

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2017 AT 6:30 P.M. IN ROOM 207, TOWN HALL, 84
SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

Timothy Slocum, Chairman; Michael Ecke and Sylvia Nichols

Council Members Paul Bowman and Jeffrey Falk

Staff: Michael A. Milone, Town Manager; Finance Director James Jaskot

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. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$682.70 reimbursement from the Highway National Grant for expenses for the attendance of two officers At the N.E. Child Safety Conference.
4. Acceptance and appropriation of an aggregate of \$3,415.16 from the State Of Connecticut to the Police Asset Forfeiture Account.
5. Acceptance and appropriation of an anonymous \$50 donation to the Human Services Gift Account for general purposes.
6. Acceptance and appropriation of \$82 from the Cheshire Community Chorus To the Cheshire Fuel Bank.
7. Acceptance of a sponsorship of \$300 from the Cheshire Cat & Dog Too to The Pool Gift Account, and appropriation of up to \$50 for the sponsorship plaque.
8. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$50 donation from Francis Fargnoli to the Human Services Gift Account for Senior Center general purposes.
9. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$50 donation from bingo friends in memory Of Ed Fleming to the Human Services Gift Account for the purchase of new Bingo equipment at the Senior Center.
10. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$500 donation from the Cheshire Women's Club to the Human Services Gift Account for the Senior Center.
11. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$200 donation from the Cheshire Lion's Foundation Inc. to the Police Gift Account for general purposes.

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

MOVED to approve agenda items #3 through #11 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

12. Approval of assignment of tax liens.

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Ecke

MOVED to approve agenda item #12 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

Mr. Milone reported is \$21,000 of assigned tax liens.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

13. Approval of transfer of uncollectible property taxes to the Suspense List.

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Ecke

MOVED to approve agenda item #13 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

Mr. Milone advised that these property taxes are still collectible. By State statute they must be removed from the town's "receivables" and put on the suspense list. The taxes go to a collection agency to get payment. The State does not want towns to carry unrealistic receivables which are considered uncollectible.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

14. Formalization of Public Works and Parks Reorganization in FY 17-18 adopted Budget.

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Ecke

MOVED to approve agenda item #14 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

Mr. Slocum pointed out that this is a "bookkeeping" entry, taking the operation of the Parks Division and assigning it to the Public Works Department.

Mr. Milone said it is cutting of Parks and Recreation at the end of the fiscal year, taking existing line items off the Parks Division and putting them into Public Works. The positions of Director and Deputy Director (Parks and Recreation) have been

consolidated. This agenda item just affects the Parks Division and was approved during the budget process.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

15. Short term extension of Campion Ambulance Contract.

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Ecke

MOVED to approve agenda item #15 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

Mr. Slocum explained that the Town did not receive a contract right away, and an extension was requested by the Town.

The committee was told by Mr. Milone that it will take a few months to vet the contract, and the Town requested a 90 day extension, at a cost of \$18,100. Campion does not want this to preclude the company from negotiating more money in the new contract. Town Attorney Smith has reviewed the contract, and Council members have requested looking at a new contract or modification of the existing contract.

With regard to areas of EMS, Mr. Milone advised that there are public service areas for ambulance services. If there are issues with the company the Town can challenge the company's right to be the sole provider in this area. There have been a few complaints and he said the contract is worth examining, and meeting with Campion representatives. The Town is requesting a five year contract. There has been no dialogue with Campion in many years, and Mr. Milone wants to meet and understand the company has everything under control.

The contract extension is 90 days, from July 1 to September 30, 2017. Mr. Milone said this item would be on the agenda of a special Council meeting. The Budget Committee decided to hold a special meeting on Monday, June 26, 2017, 6:30 p.m. with Campion Ambulance representatives, to discuss the new contract. The "90-day extension" of the contract is on the Council agenda tonight.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

16. Proposed Economic Incentive Policy
No action will be taken on this matter by the Council; it will be on the agenda of the Council meeting of Tuesday, June 27, 2017.

17. Discussion of fire truck acquisition process.
No action will be taken on this matter by the Council; it will be on the agenda of the Council meeting of Tuesday, June 27, 2017.

Also on the June 27th special meeting agenda will be consideration of an increase in rates for the Cheshire Police Department extra duty.

18. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk