

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

Present

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

Staff: Michael A. Milone, Town Manager; Arnett Talbot, Assistant Town Manager; James Jaskot, Finance Director; George Noewatne, PW Director; Walter Gancarz, Town Engineer; Robert Ceccolini, Parks and Recreation Director. Dept. of Education Jeff Solan, Supt. Of Schools; Shawn Parkhurst, Assistant Supt. Of Schools; Vincent Masciana, Chief Operating Officer.

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 (none).

4. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Kathleen Devine, 61 Lanyon Drive, stated there should be more communication to residents on the meaning of a small pink flag that is put on their street, and she displayed the pink flag to the Council. Ms. Devine commented on dissention among Lanyon Drive residents about installation of sidewalks on the street. She requested Council suggestions on how Lanyon Drive residents can be cooperative with the town on this project. She has lived on the street 17 years and does not want sidewalks, which are a luxury.

Town Manager Milone explained the background on the sidewalk project, stating it is an initiative to have sidewalks connected to Route 10, and the need for sidewalks on Westland Drive. Town staff will discuss the concerns and problems with Lanyon Drive neighbors and explain the project.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Meeting of March 20, 2017 and December 13, 2016; Public Hearings of March 20 and March 29, 2017; Special Meetings of March 13, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28 and 29; April 3, 4, 5, 10 and 12, 2017.

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

MOVED that the Town Council approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 20 2017 and December 13, 2016; Public Hearings of March 20 and 29, 2017; Special Meetings of March 13, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28 and 29; and April 3, 4, 5, 10 and 12, 2017 subject to corrections, additions, deletions.

Corrections: December 13, 2016, page 28, vote should state "VOTE on the motion to table the matter – in favor four (4) Ecke, Flynn-Harris, Linehan, Talbot; Opposed five (5) – Bowman, Nichols, Oris, Ruocco, **Slocum**.
March 23, 2017 – header should state "**THURSDAY**"; page 2 should state "**MOVED to exit Executive Session at 7:00 p.m.**"

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 #041717-1

RESOLUTION #041717-1 CONSENT CALENDAR FOR APRIL 17, 2017

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the Consent Calendar for April 17, 2017 as follows:

- A. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$50.00 donation from an anonymous donor to the Human Services Gift Account.
- B. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$210.00 check made payable to the Cheshire Senior Center in memory of Dolores Sivori to the Human Services Gift Account on behalf of the Cheshire Senior Center Gift Account.
- C. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100.00 donation from Wire Burn Industries LLC to the Cheshire Police Gift Account.
- D. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$5,342.00 Local Prevention Council Grant from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to the Human Services Department to fund substance abuse prevention activities.
- E. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$75 donation from A. Cotton to the Parks and Recreation Gift Account for a memorial plaque for Steven Bergeron.
- F. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100 donation to the Parks Gift Account for a memorial plaque in honor of Josephine Kowalski.

G. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$500 sponsorship of the Touch A Truck event from Foresters Financial to the Parks Gift Account for general purposes.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Authorization for application for feasibility grant by the Historic District Commission for the Chapman House. WITHDRAWN

B. Tobacco Free Parks Ordinance Amendment.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #041717-3.

RESOLUTION #041717-3

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves a proposed ordinance amendment on tobacco free parks as follows:

NEW: Prohibiting the Use of All Forms of Tobacco in Town Parks, on Public School Grounds, and on Any Other Designated Town-Owned Property.

(A copy of the amendment is attached to these minutes)

Discussion

Parks and Rec Director Ceccolini informed the Council that the Parks and Rec Commission has discussed this issue many times, and unanimously approved and recommended that there be an ordinance amendment for tobacco free parks.

Mr. Ceccolini cited some of the many reasons for this action...denormalize smoking, remove tobacco and smoke from the parks, healthy concerns, litter concerns. There are 27 rules in the ordinance for the Parks and Rec Department and most are self-enforced, with people sometimes calling complaints into the Police Department or the Parks and Rec Department. Many cities ban smoking. Mr. Ceccolini said there was discussion about enforcement of the new ordinance, but said it is not a high priority of the police department.

Mr. Talbot noted there is nothing stated about an "exception" to the policy, and this being at the discretion of the Parks and Rec Director.

According to Mr. Ceccolini, this could be added to the ordinance, and people would talk to the Director requesting an exception without a problem.

Regarding school grounds, Mr. Talbot said the BOE has its own policy, and asked if the public schools should be removed from the ordinance and have the policy only for Park and Rec facilities.

The recommendation to delete "on Public School Grounds" was approved by the Council. There was also an addition to the policy which states "An exception to the policy may be made at the discretion of the Parks and Rec Director".

Ms. Flynn-Harris and Mr. Talbot (maker and seconder) approved the amended resolution.

Ms. Flynn-Harris said it is important to bolster the signage at the parks so people are aware it is a smoke free zone, and this would assist with self-policing of the ordinance.

Mr. Oris had concerns with the policy for people wanting to rent a park facility for a smoking event. Inclusion of the exception would address this issue.

VOTE on the amendment to the policy; passed unanimously by those present.

VOTE on the amended resolution; passed 7 in favor; 2 opposed (Ruocco and Slocum)

9. NEW BUSINESS

B. Adoption of the FY 2017-2018 General Fund Operating Budget.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #0417-17-4.

RESOLUTION #041717-4

FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Town Council appropriates the following amounts for the Town of Cheshire General Fund Operating Budget, for fiscal year 2017-2018:

General Government (excluding Employee Benefits and Police Department)	\$17,514,790
Debt Service	\$ 6,591,783
Contingency	\$ 125,000
Capital Non-Recurring Reserve	\$ 1,100,000

- C. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Town Council appropriates the amount of \$70,126,288 for the Board of Education Budget.

D. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the sum of all revenues, transfers from other funds and allocations of general fund equity for the fiscal year 2017-2018 Town of Cheshire General Fund Operating Budget will be in the amount of \$108,628,649, and

E. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the tax rate be set at 31.94 mills which will generate \$86,828,815 at a collection rate of 99.2% for fiscal year 2017-2018; and

That the tax payments for motor vehicles and personal property shall all be due and payable in one payment on July 1, 2017; and

That real estate tax payments shall be paid in two equal payments with the first payment due on July 1, 2017 and the second payment due on January 1, 2018; and

That pursuant to Section 12-144 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, that any real estate bill on the 2016 grand list in an amount not in excess of \$100.00 shall be due and payable in a single installment on July 1, 2017; and

That, pursuant to Sections 12-142 and 12-146 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the last date for payment of taxes due July 1, 2017 will be August 1, 2017. Payment of taxes due July 1, 2017 which are received after August 1, 2017 will be assessed interest calculated from the original due date of July 1, 2017.

Also, that pursuant to Sections 12-142 and 12-146 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the last date for payment of taxes due January 1, 2018 will be February 1, 2018. Payment of taxes due January 1, 2017 which are received after February 1, 2018 will be assessed interest calculated from the original date of January 1, 2018.

Discussion

Budget Committee Chairman Slocum stated that the budget process for FY 2017-2018 concludes with adoption of the budget, \$108,628,649, by the Council. The mill rate increase is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mill; cost to the average taxpayer (real estate and two motor vehicles) of \$174 annually. Town Government budget increase is \$333,603 and Dept. of Education is \$730,788. Loss of State aid is \$1.023 million

for education and \$776,000 for town government. Managing the budget to meet this steep cut, coupled with contractual obligations largely with personnel costs required serious examination of the process of government operations. Mr. Slocum said Town Manager Milone and his staff presented several cost savings for the town government budget. The Dept. of Education is making staffing reductions to stay in line with the ongoing 10 year decline in student enrollment.

Mr. Slocum expressed appreciation to the Town Council, Board of Education, Supt. Solan, Mr. Masciana, Town Manager Milone, Finance Director Jaskot, Deputy Finance Director DeFilio, and all the department heads and BOE leadership for their work and cooperation on the budget. Mr. Slocum commented the Town being fearful of the State of Connecticut mandate to the 169 municipalities to contribute 1/3rd of the cost of the local teacher's pension. This \$3.5 million hit to Cheshire is not factored into the fiscal year budget, and the possible supplemental tax bill to taxpayers to fund this contribution looms ahead. There was a successful teacher binding arbitration award which brought some savings to this budget. Mr. Slocum thanked the people who attended the workshops and public hearings, and Council is grateful for this public input this year. Increase in taxes is a burden for many, and the Council did its best to implement the best budget it could for Cheshire. There is an increase in the BOE budget. He said he would support this year's operating budget, and noted that even with a zero budget increase there would be a tax increase. Mr. Slocum requested people contact their State representatives about the finances of the State. He reached out to the BOE and the school district leadership to be prepared to collaborate with the Council should further cuts be required for the teacher pension contribution, should it pass in the legislature.

Ms. Nichols said she is also frustrated, and knows people are aware of how hard the Council worked. To solve a problem there must be identification of the problem, and this was done this year. The State of Connecticut has big problems, and in spite of Cheshire's continued efforts to anticipate the problems, we can no longer ignore the facts. She has learned that the State budget in every year since 2009 has spent 48% more than revenue collected. This is a recipe for fiscal disaster. She put some things in positive perspective. Cheshire has had a balanced budget in every year 2009-2017. The Town maintains and increases recreational opportunities; rebuilt a pool that generates income; purchased open space; managed debt service with refunding of bonds at significant savings; has a state of the art waste water treatment plant; upgraded

infrastructure; Library has expanded hours and programs; Senior Center serves an active over 55 population; Fire and Police Departments make the town one of the safest communities in the country; provides competitive salaries, medical benefits, defined pension benefits for its employees; the school system is ranked among the best in Connecticut; the Economic Development Commission is developing a long range plan to increase the grand list; and all of this is done while maintaining a AAA credit rating. The town would like to do more, but to provide more there must be generation of additional revenue to make up for the losses. Money from the State is largely derived from local taxpayers, and Cheshire's revenue is derived by local tax payments. Ms. Nichols commented on people moving out of the State at a higher rate than those moving into the State. There continues to be State mandated programs without funding reimbursement. She commented on the possible teacher pension contribution and the impact on the town, and significant budget challenges in the years to come. The Council recognizes the problems and has begun the task of changing the budget process, and spoken with State Legislators about changes at the State level. Ms. Nichols cited an example of the biggest drivers in budget increases...employee benefits, pensions and salaries on both the town and State levels. The recent teacher arbitration award resulted in savings of \$200,000 this year, and close to \$800,000 over four years. The Cheshire budget process, dictated by Town Charter, required adoption of the budget before the State budget is adopted. Changes in the Town Charter could allow development of the town budget after the State budget, making it easier to determine how much in State funds would come to the town. If the State continues to pass along costs to the towns and reduce funding, the only choice is to increase town revenues in any way possible. This could mean continuing to raise taxes, efforts to increase the grand list, charging or increasing town fees for services, reducing staff, and/or eliminating some services. As we address reality of greater reductions in education grants and funding, the BOE may be forced to raise fees for extra-curricular activities. The town faces an assessment by the State of up to \$3.5 million this fiscal year, and increasing amounts in succeeding years. This assessment is not included in this operating budget, and taxpayers could receive supplemental tax bills for this assessment. This fiscal year operating budget reflects the first small step to address budget issues this year and years to come. Some services will be affected. The Town and BOE worked to minimize reductions for savings with reduction in spending, consolidated services, and recognition of a possible supplemental tax bill. She said it will be incumbent on the Council and BOE to remain fiscally responsible to residents of Cheshire.

Ms. Nichols noted this has been the most difficult budget in her seven years on the Council. She reluctantly supports the budget as the first step to recognize and address the fiscal mess the State has thrown on municipalities.

Mr. Ecke thanked the Council members, Town staff, and BOE staff for their participation in the budget process. Having been involved in the budget for a long time, this was a very emotional budget. The town has done things 99% right; has kept the debt low; worked its way out of pensions into 401K type products; tried to find reductions where possible; and is a AAA rated town. It is upsetting to know that the town's credit rating may go down because the State is messed up, passing its liabilities down to the municipalities with no choice but to pay them. A credit rating downgrade means future greater interest expenses. He does not see how things get better for Cheshire, and thinks it will get worse.

Mr. Ecke commented on Cheshire's portion of the teacher pension contribution is about \$3 million, with the State saying it could go to \$10 million; or to \$20 million or \$30 million in the future. The town is a partner to the State in running our community, and our partner is very sick...and no one knows what this means going forward. He has spoken with legislators about setting up a system of paying this pension liability, and then decide to send it to the municipalities. State people say the towns are giving teachers great raises and should start paying some portion of the pension. The system is set up with limited ability to control what the teachers get; there is a binding arbitration system; and it created the current situation. Councils had no ability to change this. This Council had a victory in the arbitration settlement; a small number compared to the overall expense; so there is no ability to control this aspect of the town's budget. Mr. Ecke commented on the State being in a death spiral right now. More people are leaving the State; more revenue is leaving the State; and not knowing how things will get better. In order to get better we must address the long time liability at the State level, and making Connecticut attractive to businesses again. The State needs an educated work force, high tech manufacturing, bio-technology. Mr. Ecke will support the budget because it does support education to some level. He is fearful of the future, what next and five years out will bring, and until there is turnaround at the State level, he does not know how it will get better.

Mr. Ruocco said this is a modest budget increase, $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mill, 2.4% tax increase, with the difference being State revenue. This increase reflects loss of revenue and under-spending. He will not support this budget because of his belief that

the State should not impose State income tax on the local residents. According to Mr. Ruocco we are enabling State government to treat taxpayers badly, basically passing off expenses, such as the \$3.5 million for the teachers' pension contribution. This is another 2.5% tax increase. Mr. Ruocco was ready to reduce the budget; he is against passing along a tax increase to taxpayers. In Cheshire there are closed store fronts, Florida license plates on vehicles, and we are pulling away from local businesses. Mr. Ruocco said taxes should be voluntary and a low mill rate and taxation is eroding the tax base.

Mr. Falk agreed with comments from other Councilors and the future which looms before us. He thanked Mr. Milone, Mr. Jaskot, Supt. Solan, BOE, department heads and people who helped and participated in the budget process, and citizens who gave their input about the budget. Mr. Falk talked about a recent visit to Highland School, classroom visits, speaking to the principal and teachers, and stated Cheshire has a great education system. People move to Cheshire for the education system, and raise their children here. This was a difficult budget process which reflects a good balance overall without impacting current services. Mr. Falk said he would support the budget.

Mr. Talbot thanked Mr. Milone, Mr. Jaskot, Supt. Solan, Board of Education members, Town and BOE staff for their work on the budget. He commented on the State cuts and large interest payment on the treatment plant upgrade in this budget. This year the Council was able to increase the needs based elderly tax credit by 2.5% for the most vulnerable residents with this increase. Mr. Talbot will support the budget; it is the only choice we have; and it is the best option in a difficult time.

Ms. Flynn-Harris said the process was very hard every night. She expressed thanks to Mr. Milone, Mr. Jaskot, Ms. DeFilio and their staff for their hard work. They provided many scenarios, including a doomsday scenario. The public is aware of what the State has hanging over our heads and doing the math, it affects everyone in the community. The State is now putting the burden on the municipalities, but she does not blame the current Hartford administration because pension underfunding has been going on for 20+ years. In Cheshire we have the town we love, the services we need, and keep the town and schools up to a level which supports everyone and draws people to the town for the education system. Ms. Flynn-Harris thanked everyone for their support, the public who gave input, asked for continued support and urged people to let

Hartford know their opinions. She commented on a difficult budget process, with no animosity during the process, and will support this budget.

Mr. Bowman thanked Mr. Milone, Supt. Solan and Town and BOE staff for an incredible job, and the public who participated in the budget process. The Council members sign up to make tough decisions; when problems or issues arise, there are two choices...run from them or chase them. Council will chase them, deal with them, figure out what to do going forward, make Cheshire a better place to live for its citizens, children, seniors and business community. Mr. Bowman will support the budget.

Chairman Oris commented on the budget process being long and stressful. It will culminate with the Council vote on the budget which will allow Cheshire to navigate the choppy seas of Connecticut's fiscal crisis...affording this great town the ability to move forward, remain strong and prosperous, and affordable, especially for those on fixed incomes. The Council heard and listened to many people...parents with school children, teachers, senior citizens, people on fixed incomes. The Council represents all the people. This budget is the best step forward for many and reflects bipartisan efforts of the Council to bring a workable option with large revenue reductions, and the very dire fiscal condition of the State. This budget is living within our means, but is not ideal or perfect. It calls for a mill rate that is less than 32 mills; it reflects a .077% increase over last year's budget...while recognizing the larger part of the increase is contractual obligations for salaries and benefits over which there is little control. The arbitration award saved \$860,000 over four years; this was not a referendum on teachers; but with all the issues being faced this was the right move by the Council this year; and teachers will still receive a 3% increase. The reduced revenue from the State is the big elephant in the room, and Mr. Oris said we must find ways to offset revenue reductions. Grand list growth is a major driver to pursue; there must be ways found to attract businesses, keep businesses in town; and have quality economic development. The EDC is rolling a platform forward for economic growth in Cheshire. In closing his remarks, Mr. Oris thanked the Council members for their hard work and cooperation and bipartisan politics for the benefit of the community. He encouraged people to get more involved, noting public input being critical in this year's budget.

VOTE The motion passed 8 in favor; 1 opposed (Ruocco).

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

B. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Town Council appropriates the amount of \$7,674,095 for the Employee Benefits portion of the General Government Budget and \$5,496,693 for the Police Department portion of the General Government Budget.

VOTE The motion passed 6-2-1; 6 in favor (Oris, Ecke, Flynn-Harris, Nichols, Slocum, Talbot); Opposed -1 (Ruocco)
Abstained 2 (Bowman and Falk).

C. Adoption of the FY 2017-2018 Water Pollution Control Department Fund Operating Budget.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #041717-5

FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FUND OPERATING BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council appropriates the sum of \$4,021,971 for the Town of Cheshire Water Pollution Control Fund Operating Budget for fiscal year 2017-2018, and that the sum of revenues and allocation of Water Pollution Control Fund equity for the fiscal year 2017-2018 Town of Cheshire Pollution Control Fund Operating Budget be in the amount of \$4,021,971, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Town Council recommends that the Water Pollution Control Authority maintain the Sewer Use Charge to \$400 per year effective December 1, 2017.

Discussion

Mr. Slocum stated that this operating budget supports the public utility to manage the treatment plant, operating expenses, operating revenue. More revenue will be generated this year through new rates of watering for commercial properties sewer usage. This equates to sharing the use burden.

VOTE The motion passed 8 in favor; 1 opposed (Ruocco)

C. Adoption of the FY 2017-2018 Community Pool Fund Operating Budget.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #041717-6.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Town Council appropriates the sum of \$901,896 for the Town of Cheshire Community Pool Fund Operating Budget for fiscal year 2017-2018, and that the sum of revenues and transfers from other funds and allocation of Community Pool Fund equity for the fiscal year 2017-2018 Town of Cheshire Community Pool Fund Operating budget also be in the amount of \$901,896.

Discussion

This is a smaller pool budget. In the past there were transfers from other accounts, and Mr. Slocum reported that since the pool was rebuilt it has turned out to be a successful entity for the community. He supports this budget.

VOTE The motion passed 8 in favor; 1 opposed (Ruocco).

D. Acceptance and appropriation of \$180,000 donation from Elim Park
To the Cheshire Fire Department.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #041717-7

RESOLUTION #041717-7

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts and appropriates a \$180,000 donation from Elim Park to the Police Gift Account for purposes as detailed and attached.

Discussion

Mr. Slocum reported that at the Budget Committee meeting, Chief Youngquist and Firefighter Ford reviewed how the CFD will use the donation from Elim Park. Items for use of the funds include firefighting equipment, outfitting the new ladder truck, funds towards the new pumper, supplies, training.

A question was raised by Mr. Ruocco on the resolution not including CFD being bound by the items outlined in its report.

Mr. Milone responded “no”. The funds can be moved as needed; and the details are a plan which can change as emergencies and things arise.

It was stated by Mr. Ruocco that some of this money should go into a trust fund for larger items to be purchased by CFD.

Regarding the ladder truck, Mr. Milone gave a brief update to the Council. The ladder truck will be outfitted with money from the CFD gift account in this fiscal year. Another pumper truck is before the Budget Committee for consideration. This pumper truck will have money appropriated from the subject Elim Park gift.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

E. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$180,000 donation from Elim Park to The Cheshire Police Department.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #041717-8

RESOLUTION #041717-8

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts and appropriates a \$180,000 donation from Elim Park to the Police Gift Account for purposes as detailed and attached.

Discussion

Mr. Slocum stated that Police Chief Dryfe submitted an outline for the use of the gift funds for CFD, to include equipment, tasers, supplies and services, training, consultant support, programs (RAD and Citizens Academy).

With regard to the request for a message board in front of CPD headquarters, Ms. Flynn-Harris stated this matter should go before The Beautification Committee and Council so it is known what the board will look like. She said we must insure it is appropriate for the neighborhood.

Mr. Falk stated he would abstain from voting on this resolution.

VOTE The motion passed 8-1 (Falk abstained).

- F. Authorization to execute a paving agreement with the Regional Water Authority for Moss Farm Road and acceptance and appropriation of \$51,000 for said paving.

MOTION by Mr. Bowman; seconded by Mr. Slocum.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #041717-9

RESOLUTION #041717-9

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves a Repaving Agreement by and between the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA) and the Town of Cheshire in which the RWA agrees to compensate the Town of Cheshire \$51,000 for the cost of paving Moss Farm Road in lieu of the RWA patching the areas in which water mains were replaced, and authorizes the Town Manager to execute said agreement, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts the \$51,000 in consideration from this agreement, and appropriates said amount for the paving of Moss Farm Road.

Discussion

PW Director Noewatne informed the Council that RWA just installed ¼ mile of main on Moss Farm Road, an interconnection within their system, and paid by RWA. The payment in lieu of RWA doing the paving of the road allows the Town to do a better job and the money goes further.

It was clarified by Ms. Nichols that RWA would usually pave the road, and these funds enable the Town to pave the road.

Mr. Milone commented on the Town getting \$250,000 worth of water mains installed, and in the past this work was funded out of the Fire Department budget.

It was stated by Mr. Noewatne that the Town paid for the West Main Street installation and maintenance.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

G. Authorization to transfer \$9,805.95 in auction sales funds to the Capital Asset Proceeds account.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #041717-10

RESOLUTION #041717-10

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes a transfer of \$9,805.95 in proceeds from auction sales of Public Works vehicles and equipment to the Capital Asset Proceeds Account.

Discussion

Mr. Slocum explained that this account was set up to hold the funds when equipment and vehicles were auctioned. Some of the funds are appropriated for future purchases of vehicles and equipment.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

H. Approval of bid waiver and authorization to hire Turri-Masterson for Streetlight pole replacements.

MOTION by Mr. Bowman; seconded by Mr.Slocum.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #041717-11.

RESOLUTION #041717-11

WHEREAS, in order to install 25 streetlights within the next several months, to maximize the use of the applicable loan that must be closed by mid-June, and to preserve the \$100,000 in Capital Non-Recurring Funds for future pole replacements, it is requested that a bid waiver be granted and that the Town contract with Turri-Masterson for \$65,000 for installation of said 25 streetlights, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds it is in the best interest of the Town to grant a bid waiver for said installation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council waives the bidding requirement for the installation of 25 streetlights and authorized hiring Turri-Masterson for said work.

Discussion

Town Engineer Gancarz stated the retrofitting of 1700 lights to LED this year was the easy part, but single service pole replacement of 490 poles will be more difficult. Siemens Company did the light retrofit for \$33,250 for each pole, and this was expensive. Other options were sought, and Mr. Gancarz talked to other firms, received quotes, and put the project out for an RFP in December, with no responders. He had discussions with Turri-Masterson, which maintains the street lights for the Town, and for \$65,000 they will do the pole work over the next two months. There is \$80,000 in the streetlight account which will be used for this project work.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

- I. Award of contract for the Districtwide Roof Repairs and Replacement Project to New England Masonry & Roofing Company.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #041717-12.

RESOLUTION #041717-12

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council, pursuant to the recommendation of the Public Building Commission awards a contract to New England Masonry & Roofing Company in the amount of \$132,450 for the Districtwide Roof Repairs and Replacement Project.

Discussion

PW Director Noewatne stated that PBC recommended award of this work to New England Masonry & Roofing Company. The firm is on the State bid directory.

The scope of the work is varied for 8 roofs on BOE buildings. Some will be complete replacement; others will be seaming; others will be repairing the roof; and the prices could be less than stated depending on the work involved. For the Humiston School roof, it is a repair job due to shingles coming off the roof, and at some point this roof must be replaced.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

J. Approval of successor lease for the Grange parking lot.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #041717-13.

RESOLUTION #041717-13

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the Second Amendment of Lease between the Town of Cheshire and the Cheshire Grange Company for the lease of a parking are at 48 Wallingford Road in Cheshire under the terms and conditions as presented and attached, and further authorizes the Town Manager to execute said Agreement.

Discussion

Town Manager Milone explained there are minor changes in this lease amendment, and the matter was referred to Council from the Planning Committee. It is a 5 year lease with 5 year renewal, and the Town has first option for purchase of this property. The rental time period is April to May. Mr. Milone stated this parking lot is a great resource for the Town Hall overflow parking.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

K. MOTION by Mr. Oris; seconded by Ms. Slocum.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution \$041717-14.

RESOLUTION #041717-14

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council shall hold a public hearing to consider naming a Town of Cheshire sports field in honor of retired employee Kevin Simmons, and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the date, time, and place or any postponements thereof shall be determined by the Town Manager with the approval of the Town Council.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

L. Creation of and appointments to the Town Manager Search Committee

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #041717-15

RESOLUTION #041717-15

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council creates a Search Committee to seek out candidates and make a recommendation to the Town Council for a successor Town Manager, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following electors are appointed to said Search Committee:

Robert J. Oris Jr., Thomas Ruocco and Peter Talbot.

Discussion

Mr. Ruocco stated that Council wants to start the search process early and in advance of Mr. Milone's retirement in June 2018. The committee will review options, seek candidates, and be transparent.

Mr. Oris commented on this being an important decision, replacement of Town Manager Milone, who has been in Cheshire a long time and has done a

phenomenal job. It will take time for the Council to search for the right person for the community, and the committee will be fact finders, deliberate on potential individuals, and narrow it down to a final few. The decision for the new Town Manager will be made by the full Town Council.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

M. Approval of amendments to Local Elderly Property Tax Credits.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #041717-16

RESOLUTION #041717-16

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves amended tax credits for the Local Elderly Property Tax Credit Program as presented and attached, pursuant to Section 17-6 of the Code of Ordinances.

Discussion

Ms. Nichols explained this is a continuation of the program already in place; the increase is 2.5% in credits for lower income and senior residents; and it is equal to the tax increase for FY 2017-2018.

Mr. Ecke said the 2% range is close to the CPI change, and Council wished the increase could have been more. The goal is to keep as many older residents living in their homes in town.

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.

C. Other Reports

1. Monthly Financial Report – \$847,000 projected surplus for the general fund; WPCD projected surplus of \$168,000; the pool has a balanced budget; General Fund balance should be about \$9.7 million; \$1 million fund balance in WPCD.

2. CCM Legislative Summary – Municipal Contribution to Teacher Pension System.

Mr. Milone reported there is a big press conference on April 18th in West Hartford, with election, appointed and education officials meeting to oppose the Governor's proposal on the teacher pension contribution mandate. Mr. Milone explained the very significant potential growth and exposure to Cheshire with imposition of this mandate. There are a number of initiatives which the Governor could have put forth...specifically increase the teacher pension contribution from 6% to 8% or 9%. The CCM report includes a listing of the 169 towns.

Mr. Milone reported that the Town of Cheshire reached an agreement with Town Hall union last week, and it is in line with what has been discussed with the Council. The agreement must be taken to membership for ratification, and once this is done, it will be back to Council for approval.

BOE and Town Council Special Meeting – Mr. Milone said the meeting will be April 24th or 25th; and asked Councilors to respond to Ms. Roberts or Ms. Talbot in his office on their preferred date for this meeting.

11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL.

A. Chairman's Report – no reports

B. Miscellaneous

12. MISCELLANEOUS AND APPOINTMENTS

A. Liaison Reports – no reports

B. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Chairman Oris appointed Phillip Bowman (I), 365 Finch Avenue, to the Public Building Commission to fill the vacancy of Edward Hill, term of office April 17, 2017 to January 31, 2018.

13. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

14. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Letters to Council.

Mr. Oris reported on letters received for the Council.

Letter from Warden Ells, Manson Youth Institution, inviting Council members to attend an opening of the facility on June 13, 2017, 1:30 p.m.

Letter from South Central RWA regarding assistance for customers with water bill payments. Mr. Oris read the RWA letter into the record of the meeting.

Mr. Milone informed Council that this letter was referred to Human Services and Senior Services so eligible residents are aware of the program from RWA.

B. Miscellaneous

15. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk