MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026, 6:30 P.M., COUNCIL ROOM 207, 84 SOUTH MAIN ST., CHESHIRE, CT 06410

Present:
Jim Jinks, Greg Wolff, Don Walsh

Staff/Guests: Sean Kimball, Town Manager; Andrew Martelli, Assistant Town Manager; Dan Bombero, Director of Public Works; Emily Taylor, Cheshire Public Schools Chief Operating Officer; Erica Biagetti, Cheshire Public Schools Director of Food and Nutrition

Absent:

Jim Jinks called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. CHESHIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT WITH AJ WASTE.

Emily Taylor explained the potential changes that would need to happen for the two new schools. They reviewed a quote for a trash compactor, which would reduce the number of hauls per week and is cheaper over time. Emily Taylor explained that they would need to have compactor fabricated by AJ Waste now in order to be ready for August school opening. She further mentioned that it could save about $5,000 per year but is more than likely net neutral because they plan to put compostable trays in regular trash stream now. Don Walsh inquired about the ownership of the compactors and maintenance responsibilities.

Don Walsh motioned to forward the recommendation to approve this amendment to the AJ Waste contract as presented, and Greg Wolff seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

IV. FOOD WASTE DIVERSION/COMPOSTING PROGRAM AT THE SCHOOLS FUNDING AND NEXT STEPS DISCUSSION.

Erica Biagetti reviewed the past year of the composting program and the current request for a total funding of $29,584. Sean Kimball overviewed the environmental fee history between the Town/BOE and current totals. This proposal includes adding all the other schools. Discussion was held on holding off on starting Cheshire High School this year and reducing the scope.

The Committee agreed to recommend the reappropriation of the unused balance from each year since 2023, which totals $16,365, back to the Board of Education for the continuation of the school composting program. The Committee asked that they have a conversation with the Board of Education first to see if they could find the additional funding that would be needed for this year in the amount of approximately $6,500.

Don Walsh moved to forward the recommendation to reappropriate $16,365 in unencumbered funds to the Board of Education for continuation of the school composting program, contingent upon prior discussion with the Board of Education before further Town Council review. Greg Wolff seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

V. DISCUSSION RE: CHARGING SMART PROGRAM.

Jim Jinks introduced Geremy Schulick of Clean Transportation Communities of Southern CT and asked what the next steps would be for the Charging Smart program and what the town is being asked to do. Geremy Schulick explained that it is a matter of tackling the bronze level requirements, which includes review zoning regulations. Andrew Martelli clarified that a new Plan of Conservation and Development and zoning regulations have been approved and that he could send these over. In addition, he mentioned that there is a proposal from Electrify America for a five-unit installation at Everybody's Plaza. There is also an EV station being installed at Whole Foods near Chase Bank.

Geremy Schulick suggested completing a new self-assessment as well as filling out a memo about zoning regulations and permitting info on the Town's website. He also mentioned that the Town would need a checklist on the website for the EV permitting process. The Town would also need to meet with Eversource to discuss EV collaboration opportunities – incentive programs, electrical capacity at any given site in town. Don Walsh suggested creating a map with priority future locations for EV stations.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Don Walsh motioned to adjourn, and Greg Wolff seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present, 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Attest:

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Noelle Shepard, Management Specialist