

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2016, AT 7:30 P.M. IN ROOM 207, TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410

Present

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

Absent: Liz Linehan

Staff: Michael A. Milone, Town Manager; Alfred Smith, Town Attorney; Town Engineer Walter Gancarz

Guest: Attorney Anthony Fazzino

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. NAMING OF SENIOR CENTER ROOM AND TREE IN MEMORY OF DOREEN PULISCIANO

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #102016-1

RESOLUTION #102016-1

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the naming of the newly renovated Senior Center downstairs room and a tree on Senior Center property in memory of former Senior Center Director Doreen Pulisciano per the recommendation of the Planning Committee.

Discussion

This naming is requested by the Senior Center, and Ms. Nichols advised that all the information provided complies with the Town Naming Policy. She commented on Ms. Pulisciano being the long time director and loved by everyone at the Senior Center, and her making the Center what it is today. Ms. Nichols supports the naming request.

Chairman Oris stated that Ms. Pulisciano was a great Town employee, a great citizen of Cheshire, with a great family. She did a lot for the community and was loved by the people at the Senior Center.

Sharon Ort, 425 Jinny Hill Road addressed the Council in support of the naming request, and thanked the Council for doing it in memory of Doreen Pulisciano.

Ms. Flynn-Harris supports the motion. She informed the Council that the Democratic Women's Club had a motion to extend funds to the Senior Center for something to be done in Doreen Pulisciano's memory. She understands it might be a plaque.

Linda Buckley, 241 Jinny Hill Road, said the Center would work with the Democratic Women's Club on the plaque honoring Doreen Pulisciano. When her mother joined the Center, Ms. Pulisciano was gracious and welcoming and the Center was a good place for her mother. She supports honoring Ms. Pulisciano with the naming of the basement room and planting of a tree in her memory.

Town Manager Milone advised there was notification to the Pulisciano Family to attend this meeting but they had a conflict. There are plans for a formal dedication/ribbon cutting ceremony for the new basement in a few weeks.

William Keeley, 20 Harvest Court, a family member of Doreen Pulisciano, stated his support of the motion to honor her.

Chairman Oris knows the Pulisciano Family and said she was very loved by her family and those at the Center. He stated it is an honor to support the naming request.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF DEDICATED OPEN SPACDE AT CEDAR CREST SUBDIVISION

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #102016-2

RESOLUTION #102016-2

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the recommendation of the Planning Committee and accepts a 7.75 acre parcel of dedicated open space transferred to the Town as part of the Cedar Crest Subdivision, as detailed on the attached map, pursuant to Town Zoning Regulations as approved by the Inland Wetlands Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Discussion

Mr. Slocum reported that the Planning Committee reviewed this agenda item for transfer of land that abuts Town open space.

A map of the subdivision and the open space parcel was displayed by Attorney Fazzino who pointed out Jarvis Street, the matched land, strip of land (green line) owned by the HOA. He stated the Town has an easement to drain into the drainage facilities which drain into the open space. Casertano Farm is on the opposite side of the river; there is 10+ miles of low land; and open space owned by the Land Trust. The Cedar Crest subdivision was approved under zoning regulations with three preferences for the open

space -- 1) the Town, 2) Land Trust and 3) HOA. It was appropriate for the Town to receive the land because it owns the opposite side of the river and can now control the whole stretch.

Ms. Flynn-Harris asked if this is the piece offered to the Town before...and not taken because of the grading not completed.

There were concerns and a misunderstanding regarding HOA ownership and not wanting to take on property with a relationship to undeveloped work. Mr. Slocum said there was assurance there is a buffer by the HOA.

Attorney Fazzone distributed a copy of the whole situation of the land to the Council, and pointed out the colored areas on the map. The land has all undisturbed wetlands, and there will be non-disturbance markers so they remain as they are now. The expenses and/or maintenance cost issues are unknown for this property. It is entirely a passive use; there is no intention of having any clearing done on the parcel.

According to Town Manager Milone, nothing immediate is planned, but there could be something in the future, and no financial impact to the Town. He noted that more than 2/3rds of the parcel is wetlands.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

5. APPROVAL OF CLEAN ENERGY AMENDED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #102016-3

RESOLUTION #102016-3

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the recommendation of the Energy Commission and approves the Clean Energy Communities Program Amended and Restated Memorandum of Understanding, and further authorizes Town Manager Michael A. Milone to execute said documents for funding of \$17,500 in rewards for the electronic vehicle charging station and Concession Stand energy efficiency upgrade as previously appropriated.

Discussion

Mr. Talbot explained there is money coming to the Town through energy efficiency programs, and money earned through the Energy Commission. \$4,000 was spent towards the electric vehicle charging station, and the balance is to be used for energy efficiencies at the CHS concession stand.

The Council has already acted on both of the cited programs, and Mr. Gancarz informed the State has advised any unused funds will be rolled up at the end of the year. The

State wanted a memo of understanding in place to secure the funds. The Council is being asked to authorize Mr. Milone to sign the memo. There is another \$5,000 which is "use it or lose it" by the end of the year. The Energy Commission meets next week and will be interested in Council comments on using these funds.

Mr. Ruocco appreciates using money for the concession stand which is a public building. He has a problem co-mingling money with Big Y facility charging station.

The Council was told by Mr. Milone that the Big Y issue was approved months ago. The item before the Council is a formality for him to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

With the State grant for the charging station, Mr. Gancarz explained there can be no charges to people for the first three years. The software tracks the usage of the charging station, and there will be feedback to the Town on the usage.

Mr. Bowman asked about the usage of this charging station, and the issue of it not being a quick charge...taking hours to charge a vehicle.

The station costs about \$16,000, and Mr. Gancarz said \$4,000 represents the Town's 20%...a quick charge station could cost double the cost.

Ms. Nichols read from minutes of a prior meeting which says...vehicles are charged 15 minutes to one hour with a range of 200 miles.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

William Keeley, 20 Harvest Court, addressed the Council informing them he attended an energy round table in New Haven where the DEEP Commissioner Klee was the guest speaker. DEEP is putting together the 2017 lists/budgets, and Mr. Keeley asked if any requests have been received for Cheshire to get additional grant funds available through Connecticut Green Bank.

According to Mr. Milone, the Town has received nothing to date. The Town will find use for the remaining \$5,000.

Chairman Oris commented on using the \$5,000 for purchase of equipment for the concession stand and save C.N.R. money.

The Council was informed by Mr. Gancarz that the funds could be used for the concession stand purchases of energy efficient equipment, LED lighting, and other energy savings for the stand. He will bring this recommendation to the Energy Commission meeting of October 24th.

Mr. Talbot stated the \$5,000 is separate, and we must come up with something which will be on the recommendation of the Energy Commission.

VOTE The motion passed 7 in favor; 1 opposed (Ruocco).

Before going further into the meeting, Mr. Milone explained that there will be no regular meeting on Election Day, November 8th. Therefore, the Council items which needed to be addressed before a later November meeting, were put on the agenda of this special meeting.

6. APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR SIDEWALK EXTENSION GRANT

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #102016-4

RESOLUTION #102016-4

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes application for a FAST Act 20% matching grant through the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments for replacement of sidewalks along the west side of Highland Avenue from Maple Avenue to Jarvis Street, installation of a bikeway sidewalk along the south side of Jarvis Street from Highland Avenue to the Linear Trail, and installation of a bikeway/sidewalk from Creamery Road to Jarvis Street, with handicap accessible walkways installed at the intersections with Country Club Road and Creamery Road. Said project is estimated to cost \$1.2 million, of which \$960,000 would be funded by said grant with a cost to the Town of \$240,000, which would be addressed if and when the Council receives approval of this grant funding, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes Town Manager Michael A. Milone to execute a document indicating that the Town of Cheshire is willing to pay \$240,000 for the 20% match if said project is selected and approved for funding by the Town Council.

Discussion

Mr. Gancarz displayed the map and told the Council that information on the FAST grant was received a few weeks ago from the COG. The grant is for non-motorized transportation facilities, rail to trail projects, safe routes to schools or community improvement projects of at least half a million dollars. It is a matching grant, and Public Works came up with a plan to submit for the grant with a conceptual scheme. The plan makes the Linear Trail more accessible, improves sidewalks along the west side of CCI (bituminous and bumpy), along the west side of Jarvis Street make a walkway/bikeway to the Trail. The last part is starting at Creamery Road on the west side of Highland Avenue with a bikeway/walkway on the Town property. There is a connection to Airline Trail on the west side of Connecticut...East Hampton, Portland, Middletown, Meriden...that are building parts of this trail to the Linear Trail. On Sindall Avenue is the last section in Meriden. It is envisioned to come off Sindall, go up Riverside to Wolf Hill to Creamery, and connect to the Linear Trail. Everyone east of Route 10 would have a pathway to get to the trail.

There would also be improvement at Country Club Road and Creamery Road with handicap accessibility, making the trail more accessible to everyone on the east side of Route 10. This is a FAST program, with a fast track for application, and Public Works put the plan into the COG last week, telling them it still needs Town authorization.

Mr. Milone stated \$240,000 is not available, and grant funding will not be known until next spring. If the Town gets the grant it can be tied into the capital expenditure plan or it can be denied.

Ms. Flynn-Harris stated that she will not support this motion...if it does not go up to Lancaster Way...it will affect her and Ms. Linehan. People in the 3rd district will be disturbed that the Town is spending money to go up through and past the prison where there are no residences. We have people from Lancaster Way and up above walking all the way down to the path...they are upset every day because of the traffic they encounter without any sidewalks for safe walking.

The Council was informed by Mr. Gancarz there is another program for which there has been an initial assessment from the Linear Trail up to Lancaster. The State paid for an assessment for that; there is a State report; but where the funding will come from for this plan is unknown at this time. There is a conceptual plan to make that connection.

Mr. Oris asked about modification of the proposed plan, taking the piece off going down to the car wash, and add it going up to Lancaster.

