



**MEMORANDUM  
TOWN OF CHESHIRE  
84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT 06410  
Telephone (203) 271-6660 FAX (203) 271-6639**

**TO: Town Council**  
**FROM: Sean M. Kimball, Town Manager**  
**SUBJECT: Town Manager’s Report – February 2020**  
**DATE: February 11, 2020**

**State Budget Update & Town Budget Development**

Last week the governor released his proposed FY21 state budget adjustments for the second year of the biennial budget adopted last year. The chart below received from CCM estimates the impact on Cheshire as a slight revenue increase of \$25,469 compared to last year’s adopted budget driven primarily by slightly higher ECS funding. Town staff are continuing to monitor the state budget and any other legislation that could have a financial impact on Cheshire as we begin our budget development.

Grant:	Estimated FY 20	Original FY 21	Gov. Prop. FY 21	Gov. FY 21 v. Orig. FY 21		Gov. FY 21 v. FY 20	
	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(%)	(\$)	(%)
Adult Education	29,176	29,075	28,807	-268	-0.9%	-369	-1.3%
ECS Grant	9,313,574	9,283,257	9,339,412	56,155	0.6%	25,838	0.3%
LoCIP	182,762	182,762	182,762	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Pequot-Mohegan Grant	1,962,440	1,962,440	1,962,440	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	100,980	100,980	100,980	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
PILOT: State-Owned Property	1,317,410	1,317,410	1,317,410	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Town Aid Road	404,496	404,875	404,496	-379	-0.1%	0	0.0%
Grants for Municipal Projects	736,700	736,700	736,700	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Municipal Transition Grant (Car Tax)	0	0	0	0		0	
Municipal Revenue Sharing	0	0	0	0		0	
Municipal Stabilization Grant	241,134	241,134	241,134	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,288,672</b>	<b>14,258,633</b>	<b>14,314,141</b>	<b>55,508</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>25,469</b>	<b>0.2%</b>

As a reminder, I will be presenting the Town Manager’s recommended operating and capital budgets on Tuesday, March 10, 2020. Budget workshops will be scheduled for the following weeks thereafter. This is a “short session” year for the State Legislature so the final adopted budget is expected closer to the end of the session on Wednesday, May 6, 2020. The deadline for Cheshire Town Council operating budget adoption is April 30, 2020.

## **2019 Grand List Filing and Appeal Deadlines**

The net Grand List for October 1, 2019 was filed in a total value of approximately \$2.84 billion which is an increase of \$42.7 million or 1.52% from the October 1, 2018 Grand List. The Grand List is an assessment of all taxable and non-taxable real estate, personal property, motor vehicles, and exceptions. Using the current year's mill rate, this grand list growth represents approximately \$1,418,297 in additional revenue.

The growth in the net Grand List was driven by the following components: Real Estate increased by \$22.6 million or 0.94%, Personal Property increased by \$10.5 million or 6.65%, and Motor Vehicles increased by \$9.6 million or 3.99%.

Property owners wishing to appeal their 2019 Grand List real estate, business personal property assessment or their 2018 supplemental motor vehicle assessment before the Board of Assessment Appeals must submit a written application to the Board on or before **February 20, 2020**. These forms are currently available on the Town website at [www.cheshirect.org](http://www.cheshirect.org) and from the Assessor's Office in the Town Hall at 84 South Main Street. By state statute, an appeal can be heard ONLY if the request has been submitted and received on the prescribed form to the Cheshire Board of Assessment Appeals by **February 20, 2020**.

## **School Modernization Committee – Consultant RFP**

The School Modernization Committee has been holding a number of full committee meetings and subcommittee meetings including teacher and staff outreach, school facility tours both in and out of district and the development of an RFP for Owner's Representation services to assist the committee in developing the modernization plan. The RFP has been advertised and is available on the Town's website with a closing date of Thursday, March 12, 2020.

## **Tennis and Basketball Court Upgrades**

Recreation Director John Gawlak contracted with WBA Group to design/create reconstruction documents for the replacement basketball courts at Youth Center, MacNamara Park and Cheshire Park (utilizing a FY16-17 appropriation of \$135,000). WBA has also designed the renovation to the Cheshire Park tennis courts (FY20 \$290,000) utilizing the Sourcewell purchasing cooperative.

The Basketball courts will be asphalt with acrylic paint and court lines with new goals. For the tennis courts, post tension construction was determined to be cost prohibitive and asphalt will be used as well. Three of the five tennis courts will remain while two will be converted into 6 dedicated pickleball courts. Work should begin this week (weather dependent) on tennis court surface. Thank you to Public Works for assisting in some pre-construction removal of the net posts and fence fabric to allow the project to stay under budget.

## **Jarvis St. Sidewalk Project Status**

The final construction plans for the new sidewalk are complete, and the acquisition of construction easements is in progress. The Public Works & Engineering Dept. anticipates

awarding the contract to Martin Laviero Contractors, Inc. of Bristol CT in the near future for slightly under the Connecticut D.O.T. Connectivity Grant award amount of \$386,100 (excluding traffic control costs). The sidewalk will provide safe pedestrian access to the linear trail from neighborhoods as far west as Guinevere Ridge Road (roughly 0.4 miles). The sidewalk construction, which is to be located along the north side of Jarvis St. is slated to commence in May, and will take about six-weeks to complete.

### **Safe Travels to Ofc. Dave Maliar and Lt. Mike Durkee**

Next week Officer Dave Maliar and Lieutenant Mike Durkee will be traveling to Tanzania as part of an expedition to climb Mount Kilimanjaro as a fundraiser for the Special Olympics of Connecticut. We wish them both safe travels and best of luck on their journey for this great cause.

### **Economic Development Update**

Counter Weight Brewing Company has officially announced plans to relocate to Cheshire as they came to terms on a purchase agreement for property in town. We are excited to welcome this innovative and creative business to town and wish them success as they begin this project. A special thank you to Economic Development Director Jerry Sitko for working very closely with Counter Weight over the past year as we encouraged them to consider potential locations in town.

### **Upcoming Town Council & Sub-Committee Meetings**

#### **Thursday, February 13, 2020**

9:30am – Teacher Staff Input Subcommittee  
(CHS Library)

2:00pm – Teacher Staff Input Subcommittee  
(CHS Library)

#### **Wednesday, February 19, 2020**

2:55pm – Teacher Staff Input Subcommittee  
(Chapman School Library)

7:00pm – School Modernization Committee  
(Location TBD)

#### **Thursday, February 20, 2020**

2:00pm – Teacher Staff Input Subcommittee  
(Highland Library Ref. Room)

#### **Thursday, February 27, 2020**

3:45pm – Teacher Staff Input Subcommittee  
(Norton Library Media Ctr.)

#### **Monday, March 2, 2020**

7:00pm - School Modernization Committee  
Meeting (Location TBD)

#### **Tuesday, March 10, 2020**

7:00pm – Town Council Regular Meeting  
(Council Chambers)