TOWN OF CHESHIRE

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OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes –March 18, 2025

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 March 18, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Others Present: Jennifer Morse, Town Administrator; Mike Tatro, National Grid; Sabrina Damms, iBerkshires; Steven Palermo; Patricia Palermo; Peter Traub; Lynn Melchiori; Corey McGrath, DPW Director.

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

Summary of Votes:

- Vote to close the pole hearing at 6:44 p.m. 4-0
- Vote to approve Berkshire Running Foundation Special Permit Applications 4-0
- Vote to appoint Cheryl McGuire as Alternate to the Recreation Committee 3-0-1
- Vote to approve the account payable and payroll warrants 4-0
- Vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m. 4-0

Pole Hearing - 6:30 p.m.

a. National Grid requests permission to locate poles, wires and fixtures including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way: *Horns Beach Road - National Grid to install 3 SO poles on Horns Beach Road beginning at the point approximately 150 feet South -West of the centerline of the intersection of Lanesboro Road and Horns Beach Road and continuing approximately 600 feet in a South-West direction. National Grid will be replacing anchor on existing P5 Horns Beach Road and existing P4 Horns Beach Road. Install P8 approximately 150 feet South-West of new P9. Install P7 approximately 160 feet South -West of new P8. Install P6 approximately 160 feet South-West of P7.*
b. National Grid and Verizon requests permission to locate poles, wires and fixtures including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way: *Lanesboro Road - National*

Grid to install 1 JO pole on Lanesboro Road beginning at a point approximately 25 North-East of the centerline of the intersection of Lanesboro Road and Horns Beach Road, National Grid proposes to install P9 approximately 150 feet North -East of existing P10.

c. National Grid requests permission to locate poles, wires and fixtures including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way: *Lanesboro Road – National Grid to install 1 SO* pole on Lanesboro Road beginning at a point approximately 25 feet North-East of the centerline of the intersection of Lanesboro Road and Horns Beach Road. National Grid proposes to install P9-10

Mike Tatro, National Grid explained that an external engineer was involved and the poles on Horns Beach Road are on private property owned by Steven and Patricia Palmero. The petitions were withdrawn until an easement with the property owners can be obtained. The petitions will come back to the Town for the approval of the Lanesboro Road poles.

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to close the pole hearing at 6:44 p.m.

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

Board of Selectmen Discussion/Decision Items

- Berkshire Running Foundation

  The special permit applications were reviewed for the Steel Rail Races and Pedal & Plod. The organizer was able to clarify questions regarding the race route and details for the Police Chief who is satisfied and approves the permits.

  A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to approve the Berkshire Running Foundation Special Permit applications.

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

- Interim Treasurer/Collector Update

  The Town Administrator shared that new Treasurer/Collector has been with the town for three days, he has adjusted the accrual information within the payroll system, timesheets will be done in a new format which has been put into place – no longer utilizing Time and Attendance within the Harpers payroll system, vendor checks were mailed. Ben has been in contact with the banks and has arranged with vendors for all tax bills to go directly to the taxpayer moving forward. M. Francesconi noted for taxpayers in the room that there will be one bill per envelope so taxpayers with multiple parcels will receive more than one envelope, mailing services ultimately save on postage and as S. McGrath pointed out are more time efficient.

- Appointment - Cheryl McGuire Alternate Recreation Committee

  The Town Administrator shared that Cheryl McGuire has been volunteering with the Recreation Committee and is interested in an Alternate Member position.

  A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by R. Killeen to appoint Cheryl McGuire as Alternate to the Recreation Committee

  Roll Call Vote: R. Killeen- Yes, J. Levesque- Abstain, S. McGrath- Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes
  Motion Carries: 3-0-1

M. Francesconi noted that she would like to be appointed in the future to the Recreation Committee as she attends all the meetings and helps plan events, it was noted that she could be put on the committee as a Board of Selectmen member and the Town Administrator read from the state ethics webpage "positions on Board subcommittee and positions held ex-officio by virtue of your Selectman's position are considered to be a part of your Selectman's position, and therefore do not trigger the restriction of Section 21A. Generally, you may serve on a Board subcommittee, so long as your position on the subcommittee would terminate if you were to resign from Selectmen. Similarly, you may serve ex-officio on another municipal committee that reports to the Board, as long as the committee membership would automatically terminate should you resign as Selectmen. For example, you may serve on a Recreation Commission as the selectmen's representative on that board, as required by the town's charter."

Consent Agenda

- Minutes - March 4, 2025, and March 7, 2025 – Postponed
- Account Payable and Payroll Warrant

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to approve the account payable and payroll warrant.

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

Town Administrator Update

Berkshire Village

The Town Administrator shared that she had communicated with M. Shapiro Real Estate regarding the outstanding tax due from tenants' payments, they provided rolls back to December 2023 and from July 1 – November 30 was estimated. The total amount due is $22,729 which M. Shapiro Real Estate stated was going to be mailed in full.

Budget Review

The 1st Draft of the FY26 budget was reviewed with questions regarding:
The split of accounting software, showing the accounting software and the new purchase order software, Assessors contracted services and setting up a stabilization account for revaluation years, salary increases of 2% plus dollar increments to bring staff closer to the average payrate from the Classification and Compensation plan. The first budget hearings will be on April 1st scheduled to date is the Berkshire Health Alliance to discuss inspectional services. The school districts will be attending meetings on April 15th.

Announcements

R. Killeen shared that the Conservation Commission is meeting on Monday March 24th to discuss the former Country Charm property and work being done on the property in relation to MS4 and the wetlands.

M. Francesconi shared that the Firemen's Ball is scheduled for Saturday May 3, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. – Midnight with a plated meal from Common Table and a DJ. Tickets are available online.

Public Comment - None

Any other business not anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting. - None

Adjournment

A motion was made by J. Levesque and seconded by R. Killeen to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted

Jennifer Morse
March 20, 2025
Document List

1. Agenda – March 18, 2024
2. Pole petitions
3. Berkshire Running Foundation Special Permit Applications
4. Highway Department Bi-Weekly Report

Approved: April 1, 2025