

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP
MEETING HELD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING ON
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026, ROOM 207, 84 SOUTH MAIN ST., CHESHIRE, CT 06410**

Present:

Peter Talbot, Don Walsh, David Veleber, Fiona Pearson, Tricia Cramer, Jim Jinks, Lou Todisco, Deb Manke

Staff/Guests: Sean Kimball, Town Manager; Jim Jaskot, Finance Director; Gina DeFilio, Deputy Finance Director; Andrew Martelli, Assistant Town Manager; Jeff Solan, Cheshire Public Schools Superintendent; Emily Taylor, Cheshire Public Schools Chief Operating Officer; Charlie Martin, Town of Cheshire Insurance Advisory Study Group; Katie Archer, Town of Cheshire Insurance Advisory Study Group

Absent: Greg Wolff

Peter Talbot called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m.

1. Roll call.

Noelle Shepard called the roll, and a quorum was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Proposed FY 2026-2027 Operating Budgets.

Insurance, Finance, Debt Service, Revenues, and General Budget Deliberations

Katie Archer summarized the Insurance Advisory Study Group's findings in three categories – whether the plans are running well. The cost differential between town and Board of Education, and the Study Group's recommendations to the Town Council. She explained that the Study Group feels that the town is doing a good job running the plans. They feel that the Town is spending an appropriate amount of money on preventive care – cancer screenings, annual physicals, etc. Discussion was had on medical inflation.

Katie Archer further explained the population difference between the Board of Education and town and expressed that the Study Group feels mostly factors that are not controllable. Data shows that Cheshire has more cancer claims than other municipalities. Discussion was had on stop loss. Sean Kimball explained that the town is a part of a pool called CT Prime. Katie Archer explained that one plan design update they recommend is a slightly more aggressive medical management, which has a low member impact. They further discussed diversifying communication on wellness and Cigna programs to reach a lot of people with concise reminders. She suggested that the Town consider implementing Cigna's specialty drug copay program as well as dialysis claim management to insure best in class strategies are in place. She discussed pharmacy rebates and how the revenue is not dependable.

Don Walsh expressed that he would like the Insurance Advisory Study Group to continue their work. Charlie Martin explained that the Town is likely overdue for an insurance broker RFP.

Jim Jaskot presented the Finance Department budget requests and proposed increases. He explained that he has been struggling in the accounting office with the workload. Discussed the requested new position to assist with payroll/benefits, which has resulted in a \$68,000 increase in salaries. He reviewed the requests for the Assessor and Collector of Revenue divisions. There is a 5.81% increase for general insurance.

The Technology budget request was discussed. Archiving cloud software Barracuda had an increase. Discussion was had on general services.

4. Public Comment.

No public comments.

5. Adjournment.

David Veleber motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Jim Jinks seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present, 8-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Attest:

Noelle Shepard, Management Specialist