Present
David Schrumm, Chairman; Michael Ecke and Thomas Ruocco.
Councilor James Sima
Staff: Michael A. Milone, Town Manager; James Jaskot, Deputy Finance Director

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


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

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

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

MOVED that the Budget Committee approve agenda items #3 through #6 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

**Discussion**
Regarding #5, Mr. Ecke asked why this donation was given to the Town.

Mr. Schrumm explained that the Soccer Association uses Cheshire fields, and wanted to make a donation above and beyond the rental fees paid for use of the Town parks.

Mr. Ruocco stated that the charges for the use of the Town fields for soccer is reasonable compared to the charges imposed by other towns.

Mr. Ecke asked if this $1,000 donation would go to the upkeep of the fields.
Town Manager Milone advised that it is a general purpose donation and is not
designated to go to any particular field for any particular use. The money could
be used for anything in the Parks and Recreation Department gift account. He
will check on why the donation was made.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.


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

MOVED that the Budget Committee approve agenda item #7 and forward to the
full Town Council for approval.

Discussion
The committee was informed by Mr. Milone that the natural gas consultant e-
mailed a memo regarding the pricing of the gas rates.

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.

In the resolution before the Council at its meeting tonight, Mr. Milone said there is
a request for approval to only lock in the 2\textsuperscript{nd} year. Due to the consultant’s
recommendation it is proposed to lock in for the 3\textsuperscript{rd} year due to the low rates.
The Council can change the resolution to lock in for FY 2012-13.

Mr. Schrumm stated that by doing this the natural gas rate is locked in at .82
through June 2011, and changing the resolution locks in the lower rates for a 2\textsuperscript{nd}
and 3\textsuperscript{rd} year.

According to Mr. Jaskot he has received numerous newspaper clippings with
information on this industry and increases in the rates are expected going
forward into future years. He has read articles which indicate a 10\% increase in
the next two years.

With any such contract, Mr. Ruocco commented on the risk of prices going down.

Mr. Milone stated that this year the rate is 1.11 ccf, and it is going down to .82 ccf
in FY 2010-11, a 26\% drop in the rates. The Town cannot go further with
locking in rates without approval of the Town Council.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.
8. Acceptance of an aggregate $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. Ruocco; seconded by Mr. Ecke.

MOVED that the Budget Committee accept approve agenda item #8, and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion
The committee was advised by Mr. Milone that the mini-buses are used frequently, with the senior citizens paying a small fee of 25 cents per ride. This money goes into the Jitney Bus Fund. The Town received two State grants totaling $80,000 to replace the two older buses. 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 purchased at $109,374, less the $80,000 grant, leaving a supplemental funding of $29,374 coming from the Jitney Bus Fund. A gift of two buses was given to the Town a few years ago when two buses were replaced. Now, both of these buses need to be replaced. It is expected the two new buses would arrive in about two months. The grants have already been awarded to the Town.

Mr. Sima asked about money coming from the resale of the old buses with the funds going into the fund for next year.

The buses will be sold to other towns, and Mr. Milone stated that the Town gets a better price by selling the buses than trading them in.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOVED to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

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Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk