

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING HELD AT 7:00
P.M. ON TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 84 SOUTH MAIN ST., CHESHIRE, CT
06410**

Present:

Peter Talbot
Jim Jinks
Fiona Pearson
Greg Wolff
Lou Todisco
Don Walsh
Patricia Cramer
Deb Manke
David Veleber

Staff/Guests: Sean Kimball, Town Manager; Jim Jaskot, Finance Director; Gina DeFilio, Deputy Finance Director; Jeff Solan, Cheshire Public Schools Superintendent; Emily Taylor, Cheshire Public Schools Chief Operating Officer

Absent: N/A

Peter Talbot called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call.

Noelle Shepard called the roll, and all Councilors were present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of the sale of Town owned property located at 422 North Brooksvale Road.

Tricia Cramer motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution # 042826-1

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby authorizes the execution of a Purchase and Sale Contract by and between the Town of Cheshire and Vincenzo Buontempo of 630 Cook Hill Road, Cheshire, CT 06410 for the sale of the Town-owned property located at 422 North Brooksvale Road, Cheshire, CT 06410, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager and other officers be, and hereby are, authorized, directed and empowered to enter into, execute, deliver, seal and perform on behalf of the Town said Contract in the form and upon the terms and conditions as presented at this meeting and to execute and deliver such other certificates, deed, or instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate and close the sale of 422 North Brooksvale Road, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of the Contract, as drafted, or a summary thereof setting forth the terms and conditions of the same, is hereby incorporated by reference as part of the minutes of this meeting.

The motion was seconded by Fiona Pearson. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

4. Acceptance of property located at Peck Lane from the Department of Transportation and the transfer of said property to the owner of 645 Peck Lane for the purpose of a utility easement.

Don Walsh motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution # 042826-2

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation has offered to transfer excess land located at Peck Lane resulting from State DOT Project No. 25-98 to the Town, and

WHEREAS, the Planning and Zoning Commission has found that the acquisition of said property by the Town of Cheshire to transfer to the property owners of 645 Peck Lane, Cheshire, CT for the purpose of a utility easement is not in conflict with the Plan of Development and has submitted its report pursuant to C.G.S. Sec. 8-24,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts said property from the State of Connecticut, at no cost to the Town, and also authorizes the immediate transfer by the Town of said property to Michael and Jillian Dziedzic of 645 Peck Lane, Cheshire, CT, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby empowers the Town Manager and other proper officer to enter into, execute, deliver, seal and perform on behalf of the Town deeds or other instruments as may be necessary to consummate said acceptance and transfer in the form and upon the terms and conditions as presented at this meeting.

The motion was seconded by Greg Wolff. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

5. Adoption of the FY 2026-2027 General Fund Operating Budget.

Fiona Pearson motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution # 042826-3A

FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET

A. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Town Council appropriates the following amounts for the Town of Cheshire General Fund Operating Budget, for fiscal year 2026-2027:

General Government \$ 40,654,105 (excluding the Library Department)
Debt Service \$ 12,529,795
Contingency \$100,000
Capital Non-Recurring \$500,000

The motion was seconded by Jim Jinks.

Don Walsh put forward an amended motion to use an additional \$1,000,000 from the fund balance. David Veleber seconded the amendment. Discussion was had on the amendment. The motion to amend failed 2-7, Don Walsh and David Veleber in favor.

The Town Councilors all provided their comments on the budget process. The original motion passed 7-2, Don Walsh and David Veleber opposed.

Fiona Pearson motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution # 042826-3B

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Cheshire Town Council appropriates the amount of \$1,917,553 for the Library Department portion of the General Government Operating Budget.

The motion was seconded by Don Walsh. The motion passed 8-0-1, Greg Wolff abstained from the vote.

Fiona Pearson motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution # 042826-3C

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Cheshire Town Council appropriates the amount of \$99,849,080 for the Board of Education Operating Budget.

The motion was seconded by Greg Wolff.

David Veleber motioned to amend the motion to reduce the Board of Education operating budget by \$400,000. Don Walsh seconded the amended motion. The amended motion failed 2-6-1: Don Walsh and David Veleber in favor; Deb Manke abstained from the vote.

The original motion passed 5-3-1: Don Walsh, David Veleber, Lou Todisco opposed; Deb Manke abstained from the vote.

Fiona Pearson motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution # 042826-3D

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the sum of all revenues, transfers from other funds and allocation of general fund equity for the fiscal year 2026-2027 Town of Cheshire General Fund Operating Budget will be in the amount of \$155,550,533, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the tax rate be set at 31.68 mills which will generate \$126,368,642 at a collection rate of 99.2% for fiscal year 2026-2027 for real and personal property and motor vehicles; and

-That the tax payments for motor vehicles and personal property shall all be due and payable in one payment on July 1, 2026; and

That real estate tax payments shall be paid in two equal payments with the first payment due on July 1, 2026 and the second payment due on January 1, 2027; and

That pursuant to Section 12-144 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, that any real estate tax bill on the 2025 grand list in an amount not in excess of \$100.00 shall be due and payable in a single installment on July 1, 2026; and

That, pursuant to Sections 12-142 and 12-146 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the last date for payment of taxes due July 1, 2026, will be August 3, 2026. Therefore, payment of taxes due July 1, 2026 which are received after August 3, 2026, will be assessed interest calculated from the original due date of July 1, 2026.

The last date for payment of taxes due January 1, 2027 will be February 1, 2027. Payment of taxes due January 1, 2027 which are received after February 1, 2027 will be assessed interest calculated from the due date of January 1, 2027.

The motion was seconded by Greg Wolff. The motion passed 7-2, Don Walsh and David Veleber opposed.

6. Adoption of the FY 2026-2027 Water Pollution Control Department Fund Operating Budget.

Fiona Pearson motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution # 042826-4

FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FUND OPERATING BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Town Council appropriates the sum of \$5,246,661 for the Town of Cheshire Water Pollution Control Fund Operating Budget for fiscal year 2026-2027, and that the sum of revenues and allocation of Water Pollution Control Fund equity for the fiscal year 2026-2027 Town of Cheshire Water Pollution Control Fund Operating budget also be in the amount of \$5,246,661, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cheshire Town Council recommends that the Water Pollution Control Authority consider setting the Sewer Use Charge at \$495 per year, effective December 1, 2026.

The motion was seconded by Jim Jinks. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

7. Adoption of the FY 2026-2027 Community Pool Fund Operating Budget.

Fiona Pearson motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution # 042826-5

FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027

COMMUNITY POOL FUND OPERATING BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Town Council appropriates the sum of \$1,298,464 for the Town of Cheshire Community Pool Fund Operating Budget for fiscal year 2026-2027, and that the sum of revenues and transfers from other funds and allocation of Community Pool Fund equity for the fiscal year 2026-2027 Town of Cheshire Community Pool Fund Operating budget also be in the amount of \$1,298,464.

The motion was seconded by Don Walsh. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

8. Adjournment.

Jim Jinks motioned to adjourn the meeting, and David Veleber seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously, 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Attest:

Noelle Shepard, Management Specialist