

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2015, AT 7:00 P.M. IN ROOM 207, TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410.

Present

Tim Slocum, Chairman; Sylvia Nichols and Michael Ecke.

Council Chairman Robert Oris

Staff: Michael A. Milone, Town Manager; James Jaskot, Finance Director

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 a \$100 donation in memory of Bruce Klein from Lillian and Linda Buckley to the Human Services Gift Account for general purposes.**
- 4. Authorization to apply for, and acceptance and appropriation of, a Connecticut Department of Transportation Highway Safety Click It or Ticket seatbelt enforcement program grant in the amount of \$3,761.28.**
- 5. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$12,500 donation from Cheshire's Lights of Hope to the Human Services Department to help residents in need.**
- 6. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$50 anonymous donation to the Human Services Gift Account for general purposes.**
- 7. Acceptance and appropriation of an aggregate of \$140 from Joseph Mazzacane Sr. and David S. Conlon for Medal of Honor bricks for Michael Mazzacane, Johan Mazzacane, Joseph Mazzacane and Thomas Conlon.**
- 8. Acceptance and appropriation of an aggregate of \$3,350 from the sale Of used police hand guns to the Police Gift Account.**
- 9. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$1,109.25 donation from Liberty Bank To the Human Services Gift Account for residents in need.**
- 10. Acceptance of a \$3,053 Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant for South Brooksvale Historic District Signs and authorization to execute grant agreement.**
- 11. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$50.00 donation from Operation Fuel**

For the Cheshire Fuel Bank Account.

- 12. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$470.31 donation from Alex Dragunoff to the Library Gift Account to be used for the purchase of Library materials, furniture and computers.**
- 13. Acceptance and appropriation of anonymous donations totaling \$68.50 To the Library Gift Account to be used for the purchase of Library Materials, furniture and computers.**
- 14. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$30.00 donation from Gerald and Dori Corcoran in memory of Bella - a beloved Dschshund to be used for the Purchase of Library materials, furniture and computers.**
- 15. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$30.00 donation from Gerald and Dori Corcoran in memory of Tom Cummings to be used for the purchase of Library materials, furniture and computers.**
- 16. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$30.00 donation from "I Could Have Read All Night Book Group: c/o Diane Conroy in memory of Marilyn Rosenfield to be used for the purchase of Library materials, furniture And computers.**

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

MOVED to accept agenda items #3 through #16, and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

Item #5 - the Lights of Hope representatives will attend the January 2016 Council meeting and be recognized for their donation to the Town of Cheshire.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

17. Award of construction bid for Senior Center Renovation Project.

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

MOVED to accept agenda item #17 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

This matter came before the Council last month. Mr. Milone informed the committee that the Public Building Commission (PBC) awarded the contract to J.A.Rosa Construction, the 2nd lowest bidder. The low bidder, Robinson Construction, withdrew its bid, and later conditioned it on the Town waiving the 10% bid bond requirement. The PBC resolution did not state this, as it was conditioned after the fact. The PBC

recommends the award to J.A. Rosa Construction, and waiving the Robinson bid bond, \$17,440. The difference in the two bids is \$58,678. Mr. Milone said the PBC has done this in the past, and Attorney Smith will speak to this at the Council meeting. PBC has no written authority to waive bid bonds. Mr. Milone explained a bid bond validates the bidders, and is put up for their credibility for the project, and the bond company states it is a good bid.

Mr. Ecke asked why it is a big deal with Robinson who has withdrawn and wants the bid bond waived.

This has never been asked of the Council before this time, and Mr. Milone said the PBC has been doing this in the past. Attorney Smith will revisit the language in the bid specs and the 10% amount. He said the contractor being approved met all the bid specs, and Robinson will do inferior work at the low price they stated in the bid. \$300,000 is appropriated for this project; the other bids are closely aggregate; and Robinson overlooked things in the specs.

Ms. Nichols commented on the fact that Robinson understood, early on, that something was left out of the bid.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**18. Authorization to apply for a HUD pass-through grant for home rehabilitation
 And repair for eligible Cheshire residents.**

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

MOVED to accept agenda item #18 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

For this program, everything works through HUD, and Mr. Milone said the Town acts as the go-between for checks and receiving payment. The grant includes cost of a consultant who puts everything together and acts as the grant administrator. There is little impact on Town staff; there is potential to establish a revolving fund; and the program is coordinated with the Cheshire Interfaith Housing Organization. This organization will also provide supplemental funds for people to get the work done, and labor to get the work completed.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**19. Acceptance and appropriation of Eversource Energy Performance
 Contracting rebate of \$1,252,506.**

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

MOVED to accept agenda item #19 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

This rebate is part of the performance contracting initiative. \$10.2 million was spent on projects, with a promise of a \$1.2 million rebate. Mr. Milone explained that \$381,548 was committed from the gross rebate to repay the loan; and \$127,486 was used for the Youth Center furnace project. The balance is \$743,472; these funds have never been formally appropriated; the Town has the money; and with Council appropriation of funds the Town Manager has the authority to pay for the furnace project. The total borrowing was \$10,176,548. The balance of funds can be used in any manner, and additional energy related projects will be evaluated.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

20. Acceptance and allocation of the Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Project energy rebate of \$205,175.05 to General Fund.

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

MOVED to accept agenda item #20 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

Mr. Milone stated a decision has not been made on where these funds will go, and his recommendation is to allocate this revenue to the FY 2015 general fund operating budget. His reasoning is that repayment of the Clean Water Fund loan for this project is being paid out of the operating budget, not the WWTP. In the quarterly financial report it notes there is potential to use this revenue for a stop-gap in this year's general fund. The Town is losing \$424,021 in permitting fees with the loss of the W.S. project; \$151,000 less is coming in PILOT money from the state; and it is expected the Governor will continue to decrease revenue payments to municipalities. Mr. Milone recommends the benefit of the rebate go to the general fund. This is not appropriating to the bottom line of the budget; the money goes into miscellaneous revenue; and is not allocated for a project or expenses. He noted the Town is looking at a \$428,000 shortfall in revenue for the next fiscal year.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

21. Award of contract for design for Cheshire High School generator project.

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

MOVED to forward this item to the Council.

Discussion

PBC Chairman Nash will be present at the Council meeting to explain this award.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

22. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk