

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST 31, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 84 SOUTH MAIN
STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

Robert J. Oris Jr. Chairman; Paul A. Bowman, Vice Chairman; Michael Ecke, Patti Flynn-Harris, Liz Linehan, Sylvia Nichols, Thomas Ruocco, Timothy Slocum and Peter Talbot.

Staff: Michael A. Milone, Town Manager; Alfred Smith, Town Attorney; James Jaskot, Finance Director; George Noewatne, Public Works Director

Guest: Mr. McLaughlin, BETA Group

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. ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION - Land Acquisition

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

MOVED that the Town Council enter Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. to include Town Manager Milone, Town Attorney Smith, PW Director Noewatne, and Mr. McLaughlin to discuss land acquisition.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

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

MOVED to exit Executive Session at 8:08 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**4. ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL
EXPENDITURE PLAN AND ANNUAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET**

Budget Committee Chairman Slocum read a statement into the record about the annual capital expenditure plan.

Mr. Slocum noted the 26 projects total an appropriation of \$14,868,000, and bonded amount of \$11,776,000, which includes \$9,958,000 of structural improvements. The projects are also offset by \$742,000 in cash payments and C.N.R. Funds.

With regard to the acquisition of the Chapman Property at \$3 million, Mr. Slocum explained this purchase is calculated into the debt service. However, it is separate from

the capital expenditure plan due to the Town being under contract prior to the CEP process.

Mr. Slocum commented on the collaborative effort of the Council members during the lengthy and complex capital budget process. He expressed appreciation to Town Manager Milone, Finance Director Jaskot, Deputy Finance Director DeFilio, Town Department Heads and Staff, BOE Members and Dept. of Education CEO Vincent Masciana.

The 26 projects for the 2016-2017 Draft Capital Expenditure Budget are categorized by range of expenditures, and Mr. Slocum cited the categories for the record.

Category #1 - projects less than \$200,000 or supported by C.N.R.

Category #2 - projects \$200,000 to \$400,000; requires a public hearing and 21-day waiting period before they can begin.

Category #3 - projects over \$400,000; referendum items.

Referendum Items total \$9,998,000.

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Mr.Ecke.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #083116-1.

RESOLUTION #083116-1
ITEMS 1 THROUGH 26

1. Resolution #1 Revaluation (CNR) \$315,000
2. Resolution #2 Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Fund (CNR) \$223,000
3. Resolution #3 Generator Replacement at Firehouse #2 and Animal Control Facility \$120,000
4. Resolution #4 Town Hall Window Replacement \$175,000
5. Resolution #5 Upgrade and Expansion of Town/Education Public Safety Radio Communication System \$3,163,000
6. Resolution #6 Police Cruiser Camera Replacement Program (CNR) \$104,000
7. Resolution #7 Replacement of 1990 Fire Truck Pumping Engine #3 \$635,000
8. Resolution #8 Mt.Sanford Road Culvert Replacement and Road Realignment \$875,000
9. Resolution # 9 Street Light Pole Maintenance and Replacement (CNR) \$100,000
10. Resolution #10 Acquisition of Public Works Dump Truck and Plow \$153,000
11. Resolution #11 Road Repavement Program \$1,650,000
12. Resolution #12 Sidewalk Program \$200,000
13. Resolution #13 Construction of Sidewalks Lanyon Drive & Westland Avenue \$100,000
14. Resolution #14 South Brooksvale Road Repavement-Bethany Mt. Road to Mt. Sanford Road Project \$1,200,000
15. Resolution #15 West Johnson Avenue Pump Station Rehabilitation \$3,500,000
16. Resolution #16 Library Reconfiguration and RFID Conversion \$500,000

- Note: (without receipt of \$250,000 grant this project will not go forward)
17. Resolution #17 Renovations at Various Outdoor Basketball Courts \$135,000
 18. Resolution #18 Restroom Upgrades for Cheshire Park, Mixville Park and McNamara Legion Field \$120,000
 19. Resolution #19 Districtwide Roof Repairs and Replacement \$125,000
 20. Resolution #20 Replacement of Underground Oil Storage Tanks at Chapman, Dodd, Doolittle, Darcey, Humiston and Highland Schools \$125,000
 21. Resolution #21 Sidewalk and Masonry Repairs, Chapman, Darcey and Cheshire High Schools \$125,000
 22. Resolution #22 Cafeteria Renovations to Doolittle Elementary School \$275,000
 23. Resolution #23 Lavatory Improvements to Norton, Chapman and Darcey Schools \$375,000
 24. Resolution #24 Window Replacements to Cheshire High School \$275,000
 25. Resolution #25 Emergency Generator and Related Electrical Improvements To Cheshire High School \$125,000
 26. Resolution #26 Emergency Generator Connections to five (5) Elementary Schools and Dodd Middle School \$175,000

A copy of the summary of the 26 Resolutions is attached to these minutes.

