

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY,
MAY 12, 2015 AT 7:30 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET,
CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

Tim Slocum, Chairman; David Schrumm, Vice Chairman; Council Members Patti Flynn-Harris, Liz Linehan, Sylvia Nichols, Robert J. Oris, Thomas Ruocco, James Sima, Peter Talbot.

Staff: Town Manager Michael A. Milone; Town Attorney Al Smith; Finance Director James Jaskot. Dr. Greg Florio, Supt. Of Schools; Vincent Masciana, Director of Management Services, DOE.

Guests: Perkins Eastman - Joe Costa, Joe Banks, Regina Armstrong.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

3. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

A. Certificate of Recognition for Cheshire High School Robotics Team.

Chairman Slocum presented a Certificate of Recognition to the members of the CHS Robotics Team for their accomplishments and achievements. Councilors personally congratulated team members, coaches and mentors, and wished them continued success.

B. Certificate of Recognition for Congressional Award winner Katherine Wang.

Chairman Slocum presented a Certificate of Recognition to Katherine Wang in recognition of her Congressional Award. Ms. Wang explained the criteria for the award, and thanked Councilors for her recognition. Council members personally congratulated Ms. Wang on her accomplishments.

C. Proclamation for Older American Month

Chairman Slocum read the Proclamation for May 2015 as Older American Month into the record.

D. Public Comments.

Henry Chase, 1145 Tucker Road, addressed the Council on adults and children having hearing problems due to loud levels of music at concerts and other events. He talked about a musical program at Bartlem Park with decibels off the charts and strong overload. With long term exposure to loud audio levels a person's hearing is affected. He suggested police officers have decibel meters for loudness at events, so it is kept at a reasonable range.

Maria Ecke, 448 Mixville Road, discussed her driveway issues and promises by the Town in 1995 to fix her driveway problems. She read an excerpt from a 2008 letter from former PW Director Michaelangelo citing this work would be done. She also read

a letter from Town Manager Milone stating the Town would honor its promises; and a recent letter which is totally opposite in its statements.

Chairman Slocum noted a letter was sent to him and Councilors by Ms. Ecke. He wants residents to be in good stead with the Town, and appreciates her bringing the matter to the Council. Since this started in 1995, Mr. Slocum assumes some of the work has been done.

In reply, Ms. Ecke said "no"; there were wood chips on one side which were washed away. She read an excerpt from a 1995 letter about reconstruction of Mixville Road and the effects on her property.

Mr. Milone said his letter to Ms. Ecke was unclear; the Town has tried to honor the 2008 request; but Ms. Ecke was dissatisfied with that. There are three things identified to be done and Mr. Milone will send a letter to Ms. Ecke to this effect. He noted there have been numerous meetings with Ms. Ecke, and she has been dissatisfied. There will be a walk-through the property to look at the work to be done.

Steve Levitt, 892 Cornwall Avenue, talked about tickets issued for passing school bus violations, and notice of these tickets in the Cheshire Herald. The tickets are issued to the vehicle, not the driver, so there is no identification of the person driving the vehicle. Mr. Levitt does not consider a \$450 ticket to be a deterrent; he believes people should get points on their license for this violation; and asked how to do this when the ticket is to the registered vehicle not the driver. One ticket was issued to a trucking company rather than the person driving the truck and passing the school bus.

Stating he shares some of Mr. Levitt's concerns, Chairman Slocum said the CPD thinks this is a good program which captures some of the violators when a police officer is not there.

Chief Vignola informed the Council and the public that points towards a driver's license is an administrative function of the Dept. of Motor Vehicles, not the police department. Points are issued for an operator of a motor vehicle.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #051215-1.

RESOLUTION #051215-1
CONSENT CALENDAR FOR MAY 12, 2015

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves the Consent Calendar for May 12, 2015 as follows:

- A. Acceptance and appropriation of an anonymous \$50 donation to the Human Services Gift Account for general purposes.
- B. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$490 donation from John Bate to the Library Gift Account for the purchase of an iPad.
- C. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100 donation from Maria Brandriff to the Library Gift Account for the purchase of an entrance sign for the Children's Room.
- D. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$5,000 donation from Alexion Pharmaceuticals to the Fire Department Gift Account for general purposes.
- E. Approval of a Hold Harmless Agreement for donation of a K-9 Transportation System.

F. Annual adoption of Fair Housing Resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, all American citizens are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and

WHEREAS, State and Federal Fair Housing Laws required that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, marital status, age, mental or physical disability, lawful source of income, sexual orientation, familial status, be given equal access to rental and home ownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Cheshire is committed to upholding these laws, and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Cheshire hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase and obtain financing for adequate housing of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager of the Town of Cheshire or his/her designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the Town of Cheshire.

- G. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$4,000 grant for scanning of land records, and Authorization to execute Historic Documents Preservation Grant contract with The Connecticut State Library, and be it further resolved, that Michael A. Milone, Town Manager, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality a contract with the Connecticut State Library for said Historic Documents Preservation Grant.

- H. Authorization to apply for a Connecticut Department of Transportation 2015 High Risk Rural Road Speed Enforcement Grant.
- I. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$4,629 Youth Service Bureau Enhancement Grant for positive youth development programs.
- J. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100 anonymous donation to the Fine Arts Gift Account for scholarships.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

5. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

6. OLD BUSINESS

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Board of Education Facility Master Plan presentation and allocation.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #051215-2

RESOLUTION #051215-2

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council allocates \$107,800 from the Capital Planning Account for the Board of Education Facility Master Plan and further approves the award of said project to Perkins Eastman Architects, per the recommendation of the Board of Education.

Discussion

Dr. Florio thanked the Council on behalf of the Board of Education (BOE) and the administration for moving the facility master plan forward, and for hearing this issue which is critical for the school system. He said the plan will be an excellent road map for the school system, and will be appropriate for the next 5 to 10 years.

Presentation by Perkins Eastman Team - Joe Costa, AIA, Principal-in-Charge; Joe Banks, AIA, Project Manager; Regina Armstrong, Principal, Urbanomics; Mark McCarthy, AIA, Design Principal.

Mr. Costa thanked the Council for the opportunity to work with the Town and BOE to make the education system better. Perkins Eastman is a large national firm, with offices in New York, and a Stamford office of 65+ people; does architectural design; is focused on K-12 education; has done many Connecticut master planning and district wide studies. The team includes Urbanomics, BFJ Planning, VJ Associates.

Joe Banks gave a brief review of the project understanding and walk through process, what will be delivered at the end, stakeholders discussions, understanding the school district, demographics, school enrollment, educational programs, investment in existing schools, development of a phasing schedule, cost estimates, and presentation of selected findings. He noted that the average age of the schools in Cheshire is 63.5 years, and they house 4,500 students.

Ms. Armstrong will head up the demographics/enrollment section of the study. This includes enrollment forecasts, population forecasts, capacity studies, declining enrollment on the elementary level, continuance of declining enrollment, redistricting, projections over the next 10 years, development forecasts and turnover of housing, student transportation analysis. On the map, Ms. Armstrong pointed out the blue areas of Cheshire as those areas where student growth is taking place.

With all the data collected, Mr. Costa said the team will develop an educational program with 21st century thinking. He read the Cheshire Public School's Mission Statement into the record, highlighting the wording "providing high quality educational opportunities" as the focus. The study will develop the right size for the school system, establish a road map of the district wide program, identifying spatial requirements and needs. Issues include grade configuration, class/grade size, STEM/Art, Academies, Magnet Schools, Diversity School, Specialty School. High performance learning environments are comprised of color, furniture, space, acoustics, light, technology, outdoor connections. Classroom breakdowns include common areas, flexible walls, learning support, multi-purpose rooms, library, p.e. spaces, labs, café/serveries, corridors, STEM area, discovery labs, community spaces, outdoor spaces.

Mr. Banks commented on the facial, physical condition assessment to include inspection of all 8 schools. There will be development of an electronic data base and reports; identification of needs; maintenance needs; comparative \$ per GSF by school; HVAC, code compliance, and deferred maintenance and associated costs. The team will provide all the information, prioritize all the needs per school and the costs.

Cost Analysis - there is information in the packet on cost analysis and what is included.

Schedule - total of 10-12 weeks. During that time frame the team will gather information, hold kick-off meetings and workshops on demographics, programs, facility assessments, options, submit an interim report, prepare final presentation, and community outreach.

Mr. Costa stated the community outreach is very important, and findings will be presented in public meetings/workshops/via electronic media; and a video will be created for local tv access.

State Process - Cheshire is #72 out of 169 school districts; renovation reimbursement is 45%; new reimbursement is 35%. Strategies to increase State grants include Diversity

School-Racial Balance, 80% eligible; Like-New Renovations-all improvements eligible; Academies/Magnet Schools/STEM schools 84% reimbursable. Waivers are granted on CGS 10-285.

Ms. Flynn-Harris stated her support of the facilities plan for the Dept. of Education. She said we must know about our facilities in order to handle the decreasing population, and know about the buildings and their maintenance issues, and understand alternate uses for the school buildings.

Mr. Costa stated the team will look at closing and consolidation of facilities, as well as possible alternative uses of a building, i.e. senior housing.

Ms. Linehan supports the facilities master plan study, and asked if there is a proven record for accuracy by Perkins Eastman on enrollment numbers 10 years out and if they hold true.

Stating "yes", Ms. Armstrong said the company is responsible for forecasting for the NY Metropolitan Council, did enrollment forecasts resulting in bond issues and construction of new schools.

Mechanical issues were cited by Mr. Sima, and he said performance contracting work is ongoing. He asked if the team would spend less time on mechanical aspects and more time on other aspects of the study.

Mr. Costa said the intent of the service is to rely on them and verify where they go.

Regarding reimbursement, Mr. Sima thought Cheshire's was 29% to 31%.

The numbers will be checked, and Mr. Costa said 45% is cited as the maximum eligible reimbursement rate, and it is 10% less for new construction.

With regard to the age of the school buildings, Mr. Sima noted many have had additions and asked if this plays into the master plan.

Mr. Costa commented on the fact that these new spaces are sized different than other spaces; there is no stem to stem total renovation in any of the schools; and some of the additions are 15+ years old, and reaching useful life. This will all be part of the study.

Mr. Oris supports this project, and said we need to be proactive and methodical in the review and modernization of our aging infrastructure. The project should be done in the right way.

Following the outcome of the Council vote, Dr. Florio said a committee would be formed (Council member, BOE member, parents, teachers) to work with the team...it will be a community based committee.

Mr. Costa sees a core group fitting into the sub-committees, insure steps of the master plan is being prepared, solicit input from students as well as parents, teachers, administrators...as they have similar concerns.

Cheshire has a capital budget which requires a referendum vote, and Chairman Slocum expects that this will be a phased-in type of development.

Because towns work in a tight budget, Mr. Costa said dollars will be looked at over a period of time, using the Town's money wisely.

VOTE The motion passed 8-1; Ruocco opposed.

B. Amendment to Resolution 041415-8 supplemental appropriation for Special Education Cost Reimbursement.

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Mr. Talbot.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #051215-3

RESOLUTION #051215-3

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council amends Resolution 041415-8 as follows, to reflect a reduction in the revised payments for the State of Connecticut Special Education Excess Cost reimbursement:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council further amends the FY14-15 General Operating Budget to appropriate an additional \$88,914 increasing revenues and expenditures from \$103,393,414 to \$103,482,328, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council amends the total appropriation for the FY 14-15 Board of Education Operating Budget from \$66,008,180 to \$66,097,094. The revenue to support this increase will come from increasing the Special Education Excess Cost Reimbursement appropriation from \$900,000 to \$988,914.

Discussion

Mr. Schrumm explained this is taking extra State money allocated to the BOE for special education cost reimbursement and fixing the numbers.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

C. Pool Construction Discussion

Chairman Slocum explained there is no new information on the pool project.

Mr. Milone read the letters from Keith Goldberg (Arcadis) into the record of the meeting. The letters were sent electronically to Council members.

Ms. Linehan read a prepared statement into the record on her three pool project issues, her support of keeping the pool closed for the summer and going forward with the project. She commented on Mixville Park and Pond as a great recreation area for residents, and noted the Parks and Rec summer camps will be held at this park. There will be a "Mixville Park/Pond Clean Up Day" on Wednesday, May 20th, 4 pm to 7:30 pm; and those interested in volunteering can contact Ms. Linehan or Ms. Flynn-Harris or the Parks and Rec Department.

Ms. Flynn-Harris supports keeping the pool closed for the summer, and using Mixville Park as an alternate site for recreation and swimming.

Mr. Oris noted there will be lifeguards on duty at Mixville Park throughout the summer. Given the information he has received, he supports keeping the pool closed for the summer and moving the project forward to completion.

Regarding the contract for the pool project, Mr. Sima stated the Council does not want to hinder the contractor from doing the job, as this will cost the Town money. The Town should not get in the way of the contractor; the Council should stay focused on the project to insure it is done properly; and the steel will be on site next month.

D. Acceptance and appropriation of Elim Park \$170,000 donation to the Fire Department Gift Account.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #051215-4.

RESOLUTION #051215-4

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts and appropriates a \$170,000 donation from Elim Park to the Fire Department Gift Account for equipment, supplies and services as outlined in the attached budget memo.

Discussion

Chief Casner reported the use of \$100,000 from the gift fund towards the purchase of the new aerial truck; the balance of funds will go towards equipment for the new vehicle; cost of tools is about \$40,000; air packs (6 or 7) must be purchased at a cost of \$5,000 each.

There is \$100,000 left in the current year's CFD gift account and Mr. Milone said the totality of that amount will be the down payment on the new truck. In FY 15-16 much of the equipment line will be committed to supplementing the truck. In next year's budget there is a request for air packs and turn out gear. If the CFD budget is stretched, the air packs could be funded out of the capital budget. The cost of the new truck is \$1.080 million; and, the old truck has been sold but not yet picked up.

The steps for the purchase of the fire truck was reviewed by Chief Casner, who said 3 responses were received from the evaluator RFP; 2 were interviewed; 1 was chosen; and the contract is being reviewed by the vendor and Town Attorney. Within 1 1/2 months CFD should have a complete RFP for the fire truck; the order process for the truck is about one year; and it is expected there will be more than 2 competitive bids. Delivery time for the truck will be an important criteria in the selection of the company. Chief Casner did put the word out on the new process CFD was undertaking for the new fire truck acquisition.

Chief Casner expressed appreciation and thanks to Elim Park for their generous donation to the Fire Department.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

E. Acceptance and appropriation of Elim Park \$170,000 donation to the Police Department Gift Account.

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Mr. Talbot.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #051215-5

RESOLUTION #051215-5

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts and appropriates a \$170,000 donation from Elim Park to the Police Department Gift Account for equipment, supplies and services as outlined in the attached budget memo.

Discussion

Deputy Chief Vignola informed the committee there is \$37,000 in the gift account from last year, and it is earmarked for some items this year, i.e. equipment, technology needs, training and development. Chief Vignola explained there are 17 police officers with service of 5 years or less; 9 officers with 10 years or less; and 8 upper level officers with less than 10 years. \$98,000 is needed for new radio communication equipment. Officers promoted to management positions must attend schooling/training in mid-management and executive development management. 1991 Ford Van will be moved out of the fleet; CPD will replace it with a trailer that can be hooked up to several vehicles; cost of about \$5,000. Crown Victoria vehicles will be out of use by police departments in the near future. CPD must purchase new opticals for the rifles; \$4,000 cost with trade-in. \$25,000+ for outfitting new police vehicles. Training - CPD bringing in Bill Reilly and Atty. Eric Daigle (consultant) for training; Mr. Daigle is also the consultant for the policies and procedures manual update which should be completed soon.

CPD will have 3 or 4 new personnel in the next year, and there are expenses to outfit the new police officers.

Programs - Chief Vignola reported that the RAD Program, DUI Enforcement, Police Academy, Fall Festival, Safe Child Seat programs continue; there will be a Public Safety Day in October as a cooperative effort of Police and Fire Departments and Chesprocott; it will be held at Highland School and the CPD parking lot. The Explorer's Program is very successful, and the Explorers assist at events, which saves overtime costs.

On behalf of the Police Department and the community, Chief Vignola thanked Elim Park for its generous gift.

Chairman Slocum asked Chief Vignola to express his appreciation to the Cheshire Police Department officers who responded to a family situation at his home, and forward it to Chief Dryfe.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

F. Bid waiver for replacement transfer switch at Police Department.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #051215-6

RESOLUTION #051215-6

WHEREAS, the electrical power automatic transfer switch at the Police Department failed, destroying the internal switch mechanism, creating a power outage and necessitating a temporary solution of manually switching power to a back-up generator, and

WHEREAS, this equipment is critical and must be replaced as quickly as possible, and

WHEREAS, Tower Generator Systems, the Town's maintenance and servicing contractor, has provided an estimate that has been independently and professionally reviewed for accuracy and reasonableness, and

WHEREAS, the Council finds it is in the best interests of the Town to proceed with this critical equipment replacement as soon as possible,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council, pursuant to Section 7-8(c) (11) of the Town Charter, approves a waiver of bid for the purchase of said equipment, and authorizes the Town to retain Tower Generator Systems for said project at an estimated cost of \$49,617.45.

Discussion

Mr. Sima will support this bid waiver for police headquarters.

The Council was informed by Mr. Milone that an insurance claim has been filed, with a \$10,000 deductible; there is \$200,000 in the Building Maintenance Account to be used as the stop gap for payment until the insurance claim reimbursement.

PW Director Noewatne and Chief Vignola commented on the scary situation with the police headquarters out of power. Mr. Noewatne said a system has been worked out for someone to throw the power switch manually. He expects expedited delivery of the new switch within a few weeks.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

G. Award of Districtwide Roof Repairs and Replacement project.

MOTION by Mr. Sima; seconded by Ms. Nichols

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #051215-7

RESOLUTION #051215-7

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council, pursuant to the recommendation of the Public Building Commission, awards the Districtwide Roof Repairs and Replacement project to Connecticut Department of Administrative Services approved contractor New England Masonry and Roofing Company, in the amount of \$88,179.

Discussion

This award was approved by the PBC last week. The resolution is for areas outside the warranty, and Mr. Sima noted there is significant damage on the metal roof due to ice damage. An ice melt system will be added to the gutters and roof.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

H. Senate Bill re: State administration of motor vehicle tax.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #051215-8

RESOLUTION #051215-8

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Cheshire Town Council formally opposes the section of proposed Senate Bill No. 1 "An Act Concerning Tax Fairness on Economic Development" in which the State of Connecticut would cap the motor vehicle tax mill rate at 29.36 mills and purportedly compensate municipalities for lost revenue via PILOT funds. This section of this Bill, if adopted, has the potential to negatively impact revenue to the Town of Cheshire and other Connecticut municipalities, given the

precedent of the State of Connecticut to not meet their statutory PILOT funding obligations.

Discussion

Mr. Schrumm said this bill could impact Cheshire residents, with people sending their car tax payments to Hartford. The money would be spent by Hartford with an allocation of money as the legislature sees fit i.e. PILOT payment. At the current time the State is short changing the towns on PILOT grant monies.

The cap of 29.36 mills was raised by Mr. Ruocco, who asked what happens to cities with higher mill rates.

Mr. Milone said the State has convoluted ideas to make up the loss, with provisions of more money to the towns. He referred to the CCM summary in the Town Manager's Report.

Town Manager's Report, page #2 - Mr. Milone read excerpts from the report into the record of the meeting. He said the State receives the car tax money, rebates funds to the towns, but this does not work in the favor of the towns. The mill rate cap is 29.36 mills; this is a loss of \$295,000 in revenue to Cheshire; and this loss will increase each year. According to the plan, the PILOT program will be redesigned; there will be a three-tier reimbursement program; and it is claimed the towns will receive more funds than before. The towns may not get 100% PILOT reimbursement. MRSA will have new funding through a portion of the sale tax, 0.5% distributing this money in a three step process. Some of the sales tax money will go to the COGs to establish cooperative programs. Municipalities can create a 2nd mill rate and redirect that revenue to the COGs.

Mr. Milone commented on the limited time in the current legislative session for this plan to be all worked out.

On behalf of the Democratic Councilors, Mr. Talbot stated their support of the resolution. He said it is a question of math; and noted there is limited time in the legislative session to work out this plan.

Mr. Ruocco finds nothing constructive in this bill, and noted COGs will have 3 more discretion on how to redistribute money when COGs are not elected officials, and should not get tax dollars. This is taxation without representation, and towns should set their mill rate and keep their tax revenue.

Stating this bill is absurd, Mr. Oris commented on this being over reaching government. He said fiscally prudent towns should not be paying for mismanagement in larger cities, and he supports the resolution on the floor.

Mr. Sima said this is big reaching out of state government to find new tax revenue, and taking away the ability of towns to tax personal property. It will result in big cities controlling smaller towns.

The bullet point of 2.5% municipal spending increase and penalties was noted by Mr. Milone. Cheshire's tax increase this year was 1.96%, and he said it does not make sense to put controls on the expenditure side. If Cheshire was to get a large taxpayer into the town, the budget increase could be 3%.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

I. Set public hearing for the 2015 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program Applications.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #051215-9

RESOLUTION #051215-9

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council shall hold a public hearing to consider submissions for the 2015 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager shall cause a notice of said public hearing to be posted and published according to law, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the date, time, and place or any postponements thereof shall be determined by the Town Manager with the approval of the Chairman of the Council.

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

Financial Reports - not much has changed since the budget process; \$500,000 expected surplus in the general fund; New Haven County applied for FEMA relief for the winter storms, but Mr. Milone has not received written documentation on this. Town Medical Trust Fund is at \$1.950 million; BOE fund is at \$500,000. WPCD budget is balanced; \$100,000 decrease is due to CCI reduced billings. Community Pool Budget is unchanged; it will be balanced.

State Legislative Update - Cheshire's proposal regarding prevailing wage made it through two committees. The storm water permitting regulation is not going anywhere at this point; there is a Workers Compensation proposal for a cancer bill for firefighters

hired and healthy, develop cancer, and it is job related. There is a mental health proposal for public safety officers and PTSD.

Parks and Recreation Project Status - playground replacement program underway; Quinnipiac Park playground is completed; MacNamara Park should be completed next week; and Cheshire Park playground will be done next. The Linear Trail has some enhancements completed; fresh stone will be laid down next week; signs to be changed mid-June.

Public Works - list of roads to be milled and paved is in the packets; round #1 work to be done mid summer and round #2 in early fall.

Public Works Projects - West Main Street has been surveyed for the sidewalk extension; no word yet on whether the Town will receive the \$500,000 STEAP grant; there is a Council appropriation of \$300,000 for the sidewalk work; bids will be out late summer. Town Center sidewalks will be done in June.

Mixville Dam dredging is completed; the bridge of the dam will be done in late July.

Linear Trail north from West Main Street construction will start June 1st per DEEP.

Creamery Road Bridge work starts soon; will be completed in October.

Chesprocott - the organization is conducting a survey about health conditions with calls to homeowners.

Library Hours Changing - The hours will be 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday; Friday and Saturday closing at 5 p.m.; Saturday summer hours start July 11th, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Plan of Conservation and Development - Mr. Milone referred the Council to the memo from Town Planner Voelker on the POCD, its completion date of July 1, 2015. The PZC will hold a public hearing on the Plan for public input; the Council will receive the final draft of the Plan in July; will have 65 days to review the Plan; and October 26th, the PZC will review and approve the Plan for submission to the State. DEEP has assured Mr. Voelker that the extension of the submission date for Cheshire does not affect eligibility for discretionary State funding.

Chairman Slocum must send a letter to the State Commissioners with notification of Cheshire's extension of submission of the POCD.

Strathmore Dam - The Council was told by Mr. Milone that Town Planner Voelker is working on this with DEEP; there is satisfaction with the work done; there are more spots to be filled in; an official report will be sent to the Town and then the deed will be transferred.

June 6th - electronic recycling day at Darcey School, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Upcoming Meetings - Personnel Committee and Planning Committee - TBD.

Memorial Day Parade - May 24th, at 1:30 p.m. Town Hall closed on Monday, Memorial Day, May 25, 2015.

On the Linear Trail, West Main Street north, some preliminary construction work is being done, but actual construction cannot start until June 1st.

A question was raised about Country Club Road having a 70 PCI rating, and being on the list of roads from Public Works.

Mr. Milone said he would check on this with Mr. Noewatne, but sometimes the roads are bundled.

Mr. Oris commended the Cheshire Police Department for their role in managing the recent marathon in the south end of Cheshire. He noted that people have stated police officers did a phenomenal job; the Town roads were well managed; and officers were patient and respectful to residents.

Mr. Slocum talked about a terrible section of Higgins Road, and this road being part of the clean up work.

This section of Higgins Road will be done and Mr. Milone advised South Pond curbing will be done. He will mention the smaller roads to Mr. Noewatne.

Lock 12 park and house - Mr. Slocum commented on the nice work done on the house at Lock 12; the barn and museum need to be painted red.

Route 10 designation as Medal of Honor Highway - Mr. Slocum said Cheshire is the only municipality in Connecticut to have 2 Medal of Honor Winners. He asked about signage for this designation.

Mr. Milone will confer with Rep. Fritz about signage because it must be referred to the State.

The Town Green monument needs some refreshment and Mr. Slocum asked if there are plans for design to get the work going, as we approach the 150th anniversary of the monument.

Mr. Schrumm discussed this with a member of the Historical Society, and there may be use of Julia Humiston funds.

Historical Society - Mr. Milone advised that a member of the Society, Mr. Larkin, is putting together plans for an event in July 2016, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of

the monument, and 100th anniversary of the plaques. The monument will be cleaned up for next year's event. Mr. Sitko has become involved in this project; he will find someone to clean up the monument who will come to look at it, estimate cost; and there will be a report back to the Council.

**9. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
Executive Session**

10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

A. Chairman's Report.

i. Referral of Pay Plan Revisions to the Personnel Committee.

Mr. Ruocco reported the committee meeting agenda will include the Pay Plan, Goals & Objectives of the Town Manager, Performance Evaluation of the Town Manager; Firefighter potential pension revisions.

ii. Referral of request for zone map amendment for Town properties to the Planning Committee.

B. Miscellaneous

11. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Sima; seconded by Mr. Talbot.

MOVED that the Town Council approves the minutes of April 14, 2015, Special Meetings of April 13, 2015 and May 5, 2015 subject to corrections, additions, deletions.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

12. MISCELLANEOUS AND APPOINTMENTS

A. Liaison Reports

Environment Commission - Ms. Nichols reported the commission meets May 13th.

Human Services Committee - Ms. Nichols reported they will meet on May 14th.

PBC - Mr. Sima reported there are concerns about the Senior Center Basement project, moving the exercise room to the top floor. Money is being spent to determine if the top floor structure can withstand the weight of this equipment and movement of participants.

WPCA - Mr. Schrumm reported the Authority is bring the plant project to completion, under budget and on time.

Beautification Committee - Mr. Schrumm reported some new trees were installed in the area of Bartlem Park and the high school, and more will be planted along Route 10. The trees are London Pine Trees.

The State is awaiting confirmation about bathrooms for the Linear Trail, at West Main Street, and plantings could be added in this area.

CPFA - Ms. Flynn-Harris reported the summer brochures are on line for summer classes; and there is an art exhibit at the Library.

B. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

13. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Letters to Council.

B. Miscellaneous

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Mr. Oris.

MOVED that the Town Council enter Executive Session at 10:36 p.m. to include Town Manager Milone and Town Attorney Warren Holcomb to discuss land acquisition and personnel matters.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Ms. Nichols

MOVED that the Town Council exit Executive Session at 11:00 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Ms. Nichols

MOVED to adjourn the Town Council meeting at 11:00 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk

