

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 8, 2015 AT 7:30 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 84 SOUTH MAIN
STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

Robert Oris, Chairman; Paul Bowman, Vice Chairman; Councilors - Michael Ecke, Patti Flynn-Harris, Liz Linehan, Sylvia Nichols, Thomas Ruocco, Tim Slocum, Peter Talbot. Staff: Town Manager Michael A. Milone; James Jaskot, Finance Director; George Noewatne, PW Director; Michelle Piccerillo, Human Services Director
Guests: David Schrumm, Dr. Greg Florio, Mark Nash PBC Chairman.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

Chairman Oris thanked Michael's Greenhouses for the beautiful poinsettia plants at the dais. He noted that local growers recognize Cheshire is the Bedding Capital of the State of Connecticut.

3. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Oris stated he is honored and humbled to be selected Chair of the Town Council. Mr. Oris commented on the huge responsibilities and challenges ahead and it will take a united Council to be most effective, and he will strive to lead in a way that is respectful, open, honest and inclusive. He further stated that each Council member was elected by the people; each will have a meaningful role, as they work hard to insure Cheshire remains a great place to live.

Chairman Oris acknowledged former Chairman Tim Slocum, who has given much to the Town Council. Mr. Slocum made the personal decision not to seek the role of Chairman after serving as Chair for six years. He was a passionate Chairman, led with dignity and integrity, and great concern for the community. Mr. Oris learned much from Mr. Slocum's leadership in the past two years, looks forward to his counsel as he assumes chairmanship of the Council, and thanked Mr. Slocum for nominating him as Chairman. In closing his remarks, Mr. Oris thanked Mr. Slocum for his service as Council Chair, and he looks forward to working together to advance the Town's business.

A. Recognition of former Councilors David Schrumm and James Sima.

Chairman Oris presented a Certificate of Appreciation for David Schrumm, in recognition of his many years of service to the community. Mr. Schrumm has served Cheshire in many capacities for many years, and the Council wished his success in his future endeavors.

David Schrumm thanked the citizens of Cheshire for their votes and support over the years. He said public service takes a lot of work and he loves doing it. Mr. Schrumm thanked Town Manager Milone for his support, his professionalism, his wonderful Town staff, and said we are blessed to live in a wonderful town.

Mr. Milone thanked Mr. Schrumm for his service, and acknowledged his personal impact and influence on his career path to Town Manager. In 2000, Mr. Schrumm encouraged Mr. Milone to apply for the job of Town Manager...and over the years Mr. Milone has found his job to be a rewarding and gratifying experience.

Councilor Ruocco recognized Tim Slocum for his six years of services as Council Chairman, which he executed with fairness, sincerity and respect. He said Cheshire is a better community because of Mr. Slocum and his leadership. Mr. Ruocco congratulated Mr. Oris on his new role as Council Chairman.

B. Recognition of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Greg Florio.

Chairman Oris presented a Certificate of Recognition to Dr. Florio as he leaves Cheshire after 25 years of service to take on the position of Executive Director of C.R.E.C. In his remarks, Mr. Oris cited Cheshire as one of the best school systems in Connecticut under Dr. Florio's leadership. Over the years, Dr. Florio has done so much for the community, the students, and will continue to go on to do great things. On behalf of the Cheshire community, Chairman Oris wished Dr. Florio good luck in his new position and all his future endeavors.

Dr. Florio expressed his appreciation for the recognition by the Town Council, and its support over his 12+ years as Superintendent of Schools. He thanked the Council for doing what is best for the Cheshire community. As he moves on, Dr. Florio said he leaves many good friends; it has been a pleasure and honor to work in Cheshire; and he has served with incredible Boards of Education over the years. Dr. Florio pointed out two important assets of the Cheshire Community -- the outstanding and quality public school system with Cheshire acknowledged as a great place to live, and the great relationship between the Town and BOE staff which brings tremendous value to the community.

In closing his remarks, Dr. Florio thanked Town department heads and staff -- Ms. Burkey, Ms. Talbot, Mr. Noewatne, Mr. Ceccolini, Mr. Jaskot, Ms. DeFilio, Ms. Piccerillo, Chief Dryfe, Chief Casner, and all the public safety officials. He credited former Police Chief Gary Walberg for changing the relationship of police officers with the school system, bringing it to a community partnership. After 25 years in Cheshire, Dr. Florio acknowledged his colleague and good friend, Michael Milone, and in leaving Cheshire he knows he has a life-long friend. Dr. Florio thanked Mr. Milone and the Cheshire Community, stating it has been an honor and privilege to serve as Superintendent of Schools.

Cindy Kleist, 251 Lancaster Way, expressed appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Florio and Mr. Calaluce for helping her son to attend school, enter college, get a Master's Degree, and be successful in his life.

Gerry Brittingham, 164 No. Brooksvale Road, congratulated the new Council. He thanked the Council for its recognition of Dr. Florio and all he has done for the Cheshire school system and its children.

Woody Dawson, 500 South Main Street, thanked Mr. Slocum for his six years of service as Council Chairman and Mayor, and acknowledged he is a good friend. Mr. Dawson is pleased Mr. Slocum will continue with the new Council, and expressed good luck to the full Council as it begins its work. Mr. Dawson thanked Dr. Florio for his many years of service to the Cheshire School System and its students. He also recognized David Schrumm and Jim Sima for their service to the community on the Council and many other boards and commissions.

Zoe Linehan, Sycamore Road, a Highland School Student, read a short statement asking for donations for homeless animals at the Animal Control Shelter. She has a box at the Main Street Café for donations of blankets, newspapers, tennis balls and chew toys until December 28th.

Liz Linehan reaffirmed that the donations are for homeless dogs at the shelter; they can be dropped off at Main Street Café; and Zoe undertook this project on her own.

Chairman Oris thanked Zoe for her homeless dog program, and said he would support it with a donation.

C Public Comments.

Cindy Kleist, 251 Lancaster Way, reviewed an event at the Fall Festival where she received a ticket for an infraction, pled not guilty, charges were nollied. She cited her blog and its comments about the Cheshire Police Department causing her and her husband to be stalked and harassed.

Chairman Oris asked Mr. Milone and Chief Dryfe to look into the issues cited, and insure all is working properly without a personal agenda.

Derf Kleist, 251 Lancaster Way, stated that his comments about police department overtime and car purchases results in violation of his civil rights.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #120815-1.

RESOLUTION #120815-1
CONSENT CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 8,M 2015

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the Consent Calendar for December 8, 2015 as follows:

- A. 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.
- B. 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.
- C. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$12,500 donation from Cheshire's Lights of Hope to the Human Services Department to help residents in need.
- D. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$50 anonymous donation to the Human Services Gift Account for general purposes.
- E. 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.
- F. Acceptance and appropriation of an aggregate of \$3,350 from the sale Of used police hand guns to the Police Gift Account.
- G. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$1,109.25 donation from Liberty Bank To the Human Services Gift Account for residents in need.
- H. Acceptance of a \$3,053 Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant for South Brooksvale Historic District Signs; and be it further resolved that the Council authorizes Town Manager Michael A. Milone to execute the grant agreement and any other necessary grant documents.
- I. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$50.00 donation from Operation Fuel For the Cheshire Fuel Bank Account.
- J. 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.
- K. 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.
- L. 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.

- M. 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.
- N. 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.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

5. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

6. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Award of construction bid for Senior Center Basement Renovation Project.**

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #120815-2.

RESOLUTION #120815-2

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council, pursuant to the recommendation of the Public Building Commission, awards the bid for the Senior Center Renovation Project to J.A. Rosa Construction for \$233,078, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council, pursuant to the recommendation of the Public Building Commission, accepts the voluntary withdrawal of Robinson Construction's bid and waives the 10% bid bond requirement.

Discussion

This matter was discussed at the Budget Committee meeting, and Mr. Milone explained the circumstances involved. . Mr. Milone stated 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 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 stated he would recuse himself from this agenda item due to possible conflict of interest...he has a distant relationship with J.A. Rosa Construction.

Mark Nash, PBC Chairman, clarified that Robinson Construction was the low bidder, had every opportunity to review the bid, and following its initial response made a mistake on the HVAC section being left out of the bid. He cited PBC having other issues with Robinson on another project, but said it is a good contractor firm that made a mistake, withdrew its bid, with no harm to the Town. There was a clean break, Robinson was happy; the company will be good for future projects; and the action being taken is appropriate and right to do for the Town.

With regard to Town experience with J.A. Rosa, Mr. Nash informed the Council the contractor did a good job on the Dodd kitchen project. They were on time, had a great crew, went over and above contract requirements, and there has been a positive experience with the company. They also did work at the high school after a flooding problem, and all they have done for the Town has been successful, with minimal disruption or additional charges. Regarding the Senior Center project, Mr. Nash said it is a 60 day project.

VOTE The motion passed 8-0-1; Ecke abstained.

B. Town Council Rules of Procedure.

This matter will be on the next Council meeting agenda. Chairman Oris asked Councilors to review the Rules, and submit recommended modifications to him.

C. Legislative Recommendations.

Mr. Milone reviewed the recommendations with the Council, and stated the legislative session begins on February 3, 2016. The Council has until the January 2016 meeting to finalize the legislative package.

Consolidated Dispatch Centers - Cheshire is working with Wallingford and North Haven to evaluate establishing a central regional dispatch center. The towns want the State to recognize this and create some incentives.

Prevailing Wage - there has no change since 1991, and Cheshire is requesting thresholds be indexed for inflation -- renovated construction to \$400,000; new construction to \$1 million.

Storm Water Management Permit Process - the proposed requirements would be an incredibly expensive unfunded mandate on most municipalities; the town proposes to advocate for modifications to the regulations and pursue financial support for this mandate.

Unfunded Mandates - a) modify legal notice requirements, smaller sized notices to include basic total and summary of issue on the web site; b) operating costs of Probate Court should be funded out of court fees; Cheshire/Southington court operates out of

Cheshire Town Hall with all costs borne by Cheshire; c)require amendment or statutory prohibition of passage of unfunded or under funded state mandates without a 2/3 vote of both chambers of the General Assembly.

Binding Arbitration - modify the law for awards issued no later than 60 days following the date post-hearing briefs are filed.

Municipal Spending Cap-Delay implementation - the Town wants to delay this until FY 2020; motor vehicle taxes would be capped with promise for State reimbursement for the lost revenue; cap the growth of the town budget at 2.5% above the prior year budget, with exemption of certain categories of expense, i.e. debt service, special education. Municipalities would be penalized for having more revenue. Cheshire could lose \$500,000 in revenue under this program. Penalty is 50 cents for every dollar in excess of the increase. The program is forcing municipalities to live within an artificially low limit; there could be a year with flat taxes and a budget increase of more than 2.5%.

At the January Council meeting the State Legislators will be invited to attend and discuss these legislative issues.

According to Ms. Flynn-Harris the spending cap is aimed at larger cities with a history of economic problems and spending beyond its means. She has spoken with State Legislators about this issue, and it is hoped towns like Cheshire would be exempt or have a process so they do not fall into the same category as larger cities.

It was noted by Mr. Milone that the State is meeting to deal with its \$350 million shortfall in the 4th month of the fiscal year. The State has a spending cap exceeded year after year, and cannot manage its resources.

Regarding #2, Prevailing Wage, Mr. Ruocco pointed out it has been on the list for many years. The laws are outdated, have not been revised since 1991, and he questions where there has been no revisions.

The Council was told by Mr. Milone that last year this issue advanced to a public hearing, and Rep. Zupkus took up the case, with Mr. Milone testifying on the appeal. There is a fear of elimination of the prevailing wage, but it should be modified and indexed to inflation.

For item #6, Ms. Linehan asked about the possibility of an amendment with suggestions for exemptions first and then deferment.

If the State were to give Cheshire all its PILOT revenue, Mr. Slocum said there could be settlement on #6.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Authorization to apply for a HUD pass-through grant for home Rehabilitation and repair for eligible Cheshire residents.**

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #120815-3.

RESOLUTION #120815-3

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the application for a \$400,000 Connecticut Department of Housing Small Cities Grant for the Municipal Housing Rehabilitation Program in which the Town would serve as a fiduciary to provide low and moderate income Cheshire homeowners with loans to rehab their homes for health and safety.

Discussion

Ms. Piccerillo informed the Council that after following unsafe home situations in the past, a Task Force was formed to address these issues and identify unsafe homes. For this program, everything works through HUD, and Ms. Piccerillo 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. There are many lower income Town residents living in unsafe homes. The Interfaith Housing group includes volunteers who make improvements to these homes, works with the Town to identify eligible residents, and the program will affect many residents.

It was clarified by Ms. Nichols that the grant will not be written by Town staff; the consultant will write and administer the grant and the funds.

Ms. Flynn-Harris stated the main focus of Interfaith Housing is to build houses, and it has a program in place called NINE...Neighbors In Need. Applications are from Cheshire residents needing rehab to their homes with the organization paying the costs. The ability to have this funding will identify more people needing services, and Ms. Flynn-Harris supports this project due to many unsafe homes needing this assistance.

There is a \$30,000 cap on the improvement project, and Ms. Piccerillo stated the Interfaith Housing will supplement costs over this amount. She explained there is identification of unsafe homes and residents through neighbor referrals, CFD responses to fires or incidents, the Building Official, Human Service client home visits. Everyone works together to insure individual homes are being attended to properly.

Mr. Bowman stated this is a great program which has his full support. With receipt of the grant, he said the Town can go one step further, and waive building fees for all these home projects.

Ms. Nichols noted these are projects related to the health and safety issues which require attention. She fully supports this project for the people in need and under a certain income level.

A question was raised by Ms. Linehan on how many people are serviced annually, how many more will be served under this grant.

Ms. Piccerillo reported on the energy assistance program in place, and said there are needs which cannot be met under the current programs. The Town would work with actual contractors through this grant, but she cannot estimate how many homes would be eligible. There is no time limit and funds are there until they run out. There is loan payback only if the house is sold or title is transferred. The money goes back into the fund so there is a revolving fund for financial resources. The loan is 0% interest.

Chairman Oris commented on this being a great program and asked how it will be marketed to people.

There is a great network in the community, and Ms. Piccerillo said this includes faith based organizations, public safety, Chesprocott, and newspaper ads about the program to let people know it is available.

Ms. Flynn-Harris noted there is a Neighbors In Need ad through Interfaith Housing for people who need assistance. Some people in the organization are contractors, and there is a list of people to do the work.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

B. Acceptance and appropriation of Eversource Energy Performance Contracting Rebate of \$1,252,506.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #120815-4.

RESOLUTION #120815-4

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council accepts and appropriates the Eversource Energy Performance Contracting rebate in the amount of \$1,252,506.

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.

Mr. Jaskot stated the funds would be placed in a special revenue fund.

Mr. Slocum said the rebate money could be allocated towards other energy projects.

This is a segregated fund and Mr. Milone said the funds would be used for projects within the program, with the Council making the decision on use of the money. The committee put together a list of how the energy rebate funds could be used to invest into other energy projects.

Ms. Flynn-Harris said there is a list of items for allocation of these funds. There are some programs which could be utilized, and still receive rebates before the current program ends. The money can be used for other than energy savings programs.

For the current program, this is the end of the rebates and Mr. Milone said if money is invested in energy acceptable projects, there is a rebate that spins off.

With regard to the pool, it is outside the original program, and Ms. Flynn-Harris said the committee would look at programs in the schools in connection with the energy management system.

Mr. Masciana stated the timing has changed now that the project is complete and closed out. He agrees that the list should be looked at for more projects, such as the Town Hall and CPD building. The matter should be referred back to the original committee for review.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #120815-5

RESOLUTION #120815-5

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council accepts and appropriates the Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade project energy rebate of \$205,175.05 to the General Fund.

Discussion

Mr. Slocum stated the WWTP project is subject to this rebate, and the staff recommendation is to place the funds in the general fund. There will be a shortfall in the

operating budget based on bad news from the State and permit fees that will not be forthcoming.

Chairman Oris noted the Clean Water Fund loan is being paid out of the operating budget.

This will be a FY 2016 allocation and Mr. Milone said this is an allocation, not an appropriation by the Council. It will cushion the \$424,000 decrease in the building fee permits.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

D. Acceptance of Baxter Court as a Town Road.

MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr. Bowman.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #120815-6

RESOLUTION #120815-6

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts Baxter Court as a Town Road, conditional upon filing of the maintenance bond and recording of the warranty deed for the roadway and the storm drainage and sightline easements, free and clear of all encumbrances.

Discussion

Mr. Ruocco said this will be a Town road to be maintained and plowed by the Town.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

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

MOTION by Mr. Bowman; seconded by Mr. Ruocco.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #120815-7

RESOLUTION #120815-7

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council, pursuant to the recommendation of the Public Building Commission, awards the contract for the design of the Cheshire High School Generator Project to Diversified Tech Consultants for a negotiated fee of \$22,000.

Following a brief Council discussion on the resolution, Mr. Bowman and Mr. Ruocco withdrew the motion. The matter will be further reviewed by Councilors and on the agenda of the next meeting.

8. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS.

A. Monthly Status Report.

B. Department Status Reports.

C. Other

Monthly Financial Report - not much has changed since the last report; WPCA revenue is low but sewer use bills go out this week.

Senior Center Program Services Follow Up - the senior center group did not meet with Ms. Piccerillo or Ms. Ferrell on their issues. There is no funding issue; it is a lack of space for popular programs (i. e. exercise) with one facilitator who is not available for more programs. Some of the specific issues will be taken care of with completion of the basement renovation, and running some programs in the evening.

State Claims Commission Hearing - scheduled for Monday, December 14, 2015, at 11:30 a.m. at 165Capital Avenue, Room 123 (across from Bushnell Theater); it could be a 4 to 5 hour hearing. Mr. Milone reported the Commissioner has 2 years to make a decision. He will attend with Mr. Gancarz and Attorney Mike Donnelly. Mr. Milone noted there are issues with the Claims Commissioner going beyond the two years to make decisions, and the Attorney General's office is involved.

Construction Projects - Community Pool. Mr. Milone met with Sheila Adams and Bob Ceccolini on the interior work; planned opening date is January 25th; he will discuss the score board and funding with the Council.

Linear Trail - the work is not progressing as anticipated; crews are preparing to pave, the base is still wet, and it is expected to start and finish paving in a few days.

Homeowners along the trail have met about privacy concerns and adequate screening between their backyards and the trail. There are dense plantings for some areas, but screening cannot be determined during the winter season. Planting will be done in the spring for privacy and safety concerns of homeowners. CPD will add more patrols to the trail and create a visible presence and deterrent.

Ms. Linehan has met with the neighbors and they are looking for signage where the road is the entrance to the trail. There is no signage, and she asked if this was discussed at the meetings.

Stating he is uncertain if the signage issue was raised, Mr. Milone will check with Mr. Noewatne. At this time there is no need for a neighborhood meeting, and their only issue has been with the close proximity to the trail.

These are areas of concern and Ms. Linehan asked about getting a meeting planned before opening the trail.

Wallingford Solid Waste Project Tip Fee Reset - under the contract with Covanta, the Town can make a case to revisit the tip fee...and the opportunity is now. Cheshire pays \$65 per ton for residential waste; comparisons show the market rate of \$59 to \$64 per ton. In lieu of fee reduction, Covanta offered to take the Town's waste to its Bristol plant and pay for additional hauling costs. Mr. Milone is not satisfied with this arrangement and things are still in the negotiating stages.

Strathmore Dam - The DEEP provided a certification of approval for the dam; it has been fixed to their satisfaction; and the Town must review the remediation and be satisfied with the State's decision. Dean Fiske, family development representative, will convey the property to the Town. All of this is 6 months into the future.

South Main Street Signal Crossing Projects - there have been two fatal incidents and the Town looked to the DOC for an appropriate cross walk near the two shopping plaza areas. There was a verbal commitment from the State to pay for the lighting, and it has now reneged on this commitment. Mr. Milone wrote a letter to the project engineer about this State road, citing the 2 fatalities, the need for a cross walk and appropriate lighting, but has had no response to date.

Quinnipiac University Off Campus Student Housing - A decision was made not to enforce zoning regulations mid-academic year, but to monitor what happens to homes rented to students. Getting information is the problem, and the university sent the under-grad listing, not the grad student listing. The data will be compared and determination made about violation of zoning regulations.

Upcoming Meetings - December 16th - Recognition Event for Board, Commission and Committee Members, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
December 16th - 7:30 p.m. FY 2017 Pre Budget Planning Meeting.

Town Hall closed on Christmas Day, Friday, December 25, 2015 and New Year's Day, Friday, January 1, 2016.

Regarding the South Main Street issue, Mr. Slocum asked what the Town could afford to spend on this project.

Mr. Milone commented on the State's negative reaction to Town requests, such as trail crossing signs screwed into No. Brooksvale Road, while invoking its rights for State roads. There are concerns about safety and maintenance of State roads, and Mr. Milone shares the concerns about the two tragedies. When he hears back from the State DOC he will inform the Council, and take advice on how to proceed.

On this issue, Mr. Bowman asked if the Legislators are aware of it.

Mr. Milone did not want to elicit their help until he knew what would be happening, and believes something is mixed up somewhere. He awaits a response from the project

manager, will keep the Council informed, and possibly mobilize the State Legislators on the matter.

9. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL.

A. Chairman's Report.

Chairman Oris referred the following matters to committees.

- i. Referral of request for additional hours for the Senior Center Dispatch position to the Personnel Committee.**

The deadline for this grant is January 15, 2016.

- ii. Referral of STEAP grant application for West Main Street to the Planning Committee.**

With regard to the STEAP grant Mr. Oris explained the Town is applying for another \$500,000 grant for work relative to the West Main Street improvements. The Town has received \$1 million for streetscape improvements done, and \$500,000 grant for the sidewalk extension work which was not done. The Town will pursue another \$500,000 for additional sidewalk extension, or allocate the funds for other uses deemed appropriate by the Council.

Mr. Milone advised that the Council Planning Committee must meet before the January 2016 Council meeting to meet the deadline for the grant application.

B. Miscellaneous

10 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

MOVED that the Town Council approves the minutes of November 10, 2015, subject to corrections, additions, deletions.

VOTE The motion passed 7-0-2; Bowman and Ecke abstained.

11 MISCELLANEOUS AND APPOINTMENTS

A. Liaison Reports

Ms. Linehan reported on a police officer assisting with installing and putting a child in an appropriate restraint system upon realizing the child was unsafe in the family car seat. She commended the Cheshire Police Department for doing a great service to our children and insuring their safety.

Mr. Ecke informed the Council that on December 23rd, at 7:30 a.m. an economist from CBIA will conduct a presentation on economic development in the State in Town Hall, Room 207-209. The session is open to the public.

B. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

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

MOVED to approve the appointment of Robert Brucato (R) to the Energy Commission, to fill the vacancy of Joseph Nesdale, term of office 12/8/15 to 1/31/18.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

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

MOVED to approve the appointment of James Jinks (D) to the Planning and Zoning Commission (alternate), to fill the vacancy of Diane Visconti, term of office 12/8/15 to 12/4/17.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

12. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS.

13. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Letters to Council.

B. Miscellaneous

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

15. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOVED to adjourn the Town Council meeting at 9:50 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk

