

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M. IN ROOM 207, TOWN HALL, 84
SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

David Schrumm, Chairman; Michael Ecke Absent: Thomas Ruocco
Staff: Town Manager Michael A. Milone; Finance Director James Jaskot

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 \$200 donation from David and Armin McCrea-Dastur to the Park Gift Account for a memorial tree.
4. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$1,450 donation from David Hartman To the Park Gift Account for a memorial bench.
5. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$25 donation from Maureen M. Ulizio in Memory of Blanch McKeagney to the Beautification Committee.
6. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$10 donation from a Yellow House program To the Cheshire Fuel Bank.
7. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$25 donation from Sharon Churma to the Library Gift Account for library materials, furniture and computers.
8. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$650 donation from Cheshire Rotary Club Charitable to the Library Gift Account for library materials, furniture, computers.
9. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$50 donation from Kim Taylor and family to the Library Gift Account for library materials, furniture, computers.

MOTION by Mr. Ecke; seconded by Mr. Schrumm

MOVED to approve agenda items #3 through #9 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

10. Call for public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Five Year Capital Expenditure Plan and Annual Capital Expenditure Budget.

MOTION by Mr. Ecke; seconded by Mr. Schrumm

MOVED to approve agenda item #10 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

Mr. Schrumm noted that the public hearing date would be Tuesday, August 20th.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

11. Approval of submission of an application to participate in Phase 3 of the Solarize CT campaign.

MOTION by Mr. Ecke; seconded by Mr. Schrumm

MOVED to approve agenda item #11 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

The application deadline for this program is July 12th, and the Energy Commission considered this a worthwhile program that should be pursued. The program allows people to take advantage of solar grants, if the community is chosen for participation. The Clean Energy Fund (CEF) has been replaced by another one, and it is basically funded by a surcharge on bills of rate payers. Mr. Schrumm said that you follow the dollars, with users paying extra on their electric bills for people who can afford solar panels.

PUBLIC

Tim White, Orchard Hill Road, explained there is no direct relationship between CEF and this program. A typical solar installation is about \$30,000 for a 2,000 sq. ft. house. The State will pay back \$10,000 from the surcharge to rate payers, with the goal of driving down costs of solar panel installation. By doing 10 houses in Cheshire at one time the installation costs are reduced, and the more people that sign up, the bigger the discount. Phase #1 is completed; phase #2 is ongoing; and phase #3 is from September to January, a four month program. According to Mr. White the \$30,000 installation costs have a savings of \$7,000 per household, and anyone can get the \$10,000 State grant.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

12. Approval of Milone and MacBroom for the final phase of the survey for the Puchalski property.

MOTION by Mr. Ecke; seconded by Mr. Schrumm

MOVED to approve agenda item #12 and forward to the full Town Council for approval.

Discussion

Mr. Milone advised that this is money for completion of the survey of this property so there can be boundary lines. This property is on Mountain Road; is 100 acres; the net cost to the Town for the purchase is \$350,000 after a grant of \$200,000. It is recommended that the survey and an A-2 Survey be completed.

The committee was told by Mr. Ecke that he has heard from constituents that the Town should not purchase this property; it is undeveloped; and only 1 or 2 houses could be put in.

Mr. Schrumm said that a Google map shows a road transversing this piece. A ridge marks the boundary line, and you can get into the area from Prospect. He said purchasing this property is worthwhile.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Ecke; seconded by Mr. Schrumm.

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk