TOWN OF CHESHIRE

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OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes –September 10, 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 September 10, 2024, at 6:30 PM. This was a joint meeting as posted with the Town of Adams, Board of Selectmen and the Hoosac Valley Regional School District School Committee.

Cheshire Board of Selectmen Members Present:	Shawn McGrath, Chair Jason Levesque, Vice-Chair Ron DeAngelis, Member Michelle Francesconi, Member
Cheshire Board of Selectmen Members Absent:	Ray Killeen, Member
Adams Board of Selectmen Members Present:	John E. Duval, Chair Christine Hoyt, Vice Chair Joseph Nowak, Member
Adams Board of Selectmen Members Absent:	Richards Blanchard, Member Ann Bartlett, Member
Hoosac Valley Regional School District School Committee:	Adam Emerson, Chair Erin Milne, Vice Chair John F. Duval, Member Andy Przystanski, Member Fred Lora, Member Bob Tetlow, Member Mike Henault, Member

Others Present: Jennifer Morse, Cheshire Town Administrator; Aaron Dean, HVRSD Superintendent; Jay Green, Adams Town Administrator, Bri Hantman, Adams Executive Assistant; Erika Snyder, HVRSD Business Manager; Corey McGrath, DPW Director; Whitney Flynn, Cheshire Town Clerk; Haley Meczywor, Adams Town Clerk.

S. McGrath called the meeting of the Cheshire Board of Selectmen to order at 6:30p.m.
J. E. Duval called the meeting of the Adams Board of Selectmen to order at 6:30 p.m.
A. Emerson called the meeting of the Hoosac Valley Regional School District Committee to order at 6:30 p.m.

Joint Meeting with the Town of Adams Board of Selectmen and Hoosac Valley Regional School District
Meet with the Town of Adams Board of Selectmen to appoint a moderator for the special district-wide meeting according to MGL Chapter 71, Section 16B and to discuss logistics of the meeting to be held on Monday September 30, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at Hoosac Valley Middle/High School located at 125 Savoy Road, Cheshire.

S. McGrath stated that the Town of Cheshire is hoping to appoint a moderator who is a third party and not the appointed moderator from either Town. Town Administrator Green stated that he spoke with Tom Bernard, previous mayor of the City of North Adams. Former Mayor Bernard would be happy to moderate the meeting.

Cheshire Motion: A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint former mayor Tom Bernard as moderator for the special district wide meeting.
Cheshire Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes ; J. Levesque – Yes ; S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries: 4-0

Adams Motion: A motion was made by C. Hoyt and seconded by J. Nowak to appoint former mayor Tom Bernard as moderator for the special district wide meeting.
Adams Vote: Unanimous
Motion Carries: 3-0

S. McGrath stated that several people asked questions regarding the logistics of the meeting. Town Administrator Morse stated that a secret vote would be the same format as a Town Meeting. Chairman Duval stated that in the Town of Adams votes are done by voice vote.

Superintendent Dean stated that everyone should be prepared with paper should a motion be made on the floor to move to a secret vote.

Town Administrator Morse stated that the Town Clerks will need whichever person is appointed to be prepared to count the votes. Chairman McGrath asked if both boards should be sat as boards. Yes, school district in the middle and boards on the side.

Superintendent Dean stated that there are two entrances for the auditorium. One will be set up as a Cheshire entrance and one as an Adams entrance. That will expedite the check-in process.

There was a discussion about technology being used to set up an overflow room if the attendance of the meeting exceeds 550. In the event of a ballot vote, individuals can make their way to the auditorium.

Member Nowak asked if someone has to make a motion to move to silent vote. He also asked when the date of this meeting would be established. It was clarified that the meeting has already been established as September 30th and yes, someone would need to make a motion on the floor to move to a secret ballot.

Vice-chair Hoyt asked if the warrant for the meeting will be drafted by the school district. Yes, they will also appoint a secretary for the meeting.

A discussion regarding the count of votes ensued. The Cheshire Board asked how many people should be present to count votes and if it should be the same amount for each community. The Adams Town Clerk stated that she usually has six vote counters present, due to the size of Adams. The Town Clerks of Adams and Cheshire stated that they will work together to establish how many vote counters should be brought. It was noted that the same number of counters from each community will be present.

Cheshire Motion: A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque that the two Town Clerks formalize the vote count process by establishing an equal number of counters from each community.
Cheshire Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes ; J. Levesque – Yes ; S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries: 4-0

Adams Motion: A motion was made by C. Hoyt and seconded by J. Nowak that the two Town Clerks formalize the vote count process by establishing an equal number of counters from each community.
Adams Vote: Unanimous
Motion Carries: 3-0

Regarding the secret vote, the two towns will work together to get yes/no cards (uniform) and boxes for votes.

Adjournment

Town of Adams Board of Selectmen - A motion was made by C. Hoyt and seconded by J. Nowak to adjourn the Adams Board of Selectmen meeting at 6:59 p.m.
Vote: Unanimous

Hoosac Valley Regional School District – A motion was made by and seconded to adjourn the HVRSD School Committee meeting at 6:59 p.m.
Vote: Unanimous

Special Town Meeting – Tentative Date

The Town Administrator asked that the board set a tentative date for a Special Town meeting if the school budget is to pass at the September 30th meeting. The warrant needs to be posted for fourteen days, and she is recommending Monday October 21st or Tuesday October 22nd. The moderator has confirmed that those dates work for her. Discussion ensued on the only viable option for funding the school budget is through reserves. The board will move forward with a tentative date of Monday October 21, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Hutchinson Development Water Update

The Town Administrator shared that she contacted Mike Kulig operator of the Hutchinson Water LLC. and was put in contact a staff member of the DEP Drinking Water Program. She shared testing results and information regarding the high levels of Radium in the water. Hutchinson Water LLC. will be required to test quarterly for both radium 226 & 228, after four consecutive quarters of monitoring with high levels it is a violation of the drinking water regulations. If a violation occurs Hutchinson Water Co. will have to develop a corrective action plan, any proposed treatments must be permitted and approved by DEP. DEP is also conducting a sanitary survey of the water system later in September. C. McGrath shared that the Town Water system was just tested for radium and levels are within the normal range.

Announcements from Board Members

M. Francesconi asked that a complaint regarding Shadowland Cove be on the next agenda.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment:

A motion was made by J. Levesque and seconded by M. Francesconi to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath – Yes

Motion Carries – 4-0

Document List

1. Agenda – September 10, 2024
2. Email Christein Simard DEP re : Hutchinson Water LLC.

Approved: 10/1/24