

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 7:30 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2011 AT 7:30 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410

Present

Chairman Tim Slocum; Vice Chairman David Schrumm; Councilors Michael Ecke, Andy Falvey, Patti Flynn-Harris, Sylvia Nichols, Thomas Ruocco, James Sima, Peter Talbot.

Staff: Michael A. Milone, Town Manager; Dwight Johnson, Town Attorney; James Jaskot, Finance Director; Gerald Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator;

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. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

On behalf of the Town Council and the community of Cheshire, Chairman Slocum expressed sympathy and offered respect to the Adinolfi Family on the passing of Justin Adinolfi on December 8, 2011. Mr. Adinolfi served two terms on the Town Council and also served terms on the Planning and Zoning Commission, and was involved in many community organizations. Chairman Slocum expressed appreciation for Mr. Adinolfi's contributions to the community over many years of service.

A. Recognition of Walsh Family.

Don and Jennifer Walsh were presented with a Certificate of Recognition from the Town Council for their founding and leadership in the Lights of Hope Foundation.

Don Walsh thanked the Council for its recognition of the Lights of Hope Foundation and the many volunteers who coordinate this event each year. Mr. Walsh said that after his wife, Jennifer, was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (M.S.) they looked for a way to help people with this disease. They become involved with the M.S. Association, formed Team Jennifer which had over 200 members this year and raised \$30,000. Over 11 years this team has raised \$120,000 for the Michaela's Miracles and Haley's Hope M.S. Association Teams. The Walsh family started the luminary lights on Contour Drive, met and worked with their neighbors who participated in the first fundraiser. In 2006 surrounding streets wanted to participate in the lighted luminaries event.

Mr. Walsh commented on the time of July 23, 2007 when Cheshire became a dark place with the crime to the Petit Family. Ways were discussed to have a

healing process for the Town, and the ground work was started for the Lights of Hope. Team Jennifer members worked together to this great end. The Foundation is a 501c-3 organization. A major participant is Buzzoto's which donates its warehouse, manpower, supplies, tractor trailer trucks, all of which make this event easier to handle. In January 2008 there were 130,000 luminaries lit throughout Cheshire, showing how resilient the Town and its people are. \$127,000 has been raised for the Petit Family's M.S. Association Team, with the focus of the Foundation being to help the Town and its neighbors.

Over the past several years the Foundation has donated \$37,000 to The Cheshire Community Food Pantry, \$22,500 to Youth and Social Services, \$2,500 in a scholarship and endowment to a high school senior, \$50,000 to the Petit Foundation, with donations made to the Mari Hall and Joshua Budd funds.

As of this year, Lights of Hope has raised \$320,000. Mr. Walsh said this has been done with the assistance of street captains, hundreds of volunteers, and the youth of Cheshire – Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, CHS groups and the football team. When the last event was over on a Saturday evening in November, the CHS Football Team members lead by Coach Ecke cleaned up the entire town on Sunday morning. Mr. Walsh commented on the youth of Cheshire being an important part of giving back to the community, with football players stating they wanted to be part of the event and give back to the community.

Mr. Walsh expressed appreciation to Bozzuto's, Hines Ace Hardware, Timberline Office Store, Paws Pet Resort for their donation of time and manpower to the Lights of Hope. Everything has happened because of the businesses, committee, volunteers and friends who are dedicated to this fundraising event. Mr. Walsh stated that his children are learning from an early age how important it is to give back to the community, and the Lights of Hope will be passed onto future generations.

Don and Jennifer Walsh thanked the Town Council for the recognition, stating it was a humble experience for all involved in the Foundation, and expressed appreciation for honoring Cheshire's Lights of Hope committee.

Don and Jennifer were personally congratulated by the Town Council members for their dedication and commitment to the Lights of Hope Foundation and the Cheshire community.

B. Recognition of Cheshire High School Field Hockey Team.

Chairman Slocum presented a Certificate of Recognition to the Cheshire High School Field Hockey Team and Coach honoring their winning the 2011 CIAC Class L State Championship, SCC Season Championship, and the Tournament Championship. The team and coach were personally congratulated by the Town Council.

C. Recognition of Employee of the Year – Joe Vitello.

Town Manager Milone explained that the Employee of the Year Award is given in the name of Connie Wallace, a long time and distinguished Town Employee. The award has been given for the last 11 years. This year, Joseph Vitello, Detective in the Cheshire Police Department was the unanimous choice to receive the award. Detective Vitello has served in the Police Department for 27 years, and was very involved with the Petit crime investigation. Throughout all the challenges, he continues to represent the highest ideals of the Police Department. Detective Vitello is a dedicated employee, committed resident, very involved in the community, has a great sense of humor, and is honest and forthright.

Mr. Milone said the best tribute to Joe was the turnout for the Employee of the Year ceremony, which had the largest turnout of people in 11 years, to honor someone as they did for Joe Vitello. This is a reflection of the respect, appreciation, and admiration Town employees have for Joe Vitello. The other thing that was so touching was the letter of nomination for his award which came from the Police Captain. Mr. Milone said he has never read a more heartfelt or eloquent letter nominating an individual than the letter submitted by Captain Vignola on his behalf. At this point, Mr. Milone said there is no one more deserving of this award than Det. Vitello.

Chairman Slocum presented and read the Certificate of Recognition for Det. Joseph Vitello as Employee of the Year.

D. Public Comments.

Ray Squier, Cook Hill Road, asked the Council about the expected date for the pool bubble installation, and that status of the \$30 million treatment plant upgrade. He also asked if the plant upgrade would be on a special referendum before November 2012.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Mr. Ruocco.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #121311-1

RESOLUTION #121311-1
CONSENT CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 13, 2011

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves the Consent Calendar for December 13, 2011 as follows:

- A. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$10,500 donation from the Cheshire Lights of Hope to the Human Services Gift Account for assistance to

Residents in need.

- B. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$112 donation from the Town of Cheshire employees to the Human Services Gift Account for assistance To residents in need.
- C. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$185 donation from Cheshire High School to the Human Services Gift Account for assistance to residents In need.
- D. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$225.55 donation from proceeds from The Peach Jam Peach Preserve Fundraiser to the Human Services Gift Account to residents in need.
- E. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$270 donation from proceeds from The employees in the Assessor and Tax Collector offices to the Human Services Gift Account to residents in need.
- F. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$200 donation from Nutmeg Management Services LLC to the Human Services Gift Account for Residents in need.
- G. Acceptance and appropriation of \$20 from the Operation Fuel Inc. to the Cheshire Fuel Bank.
- H. Acceptance and appropriation of a donation of \$100 from the Cheshire PBA Community Foundation for the Adopt-a-Family program.
- I. Authorization to apply for an annual Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Local Prevention Council Grant of \$4,245 for youth substance abuse programs.
- J. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$40 donation from the First Congregational Church to the Cheshire Fuel Bank.
- K. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$350 donation from the First Congregational Church to the Human Services Gift Account for Assistance to residents in need.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Chairman Slocum acknowledged the \$10,500 donation to the Human Services Gift Account from the Lights of Hope Foundation.

5. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

6. OLD BUSINESS

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of pension ordinance amendments.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #121311-2

RESOLUTION #121311-2

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the proposed amendments to the pension ordinance Sections 2-132 and 2-133, and 2-180 through 2-196, as attached to these minutes.

Discussion

This agenda item was the subject of a public hearing earlier in the Council agenda.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

B. Approval of Historic District ordinance correction.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #121311-3

RESOLUTION #121311-3

RESOLUTION CLARIFYING THE BOUNDARIES OF
THE CORNWALL AVENUE – TOWN CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

WHEREAS, at a meeting on December 14, 2004, the Town Council established two Historic Districts by a unanimous vote of its members present; and the creation of said Historic Districts is codified in Section 2-83 of the Town's Code of Ordinances (The "Historic District Ordinance"); and

WHEREAS, in Schedule A of the Historic District Ordinance the boundary description for the Historic District known as "Cornwall Avenue-Town Center" includes, as a result of a clerical error the address of 22 Pine Terrace; and

WHEREAS, it was not the intent of the Historic District Study Committee (the "Committee") or the Town Council for 22 Pine Terrace to be included in either Historic District as evidenced by minutes of the Committee, and as further evidenced by the exclusion of 22 Pine Terrace from the boundary outline shown on a map entitled "Cornwall Avenue – Town Center Historic District," which map

is part of the Committee's April 30, 2004 Final Report, and is included in the Historic District Ordinance by reference;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Town Council hereby amends the Historic District Ordinance to remove the erroneous text of "22 Pine Terrace (Map 64, Lot 232)" from Schedule A, titled Historic District: "Cornwall Avenue-Town Center."

This amendment shall be effective January 13, 2012.

Discussion

Ms. Nichols stated that this resolution is a correction to a clerical error in the ordinance.

VOTE The motion passed 8-1; Sima opposed.

C. Approval of a new ordinance establishing a sewer use freeze for those eligible for the local tax freeze program.

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Mr. Falvey.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #121311-4

RESOLUTION #121311-4

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves an ordinance for a freeze of sewer user charges (new) as follows:

Section (new)

1. *Pursuant to the authority granted under Section 7-255 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, any resident of the Town of Cheshire who is subject to a sewer use charge and who is eligible for property tax relief under the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Cheshire, Section 17-6, shall also be eligible for relief from increases in sewer user charges as follows:*
 - a. *Applications for relief from increases in sewer user charges shall be submitted in conjunction with and subject to the requirements of application for property tax relief pursuant to Code of Ordinances Section 17-6.*
 - b. *As of the effective date of this ordinance, the sewer use charge for residents eligible for property tax relief shall not be increased above the*

sewer user rate established by the Town of Cheshire Water Pollution Control Authority and in effect at the time.

- c. *After the effective date of this ordinance, the sewer user charge for residents applying for and qualifying for property tax relief shall not be increased above the sewer user rate established by the Town of Cheshire Water Pollution Control Authority and in effect at the time that eligibility is demonstrated.*

Effective for the date of FY 2011-2012 Sewer User Charges.

Discussion

Mr. Falvey stated his support of this motion because of the importance of freezing the sewer user charge for eligible individuals. He commented on the need to look at how the sewer user charge is put in place. There is a flat fee no matter how the system is used, and he said the Town must look at a way to equitably charge based on use. The current system is unfair and inequitable.

Mr. Ecke said he supports the motion, but questioned the impact on the WPCA.

The Council was informed by Mr. Milone that the loss of revenue is about \$2,000.

Mr. Sima referred to Mr. Falvey's comments about the user fee being based on consumption. He noted there are problems with the Regional Water Authority which would charge a large fee for information about consumption of each household. He said that Cheshire pays the RWA for pipes in the ground and hydrants. This matter should be looked at further in order to provide a more equitable way for people to pay the sewer user charges.

Mr. Milone explained that this matter has been discussed by the Council for four years, and the Town is at the mercy of the RWA. The RWA has the data on the consumption bills to gauge how much water is coming and going into households. With this information the Town cannot change the fees. The matter has also been discussed with the Town's representative on the RWA Policy Board. At the present time, the RWA is involved in a new accounting system, which could get the information to towns to reduce costs. The issue has been raised twice a year with RWA. It is hoped that in another year there can be changes in the way the user charge is levied.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

D. Approval of Town Council Rules of Procedure

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #121311-5

RESOLUTION #121311-5

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the amendments to the Council Rules of Procedure as follows:

XIII Town Attorney

The Town Attorney will attend regular and special meetings of the Council, as necessary, at the request of the Chair. The Chairman may seek the advice of the Town Attorney on any parliamentary questions.

Discussion

Ms. Nichols stated that this is being done on a regular basis, and the procedure is now formalized.

Chairman Slocum said that in years past the Town Attorney was present at meetings. In the last four years the Town Attorney has not been present at all meetings, only when necessary. The change in the Rules of Procedure will reflect this.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

E. Approval of Historical Society Lease.

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Ms. Nichols

MOVED that this matter be tabled until the January 2012 meeting of the Town Council.

Discussion

Mr. Schrumm said that late information was received that must be considered by the Council.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

F. Legislative Package

Chairman Slocum stated that the Council received information from Town Manager Milone on the Legislative Package. Members of the Council were requested to forward other items for inclusion to the Town Manager's office by the first week in January 2012. The Legislative Delegation will be invited to the Council's second meeting in January 2012.

G. Waiver of bid for grinding service for storm debris collection program.

MOTION by Mr. Sima; seconded by Mr. Ruocco.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #121311-8

RESOLUTION #121311-8

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department is conducting a Storm Alfred debris clean up program, and

WHEREAS, there is significant amount of debris that needs to be ground into mulch, and

WHEREAS, five quotes have been obtained for this work, and

WHEREAS, based on those quotes, references and recommendation of the Public Works Director, the Council finds it is in the best interests of the Town that Morin Logging, Inc. be hired for this project at a cost not to exceed \$52,500.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council, pursuant to Section 7-8 of the Town Charter, approves a waiver of bid for the purchase of said service and equipment and authorizes the execution of an agreement with Morin Logging, Inc. for said project.

Discussion

Mr. Sima stated that five bids were received with hourly rates, and only one company also submitted costs on a per ton basis.

PW Director Michaelangelo reported that the debris cleanup from Storm Alfred is underway, with quadrants 1 and 2 completed, quadrant 3 is 50% completed, and quadrant 4 remains to be done. There is a large pile of material at Bartlem Park, Quinnipiac Park, Mixville Park and the PW Garage. The projected estimate cost for this work is \$52,500.

Mr. Michaelangelo stated that Morin Logging Inc. is the recommended vendor for this project, is familiar with pricing in this way, and just completed the Town of Hamden project. The work would start at Bartlem Park on Thursday, December 15th, and the project would take three weeks to complete. The mulch would be out of the parks by spring time, and the value of the material will be looked at before anything is done with it.

A suggestion was made by Mr. Schrumm about advertising and selling this material.

According to Mr. Michaelangelo this will be looked into.

Mr. Sima questioned getting rid of the material as it should not sit in one spot for a long duration. He has concerns about the FEMA reimbursement for this

project. With money received we must look at a mechanism to remove the material to different sites. He has concerns about material being left out there and affected by rot and degrading, with the material having less value. The longer a large pile is left out the methane produced inside the chips during the biodegradation produces enough heat and gas to cause a fire.

There are 6,000 c.y. at Bartlem Park now and Mr. Michaelangelo said some of the chips will be used for Town work at parks, Boulder Farms. The pile at Quinnipiac Park is far away from the river, with a buffer between the cleared area and trees, and it is out of the flood plain and above grade. The DEP also has a policy about stock piling and gives towns a two year time period to move this material. The PW Department should be able to handle the material without paying to dispose of it. The target date to complete the work is December 23rd.

CL&P has contacted the Town Manager's office about a goodwill gesture offering a two man crew for tree services. The Town will take advantage of this offer, with CL&P contractors working in Town next week on the heavy tree damage, leaners, hangers, etc. CL&P has a 60 foot bucket truck and their crews will work in conjunction with a PW 2 man crew.

For State roads, Mr. Slocum noted they are heaped with branches close to the road.

Mr. Michaelangelo has been in contact with the State weekly, pointing out what is out there to be removed, and they say it will be picked up.

With regard to the per cubic yard quote, Mr. Talbot asked if any other company offered a rate.

According to Mr. Michaelangelo, Morin Logging was the only company offering the per cubic yard charge. This type of charge is more acceptable to FEMA, is better price wise, and will be easier for FEMA reimbursement.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

H. Acceptance and appropriation of \$9,225 from Yankee Gas for Compensation for new sidewalks and sidewalk damage and repairs.

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Mr. Sima.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #121311-9

RESOLUTION #121311-9

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts and appropriates \$9,225 from Yankee Gas Services Company for reimbursement to the Town of Cheshire for construction and repair of sidewalks on West Main Street and the Main Street Parklet that were impacted by the Yankee Gas Pipeline project.

Discussion

Mr. Michaelangelo reported that there was damage to the sidewalks and Yankee Gas agreed to \$15,000 for the sidewalks and \$8,000 for landscaping. When the work was bid in July the prices were higher. Yankee Gas agreed to make up the difference, and the remainder of the \$9,200 is for the section in front of the vault. Even though Yankee Gas feels it can service the vaults from Route 10, invariably someone will jump the curb, park a truck on the sidewalk there. In front of the vaults, the Town wants the area widened so there is no grass in front, and to make the area thicker so the sidewalk can hold a truck if it jumps the curb. This work makes up the additional \$9,200.

Mr. Ecke asked if there are any plans to build up this area where the vaults are even with the ground.

In reply, Mr. Michaelangelo said that out of the money from Yankee Gas there is still \$8,150 being held for landscaping improvements. The ground will not be built up but this area will have landscaping to look more desirable.

When this project first came up, Mr. Ecke said he specifically asked if there would be any raised structure and Yankee Gas said "no." They said the area would be put back the way it was, with everything at ground level. Clearly, this is not going to happen.

Mr. Michaelangelo could not say what the final product would look like, but said Parks and Recreation Department crews maintain the parklets, and landscaping improvements will be developed by them. It is hoped it will look like the Cook Hill Road parklet. This is a challenge for the Parks and Rec crew.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

I. Authorization to apply for a Transportation, Community and System Preservation Program Grant for the Linear Trail.

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Mr. Falvey.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #121311-10

RESOLUTION #121311-10

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the application for a Transportation, Community and System Preservation Program matching fund grant for the Linear Trail.

Discussion

Mr. Schrumm stated that this is another grant application. The first grant was applied for but the Town did not receive an award. The state and federal government came through with another opportunity, and this is for the section between West Main Street and Jarvis Street. At the last Planning meeting the Town Manager gave an update on the progress being made. Mr. Schrumm noted that this grant would go a long way to pay for the bulk of this section of the trail. The State of Connecticut has agreed to pay for the section from Cornwall Avenue to West Main Street, and from Jarvis Street to the Southington Town Line. There is finally some movement with this project, and it is hoped the grant will come through and allow the Town to do its section of the trail.

It was clarified by Mr. Ruocco that the net cost to the Town for this section of the trail is \$317,000.

Mr. Milone referred to his Town Manager's Report on Linear Trail Financial Summary. Estimated Design is \$200,000; the State will pay 80% of this cost; so the Town only has to pay \$40,000. Estimated Construction cost is \$2.4 million; federal grant of \$562,400; State D.E.E.P. grant of \$250,000; net cost to the Town is \$1,587,600. Without further funding the Town's portion, 20%, is \$317,500. Any additional funding from the STEAP grant or other funding will come off the \$1.5 million cost. The federal/state portion would be 80% and the Town portion would be 20% of the final net cost. The State wants Cheshire to continue to seek grants and other funding. By early January it is hoped that there will be a design consultant on board for this project.

It was noted by Mr. Milone that these numbers do not take into account a STEAP grant application which could be about \$100,000 to \$200,000. The application for the subject grant is not factored into the cost, and if successful, it would reimburse up to 80% of the estimated cost. If the project comes in at \$2.4 million, the net cost to the Town would be less than the \$317,520.

Regarding a timeline and construction project, Mr. Schrumm said the Council would have to approve the design, and he asked if this could be done in January, with the work to be done in the summer. This would move the process along.

When he stated the summer, Mr. Milone said it was for the money to be in the capital budget. This project is now in the CEP for FY 14-15. There is no intention to start project construction in summer 2012. The RFP will clearly indicate final design to the Town Council in May to be incorporated into the CEP. Mr. Milone said that the State may want to tie this work into their portion of the project.

Mr. Milone stated that with numbers under the \$350,000 range, this project would not have to go to referendum, so maybe the project could start sooner than expected.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

J. Authorization for creation of a Defense Zone.

MOTION by Mr. Falvey; seconded by Mr. Schrumm.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #121311-11

RESOLUTION #121311-11

WHEREAS, Connecticut Public Act 11-61 provides for the creation of a Defense Zone in the Town of Cheshire; and

WHEREAS, This act provides Cheshire with the opportunity to attract companies that will provide well paying and long term jobs and occupy an unused facility, and allows for investments in machinery and equipment; and

WHEREAS, A census tract identifies the applicable parcels that qualify for Defense Zone status including the former Pratt & Whitney facility and the area surrounding said facility; and

WHEREAS, The Defense Zone extends enterprise zone benefits to the former Pratt & Whitney property; and

WHEREAS, This designation provides financial assistance to companies, after successful application to the State Department of Economic and Community Development, including a real and personal property tax reduction for five (5) years following the occupancy of the Pratt & Whitney property and a corporation business tax credit for an eligible business that meets statutory job creation requirements;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That in accordance with Connecticut Public Act 11-61 the Town of Cheshire authorizes the creation of a Defense Zone in census tract 09009343200 and authorizes the Town Manager Michael A. Milone to execute any necessary documents necessary for the state and town to conduct this program.

Discussion

Mr. Sitko informed the Council that in the Summer of 2009, Pratt & Whitney closed its production facility in Cheshire and vacated the property. The site is 294,000 s.f. and 50 acres. The EDC requested the Council to include in the

Legislative Package an enterprise zone be designated for this property. A Defense Zone was created for the Pratt & Whitney property, and this zone is similar to an Enterprise Zone. There are two incentives associated with a Defense Zone. The first is a five year, 80% abatement on real and personal property; the Town and State are responsible for 40% each; and the business contributes 20%. The second incentive is a ten year, 25% credit on the portion of the state's corporation business tax attributable to a business expansion or renovation to the Pratt facility. The business applies to the State and their application must be approved by the Department of Economic and Community Development.

Mr. Falvey noted this is one building and the land around it.

Mr. Sitko advised that this property just went on the market a few months ago.

Chairman Slocum stated that Pratt & Whitney is paying \$50,000 in personal property taxes.

According to Mr. Sitko the lost revenue estimated to the Town is about \$150,000 for personal property taxes. Pratt & Whitney continues to pay the real estate taxes. The company moved its equipment out of the site by October 1st.

Chairman Slocum said that with the Defense Zone incentives, the new user would pay only \$20,000 out of \$100,000 of taxes for five years.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

8. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS.

A. Monthly Status Report.

B. Department Status Reports.

C. Other

Monthly Financial Report – General Fund surplus of \$900,000; WPCA has a balanced budget, and the increase in the user fee will generate about \$45,000 to \$50,000 additional revenue; Pool budget revenue stream is unknown until the pool reopens.

Linear Trail Status Report – this report was given during the discussion on agenda item 7-I. The State has been responsive and expects to move this along and work on the Cornwall to West Main portion concurrent with the Towns' section of the Trail. The Island of Refuge will be constructed on West Main Street during the summer of 2012. The State's goal is to complete the project to

the Southington Town Line. Cheshire's PW crews are clearing a path so the State can survey the area and start the design work.

Electronic Recycling Collection – the collection was held by a private vendor on November 12th, at no cost to the Town, and over 200 people visited the CHS site, with over 18,000 pounds of material collected; the Town Hall site collected 1,000 pounds of material.

Reservoir Road Traffic Signal – this signal is completed and active.

Transfer Station Christmas Tree Drop Off – January 14, 2012. This project is being handled by the high school band; only cost to the Town will be \$250 to \$350 in overtime for this service.

Upcoming Meetings – Budget Committee, December 14th, 7:30 p.m.; Personnel Committee, December 15th, 7:30 p.m. and Technology Study Group, December 21st, 7:00 p.m.

Town Hall Closings – December 26, 2011, Christmas Holiday, and January 2, 2012, New Year's Holiday.

Mr. Milone informed the Council that there are four labor contracts to be executed next year, and the Council must provide guidance, priorities, and goals regarding changes to the medical benefits and salary increases.

Also, there is a recommendation to the Legislature to change the Municipal Employees Relations Act so within one year a contract must be settled.

Mr. Sima questioned the turf replacement fund and accounting mechanisms in place for the money and how ticket sales will be tracked to offset this cost to the Town for additional work on this field. He said this matter must be discussed at committee level.

Mr. Talbot commented on the BOE meeting of November 11th which discussed establishment of a turf replacement fund. He asked for an update on this matter.

Mr. Milone said he was unaware of this issue, and a document has not been transmitted to him as of this date. He will check with Supt. Florio and e-mail Council members with any information.

It was stated by Mr. Talbot that the accounting procedures would be done on the BOE side, not Town staff. The intent was to make a one time transfer at the end of the fiscal year from the BOE to the fund which will be administered by the Town. There will be no real accounting procedures encumbered. Regarding ticket prices, he said this has been established by the BOE to make sure the money is accounted for and put into the proper locations.

9. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

No report.

10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

A. Chairman's Report.

Chairman Slocum referred the following items:

Request from Friends of Boulder Knoll Inc. for permission to install high tunnels at the farm to the Planning Committee.

Appointment of Town Historian is referred to the Personnel Committee.

Appointment of Clerk of the Town Council is referred to the Personnel Committee.

Planning Committee – Mr. Sima reported that at the last meeting the committee heard a presentation from Ameresco regarding the energy grade audit and mechanisms for performance contracting to go forward. The committee discussed reverse auction for purchases through the Town with the normal bidding process through a third party, and bidders having time to submit a lower bid.

Personnel Committee – Mr. Ruocco advised that the committee meets on December 15th to begin contract negotiation strategy.

Budget Committee – Mr. Schrumm advised that the committee meets for a pre-budget planning meeting on December 14th with the full Council and BOE.

B. Miscellaneous

11. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Meeting of November 15, 2011; Special Meetings of November 9, 2011 and December 5, 2011.

MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr. Schrumm.

MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 15, 2011 and Special Meetings of November 9, 2011 and December 5, 2011, subject to corrections, deletions, additions.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

12. MISCELLANEOUS AND APPOINTMENTS

A. Liaison Reports

WPCA – Mr. Schrumm stated that he does not see going to referendum on the \$30 million treatment plant upgrade before Fall of 2012. The Authority is reviewing some of the issues raised by opponents and reviewing the cost estimates of the project.

Library – Mr. Falvey reported that work has started on the RFID process, which will relieve staff to work more directly with clients. The State has signed off on the grant. The portico over the Library is almost completed.

BOE – Mr. Falvey reported that the BOE met last week; Gerald Brittingham was elected Chairman and Tod Dixon Vice Chairman. The BOE recognized the CHS Field Hockey Team for its outstanding season and CIAC Class L Championship. He advised that food at the schools went bad during Storm Alfred, and this loss will be included in the FEMA reimbursement application.

B. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Ms. Flynn-Harris.

MOVED to appoint Marcel Gauthier (R) to the Cheshire Housing Authority, to fill the vacancy of Stuart Kathineck, term of office present to May 31, 2016; and

To appoint Robert Formica (R) to the Economic Development Commission, to fill the vacancy of Lelah Campo, term of office present to January 31, 2013.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Chairman Slocum commented on the Town Council members wearing garb commemorating John Kensett, Cheshire Author, founder of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. He encouraged citizens to study Mr. Kensett. On December 18th there will be an open house at the high school, 2-4 p.m. and the public is invited to the event.

13. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Letters to Council.

B. Miscellaneous

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Mr. Flynn-Harris.

MOVED that the Town Council enter Executive Session at 9:40 p.m. to include Mr. Sitko for economic incentive issues; and Dennis Rioux (architect), Shield

Adams, Pool Coordinator, and PW Director Michaelangelo to discuss possible litigation issues.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Mr. Flynn-Harris.

MOVED that the Town Council exit Executive Session at 10:00 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Ms. Flynn-Harris.

MOVED to adjourn the Town Council meeting at 10:00 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk