

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY,  
JANUARY 12, 2016 AT 7:30 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 84 SOUTH MAIN  
STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

Robert Oris, Chairman; Paul Bowman, Vice Chairman; Councilors - Michael Ecke, Liz Linehan, Sylvia Nichols, Thomas Ruocco, Tim Slocum, Peter Talbot.

Absent: Patti Flynn-Harris.

Staff: Town Manager Michael A. Milone; James Jaskot, Finance Director; Town Attorney Alfred Smith; Economic Development Coordinator Gerald Sitko; Director of Human Services Michelle Piccerillo; Library Director Ramona Burkey.

Guests: State Legislative Delegation - Rep. Alfred Adinolfi, Rep. Lezlye Zupkus, Sen. Joseph Markley; Don and Jen Walsh and Richard Kaczer

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

**3. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Certificate of Appreciation for Lights of Hope.**

Chairman Oris presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Don and Jen Walsh, Chairs of the Lights of Hope, for their generous donation to the Cheshire Human Services Department.

Don Walsh expressed appreciation to the Council and the Cheshire Community for supporting the Lights of Hope and the honor of being recognized. He said the organization is a core group of people who work and raise the money that is donated. There are exciting plans for the coming year.

**B. Recognition of former Councilor James Sima.**

Postponed

**C. Recognition of Employee of the Year - Richard Kaczer**

Chairman Oris presented Mr. Kaczer with a Certificate of Recognition as Employee of the Year. In his remarks, Mr. Oris highlighted Mr. Kaczer's numerous contributions to the Town, his hard work and dedication to his duties. Mr. Oris congratulated Mr. Kaczer and expressed appreciation for his outstanding work as Fleet Manager for the Town of Cheshire.

**D. Public Comments.**

Terry LaChance and Allen Dvarskas represented the Track teams and over 400 runners, and thanked the Council for the new shed which safely stores all the sports equipment. They distributed photographs of the shed and the stored equipment.

Chairman Oris commented on the need for the shed, his support of the project, and the importance of athletics for our youth. With the shed the equipment will be stored safely, and kept clean and available for the teams.

#### **4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #011216-1

#### RESOLUTION #011216-1 CONSENT CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 12, 2016

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the Consent Calendar for January 12, 2016 as follows:

- A. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$500 donation from Adoria and Gerald Corcoran to the Cheshire Fuel Bank.
- B. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$700 donation from Patricia Wallinger to The Human Services Gift Account for residents in need.
- C. Acceptance and appropriation of an anonymous \$75 donation to the Human Services Gift Account for residents in need.
- D. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$150 donation from John and Eileen McBride To the Human Services Gift Account for residents in need.
- E. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$500 donation from Michael and Marilyn D'Angelo to the Cheshire Fuel Bank.
- F. Acceptance of a \$160 donation from Coldwell Banker to the Cheshire Fuel Bank.
- G. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100 donation from Shirley Hogan in Memory of Bruce Klein to the Human Services Gift Account for residents in need.
- H. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$116 donation from the Town Employees Dress Down Day Fund to the Human Services Gift Account for residents in need.
- I. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$93.25 donation from the Cheshire Community Chorus to the Cheshire Fuel Bank.
- J. Acceptance and appropriation of a total of \$1,872.15 for the State of Connecticut Police Seizure Grant to the Police Department Asset Forfeiture Account.
- K. Authorization to apply for a \$5,323 Department of Mental Health and

Addiction Services Local Prevention Council grant for substance abuse and Awareness programs.

- L. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$55 donation in memory of Marilyn Rosenfield from the "I Could Have Read All Night" Book Group to the Library Gift Account for materials, furniture and computers.
- M. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$5 donation from Andre Jay Masoud In honor of church gift exchange to the Library Gift Account for materials, Furniture and computers.
- N. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$25 donation from Joan Benedetto in Honor of Jose Rodriquez to the Library Gift Account for materials, Furniture and computers.
- O. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$25 donation from Joan Benedetto in Honor of Cherry Watkinson to the Library Gift Account for materials, Furniture and computers.
- P. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$200 donation from Maria Brandiff to the Library Gift Account for materials, furniture and computers.
- Q. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$50 donation from Jennifer Nelson in Honor of Sybil Alexander to the Library Gift Account for materials, furniture And computers.
- R. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$25 donation from Brett Hall to the Library Gift Account for materials, furniture and computers.
- S. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100 donation from Kyum and Gail Pyun To the Library Gift Account for materials, furniture and computers.
- T. Acceptance and appropriation of \$2,698 from the Senior Center Travel Group To the Human Services Gift Account to offset future instructors' fees for Additional classes.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**5. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR**

**None.**

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Town Council Rules of Procedure.**

Chairman Oris stated this is a document for Council approval, and in the absence of Ms. Flynn-Harris, he deferred the matter to the next Council meeting. He noted some of the changes in the document -- meeting start time of 7:00 p.m., executive session at the start of the meeting, and approval of minutes at the start of the meeting.

