

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY,
AUGUST 25, 2015, AT 7:30 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, 84
SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

Timothy Slocum, Chairman; David Schrumm, Vice Chairman; Council Members Patti Flynn-Harris, Sylvia Nichols, Robert J. Oris, Thomas Ruocco, James Sima

Absent: Liz Linehan and Peter Talbot

Staff: Town Manager Michael A. Milone; Finance Director James Jaskot; Deputy Finance Director Gina DeFilio; PW Director George Noewatne; Tax Assessor Mario Panagrosso. Dept. of Education, Vincent Masciana, Director of Management Services.

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. ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 FIVE YEAR CAPITAL
EXPENDITURE PLAN AND ANNUAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #082515-1
ITEMS 1-23

RESOLUTION #082515-1, ITEMS 1-23

A copy of the Resolution is attached to the minutes.

Discussion

Mr. Milone noted a typographical error on page 20...should read "construction".

Mr. Schrumm expressed appreciation to Mr. Milone, Mr. Jaskot, Ms. DeFilio and Town staff for their hard work on the capital budget. He read and highlighted the resolution items 1 through 23 for the record.

Mr. Ruocco commented on many listed items being offset by grants and other funding, such as #12, East Johnson Avenue Bridge, \$3.125 million, with expected 80% State grant reimbursement. Mr. Ruocco does not support the land acquisition funding because there is enough money in this fund for land acquisition. For the CHS bathroom and concession stand project, he said this is long overdue for repair, and the Council will look at options and the facility will be addressed. Overall, this is a good capital budget. Mr. Ruocco noted Cheshire is ranked #45 in the U.S. as a place to live, and the Town must maintain its infrastructure and keep the community attractive.

Mr. Talbot thanked Mr. Milone, Mr. Jaskot, Ms. DeFilio, Town staff and BOE staff for their efforts and work on the budget. There was much effort to put together the capital budget which led to 23 projects before the Council. Mr. Talbot will support the resolution as it represents a good compromise and good discussion with the Council bringing forward a good capital budget.

Ms. Nichols noted the good job of Councilors creating solutions to the projects, determining how to spend the funds for new and continuing projects to sustain the level of services to the citizens. There is no fluff in this budget, and she will support it.

Mr. Oris stated his support of the capital budget, which is a collaboration of Councilors working together for the community. It's important the community understands the large number results from the construction of the East Johnson Avenue Bridge, which has 80% State reimbursement. The CHS lavatory and concession stand has Council's attention, needs to be upgraded soon, meet ADA compliance, and the consensus is that this project will be addressed. There is money allocated, including C.N.R. funds and BOE funds, and the goal is to bring this project in fiscally sound and soon.

Ms. Linehan thanked Mr. Milone, Mr. Jaskot and staff for their hard work. She encouraged people to look at the referendum items and explanatory text which will help them make their voting decisions. The capital budget will be on the Town's web site next week. She urged everyone to not short change the projects in order to be frugal, ending up spending more money in the future. Ms. Linehan said the CHS lavatory and concession stand project is one that people want completed, and it will go forward with money spent wisely.

Ms. Flynn-Harris thanked Town and BOE staff, especially Mr. Milone, Mr. Jaskot, Ms DeFilio. She said it is important the CEP projects be done quickly, as they are important to the Town. She read an excerpt from the referendum items explanatory text into the record, noting there is a large amount of funding for civil rights compliance; there is a BOE facilities plan underway; the work is not in conflict with the master review plan; the high school complex must be in compliance. Ms. Flynn-Harris talked about the exterior improvements at CHS...particularly the need for one storage building to handle equipment and supplies. This is a good budget which takes care of outstanding issues; the Council worked hard to get this budget completed; and she supports it.

Mr. Sima thanked staff and department heads who came before the Council with their capital budget needs. He commented on the \$1 million request for land acquisition which is usually funded each year, and this year the Council was not in favor of this funding, and recommended \$500,000 to supplement the account balance of \$1.75 million.

Mr. Sima talked about the 2009 recession, the strict budgets, Cheshire getting a AAA credit rating, and Council looking at major deficiencies. The pool project is \$3.2 million; WWTP project is \$32 million; and the Council has been frugal and forward thinking to make sure the town runs well. There is money in place to keep taxes down so people

can continue to live in Cheshire. Now there is money available to address code compliance deficiencies, to do the East Johnson Avenue Bridge, \$3.2 million with 80% reimbursement, leaving the Town with \$625,000 cost for this project.

Chairman Slocum expressed thanks to Town and BOE staff for their work on the budget. He stated the department head requests totaled \$15,494,000; Town Manager's request reduced this to \$14,710,000; and Town Council reduced the budget to \$10,606,000. The West Johnson pump station project was moved to year #2 of the CEP; and other projects were moved to out years in the plan. Out of the \$10,606,000 there will be \$920,000 cash spending for a number of projects; the Town will receive \$3.277 million in State and federal grants; the net bonding cost to the Town is \$6.409 million. Mr. Slocum supports the capital budget.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #082515-2

RESOLUTION #082515-2

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council adopts the Five Year Omnibus Capital Expenditure Plan for Fiscal Years 2015-2016 through 2019-2020, in accordance with the recommendations of the Town Council Budget Committee.

A copy of the Five Year Plan is attached to the minutes.

Discussion

A correction was cited by Mr. Milone for the "PW Dump Trucks" which will have a Council appropriation of \$27,000 from the equipment auction fund to offset the \$375,000. However, the \$27,000 was not added into the budget.
Public Works Dump Trucks - FY 2015-16 Total Reductions should be \$2,707 million;
Net total is \$3,080 million.
Summary FY 2015-16 - State/Federal/Local \$3,304 million; Total Reductions \$4.024 million; Net Total \$6.382 million.

Mr. Schrumm commented on projects in the next four years of the CEP which the Town wants to get done, but they may not occur in the exact year of the plan.

Chairman Slocum noted the CEP can change in the out years, especially with the BOE facilities management study.

Mr. Milone explained the Town is doing a 10 year energy efficiency project, which will improve air quality, efficiency, and cost of operating Town and BOE buildings.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #082515-3.

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR SUBMISSION OF FY 2015-2016 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET RESOLUTIONS TO THE VOTERS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 3, 2015.

RESOLUTION #082515-3.

A copy of the Resolution is attached to the minutes.

Discussion

Mr. Schrumm reviewed the six (6) items for referendum.

1. Land Acquisition, \$500,000
2. Road Repavement Project, \$1.75 million
3. East Johnson Avenue Bridge Project, \$3.125 million
4. Interior Improvements to Cheshire High School, \$1.383 million
5. Cheshire High School Science Labs Project, \$200,000.
6. Window Replacement Project, Cheshire High School, \$250,000

Mr. Schrumm explained that items #5 and #6 are supplemental appropriations to these two projects bringing them over the \$350,000 referendum limit. This is continuation of improvements to the high school.

Mr. Schrumm thanked Mr. Milone, Mr. Jaskot, Ms. DeFilio and Town staff, and Dr. Florio, Mr. Masciana and BOE staff for their work on the capital budget and for their high ethical standards and professionalism.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

5. SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR DISTRICT WIDE ROOFING PROJECT.

MOTION by Mr. Sima; seconded by Mr. Ruocco.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #082515-4.

RESOLUTION #082515-4

RESOLUTION AMENDING A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$125,000 FOR DISTRICT WIDE ROOF REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENTS AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$125,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE.

Discussion

Mr. Sima stated the PBC and BOE have reviewed this project, and some of the money will be spent for ice melting on the roofs with the additional \$40,000 appropriation.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

6. APPROVAL OF TRANSFER OF \$27,487.34 IN PROCEEDS FROM PUBLIC WORKS VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT SOLD AT AUCTION TO A SPECIAL ACCOUNT TO BE USED FOR THE PURCHASE OF PUBLIC WORKS VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #082515-5.

RESOLUTION #082515-5

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts \$27,487.34 from FY 15 auction sales of Public Works vehicles and equipment and appropriates said amount to a Special Revenue Account to be used towards the capital purchase of Public Works Dump Trucks and Plows.

Discussion

Mr. Schrumm stated this is money from the sell off of used equipment, with the proceeds to be used towards vehicles and equipment. The \$27,487.34 is a correction in the CEP Summary cited by Mr. Milone.

Mr. Sima commented on going out to auction on some of this equipment allowed Council to make a decision this year to buy a new plow for the new truck, which reduces chances of a breakdown on the equipment. Two new plows are now available for Public Works crews and the plowing program.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

7. DE-AUTHORIZATION OF VARIOUS CAPITAL PROJECT BOND APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFER OF EXCESS BOND PROCEEDS

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #082515-6.

RESOLUTION 3082515-6

WHEREAS, the Town desires to reduce the bond authorization for certain of the projects set forth on Schedule A; and

WHEREAS, certain of the projects and purposes set forth on Schedule A require additional funding; and

WHEREAS, the Town has unexpended bond proceeds remaining from certain of the projects and purposes set forth on Schedule A, which projects are complete or are no longer intended to be completed; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to transfer such unexpended bond proceeds to such other active projects and purposes set forth on Schedule A,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that unexpended proceeds in the aggregate amount of \$67,729.33 are hereby transferred from and to the projects in the amounts set forth on Schedule A.

The Bond Authorization for the following projects is reduced as follows:

Blacks Road Bridge	Acct. #20260 5800 01112	Reduced Amount - \$2,558.00
Blacks Road Bridge	Acct. #20260 5800 01176	Reduced Amount - \$179,824.91

Discussion

Mr. Schrumm stated the Blacks Road Bridge project was under budget, and \$67,729.33 is transferred to the projects in Schedule A.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

8. APPROVAL OF TAX ASSESSMENT APPEAL, possible executive session

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Mr. Sima.

MOVED that the Town Council enter executive session at 8:30 p.m. to include Town Manager Milone, Finance Director Jaskot and Tax Assessor Panagrosso to discuss a tax assessment appeal.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Ms. Nichols left executive session at 8:39 p.m.

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

MOVED to exit executive session at 8:45 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #082515-7.

RESOLUTION #082515-7

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby authorizes the execution of a Stipulation Agreement for a tax assessment appeal by and between the Town of Cheshire and Webster Bank, all of Cheshire, Connecticut; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Attorney or his designee is authorized and directed to execute on behalf of the Town said Agreement in the form and upon the terms and conditions as presented at this meeting.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOVED to adjourn the special meeting at 8:46 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk