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 June 23, 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 23, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Others Present: Jennifer Morse, Town Administrator; Corey McGrath, DPW Director; Erin Paris, Administrative Assistant, Carmen Roderick, Judi Vigna, Irene Bator, Beverly Bator, Carole Balawender, Jeremy Mudy, National Grid, Jennifer Gadbois, Sonia Desanti, Pete Traub, Art Kaufman, Lekeesha Balawender.

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

National Grid Hearing

M. Francesconi called the pole hearing to order at 6:30 p.m.

M. Francesconi asked representatives from National Grid Pole project to discuss the project in more detail not only for Selectboard but also the residence possibly affected. C. Roderick, who works with National Grid and was involved in plans and engineering portion of project, indicated they are in the process of starting the project to install a new pole to accommodate the electronic meter reading devices. The project involves 1 JO Pole beginning at approximately 4,612 feet Southeast of centerline of Notch And Windsor Road. Which will be 68-50 128" North of P69. He further indicated this is to allow residence to be included in the updated streaming type data control. There were no questions from the board and no public comments.

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by R. Killeen to approve the pole petition as submitted.

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

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by S. McGrath to adjourn the National Grid Hearing at 6:34 p.m.

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

Board of Selectman Discussion/Decisions Items

- **Community House Air Quality Test**

C. McGrath, DPW Director, indicated the test results came back. Aspergillus Ochraceus was high in the basement area. He suggested putting some industrial fans in the area, there was discussion about purchasing five dehumidifiers for the area. There will be no admittance to the space at this time.

- **Assessing Services Contracts- Mayflower Valuation /Q Properties**

The Town Administrator shared that nine IFB's (Invitation for Bid) were mailed out to vendors on the DOR Assessing Contractors list. Three responses were received and while Mayflower Valuation and Q Properties were not the lowest bidder references for the third company were poor. The Assessors and the Town Administrator are recommending that contracts be signed with Mayflower Valuation and Q Properties. The Town Administrator shared that Mayflower provides support for Assessing/Valuations and Q Properties handles cyclical and building permit inspections.

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by R. DeAngelis to move forward with the proposals from Mayflower Valuation and Q Properties.

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

Motion Carries: 5-0

- **Open Space and Recreation Committee**

M. Francesconi noted that the seven-year Open Space and Recreation Plan has a lot of tasks that are overlapping and include various boards/committees. It was also noted that a lot of the work includes reaching out to state entities and grants that need to have Board of Selectmen oversight. S. McWhirt shared that he would be willing to serve on the board and it was suggested that a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and Open Space & Recreation Committee be held during the summer to discuss priorities within the plan.

- **Fiscal Year 2027 Appointments**

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by S. McGrath to appoint the following individuals to various boards/committees/positions.

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

Motion Carries: 5-0

Animal Inspector	James Massey	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Animal Inspector	Valerie Bird	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Board of Registrars	Elizabeth King	Term Expires June 30, 2029
Building Commissioner/ Zoning Enforcement Officer	Brian Duval	Term Expires June 30, 2029
Assistant Building Commissioner	Tim Sears	Term Expires June 30, 2029
Conservation Commission	Mary Summers	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Conservation Commission Alt.	Liseann Karandisecky	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Council on Aging	Bob Balawender	Term Expires June 30, 2029
Council on Aging	Doreen Aleshevich	Term Expires June 30, 2027

Emergency Committee	Tim Garner	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Emergency Committee	CJ Garner	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Emergency Committee	Jennifer Morse	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Emergency Committee	Corey Swistak	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Emergency Management Director	Corey Swistak	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Assistant Fire Chief	Jason Mendonca	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Assistant Fire Chief	Corey Swistak	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Assistant Fire Chief	E. Shawn Martin	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Greylock Advisory Board	Gary Trudeau	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Historical Commission	Liseann Karandisecky	Term Expires June 30, 2029
Open Space & Recreation	Liseann Karandisecky	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Open Space & Recreation	Art Kaufman	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Open Space & Recreation	Peter Traub	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Open Space & Recreation	Jenny Gadbois	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Plumbing/Gas Inspector	Mike Biros	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Police Chief – Interim	Timothy Garner	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Police Officer – Part Time	Brian Bergeron	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Police Officer – Full Time	Aaron Goodell	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Special Police Officer	Timothy Garner	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Special Police Officer	Robert Mallett	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Special Police Officer	Don Poirot	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Special Police Officer	David Sinopoli	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Special Police Officer	Paul Malongey	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Special Police Officer	Robert Sam Hungate	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Events Committee	Robin Poirot	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Events Committee	CJ Garner	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Events Committee	Timothy Garner	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Events Committee	Cheryl McGuire	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Events Committee	Bob Balenwender	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Events Committee	Erin Paris	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Events Committee	Kathryn LeBlanc	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Rent Control Board	Board of Selectmen	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Town Perambulator	Barry Emery	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Town Perambulator	Rick Salvi	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Town Counsel	Donna Macnicol	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Special Counsel	Costa, Tellerman,& Mead	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Treasurer	Ben Gelb	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Town Collector	Susan King	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Wiring Inspector	George Sweet	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Assistant Wiring Inspector	Leslie Rhinemiller	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Woodland Partnership of Northern Western MA	Sara Lacombe	Term Expires June 30, 2029
Zoning Board of Appeals	Jeff Reynolds	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Zoning Board of Appeals	Steven Marko	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Zoning Board of Appeals	Brian Tenczar	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Zoning Board of Appeals Alt.	Bob Balawender	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Zoning Board of Appeals Alt.	Jared Martin	Term Expires June 30, 2027

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by R. Killeen to appoint the following individuals to various boards/committees/positions
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; S. McWhirt-Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes; S. McGrath-Abstain
Motion Carries: 4-0-1

Department of Public Works Director	Corey McGrath	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Emergency Committee	Corey McGrath	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Emergency Committee	Shawn McGrath	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Assistant Emergency Management Dir.	Shawn McGrath	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Historical Commission	Corey McGrath	Term Expires June 30, 2029
Keeper of the Flags	Corey McGrath	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Events Committee	Corey McGrath	Term Expires June 30, 2027
Tree Warden	Corey McGrath	Term Expires June 30, 2027

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by R. DeAngelis to appoint the following individuals to various boards/committees/positions.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; S. McWhirt-Yes; M. Francesconi – Abstain; S. McGrath-Yes
Motion Carries: 4-0-1

Council on Aging	Carol Francesconi	Term Expires June 30, 2029
Emergency Committee	Tom Francesconi	Term Expires June 30, 2029
Events Committee	Michelle Francesconi	Term Expires June 30, 2029

A motion was made by R. Kileen and seconded by M. Francesconi to appoint Ron DeAngelis to the Conservation Commission as a full member, term expires June 30, 2027.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Abstain; R. Killeen – Yes; S. McWhirt-Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes; S. McGrath-Yes
Motion Carries: 4-0-1

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by S. McGrath to appoint Raymond Killeen to the Conservation Commission, term expires June 30, 2027
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Abstain; S. McWhirt-Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes; S. McGrath-Yes
Motion Carries: 4-0-1

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by R. DeAngelis to appoint Scott McWhirt to the Open Space and Recreation Committee, term expires June 30, 2027
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; S. McWhirt-Abstain; M. Francesconi – Yes; S. McGrath-Yes
Motion Carries: 4-0-1

- **One day Liquor Licenses -Two Sisters Mobile Spirits Bar**

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by R. DeAngelis to approve the one-day liquor license for Two Sisters Mobile Spirits Bar for June 27, 2026

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

- **Alcohol and Drug Policy**

S. McGrath requested information regarding the draft policy including random testing for all employees who drive or use equipment and clarification on section three which addressed conduct and effects of prescription medications. R. DeAngelis inquired about accident protocol which is the in the policy. R. Killeen inquired if all employees would get a copy of the document which was confirmed. M. Francesconi shared that she has requested that all Human Resource issues be handled by Special Counsel moving forward. The draft will be brought to a future meeting for a vote.

- **Youth Center Lease Update**

The Town Administrator shared that there has been no contact made with the four companies that were reached out to. Sonia DiSanti was present and shared that they have contracted with a company in East Longmeadow to provide a lease market analysis.

- **DPW Staff -Summer Hours Update.**

The DPW Director shared that the new hours of four ten hour days have been successful. There was discussion regarding Friday holidays, and M. Francesconi noted that another municipality changes the work schedule on weeks that encompass a holiday to five- eight hours days. The Town Administrator read the policy regarding holiday pay from the personnel policies "standard workdays are days scheduled to work by the Supervisor/Department Head. For example, if an employee is scheduled to work Monday – Thursday and a holiday fall on a Friday the employee is not entitled to paid time off". Further she stated that the town has worked hard to create fair equitable policies that are consistent between departments and if schedule changes are allowed for one department they should be for all. There was discussion regarding the holiday when it falls on a Monday and how that will benefit the employees. At this time the DPW will stay on their summer hours until Columbus Day.

Consent Agenda Minutes

- **Minutes -** May 19, May 26, June 2.
- **Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants**

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by R. Kileen to approve the consent agenda with one edit to the June 2, 2027 minutes.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; S. McWhirt-Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes; S. McGrath-Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

Public Comment-None

Upcoming Events and Agenda Items

- Hoedown June 27, 2026
- Cruz Nite August 08, 2026

Any other business not anticipated 48 hour prior to the meeting -None

Adjournment
A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by M. Francesconi to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 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
June 26, 2026

Document List

- Agenda June 23, 2027
- National Grid Pole Hearing - WR # 31326503
- Air Quality Testing Results
- Mayflower Valuation Proposal
- Q Properties Inspection Proposal
- FY27 Appointment Lists
- Draft Drug Alcohol Policy
- Draft Minutes May 19, May 26, 2026, June 2, 2026
- HLD Letter regarding Prudential Committee positions

Approved: July 7, 2026