

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL AND WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Public Hearing Subject Matter  
**FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 ANNUAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET**

Present

Robert J. Oris Jr. Chairman; Paul A. Bowman, Vice-Chairman; Patti Flynn-Harris, Jeffrey Falk, Sylvia Nichols, Timothy Slocum, Peter Talbot, David Veleber.

Absent: Thomas Ruocco.

Staff: Town Manager Sean Kimball; Asst. Town Manager Arnett Talbot; Town Attorney Al Smith; Finance Director James Jaskot; Fire Marshal John Andrews.

1. ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll and a quorum was determined to be present.

2. EXPLANATION OF HEARING PROCEDURE AND AGENDA

3. READING OF LEGAL NOTICE

The clerk read the legal notice into the record.

4. PRESENTATION ON HEARING SUBJECT

Town Manager Kimball reviewed the annual capital expenditure budget, and noted some projects are from past years along with new projects with a return on investment.

Total CEP - \$58,235,000; 82 projects; increase of \$10.4M from last year's CEP.

Ten and Five year history of CEP budget – average ten (10) year budget is \$55.7M; average five (5) year budget is \$53M.

Debt Service – there is a prudential financial strategy to control debt service, including a debt service reserve account; long term debt service of 11.4% has been reduced to 5.9% in the current CEP.

FY 2019 CEP – 39 recommended projects; \$10.2M in appropriations; increase of \$3.735M over FY 2018.

Town Manager Kimball cited some of the components of the CEP

General Services - \$398,000

Public Property - \$475,000 (paving, boiler replacements)

Cheshire Fire Department - \$640,000 for new Fire Truck

Public Works - \$3.51M for street light pole maintenance, dump trucks/plows, various equipment and rolling stock, sidewalk project, improvements to parks and open space

WPCA - \$356,000 for belt filter press refurbishment at the WWTP  
Education - \$3.27M for roof repairs, maintenance/replacement projects, cafeteria renovations, school security improvements

All projects in the CEP which are over \$500,000 must go to referendum for voter approval. Mr. Kimball explained that aggregate projects over \$500,000 over a time period (i.e. CHS Window Replacement \$250,000, Lavatory Improvements \$250,000) must go to referendum vote. He cited the \$1.09M for school security improvements as a referendum item.

The Town and school security project will be the focus of the August 15<sup>th</sup> workshop.

The tentative date for Town Council approval of the CEP is Tuesday, August 21, 2018.

5. QUESTIONS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR.

6. PROPONENTS AND OPPONENTS STATEMENTS ALTERNATELY EXPRESSED.

Maria Ecke, 448 Mixville Road, addressed the Council and talked about people in power, with pencils, getting pay raises, and this being a conflict of interest. She said she speaks on behalf of all Cheshire citizens who group together with voices of concern, asking that the budget not be raised and taxes not be increased. Ms. Ecke said people struggle to keep up with their bills, cannot enjoy citizenship, Cheshire is #1 in spending, should be #1 as a school system, and money grabbing by town leaders should be stopped.

Tim White, 1682 Orchard Hill Road, clarified that the Town Council and elected officials do not receive payment for their services and work. Mr. White attended a budget workshop, and encouraged Council to consider alternative forms of financing, i.e. performance contracting, as recommended by the Energy Commission. With regard to Doolittle School boiler replacement, he suggested working with Yankee Gas to bring natural gas connection and service to the school via Higgins Road.

7. REBUTTAL AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Oris adjourned the public hearing at 7:23 p.m.

Attest:

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Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk