TOWN OF CHESHIRE

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Board of Selectmen

MEETING MINUTES –January 21, 2026

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 Wednesday January 21, 2026, at 6:15 p.m.

Board of Selectmen Present:

Shawn McGrath, Chair
Jason Levesque, Vice Chair
Ray Killeen, Member
Michelle Francesconi, Member
Ron DeAngelis, Member

Others Present: Jennifer Morse, Town Administrator; Corey McGrath, DPW Director. Peter Traub; IBerkshires; ; Lynn Melchiori; Bob Tetlow.

Summary of Votes:

- Vote to enter executive session at 6:15 p.m. 5-0
- Vote to return to regular session at 6:41 p.m. 5-0
- Vote to waive 120 waiting period, First Right of Refusal Clairmont 5-0
- Vote to approve one day liquor licenses for Cheshire Rod & Gun Club 3-0-2
- Vote to appoint Tim Sears as Alternate Building Commissioner 5-0
- Vote to approve the consent agenda with edits to the minutes 5-0
- Vote to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:57 p.m. 5-0

S. McGrath called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. with one recording device (IBerkshires)

Executive Session - MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a), Reason 3
To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if any open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Warner vs. Town of Cheshire.

S. McGrath declared that the Board would enter executive session. *A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by M. Francesconi to enter executive session according to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a), Reason 3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if any open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Warner vs. Town of Cheshire.*
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 R. Kileen to adjourn the executive session and return to regular session at 6:41 p.m.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; J. Levesque – Yes; M. Francesconi- Yes; S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

First Right of Refusal – Clairmont Map 240, Parcel 23
Attorney Pagnotta and Mr. Clairmont joined the board to discuss the request for first right of refusal for Lot 10, 60.142 SF which is a portion of Map 240, parcel 23 and is currently in Chapter 61A. The request is for the Town to waive the 120-day waiting period its option to purchase the premises.
A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to waive the 120 day waiting period and the option to purchase the property allowing Mr. Clairmont to move forward with the sale.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; J. Levesque – Yes; M. Francesconi- Yes; S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

Board of Selectmen Discussion/Decision Items

- **Rod and Gun Club One Day Liquor Licenses - February 7 and February 21**
  A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by R. Killeen to approve the one-day liquor licenses as requested.
  Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; J. Levesque- Abstain; M. Francesconi – Yes; S. McGrath – Abstain.
  Motion Carries: 3-0-2

- **HVRSD District Agreement – Email Superintendent Dean**
  The Town Administrator read the email from Superintendent Dean regarding the proposed amendment to the district agreement. Superintendent Dean informed the board of two possible paths forward. One is to hold a Special Town Meeting in both towns. The second option is to adopt at the Annual Town Meeting, this would require placing two versions of the school budget on the warrant. If the warrant passes the town meetings would vote on the budget developed using the updated assessment calculations if not the second budget would be put into place. The board opted to hold a special town meeting to avoid the confusion of two warrant articles/budgets at the Annual Town Meeting. The Town Administrator will reach out to the Superintendent with the preference. It was noted that there are other articles to be addressed at a Special Town Meeting.

- **Alternate Building Commissioner Appointment – Tim Sears**
  Building Commissioner Brian Duval requested the appointment of Tim Sears as Alternate. Mr. Sears is currently the Building Commissioner in Peru and serves as Alternate in Dalton.
  A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by M. Francesconi to appoint Tim Sears as Alternate Building Commissioner until June 30, 2026.
  Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; J. Levesque – Yes; M. Francesconi-

Yes; S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

Consent Agenda

- Minutes – December 16, 2025 and January 8, 2026
- Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrant
    - PR 26-15 - $48,048.02; AP 26-16 - $137,710.62

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to approve the consent agenda with edits.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; J. Levesque – Yes; M. Francesconi- Yes; S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

Town Administrator Updates

- **Police Regionalization – Senator Mark Meeting Update**
  The Town Administrator shared that she had met with Senator Mark, Chief Derksen, Chief Garner and the Lanesborough Town Manager. The group explained to Senator Mark the possible regionalization of Police Departments. It was shared that Senator Mark is willing to help however he can whether that be with grants or with an earmark in the budget over a two-year time frame however there is number crunching that needs to be done by mid-March. Senator Mark would also need a commitment from the Town perhaps with a Special Town Meeting. There are still many unknowns and discussion turned to how to fund after the earmark or grant funding was to expire.

- C-10-003 Sand Mill over Dry Brook Bridge
  A notice was received from DOT regarding the bridge replacement, which is approximately five years out, more information will be coming to the Town in the next several months.

Public Comment - None

Events and Upcoming Agenda Items
Father Daughter Dance is scheduled for February 6, 2026, from 6-9 p.m. All family scenarios are welcome. An Ice-Skating Event is in the preliminary planning phase for Friday February 13, 2026, from 6-9 p.m.

R. DeAngelis inquired when the local option funds for the meals tax will begin coming to the Town. The information was turned into the DOR and the funds began on October 1, 2025, they are sent in in disbursements.

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to adjourn the meeting at 6:57p.m.
Roll Call Vote: J. Levesque- Yes; R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; S. McGrath – Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

Respecfully Submitted;
Jennifer Morse
Town Administrator
January 28, 2026

Document List

1. Agenda – January 21, 2026
2. First Right of Refual – Clairmont
3. HVRSD District Agreement Email
4. Draft Minutes – December 16 and January 8
5. C-10-003 Notice from DOT

Approved: 2/4/26