TOWN OF CHESHIRE

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OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes –June 25, 2024

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 June 25, 2024, at 6:30 PM.

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; Peter Traub. Art Kaufman; Attorney Carman; Whitney Flynn; Rebecca Herzog; Mike Tatro, National Grid; Cheryl McGuire & Staff, Stafford Green Inc.; Alisha Hampton.

S. McGrath called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:30 p.m.

Summary of Votes:

Vote to approve the Pole Petition for West Mountain Road	5-0
Vote to approve the First Right of Refusal for Whitney Property	5-0
Vote to approve revised Host Community Agreement, Stafford Green, Inc.	4-0-1
Vote for Fiscal Year 2025 Appointments – see minutes for appointments and votes	
Vote to approve employee vacation roll over requests	5-0
Vote to approve Personnel Policy Changes (4.1 Hiring & 5.0 Town Offered Benefits	4-0-1
Vote to approve Cheshire Rod and Gun Club One Day Liquor Licenses	4-0-1
Vote to approve the Consent Agenda as presented	5-0

Pole Hearing- National Grid West Mountain Road 6:30 p.m.

The pole hearing was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Mike Tatro from National Grid was present. He explained that the new stub pole will be placed on West Mountain Road near 11 North Street (owned by Alisha Hampton) to stabilize the replacement pole at the corner of West Mountain Road and Route 8 (owned by Patrica Roberts). He further explained that the wire is being pulled off the house and if it fails all services on West Mountain and joining roads will lose power, further that the pole being replaced is warped.

Ms. Hampton questioned why the pole is being replaced noting that until recently there has been no issues with the poles, she does not want a pole in her yard and inquired on why the single pole on the property of Ms. Roberts is not enough. Mike Tatro explained that even when the corner pole is replaced it needs to have a stub pole to support. Discussion followed on the new pole, possible alternatives, service outages and pole support.

A motion was made by R. DeAngelis and seconded by R. Killeen to allow National Grid to install a stub pole in the location on West Mountain Road.
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
First Right of Refusal – Eric Whitney - 1.38 Acres
Attorney Carman representing Eric Whitney explained that Mr. Whitney is looking to remove 1.38 acres of land on Ingalls Road from Chapter 61A status for a building lot for his cousin.
A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by M. Francesconi to sign the First Right of Refusal for the building lot located on Ingalls Road.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 5-0

Stafford Green – Host Community Agreement
The Town Administrator shared that counsel has reviewed the boiler plate agreement provided by the state and recommends that the board sign the Host Community Agreement.
A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by R. Killeen to approve the Host Community Agreement with Stafford Green, Inc. as presented
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Abstain, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 4-0-1

Fiscal Year 2025 Appointments
A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint Jennifer Morse as ADA Compliance Officer
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 5-0

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint Ray Killeen as BRTA Representative
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Abstain, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 4-0-1

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint Whitney Flynn to the Board of Registrars.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 5-0

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint Brian Duval as Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer and Rick Reed as Assistant Building Commissioner
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 5-0

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint Mary Stucklen and Ray Killeen to the Conservation Commission.
It was noted that R. DeAngelis does not accept the appointment to the Conservation Commission.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – No, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 4-1-0

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint Val Tyska, Peter Traub and John Bianchi as Council on Aging Members, also Suzanne Boyle and Doreen Aleschevich as Alternate members of the Council on Aging.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 5-0

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint Corey McGrath as DPW Director.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Abstain
Motion Carries – 4-0-1

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint Alison Warner as Election Official
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 5-0

A motion was made by J. Levesque and seconded by R. DeAngelis to appoint Michael Alibozek, Tom Francesconi, Christopher (CJ)Garner, Corey McGrath, Shawn McGrath, Jennifer Morse and Corey Swistak to the Emergency Management Committee.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Abstain, S. McGrath – Abstain
Motion Carries – 3-0-2

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint Corey Swistak as Emergency Management Director and Shawn McGrath as Assistant Emergency Management Director.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Abstain
Motion Carries – 4-0-1

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint Jason Mendonca and Corey Swistak as Assistant Fire Chief.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 5-0

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint Gary Trudeau to the Greylock Advisory Board.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 5-0

A motion was made by M. Francesconi to appoint Liseanne Karandisecky, Jennifer DeGrenier and Jared Martin to the Historical Commission and Corey McGrath as an Alternate to the Historical Commission.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Abstain
Motion Carries – 4-0-1

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint Corey McGrath as Keeper of the Flags.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Abstain
Motion Carries – 4-0-1

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint Liseanne Karandisecky, Robert Balawender, Corey McGrath, Timothy Garner and Robin Poirot to the Memorial Day Committee.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Abstain
Motion Carries – 4-0-1

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint Jennifer Morse as Municipal Hearing Officer.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 5-0

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint Michael Kruszyna to the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District and Corey McGrath as Alternate to the Northern Berkshire 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

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by R. DeAngelis to appoint Liseanne Karandisecky, Jason Levesque, Aaron Singer, Art Kaufman and Jenny Gablois to the Open Space and Recreation Committee and Peter Traub as Alternate to the Open Space and Recreation Committee.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Abstain, M. Francesconi- Abstain, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 3-0-2

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint Mike Biros and Plumbing/Gas Inspector and John Burzimati as Assistant Plumbing/Gas Inspector.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 5-0

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint Art Kaufman as Alternate to the Planning Board.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 5-0

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint Mike Alibozek as Police Chief, David Tarjick as Seargeant, Cody Alvarez, Aaron Goodell, Robert "Sam" Hungate, Claude Jean- Calixte and Matthieu Mercier as Police Officers.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 5-0

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint Timothy Garner, Robert Mallett, Paul Maloney and David Sinopoli as Special Police Officers.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 5-0

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint Robin Poirot, Corey McGrath, Chirstopher CJ Garner, Timothy Garner to the Recreation Committee.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 5-0

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint the Board of Selectmen members as the Rent Control Board.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 5-0

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint Jennifer Morse as Town Administrator with the term ending June 30, 2027.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 5-0

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint Barry Emery and Richard Salvi as Town Perambulator.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 5-0

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint McNicol and Tombs and Town Council and Costa, Tellerman and Mead as Special Council.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 5-0

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint Rebecca Herzog as Treasurer/Collector and Whitney Flynn as Assistant Treasurer/Collector.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 5-0

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint Corey McGrath as Tree Warden and Corey Swistak as Assistant Tree Warden.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Abstain
Motion Carries – 4-0-1

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint George Sweet as Wiring Inspector and Leslie Rhinemiller as Assistant Wiring Inspector.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 5-0

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint Dale Grimshaw, Stephen Marko and Thomas Zappula to the Zoning Board of Appeals, additionally appoint Jared Martin and Jeffrey Reynolds as Alternates to the Zoning Board of Appeals.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 5-0

Employee Vacation Time Roll Over Requests
The Town Administrator shared that there are three employees who will likely have more than one week of time to roll over into the new fiscal year, she asked for permission for these employees to use the time allotted within the first full pay period of Fiscal Year 2025 (deadline July 15, 2024), all employees with up to one week of time remaining will be rolled over into Fiscal Year 2025.
A motion was made by J. Levesque and seconded by M. Francesconi to approve the roll overs as recommended by the Town Administrator
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 5-0

Leland Park Proposal Discussion
The Town Administrator suggested utilizing ARPA funds for the project, the police station windows were previously earmarked but will likely be eligible for funding with Green Communities designation funds. The board

would like to move forward with quotes and the Town Administrator will create a Request for Quotes since the project is estimated to be worth less than $50,000.

Personnel Policy Changes

The Town Administrator proposed two changes to the policies. Policy 4.1 Hiring adds language for internal postings of vacancies and Police 5.0 Town Offered Benefit Package adds language for acknowledgement of years of service. The changes were included in the packet for review.

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to approve the changes to the personnel policies as presented.

Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Abstain, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 4-0-1

Library, Historical, Town Hall Sign

Discussion on the name of the former Town Hall for the new sign, the board would like to solicit input from the community on the name. M. Francesconi shared that she had several suggestions of Old Town Hall with historical spelling. The Town Administrator will post on the website requesting feedback from community members.

Cheshire Rod and Gun Club Licenses

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by R. Killeen to approve the one-day liquor licenses for July 2024.

Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, J. Levesque – Abstain, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries – 4-0-1

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by R. DeAngelis 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

- Minutes – June 11, 2024
- Accounts Payable, Payroll Warrants
  Adams Cheshire Youth Football – Field Use Request

C. McGrath requested that Adams Cheshire Youth Football remove their equipment from the center of the field for lawn mowing purposes.

Town Administrator Updates

The Town Administrator asked the DPW Director to update the board on the Chip Sealing that was completed. C. McGrath shared that Chip Sealing is a pavement preservation plan using 10% rubberized material with a single layer of stone, which is rolled and swept. All roads in town were reviewed and only four were eligible for this process, the chip sealing added approximately seven years of life to the roadway. He also pointed out the DOT recommends and suggests road preservation plans and looks at grants favorably if the town has done everything possible.

The Town Administrator shared that she will be requesting a meeting with Aaron Dean soon and asked S. McGrath if he would like to attend.

Announcement from Board Members- None

Public Comment

C. McGrath shared that there is s active water main break on Outlook Avenue that will be worked on Wednesday. He also shared that the paper compactor has been received and will be installed next week.

Any other business not anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting

Adjournment:

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

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

Document List

- Agenda - June 25, 2024
- Pole petition
- Ballot questions
- FY25 Appointments
- Stafford Green Inc. Host Community Agreement
- Churchill Gardens Inc. Proposal
- Personnel Policies edits
- Draft Minutes - June 11, 2024
- Adams Cheshire Youth Football- Facility Use Form
- Cheshire Highway Department Bi-Weekly Report

Approved: July 9, 2024