

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026, 6:30 P.M., COUNCIL ROOM 207, 84 SOUTH MAIN ST., CHESHIRE,
CT 06410**

Present:

Peter Talbot, Jim Jinks, Deb Manke, Lou Todisco, Fiona Pearson, David Veleber

Staff/Guests: Sean Kimball, Town Manager; Andrew Martelli, Assistant Town Manager; Fire Chief Jack Casner, Finance Director James Jaskot, Police Chief Fred Jortner

Representatives from Site Stream: Andrew Noble, Adam Salina, David Kozak, Samantha Verge, Mark Bedard

Absent: Greg Wolff, Don Walsh, Tricia Cramer

1. Roll Call.

Peter Talbot called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

The Pledge was recited.

3. Authorization to utilize FY 25-26 contingency budget to purchase four Fire King cabinets for the Registrar of Voters Office for voter record storage compliance.

Fiona Pearson motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #052726-1

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the appropriation of up to \$30,000 from the FY 2025-2026 contingency account for the purchase of four FireKing cabinets for the Registrar of Voters Office for voter record storage compliance.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Jinks. Sean Kimball presented the item from Sylvia Nichols and Matt Hall, Registrars of Voters. \$12,000 for the purchase of cabinets was originally approved, and that cost has risen to \$28,000. There is a compliance issue that requires the replacement of the 45-year-old existing cabinets. New statutes require the cabinets to be replaced. The request is to utilize contingency funds for the current year to close the funding gap between the \$12,000 and \$28,000. The contingency balance will be reduced to approximately \$70,000. The goal is to do this now to have the new cabinets in place by July with the order being placed in June.

Chairman Talbot called for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously by those present, 6-0.

4. Approval of school construction grant resolutions for projects associated with Energy Performance Contract 2.0.

Debra Manke motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #052726-2a

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Cheshire Board of Education to apply to the Department of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the Roof Project for Cheshire High School and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Board of Education is hereby established as the School Building Committee for the Roof Project for Cheshire High School and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the Roof Project for Cheshire High School.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that funding of the Roof project, \$ 365,000 at Cheshire High School is approved.

The motion was seconded by David Veleber. Mr. Kimball discussed the project and explained that this is part of the previously approved \$55 million dollars of projects previously approved. The motion is standard language that is required to be approved and submitted with each grant application. Mr. Talbot asked if the BOE approved of the language at their last meeting, and Mr. Kimball believed they did. Mr. Veleber asked if the BOE was being made the school building committee for convenience. Mr. Kimball explained that this allows the BOE to be the construction committee, and this has been done in the past.

All voted in favor, and the motion passed unanimously by those present, 6-0.

Debrah Manke motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #052726-2b

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Cheshire Board of Education to apply to the Department of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the Roof Project for Highland Elementary School and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Board of Education is hereby established as the School Building Committee for the Roof Project for Highland Elementary School and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the Roof Project for Highland Elementary School.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that funding of the Roof project, \$ 1,150,000 at Highland Elementary School is approved.

The motion was seconded by Fiona Pearson. All voted in favor, and the motion passed unanimously by those present, 6-0.

Deb Manke motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #052726-2c

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Cheshire Board of Education to apply to the Department of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the Roof Project for Doolittle Elementary School and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cheshire Board of Education is hereby established as the School Building Committee for the Roof Project for Doolittle Elementary School and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the Roof Project for Doolittle Elementary School.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that funding of the Roof project, \$ 2,650,000 at Doolittle Elementary School is approved.

The motion was seconded by Fiona Pearson. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present, 6-0.

5. Authorization to apply for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) via FEMA's Resilience Grant Program to fund the replacement of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses (SCBAs).

Jim Jinks motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #052726-3

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby authorizes the application for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) via FEMA's Resilience Grant Program in the amount of \$1,000,000 to fund the replacement of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses (SCBAs), and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council further authorizes a 10% municipal match in the amount of \$100,000 should the grant be awarded, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Town Manager Sean M. Kimball to execute any and all necessary documents associated with said grant.

The motion was seconded by Fiona Pearson. Chief Casner and Andrew Martelli discussed the grant. David Veleber asked how much was in the Capital Plan in Year 2, and Chief Casner confirmed \$1,500,000. Mr. Veleber asked if the reduction from 82 to 70 was because the units were a better product than the old. Chief Casner stated that they would like to reduce the number to 70 to reduce maintenance costs. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present, 6-0.

6. Approval of contract with Everbridge for emergency / community alert system.

Lou Todisco motioned:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council approves Resolution #052726-4

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves a three-year contract with Everbridge for an emergency/community alert system, pursuant to the terms and conditions as presented, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes Town Manager Sean M. Kimball to execute said contract upon the approval by the Town Attorney as to form and function.

The motion was seconded by David Veleber. Sean Kimball discussed that he and Chief Casner have been working on this change from Code Red to Everbridge for the past six months. In recent years the Code Red System has proven to be unreliable, and Everbridge has become the gold standard and is compatible and used by the State of Connecticut. Mr. Kimball explained that the cost for the Everbridge contract would also be savings with setup occurring at the end of the contract with Code Red for seamless operation and changeover. Chief Casner discussed that the demo the Town received showed the usability of the new software and the Town team has a level of comfort.

Chairman Talbot asked if the changeover would allow for a cleanup of the database to ensure repeat numbers and the removal of inactive users can be done during the changeover. Mr. Kimball reiterated that the changeover will

allow the Town to confirm numbers in the database, send out a test code red to remove users and provide media outreach to the community.

The motion passed unanimously by all members present, 6-0.

7. Demo of automated enforcement system for red light and speed cameras by Sitestream.

Andrew Noble introduced himself and that they have been working in CT for the past three years since the legislation was passed. Mr. Noble has been in the industry for about 21 years with deployment in various countries of the system. Five communities in CT have contracted with the company. Wethersfield has installed both red light and speed cameras in their community. Stamford has begun with solar powered school zone cameras. Stonington will have red lights and school bus arm cameras; Stonington has added cameras as well.

All programs have three attributes. Zero Community Capital investment, revenue divided between the community from violator funded tickets and Sitestream. The State gets to decide where cameras can go based on community safety concerns. The State requires traffic volumes, traffic statistics, crash data and demographic information. Sitestream staff assist the municipality in creating these reports for submission to the State.

Mr. Noble showed images of the cameras and how they operate. The cameras track speed, and can determine the type of vehicles. If it detects a car that is going too fast it triggers the camera to take a series of pictures to identify the offender. If the camera is a red light camera it has a video capability to film the vehicle and its violation of yellow to red lights. The cameras do not have a flash which reduces their size.

Sitestream is one of only a handful of vendors that has international approvals. In CT only the back of the vehicle is captured an image of the driver is not captured. All cameras are recalibrated annually. When this occurs the camera to be calibrated is removed and replaced with a new camera. Each camera has a built in camera that will terminate its operation once the calibration limit is exceeded to ensure only calibrated cameras are functioning and no illegal tickets are issued.

Each year a report is issued to DOT with trend data to determine if the cameras are slowing traffic, intersections are safer and if the cameras are effective in traffic calming measures. School Bus Stop Arm Cameras function similar to the red light and speed cameras whereas they translate the information via modem for processing.

All vehicles are not photographed only those that are committing the violation. Vehicles that have been documented causing a violation are uploaded into a National Database to assist with catching offenders across the country.

Tickets are sent to the registered vehicle owner and not necessarily the operator of the vehicle. All violations need to be approved by a designed employee within the community. In a community such as Cheshire, the Police would be designated as the reviewer to issue or not issue the ticket. They will be prompted as to the reason why the ticket is or is not issued. The local PD is the final approving authority for each violation. If a ticket is issued the violation will be issued within two to three days. When a ticket is issued there is a dispute period where the violation can be assigned by the owner of the vehicle to a potential alternate individual.

Sitestream's team will work with the community to develop a program that best fits Cheshire's needs following best practices and State program regulations. There is an initial 30-day period from camera installation / operation where notices are sent to violators letting them know that the cameras are in existence and how to view the video of the violation. After the 30 days the ticketing begins and actual violations are sent to offenders.

Prior to the program rollout community outreach and information sessions will be held to inform the public. A public information program will be developed by Sitestream that will be Cheshire, specifically including locations of cameras, when they will be installed and why the community is considering the installation. Sitestream will

engage with the community and attend local festivals etc. to get the word out. Studies have indicated that after installation approximately 1% of the offenders are local residents.

Jim Jinks asked that in the presented case where speeds were 98 is that a different type of infraction and Andrew responded that it was not. However, the data received is the property of the Town. Cheshire police can take the received information and use it for further enforcement action.

Mr. Kimball asked about repeat offenders. There is a \$50 offense for the first offense, and second offense goes to \$75 and tops off there. The State allows for up to a \$15 processing fee. Data is retained for one year, if a second offense is outside that one year limit the fine is set back to \$50. Tickets can be paid electronically via a website with multiple online payment options available.

The Town has multiple enforcement options for those that do not pay and are town based such as booting vehicles, towing etc.

Jim Jinks asked about the revenue split. One is a fixed amount per camera per month based on the violations equaling about 55% profit. 30-40% reduction in revenue within the first 6 months.

David Velber raised concerns about the cameras and that speed enforcement is the local police forces job. He is interested to see what streets would be applicable for the camera installation. Mr. Noble stated that the cameras will need based and installed accordingly. Mr. Veleber also asked about the appeal process for tickets. Mr. Noble stated that these are civil infractions such as code enforcement or parking tickets and not via the Court system.

Mr. Veleber asked Chief Jortner where he felt cameras could be located. Chief Jortner explained he would like to take a holistic approach and reiterated that with the population growth there are still only three cruisers on the roads at any given time.

Mr. Veleber, Chairman Talbot, and Lou Todisco inquired about the red-light cameras and the grace period of yellow vs. red. Mr. Noble explained that the Council / PD will be able to set the violation program and it is not governed by the State. Fiona Pearson asked what other States are in the process of reviewing this type of installation. Mr. Noble stated that CT is State number 28 that is looking into the installation.

Lou Todisco asked if there is any data that shows that this actually makes a community safer. Mr. Noble explained that data must be submitted indicating that traffic, speeds, fatalities are documented and tracked. Every three years DOT must review the data to ensure that the cameras are still required based on data received.

8. Referral of Wastewater Treatment Plant Maintenance Manager position (PW-7) to the Personnel Committee for their review and recommendation.

The WWTP Maintenance Manager position was referred to the Personnel Committee for their review and recommendation.

9. Adjournment.

David Veleber motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Deb Manke seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present, 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Attest:

Andrew Martelli, Assistant Town Manager