

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2012, AT 7:00 P.M. IN ROOM  
207, TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410

Present

David Schrumm, Chairman; Michael Ecke and Thomas Ruocco.  
Staff: Michael A. Milone, Town Manager; James Jaskot, Finance Director; Gina DeFilio, Deputy Finance Director; Vincent Masciana, Director of Management Services, Dept. of Education

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. Acceptance and appropriation of \$251 from the Judicial Branch Special Services to the Park Gift Account for park repairs and General services.

4. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$4,245 Local Prevention Council Grant from the Connecticut Department of Mental Health And Addiction Services for substance abuse programs.

MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr.Ecke.

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

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

5. Approval of a lease amendment for the installation of fencing at the former Casertano property.

MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr.Ecke.

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

Discussion

The lessee wishes to install deer fencing around the back field, and Mr. Schrumm said that when the lease is terminated, he will have to remove this fencing from the property.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

6. Approval of lease renewal for sunflower project at Boulder Knoll Farm.

MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr.Ecke.

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

Discussion

This approval is allow Mr. Deegan to plant and grow sunflowers, giving the profits to a charity.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

7. Approval of schematic design and authorization to go to bid for The Cheshire High School Sports Locker Project.

MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr.Ecke.

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

Discussion

Mr. Masciana stated that this is a legitimate bid, a base bid, to renovate the locker room at the high school. As part of the renovations, there must be improvements made which meet ADA compliance. The base renovations estimate is \$450,000; alternate #1 is for a ramp to meet handicapped compliance at a cost of about \$27,000; alternate #2 is for an elevator to meet handicapped compliance, and the cost is about \$300,000. There will be bid documents with specs for all the renovations stated, with work to begin in the summer on the project.

With alternate #1, the ramp, people will exit the front door of the high school, go down the sidewalk, and enter the locker rooms through steps or the wheelchair accessible ramp.

With alternate #2 – there will be an elevator to the lower level, and the stairs will still remain.

Mr. Milone said this project must come before the Town Council per Public Building Commission requirements.

According to Mr. Masciana this is the final design being presented to the Council.

In the plans, Mr. Ecke noted that the ice machine was not included, and this is necessary for instances of injuries. He also commented on the exterior steps being moved.

Mr. Masciana said he will insure that this is included in the specs.

Mr. Schrumm stated that these plans did not go through the regular channels, and this could be almost a \$1 million project. It should have been given to PBC for the longer process. PBC saw the plans for the first time at its meeting last week and passed in along in order to get some of the work done more quickly. Mr. Schrumm questioned why this project would get started knowing that the ramp or elevator must also be done.

It was clarified by Mr. Masciana that when the \$500,000 was appropriated for this project, it was assigned to the BOE Building Committee, not the PBC, and this was the decision of the Council. Additional money in the appropriation was for a Home Economics class project which was paid out of another grant, and hall lockers are not needed right now. Mr. Masciana took over this project and realized the sports lockers needed funding and attention. The project went to the BOE Planning Committee, an architect was hired, and the project has been vetted by the athletic director and coaches. The reason it was at the PBC was because of the issue of not having enough funding for the accessibility part of the project. Mr. Masciana and Mr. Rioux (BL Companies) presented the project to the PBC. This project was a referendum item in 2009.

Mr. Schrumm stated that the question before the Council is having a partially finished project and having to go back to referendum for more funding.

The committee was informed by Mr. Masciana that the sports locker area is a mess and should be renovated, and pushing the project out another year means leaving the area in poor condition. He said we should go to bid, wait for an estimate, and if it is at \$600,000 it does not have to go to referendum again. More permanent improvements are needed to the lockers with replacement of fixtures and better ventilation.

Stating he does not like this space for the locker room, Mr. Ecke said it must still be renovated as the condition of the area is deplorable.

Mr. Ruocco commented on having seen the locker rooms and the fact that they are in bad shape. He said the project should go through the same process as any other project, and should be part of the capital budget. If the project is \$600,000 it will have to go back to referendum.

Mr. Ecke is willing to put this project to bid and get a true estimate of the cost. If necessary, it can be included in the capital budget.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

8.     Approval of vendor and allocation of design of dehumidification system for the pool.

MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr. Ecke.

MOVED to approve agenda item #9 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

This is an allocation of \$5,000 for the dehumidification system at the community pool.

Mr. Milone advised that funding sources for this system will be allocated to the pool budget, and when the insurance settlement is completed, the money will be transferred back into the pool budget.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

9.     Amendments to restrictions on Annie E. Peck and Julia M. Tompkins Funds.

Mr. Jaskot advised that one option for these funds is to transfer the money into a CNR fund, which can have 31% of the funds invested. He will have a memo to the Council after the budget session on this matter.

10.    ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr. Ecke.

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

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Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk