

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY,  
MARCH 10, 2015 AT 7:30 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 84 SOUTH MAIN  
STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

Tim Slocum, Chairman; David Schrumm, Vice Chairman; Patti Flynn-Harris, Liz Linehan, Sylvia Nichols, Robert Oris Jr. Thomas Ruocco, James Sima, Peter Talbot. Staff: Town Manager Michael A. Milone; Finance Director James Jaskot; Town Engineer Walter Gancarz; Tax Assessor Mario Panagrosso; Town Planner William Voelker. Fire Marshall Jim Doherty, Deputy Fire Marshal Don Youngquist

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

**3. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Recognition of 2014 Connecticut Fire Prevention Poster Contest Winners.**

Fire Marshal Doherty and Deputy Fire Chief Youngquist introduced the 2014 CT Fire Prevention Poster Contest Winners - 4th grade Highland School student Krishna Benzy and 5th grade Doolittle School student Zoe Schwab. Mr. Benzy and Ms. Schwab were awarded Certificates of Recognition by Chairman Slocum and Amazon gift certificates from the Cheshire Fire Department Inc. The poster created by Mr. Benzy is a New Haven County winner and in competition for the State winning poster on March 25th. The winning poster entries will be displayed in the Town Hall Lobby starting next week. Council Members personally congratulated the students on their outstanding achievement.

**B. Public Comments.**

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Mr. Ruocco.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution 031015-1

RESOLUTION 021015-1

CONSENT CALENDAR FOR MARCH 10, 2015

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the Consent Calendar for March 10, 2015 as follows:

- A. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$2,000 donation from Cheshire Lights of Hope to the Human Services Gift Account for general purposes.
- B. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$100 donation in the name of Christina Mason to the Cheshire Human Services Gift Account for the Adopt-A-Family Program.

- C. Acceptance and appropriation of aggregate donations of \$100 from anonymous donors to the Human Services Gift Account for general purposes.
- D. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$7,500 donation from the Cheshire High School PTO to the Parks & Recreation Gift Fund towards a new electronic sign board.
- E. Acceptance and appropriation of a \$253.12 donation from the Cheshire Methodist Church to the Cheshire Human Services Gift Account for general purposes.
- F. Authorization to apply for a \$4,000 Historic Document Preservation Grant.
- G. Acceptance and appropriation of \$2,898.32 from the Library's Lost and Paid Account to the Library Gift Account for Library program materials.
- H. Acceptance and appropriation of \$3,224.10 from the Julia Tompkins account to the Library Gift Account for library program materials.
- I. Authorization to apply for a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven for story tellers, workshops and performances for children at the Library.
- J. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes application for a Department of Transportation Distracted Driving Program High Visibility Enforcement Mobilization (DDHVE) matching grant for approximately \$16,725 and authorizes Town Manager Michael A. Milone to execute all necessary application documents.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**5. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR**  
**None.**

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Endorsement of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments Regional Performance Incentive Proposals.**

MOTION by Mr. Sima; seconded by Ms. Nichols

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #031015-2

RESOLUTION #031015-2

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council endorses the Regional Performance Incentive (RPI) Program proposals listed below:

- Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments Regional GIS Data Development and GIS Website Enhancement.
- Senior Citizens Property Tax Loan Program Feasibility Study.
- State-wide orthophotography and LICAD data (proposal to be submitted by Capital Region Council of Governments).

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes Town Manager Michael A. Milone to execute all necessary agreements and take all necessary action to enter into a binding agreement with the Office for Policy and Management according to the term of the RPI grant program.

#### Discussion

Mr. Sima commented on the COGs being another layer of government, and his philosophical disagreement with this. He does not see any incentive for Cheshire to enter into this agreement.

VOTE            The motion passed 7-0-2; Ruocco and Sima opposed.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Summary of proposed FY 15-16 General Operating Budget.**

Town Manager Milone gave a short summary of the FY 15-16 General Operating Budget and highlighted it as follows:

Page 1 - shows the separate components of the operating budget; the proposed budget has an increase of \$3.899 million, 3.77%. Increases for each component are: General Government, \$1.2 million, 4.11%; Education, \$3.4 million, 5.19%; Debt (\$693,048, -8.96%).

WPCA proposed budget is \$3.4 million, a reduction of \$27,563; this is due to significant increases in the new plant.

Community Pool proposed budget is \$806,056, an increase of \$62,134, 8.4%. The current year's budget was developed as an 8 month budget; next year's budget is developed as a 10 month budget.

Mr. Milone reported that he cut the operating budget by \$2.19 million, the largest reduction in any recent budget. Over the last 5 years services have been maintained at a constant level with every department keeping its level of services. He said the proposed budget is a good budget which offers enhancement of services.

BOE Budget - Mr. Milone reduced this budget by \$575,000 -- the amount the BOE added to the Superintendent's budget.

On page 6, Mr. Milone explains why the BOE budget was reduced, and is now at an increase of \$2 million. He stated he was uncomfortable presenting the proposed BOE budget to the Council. Three areas were identified for the BOE \$575,000 increase - Instructional Expenses, Support Services and Maintenance and Operations.

Mr. Milone reported that he explained to Dr. Florio and BOE Chairman Brittingham that he could not support funding through C.N.R. for these expense areas. An e mail will be sent by Mr. Milone to BOE members on his decision and why it was made.

Page 2 - identifies the impact of the proposed budget on the average taxpayer with a house and two motor vehicles. The recommendation for the mill rate is 31.45 mills; this is a 1.2 mill increase or 3.79%; and the average taxpayer will have a variance of \$276 of additional taxes.

Page 16 - the chart illustrates the multi-year budget comparison 2005-06 to 2015-16; there are three areas from which revenue is derived - mill rate adjustment \$3.167 million; grand list growth \$652,658; other revenues -\$137,396.

Page 3 - identifies the areas of increase on the Town side; 95% of the increase is in Personnel Services, Pensions, Leases, Medical & Life Insurance, Equipment Maintenance. At the current time, medical benefits rates are looking good; it is expected they will continue to decrease; carriers were told to explore additional rate cuts; and the Town is moving towards a full self insured program.

Page 7 - Debt Service. The Town had a bond refunding last week with savings of about \$245,000 which is not factored into next year's debt service. There is about \$207,000 available for reduction in debt service next year; there is \$773,000 available from the premium received after the \$15 million bond sale last month; after expenses there will be \$638,000 left, and the Council makes the decision on how to use this money.

Page 8 - Revenue. Categories of key revenue are: Tax Levy and growth in grand list and two PILOT payment increases.

In summary, Mr. Milone stated he encouraged department heads to be identify service needs and resources to meet these needs. As a result a few new positions are being requested, and situations where position hours are increased. Mr. Milone will identify each change and the budget impact of the \$500,000 salary increase.

**B. Approval of Juvenile Review Board appointees.**

MOTION by Ms. Nichols; seconded by Ms. Flynn-Harris.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #031015-3

RESOLUTION #031015-3

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the appointments of the membership to the Juvenile Review Board, as attached, with the term of March 11, 2015 through March 30, 2017.

Discussion

Ms. Nichols reported that 30 applications were received for JRB membership. The selection/interview committee included Human Services Director Michelle Piccerillo, Deputy Chief Bob Vignola, YMCA Exec. Director Wendy Stevens, Det. Sgt Tom Bobok, Youth Officer Eric Tracy. The committee selected 9 people - 7 members and 2 alternate members. The members were identified by Ms. Nichols who briefly highlighted the qualifications for each member -- David Strollo, Renee Cirimo, Kelly Lenz, Robert Davis, Ford Cole, James Thomas, Lori Ratchelous, Patricia Miller, Lynn Dawson.

Councilor Oris expressed thanks to Ms. Piccerillo and Chief Vignola for their hard work with the JRB, the well thought out process, and the selection of very qualified candidates to serve on the board. He noted it is good for the JRB to come back to the Council for approval, and he will endorse and ratify the JRB membership.

Ms. Flynn-Harris thanked everyone who came through the process wanting to serve on the JRB, their level of expertise, and willingness to serve the children of Cheshire.

Stating his agreement with Councilor comments, Mr. Sima asked if everyone selected is a Cheshire resident, or if it was a good thing to have people serve who are not residents.

Mr. Milone explained that the JRB wanted Cheshire residents and it was a condition of the review process for the candidates. The idea was to have people who are sensitive to what is happening in Cheshire, as each town is unique with what they encounter, and Cheshire residents best serve the needs of the community.

Chairman Slocum expressed appreciation to the committee members, their selection of qualified JRB members, and said this is a positive thing for the Town.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**C.     Photovoltaic systems and Power Purchase Agreement.**

MOTION by Mr. Sima; seconded by Ms. Nichols

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #031015-4

RESOLUTION #031015-4

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves execution of a non-binding Letter of Intent authorizing Solar City to act on the Town's behalf to prepare bids for photovoltaic systems for the Zero Emissions Renewable Energy Auction.

Discussion

This is a topic that came out of the Planning Committee and Mr. Sima reported that Town Engineer Gancarz presented information to the committee for Council consideration. The request is to go into the April ZREC auction in order to purchase energy. Solar City is the best program available, has had more projects than other companies, and had the lowest bid for electricity.

Mr. Sima said the Town must go out for the auction, has 10 days after a successful auction to enter into an agreement. A commitment is needed from the Town to go into an agreement for the land fill with a grid and the option of one school. He noted the uncertainty of knowing how the amount of energy is assessed coming from the grid, but it involves lots of bookkeeping to meet the goals of the performance contracting and saving money.

Town Engineer Walter Gancarz explained the process for the power purchase agreement. He said an RFP was put out 2 months ago with detailed information, i.e. solar put in at the landfill and any/all town and school buildings of interest. There were five varying proposals received. Everyone proposed on the landfill, and depending on the company, there were responses from no schools to six schools.

A committee (Gancarz, Noewatne, Energy Commission members Gavin and Mesdale, BOE representatives Dixon and Masciana, and Tim White) was formed to review the proposals, along with ECG Engineering who put together the summary spread sheet.

All proposals were independently reviewed; 3 firms were interviewed - Sun Edison, Solar City, Greenskies.

Following the interview process, Mr. Gancarz reported that the committee unanimously selected Solar City. The committee believed Solar City had the best depth of knowledge, specializes in solar energy, had better buying power, had more efficiency, and the potential savings were the highest at the landfill. Mr. Gancarz stated that Solar City is the company which could go to the next step with the town. Also, the committee thought Solar City could come back with a proposal for one of the schools, as they were open to this in their proposal.

The Solar City proposal was the best one, with long term savings of \$2 million over 20 years, and the real benefit is no cost to the Town to implement the use of the space, and enter into a power purchase agreement to purchase the electricity generated. The rate is 8 cents per kwh, and this does not escalate over the 20 year period. The agreement permits Solar City to obtain the credits. If successful, the Town enters an

agreement with Solar City within 10 days, or cancels the project. The agreement with Solar City would be provided to the Town Attorney for review.

Mr. Gancarz noted that RWA has an array in Hamden, similar to what would be at the landfill. Last year, Solar City was 100% successful in obtaining bids. What is proposed to the Council is a letter of intent; it is not an agreement; it is the first step with no tie-in for signing an agreement.

Ms. Flynn-Harris commented on the most important part -- people knowing that there is no capital layout by the Town. She said all installation and maintenance is performed by Solar City, and over 20 years there is \$2 million in savings.

On the face, this is something to be considered, and Mr. Oris said he does not have enough information regarding cost and repayment, cost to Solar City, payback, terms and conditions, and when Cheshire starts to receive cash flow benefits. More information on the process was requested by Mr. Oris before the Town enters into an agreement.

According to Mr. Gancarz the Town would have all this detailed information before entering into an agreement.

Solar City makes money with ZREC and federal tax credits to private investors. The Town receives 8 cents per kwh frozen for 20 years; more electricity will be generated at the landfill; Solar City offsets that cost billing against other buildings; and CHS could reduce its use by 500 kwh. Eversource does all the billing and accounting, and information can be tracked.

Mr. Oris questioned the savings over 20 years with the set rate, how Solar City makes money, and payment on the infrastructure by Solar City.

Mr. Ruocco said the landfill is about 5 acres, behind the dog park, and asked what generates the money.

It was explained by Mr. Gancarz that all the power generated goes back through a meter next to the PW Garage. Everything not used goes back into the grid; what is used at other buildings is subtracted out; savings are taken off 5 or 10 designated buildings.

Mr. Sima commented on the ZREC credits offsetting a large part of the cost. Solar City is taking 5 acres of land, for free, and Cheshire purchases electricity generated on this land, at 8 cents per kwh. Use of the landfill in year #1 will generate \$69,000 savings, and escalate going forward. Solar City gets tax credits, has an energy grant, and Cheshire gives them 5 acres of land to build this array.

With regard to how many companies participate in the April ZREC auction, Mr. Gancarz said it could be up to 40 or 50, and the lowest bid is likely to be accepted. Last year, Solar City received 100% of the bids.

PUBLIC

Tim White, 1682 Orchard Hill Road, looked at the RWA Hamden site on google maps, and said the landfill and this site are the same size. He explained there will be a 75% reduction in kwh usage. Businesses and homeowners can join the process, which is not complicated, and they will save money.

Ms. Flynn-Harris informed the Council that the Town of Durham CT voted down the solar due to the proposed location. She noted Cheshire is lucky to have an area without a high profile on land not being used.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**D.     Acquisition of Street Lights**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #031015-5

RESOLUTION #031015-5

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council closes out the completed Capital Project #01093, Senior Center Elevator and allocates the remaining \$11,357 to the Capital Planning Account, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council allocates \$40,000 from the Capital Planning Account to proceed with the first phase of the Street Light Purchase Project which includes an assessment and final cost analysis.

Discussion

Mr. Sima said this agenda item is about checking into the Town taking ownership of the street lights and converting them to LED lights for energy savings and rebates. \$40,000 maximum will have to be paid to a vendor to look into an analysis of the street lights, retrofitting them, and having a company to maintain and repair the lights.

This is an interesting program and Mr. Gancarz said there could be substantial savings of \$2 million over the next 15 years. There are two components - and the Town would not spend money to do this, as the \$40,000 would be assimilated into the contract with the vendor.

Currently, the budget for street lights is \$285,000 annually for 17,792 street lights. In rough numbers the cost would be \$50,000 to \$60,000 with purchase of the street lights, including maintenance of the lights. The cost, depending on the company chosen, is



about \$1 million to \$1.2 million, with no Town money up front. \$442,000 is the cost to buy the 490 single service street lights/poles from CL&P. With the Town taking ownership, without any changes, the savings would be \$150,000 a year. Replacing the current lights with LED there is additional savings with less energy purchased.

The Town went out with an RFP, received 5 proposals, with numbers varying from \$500,000 to \$700,000, to retrofit with LEDs, and annual maintenance contract. This is on top of the \$442,000. ECG assisted with the street light purchase proposals. All proposals showed a common component, similar dollar amounts to convert lights, and savings in excess of \$2 million over 15 years. Paybacks run over 4, 5 or 10 years, and after completion of the project, there will be \$50,000+ savings annually after loan payoff.

This is an attractive program, and Mr. Gancarz said many firms are interested, and many communities have done this across the northeast and end up with superior street lights. He noted that Cheshire would be in the "utility business" with maintenance of street lights, but the company doing installation could also do the maintenance. LED lights have 10+ years of life.

Regarding paragraph #3, Mr. Oris asked about ongoing operating costs of the street lights.

In response, Mr. Gancarz said the Town first purchases 490 street lights from Eversource, and the company still maintains other poles. The purchase price is \$42,000; \$600,000 to \$700,000 to retrofit the lights; for a capital cost of \$1.1 to \$1.2 million. With payback of the loan, annual cost for electricity and maintenance of the lights is \$50,000 to \$60,000. Whatever way the Town goes, he said it is less than the current \$285,000.

All the poles in Town are not purchased, and Mr. Gancarz explained that the purchase is for 490 single service street lights/poles where there are underground utilities. Everywhere else will remain the same, with lights owned by the Eversource and Frontier. These lights will have new LED lights.

The scheduling of the lights going on and flexibility of changing poles in certain areas was raised by Ms. Flynn-Harris, particularly related to the West Main Streetscape project.

Mr. Schrumm pointed out that Wallingford maintains its own lights, and may have trucks/equipment with interest in maintaining Cheshire's lights. This would be less costly than a contractor.

Tim White thanked the Council for its support of this project, and said decorative lights could spruce up areas of Town. He commented on the benefit of this project, CL&P's continued rate increases, peak hours of usage 7-9 p.m., retrofitting lights to LED and the impact it will have on rates paid to the electric company. Mr. White supports retrofitting the street lights.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**E.     Amended Library Parking agreement.**

MOTION by Mr. Oris; seconded by Mr. Sima.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #031015-6

RESOLUTION #031015-6

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby authorizes the execution of an amended Parking License Agreement by and between the Town of Cheshire and The Christ Community Church, all of Cheshire, Connecticut, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager is authorized and directed to execute on behalf of the Town said Agreement in the form and upon the terms and conditions as presented at this meeting.

Discussion

Mr. Milone distributed information, including an aerial map, and commented on the importance of this parking area to the Library. Last year the agreement with the Church expired; the Church took exception to the operation with Sunday hours; and a new agreement was negotiated by the Town Attorney and Church attorney. Issues were resolved and now there will be a parking agreement for the Library, with the Church providing significant overflow parking. Other property owners in the area were approached, without success.

The earlier agreement with the Church was \$3,000 annually with the Town snow plowing their property. The Church did not want this anymore...it wanted a lease agreement. The Church was unhappy with the hours characterized for Sunday; the agreement was renegotiated by the Town Attorney and Church attorney; and it is a 5 year, renewable, lease at \$3,500 per year. The parking times were modified, the Town is responsible for the lighting, and will install LED lights when bulbs are changed. In the new agreement the Church business hours are defined. There are an additional 58 parking spaces for the Library. If the Church costs go over \$3,500 the Town is not liable.

Mr. Milone reported that the Town pays about \$5,000 for the Arisco parking area and \$6,500 for the Grange parking area.

Section 9 of the Agreement was pointed out by Mr. Oris who asked about additional insurance coverage and costs when the new agreement kicks in.\

Stating he was unsure of this cost, Mr. Milone said a provision in the original agreement was never actually executed and never came into play.

Attorney Smith said it would come into play if the Church's insurer raises the premium costs because the Town is using parking spaces. This increase would be passed onto the Town.

This has not happened and Mr. Milone said with the additional provisions, the Town's use is less and liability is reduced.

Mr. Oris commented on the Church parking space as being critically needed for the Town Library.

The Council was informed by Attorney Smith that for 20 years the provision was on the books, and the Town's use has been greater than in the proposed agreement. There was no request from the Church's insurance company during all that time.

Stating this final agreement is good for the Library, Ms. Flynn-Harris commented on the increase in the number of programs at the Library. She noted the parking lot is full most of the time, including Sundays. What we have with agreement is good neighbors on both sides.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**F.     Districtwide Flooring Replacement Project contract awards.**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #031015-7

RESOLUTION #031015-7

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council awards the Asbestos Abatement contract for the Districtwide Flooring Replacement project to AAIS of West Haven, CT, for a base amount of \$48,410.876 per the recommendation of the Public Building Commission.

Discussion

Mr. Sima explained this is the continuation of floor replacement in the school system, getting rid of mold and mildew on carpets and tiles. The work will be done during the summer break.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #031015-8

RESOLUTION #031015-8

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council awards the Flooring installation contract for the district wide Flooring Replacement Project to Spectrum Floors of Cheshire for a base amount of \$162,215, per the recommendation of the Public Building Commission.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #031015-9

RESOLUTION #031015-9

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council awards the Monitoring and Testing contract for the district wide Flooring Replacement Project to Chemscope of North Haven, CT for a base amount of \$10,787.50 per the recommendation of the Public Building Commission.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**8. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS.**

**A. Monthly Status Report.**

**B. Department Status Reports.**

**C. Other**

Monthly Financial Reports - the financial reports and budget will be discussed during the budget workshops.

Sale of Refunding Bonds - \$4.9 million sold; \$245,000 savings; in year #1 savings of \$207,173, with this money available for use as the Council decides.

Official Statement/Bond Prospectus - information is attached to the Town Manager's Report for Council review. Mr. Milone commented on this being a great document.

Modification to Library Hours - Ms. Burkey has modified the hours at the Cheshire Library, with addition of 1/2 hour Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Monday through Thursday - 9:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and Summer Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Council was told by Mr. Milone that with the RFID program books and materials are turned about quickly at the start of each day. The Library is a very popular place in Cheshire, with growing high demand for services, without more staff and costs.

Police Department Canine Unit - There is a growing need for a Canine Unit for CPD. With the reorganization of the department by Chief Dryfe, 4 more officers on the street, it is the ideal time to start the Canine Unit for increased patrol of open space and security. Mr. Milone reported that a local resident/benefactor has donated \$10,000 to get the Canine Unit started. The remainder of costs (dog, food, car cage, uniform, etc.) will be funded through the gift account.

Legislative Update - Town Engineer Gancarz testified in Hartford on the phosphorous bill, with reimbursement to 50% to eligible communities. Mr. Gancarz explained to Environment Committee Chairman, Rep. Kennedy, the predicament for Cheshire and why the Town should be reimbursed.

Mr. Milone also testified in Middletown with Rep. Zupkus on the prevailing wage bill hearing; 99% of those present were union employees; and testimony focused on the prevailing wage managed in a more equitable way. The index has not been changed since 1991, and it is \$100,000 and \$400,000 for renovation and construction, and Cheshire wants it increased to \$400,000 and \$1 million before the prevailing wage kicks in.

Ms. Piccerillo spoke before the Committee on Children regarding implementation of a comprehensive children's mental, emotional and behavioral health plan being within one agency. She advocated a study to do this.

Mr. Milone was unable to get to Hartford to testify on the phosphorous increase to 60% (rather than 50%) so he submitted written testimony on this issue which was read before the committee.

Rep. Fritz informed Mr. Milone there was another bill not seen for a few years -- the Prison Gerrymandering Bill - whereby large cities are suggesting the inmates should be counted in the city or town of their residence before incarceration. There is great concern about this for Cheshire as it would affect the ECS grants up to a \$2 million reduction. More hearings are coming up and Mr. Milone stated the Council members can testify.

Upcoming Meetings - Budget Committee/Town Council meetings; schedule attached.

Upcoming Holidays - Good Friday, April 3, 2015, Town Hall closed.

**9. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS  
Executive Session.**

**10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL**

**A. Chairman's Report.**

Planning Committee - Mr. Sima reported that many of the agenda items for this meeting were handled by the committee at its last meeting.

Personnel Committee - Mr. Ruocco will schedule a meeting after the budget meetings to include an agenda item for fire fighter's pension.

Audit Committee - Ms. Flynn-Harris reported that the Town is in its 5th year of the contract with McGladrey, and there will be an RFP process to seek another audit firm.

The Council was informed by Mr. Jaskot that the report had no material control deficiencies. The Town is in year #5 of the McGladrey contract; there was committee discussion about GASB changes, needs, disclosures, pension and OPEB. The financial condition of the Town of Cheshire is stable; the Town received increased credit ratings from Fitch and Standard & Poors; the fund balance is at or above the 8% to 9% level. Cheshire has good control over its financial policies and procedures and set up of its accounting system.

Chairman Slocum commented on the Town being well managed and well protected, and commended Mr. Milone, Mr. Jaskot and Town staff.

According to Ms. Flynn-Harris there are other auditing firms out there, and committee and staff will be interested in RFP responses from other firms.

Pool Oversight Committee - Mr. Sima reported the committee meets on March 19th. He informed the Council that at the PBC meeting last week it was learned that building permits had not been submitted yet, and questions were raised. Arcadis reported to the PBC that during the initial planning of the structure they had designated going through the 2012 National Building Code. Connecticut has not yet evolved at the 2012 code...it is at 2003 code, which never looked into the type of structure to go over the swimming pool. The pool structure is designed to the 2012 code, and under the 2003 design there would have been drastic changes to the way the building is supported and restrained. There is no definition of this type of building in the 2003 code.

Arcadis and Arizon went to the State of Connecticut D.A.S. for a waiver to allow Cheshire to use the 2010 (really 2012) building code. The letter from the Deputy State Building Inspector states permits Cheshire to use the 2010 code. Mr. Sima read the letter into the record. This results in savings of \$100,000 in over costs to build this structure. The project is on track; the code issue delayed the application permit; and Cheshire's Building Official has been involved in the entire process.

Chairman Slocum reported that Keith Goldberg has stated there was no detriment in following the new rules for the pool project.

## **B. Miscellaneous**

### **11. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

MOVED that the Town Council approves the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 10, 2015, and Public Hearing of February 10, 2015, subject to corrections, additions, deletions.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

## **12. MISCELLANEOUS AND APPOINTMENTS**

### **A. Liaison Reports**

PBC - Mr. Sima reported that Mark Nash was elected PBC Chairman; Next month the PBC will elect Vice Chairman (nominee Ed Hill) and Secretary (nominee Art Crooker). Regarding roof and masonry projects, they are on hold due to the winter weather.

WPCA - Mr. Schrumm commented on the good work at the treatment plant; the project continues ahead of schedule and under budget; and spring weather with rains could affect the project work. He stated the Capacity Use billing report is interesting, and will be discussed during the budget sessions.

Beautification Committee - Mr. Schrumm reported TBC is working on getting some larger street trees planted along Route 10; many trees have been lost due to the bad winter weather.

Library - Mr. Oris noted there are three new employees at the facility, and on behalf of the Council he welcomed Emily Versteeg, Kathleen Larkin, Kimberly White.

Mr. Oris congratulated the Cheshire Rotary Club on its 75th Anniversary at Cheshire Library, and thanked the club for its support of the Library. The Rotary Club has donated in excess of 1200 books to the Library, and will fund the I-pad For Education.

CPFA - The annual report from CPFA/Arts Place was at the Council desk, and Ms. Flynn-Harris pointed out that 800 students attended art classes, with \$60,000 revenue, and jobs for artists. March 15th is Arts Day at Cheshire Academy, 1 pm to 4 pm.

PZC - Ms. Flynn-Harris stated that the POCD survey is on the Town's web site and she encouraged people to complete the survey.,

Regarding Arts Place, Mr. Milone informed the Council that two enrichment programs for staff were held at Arts Place, and the works of art will be displayed at Town Hall in the near future.

Youth Services - Ms. Linehan stated she is pleased with the membership of the JRB, and Council's support of the appointment.

Historic District Commission - Mr. Sima reported that the commission will conduct the Fall Bus Tour for the south end of Cheshire.

Miscellaneous

Ms. Linehan commented on her positive science experiment and experience with Highland School full day kindergarten students. She stated it is vital to realize the importance of the full day kindergarten program to the school system and young children in Cheshire.

**B. Appointments to Boards and Commissions**  
None.

**13. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Letters to Council.**

Chairman Slocum referred to a letter from AT&T Mobility and notification to the Town about the modification to the Higgins Road tower. He read the letter into the record.

Regarding the AT&T tower, Mr. Schrumm said the equipment is under ground, not much is seen but is there, and the Town should know what is going on. He noted that the tower could become obsolete.

Tax Assessor Panagrosso informed the Council he received reporting from AT&T this year. The mobility equipment is personal property and reported; there is a PILOT payment on all other equipment dealing with land lines and other operations; this is estimated annually by the Tax Assessor's office. This year it was budgeted at \$225,000. The problem with the PILOT is that it drops off after 5 years, fully depreciated.

**B. Miscellaneous**

**14. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Mr. Oris

MOVED that the Town Council enter Executive Session at 9:35 p.m. to include Town Manager Milone, Town Attorney Smith, Town Planner Voelker, Tax Assessor Panagrosso, to discuss pending claims and litigation and land acquisition.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Ms. Nichols

MOVED that the Town Council exit Executive Session at 10:40 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.



**15. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mr. Schrumm; seconded by Ms. Nichols

MOVED to adjourn the Town Council meeting at 10:40 p.m.

VOTE        The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

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Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk