

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 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
Councilor Jeff 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 an anonymous \$50 donation to the Human Services Gift Account for general purposes.
4. Acceptance and appropriation of \$140.50 collected from the lobby donation Container to the Library Gift Account for the purchase of materials, furniture And computers.
5. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100 donation from Frank and Janice Minor in memory of Marilyn Gaudet to the Library Gift Account for the purchase of materials, furniture and computers.
6. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$25 donation from Patricia and Thomas Riley Jr. in memory of Dan Dixon to the Library Gift Account for the purchase Of materials, furniture and computers.
7. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$25 donation from Richard and Ruth Gleeton in memory of Judy Dreher to the Library Gift Account for the purchase Of materials, furniture and computers.
8. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$333 donation from Yellow House events To the Cheshire Fuel Bank.
9. Acceptance and appropriation of two grant disbursements of \$3,125 each totaling \$6,250 from the State Department of Education Youth Service Bureau Enhancement Grant to be used to fund positive youth development programs.
10. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100 donation from Jean McSweet to The Parks Gift Account for a memorial bench in honor of Judge Oberst.

11. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$50 donation from Attorney Michael Laden to the Parks Gift Account for a memorial bench in honor of Judge Oberst.

MOTION by Mr. Ecke; seconded by Mr. Slocum

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

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

12. Bid Waiver for sludge hauler repairs.

MOTION by Mr. Ecke; seconded by Mr. Slocum.

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

Discussion

Mr. Milone advised that an expanded analysis on the sludge hauler was done by Town Engineer Gancarz which will be reviewed with the full Council at the meeting. The cost of a new truck is \$195,000, and a suggestion was made to look at other alternatives such as renting a hauler truck or repairing the existing truck. The less costly option was to repair the truck. Fleet Manager Kaczer and his crew are in the midst of repairing a dump truck and cannot undertake repairs of the hauler. Therefore, repairs will be done by an outside company and expenses incurred of about \$24,000. Three quotes were received for the repair work, and Mr. Milone authorized the requisition for the company doing the work. Later, it was learned that the cost of \$24,000 is above the bid amount Of \$14,000 for repairs (\$28,000 for construction). A waiver is needed from the Town Council for the repairs to the sludge hauler truck.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

13. Approval of reallocation of \$60,494 from the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Security Competitive Grant To the Technology Reserve Fund for necessary infrastructure upgrades.

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

MOVED to accept agenda items #13 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

Mr. Masciana, COO, Dept. of Education, completed the information for the upgrades to the BOE security system, but was uncertain about grant eligibility. If successful, he

would request the appropriation from the Town Council to continue the security project. Until the money is appropriated, the BOE cannot get the funds.

It was stated by Mr. Jaskot that the Council resolution makes clear this is an appropriation to the BOE, not an allocation.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

14. Update on State budget.

The Council has requested the Town Manager to add this issue as an agenda item for all Council meetings. Mr. Milone reported that the legislative leaders feel ready to meet with the Governor, even though there was a \$100M difference yesterday. He believes there will be no adoption of a budget by next week, and has heard the legislators are offering to support ECS funding.

On Tuesday, October 17th, the Council will hold a special meeting on the status of the State budget. Mr. Milone will attend a Town Manager's Association meeting on October 12th, with Secretary of OPM as guest speaker.

Mr. Milone informed the Councilors that he had a unique experience with a call from a bond investment company representative asking about the financial conditions of the Town of Cheshire related to the Governor's cuts in the State budget. In his many years in municipal government, he has never received such a call, and he reassured the caller that the town bonds are secure, with the town having a good fund balance. The caller's company holds lots of bonds in Connecticut municipalities, and advised he was calling other municipalities on how the shortfall is being handled. Sometimes, on the advice of the town's financial advisor, Standard & Poors and Moody's will be informed on what Cheshire is doing. With the possible default of some municipalities, the investment company would want to unload the bonds.

The Councilors were told by Mr. Milone that he met with department heads, asked for details on a 5% reduction of expenditures by Friday, October 13th. This information will be reviewed by Mr. Milone and Mr. Jaskot, along with options and challenges. Some programs (i.e. Parks Department) would be cut, expenses will be cut, all State mandates will be looked, possibly backing off them and saving money. Mr. Milone noted that with cutback on State mandates it is possible the town would be fined. All this information will be reviewed with the Town Attorney, including who would be the responsible party...Town Manager, Finance Director, Town Clerk.

Mr. Jaskot is working on the cash flow report and numbers for the Council meeting. Cash available is what is in reserves and fund balance. Bi-weekly payroll for the Dept. of Education is \$1.7M, and \$500,000 for the Town, which is a total of \$2.3M. These numbers will be run in more detail for Council review.

15. 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