

MINUTES OF THE JOINT CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 25, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M. IN ROOM 207, TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410

Present:

Town Council Members: Paul Bowman, Patti Flynn-Harris, Timothy Slocum, Peter Talbot, Michael Ecke, and Tom Ruocco (*Absent*- Liz Linehan, Sylvia Nichols).

Staff: Michael A. Milone, Town Manager; Jim Jaskot, Finance Director; George Noewatne, Director of Public Works and Engineering; Walter Gancarz, Town Engineer; Dennis Dievert, Waste Water Treatment Plant Superintendent; Rich Kaczer, Fleet Manager.

Roll Call

The clerk called the roll and a quorum was determined to be present and the meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The group pledged allegiance to the flag.

There was a brief discussion clarifying the schedule of Budget Committee capital budget meetings.

Chairman Robert J. Oris, Jr. entered the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Mr. Noewatne provided an overview of the current and recently completed Public Works, Public Property and Waste Water Treatment Plant projects in the Capital Expenditure Plan (CEP), detailing how many of these projects are supported with significant grant funds. He thanked the Council for their support of these projects. He explained how the general operating budget and the capital budget for these departments are very closely linked, and commented that the Public Works CEP makes up 56% of the total CEP with the \$5.306 request and \$4.956M Town Manager recommendation. Mr. Noewatne also mentioned that it would be helpful if the Council created a Pond Dredging Policy to provide guidelines for Public Works when they receive requests, since this can represent significant financial exposure to the Town.

Mr. Milone indicated that the West Johnson Pump Station rehabilitation was critical and has been deferred in the past two CEPs, and introduced Dennis Dievert, Waste Water Treatment Plant Superintendent, to review this and the other projects for which they are requesting CEP funding.

Water Pollution Control Department

Mr. Dievert explained that the West Johnson Avenue Pump Station is the second largest pump station in town, and needs to be rehabilitated soon. The 37 year old generator smokes, there is no variable speed equipment, and there are power issues. Mr. Gancarz explained the need for the belt filter press to "dewater" sludge to reduce weight and volume of disposal, and responding to questions regarding life expectancy (20 to 25 years), and the possibility of the use of WPCD surplus to pay for this equipment. Mr. Gancarz indicated that his piece of equipment was originally included in the funding for the Plant upgrade, but, due to the unanticipated by necessary \$600,000 PCB remediation, one belt filter was cut from the Plant upgrade project.

Mr. Gancarz reviewed the Cook Hill Pump Station project, the I & I project, and the replacement sludge hauler, sewer vacuum truck, and front end loader. Mr. Milone explained that the dump truck was moved from year three to year five; and we will use other equipment in an effort to extend life, and with a new sludge filter press, there will be less sludge to haul. A discussion ensued regarding the uses and maintenance of these vehicles.

Public Works

Mr. Milone explained that this CEP was \$1.4 more than the previous plan estimate, mostly due to the new South Brooksvale Road repaving project and the expanded Mt. Sanford Road culvert project which are new to the CEO, and that all by \$75,000 of this will be funded by LOTCIP, and Mr. Noewatne and Mr. Gancarz provided some details on those projects, as well as a description of the other projects included in the PW CEP requests.

Mr. Ruocco brought up a pond dredging policy, which was discussed at length, and which Council agreed should be discussed further. Council asked staff to provide them with additional information and historical data on this issue.

Mr. Kaczer presented a detailed overview of the Town fleet and the rationale for maintaining our replacement schedule for vehicles, including the replacement of two dump trucks with one regular sized and one smaller truck, for efficiency, usefulness, and cost savings. Council asked numerous questions, and Mr. Kaczer explained uses, maintenance and repairs, state regulations, efficiencies, acquisition process, and their efforts to save the Town money, and confirmed that they were not expanding the fleet, but were rather replacing vehicles with smaller, less expensive and more effective vehicles for those that were at end-of-life.

Mr. Noewatne explained the Road Repaving request, the addition of curbing to the funding request, and the success of crack sealing, chip sealing and microsealing as part of the preservation effort to achieve a 12 to 15 year cycle for road replacement for the over 150 miles of Town roads.

Mr. Gancarz reviewed the Sidewalks project, and he and Mr. Noewatne explained that the priorities are set based on usage and proximity to schools and walking students. Mr. Gancarz reviewed the South Brooksvale Bridge over Willowbrook project, explaining that the costs could be refined once we get a full evaluation.

Mr. Noewatne explained the Tree Removal and Replacement request, explaining that the Town has already taken down approximately 220 trees, more than half of them diseased ash trees. Eversource has removed trees as well.

Public Property

Mr. Noewatne reviewed the project in this division, explaining the need for boilers, generators, parking lot and roof repairs, Town Hall window replacements, a wash bay at the garage, and other various building maintenance and improvements necessary to ensure the longest possible life for our facilities and equipment.

The discussion on replacement cars budgeted in General Services was deferred to a future meeting.

Adjournment

MOTION by: Michael Ecke

SECONDED by: Tim Slocum

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest: _____
Arnett Talbot
Acting Clerk