TOWN OF CHESHIRE

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Board of Selectmen

MEETING MINUTES May 05, 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, May 05, 2026, at 6:28 p.m.

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

Others Present: Jennifer Morse, Town Administrator; Corey McGrath, DPW Director; Tim Garner, Interim Police Chief; Erin Paris, Administrative Assistant; Sabrina Damns, iBerkshires; Lynn Melchiori; Doreen Aleshevich; Kenneth Aleshevich; Bob Tetlow; Art Kaufman; Peter Traub.

Summary of Votes:

- Vote to nominate M. Francesconi as Chairperson 4-0-1
- Vote to nominate S. McGrath as Vice Chairperson 4-0-1
- Vote to adjourn at 7:19 p.m. 5-0

S. McGrath called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., with one recording device (iBerkshires).

Reorganization of the Board

S. McGrath welcomed new member Scott McWhirt to the board and opened the conversation about reorganization of the board. M. Francesconi stated that she would like to be either Chair or Vice Chair. S. McGrath stated that he would be willing to serve in either capacity.

A motion was made by S.McGrath and seconded by R. Killeen to nominate M. Francesconi as Chairperson
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; S. McGrath – Yes; Scott McWhirt – Yes; M. Francesconi – Abstain
Motion Carries: 4-0-1

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by R. DeAngelis to nominate S. McGrath as Vice- Chair.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; S. McGrath – Abstain; Scott McWhirt – Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes
Motion Carries: 4-0-1

Board of Selectman Discussion /Decision Items

- FY27 Budget/Warrant
  The board reviewed the draft warrant. It was decided to move the Hoosac Valley Regional School District amendment further down after the monetary articles. The ADU Zoning Bylaw changes have not been implemented as the Town Administrator is waiting on the language. The Town Administrator shared that $1,000 was moved from the Part Time Officer wage line to the Fire Department stipend line to cover the Harbormaster stipend. The Town Administrator shared that the Cemetery Department has requested a revolving account for tent and chair rental fees. The McCann roof project will be funded with Free Cash. The Town Administrator hopes to have a completed warrant by May 19, 2026, the Finance Committee will be meeting on the recommendations later this week.

- Facilities Use Form.
  Stephanie Brazeu submitted a facilities use form for the community house kitchen which she would like to use to prepare foods for sale off premises. The Town Administrator checked with the Board of Health and this would be allowable with the current condition of the space. The Town Administrator was directed to contact the Building Commissioner to see if it is allowable by use. S. McWhirt did some research on another facility and stated that they rent the space at $140 per day. Depending on the outcome of the use the topic will be added to a future agenda.

- Full Time Police Officer
  S. McGrath sated that the consultant is recommending that the town move forward with hiring a full-time police officer. Chief Garner was present to discuss this with the board and felt that the new Chief should build the department and that he would be happy to help with the process. M. Francesconi was concerned about the community having the perception that we don't need officers since we haven't for some time. S. McWhirt shared that if the department has four full-time employees after town meeting, one officer is 25% of the force and he feels as if the new Chief should hire the full-time officers. At the end of the discussion, it was decided that it would be appropriate to focus on filling the Chief position before any open full time officer positions.

- Harbormaster Update
  Chief Francesconi has confirmed that Andrew Heath will act as Harbormaster within the Fire Department. With both the Fire and Police Chief she will monitor the hours and work completed to ensure that the stipend is adequate.

- Police Chief Survey
  Two surveys were presented to the board for review. The board discussed and decided to use questions from each survey; the town administrator will work to get the survey ready for community input. The draft job announcement was also reviewed with minor edits which will be sent to the consultant. Posting should happen next week and continue for thirty days.

Public Comment
Bob Tetlow inquired about the meals tax as Dunkin Donuts is not charging the correct tax amount. The Town Administrator shared that the DOR gives very limited information regarding which businesses have been paying the tax and that she will get an updated total of revenue from the Treasurer.

Doreen Aleschvich noted that the moderator has not received a stipend increase and feels that the current stipend is too low. M. Francesconi left the room while board members discussed increasing the line to $100.

Dorren Aleschvich also read a letter requesting that the town clerk receive election pay for the additional hours worked for mandated voter registrations and election days. M. Francesconi asked that the Town Clerk attend the next meeting.

Any other business not anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting; None

Events and Upcoming Agenda Items
- Memorial Day Parade -1:00 P.M. May 25th
- Flag Day Event -1:00-4:00 P.M. June 14th

Adjournment
A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by R. DeAngelis to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; S. McWhirt-Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes; S. McGrath-Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

Respecfully Submitted;
Erin Paris
Administrative Assistant
May 18, 2026

Document List

1. Agenda – May 5, 2026
2. Brazeau Facilities Use Form
3. Police Officer Job Description
4. Police Chief Survey Questions
5. Draft Chief Job Announcement
6. NBCC Invite

Approved: May 26, 2026