Present
Timothy Slocum, Chairman; David Schrumm, Vice-Chairman; Justin Adinolfi, Michael Ecke, Andrew Falvey, Anne Giddings, Thomas Ruocco, James Sima, Timothy White.
Staff: Michael A. Milone, Town Manager; Personnel Director Louis Zullo; Patti Lynn Ryan, Finance Director; James Jaskot, Deputy Finance Director; Superintendent of Schools Dr. Greg Florio; Assistant Superintendent of Schools Scott Dietrich.

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. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

A. Proclamation for Alcohol Awareness Week.
Chairman Slocum read the proclamation for Alcohol Awareness Week, April 12 – 17, 2010, and presented it to Meredith Sturgess, Chairperson of the Human Services Committee.

Ms. Sturgess explained that the Town has a three year grant to educate the public on the dangers of under-age drinking, with flyers around Town, and a student production of “The Jimmy Harper Story” on Thursday, April 15th at 7 p.m. at Dodd Middle School. The public is invited to attend the production, with a donation of $5 to the Cheshire Fuel Bank. A poster contest was held, and the winning poster was reproduced on red fabric bags which Ms. Sturgess presented to the Town Council.

B. Consent Calendar donations recognition.
Chairman Slocum deferred reading the list to the May meeting..

C. Public Comments.
Melissa Icava, Cheshire High School Senior, addressed the Council regarding the importance of the Arts in her life and other lives. Ms. Icava will be attending Cornell University studying Animal Science. She stated that the Arts contribute to her life, are a lifeline for some people, and important enough that the Council should consider the Arts in the budget because of their impact on the community.
4. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Town Council approves Resolution #041310-1

RESOLUTION #041310-1
CONSENT CALENDAR FOR APRIL 13, 2010

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the Consent Calendar for April 13, 2010 as follows:

A. Acceptance and appropriation of a $25 donation from Edward Fleming to the Police Department Gift Account.

B. Acceptance and appropriation of a $100 donation from James and Jacqueline Sima to the Cheshire Fuel Bank.

C. Acceptance and appropriation of a $100 donation from the Sisterhood of Temple Beth David to the Cheshire Fuel Bank.

D. Acceptance and appropriation of $323.14 from summer theater programs concessions to the CPFA Gift Account for scholarships.

E. Acceptance and appropriation of $1,184.84 from concessions and candy sales to the CPFA Amphitheater fund.

F. Acceptance and appropriation of $4,650 unsolicited grant from the Connecticut Community Foundation to the Human Services Gift Account for direct assistance to senior residents.

G. Acceptance and appropriation of a $300 donation from the Cheshire Newcomers Club to the Cheshire Fuel Bank.

H. Acceptance and appropriation of a $300 donation from the Cheshire Newcomers Club to the Human Services Gift Account.

I. Authorization to apply for a $6,000 Connecticut State Library 2011 Historic Document Preservation Grant and appropriation of said Amount for the purchase of map cabinets for the Town Clerk vault.

J. Acceptance of a $40 donation from the Southwick Book Club in memory of Joyce LeVasseur to the Library Gift Account and appropriation of said amount for purchase of books, materials and equipment.
K. Acceptance of a $25 donation from Nancy and David Burt in memory of Anita Lynn and appropriation of said amount to the Library Gift Account for purchase of books, materials, and equipment.

L. Acceptance of a $45 donation from Joan Pilarczyk in honor of Priscilla and Gerry Long and appropriation of said amount to the Library Gift Account for purchase of books, materials, and equipment.

M. Acceptance of a $75 donation from the Cheshire Women’s Club and appropriation of said amount to the Library Gift Account for purchase of books, materials, and equipment.

N. Acceptance of a $35 donation from Charles and Elaine Powers in memory of Robert Jupiter and appropriation of said amount to the Library Gift Account for the purchase of books, materials and Equipment.

O. Acceptance of a $14.75 donation from Suzanne and Vincent Robitaille in memory of Paul Simisky and appropriation of said amount to the Library Gift Account for the purchase of books, materials and Equipment.

P. Acceptance of a $60 donation from Diane and Bill Conroy in memory of I. Samuel Lape and appropriation of said amount to the Library Gift Account for the purchase of books, materials and equipment.

Q. Acceptance of a $250 donation from Barry and Claudia Spaulding and appropriation of said amount to the Library Gift Account for the purchase of audio books.

R. Acceptance of two $25 donations from the Friends of Cheshire Library in memory of Walter Marut and Barbara Staley, and appropriation of said amount to the Library Gift Account for the purchase of books, materials and equipment.

S. Acceptance of an $850 donation from the Cheshire Rotary Club Charitable Foundation and appropriation of said amount to the Library Gift Account for the purchase of books, materials and Equipment.

T. Acceptance of a $10 donation from Emily Murphy in honor of Abby Abramson and appropriation of said amount to the Library Gift Account for the purchase of books, materials and equipment.

U. Acceptance of $2,504 in State Aid from the Connecticut State Library and appropriation of said amount to a Library Special Revenue
Account for the purchase of books, materials and equipment.

V. Acceptance of a $10 donation from Priscilla Lavin and appropriation of said amount to the Library Gift Account for the purchase of paperback books.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

5. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR
None.

6. OLD BUSINESS
None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Adoption of the FY 2010-2011 General Operating Budget.
Chairman Slocum thanked everyone in attendance at the meeting and those at home watching the Council meeting on television, and everyone who participated in the budget process. He said that having the public involved is an important part of the process. The Council, the elected leaders of the community, is doing the best it can, making the best decisions it can, out of a very unfortunate set of circumstances in difficult times.

Budget Committee Chairman Schrumm thanked Town Manager Milone, Finance Director Ryan, Deputy Director Jaskot, Ms. Talbot and Town staff for their work in preparation of the budget and assisting the Council through many months of review of numbers. He said these people did their usual professional job and they should be recognized for their work. Since March 10th, Mr. Schrumm noted that there have been many hours of public meetings, debate, community suggestions and the time has come to pass a financial plan for the Town. The budget is a balance between those who say “no new taxes” and those who say they will “pay anything” to get the programs and services they want.

Mr. Schrumm said there must be focus on the long term fiscal health of the community which is something that has been done by Town Councils over many years, and the Town is better off for it. The guidelines for this operating budget were simple…live within the resources available including average taxpayer’s ability to pay; plan for known expenses in coming and future years; and do not make short term one year budget decisions that will make succeeding years more difficult. Mr. Schrumm believes this has been achieved, with disappointment on both sides of the spending debate, but the budget is doable, responsible and in the long range best interests of the majority of Cheshire residents.
At this meeting the Council must act on the official budget, and Mr. Schrumm explained there are 2 ½ months until the start of the new fiscal year on July 1st. He hopes that some of the stakeholders involved can still make decisions to make the upcoming fiscal year a bit more constructive for all concerned.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #041310-2. Sections A and B.

RESOLUTION #041310-2
FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011 GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET.

A. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Town Council appropriates the following amounts for the Town of Cheshire General Fund Operating Budget for Fiscal year 2010-2011:

General Government
(excluding Employee Benefits, Police Department and Board of Education $14,993,993
Debt Service $9,328,465
Contingency $125,000
Capital Non-Recurring Reserve $1,100,000
Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority/CRRA
Community Stabilization Fund Transfer to Reserve Accounts:Total: $5,625,000
Transfer to Heart & Hypertension Fund $500,000
Transfer for Other Post Employee Benefits $500,000
Transfer to Payroll Reserve Fund $500,000
Town and Community Pool
Transfer to Pension Reserve Fund $500,000
Transfer to Debt Service $3,625,000

B. BE IT RESOLVED, that the total of the estimated funds to be received from CRRA will be allocated to the respective reserve accounts in the order listed in Section A of this resolution, such that after all previous reserves in the order listed have been satisfied, the remaining allocation will be transferred to the debt service reserve fund. It should be noted that if the total CRRA allocation exceeds $5,265,000, any excess funds would be subject to a subsequent appropriation.

Discussion
Mr. Milone clarified that within the General Fund Operating Budget, the Board of Education is excluded.

With the CRRA funds allocation, Mr. White asked if they could be transferred to any other fund with another Town Council vote. He said that after money goes into the pension reserve fund the Council loses control over that money.
Mr. Milone responded that this was not correct. The pension reserve trust fund is a stand alone fund, but money cannot be allocated from this account unless the Council asks to move money from the account. These funds are not being co-mingled with the pension assets. It is a stand alone account to support future pension payments as the Council deems necessary.

Mr. Ruocco stated his support for the budget, explaining the Council worked hard to put together a difficult budget for Town staff to deal with, and it is a difficult budget for the Town Manager, Superintendent and Board of Education to deal with. But, Mr. Ruocco believes it is in keeping with general public opinion. Many people have varied philosophical opinions about what they experience sitting in Council chambers, but Mr. Ruocco said they must understand that he interacts with many people, and they do not all think alike. People e-mail him wanting the budget slashed in half and there must be a balance based on experiences, and this is what this budget does. Some people will be unhappy with this budget, and he asked everyone to deal with it. Leadership must make difficult decisions and take the heat for them, and Mr. Ruocco is ready to do that, and is accessible for people at any time.

It was stated by Mr. Ruocco that this budget maintains the C.N.R. at $1.1 million to manage basic repair work for the Town, and it is a modest spending increase which he is willing to tax for. This budget relies less on reserves than last year without turning to the taxpayer when revenues are down. There is little discretionary spending in this budget. Mr. Ruocco approves of the way this budget makes use of the CRRA funds which the Town receives after 20 years in participation in the contract, and the money will offset some of the Town's future liabilities. Mr. Ruocco thanked everyone for attending the meetings, participating in the process, and said he knows people think they have not been heard. This is a compromise budget which the public can tolerate. Mr. Ruocco commented on people being able to send their message by going to the polls in November, and noted that this is what happened last November with the Council turnover.

Councilor Ecke proposed an amendment to Resolution #041310-2 with Proposal B for the FY 2010-2011 budget.

PROPOSAL B

MOTION by Mr. Ecke; seconded by Mr. Adinolfi

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #041310-2.

RESOLUTION #041310-2 (B)
FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011 GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET.
A. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Town Council appropriates the following amounts for the Town of Cheshire General Fund Operating Budget for Fiscal year 2010-2011:

**General Government**
(excluding Employee Benefits, Police Department and Board of Education)
- $14,993,993
- Debt Service $9,328,465
- Contingency $125,000
- Capital Non-Recurring Reserve $760,000

**Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority/CRRA**
- Community Stabilization Fund Transfer to Reserve Accounts: Total: $5,625,000
  - Transfer to Heart & Hypertension Fund $750,000
  - Town Medical Trust Fund $500,000
  - Transfer for Other Post Employee Benefits Town and Police Dept. $729,433
  - Transfer to Water Pollution Control Dept. $200,000
  - Transfer to Payroll Reserve Fund $500,000
  - Transfer to Pension Reserve Fund $750,000
  - Transfer to Debt Service $2,195,567

B. BE IT RESOLVED, that the total of the estimated funds to be received from CRRA will be allocated to the respective reserve accounts in the order listed in Section A of this resolution, such that after all previous reserves in the order listed have been satisfied, the remaining allocation will be transferred to the debt service reserve fund. It should be noted that if the total CRRA allocation exceeds $5,265,000, any excess funds would be subject to a subsequent appropriation.

C. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Town Council appropriates the amount of $5,077,243 for Employee Benefits portion of the General Government Budget and $4,549,135 for the Police Department portion of the General Government Budget.

D. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Town Council appropriates the Amount of $61,243,072 for the Board of Education Budget.

E. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the sum of all revenues, transfers from other funds and allocation of general fund equity for the fiscal year 2010-2011 Town of Cheshire General Fund Operating Budget will be in the amount of $101,701,908, and

F. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the tax rate be set at 26.6 mills which will generate $73,725,502 at a collection rate of 99% for fiscal year 2010-2011, and
That the tax payments for motor vehicles and personal property shall all
Be due and payable in one payment on July 1, 2010; and

That real estate tax payments shall be paid in two installments with the
first payment due on July 1, 2010 and the second payment due on January 1, 2011; and

That pursuant to Section 12-144 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as
amended, that any real estate tax bill on the 2009 grand list in an amount
not in excess of $100.00 shall be due and payable in a single Installment on July 1, 2010; and

That, pursuant to Sections 12-142 and 12-146 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the last date for payment of taxes due July 1, 2010 will be August 2, 2010. Payment of taxes due July 1, 2010 which are received after August 2, 2010 will be assessed interest calculated from the original date of July 1, 2010.

Also, that pursuant to Sections 12-142 and 12-146 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the last day for payment of taxes due January 1, 2011 which are received after February 1, 2011 will be assessed interest calculated from the due date of January 1, 2011.

Chairman Slocum stated that the Council is voting on one budget, but over the years the Council has received and voted on different budgets from each respective caucus. The majority caucus has a budget proposal this evening as does the minority caucus. There are separate resolutions prepared which must arrive at a mill rate, tax rate, and all the legalize which goes into the production and execution of the budget. The entire budget is discussed, and Mr. Ecke has presented the minority Proposal B budget which will be explained by Mr. Ecke.

Discussion on the amended resolution

Mr. Ecke said he would explain the differences between the majority and minority budgets. He thanked Mr. Milone, Ms. Ryan, Mr. Jaskot and Town staff for the excellent job in preparation of the budget, and noted that the financial health of the Cheshire community is testament to the work they do and how effective and efficient they are in their professional jobs.

This is a very difficult year and Mr. Ecke said logical people can look at a set of facts and draw different conclusions, without saying one is wrong and one is right. Mr. Ecke commented on this year being a difficult year, the budget must be cut, and this is what happens in people’s households.

Mr. Ecke presented an analogy of a household responsible for educating students in college, and the last thing to do is cut money for college, telling a
student they cannot go to college anymore, or they must come home and attend a community college. In some way, the minority and majority Councilors review funding of education differently, and this may be more this year than in past years. The difference between what the minority party would give to the Board of Education (BOE) and what has already been proposed is about $800,000. The Democrats propose adding $500,000 to the BOE funding level which is consistent with what has been done in the past.

As budget chairman for the last 4 years, Mr. Ecke said there was gradually less spending on education due to lower enrollment and the economy was rough. For this year the additional BOE funding would be paid by putting less money in the C.N.R. reserve of $740,000, which is funded by the Republicans at $1.1 million. Mr. Ecke’s analogy is that living in a house which needs things to be done, and with children in college, the education of the children would be his focus. He said this economy will not be down forever; there will be a comeback; it might be two years down the road; but we can hunker down for these two years. He noted that Cheshire is not overly spending on education with its rankings, and sending the extra $500,000 to the BOE is not exorbitant. The C.N.R. can be cut; it may cut a hole in the future; but the minority feeling is the economy will not stay this bad for long. With proposal B, more money was used out of the fund balance, and the fund balance is there for situations which are like the current one. Proposal B’s use of the fund balance is about $300,000, still leaving it above 9%. This budget is also funded with a mill rate of 26.6 mills, or about $25 more per household with two cars. The Democrat’s Proposal B would spend less in C.N.R. add $25 in taxes per household, and use more of the rainy day fund, less than $400,000, which would still keep the fund balance at a reasonable level.

As stated earlier, Mr. Ecke said logical minds can come to different conclusions, and the Democrats think their budget is logical given the facts presented. He hoped other Councilors would join with the Democrats and vote for Proposal B…but he did not think this would happen.

Mr. Adinolfi expressed thanks to Mr. Milone, Ms. Ryan, Mr. Jaskot and Town staff, and Dr. Florio and Dept. of Education staff for their professionalism in preparation of the budget, for a job well done, and for what they do every day running the Town and school system. He said the Councilors listen to comments in Town, and he does listen to what people have to say. Of the 55+ people who spoke at the public hearing he heard three things...support education and our students over and over again, with only three people speaking in opposition to the budget. Some say this is not representative of the Town, and Mr. Adinolfi has a hard time believing that. He heard people ask the Council to be creative, be open, try some new things, come and work together, and he is not sure this was done to the extent it could be done. This is not just for the Council and BOE, but other parties. He also heard people asking that their property values not be
hurt, as they made a connection between the education system and the fact that people pay a premium for homes in Cheshire because of the school system.

Mr. Adinolfi thanked everyone who came and spoke at the public hearing – parents, empty nesters, and expressed how proud he was of the students who addressed the Council. He also thanked BOE Chairman Brittingham for getting people to come out and speak on the budget. Mr. Adinolfi stated that the people are in charge; the Council is here to serve the people; and Mr. Milone and Dr. Florio are here to serve the Council and BOE.

On a few general points, Mr. Adinolfi said that the budget he and Mr. Ecke put forward supports more education funding of about $850,000. If the budget were approved with the increased money to the education system, Mr. Adinolfi stated that there would be preservation of 17.25 teaching positions – 5 at the high school, 8 at the elementary schools, music teacher, special education teacher, technology education teacher and business teacher at the high school, and academically gifted program. Also, there would be no elimination of freshman sports, no increase in student participation fees to $100, and no participation fee for the drama program or reduction in support for the marching band and winter guard. This can be done with a mere $25 a year, 6 cents per day per household, and this does not seem exorbitant to Mr. Adinolfi. But, he said that to some this is over-taxation. Stating he and Mr. Ecke are as fiscally conservative as any other Councilor, Mr. Ruocco said the difference is where to spend money, and they believe it should be spent on education.

With different leadership, Mr. Adinolfi thinks we would be doing more with the offer of the promissory days which the teachers’ union made. It could be said it is another form of a loan, but as a business man, Mr. Adinolfi said if someone made an interest free loan for 5 years for $461,000, he would sign it. He understands this is a liability to be paid back by the Town, but it is an option for being creative. Mr. Adinolfi expressed hope that the teachers’ union will find a way to come to the table, talk in a very limited way about opening up the contract for some concessions on some days where they do not get paid. This should be done and with different leadership it might have happened.

When he was on the Council in 2004 and 2005, Mr. Adinolfi stated that the Town cannot do a review of school and town operations in a 6-week period. The Town needs an operational review of town government and the school system, and this is not another layer of government. It is how you understand what you are working on, setting metrics for making improvements, having a list coming into the budget process about funding at certain levels, and without this funding knowing what services will be cut. The Town needs to do this, and Mr. Milone and Dr. Florio should be asked by the BOE and Council to start this tomorrow so that next year willy-nilly decisions are not made on funding which affect services. If the Council says it does not want to fund services to keep taxes low, then people should be told what services will be cut.
Ms. Giddings commented on reduction of services stating that in spite of the fact she wishes to reduce the general government budget even more, she did not have support for the areas she wished to reduce. She will support the town government expenditures because she knows she does not have support among her colleagues for her plan. Ms. Giddings believes that “difficult” is not the word for this budget year, and some people have said it is impossible, but it is not impossible. We have had other difficult years, and living in Cheshire 39 years she has known years when expenditures had to be reduced for a variety of things, including education. In good years there has been an enlargement of expenditures which is appropriate. We have managed to survive, and Ms. Giddings said we need to look carefully at not only the percentage of money spent in each area, but specifically at line items of things which the town could do without this year.

Due to the fact that we anticipate a greater surplus in this year’s budget, Ms. Giddings said that it behooves the Town to not spend $500,000 of the CRRA money on the town medical trust fund. She supports the allocation mentioned by Mr. Schrumm for those monies because that appropriation can be changed, if necessary, for other funds. Ms. Giddings said she realizes the CRRA funds are basically capital funds which have been accumulated over many years and are funds which should be used in order to provide for particular capital expenditures which would be impossible to fund from the operating budget. Therefore, Ms. Giddings said she supports the transfer of the reserves to the Heart & Hypertension Fund, OPEB which has not been funded to this point, Payroll Reserve Fund, Pension Reserve Fund, and the Debt Service Reserve Fund.

Ms. Giddings believes we need to look at not just total amounts, but where they are going, and there are other ways to support the budget. In hearing from the Director of Youth and Social Services this budget has been augmented by gifts, and this has led to avoiding the need to call upon the town to spend even more for things such as the fuel fund and food bank fund. Other areas of donations from our generous community include contributions to the Senior Center, and without them the town would have been asked to fund more with taxes. Ms. Giddings expressed appreciation to the town residents for their generosity, and is pleased they are recognized by the Council. Many people in town are making extra contributions so there are fewer demands on tax funds.

Councilor Sima stated he would be recused from the Board of Education section of the motion due to conflict of interest since his daughter teaches in the school system.

Speaking to Mr. Ecke’s motion, Mr. Schrumm said that there is a significant difference in philosophy and the over-riding one is whether you kick the problem down the road for another year, play to the applause, and worry about it next year. Using the fund balance this year means that next year the budget will be larger and go to the same reserve fund and take more. This will happen unless
we believe the State of Connecticut will give the town more money or the economy booms back and the grand list grows so there is more tax revenue. Taking money out of the reserve on a one time basis is not the smart thing to do. The C.N.R. is a line item built up in the budget since 1989, trying to increase this line item each year so there is a consistent amount of money to pay for capital items without borrowing the money. Mr. Schrumm cited the purchase of a dump truck at $110,000 without bonding and paying interest by using C.N.R. money. When the capital budget is done in August, Mr. Schrumm said C.N.R. money must be there for certain projects, and for year in and out, to keep the financial health of the town in good shape.

Regarding the CRRA funds, Mr. Schrumm said the difference is going for short term gain, and the town will be in worse shape in the future, including the school system, if the finances are not in order.

Mr. Ecke said he tried his best to be low key, highlight the differences, and not walk down the philosophical path. Regarding use of fund balance, the minority recommendation was to use $350,000 additional, and noted that the budget is already using $600,000 of the fund balance in Proposal A from the majority. Mr. Ecke stated he was offended by Mr. Schrumm’s statement about his playing to the audience, and cited the fact that his record on supporting education is very clear, which is evident in his service as budget chairman for 4 years. For the C.N.R. Mr. Ecke said the town could have the best dump trucks by saving money and spending it this way. In his way of thinking, delaying $350,000 in capital projects is not putting the finances of the town in jeopardy. If we are so precarious that $350,000 will push the town one way or the other then we have bigger problems than how we are funding education. Mr. Ecke stated he does not buy that spending $350,000 will close Town Hall…this will not happen.

Stating he respects Mr. Ecke’s philosophy on the budget, Mr. White said two differences are with the C.N.R., and having post election state level budget cuts after the November election. The C.N.R. is money spent during the construction season of the summer, and in the past it has been held back as a reserve account. If the State budget cuts come through, then the town can use the C.N.R. to offset these cuts.

Regarding the surplus funds, Mr. White has concerns about liabilities, including the new OPEB with Cheshire facing $20 million in liability on the books to be funded over 10 years. The Heart & Hypertension is a $3 million long term liability. The Pension Fund is valued every two years and will be revalued in July 2010, and could be $10 to $15 million less this year. There is $40 million in long term under funded liabilities. The rainy day fund with CRRA money is $15 million, and Mr. White wants to dedicate this money to the long term liabilities by supporting them now with funding.
Mr. Falvey commented on Mr. Ecke’s proposal and description and his statement that our students would not have the opportunity to go to a college of their choice but would have to go to a community college because of what the Budget Committee is going to present to the people.

Mr. Ecke clarified that he did not make this statement in his remarks.

Mr. Falvey noted that Mr. Adinolfi said the minority proposal would restore 17 teaching positions to Dr. Florio’s budget. As he understands it, Dr. Florio’s budget, down to where the Budget Committee’s number came to, was a 17 potential teacher change. With $500,000 this works out to a little over $29,000 per person and Mr. Falvey does not know where the 17 teachers come from because Cheshire pays teachers more than $29,000. Mr. Falvey had a question about adding the $500,000 to the BOE budget, and reducing expenditures in the C.N.R. and how does Mr. Ecke intend to pay for the items deferred into the future. He asked how Mr. Ecke intends to pay for the items he is not willing to consider this year taken out of operations. Mr. Falvey said Mr. Adinolfi is suggesting the later payment of deferral days, and how this will be paid in the future was questioned by Mr. Falvey. He is open to suggestions, commended Mr. Ecke and Mr. Falvey for bringing up an alternative budget. He would like to vote for it if he could be given a reason to do so, and needs answers to his questions.

In response, Mr. Adinolfi said that in terms of the promissory days the Council would have to reserve for this payment. It would cost something over the next five years to pay back. But it does minimize the reduction in the next fiscal year of the positions that could be saved through acceptance of those promissory days. It is a trade-off; it is a loan, and Mr. Adinolfi does not like to have loans for operating expenses, but it is an option. In Dr. Florio’s documents it shows 17 positions, with teaching staff reductions totaling $453,000 including reductions of 10.25 full time equivalents (4.75 CHS teachers, 4 elementary, 1 music and ½ special education). That was one of two or three major segments of dollars recommended for reduction to account for the $950,000 which the BOE took out of the budget. With the Democrat’s proposal B, some of this would be restored with $850,000…with $453,000 plus the anticipation of another $365,000 to be cut tonight. Dr. Florio has associated with that 7 teaching positions and a custodian, $61,000 of programmatic reductions, and this equals the $850,000 if it were added back. We would not cut the $365,000 in the resolution on the floor tonight plus the $500,000 which Mr. Adinolfi and Mr. Ecke recommend being added back. This is how Mr. Adinolfi came up with the numbers. It restores $850,000, with the minority $500,000, and the assumption that the $365,000 would not be cut, for a total of $850,000. The information cited by Mr. Adinolfi has been passed around in the community.

Stating he was sorry his analogy was unclear, Mr. Ecke said that his own thought was trying to relate things back to a household budget and reaction given
financial constraints. If a household had problems the one thing you would try to do is keep a child in school, and this would be a priority before doing other household projects. There are things nice to have such as the GPS system for the Planning Department, windows in the Council Chambers, etc. In the minority proposal these were things to be deferred, but we must spend money in the way we think best. It will be great to have good trucks for the winter time with roads plowed, and this is the tradeoff, and someday the trucks can't plow the roads, and this can happen. Mr. Ecke said he knows both sides having served on the Budget Committee for 9 years. Delaying something now will probably not be better next year, and we will have another two cycles before things get better. Mr. Ecke does not believe he and Mr. Adinolfi are kicking things down the road, but maybe the majority Council does, and they won the election, so people probably believe them more than they do him.

VOTE on the amendment to Resolution #041310-2 B.
   In favor -2; Adinolfi and Ecke.
   Opposed -6; Slocum, Schrumm, Falvey, Giddings, Ruocco, White.
   Abstained -1; Sima. THE MOTION FAILED TO PASS 2-6-1.

Chairman Slocum referred the Council back to the original motion on the floor, Resolution #041310-2 (A) Sections A and B.

Discussion
Mr. Sima commented on Sections A and B with regard to the C.N.R. money that was $1.37 million a year and a half ago. It was brought down to $1.1 million last year and will stay flat again this year. The C.N.R. money is very important, there would be a safety issue if the roads were not plowed, if sidewalks were not repaired, along with other things repaired and done through the C.N.R. process. This lightens the load and there is more money in the operating budget that can go towards other budget items. Debt service has come down over the year, with more money able to be spent in the operating budget, and every year the operating budget increases. Mr. Sima commended Mr. Ecke and Mr. Schrumm for their efforts to insure this money is always available. If the C.N.R. is pulled back to $750,000, Mr. Sima questioned where we go next year, and the town increases debt service along with other obligations such as the sewer treatment plant. He said this has been a tough decision to not give everyone everything they want, and difficult for the Council to not push for a higher tax increase and to take money out of reserve accounts for a one time shot. Next year there will be another increase in salary and benefits, a 4.5% increase on one side of the budget, and we have higher and higher costs. Mr. Sima stated his support of the proposed budget.

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

MOVED to amend Section A of Resolution #041310-2 to reduce spending by $158,349 with de-funding two positions – the current vacant position of Assistant
Town Planner/Zoning Enforcement Officer and the position of Personnel Director/Assistant Town Manager.

Discussion
Mr. White stated that the position of Assistant Town Planner/Zoning Enforcement Officer is vacant at a cost of $54,771, and the Personnel Director/Assistant Town Manager position is funded at $103,578, for a total spending reduction of $158,349. This reduction would result in a mill rate reduction of 0.05 mills, which is $138,510, leaving a balance of $19,839. He would allocate $9,202 to increase the Assistant Zoning Enforcement Officer position to 19 hours, and increase the overtime in the Planning Office by $10,637.

Ms. Giddings thanked Mr. White for speaking about the positions to be eliminated as this is an area she was very vocal about. In eliminating positions we should go to first to those that are vacant. She said the Planning Department has far less of a burden at this time of year with the bad economy and little planning being done, and she wishes to have this position eliminated. Realizing that things may improve and the Planning office may get busier, Ms. Giddings said we should wait and see and then support this position when that occurs.

VOTE on the amendment: In favor -2 (White and Giddings); Opposed – 7; (Adinolfi, Ecke, Falvey, Schrumm, Sima, Slocum, Ruocco). THE MOTION FAILED TO PASS 2-7.

VOTE on Sections A and B of Resolution #041310-2 (A) In favor -7; Schrumm, Slocum, Sima, Ruocco, Falvey, Giddings, White. Opposed -2; Adinolfi and Ecke. THE MOTION PASSED 7-2.

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Mr. Ruocco on Section C of Resolution #041310-2.

(Mr. Ecke abstained from voting on Section C)

C. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Town Council appropriates the amount of $5,077,243 for Employee Benefits portion of the General Government Budget and $4,549,135 for the Police Department portion of the General Government Budget.

VOTE The motion passed 7-1-1; In favor – Schrumm, Slocum, Ruocco, Falvey, Gidding, Sima, White. Opposed – Adinolfi; Abstained – Ecke. THE MOTION PASSED 7-1-1.

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Mr. Ruocco on Section D of
Resolution #041310-2.

D. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Town Council appropriates the Amount of $60,377,875 for the Board of Education Budget.

(Mr. Sima abstained from voting on Section D).

Discussion

Mr. Falvey said he is serving his first year on the Council, but it is 9th year as an elected official in Cheshire. This has been one of the most difficult votes he has had to contemplate, and over the last several weeks has heard many points of view regarding the budget overall and the BOE budget specifically, along with hard facts and figures. Forty adults and many high school students spoke to the Council, and Mr. Falvey expressed appreciation for the comments from the high school students. He stated he listens when people have something to say.

It was stated by Mr. Falvey that the Council is asked to consider what is best for the entire community and not just for the schools, including seniors who petition for tax relief, neighbors who have lost jobs, and families of school children. We must consider the plight of the business owners who are affected by the Council’s vote on the budget, and Mr. Falvey noted that Pratt & Whitney wants to close its facility in town because of the high cost of doing business locally.

Mr. Falvey commented on the overall budget being increased modestly, but there may not be enough for people in the audience tonight, which is one of many groups and constituents he represents. On April 8th he explained to the Board of Education, and the entire town via television broadcast, the reasoning behind the Council’s budget recommendation to the BOE. The Council started at the current budget and added in those items it felt were an absolute obligation.

The BOE line items which are an obligation were cited by Mr. Falvey. Line 560 – Tuition Outplacement, $118,245; a State mandate to cover special education for the best educational opportunities for children; and, if in-town is not adequate, the town must pay for them to be educated someplace else.

Line 510 – Pupil Transportation, $139,353; a State mandate to provide transportation with a bus seat for every eligible child.

Line 410 – Public Utilities, $38,966; payment for utility bills.

Line 610 – Heat and Utilities, $10,233; payment for heating and utility bills.

Line 201 – Health and Medical Benefits, $618,484.

The total is $925,281. These are the exact dollar amounts requested by Dr. Florio. This number has been rounded up a bit to $927,312. The BOE budget is
being increased by that amount, almost $1 million. The coming year will be difficult to manage economically and Mr. Falvey believes that after the November elections the State Legislature will cut funding to the towns. The current State fiscal year is at least $500 million in the red and the Legislature will try to reduce this number by proposing a $150 million short changing of teachers and public employees by not funding the full amount of their pension. If this does not happen this year it will happen next year, and the money will come out of the funding to towns.

Mr. Falvey stated he wants to fund the town government and BOE more than what is advocated in this proposal, but is looking at the bigger picture. He has heard from people in town who have said to raise their taxes, but everyone’s taxes would have to be raised, and this is being unreasonable. He has heard that the future of the town is in jeopardy, and disagrees with this dire warning. Mr. Falvey disagrees with the prediction that individual families will have a hardship paying additional fees for private lessons due to program cuts. We are going to raise taxes or have them pay it themselves, either way they will pay for the extra. Mr. Falvey does not believe taxpayers in town should have to subsidize private lessons which parents want children to have. It was suggested by Mr. Falvey that to those who want their taxes raised, that they send donations of money to the town with the funds dedicated to education purposes. According to Mr. Falvey his constituents have said enough is enough. Mr. Falvey supports the motion on the floor and believes he is making the right decision for the Town of Cheshire as a whole both today and for the future.

Mr. White said he would support the budget. He commented on many people in town being unemployed or having reduced hours and wages. He has hopes for some shared sacrifices. The people at the public hearing were asking the Council to be creative, and Mr. White made a suggestion to the Superintendent of Schools to exchange value with the teachers’ union. There was a suggestion of promissory days, and Mr. White suggested early funding of OPEB account, and it was brought to the table. Mr. White does not feel entrenched, and feels he has been open to ideas and brought an idea to the table. He complimented the Council leadership, Republican and Democrat, on the further restriction of take home cars, and seminars and conferences. The budget is a big issue and the bigger issue in town government is to insure the Council has the right staff in place and he will continue this push.

Chairman Slocum expressed his thanks to all who have communicated to him and other Council members. He felt there was a need to reduce increases in the town and BOE budgets. People in the community are the recipients of problem solving, and have an obligation to help their children’s education go forward, and this is done already. There is a need to coalesce around this problem which will be bigger next year. Mr. Slocum has shared his perspective with many people who have contacted him. Next year we may have to look at the rainy day fund
and use some of the resources next year to fill a big hole. It will only make it more difficult for the next Council which will try to rebuild and we must think about where the revenue is coming from. The Council can continually raise taxes, but this is not an attraction either. There are people without the capacity or means to make the money to pay their basic expenses in addition to their taxes. As he weighs in on this budget and it is less of an increase than people want to see, Mr. Slocum said it is not based on his philosophy, teacher unions or anything. It was noted by Mr. Slocum that he was educated in Cheshire as were other Councilors. He has an investment in the community as do others, and he hopes people will respect the Council for what it is trying to do with the budget.

VOTE on Section D. In favor -6 (Slocum, Schrumm, Ruocco, Giddings, White, Falvey; Opposed -2 (Ecke and Adinolfi); Abstained -1; Sima.

THE MOTION PASSED 6-2-1.

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Mr. Ruocco on Sections E and F of Resolution #041310-2.

E. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the sum of all revenues, transfers from other funds and allocation of general fund equity for the fiscal year 2010-2011 Town of Cheshire General Fund Operating Budget will be in the amount of $101,176,711, and

F. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the tax rate be set at 26.5 mills which will generate $73,473,122 at a collection rate of 99% for fiscal year 2010-2011, and

That the tax payments for motor vehicles and personal property shall all be due and payable in one payment on July 1, 2010; and

That real estate tax payments shall be paid in two installments with the first payment due on July 1, 2010 and the second payment due on January 1, 2011; and

That pursuant to Section 12-144 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, that any real estate tax bill on the 2009 grand list in an amount not in excess of $100.00 shall be due and payable in a single installment on July 1, 2010; and

That, pursuant to Sections 12-142 and 12-146 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the last date for payment of taxes due July 1, 2010 will be August 2, 2010. Payment of taxes due July 1, 2010 which are received after August 2, 2010 will be assessed interest calculated from the original date of July 1, 2010.

Also, that pursuant to Sections 12-142 and 12-146 of the Connecticut
General Statutes, as amended, the last day for payment of taxes due January 1, 2011 which are received after February 1, 2011 will be assessed interest calculated from the due date of January 1, 2011.

VOTE In favor -7; Slocum, Schrumm, Falvey, Giddings, Ruocco, White Opposed -2; Ecke and Adinolfi.
THE MOTION PASSED 7-2.

B. Adoption of the FY 2020-2021 Water Pollution Control Department Fund Operating Budget.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #041310-3.

RESOLUTION #041310-3
FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FUND OPERATING BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Town Council appropriates the sum of $3,047,058 for the Town of Cheshire Water Pollution Control Fund Operating Budget for fiscal year 2010-2011, and that the sum of revenues and allocation of Water Pollution Control Fund equity for the fiscal year 2010-2011 Town of Cheshire Water Pollution Control Fund Operating Budget also be in the amount of $3,047,058.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Town Council recommends that the Water Pollution Control Authority consider increasing the sewer use charge to $330 per year, effective December 1, 2010.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

C. Adoption of the FY 2010-2011 Community Pool Fund Operating Budget.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #041310-4.

RESOLUTION #041310-4
FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011
COMMUNITY POOL FUND OPERATING BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Town Council appropriates the sum of $895,337 for the Town of Cheshire Community Pool Fund Operating Budget for fiscal year 2010-2011, and that the sum of revenues and transfers from other
funds for the fiscal year 2010-2011 Town of Cheshire Community Pool Fund Operating Budget also be in the amount of $895,337.

Discussion
Mr. Sima informed everyone that this line item is decreasing from last year due to the diligent work by the Finance Department with electric and gas rate reductions.

Mr. White asked Town Manager Milone if the pool structure referendum passes, what happens with the pool budget, particularly the subsidy, if the pool is not open during construction for 7 to 9 months.

In response, Mr. Milone advised that he would come back and discuss with the Council how much would be needed to run the pool, and how much of the committed transfer would be transferred to the budget.

Mr. White stated he would not support this motion.

At the meeting last week where the two proposals for the pool structure were given, Ms. Giddings said the starting dates for construction were one in September and the other in October.

VOTE The motion passed 8-1; White opposed.

D. Extension of lease of former Casertano Property.

MOTION by Mr. Sima; seconded by Mr. Schrumm.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #041310-5.

RESOLUTION #041310-5

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council hereby authorizes the form execution, delivery and performance of an extension of a Lease Agreement for property located at the intersection of Marion Road and Jarvis Street by and between the Town of Cheshire and Alexander Arisco, dba Arisco Farms, both of Cheshire, Connecticut, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager is authorized and directed to execute on behalf of the Town said Lease Agreement for the term of January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, upon the same terms and conditions as the previous lease, and to execute and deliver such other certificates or instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to consummate said Lease.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of the Lease, as executed, is hereby incorporated by reference as part of the minutes of this meeting.

Discussion
Mr. Sima stated that Mr. Arisco has farmed this property for many years, pays a fixed rate of $2,400 annually, and the farm is on Marion Road just before Jarvis Street. The lease went out to bid, and Mr. Arisco was the only responder.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

E. Waiver of bid for removal of bubble at the Community Pool.

MOTION by Mr. Sima; seconded by Mr. Schrumm.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #041310-6.

RESOLUTION #041310-6

WHEREAS, the Community Pool Bubble must be removed in late spring, and

WHEREAS, the Director of Parks and Recreation and the Director of Public Works have represented, and the Town Council finds, that it is in the best interest of the Town to utilize the same vendor that has installed and removed the bubble since the opening of the pool, since they are experienced, knowledgeable, and have an excellent working relationship with the Town, and

WHEREAS, since this vendor installed the bubble in September of 2009 at a cost of $19,500 and the additional work to remove the bubble in the spring of 2010 at a cost of $19,500, will incur total fiscal year costs to said vendor that exceed the Town’s $24,000 bid limit for construction services, requiring a waiver of bid to utilize this vendor for the spring removal,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council, pursuant to Section 7-8(c)(11) of the Town Charter, approves a waiver of bid for the removal of the pool bubble and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager or his designee are authorized to contract with said vendor Hemispheric Air for said bubble removal project.

Discussion
Mr. Sima reported that the contractor for this work has held the cost firm and that the Cheshire Pool bubble is not your typical bubble. The facility has a great wall; the bubble is made of heavy material; and there is much rigging involved in removing and installing the bubble. The vendor has experience with this type of work, and helps direct the Public Works and Parks and Rec crews with the
bubble work. Next year the vendor has indicated the cost for this work will be increased. However, there are a limited number of pool vendors who can actually do this work. The bubble removal will take place at the end of May.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

F. Approval of lease of portion of Boulder Knoll for sunflower project.

MOTION by Mr. White; seconded by Mr. Sima.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #041310-7.

RESOLUTION #041310-7

WHEREAS, on May 12, 2009, the Town Council authorized the execution of a Lease Agreement, pursuant to the recommendation of the Town Council Planning Committee, for a portion of the property formerly known as Boulder Knoll Farm, by and between the Town of Cheshire and Kerry Deegan, both of Cheshire, Connecticut, and

WHEREAS, that have been slight modifications to this Lease, and full compliance with the insurance requirements has not yet been attained,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Manager is authorized and directed to execute on behalf of the Town said modified Lease Agreement, upon the terms and conditions presented and as attached, pending full compliance by Kerry Deegan with all insurance requirements for the term to be determined.

Discussion

Mr. Schrumm reported that this gentleman has been raising sunflowers on the land next to his house, and donates the profits to the American Cancer Society.

Town Manager Milone explained that the Town is awaiting the insurance documents before execution of the agreement.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

8. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS.

A. Monthly Status Reports.


C. Other Reports.

• CodeRed Emergency Notification System Testing – the system has been installed for two years and the testing will be done on April 22nd at 1 p.m. with notification to the public on the web site and in the local newspapers. This is the opportunity for everyone in town to make sure all their phone numbers are input into the data bank, and this can be done through the web site.

• Residential Electronics Recycling/Paper Shredding, May 22nd, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hamden Middle School – this is the last event because CRRA will no longer be contracted after June 30, 2010. Future events will have to be through collaboration of the five towns.

• Wastewater Facilities Plan Phase 1 – the Town received DEP approval of Phase 1, and is now moving ahead on Phase 2.

• Rain Storm Aftermath (March 29-April 2) – the State is offering a 2% loan to homeowners to cover damage to basements, foundations, etc. Information is on the web site. The Cheshire Fire Dept. and WWTP were involved in the storm aftermath duties, and Chief Casner prepared a summary of what took place. The Fire Department answered 40 water evacuation calls over a 3 day period with average duration of 48 minutes per call, and 25 firefighters responding. All rivers were checked about 15 times, as well as Town dams. Mr. Milone noted that the Cheshire Fire Department does respond to water problems and damage, and this is unique among local fire departments.

• WWTP – plant had an overflow of 1.5 days; raw sewage was contained in the facility, with some backing up on Riverside Drive; crews were working around the clock to insure the pump stations were working and the plant operating at maximum capacity. The plant had the highest flow this month of 4.9 million gallons per day. Without rehabilitation of the 150 manholes along the interceptor the effect of the storm would have been worse.

• Home Energy Audit – there is funding from ARRA for the first 200 Cheshire homes to respond for the free audit. The Town has finalized an agreement with Keltic Energy for the audit of 6 Town buildings (Town Hall, high school, middle school, Highland and Doolittle Schools), and there will be a progress report next month.

• Yankee Gas Pipeline Project – the work starts April 20th, and it will increase the gas supply to the Town; work starts at the Wallingford border, to Prospect and Cheshire; and the local work will be done in the summer without disruption to the school system.
• Town Council Committees Pending Issues – the list has been updated and is in the packets. Solid Waste Committee will visit the Transfer Station issue.

• Public Works – Compost Containers area $20 and available at Town Hall.

• Public Works Road Re-pavement Status – the programs starts in 3 weeks; catch basin work being done to get ahead of the paving process; work starts on the east end of Town, with notices to residents about the start of the work and time frame involved and it will be on the web site and newspapers. Street sweeping operation starts soon, will last 6 weeks, and the work is being done by Public Work crews with rented sweeper trucks.

• West Main Streetscape Project – the project is out to bid with bid opening on April 27th; the project will start 4-6 weeks after bid opening. Matt Bowman, Chairman of the Committee, will give a short presentation to the Council on April 27th.

Regarding the streetscape project, Mr. Falvey asked if the road work, digging up the road will be done only once.

Mr. Milone stated that all work is being coordinated and the State will come through this area before the town has to do any road work, and what the town has put down would not have to be dug up.

Mr. White thanked Mr. Milone for all his efforts on the town energy audit project. In his years on the Council Mr. White said the Town Manager comes to the Council with recommendations for the Council to advocate at the State level for things such as the real estate conveyance tax. A few weeks ago he read a news article, dated March 16th, and it appears that town executives went to Hartford to advocate for a regional sales tax. In that article Mr. Milone was quoted as saying it is far better to share a tax than to not have a benefit of a tax at all. To Mr. White this is something that should have been brought to the Council through the legislative package, and asked for elaboration on this.

In response, Town Manager Milone said that our community has done more work on the real estate conveyance tax and its impact, and he was asked to make a presentation on that specific change. As part of the process for discussing municipal issues, CCM put together a panel of the Mayor DeStefano of the City of New Haven, Mayor Curry of East Hartford, and Cheshire’s Town Manager. They spoke about their specific issues and concerns, and as part of that discussion either Mayor DeStefano or Mayor Curry were advocating for regional taxation. Mr. Milone was asked his opinion, and he offered it…and his opinion is that the choice of fighting over potential development or sharing in potential tax revenue, which would be a better approach. Mr. Milone said he commented that if, regionally, we could share a tax that we would otherwise not be able to benefit
from because of territorial issues, certainly that was the better way to go. In that context the question was asked and that was his response. And, he would give it again. Mr. Milone said his job going up to Hartford is to represent the interests of the town and there are issues that come before him that have never been discussed with this Council, and on which he has to provide an opinion. And, that is what he did.

Chairman Slocum stated that Mr. Malone’s response was a fair answer. However, he would not be a proponent of a regional tax and would not support it, particularly one coming from Mayor DeStefano.

The context of all this was clarified by Mr. Milone who said the question was about greater regional cooperation and the fact that there is not enough of this. Because of the fact that we are so territorial, and we have developed 169 municipalities with competing interests and duplication of services, there is a need to look to cooperate more on a regional level. The idea was to bring in a taxpayer where the region would benefit, and this would be a more advantageous situation than having the taxpayer not come into Connecticut and we all lose the benefit of some incremental tax increase. Mr. Milone is not purporting that we go out and create more taxation. A situation has been created where towns are so competitive with each other, town to town, that we are driving businesses away.

Mr. Schrumm questioned the repair of the culvert on West Main Street being on the State calendar, and he asked if there is a date for this project.

According to Mr. Milone the State has this project scheduled for about one year to one and half years out. The Council will have information on this project from Matt Bowman on April 27th when he makes a presentation on the West Main Street project.

Mr. Schrumm stated that this work should be done all at once – the gas company, east and west portion, the state -- and there should be efficiencies there.

As a former member of the West Main Streetscape Committee, Mr. Adinolfi reported that the project is scheduled for the Summer of 2011. Also, the committee is hopeful to get some agreement on the extension of the Linear Trail with the State offering to put in the “island of refuge” for the crossing design.

Now that the budget season is over, Mr. Schrumm suggested that the Planning Committee look to reviewing and solving this issue.

Mr. Sima asked about linking to the town website by Yankee Gas for the construction for the gas line, as this would provide information on the work schedule for residents and businesses in this major thoroughfare in town.
Regarding the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Funds, Mr. Sima asked about the time frame if enough people do not sign up right away, and if there will be a subsequent sign-up for people to apply for the program.

Mr. Milone informed the Council that the time frame is to May 31, 2010.

A comment was made by Mr. Sima with regard to rationalization, and he said he is not a proponent of it, because it steers money back to the cities and sucks money from the smaller towns. In the last budget many numbers were thrown out, and one interesting number was the ECS money. Cheshire receives about $1,800 per student in ECS funding when the average in the State is almost $3,600 per student. That number alone would pay for the education budget and balance the town’s budget easier. Once there is a dollar amount somewhere in the State or region, it always finds its way to the municipality which does not manage its money properly, does not do what is right, and it gets the money and Cheshire is left holding the bag. Mr. Sima does not support regionalization. If we have to fight for people to come to town, so be it. The reason businesses leave the State of Connecticut is due the State not having a business friendly atmosphere anymore, and because of the taxes.

9. TOWN ATTORNEY’S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
   No report.

10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL
   A. Chairman’s Report
      Chairman Slocum informed the Council that on Sunday, April 18th, the M.S. Walk will be held beginning at 8 a.m. at the high school, and Councilors are invited to participate.

   B. Miscellaneous

11. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
    Regular Meeting of March 9, 2010; Special Meetings of March 11, 15, 16, 22, 25, 29 and April 7, 2010; Public Hearing of April 5, 2010.

    MOTION By Mr. Sima; seconded by Mr. White

    MOVED that the Town Council accept and approve the minutes of Regular Meeting of March 9, 2010; Special Meetings of March 11, 15, 16, 22, 25, 29 and April 7, 2010; Public Hearing of April 5, 2010, subject to corrections, additions, deletions.

    VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

12. MISCELLANEOUS AND APPOINTMENTS
A. Liaison Reports

Environment Commission – Ms. Giddings reported that the commission has many programs and events coming up, and much time has been spent planning them. An open house will be held at the Library on April 22\textsuperscript{nd}. There will be maps on display showing the specific locations of areas of land owned by the Town for open space, and it is important for people to see the kinds of properties the Town has been fortunate to acquire. Information is on the web site.

Public Building Commission – Mr. Sima reported that the PBC has finished its work on the pool structure, and will present to the Council on April 27\textsuperscript{th}. He commended the PBC members for their expertise and many hours put into this work, at no cost to the town.

Planning and Zoning Commission – met on April 12\textsuperscript{th}, and on their agenda was an item to stop outdoor wood furnaces in Cheshire.

Chairman Slocum stated that this would be in compliance with the State law on the wood burning furnaces. During the budget process the Councilors spoke to many of the staff which supports our boards and commissions, and this was most useful for Councilors to be filled in on department issues and concerns.

B. Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

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

MOVED to correct appointments and approve appointments as follows:

Correction to prior appointment – Joseph Dattilo, was “Unaffiliated” (not a Democrat) when appointed as alternate to the Historic District Commission. Sylvia Nichols, PZC appointment, term expires December 5, 2011.

Appointment of Joseph Dattilo (D) to the Historic District Commission as a permanent member of the Historic District Commission, to fill the vacancy of Eleanor Herrmann, term of office 3/9/10 to 1/31/11.

Appointment of Thomas Scannell (D) to the Water Pollution Control Authority to fill the vacancy of Katherine Fabiani, term of office 4/13/10 to 1/31/2012.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

13. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Letters to Council.
Chairman Slocum acknowledged the many letters, phone calls and e-mails to Councilors during the budget process and thanked everyone for their messages.

Chairman Slocum reported on a letter received by Councilors in support of Police Chief Cruess.

B. Miscellaneous.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Pending claims and litigation.

B. Personnel Issues.

C. Land acquisition.

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

MOVED that the Town Council enter Executive Session at 9:50 p.m. to discuss personnel issues, to include Town Manager Milone and Personnel Director Zullo.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

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

MOVED that the Town Council exit Executive Session at 9:55 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

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

MOVED that the Town Council include “Land Acquisition” as part of the Executive Session.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

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

MOVED that the Town Council re-enter Executive Session at 9:56 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

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

MOVED that the Town Council exit Executive Session at 10:50 p.m.
VOTE  The motion passed unanimously by those present.

15. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOVED to adjourn the Town Council meeting at 10:50 p.m.

VOTE  The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

___________________________________
Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk