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 August 18, 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, August 18, 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; Whitney Flynn, Town Clerk; Erin Paris, Administrative Assistant; Sabrina Damms, iBerkshires; Steve Brem; Lynn Melchiori; Peter Gentile, Gateway Collaborative Media; James Rose; Peter Traub; Bruce Richardson; Terry Miller.

Summary of Votes:

Vote to approve the consent agenda with edits to the minutes	5-0
Vote to make Flahery Road a one-way road from E. Main to Main St	5-0
Vote to sign the Primary Election Warrant as submitted	5-0
Vote to approve the Election Worker appointments as submitted	5-0
Vote to approve the driveway permit for 631 Outlook Avenue	5-0
Vote to appoint Kathleen Richards as Alternate to the Council on Aging	5-0
Vote to adjourn at 7:11 p.m.	5-0

M. Francesconi called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with two recording devices (iBerkshires and Gateway Collaborative Media)

Consent Agenda Minutes

- **Minutes** – August 4, 2026
- **Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants**

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by S. McGrath to approve consent agenda with edits to the 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

- **Flaherty Road** - The Town Administrator shared that she and the DPW Director were approached by residents of Flaherty Road to make it a one-way road due to safety concerns. A meeting was held two weeks ago with the residents to address concerns and

the recommendation is to make the road one way from E. Main Street to Main Street. Residents were present and spoke in support of the one-way road.
A motion was made by R. DeAngelis and seconded by S. McGrath to make Flaherty Road a one-way road from East Main Street to Main Street.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; S. McWhirt-Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes; S. McGrath-Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

- **State Primary Election Warrant -** The Town Clerk shared early voting hours and encouraged voters to check their voter status on the Secretary of State website or with her office.
A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by S. McWhirt to sign the State Primary Election Warrant as presented.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; S. McWhirt-Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes; S. McGrath-Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

Appointment Election Workers
Town Clerk - Whitney Flynn (Clerk)
Constable - Alison Warner (Warden)
Constable - Timothy Garner (Deputy Warden)
Mary Ellen Baker – Check In (Inspector)
Neil Baker - Check In (Inspector)
Celia Ferro- Check In (Deputy Inspector)
Denise Gregoire - Counter (Teller)/ Check In (Deputy Inspector)
Sharon Chalmers – Counter (Teller)
Thomas Chalmers – Counter (Teller)
Lorraine Faucher - Counter (Teller)
Ann Mange- Counter (Teller)
Judy Serafin - Counter (Teller)
Wendy Warner - Counter (Teller)
Doreen Aleshevich – Counter (Teller)
Robert Belini – Ballot Person
Carol Daniels – Voting Machine Custodian
Mary Lou Burdick - (In Training)
Peter Traub (Alternate)
Christine Emerson (Alternate)
A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by R. Killeen to appoint the Election Workers as presented.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; S. McWhirt-Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes; S. McGrath-Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

- **Fire Station Sign -** The Town Administrator shared that she had reached out to two companies for quotes but without a location and dimensions obtaining an accurate quote is difficult. There was discussion about moving the sign across the road to where the Welcome to Cheshire sign sits, and the required electrical work. The DPW Director will

get measurements at both the Fire Station and the Welcome Sign so quotes can be obtained.

- **Police Chief Search Update -** M. Francesconi shared that two applicants were moved forward to the assessment center with one applicant withdrawing leaving the remaining applicant. She shared that the consultant was very impressed with the applicant Matthew Wright who will be interviewed on Friday August 21, 2026, at 3:00 P.M. If a decision is made that evening by the board, the applicant will receive a conditional letter of employment. Once the required screenings are complete the board will then go into contract negotiations. M. Francesconi then turned to the board to get input on changing the schedule of the current police officer to include evening hours, as a recent incident was left to the state police who were unable to respond. The board did not vote but agreed to change the schedule until the new police chief is appointed.

- **Crack Sealing -** The DPW Director shared that he would like to invest in pavement preservation by crack sealing the following roads; East Main St, Notch Rd, Stafford Hill Rd, Savoy Rd, Henry Wood Rd, Ingalls Rd, Berkshire Dr, Hampshire Dr, Wilshire Dr, Yorkshire Dr, Devonshire Dr, Hutchinson Lane, Depot & Railroad St, West Mountain Rd, Curran Rd. The summer paving projects came in under bid within the Chapter 90 request there is additional money to do the crack sealing project which is estimated to cost $122,910. The DPW Director shared that all the paving projects are complete and the aprons are being done next week. R. DeAngelis stated that now that the town is getting caught up on road projects it would be good to do more reconstruction when doing projects (full depth reclamation and drainage work). M. Francesconi noted that there are several places in town that need guardrail replacement.

- **Driveway Permit-**
  A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by R. DeAngelis to accept and approve the driveway permit for 631 Outlook Avenue as submitted.
  Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; S. McWhirt-Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes; S. McGrath-Yes
  Motion Carries: 5-0

- **Council on Aging Alternate Appointment- Kathleen Richards**
  A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by S. McGrath to appoint Kathleen Richards as a Council on Aging Alternate.
  Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen – Yes; S. McWhirt-Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes; S. McGrath-Yes
  Motion Carries: 5-0

Public Comment - B. Richardson inquired about what was going on and happening at the location of old Country harm located at 750-760 South State Road. Had concerns he saw blacktop. The Town Administrator indicated that she would speak with Mr. Richardson after the meeting with Conservation Commission member R. DeAngelis.

Upcoming Events and Agenda Items- None

Any other business did not anticipate 48 hours prior to the meeting
R. Killeen shared that he had been working with the ethics commission and a letter was sent to Governor Healy asking for permission to serve as representative to the BRTA. R. Killeen shared that a requirement of the process is for the Chair of the Board of Selectmen to sign a disclosure form which M. Francesconi signed.

Adjournment
A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by S. McGrath to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 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
August 31, 2026

Document List
1. Agenda - August 18, 2026
2. Draft Minutes – August 4
3. Primary Election Warrant & Information
4. Election Worker Appointment List
5. Crack Sealing Estimate

Approved : 9/1/26