

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2016, 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.

Town Council Vice Chairman Paul A. Bowman.

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

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 \$500 donation from the Cheshire Women's Club to the Cheshire Senior Center for general purposes.

4. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$25 donation from Consuelo Hill to the Cheshire Senior Center for general purposes.

5. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$50 anonymous donation to the Human Services Gift Account for general purposes.

6. Approval of a re-designation for an original appropriation of \$2,698 for Instructor's fees at the Senior Center to the purchase of program supplies and Equipment.

7. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$5,000 Historic Documents Preservation Grant from the Connecticut State Library for records conversion.

8. Acceptance and appropriation of two Youth Service Bureau Enhancement Grants totaling \$969 for positive youth development programming.

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Slocum

MOVED to accept agenda items #3 through #8 and forward to the full Town Council for discussion and action.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

9. Approval of ambulance service successor contract.

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Slocum

MOVED to approve agenda item #9 and forward to the full Town Council for discussion and action.

Discussion

Mr. Slocum commented on the ambulance company wanting a one (1) year extension versus a three (3) or five (5) year contract extension, and the 2% increase or \$4,260.

The committee was informed by Town Manager Milone that Campion wanted a one (1) year extension due to more regulations being imposed on ambulance services, and their wanting to insure everything is in place. Fire Chief Casner negotiated the contract extension with Campion administration, and will review the details at the Council meeting.

Mr. Milone reported that this item was in the Planning Committee, and Campion notified the Town it was no longer interested in a three (3) year contract...only a one (1) year contract.

With regard to Campion's quality of service, Mr. Milone said there has been no diminishment in services to the community. He said we want the company to be more forthcoming with the Town. In the interim, the Town will look at successor ambulance companies, and Chief Casner believes another company would like a contract with Cheshire.

It was stated by Mr. Milone that Campion handles this region of the State, and unless the Town can cite they are not meeting guidelines under their contract, there cannot be negotiations with another company. This matter will be discussed with the Town Attorney in order to insure there is no conflict with the existing agreement. The one (1) year contract was unexpected. If Campion wants out, the Town can research and go with another company with a good track record.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

10. Approval of waiver of bid for the purchase of tasers.

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

MOVED to approve agenda item #10 and forward to the full Town Council for discussion and action.

Discussion

Mr. Milone reported that the Taser Company is the only one in the State for police tasers. The Chief wants to insure all officers have the same equipment. Chief Dryfe will be at the Council meeting to update the Council on the car theft investigation.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

11. Chamber of Commerce funding request for Fall Festival Laser Show.

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

MOVED to approve agenda item #11 and forward to the full Town Council for discussion and action.

Discussion

Mr. Slocum discussed this agenda item with Town Manager Milone, and the \$5,500 will come out of the Parks and Recreation Department operating budget. If there is a problem at year end, funds can be transferred.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

12. Allocation of Community Pool insurance funds.

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

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

Discussion

Mr. Jaskot advised the list is in the packet, and the Town wants to maintain a positive balance in the pool budget.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Councilor Ecke entered the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

13. Appropriation of up to \$10,000 in Bright Idea Grant funds for dryer duct Cleaning vouchers.

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

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

Discussion

Mr. Slocum stated his uneasiness with this agenda item, as the money is being spent on something limited, and should be spent on something of a more general nature.

Last year the Energy Commission received a grant, and Mr. Gancarz said the funds were used for LED lights distributed at the Fall Festival. There are concerns about the State's financial condition, and their pulling this grant money back, due to a time limit on spending the money.

Following a brief committee and staff discussion, the decision was to request the Energy Commission to reconsider the proposed voucher program, and look into a more general distribution program.

The motion on the floor was withdrawn.

14. Approval of expenditures and reimbursements by the Cheshire Senior Center Membership Association.

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

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

Discussion

Town Manager Milone explained that the Senior Center has requested the Town take over the Center's finances due to retirement of their treasurer. An evaluation of the finances was done and it was discovered the organization was never formally approved as a sitting body. There is correspondence going back many years citing discussions about management and oversight of finances, without any resolution or record of the matter coming to the Council for approval. The membership organization became a self-created body; it is a 501c(3) organization; it has \$28,000 in the budget; but does not have the capacity to act as it has been doing without federal authority or bonding.

It was noted by Mr. Milone that the role of this organization is important; lots of money is raised; and it must be reconstituted in a legal manner. Going forward and until there is reconstitution of the organization, all financial obligations and matters will be transferred by Ms. Ferrell to the Town Manager to the Town Council for appropriation approvals. It will be a few months before reconstitution of the organization, and some of the issues involved are incompatible with the Town Charter and Ordinances. Until that time, there will be distributions from the Senior Center organization for Council approval.

Mr. Milone advised that Library Director Burkey has provided him with information regarding the "Friends of the Library" group.

VOTE The motion passed 2-0; Slocum recused.

15. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk