

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2018, AT 7:00 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

Robert J. Oris Jr. Chairman; Paul Bowman, Vice Chairman; Timothy Slocum, Budget Committee Chairman; Jeffrey Falk, Patti Flynn-Harris, Thomas Ruocco, David Veleber.  
Absent: Sylvia Nichols

Staff: Sean Kimball, Town Manager; Arnett Talbot, Asst. Town Manager; James Jaskot, Finance Director; Jeff Solan, Superintendent of Schools; Vincent Masciana, Chief Operating Office, Dept. of Education.

Chairman Oris called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**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. ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN AND ANNUAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET**

Chairman Oris stated the Council has been working with Town and BOE staff and the public on the capital budget. He thanked Mr. Slocum, Budget Committee Chairman, for leading the workshops and the capital budget process. Mr. Oris commented on the Council members working together, and putting the community and taxpayers first, throughout the budget process. The proposed capital budget serves the community very well; it includes the interests and services expected; and it is a fiscally responsible agenda for taxpayers.

Budget Committee Chairman Slocum read a statement into the record in which he acknowledged Councilors for their hard work on the capital budget from July 24<sup>th</sup> to September 4<sup>th</sup>. In year #1 of the CEP the Town Manager proposed a \$10.2M budget; this was reduced by Council to \$7.999M; and further reduced by grants to \$6.622M. In this capital budget there is spending of \$1.090M for school security, with a 41% reimbursement. Mr. Slocum noted the BOE has been requested to come forward with a school modernization plan to address the future needs of the school buildings. He thanked Town Manager Kimball, Mr. Jaskot, Ms. DeFilio, Ms. Talbot, Supt. Solan, Mr. Masciana for their help and leadership in development of the CEP. He also thanked Town and BOE staff and members of the public for their interest and input into the capital budget.

It was pointed out by Mr. Slocum that there were six (6) referendum projects which will go to the voters in November for approval. They are:

- Replace 1992 Fire Truck Pumping Engine
- Road Improvement Program
- Window Replacements – CHS
- District Lavatory Improvements
- Underground Oil Storage Tank Removal/Replacement (Doolittle, Humiston, Chapman  
And Dodd Schools)
- School Security Improvements – District Wide

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Mr. Falk.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #090418-1

RESOLUTION #090418-1  
SUMMARY ITEMS 1 THROUGH 32

(Resolution w/summary items is attached these minutes)

Discussion

Mr. Ruocco commented on sitting through many capital budgets, and the collaborative work of the Council, BOE and staff on this CEP. There are some items in this capital budget which Mr. Ruocco believes should be removed out of the first year of the plan. He will not vote in favor of the capital budget.

Mr. Bowman talked about the Councilors working together for many weeks on this capital budget. Although he does not agree with everything in the budget, he will vote in favor, and move the budget along for the best interests of the community and residents. Mr. Bowman thanked Town staff and BOE administrators for their input and work on this capital budget.

Mr. Falk said he enjoyed the CEP process. He thanked Town and BOE administration and staff for their input on the capital budget. He noted Council is looking for cost effective ways to get things done, and has put together a CEP which is in the best interests of the taxpayers. Mr. Falk will support the capital budget.

Ms. Flynn-Harris thanked Town Manager Milone, Ms. Talbot, Mr. Jaskot, Ms. DeFilio, Supt. Solan, Mr. Masciana, and the Town and BOE staff for their assistance throughout the capital budget process. Ms. Flynn-Harris explained that not every item in the CEP is bonded. Some health and safety projects for the schools and residents will be funded through C.N.R. She expressed appreciation to the Councilors for working collaboratively throughout the long process and many meetings. Even though she is not pleased with all the numbers for some of the projects, or others in the first year or pushed out further, Ms. Flynn-Harris will support the capital budget.

Mr. Veleber echoed the sentiments of his fellow Council members. He thanked Mr. Kimball, Ms. Talbot, Mr. Jaskot, Ms. DeFilio, Supt. Solan, Mr. Masciana and Town and BOE staff for their help and input into the budget process. Mr. Veleber said the capital budget has a low fiscal impact on the taxpayers, and he looks forward to continued services for the community.

Mr. Talbot thanked his fellow Council members, Town and BOE staff, especially Town Manager Kimball, Mr. Jaskot, Ms. Talbot, Supt. Solan, Mr. Masciana, and former Town Manager Milone for their work on this capital budget. He noted that Council members are all volunteers and taxpayers, who have the best interests of the community as a priority, and take the capital budget seriously. Mr. Talbot is comfortable enough with the “need to have” items and projects in the CEP and will support this budget.

With regard to replacement of Town equipment, Mr. Slocum talked about the Council looking at ways to consider a rotation for purchases of larger equipment.

Chairman Oris stated that without Town and BOE staff the Council could not get a capital budget done, and he thanked everyone for their participation in the budget process. The Council faced tough decisions, focused on “things needed” and not a wish list of items. When it comes to public safety, Cheshire has professionals leading the community. The Council looks for ways to be fiscally prudent with the capital budget. Mr. Oris noted the 2<sup>nd</sup> fire truck has been pushed out another year; \$10M was cut from department head requests; the CEP has \$1.090M increase for school safety and security, which is supported by both the BOE and Council. This budget included \$500,000 for purchase of containers if there is a changeover to automated solid waste collection. This is a cash investment, with a payback to taxpayers. Mr. Oris supports this capital budget, which was a bipartisan and collaborative effort on the part of the Town Council.

VOTE           The motion passed 7-1; Mr. Ruocco opposed.

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Mr. Falk.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #090418-2

RESOLUTION #090418-2

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council adopts the Five Year Omnibus Capital Expenditure Plan for Fiscal Years 2018-2019 through 2022-2023, in accordance with recommendation of the Town Council Budget Committee.

(Resolution/attachments are attached these minutes)

Discussion

Budget Committee Chairman Slocum explained the Town has always had a five year plan, with the focus on the first year of the capital plan. The other four years of projects include road work, school projects (cafeteria at CHS), etc. and the Council looked carefully at the five year plan.

It was pointed out by Chairman Oris that some items were removed from the BOE five year plan. This was done because Council did not want to move forward with school projects without have a meaningful and viable long term plan for the modernization of the school buildings. Council did not want to spend money for projects at schools which may be consolidated or closed. It was reiterated by Mr. Oris that the Council supports the education system, knows its importance to the community and property values that are predicated by the school system. The Council is looking forward to having a dialogue with the BOE and administration on the best ways to modernize our schools in a way taxpayers can afford. Mr. Oris stated there is no way the community can take on the burden of a \$400M project...this would be an enormous burden on the taxpayers.

VOTE           The motion passed 7-1; Mr. Ruocco opposed.

#### **4.     APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION OF REFERENDUM QUESTIONS AND AUTHORIZATION FOR EXPLANATORY TEXT.**

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Mr. Veleber.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves Resolution #090418-3

#### **RESOLUTION #090418-3**

(The Resolution is attached to these minutes)

#### **Discussion**

The six (6) items for referendum are:

- Replace 1992 Fire Truck Pumping Engine
- Road Improvement Program
- Window Replacements – CHS
- District Lavatory Improvements
- Underground Oil Storage Tank Removal/Replacement (Doolittle, Humiston, Chapman  
And Dodd Schools)
- School Security Improvements – District Wide

Mr. Slocum stated this resolution addresses the six (6) items that will go to referendum in November for voter approval. He cited the \$250,000 appropriation for the window replacement project at CHS, which is an ongoing project year after year for the school building. The total appropriation continues year after year and is over \$500,000.

With regard to item #6, Mr. Talbot stated the \$1.090M for security improvements has a 41% reimbursement, or about \$400,000. He commented on the importance for the public to know these are safety improvements to all the schools, which will have a significant reimbursement.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

## **5.    ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Mr. Veleber.

MOVED to adjourn the special meeting at 7:30 p.m.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

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Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk