TOWN OF CHESHIRE

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OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes –June 24, 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 June 24, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Others Present: Jennifer Morse, Town Administrator; Roger LaChance; Jeanine Gerold; Sabrina Damms, iBerkshires; Peter Traub; Michael Alibozek, Police Chief

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

Police Chief Appointments

Chief Alibozek joined the board to discuss annual appointments of Police Officers and Special Police Officers. The Chief requested that two new part-time officers be appointed as two of the current part-time officers have other obligations. Officer Bergeron is a full-time military recruiter who was working in another municipality part-time, that city is transitioning to all full-time only officers, he has been through the academy and the Chief is working with him to get his credentials including firearms training which he completed today. Officer Kirchman is working as an officer at MCLA, after six months they will send him to the full-time academy, he has a background in law enforcement coming from the Town of Clarksburg, the Chief would like to put him on a month-to-month training/certification schedule. The Chief was asked to put the monthly expectations into writing.

R. Killeen stressed that for all officers he gets concerned about stress and fatigue and asked that the Chief monitor this for all officers including himself.

The Chief asked to appoint Robert "Sam" Hungate as a Special Police Officer.

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to approve the appointments as presented adding Officer Hungate as a Special Police Officer and Officer Kirchman disclaimer in writing.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen- Yes, J. Levesque – Yes, M. Francesconi – Yes, S. McGrath- Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

Police Officer Name	Rank
Michael Alibozek	Police Chief
Aaron Goodell	Police Officer – Full Time
Claude Jean-Calixte (JC)	Police Officer – Full Time
Brian Bergeron	Police Officer – Part Time
Peter Kirchman	Police Officer – Part Time
Matthieu Mercier	Police Officer – Part Time
Timothy Garner	Special Police Officer
Robert Mallett	Special Police Officer
Don Poirot	Special Police Officer
David Sinopoli	Special Police Officer
Robert "Sam" Hungate	Special Police Officer

FY26 Appointments
The Town Administrator shared the Recreation Committee and Memorial Day Committee has been meeting jointly and discussed having one Cheshire Events Committee with subcommittees for events.

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to create a Cheshire Events Committee.
Vote: Unanimous

A motion was made by J. Levesque and seconded by R. Killeen to appoint ***Robin Poirot, Corey McGrath, Christopher Garner, Tim Garner, Liseann Karandisecky, Cheryl McGuire, Michelle Francesconi, Robert Balenwander and Carol Francesconi*** *to the* ***Cheshire Events Committee.***
Vote: 3-0-2 S. McGrath and M. Francesconi abstained

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by M. Francesconi to appoint ***Jennifer Morse*** *as* ***ADA Compliance Officer.***
Vote: 5-0

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint ***Jazu Stine and Valerie Bird*** *as* ***Animal Inspector.***
Vote: 5-0

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint ***Raymond Killen*** *as* ***Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Representative.***
Vote: 4-0-1 R. Killeen abstained

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by M. Francesconi to appoint ***Brian Duval*** *as* ***Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer.***
Discussion: There was discussion about separating the positions in the next year, the Town Administrator reminded the board that the town will be entering in to Building Department regionalization discussions with abutting towns in the coming months and this can be taken into consideration.
Vote: 5-0

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint ***Brett Gelinas, Mary Summers, Raymond Killen and Ronald DeAngelis (Alternate)*** *to the* ***Conservation Commission.***
Vote: 3-0-2 R. Killeen and R. DeAngelis abstained

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint ***Mal Gwozdz and Suzanne Boyle as full members and Doreen Aleshevich as an alternate*** *to the* ***Council on Aging****.*
Vote: 5-0

A motion was made by J. Levesque and seconded by R. Killeen to appoint ***Corey McGrath*** *as* ***DPW Director.***
Vote: 4-0-1 S. McGrath abstained

A motion was made by J. Levesque and seconded by R. DeAngelis to appoint ***Michael Alibozek, Tom Francesconi, Christopher Garner, Corey McGrath, Shawn McGrath, Jennifer Morse and Corey Swistak*** *to the* ***Emergency Management Committee****.*
Vote: 3-0-2 S. McGrath and M. Francesconi abstained

A motion was made by J. Levesque and seconded by R. Killeen to appoint ***Corey Swistak*** *as* ***Emergency Management Director*** *and* ***Shawn McGrath*** *as* ***Assistant Emergency Management Director***
Vote: 4-0-1 S. McGrath abstained

*A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint J****ason Mendonca, Corey Swistak and E. Shawn Martin*** *as* ***Assistant Fire Chief****.*
Vote: 5-0

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint ***Gary Trudeau*** *to the* ***Greylock Advisory Committee.***
Vote: 5-0

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint ***Adam Healey as Harbormaster and Paul Maloney as Assistant Harbormaster.***
Vote: 5-0

*A motion was made by J. Levesque and seconded by R. Killeen to appoint G****eorge Reynolds (Term Expires 2027), Tom Francesconi (Term Expires 2028) and Corey McGrath (Alternate) to the Historical Commission.***
Vote: 3-0-2 S. McGrath and M. Francesconi abstained

A motion was made by J. Levesque and seconded by M. Francesconi to appoint ***Corey McGrath as Flag Keeper.***
Vote: 4-0-1 S. McGrath abstained

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint ***Jennier Morse as Hearing Officer.***
Vote: 5-0

A motion was made by J. Levesque and seconded by R. Killeen to appoint ***Corey McGrath as Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Representative and Jennifer Morse as Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Alternate.***
Vote: 4-0-1 S. McGrath abstained

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by M. Francesconi to appoint ***Liseanne Karandisecky, Jason Levesque, Art Kaufman, Jenny Gablois and Peter Traub to the Open Space and Recreation Committee.***
Vote: 4-0-1 J. Levesque abstained

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by M. Francesconi to appoint ***Mike Biros as Plumbing/Gas Inspector and John Burzimati as Assistant Plumbing/Gas Inspector.***
Vote: 5-0

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint ***Barry Emery and Rick Salvi as Town Perambulators.***
Vote: 5-0

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Leveque to appoint ***Donna McNicol as Town Counsel and Costa Tellerman and Mead as Special Counsel.***
Vote: 5-0

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint ***Ben Gelb as Treasurer.***
Vote: 5-0

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint ***Susan King as Collector.***
Vote: 5-0

A motion was made by J. Levesque and seconded by R. Killeen to appoint ***Corey McGrath as Tree Warden.***
Vote: 4-0-1 S. McGrath abstained

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint ***George Sweet as Wiring Inspector and Leslie Rhinemiller as Assistant Wiring Inspector.***
Vote: 5-0

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to appoint ***Stephen Marko and Thomas Zappula as full-members and Robert Balawender, Jared Martin and Jeff Reynolds as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals***
Vote: 5-0

Rental Space
The Town Administrator shared that Nocher Real Estate has a tenant interested in a twelve month lease at the Cheshire Athenaeum, second floor office space. Alisha Hampton has run a design business for the last two years. Nocher Real Estate runs a credit check, eviction check and criminal history and all

checked out exceptionally. The space she is looking for is the former Town Administrator office on the second floor, the rent is $225 per month. The library has been contacted with the lease information.

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to enter a twelve-month lease with Alisha Hampton for office space on the second floor of the Cheshire Athenaeum..
Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen- Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath- Yes, J. Levesque- Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

Personnel Policies – Section 5.1 Benefits Vacation Buy Back
The Town Administrator shared that changes include moving the definitions of exempt and non-exempt employees from section 2 to this section, highlighting that exempt employees are not allowed compensation time, this will also remain in section 2 (definitions). Additionally, a sentence was added under section 5.2 Vacation " Employees can buy back up to one week of vacation with the approval of the department head, notification will be made to the Treasurer so time can be adjusted accordingly." After discussion it was decided to add "Vacation buy back must be requested and paid out in the month of June.".

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to approve the personnel policies changes with edits as discussed.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen- Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath- Yes, J. Levesque- Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

Also reviewed with the vacation roll over and buy back requests for fiscal year 2025.
A motion was made by J. Levesque and seconded by R. Killeen to approve the vacation roll over and buy backs for Fiscal Year 2025.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen- Yes, M. Francesconi- Yes, S. McGrath- Abstain, J. Levesque- Yes
Motion Carries: 4-0-1

Cheshire Rod and Gun Club Liquor License
A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by R. DeAngelis to approve the one-day liquor license for the Cheshire Rod and Gun Club on July 12, 2025.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, M. Francesconi – Yes, S. McGrath- Abstain, J. Levesque – Abstain
Motion Carries: 3-0-2

Consent Agenda
- Minutes – Postponed
- Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to approve the Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants as submitted.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes, R. Killeen – Yes, M. Francesconi – Yes, S. McGrath- Yes, J. Levesque – Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

Town Administrator Updates

Small Municipal Bridge Grant - $500,000 The award announcement has been officially received for the West Mountain Bridge project. The notice to proceed will be forwarded in September. The Town Administrator will speak with the town attorney after her vacation regarding a temporary easement from the abutter so the project can move forward in the next construction season. The timing may align to hold a vote for the temporary easement at the same time as the Hoosac Valley Regional School District agreement vote.

Bear Proof Receptable Grant - $3,500 A grant was awarded to purchase two bear proof trash receptacles, one to be placed at the Father Tom Campsite and the other on Community House grounds.

Supplemental Budget - The Town Administrator shared that an earmark is in the budget for $100,000 for engineering on Route 116, she will be contacting the engineer to get an updated proposal to the remaining phases of the work. Also within the budget is a line item for $100,000 to conduct a regionalization study between North Adams Schools, Hoosac Valley Regional School District and the Northern Berkshire School Union.

The Town Administrator shared that the total grants/funding obtained by her office Fiscal Year 2022 – Fiscal Year 2025 is $3,742,701.

Announcements

M. Francesconi noted that the Cheshire Hoedown is scheduled for Saturday July 12, 2025, she asked the iBerkshires reported to do a story if possible.

Public Comment – None

Adjournment

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

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

Motion Carries: 5-0

Respecfully Submitted;
Jennifer Morse
Town Administrator
June 27, 2025

Document List

1. Agenda – June 24, 2025
2. FY26 Appointment List
3. Personnel Polices section 5.1
4. West Mountain Road Grant Announcement
5. Council on Aging Update
6. Email re: Notification of Acceptance of Local Option

Approved: 7/8/25