

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2017 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 7:00 P.M. PUBLIC HEARINGS IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410.**

Present

Paul A. Bowman, Vice Chairman; Michael Ecke, Patti Flynn-Harris, Liz Linehan, Sylvia Nichols, and Peter Talbot.

Absent: Robert J. Oris, Thomas Ruocco and Timothy Slocum.

Staff: Michael A. Milone, Town Manager; James Jaskot, Finance Director; Police Chief Neil Dryfe; Deputy Chief Brian Pichnarcik.

**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 items for executive session.

**4. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Proclamation for Scouting Recognition Day**

Chairman Bowman recognized the Scouting Program earlier in the meeting at the first public hearing.

**B. Public Comments**

Derf Kleist, 251 Lancaster Way, said the police department contract should include minimum scheduling not minimum staffing...when one officer is not on duty, another officer should not be paid overtime. This will decrease staffing costs. He received paperwork on Town purchases, and questioned some of the purchases, i.e. Hines...is this for supplies, what was purchased, were there matching of prices among vendors, or a flat 10% discount. Mr. Kleist commented on the high hourly rate for attorneys and actuaries...with an actuary at \$400 an hour, or \$800,000 a year, and the need for these services. For pension plans there should be a formula in place and individual names and information are just inserted.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

MOVED to approve the minutes of Regular Meeting of January 10, 2017; Public Hearing of January 10, 2017; Special Meeting of February 7, 2017; Correction to Regular Meeting of December 13, 2016, subject to corrections, additions, deletions.

The clarification for the vote on the amendment to Resolution #121316-12 is attached to these minutes.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

With regard to the names of Councilors being cited for votes that are not unanimous, Mr. Bowman supports this notification in the minutes.

In response, Ms. Milton (clerk) explained that the Chair must state the names of Councilors voting in favor or opposed as part of the record.

## **6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #021517-1

### **RESOLUTION #021517-1** **CONSENT CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 15, 2017**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the Consent Calendar for February 15, 2017 as follows:

- A. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$50 donation from the Senior Center Membership Association to the Cheshire Police Explorers.
- B. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$120 donation from the Town Employees Dress Down Fund to the Human Services Gift Account for general purposes.
- C. Acceptance and appropriation of an anonymous donation to the Human Services Gift Account for general purposes.
- D. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$200 donation from Kyum and Gail Pyun To the Library Gift Account for the purchase of Library materials, furniture and computers.
- E. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$250 donation from Cathy Devlin in Honor of Joan Devlin to the Library Gift Account for the purchase of Library materials, furniture and computers.
- F. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100 donation from James and Jayne O'Brien to the Library Gift Account for the purchase of Library materials, furniture and computers.
- G. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$183 donation from the Cheshire Regional Rehabilitation Center Wreath Walk event to the Library Gift

- Account for the purchase of Library materials, furniture and computers.
- H. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$22.50 donation from James Freer to The Library Gift Account for purchase of Library materials, furniture and Computers.
  - I. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$4,000 donation from Richard and Mary Schena for the purchase of the portable ice rink.
  - J. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$1,500 donation from the Lion's Club For the purchase of the portable ice rink.
  - K. Acceptance and appropriation of an anonymous \$900 donation to the Parks Gift Account for general purposes.
  - L. Acceptance and appropriation of an anonymous \$40 donation for the Lock 12 museum.
  - M. Authorization to apply, and acceptance and appropriation of a \$2,000 Quick Grant for the Library Community Connections program.
  - N. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$105 donation from a Yellow House event To the Cheshire Fuel Bank.
  - O. Acceptance and appropriation of \$21 in proceeds from Plarn Barn Bag and Cro-Knit sales to the Human Services Gift Account for Senior Center programs.
  - P. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100 donation from Alan and Lorraine Gurz to the Human Services Gift Account for Senior Center programs.
  - Q. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$25 donation from The Cheshire Senior Center Widows and Widowers Club to the Human Services Gift Account for Senior Center programs.
  - R. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$20 donation from Linda Wallinger to the Human Services Gift Account for Senior Center programs.
  - S. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$60 donation from the winners of the Silent Auction at the Holiday Bazaar to the Human Services Gift Account For Senior Center Programs.
  - T. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100 donation from Cathleen Devlin

Before the vote, Chairman Bowman asked that items I and J be removed from the Consent Calendar.

VOTE            The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**

Mr. Bowman commented on the approval of a portable skating rink for the Town which was suggested by local residents, and has been approved by Parks and Rec Commission and the Council.

Consent Calendar Items I and J - Mr. Bowman removed these items from the Consent Calendar. He commented on the contributions received from The Schena Family of \$4,000 and the Lion's Club \$1,500 for the portable ice rink. These two contributions cover the entire cost of the rink. Mr. Bowman said this speaks volumes about Cheshire, the quality of life and quality of people in Town, and their stepping forward for a good idea and supporting the initiative. Mr. Bowman stated his admiration for the Schena Family and the Lion's Club and appreciation for their generous contributions to the community.

With regard to possible signage, Mr. Talbot reported that the Parks and Rec Commission is looking into recognition of the Schena Family and the Lion's Club for their donation. The rink is a one-time \$5,500 purchase; it will be used for many years by many people; and will be an asset to the community going forward.

Ms. Flynn-Harris and Ms. Linehan expressed thanks to the Schena Family and the Lion's Club for their wonderful gift.

**8. OLD BUSINESS**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Approval of amendments to the elderly tax relief ordinance  
Section 17-6.**

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #021517-2

RESOLUTION #021517-2

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the proposed amendment extending the Local Elderly Property Tax Credit Program ordinance Section 17-6 as follows:

**Sec.17-6. Property Tax Relief; owner's abatement program for certain elderly and/or disabled homeowners.**

*(a) (11) This Section (17-6) shall be in effect for the Grant List of October 1, 2016 for FY 2017-2018 until September 30, 2017, at which time it shall automatically be repealed.*

Discussion

Ms. Flynn-Harris pointed out that Cheshire's elderly tax credit program provides benefits to residents in excess of the State income levels.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**B. Approval of amendments to the elderly tax freeze ordinance Section 17-15**

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #021517-3

RESOLUTION #021517-3

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the proposed amendment extending the Elderly Tax Freeze Ordinance Section 17-15 as follows:

**Sec.17-15. Elderly Tax Freeze**

*(a) Pursuant to the provisions of Connecticut General Statute 12-170v, eligible elderly homeowners may apply, and if qualified, pursuant to said statute, receive property tax relief as set forth in said Statute for taxes due on the Grand List of October 1, 2016, for Fiscal Year 2017-2018.*

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**C. Consideration of tax credits for the 2015 Local Elderly Property Tax Credit Program.**

This program will be reviewed by the Council at a future meeting.

**D. Call for Public Hearing for the FY 2017-2018 General Operating Budget, Water Pollution Control Department Fund Operating Budget, and Community Pool Fund Operating Budget.**

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Talbot

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #021517-4

RESOLUTION #021517-4

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council shall hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 in Council Chambers, Town Hall, 84 South Main Street, Cheshire, Connecticut to consider the proposed General Fund Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018, the proposed Water Pollution Control Fund Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018, and the Community Pool Fund Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager shall cause a notice of said public hearing to be posted and published according to law

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**E. Acceptance of FY 15-16 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)**

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Talbot

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #021517-5

RESOLUTION #021517-5

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council, pursuant to the recommendation of the Audit Committee, accepts the FY 15-16 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**F. Appointment of Auditor for FY 16-17.**

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Talbot

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #021517-6

RESOLUTION #021517-6

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council, pursuant to the recommendation of the Audit Committee, appoints RSM, LLP as Auditor for the Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

Discussion

Ms. Nichols reported that the Audit Committee accepted the CAFR. The audit was done well; auditing procedures are being done properly; the Town is in the 3rd year of the core contract and it is recommended that RSM, LLP be appointed auditors for FY 2016-2017.

Mr. Jaskot gave a brief overview of the audit document; it is a 142 page report; and contains all the information on financial trends, revenue, demographics and economic information and reporting information. The report covers all the finances of the town, special projects, financial statements...and everything is transparent. The transfer letter and management discussion provides an overview of FY 2016. Highlights included the following: Cheshire Finance Department records are clean, and there is accurate reporting to the Town Council. Cheshire has a strong Fund Balance of 9.73%; high tax collection rate of 99.73%; refunding sale in March 2017 resulted in \$387,000 of savings; street lights purchased for \$1.2 million and are now getting LED lights; the WPCD is in the newly upgraded treatment plant facility; municipal pool open and operating; senior center basement project completed and operational; large construction

projects such as bridges, the dam, Linear Trail, are successfully completed. The report included information on the debt and pension liabilities to be used during the budget process. Financial Statements are stated clearly and in accordance with accounting standards with good internal control structure. The auditors found no discrepancies or concerns about internal controls. Last year Cheshire received \$3.8 million in federal funds (Linear Trail, education grants); State grants were \$21 million plus (Clean Water Fund, bridge grants, etc.). Last year the surplus was \$1.115 million; \$313,000 from favorable revenue variances, \$526,000 back to the Town; BOE \$10,000; \$265,000 CNR funds were held back. Mr. Jaskot stated that the documents are submitted to the Government Finance Officer's Association and Cheshire has won many awards for its financial documents.

Ms. Nichols, Chair of the Audit Committee, commented on the outstanding work of the Finance Department, and the Town receiving an audit without critical comments. The Audit Committee felt that RSM LLC has worked well for the Town, and they should be reappointed as auditors.

It was stated by Mr. Jaskot that RSM does a very good job, and the Town received good accounting from the company. There is no reason to make a change in auditors for next year.

Mr. Bowman thanked Mr. Jaskot, Ms. DeFilio and the Finance Department staff for their excellent work on the finances of the Town of Cheshire.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**G. Authorization to execute police accident reconstruction team regional agreement.**

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #021517-7

RESOLUTION #021517-7

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the participation of the Town of Cheshire in the Naugatuck Valley Collision Investigation Team and further authorizes the execution of the Compact Agreement.

Discussion

Chief Dryfe reported that in keeping with one of the recent trends, and as part of the State's ongoing fiscal challenges, police departments are forming regional teams for certain police functions. Last year, Cheshire started an agreement with Wallingford for emergency response team and some investigative work.

NVCIT is an existing team for 2+ years, with an agreement in place, and Cheshire has been invited to join the team with Middlebury, Naugatuck, Watertown and Wolcott. The team responds and investigates serious injury and fatal motor vehicle accidents and incidents which are of a high, significant nature. The participating towns applied for a State grant, received \$300,000 for a mobile command post. It is a motor home style vehicle, fully equipped, and this resource will be available to Cheshire for serious investigations.

The difference between the Wallingford and NVCIT agreements was raised by Ms. Flynn-Harris in that a designated officer is assigned to the NVCIT functions.

Chief Dryfe explained that the agreement with Wallingford includes only the members of Cheshire's Emergency Response Team. For NVCIT, Cheshire has two police officers trained under the accident reconstruction training and they are certified, and would be part of the NVCIT team to assist other towns.

Ms. Flynn-Harris asked about the costs anticipated with participation in NVCIT.

According to Chief Dryfe the primary cost will be related to call backs for incidents when members of the team are not working/on duty. Cheshire's trained officers would be sent to assist, and for an incident in Cheshire it would be the same situation, with off hours call back. It was reiterated by Chief Dryfe that the team is only used for the most serious accidents, incidents and investigations.

Ms. Linehan asked why Cheshire was selected...when the town does not border any of the towns in NVCIT...and to get to Wolcott you must go through Southington.

In response, Chief Dryfe noted Cheshire does share a small border with Wolcott. Much has to do with the size and resources of the local police departments, and an accident reconstruction team would be very expensive for a local department. Cheshire would not partner with the City of Waterbury...it has a much higher volume of these types of incidents requiring use of the team. CPD was looking to regionalize with similar/smaller agencies.

Stating she is against mandated regionalization, Ms. Linehan said towns should incentivize, and cost savings and manpower is an incentive. She asked if it is two officers from Cheshire...two from every town for a 10 officer team.

Chief Dryfe informed the Council that Middlebury is a smaller town, and Wolcott is smaller than Cheshire's department. He is uncertain if these towns have more than one officer with the skills and capabilities.

If there is a fatal accident on a State road, Ms. Linehan asked if this would be State Police and Cheshire too.



The State is involved only on an interstate highway, and Chief Dryfe said this would be I-84 and RT 8...and RT 10 is a State road.

Ms. Nichols agrees with comments made about mandated regionalization, but is pleased with the NVCIT program plan. Cheshire can withdraw from participation due to more costs or personnel being used.

That is correct, and Chief Dryfe clarified it is not mandated regionalization, and no State funding involved. The mobile command post is housed in Naugatuck at the Public Works Yard.

Mr. Bowman asked how the process works...there is accident reconstruction, the case goes to court...and Cheshire is part of the team requested to testify in court. He asked about costs involved in this regard.

Ideally, this should not happen, and Chief Dryfe explained the idea behind the team. Except in certain circumstances, the lead officer of the town where the accident occurs, will be the person subpoenaed to court or for any legal action. It is possible the entire team could be subpoenaed...but the agreement makes clear that each town is responsible for compensation for its employees during an investigation. When the team comes to Cheshire there are no reimbursement costs for CPD.

For civil issues a few years after the incident, Mr. Bowman asked about reimbursement for officers testifying at that time...and if these appearances are reimbursable by insurance companies.

There is nothing in the agreement for reimbursement, and Chief Dryfe is unaware of any mechanism in place for reimbursement for a deposition or subpoena.

Mr. Bowman cited his concern with regionalization for all public services, and he wants to have local control within the community. The subject program makes sense; he will support it; and we have to keep an eye on not moving forward on other regionalization.

Chief Dryfe noted that all regionalization agreements, with Wallingford, Southington, and NVCIT have provisions for 30 days notice to withdraw from the program. He does not anticipate this program having two officers out 3 times a month at other jurisdictions eating up the overtime budget. If it does happen, there will be re-evaluation of CPD participation.

VOTE            The motion passed unanimously by those present.

(Ms. Linehan left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.)

H.            Authorization to apply and set a public hearing for Cheshire Housing Authority Rehabilitation and repair projects Small Cities CDBG Grant.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #021517-8

RESOLUTION #021517-8

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council shall conduct a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 in Council Chambers, located on the 3rd floor at Town Hall, 84 South Main Street, Cheshire, Connecticut to discuss its 2017 Small Cities Program Application and to solicit citizen input.

(a copy of the public hearing resolution is attached to these minutes).

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**I. Approval of a capital appropriation and authorization to purchase body-worn cameras pursuant to a full reimbursement grant.  
(the full resolution from Bond Counsel is attached to the minutes)**

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #021517-9

RESOLUTION #021517-9

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$100,000 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF POLICE BODY-WORN CAMERAS AND RELATED STORAGE AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$100,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSES.

Discussion

Town Manager Milone noted that the Council approved the grant application at the December 2016 meeting. Since that time the town has learned that the money must be spent in order to get State reimbursement. Mr. Milone informed the committee that Chief Dryfe has a department policy in place regarding body-worn cameras. The Council's questions were answered at the December meeting following extensive discussion. Chief Dryfe will apply for the full 100% grant reimbursement. The State will not pay the reimbursement until the Town expends the funds, and there must be an appropriation from which to pay for the cameras. If the cameras are purchased prior to June 30, 2017 there is 100% reimbursement; after that date it is 50% reimbursement; and the reimbursement could be paid and received by the Town after the end of the fiscal year.

There are three ways to fund the cost of the cameras. 1) out of the CPD operating budget which is very tight; 2) CNR funds...these funds were frozen a few months ago when the mitigation plan was put in place; 3) use capital budget funds as this

appropriation was in year #2 of the CEP FY 2017-2018. The purchase will have an appropriation from the capital budget; this is a pass through arrangement; and it requires Council approval to spend the money and get the State 100% reimbursement. The Town Council must identify a funding source before Chief Dryfe can spend the money for the cameras.

Chief Dryfe explained the timeline for the 100% grant reimbursement is purchase of the cameras by June 30, 2017, and after that date it is 50% reimbursement for FY 2018. The body cameras, storage, training, shipping etc. are all reimbursable costs.

Regarding the vendor being set, Ms. Flynn-Harris asked if this is all together for the purchase of the cameras.

CPD is ready to go with the company on the State and Federal bids, and Chief Dryfe said bid prices will be honored. Many vendors gave presentations to CPD, and the selected company is Watch Guard, a highly regarded company, and being used by Wallingford, Guilford and other municipalities. There is a policy in place for the cruiser body-worn cameras, and the policy for body-worn cameras is being discussed with the union, with a policy expected to be in place before the cameras will be put into use.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**J. Approval of successor lease for the former Casertano Property.**

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #021517-10

RESOLUTION #021517-10

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the successor Lease Agreement for January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 with Alex Arisco for a portion of the former Casertano Property for agricultural purposes, under the terms as presented and attached, and authorizes the Town Manager to execute said Lease Agreement.

Discussion

Mr. Talbot stated this is a continuation of an existing lease for the property on Marion Road and Jarvis Street. Annual rent is \$2,640 for vegetable farming on the property.

Mr. Milone reported the annual lease was increased by 10% two years ago, and it has been in effect for about 10 years.

The issue on use of pesticides and fertilizer was raised by Mr. Bowman. He asked if it was possible for the tenant to provide a list of chemicals applied to the property.

Mr. Milone will insure there is a list provided to the Town before the lease is signed.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**K. Award of bid for Cheshire High School Emergency Generator to All Electric Inc. for \$174,000.**

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #021517-11

RESOLUTION #021517-11

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council, pursuant to the recommendation of the Public Building Commission, awards a contract to All Electric Construction for \$174,000 for the installation of an emergency generator at Cheshire High School, and authorizes the Town Manager to execute said contract.

Discussion

Mr. Milone stated this matter was referred to the Town Council by the PBC. It is a long and important work in progress, as the high school is an emergency shelter. The Youth Center is the first emergency shelter site, and then the high school. In the past a generator has been taken to the high school for sufficient electric power in the building. A State grant was received; the generator will be installed; and this is consistent with the intent of the Council to have a generator for emergency use for the facility.

There was no member of the PBC present to discuss this agenda item with the Council.

Mr. Ecke commented on All Electric Construction's bid being lower than the other company bids. There is a report from Team DTC which vouches for the validity of the bid, and ability of the contractor to satisfy the requirements. He expressed concern about getting such a low bid on a project, which is not in line with the other bids. In the past, Mr. Ecke noted there has been trouble going with this philosophy.

There is a meeting in two weeks with a presentation on the DTC report, and Mr. Milone said this matter can be tabled until that meeting.

The Council members expected the PBC Chair to attend this Council meeting. They briefly discussed tabling the matter, and noted there is no problem in doing so, with the expectation that the PBC Chair would be attending the upcoming meeting.

Town Manager Milone informed the Council that he expected someone from the PBC to be present at the meeting to discuss the PBC recommendations.

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

MOVED to table agenda item "K" until the meeting in two weeks.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

- L. Award of design contract for Doolittle Cafeteria Upgrades.**
- M. Award of bid for Districtwide Sidewalk Replacements.**
- N. Waiver of bid and award of design contract for Districtwide Generator Connection Project to Diversified Technology Consultants for \$14,500**

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

MOVED that Agenda Items "L, M, and N" be tabled to the Council meeting of February 28, 2017, pending representation by a member of the Public Building Commission.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

## **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** - The three operating budgets are tracking okay; the Town will receive \$766,000 less in State municipal aid; with the mitigation plan and savings the Town will be okay and will have a balanced budget. The surplus projection is about \$500,000.

The Community Pool Operating Budget is under budget expenditures by \$35,000. The question is generation of revenue over the last fiscal year, and there must be generation of enough revenue over expenditures, which can be achieved. The projection is for a balanced budget.

WPCD budget is trending positive, and is under budget by \$50,000. It could be under budget by more at the end of the year. Sewer use bills were sent out in December.

**Governor's Proposed Budget** - Preliminary information has been submitted to the Council.

Mr. Milone and Mr. Jaskot attended the CCM meeting on February 14th, and received additional information. CCM put together a document which summarizes the overall impact of some of the key program areas which were funded and affected by the Governor's changes. There are also descriptions of various requirements of each of the changes.

A spread sheet was prepared by Mr. Milone and Mr. Jaskot, listing all the State aid grants. Mr. Milone reviewed the data with the Council.

Column #1 - Town budget appropriations for each grant.

Column #2 - Governor's appropriation/amendment to the budget.

Column #3 - Variance; amount of shortfall in this year's budget from the changes.

As a result of the cuts, Cheshire loses about \$765,515.

Column #4 - FY 2018 Governor recommendations.

Column #5 - Variance/difference between Town FY 2017 budget and the Governor's 2018 recommendations. There are areas where Cheshire takes a major hit.

**ECS Funding** - reduction of \$3.5 million

Special Education Program (new, separate and apart from ECS...but a combining of the two funding sources) - what is lost in ECS is made up in the Special Education Program \$3,399,099.

**Special Ed Access Cost** - Cheshire expected about \$750,000; the Governor's appropriation is \$617,000; this program is now totally eliminated, and aggregated into the Special Ed Program; Cheshire has a loss of \$750,000.

**PILOT** for State owned Property - Cheshire is hit hard in this area, with reduction of almost \$300,000.

**Grant for Municipal Projects** - this program was started three years ago; it has been terminated; the loss to Cheshire is \$736,700.

**MRSF Revenue Sharing** - funded at \$855,170 level which was the amount originally budgeted by Cheshire. This was cut this fiscal year to \$594,084; then it was increased back up to \$261,086; Cheshire works off its 2017 base; the Governor works off his amended budget. In looking at what the Governor proposed for Cheshire and the reality of the situation...his representation of our loss is not as severe as it really is.

Mr. Milone cited the example of ECS, budgeted at \$9,567,979 by the Town. Cheshire is losing almost \$3.5 million. The Governor starts with his number of \$9,346,665, his amended base which is lower, and makes the loss look not as severe as it is.

**Teachers Retirement Contribution** - Mr. Milone noted the Governor is asking municipalities to pay one-third of the cost of the local contribution to the pension plan. Cheshire's cost would be \$3,508,100.

The total effect of the Governor's proposed budget for Cheshire is a loss of \$5,317,113.

One mill generates \$2,701,498. In order to meet this shortfall, Mr. Milone said the mill rate has to increase by 1.97 mills. Over the past four years the average mill rate increase was .48 mills. To the average taxpayer the 1.97 mill rate increase represents about \$453.44 additional taxes.

Mr. Milone is hopeful the Teachers Retirement Contribution will not pass the General Assembly. The problem is, without passing, there is a \$400 million hole to be filled in the State budget, which is the challenge for the Legislators. Mr. Milone stated the municipalities are of one mind in terms of what must be done.

**Credit Rating Update** - Cheshire's rating of AAA has been sustained by Fitch and Standard & Poors. Part of the conversation was the State budget, what is being imposed on municipalities, and the impact. The agencies are becoming concerned about the financial consequences which municipalities must deal with due to the State's inability to solve its financial problems. Mr. Milone said his concern is this being a matter of time when the towns must pay for this by virtue of rating agencies reducing credit ratings. This is of concern to Cheshire, which keeps its fiscal house in order, but has no control over its destiny.

A bond sale is scheduled for February 22nd, \$17.5 million in bonds. It is hoped there will be competitive rates and the Council will be kept informed of the outcome.

**Temporary Skating Rink** - this is actually a "portable" rink, which will be constructed when we have 3 or 4 days of very cold weather. It will take about 5 hours to construct and fill.

**Upcoming Meetings** - Town Council, February 28, 2017. The main agenda item will be the EDC report from the consultants.

**Town Hall Closed** - Monday, February 20th, President's Day.

## **11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL.**

### **A. Chairman's Report**

- i. Referral of request to name basketball courts at MacNamara Park to the Planning Committee.**
- ii. Referral of process for purchase of pumping engine to the Budget Committee.**

### **B. Miscellaneous**

## **12. MISCELLANEOUS AND APPOINTMENTS**

### **A. Liaison Reports**

CPFA Arts Day - Ms. Flynn-Harris reported the event will be held on March 12th at Cheshire Academy; it is open to the public.

### **B. Appointments to Boards and Commissions**

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

MOVED that the following reappointments and new appointments be approved by the Town Council.

Building Code of Appeals - Philip Newton (R) to fill the vacancy of Christopher Daddi (U), term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/19.

Energy Commission - Richard Ocurick (R), term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/21; David Gavin (R) term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/21; Timothy White (R) to fill the vacancy of Philip Newton (U), term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/21.

Environment Commission - Douglas Noble (R), term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/21.

Cheshire Housing Authority - Louis M. Nero (R) to fill the vacancy of Marion Nero (R), term of office 2/1/17 to 5/31/19.

Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission - David Brzozowski, Sr. (R), term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/21.

Parks and Recreation Commission - James Nankin (R), term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/21.

Performing and Fine Arts Committee - Signian McGeary (U) to fill the vacancy of Ms. Hearn, term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/21.

Prison Advisory Committee - Joseph Holstein (R), term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/19; Jim Neilson (U), term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/19.

Public Building Commission - Vincent Robitaille (R), term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/21; Richard C. Clavet (R), term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/21.

Public Safety Commission - Steve Larson (R), term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/21.

Retirement Board - Michael Evans(R), term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/21.

Water Pollution Control Authority - John Perrotti III (R) term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/20.

Youth Services Committee - Lisa A. Keegan (U) to fill the vacancy of Pam Salamone, term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/19; Michelle Wynne (U) term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/19.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

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

MOVED that the following reappointments and new appointments be approved by the Town Council.

The Beautification Committee - Susan Dillman (D) term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/19;



Patricia Archibald (D) term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/19; JO-Ann Vitarelli (D) term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/19.

Economic Development Commission - Stephen Sidoruk (D) term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/21.

Matt Abdifar (D) term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/21; Carrie White (D), term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/21.

Historic District Commission - Helen Wilson (alternate) (D), term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/20.

Human Services Committee - Sherry Stekloff (D) term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/20.

Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission - Charles Dimmick (D) term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/21; Kerrie Dunne (D) term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/21.

Parks and Recreation Commission - Dan Nowak (D) term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/21.

Performing and Fine Arts Committee -Leslie Hutchinson (D) term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/20; Denise Lohr (D) term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/20.

Retirement Board - Jeremy Beitel (D) term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/21.

Youth Services Committee - Tom Bergvik (D) term of office 2/1/17 to 1/31/19.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**13. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**14. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Letters to Council.**

**B. Miscellaneous**

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mr. Talbot; seconded by Mr. Ecke.

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

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Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk

Chairman Bowman reconvened the Town Council Meeting at 8:46 p.m. for an additional item of business.

**7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Consent Calendar Items I and J**

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

MOVED that the Town Council bring back the following Consent Calendar Items for approval:

- I. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$4,000 donation from Richard and Mary Schena for the purchase of the portable ice rink.
- J. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$1,500 donation from the Lion's Club For the purchase of the portable ice rink.

VOTE The motion to approve Items I and J was passed unanimously by those present.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

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Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk