TOWN OF CHESHIRE

80 CHURCH STREET | CHESHIRE, MASSACHUSETTS 01225
PHONE (413) 743-1690 | FAX (413) 743-0389

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OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes –November 28, 2023

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held in person at 191 Church Street (Cheshire Community House) on Tuesday November 28, 2023, at 6:00 PM. There was one recording device.

Board of Selectmen Members Present: Shawn McGrath, Chair
Jason Levesque, Vice Chair
Ray Killeen, Member
Ron DeAngelis, Member
Michelle Francesconi, Member

Others Present : Jennifer Morse, Town Administrator ; Corey McGrath, DPW Director ; Corey Swistak, EMD ; Tom Francesconi, Fire Chief ; Mike Alibozek, Police Chief ; Lynn Melchiori ; Bob Tetlow ; Art Kaufman ; Peter Traub ; John Meaney, NBEMS ; Amanda Tobin, NBEMS ; Adam O'Neil, NBEMS; Josh Koch, Adams Ambulance ; Wendy Howe ; Jim Howe ; Fred Balawender, President AAS ; Fran Gwozdz ; Craig Comstock ; DJ Mullany, Adams Ambulance.

Summary of Votes:

- Vote to Transition to NBEMS effective January 1, 2024 5-0
- Vote to approve the Consent Agenda 5-0
- Vote to sign and approve the borrowing note with the lowest bidder being Oppenheimer 5-0
- Vote to open town offices to the public during the Festival of Trees 5-0
- Vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. 5-0

S. McGrath opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

EMS/Ambulance Update – Transition Plan, Public Hearing Recap, Possible vote to transition to NBEMS to provide continuity of services effective January 1, 2024

The Town Administrator started the discussion with updates since the public hearing on November 21, 2023. Adams Ambulance sent a letter to Cheshire dated November 27, 2023, stating that they plan to stay in business, further there have been two meetings with the Office Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) to discuss the citation issued to Adams Ambulance Service (AAS)on November 20, 2023, and corrective actions that need to be taken for AAS to remain in service. OEMS Inspectors are working with Northern Berkshire EMS (NBEMS) and are confident

that NBEMS could take over today. OEMS recommends the signing of an agreement with a provider followed by the creation of a service zone plan in 2024.

S. McGrath turned to the town's public safety team for input. Police Chief Alibozek recommends transitioning to NBEMS as there is not a solid plan in place from AAS to ensure continuity of services. Chief Francesconi stated that AAS has a lack of leadership and poor management. He further shared that the Department has had some bad experiences since AAS announced their closure which have been reported to OEMS. AAS lacks a plan and communication has been poor, he further stated that hope is not a strategy and in good conscience for the public health and safety of the community could not recommend the town move forward with AAS. EMD Corey Swistak echoed the sentiments of both chiefs and recommended that the town move forward with NBEMS.

Fred Balawender, President AAS shared that he was disappointed with the views of the public safety officials and further discussed one of the situations that Chief Francesconi was referring to. He shared that there is a meeting with membership tonight to vote to keep the ambulance in operation and that they have had overwhelming support from the community through social media and fundraising. Fred shared that they have a buyer for the building and with the sale the debt including the mortgage will be paid, AAS staff has a plan in place and operational decisions are being made now, he further stated that he could not talk much about the happenings as the discussion would need to take place in executive session. He said they would like two more weeks to act on the plan with the hope that AAS can remain in business and the two ambulance services can support each other with mutual aid.

M. Francesconi said that Fred's statement was the first time that anyone from Adams Ambulance leadership had spoken about the situation in detail, and she felt is should have happened sooner. She went on to share that the town is now two years into this process, business decisions need to be made not based on emotions but in consideration for the lives and safety of the community. Further she discussed the incident that Chief Francesconi shared and stated that the state regulations had changed on November 10, 2023, no longer allowing first responders to drive an ambulance with a paramedic treating a patient at a paramedic level which was something that the paramedic on scene and the AAS Board of Directors should have been aware of.

S. McGrath asked about the plan to sell the biggest asset that the company has, if the debt is paid off how will they manage moving forward.

Fred Balawender said they plan on doing a much better job of going after bills, insurance companies owe more than $500,000 to AAS, and they are changing billing companies. Further he said that municipal funding is down the road, and he was not sure if it will be needed this year. Fred shared that last year AAS made 507 calls without any restitution such as "falling and can't get up" calls, an ambulance goes and receives no funds. This year "AAS has done 328 calls this year for free, somebody has to pay for that we can't absorb it". Fred went on to say that they understand the need to be transparent and the books are now open to anyone at any time, a decision made by the board.

S. McGrath stated to "make it clear that the Town has been asking for two years for information and we have not been getting" Fred went on to respond that there are certain things that they cannot divulge, changes are taking place, and they are going to have aa much more efficient board. DJ Mullany said that she and the employees now know the financial situation and that there are issues in the station that they are now aware of but there is not a lot they can divulge right now. Michelle pointed out that DJ attended the meeting in 2022 so she was aware of the financial situation of the organization quite some time ago.

The Town Administrator stated that she knows assessments are coming down the road, the board needs to think about which company has the better business plan and plan for the public health and safety of the residents. We

were told that the previous $62K that Cheshire contributed to AAS didn't even put a dent into their financial problems which was a slap in the face to the Town of Cheshire.

S. McGrath acknowledged that everyone knows everyone in the room, and it is emotional situation but believes the town needs to consider the better business plan, further that regionalization of services is coming across the board, acknowledging that there will always be a need for mutual aid.

R. Kileen shared that mistakes of past administrations are forcing the town to look at the best business plans, if true leadership had produced required information we wouldn't be at this point of the discussion. Further he said that he is not a gambling man, he knows NBEMS situation and is aware of what they can provide, Adams Ambulance is a gamble right now, stating that the board must do what is best for the community.

Fred Balawender said that he was thrown in to position 1 ½ months ago and did not want to be the president of the board, however he feels that they have made a lot of head way. Selling the building puts AAS into the black and allows for more time for the organization to get back on their feet. The current debt is $275,000, trucks are owned outright and there won't be a mortgage to pay after the sale, he requested two weeks to present a plan.

The Town Administrator asked Fred about the promise from Hawley for $20,000 per year noting that those promises came from a member of the Hawley, Board of Selectmen who is also an EMT at AAS, however she confirmed with the administrative staff that there has been no discussion on increasing the assessment from $7,080 to $20,000 per year. Further she said that AAS needs a solid plan and not just hopes that a plan will come to fruition.

M. Francesconi cautioned that the buyer of the building is the Board of Selectmen member from Hawley who commented on the $20,000 contribution from their community and is also an EMT who works at AAS She said that many of the decisions being made, such as restructuring the board of directors, are being done very rapidly and she asked how board members were chosen? The search for new board members should have been opened to the community at large.

Fred Balawender shared that he was not at liberty to discuss answers to those questions and needs to go into executive session to do so. He also stated that AAS still plans on helping NBEMS, and that they planned to close on December 31, 2023, but then the building sale came along and gives the organization an opportunity, it would be a shame to turn down the buyer. Fred had to leave the meeting to attend a meeting at AAS.

Ron DeAngelis asked what would happen if AAS was not allowed the extra two weeks? Josh Koch, an AAS EMT, responded that they will negotiate with Adams, Savoy, and Hawley. Further he said that AAS is going to continue and remain in business, becoming a mutual aid partner and doing more transfers to get to a sustainable point. Employees were kept in the dark and found out too late what the situation was. Josh understands the sentiments of the board and people in the room. He said that the ambulance has not shown a whole lot so far but they need the opportunity to show what they can do, stating that the AAS board has a duty to the people and the town to make the right decision. He thinks that AAS will be able to show its worth and it will be much better moving forward, however he understands that previous track record. DJ Mullay said that they will update all the boards at least twice a week for two weeks, that AAS will share and be transparent moving forward, and that they are doing their best to keep the station together to serve the communities.

A motion was made by J. Levesque and seconded by R. DeAngelis to transition to Northern Berkshire EMS effective January 1, 2024.

Discussion:

M. Francesconi asked if the towns will be asked to $25 per person to stay afloat, which would mean approximately $80,000 in taxpayers' dollars, is that still the case? Josh shared that he has seen the figure floated but not in a concrete document. The Town of Cheshire is up against the levy, each year hundreds of thousands of dollars of free cash are used to stay under the levy, the only way the town could pay an assessment is if cuts were made in other areas. S. McGrath noted that in the future a regionalization approach would spread out the subsidy a lot more, M. Francesconi agreed it is coming down the road for sure, R. DeAngelis suggested that the town start putting money aside knowing that at some point we will need to subsidize. M. Francesconi noted that there is another viable solution, NBEMS, that won't have an impact to taxpayers at this time, and this needs to be considered in the decision-making process.

S. McGrath called for a vote on the motion.

Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis - Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; J. Levesque – Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes; S. McGrath- Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by J. Levesque and seconded by R. Killen to approve the consent agenda as presented.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis - Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; J. Levesque – Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes; S. McGrath- Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

1. Minutes – November 14, 2023
2. Warrants - PR and AP

Discussion/Decision Items

a. Borrowing Notes for $500,000 Water Project and $141,000 Highway Truck –
Five bids were received with the lowest bidder being Oppenheimer at 4.50% with a premium of $150, bids were read by S. McGrath
A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to sign the borrowing note for the lowest bidder, Oppenheimer.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis - Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; J. Levesque – Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes; S. McGrath- Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

a. Town of Savoy – Request for plowing assistance
An email from Marie Saucier, Board member in Savoy was shared requesting that the Town of Cheshire plow to the Town Shed in Savoy. The Town Administrator, and DPW Director will meet with Savoy to discuss an Inter-Municipal Agreement for plowing services and will report back to the board.

b. Festival of Trees and Open House
The Town Administrator shared that the Festival of Trees open with the Annual Tree Lighting on Sunday December 3rd. During that time offices will be open to the public.
A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by R. DeAngelis to have the town offices open during the Festival of Trees for the public to view.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis - Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; J. Levesque – Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes; S. McGrath- Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

c. Council on Aging Temporary Employee - Tabled

d. Police Department Grant
The Town Administrator shared that the Police Department was awarded a grant in the amount of $25,347.60 for new tasers.

e. Fire Department Floor
DPW Director Corey McGrath shared that there was a sink hole 3x3 in the fire station floor, emergency repair quotes were obtained and Condron did the repair work.

Town Administrator Updates

a. Board/Committee Policies and Procedures - The Town Administrator shared that she and the Municipal Clerk would begin working with Boards/Committees on Policies and Procedures. Examples include Special Permitting Procedures with the Planning Board, Water Department Billing Policies, Cemetery Burial, and lot sales etc.

Announcement from Board Members- None

Public Comment

Peter Traub asked about the Fire Station Committee - The Town Administrator shared that the opportunity was put on the website today and a few potential candidates have already come forward.

Jim and Wendy Howe, Meadowbrook Lane spoke about the letter they received from the board regarding the plowing and maintenance of Meadowbrook Lane which has been determined to be a private way. Mr. Howe shared that it is indeed used by the public and emergency services for training purposes, they referred to the town meeting vote and a list of roadways that were disused in 2017. Mr. Howe verbally requested the report of roads reviewed, legal opinion, and the criteria used to determine the roadways. It was mentioned that there are disabled and elderly living on the road. The roadway has never been laid out and accepted at a town meeting, the property is all owned by one property owner who does receive rent from the tenants on the property, it does not fit into the category of prescription which is when a roadway is used by the public, connects two roadways, or has multiple property with different ownership.

Adjournment

A motion was made by R. DeAngelis and seconded by J. Levesque to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; J. Levesque – Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes; S. McGrath- Yes
Motion Carries: - 5-0
Respectfully Submitted:
Jennifer Morse
Town Administrator
December 15, 2023

Document List

1. Meeting Agenda November 28, 2023
2. Minutes November 14, 2023
3. Borrowing Note
4. Email from Town of Savoy, Marie Saucier regarding plowing assistance
5. Police Department Grantt notification
6. Festival of Trees Flyer
7. Highway Department Bi-Weekly Log
   Approved: 12/26/23

TOWN OF CHESHIRE

191 CHURCH STREET | CHESHIRE, MASSACHUSETTS 01225
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Board of Selectmen

Meeting Agenda – November 28, 2023
6:30 PM

Cheshire Community House – Meeting Room
(Former Cheshire Elementary School)
Entrance is at the West End of the Building at the ramp.

1. Open Regular Meeting Introductions and Pledge of Allegiance
2. EMS/Ambulance Update – Transition Plan Update, Public Hearing Recap, Possible vote to transition to NBEMS to provide continuity of services effective January 1, 2024. - Police Chief, Fire/EMS Chief, EMD
3. Consent Agenda
   a. Minutes -November 14, 2023
   b. Warrants, PR 24-09, AP 24-10
4. Discussion/Decision Items
   a. Borrowing Note – Water Project & Highway Truck
   b. Town of Savoy – Request for plowing assistance to the Savoy Town Garage on Route 116
   c. Festival of Trees and Open House – December 3rd
   d. Council on Aging Temporary Employee – Three Weeks Late December/January
   e. Police Department Grant - $25,347.60 – Tasers
   f. Fire Department Floor
5. Town Administrator Updates
   a. Board/Committee Policies and Procedures
6. Announcements from Board Members
7. Public Comment
8. Any other business not anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Submitted by: Jennifer Morse – Town Administrator Posted: 11/21/23 @ 4:00 PM

POSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF MGL 30A §§18-25.

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OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes –November 14, 2023

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held in person at 191 Church Street (Cheshire Community House) on Tuesday November 14, 2023, at 6:15 PM. There was one recording device.

Board of Selectmen Members Present: Shawn McGrath, Chair
Jason Levesque, Vice Chair
Ray Killeen, Member
Ron DeAngelis, Member
Michelle Francesconi, Member

Others Present: Jennifer Morse, Town Administrator; Corey McGrath, DPW Director; Lynn Melchiori; Bob Tetlow; Art Kaufman, Peter Traub; Ed Bassi, Historical Commission; Jen DeGrenier, Historical Commission; Lois Nagle; Bob Hitter; Diane Hitter; Cheryl McGuire; Liseann Karandisecky, Historical Commission; Jared Martin, Historical Commission; Tom Francescon, Historical Commission & Fire Chief; Courtney Morehouse, BRPC.

Summary of Votes:

- Vote to approve the Consent Agenda as presented 5-0
- Vote to appoint Ed Bassi to the Historical Commission 5-0
- Vote to appoint Corey McGrath as Alternate to NBSWMD 4-0-1
- Vote to appoint Art Kaufman, Jenny Gadbois, Aarons Singer as members and Lynn Melchiori as Alternate to the Open Space & Recreation Committee 4-0-1
- Vote to approve the 2024 Paid Holiday Schedule 5-0
- Vote to approve the pole request for Stafford Hill Road 5-0
- Vote to discontinue maintenance on Quarry Road, Meadowbrook Lane and Sunrise Terrace due to legal opinion regarding private roadways 4-1-0
- Vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. 5-0

S. McGrath opened the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Joint Meeting with Historical Commission – Recognition of Bob & Diane Hitter Retirement

The Board of Selectmen and Historical Commission recognized Bob & Diane Hitter for their combined thirty - seven years of service on the Historical Commission. Jennifer DeGrenier, Chair of the Historical Commission recognized the accomplishments of the couple in their tenure on the commission (see packet). Shawn McGrath, Chair of the Board of Selectmen presented the couple with a citation from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, House of Representatives.

Consent Agenda

- Minutes – October 17, 2023
- Warrants – PR 24-09; AP 24-10

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to approve the Consent Agenda.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; J. Levesque – Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes; S. McGrath- Yes
Motion Carries: - 5-0

Discussion/Decision Items

- Historical Commission Appointment

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by S. McGrath to appoint Ed Bassi to the Historical Commission.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis -Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; J. Levesque – Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes; S. McGrath - Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

- Northern Solid Waste Management District Alternate

A motion was made by J. Levesque and seconded by R. Killeen to appoint Corey McGrath as Alternate to the Northern Solid Waste Management District.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis -Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; J. Levesque – Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes; S. McGrath -Abstain
Motion Carries: 4-0-1

- Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee

A motion was made by J. Levesque and seconded by S. McGrath to appoint Art Kaufman, Aaron Singer, Jenny Gadbois as members and Lynn Melchiori as an alternate.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis -Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; J. Levesque – Yes; M. Francesconi – Abstain; S. McGrath - Yes
Motion Carries: 4-0-1

Town Administrator Updates

- 2024 Paid Holiday Schedule Approval

A motion was made by J. Levesque and seconded by R. Killeen to approve the 2024 Paid Holiday Schedule as presented.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis -Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; J. Levesque – Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes; S. McGrath - Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

Pole Hearing - National Grid and Verizon – 6:30 p.m.
Stafford Hill Road – National Grid to install 1 JO pole on Stafford Hill Road beginning at a point approx. 0 feet. Northwest of the centerline of the intersection of Pole 3 and Stafford Hill Road and continuing for approximately 135 feet in a Northwest direction. Install midspan pole 3-01, 135 feet Northwest of existing pole 3, on the west side of the road, also for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings for distributing purposes.

National Grid Representative Mike Tatro joined the board to discuss the new mid-span pole with a transformer located on Stafford Hill Road. The Town Administrator shared that the Highway Department has no concerns regarding the location of the proposed pole.

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by R. Killeen to approve the pole as requested by National Grid and Verizon.

Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis -Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; J. Levesque – Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes; S. McGrath - Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan – Courteny Morehouse, BRPC

Courteny Morehouse from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission joined the board to discuss the DRAFT Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaption Plan that has been in the works for two years. The plan identifies the top hazards with input from local officials, public safety officials and the community. The plan opens grant funding through FEMA/MEMA. An expression of interest has been submitted for the remainder of the Route 116 engineering. Courtney said the plan must be approved by MEMA and then FEMA before it is adopted. The hope is to have that completed by January or February; the plan needs to be reviewed every five years.

Discussion/Decision Items

- Community House Update & BRTA Bus Stop – Corey McGrath

DPW Director, Corey McGrath updated the board regarding the Community House/Town Offices move. The cameras and new alarm systems have both been installed. Signage has arrived and is waiting for dig safe for the pole installation, the Youth Center is reapplying for the HVAC grant again this round; the food pantry storage has been relocated in the kitchen and the kitchen is being cleaned out for future use. The ice-skating rink has arrived, and a lot of volunteer time and resources are being utilized. The Festival of Trees is capped at 55 trees and is set to open on December 3rd with the Town Tree Lighting.

The BRTA bus terminal on Railroad Street has been installed, the signs are in with the last remaining piece being the sidewalk installation. The Highway Department has been working on the removal of scrap metal from around the garage, culvert structures have all been cleaned, a new plow has been ordered and the roads are 95% patched in preparation for winter. All tree work will be on hold until spring to see how the winter weather fairs with emergency tree damage.

- Private Roads - Quarry Road, Meadowbrook Lane, Sunrise Terrace

The Town Administrator shared that a legal opinion was sought regarding private roads and the town maintenance of the roadway. In Massachusetts there are three ways in which to approve a Private Road 1. Layout and Annual Town Meeting vote 2. By Prescription that way has been used by the public for at least 20 years not just the property owners and connects two public ways. 3. Declared prior to 1846. All the private roadways were reviewed and three were found to be private roads or driveways, Quarry Road, Meadowbrook Lane, and Sunrise Terrace.

A motion was made by R. DeAngelis and seconded by R. Killeen to notify the property owners impacted that the town will no longer maintain the private roadways.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis -Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; J. Levesque – Yes; M. Francesconi – No; S. McGrath - Yes
Motion Carries: 4-1-0

- Local Options Meal Excise – MGL chapter 64L, Section 2

R. Killen spoke about the local options meal excise tax that generates .075% revenue at establishments that sell food. It was noted that this should be earmarked for discussion on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. The Town Administrator will do some research on the topic and report back to the board.

- Senior Center Temporary Employee – Three weeks late December/January

The Town Administrator shared that the Senior Center meals coordinator will be away at the end of December for three weeks. There was discussion on bringing in a seasonal worker, volunteer, or temp service to cover during this time. The Town Administrator will report back to the board at the next meeting.

Town Administrator Updates

- FY25 Budget Schedule

The FY25 Draft Budget Schedule was in the packet for review, with no comments on the schedule will be forwarded to the department heads. The budget season will be shortened with a February 13, 2024 due date for department operating budget submission.

- Grant Announcements

The Town Administrator shared that the Town has been awarded a Massworks grant in the amount of $890,000 for the Ingalls Road project. A Rural Communities grant has been awarded to finish the North State Route (Route 8) water project from Arnold Court to the Adams Town Line in the amount of $472,000.

- Ambulance Update

The Town Administrator shared that the Ambulance Exploratory Group met with Adams Ambulance and the Towns of Adams and Savoy on November 6, 2023. Present for Cheshire were Shawn McGrath, John Tremblay, Chief Tom Francesconi, Chief Mike Alibozek, EMD Corey Swistak, DPW Corey McGrath and the Town Administrator. By the end of the discussion there was a plan for the towns to support a transition from Adams Ambulance to Northern, Berkshire EMS recognizing the financial struggles of Adams Ambulance.
On Friday November 10, 2023, posts on social media notified the Town that Adams Ambulance plans to close their door on December 31, 2023, no official notification was sent to the communities. On Tuesday November 14, 2023, there was a meeting with the Towns of Cheshire, Town of Adams, Adams Fire District, Adams Ambulance and NBEMS, Adams Ambulance did not show up to that meeting. At the meeting NBEMS shared that a transition plan is in process including garaging locations in both Adams and Cheshire as well as a radio communication plan.
A public hearing will be held on Monday November 20, 2023, at the Cheshire Community House – 6:00 p.m.

- Sandmill Bridge Update

The Town Administrator shared that the appraisals are complete, and DOT has reviewed the appraisals and summary of damages. Thirty day offer letters will be sent to property owners by the end of the week. Legal has the information and will move forward with the review of land taking which will take place in late December.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

A motion was made by R. DeAngelis and seconded by J. Levesque to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; J. Levesque – Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes; S. McGrath- Yes
Motion Carries: - 5-0

Respectfully Submitted:
Jennifer Morse
Town Administrator
November 21, 2023

Document List

1. Meeting Agenda – November 14, 2023
2. Bob and Diane Hitter presentation
3. National Grid and Verizon Pole Hearing

4. Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan
5. DRAFT Minutes – October 17, 2023
6. Cheshire Not Accepted Roads
7. DRAFT Budget Timeline
8. 2024 Paid Holiday Schedule
9. Highway Department Activity Log

From: Marie Saucier
To: Jennifer Morse
Cc: SB Admin
Subject: Savoy Roads
Date: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 2:48:24 PM

Hi Jen,
It was nice to meet you in person last evening. This email is to follow up on our road discussion.

We are trying to put together a plan of action for plowing and sanding without the benefit of a fully staffed highway department. The plan is to ask the neighboring towns to clear the major commuting roads (116 & 8A) then we use independent contractors and work through the secondary roads, while still searching for a full time supervisor and foreman.

Cheshire we are asking to continue up 116 with the plowing /sanding to our town shed. That would make a great turning area. The only concern that could be an issue, is weather up here on the mountain can be significantly different than your starting point in the valley. I am not sure how we can plan for that. Open for suggestions and ideas.

Unfortunately, our select board meets on the same dates as yours so I will be unable to plead our case in person.

Thanks to you and the board for your consideration. I look forward to hearing what is proposed back.

Sincerely,

Marie Saucier
Select board member Savoy

TOWN OF CHESHIRE ANNUAL

Festival of Trees

& TOWN TREE LIGHTING



Sunday, December 3rd

CHESHIRE COMMUNITY HOUSE | 191 CHURCH STREET

4:30 - FESTIVAL OF TREES OPENS TO PUBLIC
5:30 - HAYRIDES TO TOWN CENTER FOR TREE LIGHTING
6:00 - TREE LIGHTING IN TOWN CENTER
6:30 - HAYRIDES RETURN TO COMMUNITY HOUSE FOR CELEBRATION

Festival of Trees | Cookies & Cocoa | Bonfire| Smores | Santa
Raffle Basket Auction | Wreath Display & Contest | Caroling

TREE SPONSORS

LOCAL BUSINESSES MAY SPONSOR A TREE FOR $40
RESERVATIONS DUE BY NOVEMBER 13TH
THEMED TREES NEED TO BE SET UP AND DECORATED BY DECEMBER 2ND

WREATH CONTEST

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO DECORATE A WREATH FOR THE DISPLAY & CONTEST
WREATHS W/ SUPPLIES ARE $25 - RESERVATIONS DUE BY NOVEMBER 13TH
DECORATING WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 28TH AT THE COMMUNITY HOUSE

Questions & Reservations - Contact Corey McGrath at DPW@cheshire-ma.gov
or Whitney Flynn at 413-743-1690 ext. 101 adminasst@cheshire-ma.gov

All event proceeds will benefit the new Cheshire Town Ice Skating Rink

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Office of Grants and Research
35 Braintree Hill Office Park
Braintree, MA 02184
Tel: (617) 725-3301
Fax: (617) 725-0260

MAURA T. HEALEY
Governor

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
Lieutenant Governor

TERRENCE M. REIDY
Secretary

KEVIN STANTON
Executive Director

11/15/2023

Michael Alibozek
Chief
Cheshire Police Department
90 Church St
Cheshire, MA 01225

Dear Chief Alibozek:

I am pleased to inform you that the Cheshire Police Department has been awarded $25,347.60 from the Office of Grants and Research (OGR) to support their Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance, Municipal Law Enforcement Grant Program.

Additional correspondence, including all the necessary documents required to make this award official are included in this email. **Please note, your official start date will be the date that your returned contract is signed and dated by OGR and will terminate on June 30, 2024.**

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Emily Haines, OGR Project Manager at: emily.fontaine@mass.gov

Congratulations on your award. I look forward to working with you and your staff on this important public safety initiative.

Sincerely,

Kevin Stanton
Executive Director

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE BOSTON, MA 02133
(617) 725-4000

MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

11/15/2023

Michael Alibozek, Chief
Cheshire Police Department
90 Church St
Cheshire, MA 01225

Dear Chief Alibozek,

Congratulations! We are pleased to notify you that the **Cheshire Police Department** has been awarded **$25,347.60** in **Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant** funding from the *Municipal Law Enforcement* competitive opportunity offered by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Office of Grants and Research (OGR).

Additional correspondence, including all the documents necessary to make this award official will be forthcoming from OGR. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Emily Haines at 781-535-0079 or emily.fontaine@mass.gov

Once again, congratulations on this award and thank you for your commitment to public safety.

Sincerely,

GOVERNOR MAURA T. HEALEY

LT. GOVERNOR KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL

Cheshire Highway Department

Bi-Weekly

Activity Log

Monday – Blew off/graded Crusher RD, West Mtn Rd, Greylock Rd. Redid Stafford/Richmond Hill where it started to washboard. Put chipper back together. Removed dead batteries/starter from T4, prepped for new ones.

Tuesday – Checked/treated roads where needed, cleaned up battery box/terminals on T4, retorque wheels on T3, fixed minor issues with T10/T2, removed sign from Senior Center.

Wednesday – Yard clean-up out back and started organizing. Graded and started putting millings down. Trip to Perlman to scrap 2 old plows.

Thursday – Patched 3 tons on Lanesboro/Church/Main/Jenks/East Harbor/Fales/Sandmill/School. Made 2nd trip to Perlmans to get rid of 2 more plows, Continued yard clean-up. Picked up plow in Housatonic for T10.

Friday – Placed Millings on Stafford (transfer to gravel), West Mtn (transfer to gravel), and Community House (out back by Youth Center). Finished installing batteries/starter in T4, Moved millings in yard (to be used this winter in hot box), Weed whacked transfer station and mulched leaves on Church/School St, Chipped at transfer station, Built Welding screens, fixed light on T3.

Sat/Sun – Nothing

Monday – Opened hole in floor at fire station, Hooked up sander on pick-up truck, Tested sander on reserve 1 ton, moved jersey barriers from police station to pump house, picked up large branch on Richmond ST, continued picking up and organizing the yard.

Tuesday – Hooked up plows on all trucks and prepped for impending storm, cleaned and organized shop, Switched plow blade onto new plow. Called crews in at 1830 to treat and scrape roads for 3 hours. Dispatch calls at 1210 to state there was a stuck tractor trailer on 116 (called in by S Hungate), topped off with salt, treated and scraped roads (nothing found).

Wednesday – Started at 0500, treated and scrapped roads, fixed janitor mobile (broken hose clamp/no anti-freeze), Fixed water truck (transmission lines), prepped Fd (moved soda machine/Vidmar). Emptied and cleaned trucks