TOWN OF CHESHIRE

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OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen & Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes – April 26, 2022

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee was held in person at 191 Church St (Cheshire Elementary School) on Tuesday April 26, 2022, at 6:30 PM.

Board of Selectmen Members Present:
Michelle Francesconi - Chair
Jason Levesque, Clerk
Mark Biagini
Ray Killeen
Shawn McGrath

Finance Committee Members Present:
John Tremblay – Chair
Michael Biagini
Heather Emerson
Kathy Levesque
Lenwood "Woody" Vaspra
Denise Gregoire

Others Present: Jennifer Morse, Town Administrator; I Berkshires; Liseann Karandisecky; Corey McGrath; Peter Traub; Richard Keyes; Barbara Bak, Jim Bak.

Michelle Francesconi called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:30 p.m.
John Tremblay called the meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 6:30 p.m.

Public Comment

Richard Keyes, Barbara Bak, and Jim Bak were present to discuss the maintenance of the Lake Roads specifically Shadowland Cove. M. Francesconi noted that the Highway Department had filled in a lot of the larger potholes that day and that she and member S. McGrath had been down the week prior to see the situation firsthand. The board recognizes that more needs to be done and further conversations need to take place between the town and the residents. Peter Traub mentioned that a town meeting vote had been taken regarding the lake roads this information will be researched. R. Killeen reminded those present that the Grader was purchased mainly to maintain the lake roads. Barbara Bak stated that the current condition of the roads is dangerous and hoped that the highway department would return soon.

Line by Line Budget Discussion

MS4- Compliance Project - After discussion it was agreed that this project should be taken from Free Cash

OPEB Study – It was agreed to complete a study every three years and fund the current $6,300 project over three fiscal years at $2,200 per year.

OPEB Funding – J. Tremblay considers this a high priority, D. Gregoire felt that the town was moving in a good direction. At the end of the budget process this line will be reviewed again.

Police Chief Salary - Discussion regarding the salary amount and comparing to other local towns. Michael Biagini said it was like comparing apples to oranges. J. Tremblay felt that comparisons should not be made with communities that have larger tax rates.

Fire Department – Discussion on looking at a stipend or on call pay for fire fighters due to the low volunteer numbers. J. Morse shared that she would work with the Fire Chief to determine what other communities are offering in hopes of retaining and recruiting new members.

Compactor - There was discussion about hauling and overall savings to the town by purchasing a paper compactor. The group would like to have more clarification from the Board of Health regarding the current waste compactor and additional costs that would be incurred.

Cemetery - J. Morse and M. Francesconi confirmed with the Cemetery Superintendent and Commissioners that they would only be hiring three laborers for the summer. There was discussion regarding unemployment costs and that the cemetery laborers are not seasonal employees since they work more than 20 weeks per year.

Water Department - Discussion on the master plan and the requirements of the department regarding staffing. The Board of Selectmen will be meeting with the Water Department at a future meeting.

Hoosac Valley Regional School District - M. Francesconi thanked J. Morse for obtaining the more detailed budget from the school district.

Capital – Backhoe – Discussion regarding purchasing new versus used resulted in the request to have the Highway Superintendent attend a future meeting for further discussion.

Minutes

Finance Committee – *A motion was made by J. Tremblay and seconded by D. Gregoire to accept the meeting minutes of March 29, 2022, and April 12, 2022, as amended.*

Roll Call Vote: J. Tremblay – Yes, Michael Biagini – Yes, K. Levesque – Yes, H. Emerson – Yes, L. Vaspra – Yes, D. Gregoire – Yes

Motion Carries: 6-0

Board of Selectmen – *A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by Mark Biagini to accept the meeting minutes of March 29, 2022, and April 12, 2022, as amended.*

Roll Call Vote: R. Killeen – Yes, Mark Biagini – Yes, M. Francesconi – Yes, S. McGrath- Yes, J. Levesque

Motion Carries: 5-0

Finance Committee Adjournment: A motion was made by Michael Biagini and seconded by H. Emerson to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: J. Tremblay – Yes, Michael Biagini – Yes, K. Levesque – Yes, H. Emerson – Yes, L. Vaspra – Yes, D. Gregoire – Yes

Motion Carries: 6-0

Board of Selectmen Adjournment*: A motion was made by Mark Biagini and seconded by J. Levesque to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m.*

Roll Call Vote: R. Killeen – Yes, Mark Biagini – Yes, M. Francesconi – Yes, S. McGrath- Yes, J. Levesque

Motion Carries: 5-0

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Morse
Town Administrator
May 3, 2022

Approved:
Board of Selectmen – May 5, 2022
Finance Committee – May 5, 2022