1. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

A. Recognition of local fire prevention poster contest winners.

Chairman Slocum informed the Council and the public that the Connecticut Association of Schools has a contest each year to improve awareness of fire prevention for children. Mr. Slocum expressed appreciation to all the students who participated in the contest. He introduced the first place fire prevention poster winners for Cheshire -- Emma Fekete from Highland School and Svea Cheng from Norton School. Chairman Slocum read a certificate of Recognition for Ms. Fekete and Ms. Cheng.

Fire Marshal Boland stated that this is the 26th year of the state wide poster contest for 4th and 5th graders. He presented Ms. Fekete and Ms. Cheng with the Certificates of Recognition and gift certificates from the TOYZ Store in Cheshire. Mr. Boland thanked Deputy Fire Chief Youngquist for coordinating the contest every year, for keeping all the schools involved, and noted there was great participation in the contest in Cheshire this year. The first prize posters have been submitted to the State competition, and the other school contest winning posters will be on display in the lobby of Town Hall.

B. Statement regarding the ICMA report on the Cheshire Police Department.

Chairman Slocum stated this matter is not a subject of the agenda at this meeting. The Council wanted to acknowledge receipt of the ICMA report and he read a brief statement into the record on the ICMA report. He stated that in October 2009 the Police Department rank and file unanimously voted no confidence in Police Chief Michael Cruess. The Council directed the Town Manager to immediately address issues within the department and positively affect a better understanding of the problems and implement necessary strategies to make improvements. In December 2009 the Town Council hired ICMA, an independent third party organization with a specialty in police
department management and organization, to get the facts and to recommend remediation strategies for the department. ICMA conducted interviews in January with Police Department staff, command officers, the Chief, and members of Town Hall management. The ICMA summary report was delivered to the Town Council on March 3rd, and it is now in the public domain. All nine Council members interviewed the two principal members of the ICMA team as they elaborated on their findings in executive session. Four Council members and Town Manager Milone met informally with Police Chief Cruess on March 4th. This was followed by a meeting with about 20 police officers and captain that same night. All parties had the opportunity to read the report and to speak to its merits. The discussions were frank, and all members of the CPD acted in professional manner which speaks to their training and character. The report was distributed to all police officers via e-mail on March 4th, and the report was then released to the public and the press on March 5th. Going forward the Town Council will have to reconcile the differences between the ICMA report and the circumstances which got us here – the unanimous vote of no confidence in Chief Cruess. As the Council determines the next steps it will take, the public is assured that public safety has never been at stake here, and the police are consummate professionals doing their jobs 24/7.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS
Ray Squier, 291 Cook Hill Road, addressed the Council regarding the fantastic record of the UConn Women's Basketball Team. He would like to see the Town of Cheshire be on record acknowledging the incredible feat of these young ladies. Mr. Squier would like the Town to pay homage to the very difficult and beyond comprehension job of the UConn Women’s Basketball Team, and have it publicly acknowledged by the Town Council.

Henry Chase, 1145 Tucker Road, stated that when he was a young boy he had a large Oak Tree in his front yard which his father was very fond of. One day the tree came crashing down, but no one was in the yard and there was no damage. He noted that the Town Hall also has a large oak tree in front of the building, and he is disturbed because of the gray fungus on the tree, along with the possibility of branches dropping from the tree. This could be a dangerous situation and should be looked at.

In response to Mr. Chase's comments, Chairman Slocum advised that it is a Sycamore Tree, and he believes an arborist looks at the trees regularly. A few years ago a similar tree was taken down in front of Town Hall.

The Council recessed the meeting at 7:44 p.m. to conduct the public hearing.

The Council reconvened at 7:55 p.m.
4. CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Mr. Ruocco.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution #030910-1

RESOLUTION #030901-1

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the Consent Calendar for March 9, 2010 as follows:

A. Authorization to apply for a Naugatuck Savings Bank grant for $6,400 for arthritis classes at the Senior Center.

B. Acceptance and appropriation of a $25 donation from Michael Scully to the Cheshire Fuel Bank.

C. Acceptance and appropriation of a $1,000 donation from the CT Jr. Soccer Assn. South Central District, to the Parks and Recreation Gift Account.

D. Acceptance and appropriation of a $25 donation from Susan M.H. Johnson to the Parks and Recreation Gift Account for the proposed Dog Park.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

5. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

6. OLD BUSINESS

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Information Presentation on FY 2010-2011 Proposed General Operating Budget.

Town Manager Milone stated that the budget was due to the Town Council by March 10th, and copies of the budget book are available to the public in Town Hall for a small fee. Mr. Milone presented an overview of the FY 2010-11 Operating Budget.

The FY 2010-11 proposed budget totals $95,982,094, an increase of $1,486,320, or 1.57%. There are five components of the budget – General Government, Education, C.N.R, Contingency and Debt.
Mr. Milone stated he did not make any changes to the BOE budget of $60,743,072, and this is referenced in his transmittal letter. Mr. Milone said he is not in a position to make any policy decisions or recommendations on the BOE budget, and this year he could not cut any of the insurance accounts.

Debt Service – this is the amount paid on the capital projects, and it is dropping by $501,000 in the next fiscal year. There was $126,000 in the debt reserve account dedicated for debt service in the current year’s budget, and this money was used. Debt service was declining automatically by about $175,000 due to smaller capital budgets over recent years. Also, it is anticipated the Town will have an advanced refunding of a number of outstanding bonds, and staff is working with the financial advisor. With interest rates dropping there is potential to go back into the bond market, borrow at a lower rate, and pay off some of the old debt at a lower rate. This will be further discussed with the Council because Council must adopt a resolution for refunding.

Town Government budget increases by 2.9%; Education budget increases by 2.17%; C.N.R. and Contingency remain the same; Debt is reduced by 5%

Taxes on Average Assessments – The total average assessment for real estate is $226,920, and motor vehicles (2) is $7,990. With a mill rate of 26.70 mills, the taxes would be $6,485.43, an increase of $157.89 from FY 09-10, or 2.50%.

Multi-Year Budget Comparison FY 2010-11 – the adopted budgets for the last 5 years were illustrated by this slide, and Mr. Milone noted that the proposed FY 2010-11 budget is the lowest budget increase in 20 years, and the lowest mill rate increase in the last 14 years except for revaluation years.

Last FY 2009-10 the Town of Cheshire lost over $2 million in non-tax revenue, and at this point, for FY 2010-11 there is a $541,000 decline in non-tax revenue. For two years this totals $2.6 million which is almost one mill. Last year there was $678,000 revenue generated from the growth in the grand list, and this year the growth was lower, translating into $215,000 in revenue. The immense decrease in non-tax revenue is putting a great deal of pressure on the revenue side and expenditure side of the budget.

Revenue Summary – Mr. Milone noted that property taxes will increase by $1.9 million or 2.65% in FY 2010-11. PILOT payments increase by $527,000, or 9.57%. The PILOT payments from the State are being funded at 62%, which is much lower than what is required under the statute. There are two payments – one for the State Prison and one for The Pequot Grant. Both of these are sensitive to tax payments. With the property revaluation of 2008, these grants lag by one year. The prison property value increased by $20 million, resulting in the Town benefiting by about $500,000 more with these two programs. The appropriations for these PILOT programs has not changed, but the distribution has changed as the property values have changed.
Miscellaneous Revenue – this revenue has a decline of $717,000 or -33.34%. This is due to reductions in investment income of $150,000, real estate conveyance taxes, lower funds transfer from WWTP for debt service and indirect costs for administrative services. With the WWTP the annual reimbursement has been decreased each year, and next year it will be $550,000 ($100,000 less than this year). In the FY 2009-10 budget $600,000 was used from the one time tax relief revenue fund which was money set aside by the Council to soften the cushion of the 2008 revaluation. The Town will receive about $100,000 more in sewer assessment revenue.

General Fund Equity – in the current year’s budget $938,999 was used. Mr. Milone is recommending using $600,000 in next fiscal year, a reduction in revenue of $338,999.

Mr. Milone said there is projection of a healthy fund balance of 9.28% or $8.6 million. There was $3.7 million received from CRRA; another $1.9 million expected from CRRA (total $5.6 million); and $790,000 still available in the debt service reserve fund. The Council will have the option available to use some of the reserves as it sees fit.

General Government Expenditures Increase – this fund increases by $695,346; Salaries - $238,585; Employee Benefits/Insurance - $515,253 with medical benefits increasing by $400,000, along with workers compensation, social security and other accounts. All other accounts in this line item are reduced by $58,491.

Mr. Milone explained that the Town’s medical benefits line item has stayed flat, with a slight increase in rates and money used from the trust fund to offset this increase. Next year there will be a 10% to 13% increase in premiums, and Mr. Milone and the Council will address this issue during the budget process.

The Town has a self-insured insurance program, and Mr. Milone may recommend pre-funding or dedicating some of the surplus into the medical trust fund. Last year there was more than $400,000 paid in claims than what was paid into the fund. This year through February 2010, there has been payment into the fund of $1.244 million with $1.723 million in claims paid out. In a year and a half, more than $800,000 has been paid out in claims than what was put into the fund. If this drain continues to the end of this fiscal year, Mr. Milone said the medical trust fund will be depleted.

General Government FY 2005 through 2011 Expenditures – the recommendation for FY 2011 budget is $24,685,557 defined by major categories. For Leisure Services there will be a reduction in expenditure due to the reduction in the natural gas rates; the pool reduction is about $45,000 in the pool subsidy which is paid out of the Parks and Rec budget.
Many departments will have less to work with in the next year, with some increases less than 1%. In many cases, departments will be operating with less money than they did 2 or 3 years ago. Mr. Milone stated that the General Government budget continues to be reduced wherever possible. For those departments seeing a slight increase they are still budgeted less than a few years ago.

B. Set public hearing for the FY 2010-2011 General Fund Operating Budget, Water Pollution Control Department Fund Operating Budget, and Community Pool Fund Operating Budget.

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Mr. Ruocco.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution 030910-2

Resolution #030910-2

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 5, 2010, in Council Chambers, Town Hall, 84 South Main Street, Cheshire, Connecticut, to consider the proposed General Fund Operating Budget for FY 2010-2011, the proposed Water Pollution Control Department Fund Operating Budget for FY 2010-2011, and the Community Pool Fund Operating Budget for FY 2010-2011.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager shall cause a notice of said public hearings to be posted and published according to law.

Discussion
Mr. Schrumm explained that the budget must be approved by the Council by April 13th, and there will be many budget workshops between now and then to which the public is invited.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

C. Alarm Fines ordinance amendment

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution 030910-3

Resolution #030910-3

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves an amendment to the alarm fines Ordinance Section 10-21(e) as follows:

Section 10-21 (e)
Hearing procedure for alarm violations. The town hereby adopts the hearing procedure set forth in Section 7-152c of the Connecticut General Statutes as its hearing procedure for violations of this ordinance. The town manager and the police department are hereby directed to implement and follow said procedure in the enforcement of this Section 10-21.

Discussion
Mr. Falvey stated that the motion does not state what will happen except to follow the State Statute for hearings. He asked about the current process and what the difference would be.

Ms. Giddings said the proposal is to adopt the procedure so people who are fined for false alarms can, if they choose, have hearing before the hearing officer. Right now there is no possibility of having such a hearing because it is not in the ordinance. This amendment will allow the person to appeal the fine.

The Council was informed by Mr. Milone that the Police chief is frustrated because of the inability to collect these fines, just as it has been with inability to collect parking tickets. This amendment will allow the hearing officer to obtain a judgment of a final assessment if the fine is not paid. It will give him the authority to go to Superior Court and get a judgment for collection of the fine.

Regarding the hearing officer, Mr. Falvey asked if the person is qualified to hear these cases or if someone else is needed to handle the situation.

The hearing officer is an attorney, well trained, and Mr. Milone said he is qualified, and his hours may need to be expanded, and his contract modified.

According to Ms. Giddings the Ordinance Review Committee did not envision expansion of the hearing officer’s hours each month. The person is there for 3 hours each month, and some of this time could be used for hearing the alarm violations.

Mr. Milone said the hope is that the hearing officer will generate some revenue with collection of these fines.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

D. Authorization to lock in natural gas rates.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution 030910-4

Resolution #030910-4
BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council authorizes the Town Manager to enter into a contract to lock in the natural gas rates for FY 11-12 at the rate of .86 ccf, and for FY 12-13 lock in the rate of .88 ccf.

Discussion

Mr. Schrumm reported that this matter was discussed at the Budget Committee. Deputy Finance Director Jaskot has worked with a gas consultant and expert in the natural gas business. The prices are at the lowest in 8 years and Cheshire has the opportunity to lock in the rate for the next two years, with savings for this utility expense.

Mr. Jaskot stated that in the most recent 8 year history the rates are the lowest ever, but this is not expected to continue. The Town recently locked in the FY 2011 rate at .82 per ccf, and there is the opportunity to lock in for FY 2012 at .86 ccf and FY 2013 at .88 ccf. The consultant advised the Town to lock in at these low rates. The locked in rate is one-half of the rate 5 years ago, and it is recommended that the Town lock in these rates.

Mr. Adinolfi asked about any concern in the 2nd year of the rates going down.

Mr. Jaskot said the risk is greater that the rate will increase and this is based on consultant's research and a poll of people in this industry.

If the rates do drop further, Mr. Adinolfi asked if there is a provision in the contract to renegotiate for the lower rate, or if the town is locked in for the two years.

This cannot be stated for sure, but Mr. Jaskot renegotiated the electrical contract and he will check the possibility with the gas contract.

Mr. White is fine with locking in the rate, and asked if the consumption level is also locked in.

This has not been looked into, but Mr. Jaskot said the town is not locked into any quantity, and even with reduced usage the rate is okay.

Chairman Slocum presumes that the Town enters into lock in type of rates with the utility companies, and asked if this is done with gasoline costs, i.e. can this be locked in.

Last year the Town locked into electrical rates through 2014, and Mr. Jaskot said it is being done now with natural gas because of the historically low rates. The gasoline rates are locked in for this year. Prices have increased from last year, and it is not known if there is opportunity to lock in long term rates for gasoline because it is so volatile. Mr. Jaskot is in the process of looking into oil rates and should have information in the next few weeks.
Mr. Sima made a point about locking into the supply side, and said we are still prone to changes in distribution fees.

With gas, Mr. Jaskot said the distribution rate is about 10%.

PUBLIC
Ray Squier, 291 Cook Hill Road, noted that this is the natural gas the Town buys, and he asked who uses the gas, and the annual expenditure.

Mr. White advised that the schools use dual heating systems, and depending on the cost of oil they use the gas.

In FY 09-10, Mr. Milone reported that for town buildings the budgeted amount was $123,600; the pool expenditure was $235,000; WWTP does not use gas; and the total expenditure is about $370,000.

It was noted by Mr. Squier that with the reduction in the natural gas costs this makes up for the increase in gasoline prices.

Most Town buildings are heated by natural gas and Mr. Jaskot said the BOE does have dual heating systems, and separate funding.

VOTE   The motion passed unanimously by those present.

E. Acceptance of an aggregate of $5,084 in donations to the Mini-bus Fund, and appropriation of $29,374 from the Mini-Bus Fund for the purchase of two new vehicles.

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Mr. Ruocco.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council approves Resolution 030910-5

Resolution #030910-5

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts an aggregate of $5,084 in donations from the Cheshire Senior Center Membership Association ($5,000) the Travel Club and Doris Mulvaney ($29) Doris Nutbrown and David Williams ($45) and Hard Hat Brotherhood Society Trip Donation ($10) to the Mini-Bus Fund.

Discussion
Mr. Schrumm explained that the Town received $80,000 in State grants for the new buses, and this money has been appropriated. There are donations totaling $5,084 going into the Jitney Bus Fund at the Senior Center, bringing the fund above $30,000. The appropriation of $29,374 to purchase the buses will come from this fund. The Council must approve both resolutions – for the acceptance of the donations and appropriation for the new buses. The two buses will be
The two buses will be purchased at $109,374, less the $80,000 grant, leaving a supplemental funding of $29,374 coming from the Jitney Bus Fund. The old buses will be sold and this revenue will be put into the mini-bus fund for future purchases.

Mr. Falvey asked if the money was already accounted for in the budget and is not an expense anticipated in this year’s budget.

Mr. Schrumm stated that the money is in the mini-bus fund.

It was explained by Mr. Milone that the senior center charges 25 cents per bus ride and this money goes into the Jitney Bus Fund, a stand alone gift account, for the expressed purpose of supplementing any acquisition of mini-buses. The fund also pays for some portion of the GWTD dues. It is hoped there is always enough money in the fund to purchase a bus.

Chairman Slocum asked how long it will be before the buses arrive in Cheshire, and how many buses are in the fleet.

According to Mr. Milone there are four (4) buses at all times. Three buses are always in service with one in reserve. It takes time to order a bus, and the process began 6 or 7 months ago, and the buses should arrive within a few months.
VOTE  The motion passed unanimously by those present.

8.  **TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- Monthly Financial Report – the budget workshops start this week and there will be an overview of the current year’s budget and proposed FY 2010-11 budget. There is project of a healthy surplus in the range of $900,000 due to freezing some C.N.R. accounts. As the year goes on, Mr. Milone will want to redirect some of this money to the medical benefits trust fund.

- Code Red Emergency Notification System Testing – the software was installed two years ago on the emergency communication system, allow immediate notification to the public in any section of the town or throughout the town of an emergency situation and possible evacuation. The system has not been tested in two years; the BOE used the system twice for school early release; and the system will be tested in about 3 weeks. There will be notices on the web site, public service announcements on cable tv, and a newspaper article announcing the testing. This testing will provide an opportunity for everyone to insure they are properly registered in the system, and information is correct. With the system hundreds and hundreds of people can be reached in a few minutes, and notification can be localized.

- Fire Department Magazine Profile – Cheshire’s Fire Department was profiled in an international magazine, *Fire Apparatus Journal*. There is a nice article on the history of the fire department and photos of the rolling stock.

- Boulder Knoll Farm Barn – This matter has been discussed with the Planning Department and the committee wants to get a quote to demolish the barn. This quote is less than $12,000; bid specs should be put together; and the Council must decide on whether this should go forward.

Chairman Slocum referred this matter back to the Planning Committee.

- U-Verse Status Report – Ms. Talbot, Mr. Poccia and BOE reps met with AT&T and it appears the conversion can be done at a modest cost of about $1,000 which is set aside in the Council’s budget for next year. The total cost of the conversion could be $16,000 which will be paid for by AT&T. There are about 800 Cheshire residents with this AT&T service.

- West Main St. Streetscape project – this project goes out to bid in a few weeks, and it is the first phase from the culvert to Deepwood Drive. Matt Bowman, Chairman of the committee, will visit the Council and give a short presentation on the project.
• Spring Events Calendar – there are a number of events taking place over a 4 to 8 week period through the Library and Planning Department, and they are highlighted in the attachment to this report. The information will be on the website and on cable tv.

• Road Construction Acquisition Process – Town Attorney Johnson updated the Council on the process for land acquisition from a property owner. The process is seldom used. First, there is an informal discussion with the property owner. The problem is that property owners do not pay attention to a request, oral or written, to transfer the required easement to the Town. With a condemnation potential in the background the property owner pays attention more quickly. When used, the process is inexpensive and quick. With a stalemate in the process of getting an easement which is essential to a project, the Town consults with the property owner, offers a dollar amount equal to the fair market value of the piece of property. If this is not successful, the Town can file a petition with the Court requesting acquisition of the easement, and at the same time the Town is obligated to deposit with the Court what is considered the fair market value of the property. Within 30 days after the Court deposit, the Town can file a 2nd document which transfers to the Town ownership of the easement which is needed to continue its project. If the homeowner is unhappy with the dollar amount he/she can appeal, but in the interim the Town has the piece of property to move ahead with its project. In Connecticut it is seasonal for Public Works to work on these projects, and a delay can be 6 months to a year. The Town Attorney recommends the process and Mr. Johnson said his office has used it successfully.

Mr. Adinolfi said it would be helpful to him to know when this has occurred in the last few years and when it helped…i.e. are we taking half of someone’s yard or just a small section to widen a road.

In some projects where the Town wants to install a sidewalk across someone’s front yard, Mr. Johnson said that the property, which is being acquired by the Town, is minimal. In other cases the Town may wish to install a line of culverts through someone’s property and the acquisition would also be minimal. In some cases the Town needed to do work on a bridge crossing and needed to acquire the right to do certain work on someone’s property without adversely affecting the property value. In most cases Mr. Johnson said where the Town has taken an easement the dollar amount to be paid is very small. This shows that this is not a major inconvenience to the homeowner, and we are not talking about taking one-half of someone’s yard.

Mr. Sima said he is hearing that this is more of a wetlands issue with bridge or culvert crossing the road and extra space is needed due to a more complex excavation.
Mr. Johnson said that is frequently the case.

- Upcoming Meetings – March 11th through April 10th – Budget Workshops.
- Town Hall Closings – April 2m 2010, Good Friday.

**Questions from the Council**

Mr. Sima asked if the Dispatcher’s Contract has gone to arbitration.

Mr. Milone said not yet, there is discussion with the labor rep of the union, and the arbitration association is on notice, with no date set.

Ms. Giddings asked about the U-Verse arrangement, stating it seems it will not be a great cost to the Town, and if the $1,000 cost would be in next year’s budget and not done until next year.

It was explained by Mr. Milone that it will be done in the next few months, but the appropriation is in the FY 10-11 budget. If the project moves faster and the equipment must be purchased sooner, a way will be found to pay for it.

With the upcoming holiday, Ms. Giddings issued her normal plea that there will be no overtime other than public safety people.

Mr. Milone advised that all departments will be informed of no overtime.

Mr. White thanked Ms. Talbot, Mr. Poccia and Mr. Milone for their work on the U-Verse issue. He asked for information on the energy conservation plan for 4 to 6 town buildings, and consideration of performance contracting financing at the April meeting.

Stating he would give an update on this issue, Mr. Milone advised that conversations have just started with Mr. Halprin. Mr. Milone indicated to him the outcome of the Energy Commission’s recommendation of 4 schools and 2 town buildings, and the next step is a meeting of all parties concerned and getting Mr. Halprin started.

According to Chairman Slocum he has received comments regarding Peck Lane’s poor road conditions, and he has driven across this road, and it is horrible.

Mr. Milone said he drove Peck Lane and it is in poor condition. PW Department is doing remediation with patching, and the plan is to pave Peck Lane to Grandview, and this road is one of the first to be done. From Grandview north requires some possible property acquisition due to drainage, storm sewers, and curbing. As more information is received he will convey it to the Council. As soon as the asphalt plants are open, Peck Lane to Grandview will be done.
9. TOWN ATTORNEY’S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
Attorney Johnson said there is no pending litigation. He has spent some time working with Mr. Milone and the PW Director on the property acquisition process. There is a plan in place for Public Works to move more quickly in the future.

10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL.
A. Chairman’s Report.

B. Miscellaneous.
Ordinance Review – Ms. Giddings said the committee will meet after the budget cycle is completed.

Public Building Commission – Mr. Sima said PBC is starting to finalize the report from the pool subcommittee. A power point presentation will be done at the March 15th meeting. The Council will receive the report from the committee.

Solid Waste – Mr. Falvey will have a meeting after the budget cycle is done.

11. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Regular Meeting of February 9, 2010; Special meetings of February 23, 2010 and correction of January 12, 2010 minutes.

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

MOVED that the meetings of February 9, 2010, February 23, 2010 be approved and minutes of January 12, 2010 be corrected.

Corrections: February 9, 2010, Resolution #020910-3 should be corrected to read “Section 17-6”. January 12, 2010 correction for $1,000 donation from Cathleen Devlin should be to the “Mini-Bus Fund.”

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

12. MISCELLANEOUS AND APPOINTMENTS
A. Liaison Reports

Historic District Commission – Ms. Giddings reported that the commission’s call for a public hearing on the fees was postponed, and will be held in April or May. The matter will come before the Council soon.

WPCA – Mr. Schrumm said the Authority is very active, with a workshop meeting planned for 6 p.m. on March 10th on preliminary plans for the upgrade to the plant. Before going out for design they want to go through everything with the
consulting engineers. WWPC will be awarding the bids for the influent pumps at the plant.

Economic Development – Mr. Schrumm advised that on March 16th at its 7:30 a.m. meeting, EDC will have an honored guest from the State EDC.

Energy Commission – Mr. White reported that many grants and programs exist including the 2007 Bush Energy Policy Act and the 2009 Obama stimulus package. The vote last year includes funding to be spent on energy audits for households in Cheshire. There will also be other towns getting household energy audits. It is expected that this money will be approved in the second half of March. The Energy Commission will be working on HES, Home Energy Solutions, whereby households can get energy audits and basic energy improvements. Mr. White believes this money will be approved and people can contact the Energy Commission for more information about HES.

Library Board – Mr. Falvey reported that one issue was letters which had gone out to Councilors suggesting that the authority to purchase books should be given back to the Board. Mr. Falvey read through the polices of the Library going back to the 1980’s and the Board has never had the authority to approve books. This authority has always rested with the Library Director.

Youth Services – Human Services – Mr. Adinolfi reported Youth Services was cancelled due to lack of a quorum; Human Services meets on Thursday, 3/11; and he was unable to make the IWW meeting.

Chairman Slocum reported he took part in the Beautification Committee’s award ceremony which recognized local businesses and residents for beautification of their property. Staff member Mr. Sitko made some nice remarks reminding everyone about the efforts of the committee which are an enhancement to economic development and beautification of the community.

B. Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

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

MOVED that the following appointments be approved by the Council.

Beautification Committee – Jane Prasnick-Lyon (R) term of office 3/9/10 to 1/31/12 to fill the vacancy of Anthony Dinicola.

Environment Commission – John Pepper (R) term of office 3/9/10 to 1/31/14 to fill the vacancy of David Caddum; William Sherman (R) term of office 3/9/10 to fill the vacancy of Matt Levine.
Historic District Commission – Joseph Dattilo (D) term of office 3/9/10 to 1/31/11 to fill the vacancy of Caitlin Guelakis.

Library Board – Delena DeSena (R) term of office 3/9/10 to 1/31/14 to fill the vacancy of Terry Grahame; Judy Knott (R) term of office 3/9/10 to 1/31/14 to fill the vacancy of Joy Hostage; Kathy Nankin (R) term of office 3/9/10 to 1/31/14 to fill the vacancy of Kathleen Kennedy.

Performing and Fine Arts Committee – Donna Myjak (R) term of office 3/9/10 to 1/31/13 to fill the vacancy of Pat Pfurr.

Planning and Zoning Commission – Sylvia Nichols (R) term of office 3/9/10 to 12/02/11 to fill the vacancy of Mickey McPhee.

Youth Services Committee – Lauren Vendetto (R) term of office 3/9/10 to 1/31/12 to fill the vacancy of Diane Visconti.

Discussion
Chairman Slocum noted that the appointment to the Planning and Zoning Commission was due to the untimely death of Mr. McPhee. This is an elected office and the term is immediate to December 2, 2011.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

13. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Letters to Council.
Ms. Giddings reported on an e-mail she received regarding the Boulder Knoll Farm barn. Her response was that until we know what a restoration of the barn would be used for, unless the grants being discussed are new, they are 5 to 8 years too late for the town to pay a small amount such as $8,500 to find out the probable six figure amount needed to restore the barn. She said it is an inappropriate expenditure now. She is the closest neighbor to the barn and sees it every day.

Chairman Slocum acknowledged receipt of that e-mail which was a well written and thoughtful communication.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Pending claims and litigation

B. Personnel Issues

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Ms. Giddings.
MOVED that the Town Council enter Executive Session at 9:20 p.m. to include the Town Manager and Town Attorney to discuss personnel matters including the ICMA report, Police Department Personnel Issues, and the Dispatcher’s Contract.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Mr. Falvey.

MOVED that the Town Council exit Executive Session at 10:55 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Mr. Falvey

MOVED that the Town Council adjourn at 10:55 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

____________________________________
Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk