



**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL AND BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING HELD AT 7:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2024,
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 84 SOUTH MAIN ST., CHESHIRE, CT 06410**

Present:

Of the Town Council: Peter Talbot, Chair; Jim Jinks, Vice Chair; Deena Allard, Patricia Cramer, Don Walsh, Greg Wolff, and John Milone

Of the Board of Education: Sam Rosenberg, Chair; Mark Ecke, Anne Marie Cullinan, Adam Grippo, and Tim White (arrived at 7:30 p.m.)

Staff/Guests: Sean M. Kimball, Town Manager; Arnett Talbot, Assistant Town Manager; Noelle Shepard, Management Specialist; Town Attorney Jeffrey Donofrio; Vincent Masciana, Chief Operating Officer of Cheshire Public Schools; Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent of Cheshire Public Schools; Carol Jesensky, Executive Assistant; Jim Jaskot, Finance Director; Police Chief Neil Dryfe; Sgt. Steve Lespier

Absent: Fiona Pearson, David Veleber, and Tony Perugini

Peter Talbot called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Noelle Shepard called the roll for the Town Council, and a quorum was present. Carol Jesensky called the roll for the Board of Education, and a quorum was present.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION, SECURITY STRATEGIES.

Peter Talbot requested a motion to go into executive session pursuant to C.G.S. §1-200(6) to discuss matters concerning security strategies to include the present Town Councilors, Board of Education members, Sean Kimball, Arnett Talbot, Noelle Shepard, Town Attorney Jeffrey Donofrio, Vincent Masciana, Marlene Silano, Carol Jesensky, Police Chief Neil Dryfe, and Sgt. Steve Lespier. Jim Jinks so moved, and Don Walsh seconded the motion.

All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by all those present. The Town Council and Board of Education entered executive session at 7:04 p.m.

The Town Council and Board of Education exited executive session at 9:15 p.m.

4. DISCUSSION ON THE NAMING OF THE NEW SCHOOLS.

Jeff Falk, 560 Mixville Rd., explained that the Town Council received letters advocating for the new schools to be named after Barney Barnum. He mentioned that Barney Barnum has a naval warship named after him, and as a person, he stands for everything that Cheshire wants for their students.

Matt Bowman explained that he was a marine himself. His father was a part of Barney Barnum Day, which helped form his decision to join the Marine Corps. He expressed that they would be remiss to miss this opportunity to name the school after Barney Barnum.

Peter Talbot read the process as listed in the Town's Naming Policy.

Sam Rosenberg recommended creating a committee to solicit naming suggestions as some members of the community may not be aware that we are starting this process.

Peter Talbot explained that they have two years before schools are built, and they have time to solicit feedback from the community. Tim White asked for clarification on what the Medal of Honor is for. Jeff Falk explained that the Medal of Honor was created around the Civil War and just over 3,500 people have been awarded this honor. It is the highest honor awarded to wartime. He provided the history on how Barney Barnum was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the Vietnam War.

Don Walsh expressed his belief that Barney Barnum deserved one of the schools to be named after him. He requested using the Chapman and Darcy names in other parts of the schools to remember those names/individuals.

Peter Talbot asked if the BOE and Town Council Planning Committees taking this up would make sense. Peter Talbot clarified that they can then hash out the details including the public and report back to the Town Council and Board of Education. Jim Jinks stated his desire to name one of the new schools after Barney Barnum.

5. DISCUSSION ON THE NEXT PHASE OF SCHOOL MODERNIZATION.

Vincent Masciana provided an update on the construction of the new schools. At the last School Building Committee meeting, approval was given on the new Norton School to go forward with the design and estimated budget. Both school projects are on schedule.

Sam Rosenberg updated that the Planning Committee of the BOE are discussing the next phase. They would like to revisit the old plans. Peter Talbot asked about the status of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Vincent Masciana stated that the agreement has been signed with CLA, and they have started preliminary work on this.

John Milone suggested waiting to see the new apartment complexes in town and get new data as he feels there are too many unknown questions to jump into planning process. He inquired about consultants. Vincent Masciana confirmed that there has not been a capital budget request to fund a study at this point. They will have to do another enrollment projection next year for the redistricting, so they should have updated data at this time.

Peter Talbot mentioned that at the October 17th Town Council special meeting, they will be discussing what to do with old school buildings. He requested that the BOE keep the Town Council posted on this next phase. He mentioned that the Board of Education and Town Council should hold another joint meeting prior to the end of the year.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Don Walsh motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Jim Jinks seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Attest:

Noelle Shepard, Management Specialist