MINUTES OF THE CHERISH TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2010, AT 7:30 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHERISH CT 06410

Present
Timothy Slocum, Chairman; David Schrumm, Vice Chairman; Justin Adinolfi, Michael Ecke, Andrew Falvey, Anne Giddings, James Sima.
Absent: Thomas Ruocco and Timothy White.
Staff: Town Manager Michael A. Milone; Deputy Finance Director James Jaskot; Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Greg Florio; Business Manager DOE, Vincent Masciano.

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

Chairman Slocum read the fire safety announcement.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

3. ADOPTION OF PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011 ANNUAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET.

Mr. Schrumm, Budget Committee Chairman, presented the motion for Council approval, and provided information for some of the resolutions.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #083110-1.

RESOLUTION #083110-1
ITEMS 1 THROUGH 25

1. RESOLUTION FY 2010-2011 CEB #1 – Geographic Information System (GIS) $135,000.

2. RESOLUTION FY 2010-2011 CEB #2 – Capital Planning, $135,000.
This is for preliminary design for projects in order to have the actual costs including better infrastructure.

3. RESOLUTION FY 2010-2011 CEB #3 – Various Town Building Improvements, $200,000.

4. RESOLUTION FY 2010-2011 CEB #4 – Underground Fuel Tank Removal, $110,000.
5. RESOLUTION FY 2010-2011 CEB #5 – Roof Repair & Replacement $165,000.

6. RESOLUTION FY 2010-2011 CEB #6 – Elevator Replacement at The Senior Center, $110,000.

7. RESOLUTION FY 2010-2011 CEB #7 – Acquisition of Emergency Generator and Hook-ups at Various Town Buildings, $177,000. One-half of this funding will be paid by a grant.

8. RESOLUTION FY 2010-2011 CEB #8 – West Main Street Streetscape Improvements, $300,000. This is for West Main Street improvements, contingent on getting a $350,000 grant.

9. RESOLUTION FY 2010-2011 CEB #9 – Fire Department Breathing Apparatus Upgrade, $425,000. This is for replacement of air packs for the fire fighters.

10. RESOLUTION FY 2010-2011 CEB #10 – Installation of Water Mains, $300,000. This is for water mains and fire protection.

11. RESOLUTION FY 2010-2011 CEB #11 – Vehicle/Equipment Replacement, $150,000. This is for Police, Parks and Recreation and Public Works Department Vehicles.

12. RESOLUTION FY 2010-2011 CEB #12 – Sidewalk Repair and Replacement, $200,000.

13. RESOLUTION FY 2010-2011 CEB #13 – Two Public Works Dump Trucks, $290,000.

14. RESOLUTION FY 2010-2011 CEB #14 – Road Repavement Program $1,500,000. This appropriation was increased from $1.3 million.

15. RESOLUTION FY 2010-2011 CEB #15 – Design of West Johnson Avenue Pump Station, $180,000.

16. RESOLUTION FY 2010-2011 CEB #16 – Design of Cook Hill Road Pump Station, $120,000.

17. RESOLUTION FY 2010-2011 CEB #17 – Reconfiguration and Refurnishing of Various Areas of the Library, $160,000.
18. RESOLUTION FY 2010-2011 CEB #18 – Park Improvements, $143,000.

19. RESOLUTION FY 2010-2011 CEB #19 – District Wide Roof Replacement and Repairs, $1,000,000. Most of this project will be at the high school.

20. RESOLUTION FY 2010-2011 CEB #20 – District Wide Paving $125,000. This is for various parking lots at the schools.

21. RESOLUTION FY 2010-2011 CEB #21 – District Wide Indoor Flooring Replacement, $300,000. This is for replacement of old flooring in the schools.

22. RESOLUTION FY 2010-2011 CEB #22 – Cafeteria Improvements at Dodd Middle School, $250,000. This appropriation will complete this kitchen project.

23. RESOLUTION FY 2010-2011 CEB #23 – Track Replacement and Resurfacing at Cheshire High School, $325,000.

24. RESOLUTION FY 2010-2011 CEB #24 – Repairs and Improvements at Cheshire High School, $154,000.

25. RESOLUTION FY 2010-2011 CEB #25 – District Wide 21st Century Classroom Educational Technology Investment, $125,000.

Discussion
Mr. Ecke said he would not support the CEP budget because he has a few issues with the way some items were handled. For the 21st Century Classroom Educational Technology Investment, (Smart Boards) the BOE requested $250,000. Over the last three years the BOE has requested this funding; one year it was frozen; and in this budget it is reduced to $125,000. With larger class sizes due to budget cuts in the BOE operating budget, Mr. Ecke believes teachers could use this technology making education more effective and efficient.

With regard to the vehicle replacement appropriation of $150,000 out of Capital Nonrecurring, Mr. Ecke said the C.N.R. is an account for capital projects that are nonrecurring. The vehicle replacement is a recurring expense and moving it out of the department budgets to C.N.R. makes comparison of prior year budgets for vehicle replacement more difficult. The Council is moving recurring expenses into C.N.R. and this makes for future budgeting problems. These are the two biggest items which Mr. Ecke has problems with.
Mrs. Giddings commented on the appropriation for the Library reconfiguration at $160,000, and said that $50,000 will come from a State Library Grant, and $50,000 will be from the Friends of the Library. These are there for the Library to use. Mrs. Giddings stated that the Road Repavement Program was increased to $1.5 million because it was cut back last year. It is hoped this increase will enable the Town to be the timeline for repairs and replacement of roads. This is a public safety issue.

It was stated by Mr. Falvey that one item missing from the CEP discussion is the Cheshire High School Turf Field. He is in favor of this field but does not want the public to think Town Council members do not want this to happen. At this time we do not have the exact or actual numbers and a true budget of the cost of the turf field. The turf field is “0” cost to install in conjunction with the track which is in the CEP. Until the Council sees real numbers and when there is a bid, the project will be discussed and Mr. Falvey wants this to happen.

Regarding the 21st Century Classroom/Smart Boards, Mr. Falvey agrees that we are in a tough budget situation with a limited number of teachers who should be provided with the necessary tools to teach the children. But, until we know how Smart Boards are being used they should not be funded. Putting some money into this CEP item makes sense, but there should be no further funding until we know the impact of how they are being used.

Mr. Falvey commented on putting the vehicles into the C.N.R. and said whether they are an operating or capital expense, they are always recurring for future replacement. The vehicles are a capital expense, not bonded, and money can be spent on capital items with 5, 10, or 20 year life cycles without interest on the borrowing. With items such as cars, dump trucks, heavy equipment, it makes sense to pay them out of C.N.R. Mr. Falvey supports the CEP budget.

According to Mr. Ecke the Council is moving the vehicles from the departmental budgets into C.N.R. Trying to compare budgets backwards to forwards is lost with this move. Capital items such as cars last only 5 years while a roof lasts 20+ years.

Mr. Adinolfi stated that the 2010-2011 CEP budget is a decent budget, and reflects the hard work on the part of the Town Manager and his staff and the Budget Committee. However, he will vote against this budget. He went through the funding of some of the projects that were pulled from next year’s capital budget -- such as open space, a portion of the money from Smart Boards, removal of the turf field which has no cost to the Town. Putting those projects back in, maybe not to the full original extent requested, as well as adjustments to other projects kept in, i.e. water mains, roads, sidewalks, he was able to cut $965,000 additional funding. Mr. Adinolfi said he is voting against this budget even though it is a decent budget because he would have spent the money differently, trying to maintain projects at some level, without cutting some in their
entirety. He would have fully funded the Smart Boards and the Library RFID funding request which would have staff savings.

Mrs. Giddings said there is an item missing from the proposed budget, funding for land acquisition/open space which was originally included. She always supports land acquisition but this is something to be looked at in light of the pressing situation. There is $1.1 million in the land acquisition account which has not been expended, so there is money for this purpose. We must use our money in a more intelligent manner, just as many of the environmental groups have stopped purchasing land, but are purchasing conservation easements. We need to consider this. When the Town purchases land, i.e. Boulder Knoll Farm, it also takes on the responsibility for taking care of this land. If you buy the development rights, a conservation easement, the owner still enjoys the land. The Town does not take on the responsibility of managing the land, maintaining it, mowing, etc. And, it is a lower cost to the Town, and we need to think differently about ways in which to get a bigger bang for our dollar. This is why she supported removal of land acquisition funding from this budget.

Chairman Slocum stated that the full Council was involved in the CEP process. It is a decent project list going forward with things that need to be maintained or be built. He noted that Mr. White was absent due to vacation plans and volunteer work.

VOTE The motion passed 5-2; Adinolfi and Ecke opposed.


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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #083110-1A

RESOLUTION #083110-1A

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the submission of FY 2010-2011 Capital Expenditure Budget resolutions as presented and attached to the Town Electors for approval or disapproval at a referendum at the November 2, 2010 general election.

Discussion
Mr. Schrumm cited the items for referendum on November 2, 2010.

Fire Department Breathing Apparatus Upgrade - $425,000.
Road Repavement Program - $1,500,000.
District Wide Roof Replacement and Repairs - $1,000,000.
Dodd Middle School Cafeteria Improvements - $250,000.
Cheshire High School Track Replacement and Resurfacing - $325,000.

Discussion
Mr. Sima explained that some of the numbers are low for referendum. But, $250,000 for the Dodd Middle School project is tagged onto a prior spending of $320,000 being spent on the project for new freezer upstairs, janitor’s closet, redoing the kitchen with office, bathroom, etc. The $325,000 for the CHS Track project is tagged onto a prior appropriation of $150,000 last year, bringing the total for the project to $475,000, which must go to referendum.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #083110-2.

RESOLUTION #083110-2

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council adopts the Five Year Omnibus Capital Expenditure Plan for Fiscal Years 2010-2011 through 2014-2015 in accordance with the recommendation of the Town Council Budget Committee.

Discussion
Mr. Schrumm stated this budget reflects five years worth of projects, with the Council having voted on the first year of the budget for projects ready to go. The next two to four years are for projects being planned, with some having to be done and some never being done. The Town continues to pay for more debt than what is being incurred, and we will continue this trend by watching our numbers closely.

Mr. Falvey raised a question on the Town’s financial responsibility for the treatment plant upgrade which is estimated at $30 million in FY 2011-12.

In response, Mr. Schrumm explained that the estimate for this project is $30 million, which is down from $35 million. There is a 20% reimbursement, or $6 million, to the Town from the Clean Energy Fund, along with 2% financing for the project. The cost of the project to the Town will be $24 million. It will be the biggest, single, capital item which the Town of Cheshire has ever done. Parts of the project are State mandated, i.e. phosphorous removal. The Town just spent $6 million to remove nitrogen. The phosphorous removal cost is estimated to be $4 million to $5 million and will be built into the plant upgrade project.

Mr. Schrumm noted that the sewer treatment plant dates back to when the sewer system in Cheshire was built, and there are components which must be replaced. The project is in year #2 of the CEP and may be moved out to year #3 depending on the design and how funding works.
Chairman Slocum thanked Town Manager Milone, Finance Director Ryan, Deputy Finance Director Jaskot, Dr. Florio and all the staff who worked on the Capital Expenditure Plan for their hard work.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

5. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOVED to adjourn at 8 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

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Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk