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 –October 13, 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 October 13, 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; Erin Paris, Administrative Assistant; Corey McGrath, DPW Director; Breanna Steele, iBerkshires; Whitney Flynn, Town Clerk; Kurtis Durocher, Veterans Agent; Matthew Tucker, Gateway Collaborative Media; Liseann Karandisecky; Art Kaufman; James Wojcik; Justin Litchfield; Christine Emerson; Peter Traub; Ron Charbeaneau; Lynn Melchiori

Summary of Votes:

Vote to hire Mitchell Malloy as full-time Police Officer	5-0
Vote to sign the State Election Warrant	5-0
Vote to approve the driveway permit for 89 Depot Street	5-0
Vote to approve the Cannabis Social Equity Policy as presented	3-1-1
Vote to approve the Mobile Device Policy with edits	5-0
Vote to have Scott McWhirt serve as representative on HVHS Council	5-0
Vote to approve the Consent Agenda with edits to the 9/15/26 minutes	5-0
Vote to adjourn at 7:34 p.m.	5-0

M Francesconi called the Board of Selectmen meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Appointments

Veterans Agent – Regional Assessment for Services, Hometown Hero Banners

Kurt Durocher, Veterans Agent, was present to discuss the FY28 assessment which will have a substantial increase. Mr. Durocher explained the assessment reasoning which is based on population, veteran population, chapter 115 caseload and appointment volume to arise at a percentage of the total budget cost. There was discussion on the impact that the Veterans Services office has had since Mr. Durocher became the shared veterans service agent. It was noted that the information will be presented as part of the budget process. Mr. Durocher spoke about the Hometown Hero Banner program which has been successful in the City of North Adams. Currently the veterans services office is collecting names of families who would like to support a banner and discussion have been taking place about

having the banners on a main street in town or on poles built by McCann students on the Community House campus. The banners will be paid by families at a current cost of $150 per banner. S. McGrath would like to see the banners placed on Route 8. More information will be presented to the town when information is available.

Police Chief – Police Officer Hiring – Mitch Malloy
Chief Wright presented Mitchell Malloy for the position of Full-Time Police Officer having been interviewed last week. Mr. Malloy served in the miliary, completed the full-time police academy and has been working at MCLA. There was discussion about "buying out" the contract with MCLA for the full-time academy fees which is at a much lower rate than the town putting an officer through the academy.
A motion was made by S McGrath and seconded by M. Francesconi to hire Mitchell Malloy as full-time police officer and buy out to his contract with MCLA.
Roll Call Vote: S. McWhirt- Yes; R. DeAngelis – Yes; S. McGrath – Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes Ray Killeen-Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

Board of Selectman Discussions/Decision Items
State Election Warrant and Voting Information
W. Flynn, Town Clerk, presented the State Election Warrant and Early Voting Information.
A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by R. DeAngelis to sign the Election Warrant as presented.
Roll Call Vote: S. McWhirt- Yes; R. DeAngelis – Yes; S. McGrath – Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes Ray Killeen-Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

Town Clerk Vault Location/Storage
M. Francesconi stated that she was happy to hear that the clerk was able to access the safe in the former town clerk office and seeing that there is research and space assessment needs it was suggested that a member of the board work with the Town Clerk on storage needs and vital record storage. R. Killeen volunteered for this project.

Driveway Permit-89 Depot Street
The driveway application was reviewed by the board having the recommendation of approval by the DPW Director.
A motion was made by R. DeAngelis and seconded by R. Killeen to accept the Driveway Permit as presented.
Roll Call Vote: S. McWhirt- Yes; R. DeAngelis – Yes; S. McGrath – Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes Ray Killeen-Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

Cannabis Social Equity Policy
J. Morse shared that the town received a second notice of noncompliance for the mandated cannabis social equity policy, special counsel was contacted and the draft policy was included in the packet. The policy is needed as part of the Host Community Agreement process, as there have been no payments received in the past year there is currently no

penalty to the town. M. Francesconi shared her displeasure in the state mandating policies. R. Killeen stated that he does not support the industry.
A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by R. DeAngelis to accept the Social Equity Policy as written
Roll Call Vote: S. McWhirt- Yes; R. DeAngelis – Yes; S. McGrath – Yes; M. Francesconi-No; Ray Killeen-Abstain
Motion Carries: 3-1-1

Cheshire Rod and Gun Club One Day Liquor License Liquor 10/24, 10/28
A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by R. Killeen to approve the one-day liquor licenses as presented.
Roll Call Vote: S. McWhirt- Yes; R. DeAngelis – Yes; S. McGrath – Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes; Ray Killeen-Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

Draft Mobile Device Policy
The policy was reviewed for the second time and one edit was made to the document.
A motion was made by S. McGrath and seconded by M. Francesconi to accept the Mobile Device Policy as edited.
Roll Call Vote: S. McWhirt- Yes; R. DeAngelis – Yes; S. McGrath – Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes; Ray Killeen-Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

South Street Water Project
The Town Administrator announced that the town had received a grant in the amount of $1,159,200 through the One Stop, Housing Works Infrastructure Program for South Street to upgrade the existing infrastructure to improve water reliability, quality and fire department needs for the town. The DPW Director shared that this is a big win for the town as that section of the water line is bottlenecked. There are several businesses, two mobile home parks, multiple residents, a fire department, and a vacant commercial lot in the section. The project will go under Kitchen Brook from the lights on South Street to Lanesborough Road.
S. McGrath thanked the Town Administrator for bringing more than $5 million in grants to the town since she was hired, stating that it's a huge job and a job well done.

DPW Highway Heavy Equipment Operator Hiring Process
The job description was briefly discussed after the resignation of a highway employee. The Town Administrator shared that it has been posted online and on Berkshire Jobs. R. DeAngelis and R. Killeen will be part of the hiring committee for this position. Interviews will be conducted in the next coming weeks as it is important to get someone in for this position due to the season approaching.

HVHS School Council Representative
A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by S. McGrath to have Scott McWhirt serve on the Hoosac Valley Regional High School Council.

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

Consent Agenda
- **Minutes for September 04, 2026, and September 15, 2026, Minutes**
- **Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants**

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by R. DeAngelis to accept the Consent agenda with edits to the minutes.
Roll Call Vote: S. McWhirt- Yes; R. DeAngelis – Yes; S. McGrath – Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes Ray Killeen-Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

Public Comment There was no public Comment

Upcoming Events and Agenda Items

- Hello to Highway Event October 22, 2026, 9:00 A.M
- Festival of Trees is coming up, details to follow

Adjournment
A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by S. McGrath to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m.
Roll Call Vote: S. McWhirt- Yes; R. DeAngelis – Yes; S. McGrath – Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes Ray Killeen-Yes
Motion Carries: 5-0

Respecfully Submitted;
Erin Paris
Administrative Assistant
October 13, 2026

Document List

1. Agenda – October 13, 2026
2. Veteran Services Agreement
3. Vault Update Emails & Information
4. Driveway Permit - 89 Depot Street
5. Cannabis Social Equity Policy
6. Mobile Device Policy
7. Grant Announcement - South Street Water Main
8. Heavy Equipment Operator Job Description
9. Draft Minutes - September 4, 2026 and September 15, 2026
10. All Boards and Committees Meeting Flyer
11. Hello to Highway Flyer