Discussion

Mr. Ecke stated it has been a long and difficult CEP process with capital projects that need to be undertaken. He commented on the high priority projects in the annual capital budget. He noted the importance of the Upgrade of the Public Safety Communications System to insure effectiveness and efficiency; Mt. Sanford Road Project, Road Repavement Program to insure continued good roads in Cheshire; \$3.5 million project for the West Johnson Avenue Pump Station. There are many smaller projects which the Council vetted and decided they needed to be done. Mr. Ecke said cited the concern of the State not living up to its commitments to the municipalities, which could result in services being cut or reduced and increase in local taxes. He would have liked inclusion of the CPD body cameras in this budget, and said this item would be revisited next year and hopefully funded. This is a good capital budget, a collaborative effort amongst the Councilors, with much discussion about the budget, and people making a decision together for a good capital budget.

Ms. Linehan stated her support of the annual capital budget projects. If there are any questions on these projects, she asked people to contact her and she will discuss the merits of each project.

Ms. Flynn-Harris supports the annual capital budget, and said big decisions were made due to the cost of the projects. She pointed out that many projects are school and BOE related, without any decisions having been made regarding the school facilities master plan currently under BOE discussion. The BOE projects in the annual budget related to basic maintenance which affect the health, welfare and education of our school children. These projects include underground storage tanks, sidewalk/masonry work. Ms. Flynn-Harris complimented Chairman Oris for insisting the five-year capital plan include in the

debt service the BOE ultimate plan to have an idea of how the costs of the master plan will impact the Town in the future. She also said there was a collaborative effort of the Council on the annual budget and five year plan.

Ms. Nichols stated the Council worked hard to protect taxpayer dollars, looked at every single project, carefully vetted the projects, and came to a good conclusion after many long and hard hours. There is uncertainty about what is coming in the next few years, and the Council wants to provide the best services for the best funding without additional impact on the residents.

Mr. Talbot agreed that the annual capital budget and five year plan were a collaborative effort on the part of the Town Council members. This is an austere budget looking at necessary things with recognition of the debt service spike coming next year. He said the Council is aware of the BOE facilities plan that is out there. Mr. Talbot stated this is a good budget put together by the nine Councilors, and he will support the budget.

Mr. Ruocco thanked the Budget Committee and Councilors for working collaboratively, and also thanked Mr. Milone, Mr. Jaskot and their staff for hard and diligent work on the budget. He expressed concerns about a crowded referendum list, and believes the fire truck and other trucks and Cheshire Library project, could have been pushed out a few years, along with a reduction in the road repavement appropriation. Mr. Ruocco said he would not support the budget of \$14.8 million as items could have been reduced and the referendum list is too crowded.

Mr. Bowman will support the budget, and he takes the impact to the residential and business taxpayers very seriously. He noted capital budgets are an investment in the community and must be undertaken to move Cheshire forward.

Council Chairman Oris thanked the Budget Committee (Mr. Slocum, Mr. Ecke, Ms. Nichols) Mr. Milone, Mr. Jaskot, Ms. DeFilio and Town staff for their work on the budget. He commented on the excellent job from Mr. Slocum in putting together a plan on what is needed. The referendum items total \$9.5 million; all are necessary; and must be done. This is a bi-partisan budget and collaborative effort of the Council members. Mr. Oris said people look for the Council to work together, putting the interests of the community first, and this budget reflects this collaborative effort. He will support the budget.

VOTE The motion passed 8-1; Ruocco opposed.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #083116-2.

RESOLUTION #083116-2

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council adopts the Five Year Omnibus Capital Expenditure Plan for Fiscal Years 2016-2017 through 2020-2021, in accordance with the recommendation of the Town Council Budget Committee.

Discussion

Budget Committee Chairman Slocum explained that the Council works on a five-year plan, and year #1, the annual capital budget, was approved in the first resolution. In year #2 we see the debt service spike of \$3.5 million for payment on the treatment plant upgrade. The total of the five-year plan is \$56,809,000; it is offset by an anticipated \$10,295,000 in grants and CNR funding; the net total is \$46,414,000. It was important this year to have some thought process on the potential for school build-out and school renovation plan. A meeting was spent on modeling the plan for money to be spent in the future on this plan. This spending does not appear in the debt service analysis or five-year plan, but the Council is cognizant of the fact that there could be \$100 million in school projects, possibly offset by \$35 million of State aid. There are challenges ahead for the community, and the Council is aware of them.

Mr. Ecke commented on the five-year plan being well thought out and vetted, and the fact that this plan will change over time. It is a best guess today, which may not be where we are tomorrow. This plan is a road map of where the Town is going, and he will vote in support of the five-year plan.

VOTE The motion passed 8-1; Ruocco opposed.

5. APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION OF REFERENDUM QUESTIONS AND AUTHORIZATION FOR EXPLANATORY TEXT.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #083116-3.

RESOLUTION #083116-3

Resolution Providing for Submission of FY 2016-2017 Capital Expenditure Budget Resolutions To the Voters In Conjunction With the General Election on November 8, 2016.

A copy of the resolution is attached to these minutes.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Talbot; seconded by Mr. Ruocco

MOVED to adjourn the special meeting at 8:50 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk