PRESENT: Town Council Members Timothy Slocum, Chairman; David Schrumm, Vice-Chairman; Michael Ecke, Andrew Falvey, Anne Giddings, Thomas Ruocco, James Sima, Timothy White.
Absent: Justin Adinolfi.
Staff: Michael A. Milone, Town Manager; Louis Zullo, Personnel Director
Guests: State Representative Elizabeth Esty; Members of the Planning and Zoning Commission, Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, Board of Education, Public Building Commission; and Yankee Gas Service Company Representatives: Marc Andrukiewicz, Mark Smith, Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Robert Farnum, Pamela Medlock, Melissa Fuller.

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. PRESENTATION BY YANKEE GAS.
Marc N. Andrukiewicz, P.E. Vice President, Operations, Yankee Gas Service Company, introduced his associates to the Council -- Mark A. Smith, Project Manager-Transmission Projects, Robert Farnum, Project Manager-Engineering, Pamela Medlock, Public Affairs Specialist, Melissa Fuller, Account Executive, Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Director of Connecticut Public Affairs.

Mr. Andrukiewicz explained that the project is the Waterbury to Wallingford Line (WWL) Project. The goal of Yankee Gas is to explain the project plans, how the company operates, and put the Council and citizens at ease with this project.

Mr. Smith, Project Manager, WWL Project, has 10 years of in-ground construction experience, and has worked on the Bethel to Norwalk in-ground 10 Mile project and the Norwalk to Glenbrook 9 mile in-ground project. The Cheshire project, WWL, is an under ground, 16 mile, 16” steel pipe traveling down a right-of-way of Route 68. The project incorporates two large areas of the Yankee Gas system from the Waterbury pocket to the Meriden/Wallingford load. By tying the line from Waterbury to Wallingford the company is tying two major load centers for the gas company, serving all the distribution in between. Cheshire is in the middle of this line service, and this enables the company to address the current bottleneck gas load.
Benefits to Cheshire – currently the gas supply is limited, and with completion of this project the gas supply loads to Cheshire will be met. The company will be paying taxes on this gas line.

Project Description – it starts in Waterbury at the new LNG plant; 3 new pieces of equipment are being added to this plant – a fourth vaporizer, fourth water glycol heater, and a third in-tank liquid pump in the spare pump tube in the LNG tank.

Pipeline Construction – the pipeline will be approximately 16 miles of 16 inch steel pipe rated for 199 psig service; the route length in Cheshire is approximately 27,900 feet (5.28 miles) along Route 68; the overall project route will follow Route 68 through the towns of Waterbury, Naugatuck, Prospect, Cheshire and end in Wallingford in the vicinity of Routes 68 and 150. There will be two regulating stations installed as part of the pipeline construction, one in Cheshire and one in Wallingford.

Mr. Smith pointed out the route of the WWL pipe line on the maps.

Project Timeline – construction begins in Cheshire and Wallingford in April 2010; construction of the regulating station at Routes 68 and 10 begins in June-July 2010. This will consist of 3 to 4 weeks of construction, with installation of three vaults 4 x 4 feet wide by 5 feet deep. Completion of the Cheshire project is expected by November 2010, with the overall WWL project completion expected in November 2011. Phase 1 is 2010 and Phase 2 is 2011.

In the presentation document there was a photo of a sample regulating station. The Cheshire station will have landscaping and shrubs to hide the station.

Construction Process – involves saw cutting pavement, excavation, install piping, install earth bedding around piping, backfilling, site restoration. Excavation dimensions are 2-3 feet wide x 5-6 feet deep x approx. 100 feet long. The rate of construction averages 100 feet per day per crew, with 3 crews spread at intervals over 7 miles of Phase 1. For traffic control, there will be two traffic lanes maintained when possible. Crews work during the day shift, Monday to Friday. Yankee Gas will cooperate with the Town on the work hours, and may do work a night, if necessary. A photo of a gas line installation by Yankee Gas crews was included in the presentation document.

Property/Road Restoration – during construction there is repaving of the trench, with the possibility of one plate over the end of the day’s work; the road will be built up and temporarily paved; the company returns 3 months later to over mill the road over the trench and repave it. Landscaping will be completed as the project moves forward. Final restoration will involve one lane of mill and overlay per DOT standard direction at the end of construction to insure settlement issues are addressed. A photo of property/road restoration was in the document.
Company Priorities – Yankee Gas assures public and worker safety and maintains access for emergency vehicles, school and city buses, businesses and homes. There is minimum traffic impact, and the company quickly restores any impacted properties and roadways.

Public Outreach – Businesses and residents along the project route will be notified about 2 weeks prior to construction, via mail, and 48 hours prior to construction by personal contact of a Yankee Gas community relations person. Yankee Gas has a web site, an 800 phone number and hot line for the WWL project. The web site will have information on where the daily work will be done, where the week’s work and following week’s work will be done.

Robert Farnum, Engineer for the WWL project, briefly commented on the Middletown Project, and described the process for purging and the precautions which Yankee Gas takes. The company tries to avoid having a mixture of gas and air in the pipeline, so a slug of nitrogen is introduced, pushing it through the line, with the air being pushed ahead of the nitrogen until there is detection of the right level of gas at the end. This is done quickly so there is not too much of a mixture of the nitrogen and gas, and there is little gas escaping before there is 100% gas, and the end of the line is closed. This insures that the mixture of gas and nitrogen cannot burn. When there is pure natural gas at the end of the line, the line is closed, and this minimizes the release to the atmosphere, while maintaining the safety for the line. Yankee Gas has a written procedure, with one person in charge of this job, and every step is signed off as they go through the procedure. The procedure is in accordance with American Gas Association purging recommendations. It is reviewed by DPUC which represents the State’s interest and enforces federal regulations. Mr. Farnum stated there is coordination with local officials; there are several layers of supervision to the process; and precautions are taken to insure there is no danger involved in the process.

Questions
Mr. Ecke asked for the location of the stations at Routes 68 and 10.

Mr. Smith stated the location is at the corner of Routes 68 and 10, in the area of St. Peter’s Church.

Mr. White commented on homeowners asking about use of gas for heating, and if there is the possibility of hooking up to the pipeline, or potential for extending the pipeline into high density neighborhoods.

Melissa Fuller, Account Executive, explained there will be an increase in capacity with enough gas to serve any property along the line. Residential or businesses wanting to hook up to natural gas would be reviewed on a case by case basis, with evaluation on the load and construction work to be done. The company weighs the cost of getting the case to the user, how much will be used, and
determines whether a contribution would be required to the cost of the project. Each project stands on its own as far as reliability, use of the gas, and how much will be used.

Rep. Esty noted that this gas line extension has been worked on for the last four years, to bring gas supply to the south end of town. She asked whether this increase in supply will be sufficient to increase flow to the south end of town, particularly the pool and the high school allowing for energy projects such as micro turbines and fuel cells.

According to Ms. Fuller this pipeline extension will make this possible.

Rep. Esty asked about businesses and residences in the south end of town, and if there would have to be further extension of the pipe Route 10 South to there is enough supply in place.

In response, Mr. Farnum said the load south of the center of town should be able to supply through the existing line to the pool facility and the high school. There are gas mains in front of the pool and the school, and they can easily be supplied to meet the demand of fuel cells and micro turbines. They would have to be sized for the loads. The new pipeline increases by 3 or 4 times the amount of gas available for this area of town, and helps north of the center of town to the Southington border.

Mrs. Esty asked about the expansion to the Hamden border with Southern Connecticut Gas Company and Yankee Gas entering into a service agreement.

There is capacity there, but Mr. Farnum said this is quite a distance which neither company serves. However, it is a possibility.

Ms. Giddings asked if the Yankee Gas website with daily updates can be linked to the Cheshire web site.

Mr. Smith said he would check into this possibility and advise the Town staff.

Sean Strollo, PZC Chairman, asked about the pipeline coming to the center of Cheshire, the possible night work, and the number of hours the crews work. As the pipe line goes over the canal, he asked about the culvert and street scape project which is being planned.

Mr. Smith advised that Yankee Gas is working with the State and Milone and MacBroom to work through their plans and accommodate them as best as possible to get the gas line installed. He has the Milone and MacBroom drawings, and has had meetings regarding the schedules. Yankee Gas plans to go over the culvert this summer, and the street scape project is scheduled for
work on the culvert next year. There will be a meeting with the police chief as soon as the civil contractor is on board.

Mr. Slocum commented on the existing line, Yankee Gas knowing what is there, and when the line is extended. He asked if this is a sister line to the existing smaller line as they go along, or is it all done at once, and about the purging process taking place in November or ongoing as the line gets bigger and purging is done.

Mr. Smith said that the company will wait until it is done with the installation and do the purging at one time, probably in October. The plan is to have construction completed by October 1st, with the month of October for testing, and service on November 1st.

Mr. White said there is no line running Route 68 east to west at this time.

Mr. Farnum said there is an existing line from Route 10 to the Notch. But, there is nothing towards Wallingford or Prospect.

Regarding the purging process in October, Mr. Slocum asked if there is involvement of any local agencies in this process. Since it is being done on a State right-of-way, he assumes Yankee Gas is dealing with the State, and local agencies are notified.

Charles Dimmick, IWW, asked about the canal crossing and digging there twice. He said the State has control but IWW wants a written construction sequence because of its concerns about siltation. When you get to the reservoir, he said the project leaves the right-of-way, and from the maps, it goes through part of the water.

This is not correct, and Mr. Smith said they will not be crossing any water, but will be on the road, and water will not be impacted. The maps will be corrected to reflect this fact. With crossing the reservoir the project will not be in any wetlands or water ways, and will be above the level of the water.

Mr. Falvey asked how this work impacts the West Main Street Scape project, the timing, and how Yankee Gas construction will impact and overlay it. Regarding the canal and reservoir, he understands the pipeline will be above water level when it crosses these water ways. He asked if it would be a buried pipe.

Mr. Smith said the pipe will be buried.

Regarding the pipe, Mr. Falvey asked how deep it would be.

According to Mr. Smith the pipe trench will be average 5 feet deep, with a 16 inch pipe with 16 inch bedding, and it is up to about 2 feet. There will be 2 to 3 feet of
cover. Mr. Smith stated that the requirement is for 9 inches of road base and 9 inches of asphalt. This is about one foot of fill going back into the trench, and there can be about 2 feet of cover on the pipe. For all streams the work is above the curb and beneath the road.

Mr. Falvey asked about the life span of the steel pipe buried in the ground, and when it would have to be redone.

It was explained by Mr. Farnum that there is a life span of 50 years, and there is no reason for it not to be 100 years. The pipe is coated; readings are taken to insure the integrity of this coating as soon as it is backfilled; and the cathartic protection is placed on the pipe as soon as construction is completed. With the cost of this line, he assured everyone that the company will take good care of it.

With regard to the financial benefits to the Town of Cheshire, Mr. Schrumm asked about the tax revenue, and how it is determined, i.e. per foot.

Mr. Smith said that according to the accountants, the tax revenue will be about $100,000 per year, and there is depreciation over the years.

Town Manager Milone asked about when the Yankee Gas taxes would go into effect, i.e. upon completion of the total project or in phases.

When the gas line goes into service, it goes on the tax rolls, and Mr. Andrukiewicz said because this project is phased over two years, the pipe will be energized at a lower operating pressure in 2010. If it goes into service in November, it would be on the grand list and billed on the value at this point.

Mr. Milone asked about the in-service dates, presuming with half the project done in November 2010 there will be an increase in the gas supply at that time.

This is correct and Mr. Andrukiewicz said that because of the needs of the Town of Cheshire the project was phased in. It is an advantage to the town to energize the first leg enabling movement of some projects along, with project completion in 2011.

Mr. Milone asked about the regulating station which was initially at the corner of Routes 68 and 10, and Yankee Gas looking for an easement from the Town of Cheshire. He asked if this is no longer needed.

Yankee Gas no longer needs this easement and Mr. Andrukiewicz said this is because the piping was moved into the State highway. This has been re-drawn and will be submitted to the Town Manager and Town Council.
Rep. Esty asked about final approval to incorporate the cost of the new plant as well as the pipe line into the rate base which has been an issue about going forward.

Mr. Andrukiewicz said this project does two things for Yankee Gas customers. It addresses the issue in the Town of Cheshire. And it also addresses the overall supply objective to all customers in Connecticut by increasing the LNG facility. Older facilities will be retired because of their age, and this adds further benefit of the WWL project to the customers. After the piping is in-service, a rate case must be filed with the DPUC, and present a case as to why this project was prudent, that it was managed well, and it is appropriate for customers to help pay for this project. Until then the rate case is done and adjudicated with the DPUC, Yankee Gas will not know if it gets recovery of the cost. The plan is to start the project in April 2010, complete by November 2010 in Cheshire putting the first phase into service, and full completion in November 2011.

Rep. Esty stated she is on the Energy Committee, and is supportive of this project, bringing high efficiency plants on line. Her colleagues in Waterbury are excited about this project coming through to help with the city’s problems.

In closing, Mr. Andrukiewicz commented on the Town Council hearing about Yankee Gas Company’s plans to execute this project, and its commitment to safe installation and operation. He explained that Yankee Gas is a public utility company, regulated by DPUC. There is a division of DPUC called Gas Pipeline Safety Unit which enforces all the regulations of the State. Yankee Gas briefs DPUC on the WWL project; will have full time inspection services on this project; DPUC will inspect the project, unannounced, and DPUC may choose to witness the purging process of the pipeline. DPUC monitors the performance of Yankee Gas under its rules and regulations.

Yankee Gas views this project as a partnership with Cheshire, Waterbury, Wallingford, Naugatuck and Prospect, and looks forward to feedback from the communities as the project goes through final design and construction. Mr. Andrukiewicz stated that the intent of the company is to minimize any disruption to the community, have an open line of communication with the Town, and looks forward to the feedback on how well the company does its job.

Mr. Andrukiewicz thanked the Yankee Gas staff for attending this meeting and participating in the presentation. He thanked Town Manager Milone and the Town Council for the opportunity to present the WWL project, and reaffirmed the commitment of Yankee Gas to keep the Town involved as the project moves along.

4. ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF AN ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT REIMBURSEMENT GRANT
MOTION by Mr. White; seconded by Mr. Sima.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #022310-1

**RESOLUTION #022310-1**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Town Council accepts the $108,489 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, administered through the Connecticut State Office of Policy and Management (OPM), for reimbursement for projects recommended by the Energy Commission, and appropriates this grant for said projects as attached, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Michael A. Milone, Town Manager of the Town of Cheshire is authorized to enter into and amend agreements and contractual agreements with any and all State of Connecticut and Federal departments and agencies for said grant acceptance and administration.

**Discussion**

Mr. White explained that the Town received a $108,000 grant and the Energy Commission has made recommendations on how to use the funds. All the projects are worthwhile and related to issues addressed by payback payments.

The intended use of the funds as recommended by the Energy Commission are the following:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Time Management Software</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>TV Monitor Timers</td>
<td>$5,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vending Machine Controls</td>
<td>$3,045</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHS Auditorium Lighting Retrofit</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>LED Street Lighting Retrofit</td>
<td>$22,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subsidize 150 Home Energy Solutions Projects</td>
<td>$27,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consulting-Development of Town Wide RFP For ESPC</td>
<td>$25,769</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>$108,489</td>
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Mr. Sima attended the Energy Commission meeting and noted that there was discussion about the 150 home audits, with the Commission planning to target the most needy people first.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

5. AMENDMENTS TO LOCAL PROPERTY TAX QUALIFYING INCOMES AND TAX CREDITS

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Ms. Giddings.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #022310-2
RESOLUTION #022310-2

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council adopts the adjusted income limits for the elderly tax relief program as presented and attached, pursuant to Section 17-6 of the Code of Ordinances.

Discussion
Mr. Schrumm explained this is a readjustment of the income limits for the tax credits program, expanding the income levels and tax credits. This is done by the Council on an annual basis, and he said it will work to the benefit of those needing the tax relief.

Mr. Ecke clarified that there was no increase in the tax credits, just the income levels for those eligible for the program. He would like to review the tax credits further in light of the difficult economic pressure on senior citizens.

It was noted by Mr. Schrumm that the bands were increased and the impact for some senior citizens is substantial. At the $16,000 income level there is another $632 in credits; at the $21,000 level there is a $631 credit. Therefore, the credits are increased for many people even though the credit bands are not changed.

Ms. Giddings said these bottom four bands were recommended by the State and the Ordinance Review Committee recognized the net effect helps people at the lower levels, but not every person eligible. For those at the lower income levels without an increase in income, their tax credit may go up.

A question was posed by Mr. Ecke regarding the income levels and reflection of the State income guidelines.

Mr. Milone said that the State levels go to the asterisk, and the Town levels are more generous than the State programs. The upper levels are well beyond what the State offers. The State has not changed its tax credit program in 25 years.

There is some growth in the lower levels but Mr. Ecke said it must be noted that the Council did not address the marginal tax credits and there were no increases in the tax credits. Someone at the high level gets a $300 tax credit, but for the average senior citizen there is no increase at all.

With the upcoming budget process, Mr. Slocum said the Council wants to insure all tax payers are treated fairly.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

6. DISPATCHERS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT
MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Ms. Giddings.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #022310-3

RESOLUTION #022310-3

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves and authorizes execution of the collective bargaining agreement for the Dispatchers Union, Connecticut Independent Labor Union Local 40, for the term of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2013, under the terms and conditions presented.

Discussion

Mr. Ruocco stated his opposition to the resolution due to the overall salary increases which, despite how they are weighted towards the lower salary band, are out of line with the current economic circumstances. There are other good things in this contract, and he said he has no problem with every other aspect of the contract remaining as is, but a change in the salaries would be more amicable to him. Mr. Ruocco stated that this contract should be sent back to negotiation or arbitration.

Ms. Giddings concurred that the overall percentage increase is beyond what she can support for this contract. She understands, particularly at the lower level, some adjustment is necessary, and we have suffered from losing people in this area. Ms. Giddings cannot support the overall increase.

Mr. Falvey said this is difficult because he knows aspects of the contract were negotiated in good faith, and historically, dispatchers have been under paid. At times, the substitutes for the dispatchers are more costly than the dispatchers themselves. He has a problem with his colleagues not supporting the resolution because the contract was done in good faith. While the percentage increases seem large, and may set a precedent for other collective bargaining units, it does not because of specific instances with the dispatcher’s union. Mr. Falvey said he would support the resolution because it is in the best interests of the Town overall, and he is not looking at it from just a negotiation point of view, but from how the Town is best served.

Mr. White said he would not support the resolution on the contract.

VOTE  In favor -3; Ecke, Falvey, Schrumm
Opposed – 5; White, Slocum, Ruocco, Giddings, Sima.
The motion failed to pass 5-3.

7. POLICE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT
(possible executive session)
Mr. Ecke recused himself from this agenda item due to possible conflict of interest, and stated he does not vote on anything regarding police contracts since he has served on the Council, even though he has been advised he could vote.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #022310-4

RESOLUTION #022310-4

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves and authorizes execution of the collective bargaining agreement for the Police Union, AFSCME, Council #15, Local 1720, for the term of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012, under the terms and conditions presented.

Discussion
Mr. Ruocco stated his support for this agreement because it is reasonable, the salary increases are modest and there are adjustments to contribution levels for insurance and prescription co-pays which are conducive to cost savings. The contract calls for a 0% increase in the first year the contract is ratified, and a 2.5% increase in 2010 and 2011.
Mr. Milone stated that the 0% increase is from July 1st until the contract is ratified on February 4th.

Ms. Giddings stated her support of the resolution on this contract.

VOTE In favor -7; Slocum, Schrumm, Falvey, Giddings, Ruocco Sima, White; Abstaining -1; Ecke.
The motion passed 7-0-1.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. White; seconded by Mr. Falvey.

MOVED to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Town Council at 9:00 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

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Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk