MINUTES OF THE CHESIRE TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2010 IN ROOM 207, AT
6:45 P.M. TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410

Present
David Schrumm, Chairman, Michael Ecke and Thomas Ruocco
Councilors Anne Giddings and James Sima
Staff: Michael A. Milone, Town Manager
Guest: Attorney Al Smith, Town Attorney’s Office.

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 $75 donation from Patrice Noah,
   Anne Marie Orange, Duane Pekar and David and Katherine Bryant
   To the proposed amphitheater fund.

4. Acceptance and appropriation of a $10,500 donation from Cheshire
   Lights of Hope to the Human Services Gift Account for residents
   In need.

5. Acceptance and appropriation of a $115 donation from Town of
   Cheshire employees to the Human Services Gift Account for residents
   In need.

6. Acceptance and appropriation of a $1,500 donation from Cheshire
   Lights of Hope to the Human Services Gift Account for residents in
   Need.

7. Acceptance and appropriation of a $53 donation from the Judicial
   Branch Special Services to the Park Gift Account for park repairs and
   General purposes in need.

8. Acceptance and appropriation of a $100 donation from Nutmeg
   Management Services LLC to the Human Services Gift Account for
   Residents in need.

9. Acceptance and appropriation of a $200 donation from the First
   Congregational Church of Cheshire to the Cheshire Fuel Bank.

10. Acceptance and appropriation of a $30 donation in memory of
    Gregory Schena from Mary Malin to the Library Gift Account for
    General purposes.
11. Acceptance and appropriation of a $30 donation in memory of Hrach Mahakian from Gerald and Adori Corcoran to the Library Gift Account for general purposes.

12. Acceptance and appropriation of a $25 donation in memory of Lloyd Trulock from Diana and Kate Reilly to the Library Gift Account for general purposes.

13. Acceptance and appropriation of an aggregate $75 donation in memory of Helen Clark from Leah and Al Sanders and Glen Scalia to the Library Gift Account for general purposes.

14. Acceptance and appropriation of a $25 donation in memory of Jay Pecoraro from Clippings Hair Studio (Kathleen Borrelli) to the Library Gift Account for general purposes.

15. Acceptance and appropriation of a $100 donation in memory of Elizabeth J. Dubea from Scarlett A. Tracy to the Library Gift Account for general purposes.


17. Acceptance and appropriation of a $400 donation from Gerald and Adoria Corcoran to the Cheshire Fuel Bank.

18. Acceptance and appropriation of a $1,362.46 donation from Liberty Bank to the Human Services Gift Account for general purposes.

19. Acceptance and appropriation of $390 from Youth Service Bureau Enhancement Grant to be used for positive youth development Programming.

MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr. Ecke.

MOVED to accept agenda items #3 through #19 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

20. Authorization to apply for the Municipal Grant Program for Senior and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation
MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr. Ecke.

MOVED to accept agenda item #20 and forward to the full Town Council For approval.

Discussion
It was explained by Mr. Milone that this is an annual grant through the Dial A Ride program for senior transportation services. The Town gets 2 full days a week of transportation and one Saturday a month. The program is offered through the GWTD; 13 towns participate; and each town is required to get approval to apply for the grant.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

21. Approval of indemnification clause for Regional Water Authority Agreement to provide Consumption Data.

MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr. Ecke.

MOVED to accept agenda item #21 and forward to the full Town Council For approval.

Discussion
This approval is a pro forma clause holding the RWA harmless. Mr. Milone read Section 7 of the Agreement into the record. In order to apply for the sewer use charge information, which represents about $1.1 million in revenue to the Town, the clause must be approved by the Council.

In paragraph #5 there were some changes recommended by the Town Attorney, and they are written in, pending final copy from the RWA.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

22. Authorization for The Town Manager to execute Wallingford Project Solid Waste participating Town’s Reserve Fund Agreement.

Discussion
Mr. Schrumm said we are taking some of the CRRA surplus, $268,000, and contributing it to a fund totaling $2 million for future contingencies. The five towns will have full control over the money, not Covanta.

There is a suggested change in the agreement and Mr. Milone said the Council must hold a public hearing on this matter before the Town Manager has the authority to execute the agreement. This will be done at the January 10, 2011 meeting.

Attorney Smith advised that this is a reserve fund to cover future expenses, i.e. cost of new equipment for the plant.
This fund will not grow and Mr. Milone said all profit from the plan stays with Covanta. The only way the fund can grow is if the five towns put more money into it through an additional tip fee charge. Mr. Milone advised that for any shortage the Town has, the special waste makes up for it under the contract. There is potential for the five towns to combine for a recycling program and other initiatives. Any revenue could be used for tip fee stability.

The Town is expecting another $402,000 from CRRA in Spring 2011, and it could be up to $500,000 for Cheshire.

MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr. Ecke.

MOVED to move item #22, the amended agreement, item 7D on the Council agenda, for call of a public hearing, to the full Town Council for approval.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.


MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr. Ecke.

MOVED to accept agenda item #23 and forward to the full Town Council For approval.

Discussion
Mr. Schrumm noted that the design consultant has already completed the design for phases 1 and 2, and we should not change the consultant at this time.

Mr. Ecke said that the Council did see the main floor schematic design for this project, but not the basement level.

With where the project is now and the time frame involved, Mr. Ruocco said this motion should be supported by the Council.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

24. Acceptance and appropriation of $250,000 Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Grant.

MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr. Ecke.

MOVED to accept agenda item #24 and forward to the full Town Council For approval.
Discussion
Mr. Milone advised this is the $250,000 grant for the trail from Cornwall Avenue to West Main Street. In the next action, the Council will be reallocating this money with the requirement that the grant is for the acceptance and appropriation of the funds.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

25. Reallocation of Linear Park Grants.

Discussion
It was explained by Mr. Milone that this is taking the $250,000 and $562,000 (total $812,000) for the Linear Trail section between West Main Street and Jarvis Street. This must be done in order to comply with the State grant which requires legislative action for the money to be spent, and the commitment of the Town to appropriate this money so they could move the project forward.

Paragraph #2 of the resolution will be deleted (item 7H).

Mr. Milone will send the State a copy of the Milone and MacBroom submittal to the Town and this will comply with the requirements.

The design issue should be brought to the attention of the Town Council. The State is paying for the entire design, Cornwall Avenue to Southington, and Mr. Milone advised that Cheshire is one of three trails recognized in the State.

The committee was informed by Mr. Milone that Rep. Mary Fritz called and reassured him that there is parking on the prison property for trail parking. She will revisit this issue with the DOT to find out where it is located and the acreage involved.

MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr. Ecke.

MOVED to accept agenda item #25, as amended, and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Mr. Ecke asked if this is a commitment on the part of the Town, and if this project is part of the CEP for next year and will have to go to referendum.

According to Mr. Milone the State will expect that this project be moved forward within the next 18 to 24 months, and this is part of what he will tell them. The State will be informed that this project will be discussed as part of the CEP, without guarantee it will be approved at referendum next fall. With enough State funding, the project may not have to go to referendum.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.
26. Authorization to execute $525,000 for the Cheshire High School Turf Grant Personal Services Agreement and appropriate these funds.

MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr. Ecke.

MOVED to accept agenda item #26 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion
Mr. Schrumm stated that if this project does not go forward the Town can request the State to spend this money on other items such as locker rooms, the high school track, and sports related projects.

The committee was advised by Mr. Milone that the only challenge is the Bond Commission which has met and authorized this grant. Their resolution states specifically how this money must be used. To get the money re-designated will be a challenge because the commission has already acted on its resolution.

Mr. Ruocco asked if this commits Cheshire to a referendum vote on the project and whether this is a grant or a reimbursement.

This is a grant and Mr. Milone said the $525,000 is contingent on the completion of the project with non-town funds used. A referendum would be triggered if the Town was bonding for a special appropriation of $350,000 or more.

Mr. Schrumm read an excerpt from the scope of the work for this project into the record regarding accessibility to the public and ADA issues. He said that by accepting this money this facility becomes a State wide facility as opposed to just a Town facility. Paragraph #5 talks about parking, admission, etc. and states that the Town cannot charge more for some groups and less for others. He asked how the Town's hands are tied with this field becoming a State wide facility rather than a Town facility.

In response to these comments, Attorney Smith said this complex would still be within the control of the Town of Cheshire, and the Town can act reasonable to give access to another athletic team. He is not aware of any instance where there is unfettered access to a field, making it a universal field rather than Cheshire High School field. The Town can use a permitting process in a fair way for the Town and out of town activities. The Town can charge a fee which is reasonable and compatible with fees charged elsewhere.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

26. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr. Ecke.
MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

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Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk