TOWN OF CHESHIRE

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OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes –July 8, 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 July 8, 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; Mike Tatro, National Grid; Joe Scalise, National Grid; Lynn Melchiori; Tom Francesconi, Fire Chief; Corey McGrath, DPW Director.

Summary of Votes:

Vote to approve pole petition 30966198 – West Mountain Road	5-0
Vote to approve pole petition 30978852 – Lanesborough Road	4-0-1
Vote to approve the Special Town Election Warrant – August 4, 2025	5-0
Vote to appoint Tom Francesconi as Fire Chief term expires June 2028	3-0-2
Lora McGrath to the Board of Registrars term expires June 2027	
Karen Daigle to the Board of Registrars term expires June 2028	
Vote to approve the FY25 Line-Item Transfers	5-0
Vote to approve the Consent Agenda with edits to the minutes	5-0
Vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m.	

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

Pole Hearings – 6:30 p.m.

a. 30966198 - West Mountain Road – National Grid to install 2 JO poles on West Mountain Road beginning at the point approximately 0 Feet North of the centerline of the intersection of pole 1 and West Mountain Rod and continuing approximately 8 feet in a South direction. National Grid is proposing to install pole 1 approximately 8 feet South of existing Pole 1 on the side of West Mountain Road and to install Pole 2, approximately 6 feet South of existing P-2 side of the road.

Mike Tatro from National Grid explained that two poles would be placed on the left side of West Mountain Road from Route 8. The pole placement was redesigned and presented due to excavation work at 12 South Street that would not support the original proposal.

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to approve pole petition 30966198 as presented.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; M. Francesconi- Yes; J. Levesque – Yes; S. McGrath- Yes.
Motion Carries: 5-0

b. 30978852 – Lanesborough Road – National Grid to install 1 JO pole on Lanesborough Road beginning at a point approximately 25 feet North-East of the centerline of the intersection of Lanesborough Road and Horns Beach Road. National Grid proposes installing P9 approximately 150 Northeast of existing P10.

Joe Scalise of National Grid explained the project on Lanesborough Road which would place a pole to support the electric upgrades on Horns Beach Road. The project also includes a guide pole that will be diagonal across the street and will support the new pole with tension lines. The pole will be a 35' pole with anchor near 184 Lanesboro Road. There were questions about the location of the guide pole.

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by S.McGrath to approve pole petition 30978852 as presented.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Abstain; R. Killeen – Yes; M. Francesconi- Yes; J. Levesque – Yes; S. McGrath- Yes.
Motion Carries: 4-0-1

Special Election Warrant
The Town Administrator shared that the Special Election would be held on Monday August 4, 2025, with polling hours from 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. S. McGrath read the warrant aloud.

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to sign the Special Election Warrant for August 4, 2025, as presented.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; M. Francesconi- Yes; J. Levesque – Yes; S. McGrath- Yes.
Motion Carries: 5-0

DPW – Chapter 90 Summer Projects
DPW Director Corey McGrath joined the board to discuss two summer resurfacing projects using Chapter 90 and Fair Share funds. Church Street from Route 8 to Main St is 2,250 feet with six structures the estimated cost is $240,000. Resurfacing will continue onto Main Street to Wells Road this project is 1,500 feet with an estimated cost of $100,000.

There was discussion on obtaining a quote to resurface the Community House parking lots and driveway. There was also discussion on future plans to resurface West Mountain Road. The road is currently slated for bridge construction in the summer of 2026. Discussion on Fales Road and Sandmill Road which are also under current bridge construction and detours. Discussion on culverts and drainage work to be completed. The DPW Director shared that he plans on doing some drainage and resurfacing work on 500' of Lanesborough Road this summer and the Town Administrator will seek funds through a STRAP grant next year for a full depth reclamation and resurfacing. R. DeAngelis expressed the need to watch and measure the work of the contractors.

The DPW Director is also going to repair four catch basins on Dean Street. He shared that all the wooden guardrails except for Fales Road have been replaced. M. Francesconi asked about the guardrails at the end of Notch Road. The DPW Director has been measuring several locations a couple of times of year to see if they are dropping and there has been no movement. There was also discussion about crack sealing various roads.

Fire Truck Borrowing/Lease Option

Tom Francesconi, Fire Chief, joined the board to discuss options for the new fire truck which was approved at the FY2025 Annual Town Meeting followed by the August 12, 2025, Special Town Election. Legislation has been filed twice to resolve the error of not posting the Special Town Election Warrant. The Town Administrator shared that the legislation has moved with a favorable vote out of the joint elections committee, however there is no guarantee that the bill will be heard and approved prior to the end of the month. The Town Administrator shared that she has been in contact with Senator Paul Mark. Chief Francesconi updated the board on a conversation he had with Greenwood Sales and several meetings have taken place regarding a short-term lease option which would put the truck in the garage and give time for the legislation to be approved. R. DeAngelis inquired about local banks funding on a short-term note, the Town Administrator will inquire with the Treasurer again. Chief Francesconi is concerned that he doesn't have the equipment since he has not been paying for repairs to the engine being replaced.

After discussion it was decided to table the discussion until the next meeting in hopes of having a legislative update. The lease option will be discussed again at that time.

Board of Selectmen Discussion/Decision Items

- **Fiscal Year 2026 Appointments**

a.	Fire Chief	Tom Francesconi	Term Expires June 2028
b.	Board of Registrars	Lora McGrath	Term Expires June 2027
c.	Board of Registrars	Karen Daigle	Term Expires June 2028

A motion was made by J. Levesque and seconded by R. DeAngelis to approve the appointments as presented.

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

Motion Carries: 3-0-2

- **Line-Item Transfers**

  The Town Administrator reviewed Fiscal Year 2025 line item transfers, sharing that there is still one more warrant before the end of the fiscal year.

A motion was made by J. Levesque and seconded by R. DeAngelis to approve the Line Items Transfers for Fiscal Year 2025 as presented.

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

Motion Carries: 5-0

Consent Agenda

- Two Sisters Mobile Spirits Bar Liquor License – July 12, 2025
- Minutes – June 10, June 24
- Accounts Payable & Payroll Warrants

A motion was made by J. Levesque and seconded by M. Francesconi to approve the consent agenda with edits to the minutes.

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

Motion Carries: 5-0

Town Administrator Updates

The Town Administrator shared that she was approached by a resident concerned about door-to-door solicitation and scams. She shared that she has been working with Officer Goodell to create a policy and permitting process as allowed by Mass General Law. This policy will be presented to the board at a future meeting.

The Host Community Agreement for Sage and Summit has been drafted and sent to the owners to review.

All documents for the West Mountain Bridge project have been sent to MassDOT for contracting and are expected back in September. The Town Administrator will be working with the town attorney on the temporary easement of property owned by Mark Warner. She shared that a Special Town Meeting will need to be held and noted that the Hoosac Valley Regional School District changes will also need to be addressed at a fall meeting.

The rededication ceremony of Leland Park is on Saturday July 12, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. Barry Emery will be dressed as President Jefferson and light refreshments "cheese" will be served.

Announcements

M. Francesconi noted that the Cheshire Hoedown is scheduled for Saturday July 12, 2025
Public Comment – None

Adjournment

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 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
July 11, 2025

Document List

1. Agenda – July 8, 2025
2. Pole Hearing 30966198 & 30978852

3. Special Election Warrant
4. Line Items Transfers
5. Two Sister Mobile Spirits Bar Liquor License
6. Draft Minutes – June 10 & June 24

Approved: July 22, 2025