There is still a State review process, and Mr. Gancarz said the State wants to connect to the Airline Trail. The plans can still be modified for the subject resolution, showing the other segment, as there is a conceptual idea on how that would work. AECOM came in, walked the route with staff, studied it and gave recommendations to the Town.

Mr. Bowman stated the Town should be looking at connection of Lancaster Way to the Linear Trail and the costs as part of this program.

If the grant is awarded, Ms. Nichols asked about the plans being revised at that time.

During the CEP process Mr. Bowman would like the Council to look at getting the Lancaster segment included as part of the project.

Mr. Gancarz will copy the report on this segment of the plan and forward it to the Council.

The Council was informed by Mr. Milone that he met with Commissioner Redeker and they talked about this issue. The Commissioner supports the trail and will do everything to create more pedestrian access. There is a new program where the audit is done first, and Mr. Milone asked for assistance with funding and the Commissioner agreed to do what he could. A response (letter) was received from Commissioner Redeker which Mr. Milone will share with the Council. In his letter the Commissioner

realizes people are land-locked and access to the trail is limited for the people in the Lancaster Way part of Town.

Mr. Ruocco stated that better access is needed from Jarvis Street to the trail and it is a priority. He commented on the plan having people come up Sindall to Wolf Hill Road which will impact traffic.

It was noted by Ms. Flynn-Harris that there are groups of professional bicyclers who run in packs of 20 to 30 all over Town who do the Airline Trail from East Hampton. They want this connection to the Linear Trail.

Mr. Gancarz explained there would be a sidewalk with a line in between and a 10 ft. wide bikeway...and this plan can be modified.

Stating his agreement with Ms. Flynn-Harris and other Councilors, Chairman Oris said it is better to get access for the Lancaster Way/Guinevere Ridge area of town to the Linear Trail. He suggested removing the Highland Avenue upgrade, maintain connection to the Airline Trail which will be important for getting the grant, and take money for the Highland Avenue stretch into the Lancaster stretch.

Without Council appropriation of the funds, Mr. Gancarz said the project is dead.

Mr. Gancarz proposed that the Council raise the numbers to \$1.4 million with a \$280,000 match of Town Funds. There was a brief discussion by the Council +about raising the grant to \$1.4 million with a town match of \$280,000.

Town Manager Milone recommended staying with the numbers already stated, with the hope that Commissioner Redeker will supplement the other part of this project with funding he has been trying to get for Cheshire.

Following discussion and the Town Manager's recommendation, the Council agreed to leave the numbers as stated in the resolution on the floor. The Council agreed to make modifications to the subject resolution.

Mr. Slocum and Ms. Flynn-Harris withdrew the original resolution on the floor.

NEW RESOLUTION #102016-4

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #102016-4

RESOLUTION #102016-4

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes application for a FAST Act 20% matching grant through the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments for replacement

of sidewalks from the Linear Trail westerly on Jarvis Street to Lancaster Way, installation of a bikeway/sidewalk along the south side of Jarvis Street from Highland Avenue to the Linear Trail, and installation of a bikeway/sidewalk from Creamery Road to Jarvis Street, with handicap accessible walkways installed at Creamery Road. Said project is estimated to cost \$1.2 million, of which \$960,000 would be funded by said grant with a cost to the Town of \$240,000, which would be addressed if and when the Council receives approval of this grant funding, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes Town Manager Michael A. Milone to execute a document indicating that the Town of Cheshire is willing to pay \$240,000 for the 20% match if said project is selected and approved for funding by the Town Council.

VOTE The motion passed 6 in favor; 2 opposed (Slocum and Ruocco)

7. AMENDMENT TO BETA AGREEMENT AND APPROPRIATION OF \$7,500

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #102016-5

RESOLUTION #102016-5

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves an amendment to the agreement with BETA Group Inc. for the environmental assessment of the Chapman property to include additional drilling and field time, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council allocates an additional \$7,500 from the Land Acquisition Account for this service and agreement amendment, bringing the total cost of said environmental assessment agreement with BETA Group Inc. to \$82,512.50.

VOTE The motion passed 7 in favor; 1 opposed (Ruocco)

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION, LAND ACQUISITION

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

MOVED that the Town Council enter Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. to include Town Manager Milone, Town Attorney Smith, Finance Director Jaskot, Town Engineer Gancarz, Public Works Director Noewatne, and Mr. McLaughlin to discuss land acquisition.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

MOTION by Mr. Talbot; seconded by Mr. Slocum

MOVED to exit Executive Session at 9:20 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION, UNION NEGOTIATIONS

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

MOVED that the Town Council enter Executive Session at 9:21 p.m. to include Town Manager Milone, Finance Director Jaskot, Police Chief Dryfe, Personnel Director Zullo, Actuary Beck Seilman, Attorney Chris Sugar to discuss union negotiations.

MOTION by Mr. Talbot; seconded by Mr. Slocum

MOVED that the Town Council exit Executive Session at 10:23 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Talbot; seconded by Mr. Slocum

MOVED that the Town Council adjourn at 10:23 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk