

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING HELD
ON TUESDSAY, MARCH 24, 2026, 6:30 P.M., ROOM 207/209, 84 SOUTH MAIN ST.,
CHESHIRE, CT 06410**

Present:

Peter Talbot
Fiona Pearson
Greg Wolff
David Veleber
Don Walsh
Deb Manke
Lou Todisco

Staff/Guests: Sean Kimball, Town Manager; Andrew Martelli, Assistant Town Manager; Jim Jaskot, Finance Director; Dan Bombero, Director of Public Works; Marek Kement, Town Engineer; David Milano, WWTP Superintendent

Absent: Tricia Cramer, Jim Jinks

1. Roll Call.

Peter Talbot called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Noelle Shepard called the roll, and a quorum was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public comment.

4. Proposed FY 2026-2027 Operating and Capital Budgets.

a. Public Works

Lou Todisco arrived at 6:33 p.m.

Dan Bombero provided a high-level overview of the Public Works and Public Property proposed operating budgets. A 4.06% increase is being requested for Public Works and a 9.17% increase for Public Properties, which is mostly a result of moving the PW-3 Maintainer position that was previously in the Pool budget. Supplies and Services – increase relates to continuing increasing costs. He explained that they have reached the end of contracts for streetlights, conclusion of a ten-year purchase, which results in a reduction of \$124,366 expenditure.

He explained that the budget for snow and ice is over this year due to the timing of and number of snow events. As a result, he has proposed increasing the supplies and services budget by \$30,150 for this upcoming year.

The Town Manager is recommending \$25,000 this year for the tree line item, which is an increase of \$13,000. This is because while the department does some of the tree work in house, a professional contractor will still need to be hired for any larger trees.

In the Grounds Division, there was an increase in supplies and services of \$16,651 – includes funding for fertilizer, grass seed, etc.

Solid waste has an increase of \$114,584 in contractual services. The Town's share of the recycling fee went from 50% to 75%. Don Walsh brought up bulk waste pickup and proposed figuring out how to get \$50,000 to get a dumpster at the transfer station. Dan Bombero mentioned that the new contract includes proposed rates for bulky waste and having a thirty-yard container, etc. Don Walsh inquired if the Town could reach out to the Regional Water Authority to see if they would host a HazWaste event in Cheshire. Sean Kimball explained that the Town Council will need to hold a Sustainability Committee meeting soon.

b. Engineering

c. Water Pollution Control

Marek Kement provided an overview of the proposed operating budget changes. Engineering is requesting an overall 2.8% increase (\$9,184), WPCD is requesting an overall 1.8% increase of \$92,912. Marek Kement explained that they were looking to bring the in-kind equipment replacement capital budget costs into the operating budget because it is an annual occurrence. The Town Manager proposed \$210,000, which is a \$60,000 increase. Program materials and supplies increase of \$37,000 due to chemical costs especially methanol. Personnel expenses increased by \$7,600 due to union contract negotiations and agreement. The construction line-item had a proposed increase of \$10,000 for pump replacement and for any external contracting.

Marek Kement proposed starting to get the funding for the road improvement program back into the operating budget from the capital budget to avoid bonding fees. He suggested beginning this year with \$200,000. Discussion was had on whether to create a new line item or add to public works line item for other road expenses. Peter Talbot requested debt service history and projections for ten years.

Marek Kement provided an update on the Mixville Park project. Sean Kimball reviewed the FY 2027 mill rate calculator and mentioned that he would send around to the councilors. Don Walsh asked if it could be separated between homes versus condos. Greg Wolff suggested that it would be helpful to have a link on the website so that people can look up assessed values.

5. Public Comment.

None.

6. Call for a second Public Hearing for April 15, 2026 for the FY 2026-2027 General Operating Budget, Water Pollution Control Department Fund Operating Budget, and Community Pool Fund Operating Budget.

Fiona Pearson motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #032426-01

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council will hold a second public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 in Council Chambers, Town Hall, 84 South Main Street, Cheshire, Connecticut, to consider the proposed General Fund Operating Budget for fiscal year 2026-2027, the proposed Water Pollution Control Department Fund Operating Budget for fiscal year 2026-2027, and the Community Pool Fund Operating Budget for fiscal year 2026-2027, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager shall cause a notice of said public hearing to be posted and published according to law, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the date, time, and place or any further postponements thereof shall be determined by the Town Manager with the approval of the Chair of the Council.

The motion was seconded by David Veleber. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present, 7-0.

7. Adjournment.

Fiona Pearson motioned to adjourn, and Deb Manke seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present. The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Attest:

Noelle Shepard, Management Specialist