

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2018, AT 6:30 P.M. IN ROOM 207, TOWN HALL,
84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

Chairman Timothy Strollo and members Jeffrey Falk and Sylvia Nichols.

Staff: Michael A. Milone, Town Manager and James Jaskot, 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. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$500 donation from Michael and Marilyn D'Angelo to the Cheshire Fuel Bank Account.
4. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$50 donation from Gail DeBoer to the Cheshire Fuel Bank Account.
5. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$50 donation from the Cheshire Senior Center Membership Association to the Police Department Gift Account for The Cheshire Police Explorers.
6. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100 donation from Steve and Laurel Fisher to the Human Services Gift Account to purchase gifts for those in need.
7. Acceptance and appropriation of \$2,060.35 from the Artsplace Art Market Proceeds to the Cheshire Performing and Fine Arts Gift Account for Scholarships.
8. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$250 donation from Town employees Ann Balletto, William Donlin, Diane Hodgkins, Cindy O'Bar and Diane Waller To the Human Services Gift Account to purchase gifts for those in need.
9. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$200 donation from Kyum and Gail Pyun To the Library Gift Account to be used for general purposes.
10. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$50 donation from Lee McKernan to the Library Gift Account to be used for general purposes.
11. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$10 donation from Martin Cobern to the Library Gift Account to be used for general purposes.
12. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$5,342 grant from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for the Local Prevention

Council Grant to be used to fund substance abuse prevention activities.

13. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$1,650 donation from Kathryn Delmonico For a memorial bench in honor of David Delmonico.
14. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$25 donation from the Cheshire Senior Center Widow and Widowers in memory of Shirley Bobok to the Human Services Gift Account for the Senior Center.
15. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100 donation from Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Dwire in memory of Dan Ort to the Human Services Gift Account for the Senior Center.
16. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$20 donation from Mr. and Mrs. Wallinger In appreciation of the Cheshire Senior Center Staff to the Human Services Gift Account for the Senior Center.
17. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$51 donation from an anonymous donor in appreciation of the Cheshire Senior Center Staff to the Human Services Gift Account for the Senior Center.
18. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$1,000 donation from the Cheshire Senior Travel Club appreciation of the Cheshire Senior Center Staff to the Human Services Gift Account for the Senior Center.
19. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$40 donation from Jessie Stoyak in Appreciation of the Cheshire Senior Center Staff to the Cheshire Human Services Jitney Bus Fund.
20. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$50 donation from an anonymous donor to the Human Services Gift Account for general purposes.
21. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$2,250 donation from the Cheshire Rotary Club to the Human Services Gift Account for general purposes.

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Falk.

MOVED to accept agenda items #3 through #21 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

22. Bidding Requirements.

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Falk.

MOVED to accept agenda item #22 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

Mr. Slocum referred to a memo from Town Manager Milone on bidding requirements. Following a brief discussion the committee is in agreement with the requirements and no changes were made.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

23. FY 18-19 Pre-Budget Planning.

Mr. Milone informed the committee there is a packet on pre-budget planning in the meeting packets, and this issue will be discussed at the Council meeting. He and Mr. Jaskot worked on the information. Mr. Milone will request Council to schedule a second meeting in January for pre-budget planning.

24. Call for public hearing for amendments to the elderly tax relief ordinance
 Section 17-6.

Mr. Jaskot stated that the local program changes must go to the Ordinance Committee for approval. Income guidelines from the State program were increased by \$100, and the Town numbers are projected out to increase by \$100.

Mr. Milone commented on the need to significantly champion the local elderly tax relief programs, which are the best in the State. The local elderly tax relief program (2016) had a total cost of \$493,923. The adopted State budget eliminated the PILOT payment for the Elderly Circuit Breaker Program which forms the basis for the Town programs. The PILOT loss to Cheshire is about \$149,842 in this fiscal year. The Town also absorbs the estimated tax loss on the local credit program of approximately \$447,109, and the freeze program of \$46,814. However, the statute that mandates the State tax relief program has remained unchanged, with the cost shifted to the Town. The resolution (agenda item 9A) shows the tax credits.

Mr. Milone pointed out that the State program stops at the income of \$43,000 for single people, while Cheshire's income level goes up to \$53,800. The maximum State income level for married tax credit is \$43,000, and Cheshire's level is \$57,800. For married couples the maximum State tax credit is \$1,000, and the Town's credit is \$2,041. No one above the State income level of \$43,000 will receive the State supplement.

There must be public hearings held for the tax relief and tax credit programs. The increase in income and credit amounts is done by Council resolution without a public hearing.

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Falk.

MOVED to accept agenda item #24 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

25. Call for public hearing for amendments to the elderly tax freeze ordinance Section 17-15.

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Falk.

MOVED to accept agenda item #25 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

26. Approval of income levels for the 2017 Local Elderly Property Tax Credit Program.

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Falk.

MOVED to accept agenda item #26 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

27. Approval of Casertano property successor lease.

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Falk.

MOVED to accept agenda item #27 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

There are no changes to this lease agreement, and Mr. Milone noted a letter from Mr. Arisco in the packets. In 2015 there was an RFP on the lease. There was adjustment in the rent, and Mr. Milone advised that the tenant has upgraded the property, and is a good tenant.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

28. Authorization to apply for a 2018 Small Cities Community Development Program Grant.

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Falk.

MOVED to accept agenda item #28 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

This grant is a “rehab grant” and was successful last year. Mr. Milone reported that 28 applications were received, and 9 or 10 projects were funded.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

29. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Mr. Falk.

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk