TOWN OF CHESHIRE

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Board of Selectmen

MEETING MINUTES –March 31, 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 Tuesday March 31, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Others Present: Jennifer Morse, Town Administrator; iBerkshires; Lynn Melchiori; Bob Tetlow; Peter Traub; Art Kaufman; Corey McGrath, DPW Director; Wyatt, Northern Berkshire Community Television; Janice Fahey, Attorney General Office (remote); William Craig (remote); Mary Ellen Baker.

Summary of Votes:

Vote to approve the consent agenda with edits to the minutes	5-0
Vote to approve one day liquor licenses for Cheshire Rod & Gun Club	3-0-2
Vote to approve one day liquor licenses for Common Table	5-0
Vote to move forward with process to auction two low value town properties	5-0
Vote to have the Planning Board move forward with proposed ADU Bylaw	5-0
Vote to approve the Chapter 90 Request as presented	5-0
Vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m.	5-0

S. McGrath called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:30 p.m. with two recording devices (iBerkshires & Northern Berkshire Community Television)

Appointments

- **Attorney General Office - Janice Fahey regarding the Neighborhood Renewal Division Program**

Janice Fahey from the Attorney General Office – Neighborhood Renewal Division joined the meeting remotely to discuss the program. The purpose of the program is to create safer neighborhoods and address state sanitary codes bringing homes into compliance. The agency will work with Town Officials, including the Board of Health on vacant condemned homes to bring them into compliance through their office or with the help of a receiver.
Ms. Fahey was thanked for her time.

Board of Selectmen Discussion/Decision Items

- **Consent Agenda- Minutes March 17, March 24; Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants**
  A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by S. McGrath to approve the consent agenda with the edits made to the minutes.
  Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; J. Levesque – Yes; M. Francesconi- Yes; S. McGrath – Yes
  Motion Carries: 5-0

- **Cheshire Rod & Gun Club One Day Liquor Licenses - April 4, April 11, April 19, April 25**
  A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by R. Killen to approve the one-day liquor licenses for the Cheshire Rod & Gun Club.
  Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; J. Levesque – Abstain; M. Francesconi- Yes; S. McGrath – Abstain
  Motion Carries: 3-0-2

- **Common Table One Day Liquor License - April 4**
  A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to approve the one-day liquor license for Common Table.
  Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; J. Levesque – Yes; M. Francesconi- Yes; S. McGrath – Yes
  Motion Carries: 5-0

- **Town Owned Property Auction – Map 204, Lot 001 and O West Mountain Road Map 103, Lot 021 0 Shadowland Cove**
  The Town Administrator reminded the board that they had previously voted to auction 0 Shadowland Cove however it was unable to be auctioned at the time due to the lapse in time from the taking. The Treasurer shared that the takings were made many years ago and the town would need to get approval again from the DOR to move forward with a low value affidavit to conduct the sale. The Town Administrator was approached by a resident who is interested in purchasing 0 West Mountain Road, the process was explained to the resident.
  A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to move forward with the approval of the DOR to conduct the sale of both parcels as discussed.
  Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; J. Levesque – Yes; M. Francesconi- Yes; S. McGrath – Yes
  Motion Carries: 5-0

- **Accessory Dwelling Unit and Short-Term Rental Bylaw Proposals**
  The Town Administrator shared that the Planning Board has been working with BRPC through DLTA funding on the ADU bylaw and changes to the zoning table to allow for short term rentals. Discussions with the Planning Board have been around the size of the dwelling, number of allowable units, parking and setbacks. R. DeAngelis inquired if this would include tiny homes stating that the Town needs to be proactive with the zoning bylaw allowing for new growth/revenue for the town.
  A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by R. Killeen to have the Planning Board move forward with the ADU Bylaw and table changes for Short Term Rentals through the hearing process.

Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; J. Levesque – Yes; M. Francesconi- Yes; S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

- **Police Search Committee/Consultants**
  The Town Administrator shared that volunteer interest forms were in the packet for consideration and that she had contacted two companies who both come highly recommended to consult with the town on the hiring of the next chief. M. Francesconi stated that she had spoken with Tom Dawley, former Police Chief in Pittsfield who shared both a platform for postings police department openings and a company that will lead a search for the Chief position. The Town Administrator was instructed to reach out to consultants to obtain additional information. The board will hold off on appointing a search committee at this time.

- **School District FY27 Budget Questions**
  Board members will send questions to the Town Administrator directly to forward to the respective superintendents.

- **Chapter 90 Summer Project Approval and Bid**
  The DPW Director reviewed the proposed summer paving projects noting that a $430,000 grant was obtained for Fred Mason Road. The total project cost for Fred Mason Road, which is a full depth reclamation, is now $ 493,135. Church Street and Main Street will be milled and filled at a cost of $358,440 and Reservoir Road with be a shim and pave at a cost of $51,000. The total requested Chapter 90 request is for $472,875 and the current balance is $728,053. The DPW Director shared that other summer Chapter 90 projects may include drainage failure on Dean Street and Crack Sealing. The next large projects will include Lanesborough Road, Fales Road and West Mountain Road.
  A motion was made by J. Levesque and seconded by S. McGrath to approve the Chapter 90 request as presented.
  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
The DPW Seasonal Laborer (Cemetery) job has been posted and interviews will be conducted on Monday April 13, 2026. There are currently three applicants.

Public Comment
Mary Ellen Baker asked about the blue bags stating it was not fair that residents who are recycling and using the transfer station as required are being penalized by not being allowed to use blue bags after July 1st. The Town Administrator shared that this will be on the next agenda. M. Francesconi stated that she was unaware of the policy until she was approached by several residents, further stating that this and the hiring of the Administrative Assistant is why she is requesting weekly meetings of the board. It was noted that the Board of Health is not in favor of discontinuing the blue bags.

Upcoming Agenda Items and Events
S. McGrath requested to revisit the harbormaster discussion with the job description and to include the Hoosac Lake District to see if they can take on the dock permitting.

Board of Selectmen Adjournment
A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by M. Francesconi to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; J. Levesque – Yes; M. Francesconi- Yes; S. McGrath – Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

Respecfully Submitted;
Jennifer Morse
Town Administrator
April 2, 2026

Document List

1. Agenda – March 31, 2026
2. AGO Presentation
3. Tax Title Property Email & Documents
4. Draft Minutes
5. Draft ADU Bylaw and Red Line Zoning Changes
6. Quarterly Tax Bill Mailer

Approved: 4/14/26