

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016 AT 6:30 P.M. IN ROOM 207, TOWN HALL,
84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

Timothy Slocum, Chairman and Michael Ecke; Absent: Sylvia Nichols
Council Chairman Robert J. Oris, Jr. and Vice Chairman Paul Bowman.
Staff: Town Manager Michael Milone; Finance Director James Jaskot; Police Chief Neil
Dryfe.

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. Fee for cruisers used on Special Duty.

Chief Dryfe referred to his memo of December 28, 2015 to Town Manager Milone, and reviewed the revenue proposal with the Councilors. The Chief proposes that the Police Department establish a system to allow vendors and contractors to pay an additional fee for use of a marked Cheshire CPD vehicle at extra duty assignment sites. He said the department receives requests from vendors for cruisers for safety of the police officer, vendor employees, and traffic control. At the present time, CPD does not do this, but the department has one marked cruiser that could be designated for use on extra duty assignments, particularly on night jobs.

The Councilors were informed by Chief Dryfe that the Town is missing a revenue opportunity, and many surrounding towns have a cruiser at a job site. There is an hourly charge for the cruiser, plus the charge for the police officer. Chief Dryfe contacted other municipalities who provide a cruiser, and he cited some of the revenue statistics. The average hourly rental is \$10 to \$35. Branford CT generated \$58,000 in revenue in one year; New London's hourly charge is \$75, and revenue was \$183,000; Southington's revenue was \$26,000; Wallingford started its cruiser rental program in August with revenue of \$6,000 August to November.

The revenue for Cheshire could go into the general account, special fund, or vehicle maintenance operating account. The cost of running the car is minimal. As cars get older they are checked out every 2,000 miles, and an older car could be reserved for rental at job sites. When CPD purchases a new car, an older car would be kept for rental purposes.

Mr. Ecke asked about the process for officers and a cruiser on special duty, and if a night job requires a vehicle at the job site.

For night special duty, Chief Dryfe explained an officer takes a car as a safety issue. The proposed cruiser rental would operate under this current process.

Concerns about officer safety on night special duty were raised by Mr. Ecke, and he said road work at night should require a cruiser with lights. He supports the recommendation from the Chief on use of marked cruisers at job sites.

Mr. Oris asked about a charge now in place for a vehicle at an evening shift.

There is currently no charge, and Chief Dryfe does not have a mechanism set up, and vendors do not know it is available. There are safety concerns about a company working at night, but not wanting to pay for a cruiser...but the officer still takes a cruiser for safety reasons.

According to Town Manager Milone there is a double standard, and requirements must be in place by ordinance to impose a charge to the vendors for a vehicle at the site.

Mr. Bowman noted that Algonquin Gas is doing a large project in Cheshire, with some night work, and if a cruiser rental is required by ordinance, then it should happen. He asked about the minimum hourly requirement for an officer at a work site.

The Chief cited the requirement as a minimum of four (4) hours for the police officer. If an officer is on site for two (2) hours, then the cruiser rental would be for two (2) hours.

Stating that the Budget Committee likes the proposal for a police vehicle at job sites, Mr. Slocum said it would be discussed further at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Milone stated that CPD could impose a charge for a cruiser at night, but cannot impose this charge during the day, as it requires an ordinance from the Town Council. He will continue discussions on this matter with Chief Dryfe.

At the present time, the hourly rate for an officer is \$75, and the hourly rate for a cruiser would be \$25. There is a four (4) hour minimum for the officer, and if they work six (6) hours, they get paid for eight (8). Chief Dryfe commented on the fact that a company could refuse and hire a private flagman for traffic control rather than a police officer. Most vendors prefer a police officer on the job site, and traffic control is required.

With a lane closure, Mr. Oris stated there should be a police officer at the work site, and the Chief should have the discretion on this issue.

Chief Dryfe stated that without traffic control, a job site can be shut down because of the traffic hazards. The Town of Hamden has a requirement for police officers at work sites.

Mr. Milone and Chief Dryfe will further discuss the proposal, move it along, and the Town Attorney must also look at the proposal. The Council will be kept informed.

4. Acceptance and appropriation of \$5,340 grant from the Connecticut Community Foundation for the purchase of software for the Senior Center.
5. Acceptance and appropriation of aggregate donations of \$1,769 to the Parks Gift Account for a memorial bench for Norf Petrucci.
6. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100 donation from Milone and MacBroom To the Parks Gift Account for general purposes.
7. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$500- donation from the First Congregational Church of Cheshire to the Cheshire Fuel Bank.
8. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$5,000 donation from Alexion Pharmaceuticals to the Police Gift Account training, equipment and technology.
9. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$5,000 donation from Alexion Pharmaceuticals to the Fire Gift Account for general purposes.
10. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$50 anonymous donation to the Human Services Gift Account for general purposes.
11. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$5,323 grant from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Local Prevention Council Grant for substance abuse activities.
12. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$25 donation from the First Congregational Church Pre-School & Day Care Inc. to the Library Gift Account for Library Materials, furniture and computers.
13. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100 donation from Martin Cobern in memory Of John Harris to the Library Gift Account for Library materials, furniture And computers.
14. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$25 donation from Jane D. Weiss Family Foundation Inc. to the Library Gift Account for Library materials, furniture and computers.
15. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$250 donation from Cathleen Devlin in Honor of Joan Devlin to the Library Gift Account for library materials furniture and computers.
16. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$1,500 grant from the Connecticut Humanities Council to the Library Gift Account for the South Asian Cultural Festival.
17. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$50 donation from Cathleen M. Devlin

To the Jitney Bus Fund for general purposes.

18. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$90 donation from various Senior Center Donors to the Jitney Bus Fund for general purposes.
19. Authorization to apply for a \$5,000 Historic Documents Grant for converting land records to the current Town Clerk System.
20. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$75 donation from the Patti Flynn-Harris 2015 campaign to the Cheshire Fuel Bank.
21. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$740 donation from Paint Social Art To the Parks Gift Account for a memorial bench for Norf Petrucci.

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

MOVED that agenda items #4 through #21 be accepted and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

22. Allocation of \$4,000 for an Electric Vehicle Charging Station.

Mr. Milone briefly reviewed this item. The EVCS will be located in the Big Y parking lot; there is no charge for usage for three (3) years; the station goes through the State Utilities Commission; and the \$4,000 funding comes from the Clean Energy Grant funds. The EVCS is out of the Town's hands. The Energy Commission wanted the charging station at Town Hall, but the proposed location is preferred.

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

MOVED that agenda items# 20 through #22 be accepted and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

23. Allocation of funds for Civil War Monument restoration.

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

MOVED that agenda items #23 be accepted and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

This restoration must be done. Mr. Milone advised the contractor for the work will provide an estimate to Mr. Sitko.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

24. Approval of successor lease for a portion of the former Casertano property.

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

MOVED that agenda items #24 be accepted and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

25. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk