peers in the DRG. The annuity increase of \$1,000 is high, and one of the highest seen in the DRG.

Mr. Veleber agreed with comments from other Councilors. He has concerns about the contract, annuity and health care contributions on the administrative side. He supports rejecting the contract and sending it to arbitration.

Mr. Slocum noted the contract has a \$191,000 increase over three (3) years, which is \$11,000 per administrator. Although he recognizes the responsibilities of administrators, he will reject the contract.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**G.     Discussion and possible action RE: A Memorandum of Understanding with The Regional Water Authority for water mains; possible executive session**

Chairman Oris was recused from Agenda Item G. Vice-Chairman Slocum chaired the meeting for this agenda item.

Mr. Sitko explained the MOU. The Town and RWA have been working for over a year to find a way to bring water service to the north end, I-C Zone. Infrastructure is important to development, and it is lacking in the I-C Zone. This is an attempt to get water service into this zone. Since 1927 Southington Water Authority has been providing water to the I-C zone, and RWA will take over the water service. Water mains will service an 8-lot subdivision and a 50 acre parcel from the State to the Town.

The MOU is waiver of a PILOT for mixed use development mains, for five year period, \$175,000, \$35,000 per year. This takes effect if and when the RWA takes ownership of the mains. The other financial consideration is 50% waiver of a PILOT, \$108,000 for 5 years, \$22,000 per year; water mains along Route 10 and along the west side of the northwest project connecting Dickerman Road. This brings service to this part of town. The waiver takes effect upon the town's development of the State owned property in the zone.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #120820-8

**RESOLUTION #120820-8**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves a Memorandum of Understanding between Regional Water Authority and the Town of Cheshire for water mains under the terms and conditions as presented in the MOU.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present (8-0)  
Mr. Oris was recused.

**H.     SMC Survey Waiver of Bid**

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Walsh

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #120820-9

**RESOLUTION #120820-9**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves a waiver of bid for a \$17,000 statistically significant survey of Cheshire residents regarding possible school modernization proposals, and further approves hiring The Center for Research & Public Policy Inc. for said survey and analysis

Discussion

Mr. Slocum explained that the \$17,000 will come out of the appropriation approved by Council for the SMC. The funds will be used for a survey conducted by a professional group...The Center for Research & Public Policy Inc. The survey will be a phone call survey to 400 people in Cheshire. The SMC wants to get the work started with The Center and get the survey out into the community.

Ms. Nichols stated the SMC asks for Council support with a bid waiver of \$17,000 for a survey resulting in community feedback on the school modernization plan and options., She advised that The Center for Research Public Policy (“the Center”) is a professional company, has done surveys for other Connecticut school districts, is knowledgeable about what SMC wants to accomplish, will help with the process as SMC engages with the Town.

It was explained by Mr. Oris that anything over \$15,000 without a bid needs waiver approval from the Council. This is a \$17,000 request which necessitates the Council allocating the funds to SMC. It is a procedure under the Town Charter.

In the SMC process, Mr. Veleber asked about other school districts having a survey.

In response, Ms. Nichols stated “yes” other districts have had surveys and they are very useful to the community, and provide public input. She noted the importance of getting a statistical survey. She explained that the SMC has been advised that a phone bank is the way to go with the survey with better results calling 400 people directly. The Center provides the results with some detailed analytics, break down the different types of questions, and expected outcomes. Getting feedback from the community is paramount. A two-week lead time is required to get up and running. The turn-around time is 60 days from the go ahead to the company.

Mr. Walsh told the Council that this company targets demographics within the community and will do a wide spread of the town. There will also be input from businesses. Supt. Solan saw the Groton CT survey done by The Center and was impressed with the detailed report from the company. Regarding the time frame for the survey, the SMC may undertake it after the options are chosen.

Mr. Jinks commented on narrowing down the list of options, the survey being done in February, and it being “marketing” to the public on what SMC is doing.

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**

**COVID-19** – Cheshire is a red alert community with a case rate of 32.1 cases per 100,000 residents; case numbers continue to increase over the past month; the town staff continues to work closely with Chesprocott Health District to make decisions to best protect the health and welfare of residents, keeping schools and businesses open. Mr. Kimball reviewed the graph/chart in his report. There is continued communication to the community to rethink daily activities, avoid groups and gatherings, wear a mask, wash hands, and keep the 6 foot social distance.

**Recreation Department Offerings/Updates** – The Annual Tree Lighting on the Town Green was held on December 3<sup>rd</sup>; there is an additional lighted tree at Bartlem Park. The day included a visit from Santa via a CFD fire truck. Eliana Orlinski was the essay contest winner for 2020. Mr. Kimball thanked the Junior Women's Club and Lion's Club for a beautifully refurbished Santa Chair, which can be used next year.

**Bartlem South/Chapman Property Master Plan** – A successful virtual public engagement session was held on December 3<sup>rd</sup> with great public participation, comments, feedback on the concepts from Weston and Sampson. The next steps include consultants and staff incorporating the public feedback into a draft master plan to be presented to the Town Council in the coming months.

**Public Building Commission Completion Reports** – Reports from PBC on project completion were submitted for Council Review.

Projects included the Library Roof and HVAC Unit Replacement; Districtwide Lavatory Improvements; Doolittle Bathrooms (2019 Phase 1); Parks Bathroom Improvements (Mixville, Cheshire Park, McNamara and Lock 12).

**Award of \$1.5 Small Cities Grant for Beachport Apartments** - Cheshire Housing Authority (CHA) received a \$1.5M grant to modernize the Beachport Apartments. The project will modernize fire alarm, and emergency call for aid system, 43 units will be renovated with new kitchens, LED lights, new flooring; sidewalks will be replaced; there will be 15 more parking spaces.

**Upcoming Town Council and Sub-Committee Meetings**

Town Council Special Meeting, December 15, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

Town Council Ordinance Review Committee, December 17, 2020, 5:30 p.m.

Town Council Regular Meeting, January 12, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

School Modernization Committee Meeting, December 16, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

SMC Communications Subcommittee, December 14, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

SMC Options Subcommittee, December 9, 2020, 5:30 p.m.

Town Manager Kimball reported that Ms. Talbot is training for the Small Cities Grant program. Ms. Talbot stated this grant is great for the community and staff is glad it could happen.

Mr. Oris attended the Bartlem Tree Lighting event and now Cheshire has more light coming into town. He expressed appreciation to Mr. Gawlak, the Parks and Rec Commission, great group of volunteers, and Town staff for the wonderful tree lighting ceremonies in Cheshire.

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

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

Ordinance Review Committee – Mr. Veleber reported the ORC meets on December 17<sup>th</sup>; agenda items include the Unsafe Premises Ordinance, Blight Ordinance and Short Term Rental Ordinance discussion, and the Mobile Vendor Ordinance.

### **B. Miscellaneous**

## **12. MISCELLANEOUS AND APPOINTMENTS**

### **A. Liaison Reports**

Mr. Talbot reported the Energy Commission supports the Legislative Recommendations with inclusion of Enabling Legislation for Community Choice Aggregation for Energy.

Mr. Jinks reported that The Beautification Committee has two openings for membership.

### **B. Appointments to Boards and Commissions**

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

MOVED that the Town Council approve the appointment of Robert Santoro (R) to the Parks and Recreation Commission, to fill the vacancy of Robert Parr; term of office December 8, 2020 to January 31, 2024.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

It was pointed out by Ms. Nichols that many boards, commissions, committees have openings for membership. Information is available on the town's website, or people can contact Ms. Nichols or Mr. Talbot.

**13. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**14. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Letters to Council.**

Mr. Oris received a letter from Cheryl Landy regarding the Community Garden at Bartlem Park, and her request for consideration and flexibility for the garden during the plans for the Park. Mr. Oris said he assured Ms. Landy that the town will work with the gardeners and consider their needs. He asked that she and other gardeners remain involved in the Community Garden.

Town Manager Kimball reported many other gardeners attended the public session, made many good points, and plan to stay involved.

**B. Miscellaneous**

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

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

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

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Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk