

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2014, AT 7:00 P.M. IN ROOM 207, TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410

Present

Timothy Slocum, Chairman; David Schrumm, Vice Chairman; Patti Flynn-Harris, Liz Linehan, Sylvia Nichols, Thomas Ruocco, James Sima, Peter Talbot.

Absent: Robert Oris

Staff: Michael A. Milone, Town Manager; 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. DISCUSSIONS RE: FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN AND ANNUAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET

Before the start of the business of the meeting, Mr. Milone informed the Council that the Winslow Road house has been demolished by ETI, and a total cost of \$22,000 has been encumbered in the Building Department budget. The costs include the quote from ETI for demolition, \$8,000 to \$12,000; Exterminator, \$500 to \$1000; additional costs for other remediation and removal of material to be burned which is a separate charge. The A.J. Waste dumpster charges are borne by ETI. With regard to the lien on the house, the tax lien has the highest priority. Cheshire's money will not be known until the lien is filed and the Town Attorney informs the Town what stands in front. The investment company is owed about \$50,000 for the tax lien, and if there is any money coming to the Town it not be for a long time.

Mr. Milone distributed the handout for July 31st with information requested by the Council.

Page 1 – summary of referendum results.

Page 2 – memo with detailed information on the ladder truck from Chief Casner.

Page 3 – comprises all of the equipment to be added for a new ladder truck.

Page 4 – Fire Department Strategic Plan

Page 5 – CHS Cafeteria project information.

Information e-mailed to the Council included two studies – Fire Service Delivery Study and Fire Services Master Plan. An expanded report on the CNR and capital projects ((de-authorized) will be e mailed to Councilors on August 4th.

CEP Book

Page 19 – Technology Reserve, \$327,000, FY 2014-2015.

With regard to future referendums for technology reserve Mr. Milone said he would speak with bond counsel and suggest that everything else for technology is separate and apart. The \$327,000 must go to referendum because it was originally listed as part of the five year initiative. Mr. Milone noted that some technology initiatives are overlapping, and ways are being looked at to use some CRN funds to reduce the number of referendum items, and technology could be one of them.

Ms. Flynn-Harris raised a question about some future technology projects such as video cameras in every building, where they are now located, some being antiquated, and if this is being searched out further.

Stating he would have an answer on Tuesday, Mr. Milone advised that Mr. Verrill is trying to get expanded security, and there must be a policy decision on this. The number stated could be modified, and CNR funds can be used for technology.

According to Ms. Flynn-Harris the “key entry” is important, and would be similar to the one at the Library. She noted being impressed with Mr. Verrill and his management of his team, always insuring the Town gets the best efficiency, service, and deals on equipment and technology.

Capital Planning \$150,000, FY 2015-2016; this was moved to year #3, FY 2016-2017; \$150,000 FY 2017-18 was moved to year #5, FY 2018-19.

Building Assessment Capital Planning - \$200,000, was moved to FY 2016-2017.

There is a balance of \$86,000 in the Capital Planning account.

Page 26 – Vehicle/Equipment Replacement Fund. Parks and Rec Department, Mason Dump Truck, total cost of \$64,100. The GPS system cost of \$2,000 will be moved from the older truck to the new truck; \$2,000 was removed from the cost.

Municipal Telephone System, \$200,000 FY 2014-2015. This will be one phone system for the entire Town and BOE. The BOE is installing their new phone system during this summer, at a cost of about \$150,000.

Page 36 – Various Town Building Improvements, \$200,000 FY 2014-15 and \$200,000 FY 2017-18. Mr. Milone stated this funding has been in place to handle costs of unanticipated things.

Roof Replacement, \$150,000, FY 2015-16. This funding is for replacement of sections of roofs at Town Hall, Library and Fire HQ.

Wash Bay, PW Garage, \$500,000 FY 2018-19.

Open Space Land Management, \$50,000 FY 2014-15. This money was appropriated last year, but was frozen and will be requested for release to address open space management upon receipt of the report from the Town Manager.

Page 43, Planning, Land Acquisition, \$1 million, FY 2014-15, and \$1 Million FY 2016-17, FY 2018-19. There was a discussion on reducing the amount to \$500,000 for a better chance for approval at referendum. The account balance is \$505,000; the Town awaits \$200,000 State reimbursement from the Puchlowski property purchase; and the Town of Prospect must adopt a resolution before this check is received. Mr. Milone is sending a letter to Mayor Chatfield of Prospect CT.

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Ms. Nichols

MOVED that the Town Council enter Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. to discuss land acquisition.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Ms. Flynn-Harris.

MOVED that the Town Council exit Executive Session at 7:56 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Page 45 – West Main St. Sidewalk Design & Construction, \$850,000, FY 2014-15.

Page 57 – Sidewalk Program, \$200,000 in FY 2014-15, FY 2016-17, FY 2018-19.

PW Vehicles, \$170,000 FY 2014-15. Mr. Milone stated there was a request to restore the sweeper to the vehicle fleet and remove a dump truck, which brings this project below the referendum limit.

Page 60, Hydraulic Sander, \$11,860. Sweeper, \$185,000.

Mr. Milone advised that the streets must be swept each year. With renting a sweeper, the Town gets an old vehicle that is inefficient, breaks down, and must be repaired by the Town crew. With a new sweeper the pay back is 1.5 years, and ownership provides for greater and more efficient use of the equipment.

The issue of sand and salt used on the roads for winter storms was raised by Mr. Sima who said the salt rots out the trucks, and the Town is looking for \$500,000 for a wash bay at the garage. Mr. Sima commented on Public Works' decision to switch to salt which is ruining the roads and vehicles. He suggested the Council look at whether this is the best way to go along with future treatment of roads permitted by the State.

Mr. Milone said that sand is ineffective, does not work as well as salt, and our Town roads are well managed because of the salt and pre-treatments.

At this time, Mr. Slocum said the DEEP and DOT are far apart on how the roads should be treated, and there were major issues regarding the road treatments following storms.

Mr. Sima suggested looking at one more year renting a sweeper.

Ms. Flynn-Harris recommended checking with other towns about their use of salt/sand and rotting effect on town and resident vehicles.

At the next meeting, Mr. Milone will invite PW Director Noewatne and Town Engineer Gancarz to attend, report and discuss the road treatment issues. He commented on their being no perfect decision on this issue of using salt or sand.

If the Town purchases a wood chipper, Mr. Sima reported there is a Cheshire company that manufactures this piece of equipment and he said the Town should purchase from a local company.

Mr. Milone prefers to do business with a local company, and questioned the Council waiving the bid for a project, as the Council requires a bid process. He will investigate the local company.

Page 57 - Creamery Road Bridge Project, \$850,000, FY 2014-15.

Road Repavement Program, \$1.75 million in FY 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17.

East Johnson Bridge, \$3 million, FY 2015-16, with 80% grant.

Mt. Sanford Road/So. Brooksvale Road, \$700,000, FY 2015-16; moved out to year #3, FY 2016-17.

Ms. Flynn-Harris reported on meeting with the McKee Family, a visit to the subject area, and the discussion about realignment of Mt. Sanford Road. Town Engineer Gancarz is working on another design idea with the family engineer; there are many issues involved, including a decision on what can be done now.

The Council was told by Mr. Milone that there can be LoCIP funds for intersection improvements, with proof that the intersection is dangerous. Mountain Rd. Pavement, \$355,000, FY 2014-15; there will be grant funds for this project.

Page 64, PW Dump Trucks. Mr. Noewatne and Mr. Gancarz will meet with the Council to discuss the vehicle replacement proposal. There will be a review of vehicle inventory and replacement schedule from past years.

Mr. Sima stated he is not in favor of tandem trucks and getting rid of big dozers.

It was noted by Mr. Schrumm that the Town is not rebuilding roads as before, and WPCA has a tandem truck, which can be used by PW Department with a planned schedule.

Regarding a tandem truck, Mr. Milone explained that PW Department has talked about plowing in the industrial zone more quickly with a tandem truck. Sometimes, the Town must rent heavier trucks for heavier plowing, and the State bid has the spec numbers for plowing.

Page 72, Ash Tree Removal/Replanting, \$150,000. Removed from the CEP.

Page 74, West Johnson Pump Station, \$3.5 million, FY 2015-16. There is a design for this pump station and Cook Hill Pump Station.

Cook Hill Pump Station, \$500,000, FY 2014-15. There is Elim Park money left for this pump station; repairs have been done to the most important part of the station with replacement of the pump. It was recommended this project be moved out to FY 2015-16, or 2016-17.

Mr. Milone commented on the Town being successful with its claims before the State, and there being money available to deal with WWTP issues, with cash payments.

I&I, \$300,000, FY 2016-17 and FY 2017-18.

Page 79, Senior Center Basement Renovation, \$300,000, FY 2014-15.

Mr. Noewatne will inform the Council on how the project estimate was done, along with code compliance issues.

Mini Bus, \$122,000; \$97,000 grant.

Page 85, Library, \$700,000 FY 2016-17. The project is for automated sorting of returned books and materials through RFID chip, and speeding up the process. This is phase #2 of the reconfiguration, and Ms. Burkey will address the project and issues with the Council before the project goes forward.

Page 89, Mixville Dam/Spillway Improvements, \$250,000, FY 2014-15.

Park Improvements, \$120,000, FY 2015-16.

Replacement of Playground Equipment, \$170,000, FY 2014-15. Existing playground equipment is old and unsafe and must be replaced.

Linear Trail Parking – deed draft received on July 2nd for Jarvis Street parking area; public hearing on August 12th; with the resolution approved by the Council, it will be 4 to 6 weeks for official deed of property to the Town (mid-September).

Mr. Schrumm asked about a State waiver of bid on this project to allow the Town to go out to bid without the deed having passed.

The Council was told by Mr. Milone that it is bidding a project, not awarding anything.

The State sent the P.A.L. document with details of the project to be approved by the Council on August 12th. This is \$3.4 million to be bid. He will clear up any issues and inform the Council.

Tennis Courts/Cheshire Park, \$190,000, FY 2016-17. These courts have had minor repairs.

Tennis Courts/Youth Center, \$230,000, FY 2015-16.

Page 96, Education – Mr. Masciana had clarified for the Council that the BOE is holding to \$1.5 million for the CHS Cafeteria, but this number can be changed next year. The Council discussed putting in \$3.5 million for this project in year #2 of the CEP.

Mr. Milone and Mr. Jaskot will review the changes made in the CEP and have additional information for Council review on August 5th.

Changes to the CEP

#2 Technology Reserve, \$327,000, being charged to CNR.

#22 District Wide Flooring, \$225,000, being charged to CNR.

This project cannot be bonded as tax exempt due to new IRS regulations.

Total CNR expenditure - \$552,000.

Page 14 CEP Book – CNR Summary. Bond phone system, at \$200,000; bond sidewalks, \$200,000; and bond Dodd Middle School Athletic Field Improvements, \$125,000. This frees up \$525,000 from CNR; the Council identified \$52,000 in CNR projects where money can be freed up; and this will totally fund the CEP changes.

Mr. Milone said he hopes to get Council support for the sweeper, and correspondingly, under PW Dump Trucks, take out one truck so the referendum item is under \$350,000.

Referendum Projects

#7, Land Acquisition, #9, Replacement Ladder Truck, #12, Creamery Road Bridge, #13, Road Repavement Program.

Mr. Schrumm talked about putting in \$150,000 to complete the CHS locker rooms; there is \$550,000 already appropriated; PBC has sent its recommendation at \$700,000, with stripping out the temporary showers and parking lot. This \$150,000 must go to

referendum because it is all part of the same project. Councilors concurred with this recommendation and supported it. This adds \$150,000 to the BOE capital budget request. The Council will discuss this project with Mr. Masciana, and requested the new plans be ready for review.

Open Space Land Management, \$1 million, is an open item. Mr. Milone will provide material for Council review.

AUGUST 5TH, TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING, 7:30 P.M.

AUGUST 12TH, TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING, 7:30 P.M. FOLLOWED BY REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.

4. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Ruocco; seconded by Mr. Sima.

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk