TOWN OF CHESHIRE

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

191 CHURCH STREET CHESHIRE, MASSACHUSETTS 01225
PHONE (413)743-1690 EXT 100 | EMAIL ADMIN@CHESHIRE-MA.GOV
WWW.CHESHIRE-MA.GOV

Board of Selectmen

MEETING MINUTES –April 14, 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, April 14, 2026, at 6:02 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; Corey McGrath, DPW Director; Erin Paris, Administrator Assistant; Cathy Foster, Northern Berkshire Television; Sabrina Dammms, IBerkshires; Lynn Melchiori; Cheryl Maguire, Stafford Green Inc.; Fran Maguire, Stafford Green, Inc.; Erin Carney, Sage & Summit; Lauren DiPace, Sage & Summit; Peter Traub.

Summary of Votes:

Vote to approve the Sage & Summit Host Community Agreement	5-0
Vote to approve the driveway permit for 1416 Windsor Road	5-0
Vote to approve Berkshire Environmental air quality testing proposal	5-0
Vote to approve Public Safety Consultants for the Police Chief Search	5-0
Vote to hire Kenneth Aleschevich as Senior Center Van Driver	5-0
Vote to approve the consent agenda with edits to the minutes	5-0
Vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m.	5-0

Appointments:

Sage and Summit, Amended Host Community Agreement (HCA)

Lauren DiPace and Erin Carney joined the board to discuss their business partnership with Stafford Green Inc. The amendment to the Host Community Agreement has one change, which is adding a signature line for ownership of Stafford Green. The Town Administrator reminded the board that the HCA had been reviewed by counsel. Sage and Summit will be filing for a retail permit in the coming months with Stafford Green as one-third owner. Stafford Green Inc. will remain sole owner of the facility on Stafford Hill Rd.

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by M. Francesconi to approve the amendment as presented.

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

Motion Carries: 5-0

Board of Selectman Discussion /Decision Items:

- **Harbor Master Job Description/Role**

  The Harbormaster Job Description was reviewed, changes include clarification of the harbormaster supervision, requirement of boat safety certification, removal of dam flood gate controls as that is handled by the Hoosac Lake District. Discussion on dock permitting and duties, the Town Administrator has contact information for abutting communities and will reach out to gain permitting information. The board was presented with the current rules and regulations as well as the dock permit application and informed them that in the past five years there have been four dock permits. M. Francesconi inquired about the stipend for the harbormaster which previously was taken from the police department wages, the Town Administrator shared that the Fire Chief has a party interested in the role and the discussion will continue regarding the stipend.

- **Driveway Permit 1416 Windsor Road**

  The homeowner is putting in temporary access which will be entered from Richmond Hill Road to install a septic system. The driveway will get left for an alternate entrance.

  A motion was made by *S. McGrath and seconded by M. Francesconi to issue the driveway permit*

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

  Motion Carries: 5-0

- **Air Quality Proposal-Community House Old Section.**

  The DPW Director contacted Berkshire Environmental and Tighe & Bond for air quality testing of the older section of the Community House. Berkshire Environmental stated that the portion of the building should not be accessed due to signs of mold and asbestos tiles. The estimate to conduct the air quality testing is $ 2,284. The test will collect four air samples, three interior and one exterior. There was discussion about purchasing dehumidifiers like the ones at the fire station and opening the duct systems for better air flow. The DPW Director shared that the roof is not leaking after the repairs this fall, however a drain was blocked causing some issues, the blockage has been removed.

  A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to move forward with the proposal from Berkshire Environmental for air quality testing in the old section of the community house.

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

  Motion Carries: 5-0

- **Full Time Police Officer Job Posting/Officer Resignation**

  After the resignation of a full-time officer the board discussed hiring a Chief first and then get the new Chiefs input on staffing. S. McGrath reminded the board that the process to find a Chief could be months. M. Francesconi suggested an agreement with a neighboring town in the interim. The Town Administrator shared that Cheshire is

part of the Berkshire County Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement, and that a copy will be sent to all members.

- **Police Chief Search/Consulting Companies**
  The Town Administrator shared the proposals submitted by two companies. The scope of work was within the proposals. M. Francesconi noted that Public Safety Consultants has a more extensive proposal and has completed a lot of police chief searches. It was noted that the total cost proposed by Public Safety Consultants is $12,000- $15,000 compared to the proposal from Parow Consulting at $8,500. There was discussion regarding the comprehensive hiring practices of Public Safety Consultants and budgeting for the project which will be paid for from unused police department funds.
  A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to move forward with the proposal from Public Safety Consultants.
  Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; J. Levesque-Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes; S. McGrath-Yes Ray Kileen-Yes
  Motion Carries: 5-0

- **Van Driver Position**
  Interviews were conducted for the Van Driver Position by Council on Aging Chair and Senior Center Director. The recommendation is to hire Kenneth Aleshevich to start immediately.
  A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by J. Levesque to hire Kenneth Aleschevich as Van Driver effective immediately.
  Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; J. Levesque-Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes; S. McGrath-Yes Ray Killeen-Yes
  Motion Carries: 5-0

- **Fire Department-Structural Issue**
  The DPW Director shared that work was being done to the training room as the Fire Station including painting and ceiling tile removal. With the ceiling tiles removed a possible structural issue was brought to his attention. The DPW Director and the Fire Chief closed the training room over the structural concerns until an engineer could determine the safety of the space. The DPW Director suggested several engineers and was able to set an appointment with SK Design for this week as EDM is not available until October. R. DeAngelis suggested looking for permits and plans from when an engineer worked on the underpinning of the building as that company made be held responsible. The board agreed that for the safety of the fire department and public that the training room be closed until further notice.

Consent Agenda

- Minutes - March 31, 2026
- Accounts Payable/Payroll warrants.
  A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by J. Levesque to approve the Consent Agenda with edits to the minutes.
  Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; J. Levesque-Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes; S. McGrath-Yes Ray Killeen-Yes
  Motion Carries: 5-0

Town Administrator Updates

- Annual Town Meetings Warrants - The Town Administrator inquired about several discussed potential articles and wondered if they should be implemented into the town meeting warrant. These articles include the ADU/Short Term Rental Bylaw; Permission for the Board to negotiate a PILOT for the Whitney Solar Project; a non-binding resolution regarding the Youth Center Lease subsidy; Lodging/Short Term Rental excise. Discussion on the warrant articles resulted in the inclusion of all discussed except for the non-binding resolution regarding the Youth Center Lease. M. Francesconi inquired if the town can subsidize the lease amount with taxpayer funds, and the Town Administrator will seek legal advice.

Public Comment – None discussed

Events and Upcoming Agenda Items

- M. Francesconi reminded everyone that Fireman's Ball preparations and set up will be starting soon as the event is on April 25, 2026, she reminded all that donations are still being accepted through the fund drive.
- Annual Town Election Day - May 4, 2026

Adjournment

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by R. DeAngelis to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

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

Motion Carries: 5-0

Respecfully Submitted;
Erin Paris
Administrative Assistant
April 22, 2026

Document List

1. Agenda - April 14, 2026
2. Harbormaster Job Description
3. Driveway Permit – 1416 Windsor Rd
4. Air Quality Proposal
5. Full Time Officer Job Description
6. Police Chief consulting company proposals
7. Draft Minutes – March 31, 2026

Approved: 5/4/26