TOWN OF CHESHIRE

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Board of Selectmen

MEETING MINUTES June 09, 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, June 09, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Board of Selectmen Absent: Shawn McGrath, Member

Others Present: Jennifer Morse, Town Administrator; Corey McGrath, DPW Director; Erin Paris, Administrative Assistant; Whitney Flynn; Sabrina Damns, iBerkshires; Lynn Melchiori; Liseann Karandisecky; Patti Messina; R Clarke; Jill Brothers; Christy St. John; Sonia DeSanti; Jake Ziminski; Joe Johnson; Linda Johnson; Monica Carpenter; Christina Zustra; Lisa Field; Patti Francoeur; Peter Traub; Nicole Pelczysnki; Gene Pierce; Bob Tetlow; Irene Bator; Andr Charboneau; Lisa Trumble; Sarah Frederick; Maggie Bittman; Art Kaufman; Kayla Lavalley.

Summary of Votes:

Vote to approve Hill Engineering proposal for the Fire Station Assessment	4-0
Vote to apply for AFG funding for a new Tanker and PPE	4-0
Vote to approve the consent agenda except for the May 19 minutes	4-0
Vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m.	4-0

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

Appointments-Youth Center Inc. -Lease

M. Francesconi started the conversation by stating that she realized when receiving the packet that there was a discrepancy in the square footage by the real estate agent. The square footage used to determine the $9,500 proposed lease amount was 15,538 sf and the actual square footage for the Youth Center wing is 9,135 sf. She also stated that looking around the room a lot of the faces did not attend the annual town meeting last evening to know that Cheshire is using more than $386,000 to stay under the levy limit and that the current financial position of the town is not sustainable, she spoke about the difficult decisions that the board needs to make the town.

Jill Brothers, Youth Center Board of Directors Chairperson read a statement, she also reiterated that the Youth Center finances show $1,300,000 in revenue but it does not show the $1,200,000 in expenses. She shared that the Youth Center relies on grants and subsidies for funding to operate. Ms. Brother counter proposal was for $4,000 a month starting on July 1, 2026, with a 2% per year increase. There was confusion about the expiration of the lease term and the Town Administrator shared that the lease is active until the year 2040. Ms. Brothers asked the board if they wanted to the Youth Center to stay in the location to which M. Francesconi stated that speaking for herself she wants them to stay and had had several conversations with members of the board and the director indicating such.

There was continued discussion about the work done by the Youth Center on the grounds and buildings including playground work and floor repairs. There was discussion about the town hiring an engineer to design a heating system that will work for all for the spaces within the building since it is currently heated with three different systems. It was noted that the Youth Center also utilizes the grounds, kitchen space and cafeteria daily.

Members of the audience spoke about the importance of the Youth Center and maintaining the current location.

R. DeAngelis stated that there has been a tremendous amount of growth and the Youth Center having access to the facility is the reason, however the revenue being received by the town does not cover the expenses of the Youth Center. M. Francesconi read the expenses to date for the building which will be shared with the Youth Center Board of Directors.

The Youth Center will continue to pay $3,500 per month until the town has an opportunity to get additional market comparisons studies and a future meeting will be had. M. Francesconi reminded the Youth Center that board members are held to Open Meeting Laws and all Youth Center discussions will be on future agendas.

Board of Selectman Discussion/Decisions Items

- **Community House Air Quality Testing**
  The DPW Director indicated that test results have not been received, he has been in contact with the company.

- **Fire Station Engineering Updated Proposals**
  The updated engineering proposal was received from Hill Engineering. The total cost of the project is $26,300 which will be taken from the Fire Station Assessment account and the special buildings repair account.

A motion was made by R. DeAngelis and seconded by R. Killeen to move forward with the proposal from Hill Engineering for the Fire Station.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; S. McWhirt-Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes.
Motion Carries: 4-0

Town Administrator Updates
AFG Grant Applications – PPE/Tanker

The Town Administrator shared that she has been working with the Fire Chief to apply for two grants through AFG. The first is for the tanker replacement which very competitive grant and was denied last year. The second is for turnout gear for the fire fighters as current gear is out of date according to NFPA standards.

A motion was made by R. Killeen and seconded by R. DeAngelis to allow the town administrator to seek funding for the projects discussed.
Roll Call Vote: **R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; S. McWhirt-Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes**
Motion Carries: 4-0

Alcohol and Drug Policy – Draft
With guidance of special counsel an Alcohol and Drug Policy draft was in the packet for board members to review. The Town Administrator shared that this is not for vote tonight and asked members to send any questions that need to be addressed prior to the adoption of the policy.

Consent Agenda
- Minutes - May 12, ~~May 19,~~ May 28
- Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by R. Deangelis to approve the consent agenda except for May 19, 2026, minutes.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; S. McWhirt-Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes
Motion Carries: 4-0

Any other business not anticipated 48 Hours prior to meeting
Liseann Karandisecky shared that Dam Safety was in town to work on the dam.

The DPW Director shared that a culvert replacement will close Fred Mason Road tomorrow for a few hours, there will be a detour in place. Fred Mason Road will be reclaimed at the end of the month with resurfacing in mid-July. Code Red will be used to notify residents of road closures. Residents can sign up for Code Red on the town website or they can contact the Administrator office to sign up.

Irene Bator suggested that the Town look into getting clickers through a grant for annual town meeting so younger voters will participate.

Art Kaufman asked about posting the open position for the Open Space and Recreation Committee, which is already on the next agenda.

Events and Upcoming Agenda Items
- Flag Day Event – June 14, 2026, 1-4 p.m.
- Cheshire Hoedown - June 27, 2026, 4-8 p.m.
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Adjournment

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by R. DeAngelis to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; S. McWhirt-Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes
Motion Carries: 4-0

Respecfully Submitted;
Erin Paris
Administrative Assistant
June 15, 2026

Document List

1. Agenda June 9, 2026
2. Hill Engeineerig Proposal dated June 2, 2026
3. Draft Minutes – May 12, 2026, May 19, 2026, May 28, 2026
4. Draft Drug and Alcohol Use Policy

Approved: 7/7/26