**B. Legislative Recommendations.**

The Council welcomed Rep. Zupkus, Sen., Markley, and Rep. Adinolfi. Chairman Oris explained that Rep. Fritz and Sen. Bartolomeo were unable to attend due to prior commitments. On behalf of the Council and the Town of Cheshire he thanked the Legislators for their hard work on behalf of the Town.

The Legislative Package included the following items:  
Resources and Incentives-Consolidated Dispatch Centers  
Prevailing Wage  
Storm Water Management Permit Process  
Unfunded Mandates  
Binding Arbitration Revision  
Municipal Spending Cap - Delay Implementation

Town Manager Milone thanked the Legislators for attending the meeting and reviewed the package as follows:

Resources and Incentives-Consolidated Dispatch Centers - Cheshire has partnered with North Haven and Wallingford to evaluate establishment of a central regional dispatch center, with identification of a site in Wallingford. Communities ahead of the curve on this issue should receive incentive for working to accomplish this consolidation.

Prevailing Wage - rates have not changed since 1991; a reasonable increase is requested for renovation construction projects to \$400,000 (from \$100,000); and new construction projects to \$1 million (from \$400,000); both thresholds should be indexed for inflation.

Storm Water Management Permit Process - this was discussed last year; there was opposition from most municipalities against DEEP's proposed requirements; there is a significant financial impact on Cheshire and all State municipalities; costly mandates should be modified or additional revenues passed along to municipalities.

Unfunded Mandates - CCM has a proposal to modify requirements for posting legal notices to allow municipalities to publish a summary of the notice, with reference of availability of the full notice on the town website and in town offices. Probate Court costs, including rent and office supplies, to come out of the State Probate Fees; Cheshire Town Hall houses the court for Southington and Cheshire; all costs, except for \$17,000 paid by Southington, are paid by the Town of Cheshire. Unfunded or under-funded mandates must require a 2/3 vote of both chambers of the General Assembly.

Binding Arbitration - modification of the law to require awards be issued no later than 60 days following the date the post-hearing briefs are filed. This establishes timelines for issuance of decisions; in some instances award decisions take a protracted period of time which is costly and disruptive to the municipality.

Municipal Spending Cap - Delay Implementation - consolidation of PILOTs into one huge revenue source; there are concerns about capping budget growth to 2.5% annually. Three years ago Cheshire had a budget increase of 2.8%, with a tax increase of 1%; this matter needs to be revisited and a way found to control tax increases, particularly in a year when a municipality can support a tax increase.

Mill Rate for Motor Vehicles - will be 29.36 mills; mill rate in Cheshire is 30.69 mills; under the plan Cheshire loses \$300,000 in motor vehicle tax revenue. The State indicated a reimbursement for the difference, but there is no confidence the Town will see this reimbursement. Mr. Milone requested a delay of a few years before caps are put into effect.

Rep. Zupkus asked about Cheshire's current dispatch situation...whether the person answering the call is a police officer or civilian.

Mr. Milone explained the person is a trained dispatcher answering the call, and sometimes police officers answer calls as fill-ins.

Rep. Zupkus discussed the consolidated dispatch center issue, stating it is a safety issue. There was a bill last year that went nowhere, and she stated there are towns that want to consolidate. In her research and understanding she found out that Wallingford gets \$100,000; if regionalized each town gets a one time payment of \$250,000; and going forward the region receives \$317,000 annually. It is uncertain if the one time payment can go towards building costs. There are questions about the three towns and job losses, and whether it would be unionized or not.

Mr. Milone stated his uncertainty that the Police Commission in North Haven is totally on board with the center, but knows the administration and Police Chief are on board. The three towns are not yet at the point of consolidation, and looking at job losses, unionization, etc. and it will be 6 months to a year before getting to decisions on how things will work. Staffing needs are unknown now; the big savings is on the capital expenditure side; equipment is about \$7 million, plus \$5 million every 5 years for upgrades; there is not much savings on the operating side, but there are savings on the capital side.

According to Rep. Zupkus the last session had bills encouraging regionalization for communities under 40,000 population, and if they do not regionalize there would be fines imposed. She expects things to be coming out of committee on the State level.

As the police chiefs formulate a plan, Mr. Milone said there could be rationale for money to be used to get to the next level.

On the prevailing wage issue, Sen. Zupkus has again put forward a bill and hopes for movement on this issue. Binding arbitration had a bill put forward last year; it went nowhere; and is being put forward again.

Sen. Markley commented on being embarrassed by the State, and does not support the 2.5% growth cap on municipalities. He noted that 20% more has been spent by the State this year compared to last year's budget, and the State will never get its house in order. He believes towns should be left to take care of their own business. Sen. Markley stated the motor vehicle property tax is ridiculous. He supports the recommendations in the legislative package.

Rep. Adinolfi said the most troubling item is the prevailing wage, and he has sponsored 14 bills to do away with this wage. He cited the fact that this law has increased the cost of construction projects, which he blames on the union funding of election campaigns, and this being their repayment. This bill has not changed in 25 years and Rep. Adinolfi said this is too long.

Councilor Talbot asked Rep. Zupkus, with the financial state of the State, about any bills that add additional expense, because the numbers for the regionalization of dispatch centers will, probably, not be discussed this year.

In response, Rep. Zupkus stated it will probably come up because some people are passionate about this. As for the state of the State and extra money somewhere...she does not believe there is any, but hopes the issue will go further and help towns. She will keep the Town Council informed of the movement of the dispatch center bill.

Councilor Ruocco thanked the Legislators for their comments, and said #6, spending cap, could be imposed by local towns, not the State. He asked about meeting the mandates of #6 when items 1 through 5 are driven by cost of government. Mr. Ruocco said the arbitration and prevailing wage laws never pass; labor unions have lobbied for them; and the question is when these laws will change.

Sen. Markley replied that with the same people in charge you get the same result, and he is not convinced a change in party will matter. Things will not change until it reaches a point of crisis that people must make a choice.

Rep. Adinolfi advised that during the last session when the budget came up, there was 40 straight hours of doing nothing while the Speaker of the House called in his people for deals if the legislators vote for the budget. This budget went through by 3 votes. In an election year, he said we might see people from the other side come over due to more consideration for their districts.

The Council was informed by Sen. Markley that the spending cap was a leadership bill; it did not come out of committee in its final form; and it is frustrating because things are presented on the last day and in the last hour.

Councilor Slocum commented on the State being up against a wall and there is nothing to prevent the State from continuing this route. When a special session is called, he suggested legislators not attend, as this might send a message to the leadership that time is being wasted. On the other side, the town receives State assistance in its operating budget for years, and the State is leaving taxpayers wondering what to do next.

The upcoming massive State deficit for next year was raised by Mr. Ecke.

Rep. Zupkus reported the deficit is \$180 million for the current year; at the end of June 2016 it will be \$380 million; and it could be over \$1 Billion next year without some structural changes. She cited the transportation lock box, restricted dollars, putting money into the transportation fund. It was never specified the amount of money going into the fund; and the very next vote swept \$33 million out of the transportation fund.

Mr. Ecke commented on other states doing something about these situations while Connecticut does nothing. He holds no hope that Connecticut will go in the right direction. The State wants to hold municipalities to a 2.5% spending cap, and Mr. Ecke said the Council can do a better job than what is being done in Hartford...living and managing without our means. Mr. Eck is upset about the state of the State, and stated Democrats and Republicans should be working together to find a solution to the problems.

According to Sen. Markley the executive leadership is important and the executive branch is very large. Legislators cannot exercise the line item part of the budget that needs to be done. The Governor would like to be, or is fiscally conservative, but not willing or inclined to make structural changes in the budget. Sen. Markley stated his support of the 2/3 vote on the unfunded mandates.

Cheshire is a well run community, and Mr. Ecke said the constant is Town Manager Milone. The town's form of government works well, and the Town Manager will not let the Town Council go crazy spending money.

Chairman Oris stated that the Town does not control a lot, and predictability is the one thing being asked for, and it is needed from Hartford. He asked the State Legislators to fight hard for this. Mr. Oris thanked the Legislators for attending the Council meeting and their continued support of the Town of Cheshire.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Conflict of Interest Notification and Disclosures.**

Town Manager Milone referred to his memo of January 6, 2016 to the Town Council on the subject of Annual Disclosure of Conflict of Interest. Mr. Milone personally submitted his annual disclosure of Conflict of Interest as it relates to Milone & MacBroom, H.D. Segur Insurance, the law firm of Murtha Cullina and his personal relationship with Attorney Al Smith, Lead Counsel to the Town.

Chairman Oris stated that it is the duty and obligation for all members of boards, commissions, committees to state a conflict of interest.

The Conflict of Interest information has been distributed to staff, board, commission and committee members. Mr. Milone asked the Council members to carry the message as liaison to boards, commissions, committees. He commented on Cheshire's ordinance being the most rigorous in the State and wanting everyone to take it seriously.

**B. Acceptance and appropriation of Connecticut State Library Public Library construction grant to \$250,000.**

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Ms. Nichols

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #011216-4

RESOLUTION #011216-4

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts and appropriates a Connecticut State Library Board construction grant for \$250,000 to offset the \$500,000 capital budget allocation for the Library Configuration and RFID Conversion project, and authorizes Town Manager Michael A. Milone to execute the construction grant upon Bond Commission approval of said grant.

Discussion

Mr. Slocum explained this is for the second phase of Library improvements of \$500,000. The funds will be used for the upstairs and downstairs levels - new carpeting, shelving, rearrangement of shelves, RFID program for automatic check in of books. The net amount to bond is \$250,000 and it is not a referendum item. The project is in the capital budget for this year. If the money is not used it goes back to the State Library.

Chairman Oris stated this motion insures the Library gets this grant money, and it will be subject to Council's appropriation of the additional funds.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**C. Approval of Personnel Changes for the Library**

MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr. Talbot.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #011216-5

RESOLUTION #011216-5

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves an increase in hours for the Senior Librarian position responsible for Materials Management from 30 to 35 hours per week, per the recommendation of the Personnel Committee.

Discussion

Library Director Burkey reviewed the proposed Library personnel adjustments and justification for an increase in weekly hours for the position of Senior Librarian. She explained there is one position open due to retirement of the person after 36 years of employment. The vacant position is a department head position. The request is for the position to be 35 hours, 5 days a week...the same as other department heads who work 35 hours per week. The new person would supervise 50% of the Library staff. Ms. Burkey's recommendation is to increase the position hours to 35 hours from 30 hours per week, with no change in benefits.

The reasons for her recommendation were stated by Ms. Burkey as follows:

- Standardization for consistency of staff schedules and hours for all department heads at 35 hours per week. The retired person was at top step in the salary range; the new person would be hired at step #1; and savings will be about \$6,700 per year.
- Recruitment and Retention - a managerial position at 35 hours will result in a larger and more qualified pool of applicants from which to choose. It will result in one additional day per week of managerial/staff coverage at the Library.
- Redistribution of Managerial Duties - On an operational basis, Ms. Burkey will merge Circulation and Technical Services functions; this is materials management, from selecting and ordering materials, processing and cataloging items when received in the Library, then checked onto the shelves and out to the patrons, and the department head has supervision of 18 Library staff.

Ms. Burkey reported that a Library Page was recently promoted to a Library Tech position, and the vacant Page position will not be filled. This saves \$9,900 per year, and with the savings of \$6,680 for the Senior Librarian position, the total savings is \$16,580.

Regarding the Library improvements project and its completion, Mr. Slocum asked about the additional efficiencies created and reduction of staff involvement with patrons.

According to Ms. Burkey the E-circulation decreases 50% of staff time at the desk, and this is an efficiency realized. Self checkout is at 82%; there is only one person at the circulation desk; last year a clerical position was eliminated; and the subject request has a savings of \$16,000.

Chairman Oris commented on there being more savings at 30 hours per week, however, he will support the 35 hour per week request because there is some merit to it. Mr. Oris said the Library does a wonderful job serving the community so he will support the motion, but does not expect there to be any further increases in work hours at the Library. If the project is not approved in the capital budget, the Library will not get this grant.

Ms. Burkey informed the Council that even with the 35 hours per week position, and elimination of one Page position, the Library is down 29 staff hours from last year.

Stating her agreement that we must be careful about budgets, Ms. Nichols said in this particular case, the Library will run more efficiently. The Library is also a service with direct benefit to many residents, and she will support the request to 35 hours per week.

VOTE            The motion passed 7-1; Ruocco opposed.

**D. Interior expenditures for Community Pool Project.**

Mr. Milone reviewed the status report on expenditures for the interior improvements/the items required for completion of the pool project. Five projects are underway; locker rooms have been done; sandblasting of floors have mostly been done. The original estimate for the concrete deck repair was \$9,000, but it will be closer to \$18,000. The revolving door is removed, and a large depression was left which must be repaired...this was not part of the original plan. There are also several other major depressions in the flooring from the construction equipment.

The water filtration system is done; grates covering suction openings will be done upon receipt of the covers later this week.

\$77,750 is committed for the work.

Scoreboard - the timing system is of utmost importance for the facility; it is replacement of the scoreboard and associated pieces of equipment (touch pads, lane modules, buttons, cables and console); it has an estimated cost of \$40,000. There are some insurance funds and C.N.R. funds already designated, totaling \$85,434. With the additional \$9,000 for deck patching, \$77,750 of the \$85,434 will be spent, leaving a \$7,600 balance. The pool operating budget has a fund balance, but Mr. Milone has no authority to use this money without Council approval. Going further with the project items, the Council must take action and supplement the project with money from the fund balance of the pool operating budget. This can be done by resolution at a subsequent Council meeting.

Timeline and Opening Date - The interior work to be done at the pool cannot be done simultaneously, and must be done linearly. Mr. Milone, Ms Adams and Mr. Ceccolini met to review the project, using best case and worse case scenarios, approximate time frame for what has to be done. Patching the deck takes 2 days, and then it takes

another 2 days of drying time; filling the pool with water takes 2 days, and then 5 days to warm the water.

Ms. Adams informed the Council that the deck patching is ongoing; the damage was more extensive than expected; it will be completed by the weekend; there must be 2 days of drying time before power washing the deck; the painter needs 2 days for painting the deck, 1 day of curing; and then filling the pool takes 8 days total. While the pool is filling the railings on the deck must be installed, and the pool being put back together will take a week.

Ms. Adams commented on the good construction manager doing the interior work, who is pushing his crew to get the work done. She stated there could be issues with filling the pool, water circulating through the pipes, filters and seals...time will tell as the pool is being filled. Everything that is needed to be done is done.

Scoreboard - this is the last remaining item needed in order to host swim meets, and the things listed are essential for competition. Ms. Adams advised it will take 4 to 6 weeks to get the scoreboard after it is ordered. Touch pads are portable and removed when a swim meet is over. With regard to sponsorships, Ms. Adams did reach out to Nike and Speedo without success, as these companies are interested in very large pool facilities. Ms. Adams will continue pursuit of sponsorships.

Ms. Linehan asked about the scoreboard replacement/touch pads, and the marketing plan for sponsorship, reaching out to interested people, proposals, and sharing information on the pool. As a marketing professional, Ms. Linehan offered to assist with the marketing of the pool and sponsorship of the scoreboard. She commented on some of the funds coming from the insurance proceeds and this money being spent on what is needed.

Ms. Adams cited the importance of the scoreboard and related equipment for the swim meets/events, the number of swimmers and teams involved, and the opportunity to bring business to Cheshire. The Connecticut Swim Association wants to use the Cheshire pool as its main hub; have 4 day swim meets/events; they draw +1,000 people to the Town; and will bring a huge amount of business and revenue to Cheshire.

Boys Swim Meet - February 16th. Ms. Adams advised she spoke with the CHS Athletic Director; there is opportunity to rent a scoreboard for this meet.

Kathy Maloney, 452 Sharon Drive, reported that Connecticut Swim has a timing console for rent (\$150) for the boys' meet. Touch pads are coming from swim community contacts, and could be at no charge. Ms. Maloney reaffirmed the facts for Cheshire hosting swim meets and championships, and the need for details to be in place in the next two weeks, or the Town will lose the opportunity to host events. She noted that Council approval of the scoreboard in February would result in the loss of Cheshire hosting meets and events.

Ms. Nichols stated there is no Council vote on this agenda item tonight, and with a properly qualified pool there will be revenue generated. She has concerns about using the fund balance, but also believes these dollars will be recouped. Regarding sponsorships for the scoreboard, she said things must be done correctly.

At the Budget Committee meeting earlier in the evening, Mr. Slocum noted there was a surplus stated for the pool operating budget, and asked if this is the means to an end.

Ms. Adams advised the scoreboard is on the CREC bid list, and takes 4 to 6 weeks to receive at the pool.

Town Manager Milone explained that there is no prohibition for Ms. Adams to make a purchase request for the scoreboard from the pool operating budget. In the near future this money would be replenished from the fund balance, if necessary. The surplus is \$90,000. Mr. Milone advised this was done during the pool project work pending proceeds from the insurance company. If the Council goes forward in this way, Mr. Milone can sign the purchase requisition for the scoreboard.

Mr. Bowman stated that without a resolution, this can be done through the pool operating budget...and it should just be done.

There had not been prior discussion about purchasing the scoreboard, but Mr. Milone said the funds are devoted to the pool project, and we need a scoreboard. If the Council is comfortable with this purchase, it is consistent with other purchases.

We have a solution, and Mr. Talbot noted there is no Council opposition, and this is the way to go. There can be formalization of issues at the January 26th meeting.

Pool Opening Date - Ms. Adams expressed her comfort with the date of February 8th.

Mr. Milone commented on having a Sunday, February 7th ceremony, followed by "free swim" in the afternoon, and official opening on Monday, February 8th.

Chairman Oris reviewed the numbers. Insurance proceeds and C.N.R. \$85,400; cost to get project completed \$78,000 (with exception of scoreboard); \$7,000 balance in C.N.R. and insurance proceeds; \$40,000 for the scoreboard purchase, with \$33,000 out of the pool fund balance to make the pool what we need it to be. Mr. Oris supports and endorses Ms. Adams purchasing the scoreboard, getting everything done in a timely fashion, and benefit from the income stream from the hosting of meets and events.

**E. Approval for participation in a pilot town in the State Election Enforcement Commission's candidate filing program.**

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #011216-6

RESOLUTION #011216-6

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves application for the Town of Cheshire's participation in the Connecticut State Elections Enforcement Commission Municipal Filing Pilot Program for the 2017 election cycle.

Discussion

Town Clerk Brennan informed the Council that this is a PILOT Program for 2017 election season, and it is electronic filing of the required State forms. This filing system is used for the State and General Assembly with success. Twenty (20) towns were selected for the PILOT Program for municipal candidates, and the forms are filed directly to the State, and are available to the public on line. If the program goes well it will be done statewide. The application date is February 16th for the 2017 cycle. The form is completed by the candidate or party committee treasurer.

Ms. Linehan stated this process removes candidates from the filing process with the town committee, and could result in people not wanting to be candidates for offices. She does not support this program, and said it is difficult to get people involved as they are opposed to the paperwork, and this is a PILOT Program that may not happen.

The form is the same as currently used, and Ms. Brennan said the person fills it out, sends it to the State, all done on-line. The forms are easily available to the public, and it makes the process easier. The State wants to work with the smaller towns and larger cities. People come to the Town Clerk's office, scan the documents, and staff offers assistance. But, people can still get the forms, complete them, and mail them to the State, or the Town Clerk's office will mail them for the candidate.

Mr. Bowman noted that the Town Clerk will still answer questions, and have interaction with candidates.

Mr. Oris stated his distrust of the State to do anything well, and without larger layers of work for the candidates. With this program there is completion of the form on-line and should be no problems.

VOTE           The motion passed 7-1; Linehan opposed.

**F.       Appropriation of \$25,879 from the Jitney Bus Fund for the Town's 20% Portion of the purchase of two Senior Center mini-buses.**

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #011216-7

RESOLUTION #011216-7

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts and appropriates \$25,879 from the Jitney Bus Fund for the Town's portion for the purchase of two Senior Center mini-buses; state grant funds of \$96,168 cover the remaining cost of these purchases.

Discussion

The balance in the fund is \$41,215. The cost of the buses is \$122,000; payment by the Town is \$24,409, which is 21% due to one bus having more handicapped adaptations. Mr. Slocum said this is done every two years with purchase of the new buses.

Ms. Nichols pointed out that one of the buses has a higher cost due to special handicapped equipment for riders.

Ms. Piccerillo reported another wheelchair seat was added to a bus, and this is the more expensive bus. These are new buses.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**G.     Change in hours for Senior Center Dispatcher position.**

MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr. Talbot.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #011216-8

RESOLUTION #011216-8

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves an increase in hours for the Transportation Dispatcher position at the Senior Center from 24 to 30 hours per week, per the recommendation of the Personnel Committee.

Discussion

Ms. Piccerillo stated her request for an increase in the Dispatcher position work hours from 24 to 30 per week. She explained the reasons for the request, including the need for someone in the office more hours, dissatisfaction with employable seniors from an outside agency, and the negative experience using this system. The change in the position hours would have the Dispatcher on duty Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. After 3:00 p.m. there is little call activity and volume, and staff can handle calls up to 4 p.m. closing time. The estimated cost for the additional hours is \$5,000 annually, which will be covered by the revenue from auction of the older buses. The hourly rate is about \$15 per hour, and this is a union position.

Mr. Ruocco commented on the additional work hours, the importance of transportation services for senior citizens, and offsetting the costs by the sale of the older buses.

Support for this item was stated by Ms. Nichols, and she said the transportation service impacts senior citizens. There is savings in the jitney bus fund, and it is important to have consistency in the dispatcher service, which must be reliable and professional.

Ms. Linehan expressed appreciation to Ms. Piccerillo for always finding solutions to department issues, which is a testimony to her commitment to the service she provides.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

#### **H.     Bidding Requirements**

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #011216-9

#### RESOLUTION #011216-9

BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 7-8(C)(1) of the Town Charter, the Town Council approves the requirements for sealed bids for February 1, 2016 through January 31, 2017, at a \$14,000 bid limit for non-construction related services and a \$28,000 bid limit for construction related services, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in accordance with Section 7-8 (C)(9) and Section 7-8 (C) (10) of the Town Charter, the Town Council authorizes the Town Manager, his designee and the Cheshire Public Schools to purchase goods or services for the Town without bids (1) through the State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services and (2) in conjunction with other municipalities and regional and federal government purchasing entities, including but not limited to:

U.S. Government General Services Administration  
Capital Regional Council of Governments and any successor organization  
Connecticut Library Consortium  
Library Connection Inc.  
National Joint Powers Alliance  
Council of Government of the Central Naugatuck Valley and any successor Organization  
Capital Region Education Council  
Western State Contracting Alliance (WSCA) - National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) Cooperative Purchasing Organization  
Houston/Galveston Area Cooperative (HGAC)

#### Discussion

There is no change from last year when changes were made, and Mr. Slocum said this is an annual action of the Council.

Mr. Milone confirmed the fact that there is extensive solicitation for all purchases and best prices.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**I. Amendments to elderly tax relief programs:**

**i. Call for public hearing for amendments to the elderly tax relief ordinance Section 17-6.**

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #011216-10

RESOLUTION #011216-10

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council shall hold a public hearing to consider an amendment to extend the Elderly Tax Relief Local Program ordinance, Section 17-6, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager shall cause 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 postponement thereof, shall be determined by the Town Manager with the approval of the Chairman of the Town Council.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**ii. Call for public hearing for amendments to the Elderly Tax Freeze Ordinance Section 17-15.**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #011216-11

RESOLUTION #011216-11

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council shall hold a public hearing to consider an amendment to extend the Elderly Tax Freeze Program ordinance, Section 17-15, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager shall cause 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 postponement thereof, shall be determined by the Town Manager with the approval of the Chairman of the Town Council.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**iii. Approval of revised income levels for the 2015 Local Elderly**

**Property Tax Credit Program.**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #011216-12

RESOLUTION #011216-12

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the recommended qualifying income for tax credits and tax deferral for the Local Property Tax Credit Program Section 17-6 of the Code of Ordinances, as presented and attached, effective for the 2015 Grand List.

Discussion

Ms. Nichols commented on the Town increase in qualifying incomes, and the fact that Cheshire offers more in income limits than the State, with a broader program than that of the State. The cost of the elderly tax relief programs is \$550,000 annually.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**J.     Transfer of Boulder Knoll Property to the Cheshire Housing Authority**

Chairman Oris referred this item to the Planning Committee. He stated this action would not jeopardize the CHA pursuing grant funds.

Mr. Milone informed the Council that there will be an RFQ in the next few days for a consultant, which will be paid for out of the grant funds.

**K.     Authorization to apply for an additional STEAP grant.**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #011216-14

RESOLUTION #011216-14

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council authorizes the application for a \$500,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant for parking for the Linear Trail, including all costs associated with property acquisition, demolition, preparation, construction and associated pedestrian improvements.

Discussion

This item was discussed at the Planning Committee, and Mr. Bowman explained it is for a \$500,000 grant, Grove Street to West Main Street. The committee wants the project to move forward, and have staff meet with property owners, for a shovel ready project. There is a lack of parking for the Linear Park in the West Main Street area, and this provides opportunities for parking for people attending the park.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**L.     Economic Incentive for Powerstation LLC. (possible executive session)**

**8.     TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS.**

**A.     Monthly Status Report.**

**B.     Department Status Reports.**

**C.     Other**

Town Manager Milone reported on the following:

- Monthly Financial Report - projected budget surplus of \$500,000 in the operating budget, and slight surplus in the Community Pool and WPCD budgets.
- Capital Non-Recurring Funds - there is \$271,000 in C.N.R. not spent. When the capital budget was put together there were 4 or 5 projects eliminated or reduced and money freed up in the C.N.R. Some projects were closed out. The money is being held pending process of the concession stand project and Council wants this money frozen until final decision is made on the cost of the concession stand. Additionally, 4 or 5 projects have been partially frozen to hold onto \$265,000 in the C.N.R. until there is confidence there will be a surplus this year. The projects with held funds were identified in the quarterly report - I.T. project, \$90,000; Tree program, \$50,000; GIS, \$45,000; Park Improvements, \$80,000. This money is being held and it is hoped there will be no more municipal aid cuts. The money can be gradually released as things become more clear and we know where we are headed. With the loss of \$410,000 W.S. Development permit fees, it was decided to hold back on commitments to some projects. If the money is not needed it will go back to the projects.
- F.Y. 2015 C.A.F.R - this will come before the Audit Committee; the results are very positive; the 2016 Capital Budget will come before the Town Council; 2016 Superintendent's Budget will be released January 14th with copies to the Council.
- State Claims Commission Hearing - the hearing was held on January 5th and went extremely well; the State financial documents did not reconcile; Cheshire has a good standing in the matter; the Commissioner has 90 days to make a decision from the time the briefs are filed (January 29th). Rep. Fritz is helping to accelerate the process for legislative action. Mr. Milone is hopeful and optimistic about the pending lawsuit. The Judge delayed the legal action pending the decision of the Claims Commissioner.

- Public Works Department - Streetlights - Cheshire is the owner of 1,772 streetlights and 40 single service poles. LED lights are being tested; they will be installed in all of Cheshire owned streetlights; the map shows the location of the tested LED lights (Crec and Acuity); and staff awaits reaction of residents to the various lights. The rebate was \$175,000; \$9,000 per month in savings; Eversource stonewalled Cheshire throughout the acquisition process. Engineer Gancarz and his technicians inspected every light; 32 lights were out; they will be repaired by Siemens.

Public Works project list - the maintainers are working on 120+ projects throughout the Town; the road list is being put together for next year.

Recycling Problems - due to problems with materials put into recycling, A.J. Waste is incurring more costs and the entire load is rejected, and the Town can be charged for this problem. There will be a public relations effort ongoing in newspapers and on the website for recycling.

- South Main Street Pedestrian Crossing Project - Town staff (Mr. Milone, Chief Dryfe and Mr. Noewatne) will meet with DOT representatives in Newington CT on January 13th regarding the lights to be installed in the south end of Town.
- Police Dept. New Police Officer appointments - the CPD is at full strength, 48 officers, with the appointment of Officers Esteven Lespier and Lester Zimnoch. They are both 20 year veterans of the Meriden Police Department, and have specialties in different areas of police work. They are well trained police officers and will be on the street immediately.
- Joint SRT Collaboration - Chief Dryfe and the Wallingford CT chief are joining together for the SRT program; there will be training of 8 more officers; and there will be a larger force of people by combining the two SRT teams.
- Press Release - the CPD issued a press release about the recent motor vehicle thefts.

Mr. Slocum commented on robberies taking place in Town, off the beaten path, and asked about increase in police presence and patrols in these areas. He also asked if the recent situation in Meriden resulted in hiring two Meriden officers.

The Council was told by Mr. Milone that this is the first time for Cheshire with newly hired officers of this skill level. The officers reached their pension maximum in Meriden and decided to move onto another department.

- Civil War Monument and Veterans' Memorial Plaza - the Civil War event is July 9th; there will be improvements made to the monument at a cost of \$12,000 to

\$20,000. The Council will be requested to provide funds for this event. Veterans' Plaza will have brick sidewalks in the center of Town.

- Council Meeting Follow-Up - Mr. Milone distributed a copy of the meeting follow-up prepared by his office staff, which goes to all Town staff, and provides information on actions taken by the Council.

The lights to be installed on Cornwall Avenue will be done later this week.

For the Civil War Monument and Veterans' Memorial Plaza, Mr. Milone noted they are extensive documents, but he will forward them via email to the Council.

## **9 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL**

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

- i. Referral of fee for police vehicles at special assignments to the Budget Committee.**
- ii. Referral of transfer of traffic easement property to the Connecticut Department of Transportation to the Planning Committee.**
- iii. Referral of the FY 14-15 Audit to the Audit Committee.**
- iv. Referral of appointment of Clerk of the Council to the Personnel Committee.**

Mr. Milone advised that the January 26th Council meeting will be a special meeting of the Council and Personnel Committee, with the Town Manager's Goals and Objectives as an agenda item.

### **B. Miscellaneous**

## **10 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION by Mr. Talbot ; seconded by Mr. Ruocco.

MOVED that the Town Council approves the minutes of the regular meeting of December 8, 2015, and Special Meetings of December 7 and 16, 2015 subject to corrections, additions, deletions.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

## **11 MISCELLANEOUS AND APPOINTMENTS**

### **A. Liaison Reports**

Cheshire Housing Authority - Ms. Nichols reported CHA is working on the project that is being moved forward.

Parks and Recreation Commission - Mr. Talbot reported the commission met at the pool site; he encouraged Councilors to visit the pool facility, as it is vastly different than before.

Library - Ms. Linehan reported there will be a pre-school fair at the Library on February 20th.

Chesprocott - Ms. Linehan reported volunteers are being sought for medical and non-medical duties; people can contact Chesprocott directly for information.

Economic Development Commission - Mr. Ecke reported the EDC subcommittee met regarding promoting Cheshire to businesses. The EDC is working on recommendations and will bring them to the Council within the next two weeks.

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

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

MOVED that the Town Council approve the following appointments and reappointments:

**Economic Development Commission** - Louis Nero (R) to replace Lori Rusnack, term of office 1/12/16 to 1/31/17.

**Human Services Committee** - Susan Pappas (R) to replace Cathy Trussell, term of office 1/12/16 to 1/31/16; George Pawlush (R) to replace Robert Trussell, term of office 1/12/16 to 1/31/16.

**Library Board** - Tod Dixon (R) to replace William Hellyar, term of office 1/12/16 to 1/31/16; Mark W. Hostage (R) to replace Judith Knott, term of office 1/12/16 to 1/31/18.

**Public Building Commission** - Matthew Altieri (D) to replace Joseph Barba, term of office 1/12/16 to 1/31/19.

## **12. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Attorney Smith informed the Council that the Eversource transaction closed; there were difficulties with an aggressive seller, but willing buyer. Attorney Smith expressed kudos to Mr. Jaskot, Mr. Gancarz and the Town team for their professionalism under difficult circumstances.

Claims Commission Hearing - the hearing is concluded. Attorney Smith outlined the three options on which the Commissioner can make a decision.

- 1) Dismiss the claim, send the Town packing.
- 2) Recommend to the General Assembly that the claim be funded.
- 3) Send the case to court; this is why the Town has kept a parallel track court case Alive.

Siting Council - Attorney Smith reported that the Town has persuaded the Siting Council to assume jurisdiction at 1338 Highland; this is a benefit to the Town which does not have the expertise to handle technical issues associated with a cell tower; the State will take over responsibility for this cell tower.

There are items of discussion for executive session, including a number of property transactions, PZC decision appeal.

On two FOI hearings, the Town won one of them, and for the second one, the Town is optimistic the decision will be in its favor.

### **13. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **A. Letters to Council.**

#### **B. Miscellaneous**

### **14. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION by Mr. Bowman; seconded by Mr. Talbot.

MOVED that the Town Council enter Executive Session at 10:17 p.m. to include Town Manager Milone, Attorney Smith, and EDC Coordinator Sitko to discuss land acquisition and negotiations.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Talbot

MOVED that the Town Council exit Executive Session at 10:40 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

MOTION by Mr. Talbot; seconded by Ms. Nichols

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #011216-15

#### **RESOLUTION #011216-15**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves tax incentive assistance for Powerstation LLC as presented and attached.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**15.   ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Talbot

MOVED to adjourn the Town Council meeting at 10:41 p.m.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

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Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk