TOWN OF CHESHIRE

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Board of Selectmen

MEETING MINUTES August 21, 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 Friday, August 21, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

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

Board of Selectmen Absent: Scott McWhirt, Member

Others Present: Jennifer Morse, Town Administrator; Timothy Garner, Interim Police Chief; Matthew Wright, Police Chief Applicant

Summary of Votes:

Vote to appoint Matthew Wright as Police Chief pending screenings and contract negotiations 4-0

M. Francesconi called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. with one recording device (iBerkshires) and stated that Board of Selectmen member Scott McWhirt as he had been a former colleague of M. Wright and still works at Adams Police Department as a detail officer.

Police Chief Interview - Matthew Wright

M. Francesconi opened the meeting by explaining that board members would each be asking a series of questions to which follow-up questions could ensue. She informed the applicant that he can ask for clarification of questions if necessary.

M. Wright introduced himself, stating that he grew up in Cheshire and is currently raising two small children with his wife here in Cheshire. He has been with the Adams Police Department for nineteen years and a Sargeant for twelve years. He attended Hoosac Valley High School and earned an associate degree in criminal justice from Berkshire Community College and a bachelor's degree from Westfield State University.

M. Wright stated that he would be transparent to the community, giving a clear understanding of department goals and how the department works to keep the community safe. A top priority is to restore trust and fill the vacancies within the department. He would expand training so officers feel prepared and invested in the department.

M. Wright shared that in Adams he supervised four officers as a day-shift sergeant, civilian animal control officer, detective, handled court duties, representative to the CJIS and overhauled the department policies and implementation of body-worn camera. His training consists of FBI and Municipal Police Training programs; he is a certified AXON Taser instructor and sex offender registry board compliance officer.

M. Wright closed by stating that Cheshire is the Community he lives in and he hopes to lead with honesty and integrity, stating that it would be an honor.

A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by M. Francesconi to appoint Matthew Wright as Police Chief pending required screenings and contract negotiations.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen- Yes; S. McGrath – Yes, M. Francesconi – Yes
Motion Carries: 4-0

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by S. McGrath to adjourn the meeting at 3:20 p.m.
Roll Call Vote: R. DeAngelis – Yes; R. Killeen- Yes; S. McGrath – Yes, M. Francesconi – Yes
Motion Carries: 4-0

Respecfully Submitted
Jennifer Morse
Town Administrator
August 31, 2026

Approved : 9/1/26