

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M. IN ROOM 207, TOWN HALL,
84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

David Schrumm, Chairman; Thomas Ruocco and Peter Talbot.

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

Others Present: Town Council Member Robert Oris.

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 \$2,000 donation from Cheshire Lights of Hope To the Human Services Gift Account for residents in need.
4. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$5 donation from a Yellow House program to The Cheshire Fuel Bank.
5. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100 donation from Marie and Bob Hirschfeld In honor of the R. Beudoin Family, Bob and Pat Lucash, the K. Mitta Family, and the John DePalma Family to the Human Services Gift Account for residents in need.
6. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$300 donation from the Town of Cheshire's Assessor's and Tax Collector's Office employees to the Human Services Gift Account for residents in need.
7. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$500 donation from Michael and Marilyn D'Angelo to the Chehshire Fuel Bank.
8. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$7,500 donation from Meredith, Erica and John W. Dickson in memory of Helen M. and John E. Dickson to the Library Gift Account for new furniture.
9. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$4,245 grant from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Local Prevention Council for substance abuse prevention activities.
10. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$60 anonymous donation to the Human Services Gift Account for residents in need.
11. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$120 aggregate donation from the Brilliant

Women's Book Club to the Human Services Gift Account for residents in need.

12. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$44,284.93 bequest from the Estate of Lois M. Bernier to the Library Gift Account for library materials, furniture and computers.
13. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$900 donation from the First Congregational Church, \$500 to the Human Services Gift Account and \$400 to the Cheshire Fuel Bank.
14. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$200 donation from Cathleen Devlin to the Cheshire Fuel Bank.
15. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100 donation from Cathleen Devlin in honor Of Joan Devlin to the Mini-Bus Fund.
16. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$25 donation from the Yellow House Middle School event on January 4, 2014 to the Cheshire Fuel Bank.
17. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$111 donation from the Town Employees Dress Down Day to the Human Services Gift Account for residents in need.
18. Acceptance and appropriation of an \$11,000 FEMA reimbursement grant for damages to the Community Pool.

MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr. Talbot

MOVED that the Budget Committee accept and approve agenda items #3 through #18 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

Mr. Jaskot corrected item #18 to state "\$11,100", and informed the committee that the Town received over \$200,000 from FEMA for Storm Nemo. As of this date, the Town has received close to \$297,000 from the insurance claims, with more claim for business interruption loss(\$20,000 to \$30,000) still pending settlement.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

19. Approval of continuation of lease for farming for a portion of the former Casertano property.

MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr. Talbot

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

Discussion

Mr. Milone advised that this lease was last signed in 2010. He said Mr. Arisco is a good tenant who has done some upgrades to the property. He suggested putting the lease out for bid next year, with a minimum increase in the rent.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

20. Bidding Requirements

MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr. Talbot

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

Discussion

Mr. Milone explained that there are no changes necessary to the requirements, and they have worked well. There are more consortiums from which the Town can make purchases, and this saves time and money while being competitive getting three (3) bids. The limits of \$12,000 and \$24,000 remain the same along with endorsement of the consortiums, which not includes the addition of GSA.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

21. Approval of Library Parking Lot Agreement

MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr. Talbot.

MOVED that the Budget Committee accept and approve agenda item #21 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

Mr. Milone explained the changes in the agreement which states a maximum of \$3,000 in any given year with a small escalation clause for charges to the Town for snow plowing of the parking lot. Town Attorney Smith suggested inclusion of an aerial photograph in the lease in order to clarify the area of the parking lot which the Town will use, and it is about 60 parking spaces.

The committee asked Town Manager Milone to look into possible discussions with the adjacent property owner (small plaza) about parking possibilities.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

22. Approval of revision to the Cheshire Housing Authority Agreement.

MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr. Talbot.

MOVED that the Budget Committee accept and approve agenda item #22 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

This revision to the CHA agreement gives PILOT revenue to the Town and is the same process that has been ongoing for a long time. The payment is \$27,500, and could fluctuate depending on the affordable rents. The number is in the agreement and is based on a statutory formula.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

23. Purchase of extended cab truck for Parks and Recreation.

MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr. Talbot.

MOVED that the Budget Committee accept and approve agenda item #23 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

The issue of truck purchases was discussed during the 2103 budget process. Mr. Milone stated this agenda item is approval of the purchase of an extended cab truck for the Parks and Recreation Department. Director Ceccolini uses this cab for transportation of crew members, and without the cab truck, there must be several more trips each day to and from work locations.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

24. Approval of pool dehumidification claim settlement.

MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr. Talbot.

MOVED that the Budget Committee accept and approve agenda item #24 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

Mr. Milone advised that the Council must approve this settlement and then the insurance company sends the check. This is from the lawsuit against Great American, and covers everything except the dehumidification unit.

Mr. Milone explained that in order to put up the new bubble over the pool, new code compliance required a dehumidification unit. The insurance company compromised on this claim, and settlement of \$28,923. Regarding disposal of the dehumidification unit itself, Mr. Milone and staff will rely on the guidance of the Town Council.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

25. Public Building Commission request for bid waivers for the Chimney and Sidewalks project and the high school roof repair project.

MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr. Talbot.

MOVED that the Budget Committee accept and approve agenda item #25 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

Mr. Schrumm stated that this is an extension of the work done last year at the high school, and it is a good deal for the Town to use the same qualified company. Because of PBC regulations this item must be sent to the Council for approval.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Before the committee adjourned, Chairman Schrumm commented on the Town looking into the bid process for its property & casualty insurance and medical benefits insurance.

The Town did an RFP on the workers compensation insurance and Mr. Milone reported there will be a change in the medical providers.

26. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr. Talbot.

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

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk