MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2010, AT 7:30 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410

Present
Chairman Timothy Slocum; Vice Chairman David Schrumm; Councilors Justin Adinolfi, Michael Ecke, Andrew Falvey, Anne Giddings, Thomas Ruocco, James Sima, Timothy White.
Staff: Michael A. Milone, Town Manager; Dwight Johnson, Town Attorney; Chief Casner and Chief Cruess.

PUBLIC HEARING SUBJECT MATTER:
CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE LOCAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF, ELDERLY TAX CREDITS ORDINANCE SECTION 17-16(a)

1. ROLL CALL
The clerk called the roll and a quorum was determined to be present.

2. Explanation of Hearing Procedure and Agenda.
Chairman Slocum explained the procedures for a public hearing of the Cheshire Town Council.

3. Reading of the Legal Notice.
The Clerk of the Council read the legal notice.

4. Presentation on hearing subject.
Ms. Giddings stated that the tax credits program was unanimously supported by the Ordinance Review Committee. The program is beneficial to the senior citizens and the community. There are qualifying income guidelines in the resolution which established the criteria of the ordinance. Cheshire should continue to support this program for the elderly.

5. Questions at the discretion of the chair.
Ed Hines, 30 Brentwood Drive, read a prepared statement into the record which highlighted the work of the committee formed a few years ago to review the goals of the elderly tax relief programs and improvements to the programs. He was a member of this committee. Mr. Hines said that Cheshire is very generous to its senior citizens, offering many programs and services, a senior center, and does not ignore this generation of people. With the tax relief programs, Cheshire saves tax dollars while senior citizens remain in their homes and are productive citizens. Without these programs these people would have to sell their homes to younger families requiring more Town services. For the seniors to stay in town is a win/win situation. Mr. Hines noted that the generosity of the tax relief programs which are a cost to other taxpayers in Cheshire. At the current time the programs cost about $500,000 with 493 participants. In the current difficult
economic times, he wonders he hopes there is continued support for the programs which enable seniors to live independently, with many serving as volunteers in the community.

Derf Kleist, 251 Lancaster Way, stated his support of the tax credit program for the elderly which has many benefits to the senior citizens.

Ellen Malloy, 130 Waverly Street, a resident since 1970, stated that the tax credit program has enabled her to stay in her home, and have lawn maintenance and snow removal. She expressed her appreciation for the program and hopes it is continued.

6. Proponents and Opponents statements alternately expressed.

7. Rebuttal at the discretion of the chair.

8. ADJOURNMENT
Chairman Slocum closed the public hearing at 8:12 p.m.

Attest:

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Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk