

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON
MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025 AT 6:30 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, 84
SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE, CT 06410**

Present:

Peter Talbot, Chair; Jim Jinks, Vice Chair; Fiona Pearson, John Milone, Don Walsh, David Veleber; Greg Wolff

Staff/Guests: Sean M. Kimball, Town Manager; Andrew Martelli, Assistant Town Manager; Noelle Shepard, Management Specialist; Town Attorney Jeffrey Donofrio; Jim Jaskot, Finance Director

Absent: Deena Allard, Patricia Cramer

Chair Peter Talbot opened the public hearing at 6:32 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Noelle Shepard called the roll, and a quorum was determined to be present.

2. EXPLANATION OF HEARING PROCEDURE AND AGENDA.

3. READING OF LEGAL NOTICE.

Noelle Shepard read the public hearing notice. The full public hearing notice is attached.

4. PRESENTATION ON HEARING SUBJECT.

A. Consideration of Town Manager Proposed FY 2025-2026 Annual Capital Expenditure Budget.

Sean Kimball overviewed the 30 proposed capital projects that were presented back in March 2025. He clarified that a lot of changes have been made through the capital budget workshop process in late May and early June.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Matthew Levine, 25 Kelly Court, advocated that the turf field at Cheshire High School be sent to referendum this upcoming November. David Veleber arrived at 6:37 p.m.

John Perosino, Athletic Director, explained that people often ask him about turf field replacement. He mentioned that the turf field has really evolved from what it was originally planned for as all varsity field sports play on it and the band uses it as well. Shaws Turf is the company that it was originally purchased from. The average life expectancy is approximately 10-12 years, and the Cheshire turf is 14 years old. He emphasized that the field is currently safe. He explained that a G Max test will be performed on Thursday. Last year it tested at 135, and anything over 200 is deemed unsafe. The quote estimate from Shaws was about \$750,000-815,000 to replace the turf. This includes a shock pad, which is an addition of approximately \$100,000-125,000.

Don Walsh inquired as to the balance in the Town's turf fund, which as of the FY 2024 audit was approximately \$58,000. Discussion was had on fundraising for the turf field project. John Perosino explained that the contractor is currently booking for 2026 and 2027. Peter Talbot inquired if there was any risk doing the track separate from the turf. John Perosino confirmed that they could be done separately. Peter Talbot explained that the Town Council plans to finalize the capital budget sooner rather than later.

Steve Trifone, 445 Chestnut Street, explained that the 2026 summer would be timely because you would gain an extra two weeks. He mentioned that he wants to avoid renting fields. He estimated that it would be about 8-10 weeks. The last time it took 12-13 weeks to install because of issues with weather.

Jonathan Conrad introduced himself as a Civic Rights Advocate and Litigator from Plantsville. He alleged there were discrepancies between constitutional and State law as it relates to police.

Peter Talbot closed the public hearing at 7:19 p.m.

Attest:

Noelle Shepard, Management Specialist