

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410

Present

Chairman Robert J. Oris; Council members: Michael Ecke, Jeffrey Falk, Patti Flynn-Harris, Sylvia Nichols, Timothy Slocum and Peter Talbot.

Absent: Paul Bowman and Thomas Ruocco.

Staff: Arnett Talbot, Assistant Town Manager; James Jaskot, Finance Director; Fire Chief Jack Casner; Police Chief Neil Dryfe; Lt. Fred Jortner; Deputy Fire Chief Don Youngquist; Human Services Director Michelle Piccerillo; Joan Pilarczyk, Artsplace Director

Guest: Maura Esposito, Director, Chesprocott

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 – no executive session.

A. Personnel Matters

B. Land acquisition

C. Economic Incentives

4. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Oris moved item “B” to current status on the agenda.

B. Presentation of Richard W. Conrad 2017 Arts Award by CPFA

Donna Lodysnky, 23 Williams Road, Chairperson of the WPCA, announced the 2017 award to Patti Flynn-Harris, for her support and initiative in promoting the development of Arts in Cheshire. She thanked Ms. Flynn-Harris for her support of the Linear Trail, Town Summer Concerts, Public Library, Artsplace, and her joyous enthusiasm for the Arts in Cheshire.

Joan Pilarczyk, 131 Cornwall Avenue, Director of Artsplace, presented the award to Ms. Flynn-Harris, and thanked her for the continued support of the Arts in Cheshire.

Ms. Pilarczyk informed the Council that classes started at Artsplace, with a schedule available in Town Hall lobby. The 15th Annual Author event with Christine Higgins is upcoming. There is continued support of the arts for homebound residents.

Chairman Oris congratulated Ms. Flynn-Harris on receiving the 2017 award, and commended her for continuing support of the Arts in Cheshire.

A. Presentation on opioid crisis.

Ms. Piccerillo distributed a copy of the power point presentation and Parents Guide to the Council. She reviewed the information with the Council.

A copy is attached to these minutes.

Page 1 – Chasing The Dragon – The Harsh Reality.

This film presents a great view of the opioid crisis, which affects everyone; this page has information and details on the link.

Page 2 – Problem Statement

Many people are becoming addicted to heroin as a result of prescription drugs; 917 Connecticut residents died from accidental drug overdose in 2016; this is 257% more than the 357 deaths in 2012; Cheshire has seen a marked increase of opioid related hospitalizations, overdoses and deaths.

Page 3 – Graph on accidental drug related deaths by drug type.

Page 4 – Report from Chesprocott Health Director

Ms. Esposito informed the Council that the District started its community health needs assessment; she reviewed the data for 2014. 17,055 more deaths in U.S.; more than motor vehicle deaths; 61% involved opioids.

2015 – CHNA reveals top three concerns: substance abuse, mental health & obesity. Meetings start next month with community partners; CT identified as statistically significant with 25.6% change.

2016 – Connecticut Opioid Response Initiative (CORE) was released; the mission is to decrease the adverse effects of opioids on CT residents with immediate emphasis on reducing overdose mortality.

2017 – Governor passed a bill which opens data sharing, which is very important to Chesprocott. Other impacts include reducing drug prescriptions for minors; laws and regulations on pharmacy dependent prescriptions.

Data Sharing – medical examiner's report came out to Dept. of Public Health. From January to June 2017 overdose deaths by age were cited. During this time period there were several overdose deaths in Cheshire. Some information cites people taking double prescriptions, abusing prescription drugs, not getting into treatment. Reduction in mortality rate is the goal of the health districts.

Cheshire's comparison to two cities, Waterbury and New Haven – in 2015 Cheshire's mortality rate was 10.2; in 2016 it was 0; 2017 – first six months the town's mortality rate was 40.98; and this exceeds the New Haven rate. With this information the target group is Males between the ages of 25 to 45, and this group needs the most work.

Pages 5, 6 and 7 – graphs on data, mortality rate. 2017 data on overdose deaths by age.

Page 8 – Community Response/Understanding the Local Crisis.

Time and effort is being dedicated to understanding substance abuse, and the drug epidemic in the community.

Ongoing data and analysis is coordinated by town agencies; this helps to understand the level of risk, identify target populations, develop effective prevention, awareness and treatment strategies.

Page 9 - Local agencies include Human Services, Youth Services, Cheshire Police and Fire Departments, Public Library, Schools, Chesprocott, faith based organizations, YMCA, area mental health providers and treatment agencies.

Coordinated efforts include data collection, educational presentations, use of local media to promote awareness, development of informational resources, alternative programs for teens and adults aimed at prevention and intervention, training of school staff to help screen students at risk for substance abuse.

Page 10 – Putting Necessary Tools in Place

CPD safe disposal sites to discard prescription drugs; increased awareness of Narcan/Naloxone; identifying treatment centers; designation of municipal point people and contacts; development of user friendly fact sheets, resource guides, and accessibility to community members.

Page 11 – Community in Action

Community health training for 40 town employees; CHS staff training; Derby H.S. interviews all incoming freshman students, and this makes an impact on the students; Narcan training for community members at Town Hall on September 13th; Networking breakfast; putting together directory of area clinicians for people needing treatment; distribute the directory to schools, local pediatricians, and agencies who refer this information.

In 2015 there was a four session program with parents; there was a survey of high school students; CPD has a lock box for deposit of drugs/prescriptions; presentations at CHS and DMS for students and parents; Community Services Guide available, and paid through grant funds.

Chief Dryfe talked about the CPD drop-box; 65 pounds is the average every four weeks for prescription drug drop. In 2017 the gift account paid for Narcan for every officer on

his/her person; it has been used 14 times to date; there was use of Narcan twice in one day for a person; there have been four Cheshire deaths in the last six months due to overdoses.

July 1, 2016 to July 30, 2017 – 58 drug arrests in Cheshire; mostly marijuana possession; person pays a \$108 fine for less than 4 oz. of marijuana.

Chief Dryfe reviewed the arrest record which included 6 from cocaine, 5 from heroin, 5 from controlled narcotic (prescription), 4 intent to sell, 1 in the school zone, and some of the cases have multiple charges for the same arrest.

Lt. Jortner reviewed the types of narcotic enforcement in 2017. Since 2014 everything is cellular, with a network of dealers using cell phones, facebook accounts, snapchat, and this happens every day. It is an awful epidemic, and he said it is hard to pin down and investigate.

After administering Narcan, Ms. Flynn-Harris asked if there is any follow-up with the person through social services or Chesprocott.

Lt. Jortner said a referral can be made to the person, but many times they refuse it.

With a new legislative bill, Ms. Esposito reported that if an emergency room identifies an overdose, the person is referred to treatment.

There is a new Samaritan law on the books, and Lt. Jortner explained that if a person becomes ill from an overdose and the police are called, Narcan is given, the caller cannot be charged for illegal activities. He explained that the drug activity in families is kept secret; families with health insurance keep the problem quiet; and then suddenly law enforcement is involved.

Ms. Piccerillo pointed out that law enforcement involvement is where the tide will turn for someone, and people get serious about getting well after an arrest and trouble with the law.

There are fusion centers that put information out to law enforcement and the community.

Ms. Nichols attended the four sessions presented last year and expressed disappointment that more community members did not attend. With increased presentation of programs she hopes it will increase public awareness.

The plan is to continue the programs and Ms. Piccerillo they will be presented again in the Spring and Fall, and should be well received.

People may see presentations more than once, and Ms. Nichols noted the age group of males 25-45 needing the most help. She said getting to the kids before this age is

important. She has been following what is being done in Cheshire, and asked that those involved keep up the good work.

In Cheshire we have young people using heroin and Ms. Piccerillo advised that senior citizens are also becoming addicted to prescription drugs.

On October 1st, Ms. Esposito reported that the DPH is coming out with a media campaign about substance abuse. Chesprocott is starting a strategic plan on this matter and the Cheshire committee is very strong.

Chief Dryfe cited the fact that post surgery or a medical procedure, people are over-prescribed in appropriate drugs, and they become addicted. A doctor intercedes and offers no more prescription drugs, so the person is faced with purchasing on the street. There is angst about the way drugs have been prescribed over the years, and it is time to go after the drug companies.

Mr. Talbot thanked everyone involved for their hard work on this ongoing crisis. He asked about statistics and the six deaths of Cheshire residents.

The Council was told by Ms. Piccerillo that two Cheshire residents died in another community, and these two deaths are included in the six deaths cited.

Ms. Esposito noted that this data is now received from the Medical Examiner's office.

Regarding the 2015 survey of school kids, Mr. Talbot asked when the survey would be done again, if it will be moved up, and how data is used.

Ms. Piccerillo said the next survey is Fall 2018; she must apply for funding to pay for the expensive survey; and there will be comparison data. She believes a number of Cheshire kids are using drugs and the number will increase from the past survey.

Ms. Nichols commented on Derby H.S. interviewing freshman students, which is different from a survey. The interview process seems to have an effect on students, possibly more than a written survey.

In response, Ms. Piccerillo said this is her understanding. The Derby H.S. training was given to staff last year, and this model is a good one to look at, with grant funding being available. Cheshire would utilize administrative school staff for an interview process.

Councilor Falk has vast professional and personal knowledge of the abuse crisis. He attended the 2015 survey meeting, has attended meetings in Wolcott, watched the Chasing the Dragon movie, and more is learned from each meeting. Mr. Falk supports the continuous of these programs for the community.

Chairman Oris commented on the survey, and his belief that some things are not reported. He questioned having a better sense of what is going on in the school system; how big is this issue; do problems start at a younger age; and he has heard that early awareness is critical. Mr. Oris said that the more there is public awareness about the substance abuse issues, the more helpful it will be. He offered Town Council support and help to the group undertaking this difficult task.

Chief Dryfe talked about the importance of talking about this crisis in the community, bringing forward statistics and information. Statistics have just been received from the Medical Examiner's office on June 30th. Chief Dryfe stated that Cheshire H.S. is no overrun with drugs; he knows substance abuse is happening there; the School Resource Officer (SRO) is on the campus; infractions are brought to the attention of the SRO; there is cooperating with the school staff; and there is drug and alcohol used among school age kids.

According to Chief Dryfe the Police Department cannot arrest its way out of this problem. It is a public health issue; the President is declaring a public health emergency which will bring more resources and attention to the crisis.

Chairman Oris offered the support and help of the Council and the BOE with the programs in place. He said everyone must work together to combat this crisis. He commended everyone for their work in addressing the issues of substance abuse and opioid crisis.

On behalf of the Council and the community, Chairman Oris commended everyone for their work and efforts in this crisis.

Ms. Esposito thanked the Council for their support, and noted they are role models in the community. She requested anyone watching the meeting to come out and learn more at the September 13th session.

C. Public Comments

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Meeting of August 8, 2017; Special Meetings of August 14, 15, 17, 21, 23 and 29, 2017; Public Hearings of August 8 and 15, 2017; Site Visit of August 22, 2017.

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

MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 8, 2017; Special Meetings of August 14, 15, 17, 21, 23 and 29, 2017; Public Hearings of August 8 and 15, 2017; Site Visit of August 22, 2017 subject to corrections, additions, deletions.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #091217-1

RESOLUTION #091217-1
CONSENT CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 12, 2017

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the Consent Calendar for September 12, 2017 as follows:

- A. Acceptance and appropriation of an anonymous \$25 donation to the Human Services Gift Account for general purposes.
- B. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$200 sponsorship by Wayback Burgers For swim meets at the Community Pool.
- C. Authorization to apply for the State of Connecticut's FY 2018 Comprehensive DUI Enforcement Program for Municipal Police Department Grant.
- D. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$500 donation from Thomaston Feed to The Police Gift Account for the Cheshire Police Explorers program.
- E. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100 donation from Mr. and Mrs. Michael Zambruski to the Jitney Bus Fund in memory of Betty King.
- F. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$50 donation from Mr. and Mrs. William Benedetto to the Jitney Bus Fund in memory of Betty King.
- G. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$20 donation from Mr. Edward Dickus To the Human Services Gift Account for the Senior Center.
- H. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$25 donation from Consuelo Hill in honor Of staff member Violet Howard to the Human Services Gift Account.
- I. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$20 donation from Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wallinger to the Human Services Gift Account for the Senior Center.
- J. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$10 donation from Florence McGoey to the Human Services Gift Account for the Senior Center.
- K. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$247 donation from Ron Gagliardi to the Parks Gift Account for a memorial bench in honor of Judge Oberst.
- L. Correction appropriation of the following Consent Calendar items from the

August 8, 2017 meeting to direct donations to the Jitney Bus Fund: \$25 in Memory of Betty King from Margaret D. Golden; \$50 in memory of Betty King from Dr. Lawrence Erwich, D.M.D. and staff; \$25 in memory of Betty King from Mr. and Mrs. Ronald McReavy; and \$100 in memory of Betty King from Town Hall Staff.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of extension of emergency medical services contract.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #091217-2

RESOLUTION #091217-2

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves and authorizes the execution of a one month extension to October 31, 2017 of the Emergency Medical Services Agreement by and between the Town of Cheshire and Campion Ambulance, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager 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.

Discussion

Mr.Slocum commented on this being an issue of timing. The Town Manager agreed to another month extension of the contract and the matter will be on the agenda of the October Council meeting.

Chairman Oris stated that the Council wants to insure continued service to protect the citizens, at the same cost, and extend the contract for one month.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

B. Status on acquisition of Fire Department Pumping Engine.

Fire Chief Casner and Deputy Chief Youngquist reviewed status of the new pumping engine truck.

Chief Casner reported the purchase price of the vehicle is at \$598,500; the referendum approved amount was \$635,000; this leave funding for purchase of equipment at \$36,500. There are additional savings for pre-payment portion of the vehicle, up front, and this is executed at the time the contract is signed. The time for signing is now.

This funding was approved at referendum, and Chairman Oris said this executes the approval. He commended Chief Casner for purchasing the truck in the most cost effective way. Public safety is second to none, and Mr. Oris appreciates the cost effective purchase process.

Chief Casner informed the Council that it will be 9-12 months for delivery of the truck, which will be ordered next week. He noted that going through this process of pre-negotiated costs saves six months of time and 3% possible additional costs.

10. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Monthly Status Report - in Council packets

B. Department Status Reports: Police, Fire, Fire Marshal. In Council packets

C. Other Reports

- Monthly Financial Report – in Council packets.
- Eversource Tree Trimming Program – maps show where the trimming will be done; there is notification to homeowners when necessary; the town has granted permission for rights-of-way for trimming.
- Chapman Property Remediation – the work is progressing and ongoing; possible demolition next week; once Probate Court appoints an executor of the assets, things will move forward.
- Clean Energy Community – Cheshire is recognized for achieving a goal of 32% energy reduction and savings in 2017.
- Quinnipiac Park temporary lights – the lights are for the soccer program; they will be on Monday to Friday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. for two months. The lights have been checked out; noise generation has been checked out; and there are more children in the soccer program this year.

- Fall Festival – September 15th and 16th at Bartlem Park. Fireworks display on Saturday evening, and this event is based on the weather; Councilors will receive an e-mail if there is a rain date.
- Town Offices closed on Monday, October 9th, for Columbus Day.
- Upcoming Meetings – dates to be determined.

11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL.

A. Chairman's Report

i. Referral of Defined Retirement Option Plan (DROP) Provision to the Personnel Committee.

Council Chairman Oris referred the DROP provision to the Personnel Committee. This is a program that allows an employee to retire, have eligibility in the Town's pension plan, receive pension payments...and continue employment status at a lower salary with limited benefits. The matter will be discussed and reviewed by the Personnel Committee with a report to the Council.

B. Miscellaneous

12. MISCELLANEOUS AND APPOINTMENTS

A. Liaison Reports

CPFA – Ms. Flynn-Harris expressed appreciation to the group for their kind recognition and award presented earlier in the meeting.

Economic Development Commission/EDC – Mr. Ecke stated the Commission is working on ideas for the north end; the funding will be a referendum item; and he hopes the community supports this worthwhile effort.

Personnel Committee – in the absence of Mr. Ruocco, the report was given by Mr. Oris. The Search Committee for a new Town Manager continues its work; over 30 responses have been received for the position; Mr. Talbot, Mr. Ruocco and Mr. Oris will be working with the consultant to review the applications, dwindle them down, and begin the interview process. The goal is to accomplish all of this and appoint a new Town Manager by the sitting Council.

B. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

13. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

14. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Letters to Council.

B. Miscellaneous

15. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk