TOWN OF CHESHIRE

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Board of Selectmen

MEETING MINUTES July 7, 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, July 07, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Others Present: Jennifer Morse, Town Administrator; Corey McGrath, DPW Director; Erin Paris, Administrative Assistant; Peter Gentile, NBCTC; Sabrina Damms, iBerkshires; Lynn Melchiori; Michael Tatro, National Grid; Peter Traub; Frank Talora; and Gary Trudeau

M. Francesconi called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., with two recording devices, iBerkshires and Northern Berkshire Community Television.

National Grid Pole Hearing- 6:30 PM - In accordance with MGL Chapter 166, section 22, the Town of Cheshire Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on a petition submitted by Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England Inc. requesting permission to locate poles, wires and fixtures including the necessary and protecting fixtures , along and across the following public way.

West Mountain Road – National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on West Mountain Road beginning at a point approximately 0' feet west of the centerline of the intersection of Pole 14 & West Mountain Road and continuing for approximately 10 feet in a north direction. National Grid to install 1 JO Pole #14, 10 ft north of existing Pole #14 at side of the road. Also, for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections to such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes. This project is part of the West Mountain Bridge Project.

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

Michael Tatro, from National Grid Pole, was in attendance to discuss the project. There were no questions from the Board of Selectmen and no public comment.

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 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

Stephanie Brazeau Community House Kitchen Use-6:35 P.M.- Discussion postponed

Consent Agenda Minutes
- **Minutes -** June 9 and June 23
- **Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants**

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by S. McGrath to approve consent agenda except for June 23, 2026, minutes.
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/Decision Items
- **Youth Center Lease-** The Youth Center and the Town are waiting for information regarding the Commercial Lease Market Analysis; discussion will be continued to a future meeting.

- **Community House Heating Engineering -** A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow morning to review the drawings and to finalize locations for the heat units. There was discussion on adding a second electrical service to which the DPW Director will get a price.

- **West Mountain Road at Curran Road -** The homeowner at the bottom of Curran Road (Lemanski) contacted M. Francesconi regarding concerns of water runoff from Curran Road impacting their property. There was discussion regarding the current drainage system, the DPW shared that he had met with a contractor regarding placing a catch basin that would control the flow of the runoff to the exiting drainage area on the abutting property. Member R. DeAngelis will visit the site with the DPW Director, two catch basin placements would cost approximately $6,800, Chapter 90 funds can be utilized.

- **Flaherty Road Paving/One Way Discussion -** The DPW Director was approached by two residents requesting that the road be made one way from East Main Street, a letter will be sent to all residents to gain input. The DPW Director shared that Flaherty Road will be paved as part of the Church Street, Main Street project.

- **Fred Mason Road-Paving Project Update-** The roadway has been reclaimed and paving is set for Thursday. Gary Trudeau stopped at the meeting to share that the recent

rainstorm put a lot of potholes into the surface, the contractor has been notified of the condition of the roadway.

- **Gore Brook, LLC PILOT Agreement** - The Town Administrator shared the Mayflower Valuation had worked with her office to determine a fair, equitable payment agreement which has been reviewed by Town Counsel.
  A motion was made by R. DeAngelis and seconded by S. McGrath to approve the Gore Brook LLC, Solar PILOT Agreement.

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

- **Pickleball Court-Conditions Update.** The Town Administrator shared that she was contacted by the Chair of the Council on Aging regarding concerns of a resident slipping on the flaking paint on the pickleball court. The decision was made to close the court due to safety concerns. The Town Administrator shared that the Council on Aging Chair is contacting a company to get a quote to paint the court.

- **Fire Department LED Message Board-Update & Discussion** - M. Francesconi mentioned that she has been approached by several individuals regarding the fire station sign being out of commission. It was explained that the software is outdated and is no longer supported. There are also hardware issues including the need to replace the computer and the screen itself. Previous quotes have been obtained, there was discussion regarding moving the sign to the other side of the street near the welcome to Cheshire sign. Additional information will be obtained, and the discussion will be continued at a later date.

Town Administrator Updates

Police Chief Search Update & Next Steps - The Town Administrator shared the following from the consultant; a total of seven candidates applied for the position. Of those applicants, two did not meet the minimum qualifications outlined in the job posting, and one candidate withdrew from the process.

Following a comprehensive review of the remaining applications, four candidates were selected to advance to the written essay phase. This component of the process allows the committee to evaluate each candidate's written communication skills, as well as their knowledge of police leadership, administration, and organizational management.

The written submissions have now been received, reviewed, and evaluated. Based on those results, all four candidates will advance to the oral interview phase. These interviews are designed to assess each candidate's oral communication skills, critical thinking, and ability to respond effectively to questions in a professional setting. Interview questions will include topics specific to the Town of Cheshire while also evaluating each candidate's understanding of modern policing, leadership principles, and law enforcement best practices.

Following the oral interviews, the top two to three candidates will be invited to participate in a formal assessment center. This final stage will consist of a series of chief-level scenarios designed to evaluate each candidate's decision-making, leadership, communication, and problem-solving abilities. Candidates will be assessed by a panel of experienced law enforcement subject matter experts using a standardized evaluation process.

The assessment center follows established professional guidelines and is designed to objectively measure the knowledge, skills, abilities, and personal characteristics (KSAPs) necessary to successfully serve as Chief of Police in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and, more specifically, for the Town of Cheshire.

Public Comment

Mr. Frank Talora of 61 Outlook Avenue requested repair to his driveway apron due to the bus turnaround. This will be added to a future agenda for discussion.

Upcoming Events and Agenda Items
Fire Department Cruz Nite Fundraiser – Car show with food, vendors, music, raffles, and activities. – Saturday, August 8, 2026, from 4:00-9:00 p.m. at the Cheshire Community House grounds.

Any other business not anticipated 48 hours 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
July 13, 2026

Document List
1. Agenda - July 7, 2026
2. National Grid Pole Petition- West Mountain Road
3. Board of Selectmen - June 9, 2026
4. MEP Upgrades Email Tighe and Bond
5. PILOT Agreement – Gore Brook, LLC

Approved: July 21, 2026