TOWN OF CHESHIRE

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Board of Selectmen

MEETING MINUTES – September 15, 2026, 6:30 P.M.

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 September 15, 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 Member Absent	Shawn McGrath, Vice Chair

Others Present: Jennifer Morse, Town Administrator; Corey McGrath, DPW Director; Whitney Flynn; Erin Paris, Administrative Assistant; Peter Gentile, Gateway Collaborative Media; Breanna Steele, 1Berkshires; Jane Kaufman, Berkshire Eagle; Lynn Melchiori; Frank Talora; Peter Traub; Bob Tetlow; Christy St. John; Aaron Dean, Superintendent Hoosac Valley Regional School District; Brendan Sheran, Berk12; Erin Milne, NBESS Chair.

M. Francesconi opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. with three recording devices; iBerkshires, Gateway Collaborative Media, Town Administrator.

Appointments. Northern Berkshire Sustainability Study (NBESS) Update

Erin Milne, Hoosac Valley School Representative and Chair of the NBESS discussed the NBESS funding mechanism and Phase 1. The committee has contracted Berk12 for the study and a survey will be distributed to the communities. The study encompasses four school districts, North Adams Public Schools, Northern Berkshire School Union, Mount Greylock School District and Hoosac Valley Regional School District. The study focuses on Grades 6-12 to understand current conditions across the districts, gain input regarding educational priorities, analyze strengths, opportunities, and challenges and identify opportunities for future collaboration. Brendan Sheran explained that data, facility conditions and school performance will be gathered in addition to community input, final reports are expected to be given in May.

Consent Agenda

- Minutes- September 1, 2026
- Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants
- Appointment - Jennifer Morse - Berkshire Regional Planning Executive Committee Alternate
- Appointment - Matthew Wright - Emergency Committee Member
- Whitneys one day Liquor License were approved
  (9/20,9/27,10/3,10/4,10/10,10/11,10/1210/17,10/18,10/24,10/25)

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by R. Killeen to accept the consent agenda with edits to minutes.
Roll Call Vote: S. McWhirt- Yes; R. DeAngelis – Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes Ray Killeen-Yes
Motion Carries: 4-0

Board of Selectman Discussion /Decision Items

- **Youth Center Lease –** M. Francesconi shared that the appraisal obtained by the town has been received and asked if the Youth Center appraisal has been shared. The Town Administrator stated that it has not been to date. There was discussion about holding the negotiation meetings during regular meetings or having a subcommittee to meet and then bring to the board. M. Francesconi shared that she is opposed to having a subcommittee and wants all meetings in regular session. R. Killeen expressed concerns about the process and suggested a subcommittee. The members decided to bring the matter to the entire board.

- **Fire Department Geotech Report-** The DPW Director asked the board if they would like Hill Engineering to attend the next meeting to discuss the proposal for additional boring. After discussion the engineering company will be asked to attend the next meeting.

- **LED Sign-** The DPW Director updated the board regarding the 100-amp service currently there that will need to be updated. The Town Administrator is working to obtain three quotes for the project.

- **Athenaeum Building Conditions-** The DPW Director obtained one quote to repair the stairs, $4,500, additional quotes will be solicited. He spoke with a contractor regarding the roof and interior gutters and the DPW Director is recommending extending the roof over the fascia and going back to traditional gutters.

- **Community House- National Grid Updates –** The DPW Director reported that National Grid approached the town last week regarding upgrades to the electrical system in the Community House. National Grid engineers will be working on the upgrades as the town does not own the service. He contacted Tighe and Bond to let them know so they can contact National Grid regarding the new electrical requirements for the building.

- **Custodian Position-** The position is open after a recent resignation and is currently being filled by a DPW employee. The position will be posted at ten hours per week which can be flexible. R. Killeen will be the board member participating in interviews.
  A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by R. Killeen to post the Custodian Position.
  Roll Call Vote: S. McWhirt- Yes; R. DeAngelis –Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes Ray Killeen-Yes
  Motion Carries: 4-0

- **DPW Director Operator /Laborer -** The job description was discussed and two edits were made. The full-time position is split between the water budget and the DPW

budget. It was clarified that the individual will need to obtain a water operator training license within two years of hiring. The job will be posted for three weeks and two members of the board will participate in the interview, S. McWhirt and R. DeAngelis.
A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by R. Killeen to accept the Water Operator/DPW Laborer position and post.
Roll Call Vote: S. McWhirt- Yes; R. DeAngelis –Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes Ray Killeen-Yes
Motion Carries: 4-0

- **Holiday Schedule 2027-**
A motion was made by R. DeAngelis and seconded by S. McWhirt to approve the 2027 Holiday Schedule.
Roll Call Vote: S. McWhirt- Yes; R. DeAngelis –Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes Ray Killeen-Yes
Motion Carries: 4-0

- **Public Comment Policy**. This policy was reviewed and compared with other towns to ensure that all requirements and laws are contained in policy as needed. It will be available online.
A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by R. DeAngelis to accept the Public Comment Policy
Roll Call Vote: S. McWhirt- Yes; R. DeAngelis – Yes; Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes Ray Killeen-Yes
Motion Carries: 4-0

Public Comment F. Talora indicated he came to a BOS meeting several weeks ago with concerns about his driveway when they re -paved Outlook Avenue and was inquiring if any information or intentions to address his driveway was available. He was told it could be discussed after the meeting with the DPW Director and BOS member R. DeAngelis.

Town Administrator, Jennifer Morse shared that there will be a Coffee with the Chief event on Thursday October 1, 2026, at 9 a.m. Farnams Causeway with a rain location of the Community House. Additionally, she shared that at the last meeting an allegation was made that a member of the Cheshire Police Department had ordered a cell phone without proper approval. This is not the case; the phone was not in working condition and with her permission the phone was switched out for a new device. The bill showed that end date of the original device and opening of the new account.

Events and Upcoming Agenda Items.

Adjournment
A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by R. DeAngelis to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m.
Roll Call Vote: S. McWhirt- Yes; R. DeAngelis – Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes Ray Killeen-Yes
Motion Carries:4-0

Respecfully Submitted;
Erin Paris
Administrative Assistant
9/28/26

Document List

1. Agenda - September 15, 2026
2. Draft Minutes – Setpember 1, 2026
3. Wilkinson Appraisal – Youth Center Inc.
4. Hill Engineering - Fire Department Structural Findings
5. Stewart Signs – LED Sign Quote
6. Custodian Job Description
7. Water Operator/DPW Laborer Job Description
8. 2027 Holiday Schedule
9. Public Comment Policy

Approved: 10/13/26