

# Cheshire Massachusetts

Annual Report 2016



# Federal, State and County Officials

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## United States Senators

### Elizabeth Warren

2 Russell Courtyard - Washington, DC 20510  
1-202-224-4543

Springfield Office: Springfield Federal Building  
1550 Main St., Suite 406 - Springfield, MA 01103

Website: [Warren.senate.gov](http://Warren.senate.gov)

Facebook: [facebook.com/senatorelizabethwarren](https://facebook.com/senatorelizabethwarren) - Twitter: @ElizabethforMA, @SenWarren

### Edward J. Markey

218 Russell Senate Office Building - Washington, DC 20510  
1-202-224-2742

Springfield Office: Springfield Federal Building  
1550 Main St., 4th Floor - Springfield, MA 01103-1427

1-413-785-4610

website: <http://markey.senate.gov>

Facebook: [facebook.com/EdJMarkey](https://facebook.com/EdJMarkey) - Twitter: @SenMarkey

## Massachusetts Representative In Congress

### Richard Neal

2208 Rayburn House Office Building - Washington, DC 20515  
1-202-225-5601

Pittsfield Office: Federal Building

78 Center Street - Pittsfield, MA 01201

442-0946 - website: <http://neal.house.gov>

Facebook: [facebook.com/Congressman-Richard-Neal-325642654132598/](https://facebook.com/Congressman-Richard-Neal-325642654132598/) - Twitter: @RepRichardNeal

## Governor of Massachusetts

### Charles Baker

Office of the Governor

The State House, Room 280 - Boston, MA 02133

1-617-725-4005; (888) 870-7770

TTY: (617) 727-3666

Springfield Office: State Office Building

436 Dwight St., Suite 300 - Springfield, MA 01103

413-784-1200 - website: [www.mass.gov/governor](http://www.mass.gov/governor)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CharlieBakerMA](https://www.facebook.com/CharlieBakerMA) - Twitter: @MassGovernor

## Members of the Massachusetts General Court

### Senator Adam Hinds

100 North St., Suite 410 - Pittsfield, MA 01201

413-344-4561

Email: [adam.hinds@masenate.gov](mailto:adam.hinds@masenate.gov) - Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SenatorAdamHinds](https://www.facebook.com/SenatorAdamHinds)

Boston Office: State House, Room 309 - Boston, MA 02133

1-617-722-1625, Fax: 1-617-722-1523

## Representative

### Gailanne Cariddi

District Contact: North Adams City Hall - 10 Main Street, Room 214 - North Adams, MA 01247

1-413-664-6812

Boston Office: Boston State House, Room 36 - Boston, MA 02133

1-617-722-2370

Email: [gailanne.cariddi@mahouse.gov](mailto:gailanne.cariddi@mahouse.gov) - Website: [www.gailcariddi.com](http://www.gailcariddi.com)

On the Net: [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov) (informational site for Massachusetts)

*Town of*  
**CHESHIRE**

MASSACHUSETTS



*Annual Report*  
**2016**

# Town Elected Officials

	<i>Term Expires</i>		<i>Term Expires</i>
<b>Selectmen</b>		<b>Constables</b>	
	Paul F. Astorino		Ralph Biagini
	Robert S. Ciskowski		C.J. Garner
	Carol A. Francesconi		Alison Warner
	2017		2019
	2018		2019
	2019		2019
<b>Moderator</b>		<b>Planning Board</b>	
	Edmund St. John IV		Francis Griswold
	2019		2017
<b>Board of Assessors</b>			Shannon Plumb
	Laurie Charon		2018
	2017		Peter Traub
	Everett L. Martin		2019
	2018		Ronald DeAngelis
	Barbara Astorino		2020
	2019		1 year appointment Donna Defino
			2017
<b>Board of Health</b>		<b>Adams Cheshire Regional School District School Committee Members Cheshire</b>	
	Jeffrey Warner		Edmund St. John IV
	2017		2017
	Richard Salvi		Darlene Rodowicz
	2018		2018
	Michael Biagini Jr.		Peter Tatro
	2019		2019
<b>Water Commissioners</b>		<b>Adams Cheshire Regional School District School Committee Members Adams</b>	
	Donald Rueger		Regina Hill
	2017		2017
	Ricky Gurnery		Steven Vigna
	2018		2018
	Francis Waterman Jr.		Paul Butler
	2019		2019
			Jennifer Andrews
			2019
<b>Cemetery Commissioners</b>		<b>Northern Berkshire Vocational School Committee Member Cheshire</b>	
	Neil Baker		William Craig
	2017		2019
	Jack Girard		
	2018		
	Josephine Lewis		
	2019		
<b>Tax Collector</b>			
	Rebecca Herzog		
	2018		
<b>Town Clerk</b>			
	Christine B. Emerson		
	2018		

# Town Appointments

APPOINTMENT	NAME	TERM	APPOINTMENT	NAME	TERM
Town Administrator Procurement Officer BRTA Representative	Mark Webber	Yearly	Keeper of the Pound	Everett Martin	Yearly
Selectmen's Secretary Adm. Asst. Town Adm. Planning Board Sec.	Carol Hilderbrand	Yearly	Director of Veterans Services Veteran Burial Agent	Roseanne Fieri	Yearly
Town Counsel	Edmund St. John III	Yearly	Right to Know Co-ordinator	Richard Francesconi	Yearly
Superintendent of Streets Tree Warden Measurer of Wood and Bark Inspector of Ditches	Peter LeFebvre	Yearly	Farm Commission	<i>Three Year Appointments</i>	
Treasurer	Rebecca Herzog	Yearly		Kenneth Egnaczak	2017
Accountant	Lynne Lemanski	Yearly		Michael Balawender	2017
Building Commissioner ADA Co-ordinator Zoning Enforcement	Gerald Garner	Yearly		Mark Warner	2018
Local Building Inspector	Mark Kruzel	Yearly		Kim Martin	2019
Inspector of Wiring	George Sweet	Yearly		Eric Whitney	2019
Asst. Wiring Inspector	Leslie Rhinemiller	Yearly		Joseph Wrenn	2019
Inspector of Gas/Plumbing	Bruce LaPerle	Yearly	Fence Viewers Members of Farm Commission	Kenneth Egnaczak	
Asst. Gas/Plumbing	John Burzimati	Yearly		Mark Warner	
Emergency Management Co-ordinator	Corey Swistak	Yearly		Fred Balawender	
Asst. Emergency Management	Fred Balawender	Yearly	Greylock Advisory Board	Karmen Field-Mitchell	Yearly
Animal Control Officer Animal Inspector	Myron Proper	Yearly	Vocational School Program	James Pasquini	Yearly
			Representatives Arts Lottery Council North Berkshire Arts Council	<i>Three Year Appointments</i>	
				Peter Traub	2017
				Maureen Riley-Moriarty	2018
			Recreation Committee	Robin Poirot	Yearly
				Heather Emerson	Yearly
				Andrew Kachel	Yearly
			Delegate to Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management Program	Richard Salvi	Yearly
			Northern Berkshire Cable Representative		Yearly
			Rent Control Board Memorial Day Parade	Board of Selectmen	

APPOINTMENT	NAME	TERM
<b>Conservation Commission</b>		
	Carol Francesconi	<i>Yearly</i>
	Leah Kruszyna	<i>Yearly</i>
	Raymond Killeen	<i>Yearly</i>
<b>Emergency Management Committee</b>		
	Carol Francesconi	
	Paul Astorino	
	Robert Ciskowski	
	Richard Salvi	
	Francis Waterman	
	Travis Delratez	
	Peter LeFebvre	
	Timothy Garner	
	Thomas Francesconi	
	Corey Swistak	
<b>School Crossing Guards appointed by Adams-Cheshire Regional School District</b>		
<b>Council on Aging <i>Three Year Appointments</i></b>		
	Anna Farnam	2019
	Peter Traub	2018
	Elsie Zaleski	2018
	Harrison King	2019
	Margaret Gwozdz	2019
	Helen Dargie	2018
	Donald Pulver	2017
<b>Historical Commission <i>Three Year Appointments</i></b>		
	Diane Hitter	2019
	Elaine Daniels	2018
	Vern Emerson	2018
	Robert Hitter	2019
	Dawn Daniels	2017
	Barry Emery	2017
	Gus Martin	2017
<b>Board of Registrar of Voters <i>Three Year Appointments</i></b>		
	Gary Herzog	2019
	Diane Hitter	2018
	Elizabeth King	2017
<b>Election Official</b>		
	Alison Warner	<i>Yearly</i>
<b>Asst. Election Official</b>		
	Ronald Lancia	<i>Yearly</i>
<b>Fire Chief</b>		
	Thomas Francesconi	<i>Yearly</i>
<b>Police Chief</b>		
	Timothy Garner	<i>Yearly</i>

APPOINTMENT	NAME	TERM
<b>Police Staff Sergeant</b>		
	Alison Warner	<i>yearly</i>
<b>Police Officers</b>		
	Michael Alibozek	
	Joseph Charon	
	David Tarjick	
	Trisha Carlo	
	Corey Demary	
<b>Special Police Officers</b>		
	Peter Mazzaco	<i>Yearly</i>
	Paul Maloney	<i>Yearly</i>
<b>Harbor Master <i>Lifetime Appointment</i></b>		
	Paul Maloney	
<b>Zoning Board of Appeals</b>		
	Thomas Zappula	<i>Yearly</i>
	Gale Grimshaw	<i>Yearly</i>
	Stephen Marko	<i>Yearly</i>
<b>Alternate Zoning Member</b>		
	Ronald Tenczar	<i>Yearly</i>
<b>Master Plan Committee</b>		
	Robert Ciskowski	
	Peter Traub	
	Brian Bedard	
	Eileen Quinn	
	Eric Whitney	
	Edward Bassi	
	John Bianchi	
	Atalanta Sungeroff	
	Deborah Dunlap	
	James Reynolds	
	Shannon Plumb	
	Thomas Zappula	

## Appointments by the Moderator

<b>Advisory Board</b>		
	William Craig	2016
	Kathleen Levesque	2017
	Ralph Biagini	2017
	Denise Gregoire	2017
	E. Richard Scholz	2017
	John Tremblay	2017
	John Burzimati	resigned

# Annual Report of the Board of Selectmen

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To the Residents of Cheshire:

It's been another busy and somewhat trying year for the Town and Cheshire finds itself in, perhaps, its most difficult dilemma in recent history. Cheshire Elementary School has been a central identity to this community for decades and may be closed for the start of the next school year. The Adams Cheshire Regional School District and its School Committee are faced with many difficult decisions due to declining enrollments, falling test scores and ever-increasing operating costs. We are confident that our School Committee representatives will continue to advocate for the Town and its students. Cheshire residents and this Board have consistently supported education and will continue to do so, no matter the outcome of this season's town meeting votes.

The Town escaped a potentially disruptive project with uncertain outcomes and sketchy promises when the Tennessee Gas pipeline project failed to get its approvals. An active and engaged citizenry, both here and from surrounding communities certainly contributed to this project's demise.

Speaking of engaged citizens, we are encouraged by the ongoing efforts of the Cheshire Master Plan Committee. The Committee has met several times and is well on their way to formulating a vision and procedures to help guide the Town through future decision making. We thank all those who continue to volunteer their time on this important project.

The Board wishes to acknowledge a recent gift to the Town donated by the Baptist Heritage Revival Society of Goshen Ohio. Installed at Leyland Park, across from the Post Office, the inscription reads, "*This interpretive sign is a gift to the people of Cheshire and all who love and appreciated the religious liberty and John Leland fought so hard to secure.*"

It comes with great sadness and equal appreciation for his countless efforts that Longtime Cheshire Highway Superintendent Peter LeFebvre has announced his retirement after 37 years on the job; 28 as your road boss. A more dedicated employee would be hard to find. Please join us in wishing Peter a well deserved and prosperous retirement. And, please welcome Peter's replacement Blair Crane. Blair will have quite a legacy to follow, but he comes with high credentials and extensive experience and we wish him a long and successful career serving the Town.

As a Board, we are pleased and honored to be working on your behalf and we encourage all comments, suggestions and initiatives which might help us serve you better. We meet each Tuesday evening beginning at 6:30 PM at the Town Hall and all are welcome to attend and contribute. In closing, we thank all of our dedicated volunteers and elected and appointed officials who serve us all with professionalism and pride.

Respectfully yours,

Cheshire Board of Selectmen  
Paul Astorino, Chair  
Carol Francesconi  
Robert Ciskowski

# Town Clerk

## VITAL RECORDS RECORDED

Births.....		29
Male	12	
Female	17	
Deaths .....		26
Male	12	
Female	14	
Marriages .....		5
Census .....		3,348
16 years and over	2,948	
0 to 15 years	400	
Registered Voters .....		2,310
Democrats	598	
Republican	217	
Libertarian	4	
United Independent	8	
Other	5	
Unenrolled	1,478	

## BUSINESS CERTIFICATES ISSUED

New	9	
Renewals	4	
<b>\$20 for 4 year period</b>		<b>\$260</b>

## SALE OF DOG LICENSES

License period 4/1/2016 to 3/31/2017

Males	31
Neutered Males	173
Females	20
Spayed Females	230
4 Multi Dog Unit	6
10 Multi Dog Unit	3

*Amount turned over to the  
Town Treasurer (includes Late Fees)*      **\$5,570**

To the Town Officials and Boards, appreciation for continual help and support. The Poll workers, Counting Crew, and Registrar of Voters, as always, thanks for your dedication to the election process. Thank you to the Cheshire residents who continue to make this position enjoyable.

I, hereby, submit my twenty-third Annual Town Report.

Christine B. Emerson

## GASOLINE STORAGE PERMIT RENEWALS

Bedard Bros.	\$ 25
H.D. Reynolds	25
Hoosac Valley Middle & High School	25
MGE Realty	25
Republic Services	25
Whitney Farm Market	25
	<u>          </u>
	\$150



# Town Accountant

To the Board of Selectmen and the Residents of the Town of Cheshire:

I hereby submit to you my 14th Annual Town Accountant's report for Fiscal Year 2016.

I am happy to report that the Massachusetts Department of Revenue certified the Town of Cheshire's free cash balance as of July 1, 2016 in the amount of \$626,834. This is a 135% increase over the prior year July 1, 2015 balance of \$266,367. This was due to an increase in projects by town residents which resulted in an increase in fees for the town, and also another significant reason was because there were no major over-expenditures within the departmental budgets. Our consistency in maintaining 2% increases has contributed greatly to this increase in free cash as well.

I am submitting the Schedule A Revenues and Expenditures which summarize the FY2016 receipts and expenditures along with the General Fund Balance sheet as of June 30, 2016.

In closing, I would like to thank the Selectmen and the town officials who have supported me throughout the year.

Sincerely,  
Lynne M. Lemanski  
Town Accountant

# Town of Cheshire - Balance Sheet

JUNE 30, 2016  
(GENERAL FUND)

## ASSETS

CASH	962,859.43
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE TAXES	
PERSONAL PROPERTY	
Levy of 2003	744.05
Levy of 2004	763.46
Levy of 2005	659.29
Levy of 2006	588.70
Levy of 2007	184.84
Levy of 2008	366.23
Levy of 2009	84.55
Levy of 2011	199.16
Levy of 2012	193.01
Levy of 2015	458.46
	<hr/>
	4,241.75
REAL PROPERTY	
Levy of 1999	1,127.88
Levy of 2004	5.43
Levy of 2005	449.38
Levy of 2006	1,314.95
Levy of 2008	0.69
Levy of 2009	3,139.35
Levy of 2010	-5.37
Levy of 2011	-2.12
Levy of 2012	1,294.67
Levy of 2013	5,474.12
Levy of 2014	18,002.39
Levy of 2015	53,592.19
Levy of 2016	91,269.02
	<hr/>
	175,662.58
MOTOR VEHICLE & TRAILER EXCISE	
Levy of 2010	30.00
Levy of 2011	639.59
Levy of 2012	1,091.85
Levy of 2013	2,704.79
Levy of 2014	2,025.93
Levy of 2015	5,933.67
Levy of 2016	32,012.34
	<hr/>
	44,438.17
TAX POSSESSIONS	15,357.29
TAX TITLES	42,460.25
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,245,019.47</b>

**LIABILITIES & RESERVES****OVERLAY RESERVE FOR ABATEMENT**

Levy of 1999	(1,164.39)
Levy of 2003	(745.00)
Levy of 2006	(1,315.00)
Levy of 2009	(3,224.00)
Levy of 2010	(713.00)
Levy of 2011	(1,878.00)
Levy of 2012	(4,132.00)
Levy of 2013	(11,486.55)
Levy of 2014	(7,263.70)
Levy of 2015	(6,820.91)
Levy of 2016	<u>(15,854.23)</u>
	(54,596.78)

**CURRENT LIABILITIES**

Accrued Payables	(21,025.45)
Payroll Deductions	(1,214.68)
Police Comp Time	(5,327.00)
Deputy Collector Fees	(684.00)
NOI Revolving Account	(460.65)
Town Clerk Dog Fees Retained	(10.00)
Accrued Payroll	<u>(12,846.34)</u>
	(41,568.12)

EDWIN WELLS REVOLVING FUND (1,000.00)

SPECIAL DONATIONS ACCOUNT (431.86)

DONATION - SKATING RINK (230.47)

BARRETT PLAYGROUND DONATION (10,000.00)

SCHOLARSHIP FUND (15.00)

**REVENUE RESERVED UNTIL COLLECTED**

Real Estate & Personal Property	(125,307.61)
Motor Vehicle Tax	(44,438.43)
Tax Titles	(42,460.25)
Tax Possessions	<u>(15,357.29)</u>
	(227,563.58)

**FUND BALANCE****APPROPRIATION BALANCES**

Cemetery Dept	(1,148.48)
Assessors - Revaluation	(5,500.00)
Tax Title	(14,728.72)
Police	(4,803.54)
Energy Protect	(15,000.00)
Highway Dept	<u>(1,600.00)</u>
	(42,780.74)

UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE (SURPLUS REVENUE) (681,832.92)

FUND BALANCE RESERVED FOR FY 2016 EXPENDITURES (185,000.00)

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE (1,245,019.47)**

**Schedule A**

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
 DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE  
 DIVISION OF LOCAL SERVICES

ANNUAL CITY AND TOWN FINANCIAL  
 REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED  
 JUNE 30, 2016

CITY/TOWN OF:  
 ADDRESS:

CHESHIRE

This report is based upon the fund account activity descriptions from the Uniform Massachusetts Accounting System (UMAS) of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. Please report data for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016. Data supplied in this report will be used by the Department of Revenue, other State and Federal Agencies, and public interest groups. The information will also be furnished to the U.S. Census Bureau. Please read instructions carefully before completing your Schedule A.

For assistance, please call your Bureau of Accounts Field Representative.

**Part I General Fund Revenues and Other Financing Sources (Fund 01)**

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT (Omit Cents)
	<b>A. TAXES</b>	
4110	Personal Property Taxes	\$ 90,550
4120	Real Estate Taxes	3,569,162
4150	Excise Taxes	533,882
4179	Penalties and Interest	33,249
4180	In Lieu of Taxes	
4191	Other Taxes - Hotel/Motel	
4198	Urban Redevelopment Excises	
4199	Other Taxes	22,000
	<b>A. TOTAL TAXES (NET OF REFUNDS)</b>	<b>4,248,843</b>
	<b>B. CHARGES FOR SERVICES/ OTHER DEPARTMENTAL REVENUES</b>	
4211	Water Charges	
4212	Other Utility Charges	
4229	Other Charges	
4243	Parking Charges	
4244	Park and Recreation Charges	
4246	Sewerage Charges	
4247	Trash Collection Charges	101,739
4248	Transit Charges	
4370	Other Department Revenue	51,224
	<b>B. TOTAL CHARGES FOR SERVICES/ OTHER DEPARTMENTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>152,963</b>
	<b>C. LICENSES, PERMITS AND FEES</b>	
4322	Fees Retained from Tax Collection	
4400	Licenses and Permits	93,216
	<b>C. TOTAL LICENSES, PERMITS AND FEES</b>	<b>\$ 93,216</b>

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT (Omit Cents)
	<b>D. FEDERAL REVENUE</b>	
4540	Unrestricted - Direct	
4580	Unrestricted - Through the State	
	<b>D. TOTAL FEDERAL REVENUE</b>	
	<b>E. REVENUES FROM STATE</b>	
4600	State Revenue	\$ 727,383
	<b>E. TOTAL REVENUES FROM STATE</b>	<b>727,383</b>
	<b>F. REVENUES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS</b>	
4695	Court Fines	1,415
4720	Received from the County for Services Performed	
4730	Received from Other Municipalities for Services Performed	
	<b>F. TOTAL REVENUES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS</b>	<b>1,415</b>
	<b>G. SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS</b>	
4750	Special Assessments	18,300
	<b>G. TOTAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS</b>	<b>18,300</b>
	<b>H. FINES, AND FORFEITURES</b>	
4770	Fines and Forfeitures	
	<b>H. TOTAL FINES, AND FORFEITURES</b>	
	<b>I. MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES</b>	
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues	
4820	Earnings on Investments	3,913
	<b>I. TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES</b>	<b>3,913</b>
	<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES</b>	<b>5,246,033</b>
	<b>J. OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>	
4990	Other Financing Sources	
	<b>J. TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>	
	<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>	<b>5,246,033</b>
	<b>K. INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS</b>	
4972	Transfers from Special Revenue Funds	
4973	Transfers from Capital Projects Funds	
4975	Transfers from Enterprise Funds	
4976	Transfers from Trust Funds	
4977	Transfers from Agency Funds	
	<b>K. TOTAL INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS</b>	
	<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES, OTHER FINANCING SOURCES, AND INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS</b>	<b>\$ 5,246,033</b>

Schedule A

Part II General Fund Expenditures and Other Financing Uses (Fund 01) Fiscal Year 2016

GENERAL GOVERNMENT (100)												
Account Number	Item Description	Legislative	Executive	Accountant/Auditor	Collector	Treasurer	Law Dept. Town/City Counsel	Public Building Properties Maintenance	Assessors	Operations Support	License & Registration	Conservation Commission
5100	Salary and Wages		36,722	22,740	22,134	18,000		4,504	25,419		29,758	1,500
5700	Expenditures		3,661	2,704	6,872	6,038	585	42,373	30,627	16,856	10,534	681
5800A	Construction											
5800B	Capital Outlay											
	<b>TOTAL</b>		40,383	25,444	29,006	24,038	585	46,877	56,046	16,856	40,292	2,181

PUBLIC SAFETY (200)						
Account Number	Item Description	Police	Fire	Emergency Medical Services	Inspection	Other
5100	Salary and Wages	83,044	2,692		27,982	
5700	Expenditures	18,451	25,744	2,845	3,894	16,676
5800A	Construction					
5800B	Capitol Outlay					
	<b>TOTAL</b>	101,495	28,436	2,845	31,876	16,676

EDUCATION (300)						
Account Number	Item Description	Education	Regional School Assessment 1	Regional School Assessment 2	Regional School Assessment 3	Regional School Assessment 4
5100	Salary and Wages					
5700	Expenditures	2,951,500				
5800A	Construction					
5800B	Capital Outlay	34,466				
	<b>TOTAL</b>	2,985,966				

PUBLIC WORKS (400)									
Account Number	Item Description	Highway/Streets Snow & Ice	Highway/Streets Other	Waste Collection & Disposal	Sewer Collection & Disposal	Water Distribution	Street Lighting	Other	
5100	Salary and Wages		228,693	25,959				23,164	
5700	Expenditures	165,022	223,662	107,792			41,380	15,913	
5800A	Construction								
5800B	Capital Outlay								
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>165,022</b>	<b>452,355</b>	<b>133,751</b>			<b>41,380</b>	<b>39,077</b>	

HUMAN SERVICES (500)						
Account Number	Item Description	Health Services	Clinical Services	Special Program	Veterans Services	Other
5100	Salary and Wages	10,793		14,328	1,900	
5700	Expenditures	6,076		6,004	10,650	
5800A	Construction					
5800B	Capital Outlay					
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>16,869</b>		<b>20,332</b>	<b>12,550</b>	

CULTURE AND RECREATION (600)							
Account Number	Item Description	Library	Recreation	Parks	Historical Commission	Celebrations	Other
5100	Salary and Wages	11,538					
5700	Expenditures	13,288	6,359		417		
5800A	Construction						
58009	Capital Outlay						
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>24,826</b>	<b>6,359</b>		<b>417</b>		

DEBT SERVICE (700)					
Account Number	Item Description	Retirement of Debt Principal	Interest on Long Term Debt	Interest on Short Term Debt	Other Interest
5900	Debt Service	126,038	34,748	5,219	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>126,038</b>	<b>34,748</b>	<b>5,219</b>	

UNCLASSIFIED 19001										
Account Number	Item Description	Workers Compensation	Unemployment	Health Insurance	Other Employee Benefits	Court Judgements	Other Insurance	Intergovernmental Assessments	Retirement	Other
0001	Unclassified	65	197,067	7,845	71,165	27,517	90,735	10,434		
	TOTAL	65	197,867	7,845	71,165	27,517	90,735	10,434		

TRANSFERS/OTHER FINANCING USES (0001)	
Account Number	Item Description
5960	Transfers to Other Funds 20,000
5990	Other Financing Uses
	TOTAL 20,000

TOTAL ALL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	
Account Number	Item Description
	<b>Expenditures</b>
5100	Salary and Wages 590,870
5700	Expenditures 3,736,604
5800A	Construction
58006	Capital Outlay 34,466
5900	Debt Service 166,005
0001	Unclassified 405,628
	<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES 4,933,573</b>
	<b>Other Financing Uses</b>
5960	Transfers to Other Funds 20,000
5990	Other Financing Uses
	<b>TOTAL TRANSFERS AND OTHER FINANCING USES 20,000</b>
	<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES 4,953,573</b>

# Town of Cheshire FY2016 Expenditure Report

Account Number	NAME	BUDGETED	EXPENDED	UNEXPENDED
<b>Code: 001 - Moderator</b>				
01-5-001-001	Moderator Salary	50.00	-50.00	0.00
01-5-001-002	Moderator Expenses	25.00	0.00	25.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>75.00</b>	<b>-50.00</b>	<b>25.00</b>
<b>Code: 002 - Selectmen</b>				
01-5-002-001	Selectmen Salary Chair	2,500.00	-2,500.00	0.00
01-5-002-002	Selectmen Clerk	2,500.00	-2,500.00	0.00
01-5-002-003	Selectmen Third Member	2,500.00	-2,500.00	0.00
01-5-002-004	Selectmen Secretary	5,546.00	-5,546.00	0.00
01-5-002-005	Selectmen Expenses	3,000.00	-3,306.33	-306.33
01-5-002-006	Select Conserv Comm 1st Member	500.00	-500.00	0.00
01-5-002-007	Select Conserv Comm 2nd Member	500.00	-500.00	0.00
01-5-002-008	Select Conserv Comm 3rd Member	500.00	-500.00	0.00
01-5-002-009	Select Conserv Consult S.	500.00	0.00	500.00
01-5-002-010	Select Conserv Expenses	900.00	-681.25	218.75
01-5-002-011	Selectment Town Council	7,500.00	-584.78	6,915.22
01-5-002-012	Select Clean Lake Program	13,000.00	-11,000.00	2,000.00
01-5-002-013	Selectmen Administrator	20,400.00	-20,400.00	0.00
01-5-002-014	Selectmen Admin Expenses	300.00	-200.00	100.00
01-5-002-015	Selectmen Group Purchasing	600.00	0.00	600.00
01-5-002-016	Town Audit	7,500.00	0.00	7,500.00
01-5-002-018	Town Administrator Assistant Salary	4,349.00	-3,226.35	1,122.65
	<b>Total</b>	<b>72,595.00</b>	<b>-53,944.71</b>	<b>18,650.29</b>
<b>Code: 003 - Accountant</b>				
01-5-003-001	Accountant Salary	22,740.00	-22,740.00	0.00
01-5-003-002	Accountant Expenses/Dues	1,700.00	-1,700.00	0.00
01-5-003-004	Accounting Software	1,004.00	-1,004.00	0.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25,444.00</b>	<b>-25,444.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Code: 004 - Treasurer</b>				
01-5-004-001	Treasurer Salary	18,000.00	-18,000.00	0.00
01-5-004-002	Treasurer Expenses Postage	5,200.00	-4,393.67	806.33
01-5-004-003	Treasurer Mileage & Trips	200.00	-164.18	35.82
01-5-004-004	Treasurer Education	200.00	-135.00	65.00
01-5-004-005	Treasurer/Accountant Software	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00
01-5-004-006	Treasurer/Tax Title Fees	13,073.97	-345.25	12,728.72
	<b>Total</b>	<b>37,673.97</b>	<b>-24,038.10</b>	<b>13,635.87</b>
<b>Code: 005 - Tax Collector</b>				
01-5-005-001	Tax Collector Salary	22,134.00	-22,134.00	0.00
01-5-005-002	Tax Collector Postage	4,000.00	-2,467.38	1,532.62
01-5-005-003	Tax Collector Office Expense	4,200.00	-3,404.84	795.16
01-5-005-004	Tax Collector Contract Serv.	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00
01-5-005-005	Tax Collector Tax Title/Fees	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>33,334.00</b>	<b>-29,006.22</b>	<b>4,327.78</b>



Account Number	NAME	BUDGETED	EXPENDED	UNEXPENDED
<b>Code: 006 - Assessors</b>				
01-5-006-001	Assessors Salary Chairman	3,167.00	-3,167.00	0.00
01-5-006-002	Assessors Clerk	2,639.00	-2,639.00	0.00
01-5-006-003	Assessors Third Member	2,639.00	-2,639.00	0.00
01-5-006-004	Assessors Admin. Assessor	16,974.00	-16,974.00	0.00
01-5-006-005	Assessors Supplies	1,500.00	-1,107.99	392.01
01-5-006-007	Assessors Computer	1,700.00	-800.00	900.00
01-5-006-008	Assessors Education	500.00	-370.00	130.00
01-5-006-011	Assessors Contracted Svcs	39,820.00	-28,348.90	11,471.10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>68,939.00</b>	<b>-56,045.89</b>	<b>12,893.11</b>
<b>Code: 007 - Advisory Board</b>				
01-5-007-001	Advisory Board Expenses	50.00	0.00	50.00
01-5-007-002	Advisory Board Dues	155.00	-155.00	0.00
01-5-007-003	Advisory Board Meetings Mileage	95.00	0.00	95.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>300.00</b>	<b>-155.00</b>	<b>145.00</b>
<b>Code: 008 - Town Clerk</b>				
01-5-008-001	Town Clerk Salary	17,034.00	-17,034.00	0.00
01-5-008-002	Town Clerk Expenses	1,850.00	-1,910.86	-60.86
01-5-008-003	Town Clerk Dog License Exp	500.00	-260.96	239.04
01-5-008-004	Town Clerk Education	1,200.00	-504.50	695.50
01-5-008-005	Town Clerk Book Repair	5,198.89	-5,134.00	64.89
01-5-008-006	Town Clerk Copy Machine	750.00	-183.09	566.91
01-5-008-007	Town Clerk Service Contract	950.00	-910.00	40.00
01-5-008-008	Town Clerk Census/Lists	3,225.00	-2,623.15	601.85
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30,707.89</b>	<b>-28,560.56</b>	<b>2,147.33</b>
<b>Code: 009 - Board of Registrars</b>				
01-5-009-001	Board of Registrars Registrars	7,000.00	-6,225.00	775.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7,000.00</b>	<b>-6,225.00</b>	<b>775.00</b>
<b>Code: 010 - Elections</b>				
01-5-010-000	Elections	8,000.00	-6,499.31	1,500.69
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,000.00</b>	<b>-6,499.31</b>	<b>1,500.69</b>
<b>Code: 011 - Vital Statistics</b>				
01-5-011-000	Vital Statistics	100.00	-100.00	0.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>-100.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Code: 012 - Town Reports</b>				
01-5-012-000	Town Reports Printing	3,000.00	-1,937.03	1,062.97
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>	<b>-1,937.03</b>	<b>1,062.97</b>
<b>Code: 013 - Planning Board</b>				
01-5-013-001	Planning Board Expenses	3,199.83	-886.89	2,312.94
01-5-013-002	Planning Board Berkshire Reg. Plan. Comm.	2,335.00	-2,335.13	-0.13
01-5-013-003	Planning Board Contracted Serv	2,000.00	-1,181.09	818.91
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7,534.83</b>	<b>-4,403.11</b>	<b>3,131.72</b>
<b>Code: 014 - Zoning Board of Appeals</b>				
01-5-014-000	Zoning Board of Appeals	900.00	-262.86	637.14
01-5-014-001	Zoning Board - Contract Svcs	800.00	-90.42	709.58
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,700.00</b>	<b>-353.28</b>	<b>1,346.72</b>
<b>Code: 015 - Berkshire Cty Retirement</b>				
01-5-015-000	Berkshire Co. Retirement Syst	83,783.00	-90,734.75	-6,951.75
	<b>Total</b>	<b>83,783.00</b>	<b>-90,734.75</b>	<b>-6,951.75</b>

Account Number	NAME	BUDGETED	EXPENDED	UNEXPENDED
<b>Code: 016 - Health Insurance</b>				
01-5-016-000	BC/BS	231,725.00	-197,866.88	33,858.12
	<b>Total</b>	<b>231,725.00</b>	<b>-197,866.88</b>	<b>33,858.12</b>
<b>Code: 017 - Medicare ER Share</b>				
01-5-017-000	MEDC Employer Share (SS Tax)	8,300.00	-7,844.76	455.24
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,300.00</b>	<b>-7,844.76</b>	<b>455.24</b>
<b>Code: 018 - Town Buildings</b>				
01-5-018-001	Town Building Town Hall	19,900.00	-16,962.56	2,937.44
01-5-018-002	Town Building Fire Dept	10,200.00	-11,472.01	-1,272.01
01-5-018-003	Town Building Town Shed	5,100.00	-5,433.89	-333.89
01-5-018-004	Town Building Senior Center	4,300.00	-2,673.34	1,626.66
01-5-018-005	Town Building Telephone System	9,000.00	-9,070.42	-70.42
01-5-018-006	Town Building Janitor	4,504.00	-4,503.96	0.04
	<b>Total</b>	<b>53,004.00</b>	<b>-50,116.18</b>	<b>2,887.82</b>
<b>Code: 019 - Special Repairs</b>				
01-5-019-000	Special Repairs Town Building	11,000.00	-5,831.00	5,169.00
01-5-019-003	FY16 STM: ART 1. Northeast Energy Project.	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>26,000.00</b>	<b>-5,831.00</b>	<b>20,169.00</b>
<b>Code: 020 - Insurance</b>				
01-5-020-000	Insurance	65,188.00	-58,091.83	7,096.17
	<b>Total</b>	<b>65,188.00</b>	<b>-58,091.83</b>	<b>7,096.17</b>
<b>Code: 022 - Police Dept</b>				
01-5-022-001	Police Dept Chief Salary	2,692.00	-2,692.00	0.00
01-5-022-002	Police Dept Officers Salaries	82,493.00	-80,352.35	2,140.65
01-5-022-003	Police Dept General Expenses	4,000.00	-4,000.00	0.00
01-5-022-004	Police Dept Auto Expenses	14,754.00	-9,944.87	4,809.13
01-5-022-005	Police Dept Equipment	4,500.00	-4,505.59	-5.59
	<b>Total</b>	<b>108,439.00</b>	<b>-101,494.81</b>	<b>6,944.19</b>
<b>Code: 023 - Animal Control</b>				
01-5-023-001	Animal Control Officer Salary	3,152.00	-3,152.00	0.00
01-5-023-002	Animal Control Expenses	600.00	-447.09	152.91
01-5-023-003	Animal Control Trans/Disposal	450.00	0.00	450.00
01-5-023-005	Animal Control Train/Meetings	300.00	0.00	300.00
01-5-023-006	Animal Control Cell Phone	600.00	-553.17	46.83
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,102.00</b>	<b>-4,152.26</b>	<b>949.74</b>
<b>Code: 024 - Fire Dept</b>				
01-5-024-001	Fire Dept Chief Salary	2,692.00	-2,692.00	0.00
01-5-024-002	Fire Dept Expenses	26,435.00	-25,744.05	690.95
01-5-024-004	Fire Dept EMS Supplies	4,000.00	-2,844.93	1,155.07
01-5-024-008	Fire Dept Rescue Veh Loan	9,817.00	-9,817.00	0.00
01-5-052-003	New Fire Truck FY2016 Yr 1	2,964.00	0.00	2,964.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>45,908.00</b>	<b>-41,097.98</b>	<b>4,810.02</b>
<b>Code: 025 - Fire Dept</b>				
01-5-025-000	Police/Fire Dept Accident Ins.	7,933.00	-7,933.00	0.00
01-5-025-002	Police/Fire Disability Ins.	6,306.00	-5,140.00	1,166.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>14,239.00</b>	<b>-13,073.00</b>	<b>1,166.00</b>
<b>Code: 026 - Communications Ctr</b>				
01-5-026-000	Communication Center	16,676.00	-16,675.72	0.28
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16,676.00</b>	<b>-16,675.72</b>	<b>0.28</b>

Account Number	NAME	BUDGETED	EXPENDED	UNEXPENDED
<b>Code: 027 - Building Inspector</b>				
01-5-027-001	Building Inspector Salary	12,300.00	-12,300.00	0.00
01-5-027-002	Building Inspector Exp/Mileage	1,000.00	-144.00	856.00
01-5-027-003	Building Inspect Meetings/Train	1,000.00	-325.00	675.00
01-5-027-004	Building Inspector Assistant	4,000.00	-4,000.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>18,300.00</b>	<b>-16,769.00</b>	<b>1,531.00</b>
<b>Code: 028 - Gas Piping</b>				
01-5-028-001	Gas Piping Inspector Salary	1,500.00	-1,500.00	0.00
01-5-028-002	Gas Piping Inspector Expenses	200.00	-200.00	0.00
01-5-028-003	Gas Piping Inspector Travel Exp	200.00	-200.00	0.00
01-5-028-004	Gas Piping Inspector Assistant	490.00	-490.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,390.00</b>	<b>-2,390.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Code: 029 - Wire Inspector</b>				
01-5-029-001	Wire Inspector Salary	3,165.00	-3,165.00	0.00
01-5-029-002	Wire Inspector Expenses	1,694.53	-1,624.53	70.00
01-5-029-004	Wire Inspector Assistant Salar	410.00	-410.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,269.53</b>	<b>-5,199.53</b>	<b>70.00</b>
<b>Code: 030 - Tree Warden</b>				
01-5-030-003	Tree Warden Tree/Stump Removal	10,000.00	-9,462.50	537.50
01-5-030-004	Tree Warden Tree Replacement	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>11,000.00</b>	<b>-9,462.50</b>	<b>1,537.50</b>
<b>Code: 031 - Civil Defense</b>				
01-5-031-001	Civil Defense Expenses	500.00	0.00	500.00
01-5-031-002	Civil Defense Supplies	500.00	0.00	500.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>
<b>Code: 032 - Board of Health</b>				
01-5-032-001	Board of Health Chairman Salary	2,797.00	-2,797.00	0.00
01-5-032-002	Board of Health 2nd Member	2,797.00	-2,797.00	0.00
01-5-032-003	Board of Health 3rd Member	2,797.00	-2,797.00	0.00
01-5-032-004	Board of Health Expenses	3,580.28	-2,357.90	1,222.38
01-5-032-005	Board of Health Software	150.00	0.00	150.00
01-5-032-006	Board of Health Equipment	500.00	0.00	500.00
01-5-032-007	Board of Health Secretary	2,958.00	-2,402.40	555.60
01-5-032-008	Board of Health Maven Reporting	3,718.00	-3,718.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>19,297.28</b>	<b>-16,869.30</b>	<b>2,427.98</b>
<b>Code: 033 - Animal Inspector</b>				
01-5-033-001	Animal Inspector Salary	810.00	-810.00	0.00
01-5-033-002	Animal Inspector Expenses	150.00	0.00	150.00
01-5-033-003	Animal Inspect Rabies Testing	540.00	0.00	540.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,500.00</b>	<b>-810.00</b>	<b>690.00</b>
<b>Code: 034 - Plumbing Inspector</b>				
01-5-034-001	Plumbing Inspector Salary	1,650.00	-1,650.00	0.00
01-5-034-002	Plumbing Inspector Expense	200.00	-200.00	0.00
01-5-034-003	Plumbing Inspector Travel Exp	200.00	-200.00	0.00
01-5-034-004	Plumbing Inspector Assistant	505.00	-505.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,555.00</b>	<b>-2,555.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

Account Number	NAME	BUDGETED	EXPENDED	UNEXPENDED
<b>Code: 035 - Town Compactor</b>				
01-5-035-001	Town Compactor Caretaker Salary	25,876.00	-25,386.55	489.45
01-5-035-002	Town Compact Board of Health Collector	1,000.00	-572.28	427.72
01-5-035-003	Town Compactor Oper Exp	89,000.00	-74,990.66	14,009.34
01-5-035-004	Town Compactor Site Maint	2,600.00	-2,500.00	100.00
01-5-035-005	Town Compactor Bags/Stickers	8,500.00	-8,500.00	0.00
01-5-035-006	Town Compactor Training/Edu	150.00	0.00	150.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>127,126.00</b>	<b>-111,949.49</b>	<b>15,176.51</b>
<b>Code: 036 - Recycling</b>				
01-5-036-000	Recycling Account	31,800.00	-21,800.90	9,999.10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>31,800.00</b>	<b>-21,800.90</b>	<b>9,999.10</b>
<b>Code: 037 - Street Lights</b>				
01-5-037-000	Street Lights	41,380.00	-41,380.00	0.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>41,380.00</b>	<b>-41,380.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Code: 039 - Highway Admin</b>				
01-5-039-001	Highway Salaries	222,378.00	-191,308.79	31,069.21
01-5-039-002	Highway Vacation & Fringe Benefits	26,642.00	-37,384.01	-10,742.01
01-5-039-003	Highway Dues & Meetings	500.00	-270.00	230.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>249,520.00</b>	<b>-228,962.80</b>	<b>20,557.20</b>
<b>Code: 040 - Highway Tools/Gas/Oil</b>				
01-5-040-000	Road Machinery Tools/Gas/Oil	120,000.00	-107,969.44	12,030.56
	<b>Total</b>	<b>120,000.00</b>	<b>-107,969.44</b>	<b>12,030.56</b>
<b>Code: 041 - Snow &amp; Ice Removal</b>				
01-5-041-000	Snow & Ice Removal	180,000.00	-165,021.74	14,978.26
	<b>Total</b>	<b>180,000.00</b>	<b>-165,021.74</b>	<b>14,978.26</b>
<b>Code: 042 - Highway Maintenance</b>				
01-5-042-001	Highway Dept Repair Town Roads	32,000.00	-19,028.22	12,971.78
01-5-042-002	Highway Dept Town Roads/Bridges	32,000.00	-21,135.44	10,864.56
01-5-042-003	Highway Dept Street Repair	32,000.00	-29,912.17	2,087.83
01-5-042-004	Highway Dept Curbing & Culverts	2,000.00	-2,000.00	0.00
01-5-042-005	Highway Dept Guard Rails	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
01-5-042-006	Highway Dept Blacktop	54,000.00	-30,985.36	23,014.64
01-5-042-007	Highway Dept Engineering Serv	7,500.00	0.00	7,500.00
01-5-042-008	Highway Dept Stream Cleaning	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00
01-5-042-009	Highway Dept New Truck Payment	40,755.00	-40,755.00	0.00
01-5-042-025	Heavy Equipment Rental	5,000.00	-2,900.00	2,100.00
01-5-052-004	New Highway Truck Loan (FY2016)	890.00	0.00	890.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>222,145.00</b>	<b>-146,716.19</b>	<b>75,428.81</b>
<b>Code: 043 - Recreation</b>				
01-5-043-000	General Recreation Expense	6,920.00	-5,499.50	1,420.50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,920.00</b>	<b>-5,499.50</b>	<b>1,420.50</b>
<b>Code: 044 - Memorial Day</b>				
01-5-044-000	Memorial Day	1,000.00	-859.49	140.51
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>-859.49</b>	<b>140.51</b>

Account Number	NAME	BUDGETED	EXPENDED	UNEXPENDED
<b>Code: 045 - Library</b>				
01-5-045-001	Library Salary	13,260.00	-11,537.50	1,722.50
01-5-045-002	Library New Books Magazines	10,130.56	-10,130.56	0.00
01-5-045-003	Library Insurance	950.00	-725.00	225.00
01-5-045-004	Library Exp Supplies Misc.	1,778.01	-1,669.10	108.91
01-5-045-007	Library ILL Loan Replacemts	100.00	0.00	100.00
01-5-045-008	Library Education	200.00	-23.65	176.35
01-5-045-009	Library Programs	700.00	-439.39	260.61
01-5-045-010	CWMARS Annual Fee	2,000.00	-300.00	1,700.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>29,118.57</b>	<b>-24,825.20</b>	<b>4,293.37</b>
<b>Code: 046 - Veterans</b>				
01-5-046-001	Veterans Agents Salary	1,900.00	-1,900.00	0.00
01-5-046-003	Veterans Benefits	10,000.00	-10,650.00	-650.00
01-5-046-005	Veterans Cemetery Flags	600.00	0.00	600.00
01-5-046-006	Veterans Dues for Assoc.	50.00	0.00	50.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>12,550.00</b>	<b>-12,550.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Code: 047 - Cemetery</b>				
01-5-047-001	Cemetery Chairman Salary	753.00	-753.00	0.00
01-5-047-002	Cemetery 2nd Member Salary	753.00	-753.00	0.00
01-5-047-003	Cemetery 3rd Member Salary	753.00	-753.00	0.00
01-5-047-004	Cemetery Labor	24,954.00	-20,904.90	4,049.10
01-5-047-006	Equip Mowers Loam Tools	5,531.00	-4,912.52	618.48
01-5-047-007	Cemetery Admin & Supplies	530.00	0.00	530.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>33,274.00</b>	<b>-28,076.42</b>	<b>5,197.58</b>
<b>Code: 048 - Reserve Fund</b>				
01-5-048-000	Reserve Fund	20,000.00	-10,433.60	9,566.40
01-5-048-025	Stabilization Fund	20,000.00	-20,000.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>40,000.00</b>	<b>-30,433.60</b>	<b>9,566.40</b>
<b>Code: 050 - Council on Aging</b>				
01-5-050-001	Council on Aging Gen Exp	500.00	-594.32	-94.32
01-5-050-002	Council on Aging Van Exp	5,900.00	-2,610.40	3,289.60
01-5-050-003	Council on Aging Van Operator Salary	12,414.00	-14,327.76	-1,913.76
01-5-050-004	Council on Aging Contracted Services	2,800.00	-2,800.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>21,614.00</b>	<b>-20,332.48</b>	<b>1,281.52</b>
<b>Code: 051 - Historical Commission</b>				
01-5-051-000	Historical Commission	500.00	-416.95	83.05
01-5-051-001	Cheshire Agricultural Commission	500.00	0.00	500.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>-416.95</b>	<b>583.05</b>
<b>Code: 052 - Interest on Notes</b>				
01-5-052-000	Interest on Anticipated Notes	5,000.00	-3,464.00	1,536.00
01-5-052-001	Well Bond Payment	111,969.00	-111,968.76	0.24
<b>Total</b>		<b>116,969.00</b>	<b>-115,432.76</b>	<b>1,536.24</b>
<b>Code: 053 - Unemployment Compensation</b>				
01-5-053-000	Unemployment Compensation	0.00	-65.19	-65.19
<b>Total</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>-65.19</b>	<b>-65.19</b>

Account Number	NAME	BUDGETED	EXPENDED	UNEXPENDED
	<b>Code: 054 - Water Dept</b>	<b>Code: 055 - Water Operating</b>	<b>Code: 056 - Water Dept Maint</b>	
01-5-054-001	Water Dept Chairman Salary	2,828.00	0.00	2,828.00
01-5-054-002	Water Dept 2nd Member Salary	2,828.00	0.00	2,828.00
01-5-054-003	Water Dept 3rd Member Salary	2,828.00	0.00	2,828.00
01-5-054-004	Water Dept Superintendent	57,500.00	0.00	57,500.00
01-5-054-005	Water Dept Collector	8,000.00	0.00	8,000.00
01-5-054-006	Water Dept Licensed Operator	14,000.00	0.00	14,000.00
01-5-054-008	Water Dept Main Replacements	40,000.00	0.00	40,000.00
01-5-054-009	Water Meter Reader	4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00
01-5-055-000	Water Dept Operating Exp	79,750.00	0.00	79,750.00
01-5-056-000	Water Dept Maint. Costs	24,000.00	0.00	24,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>236,234.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>236,234.00</b>
	<b>Code: 057 - Improvements - Water Dept</b>			
01-5-057-001	Improvements Pipe Replace	23,000.00	0.00	23,000.00
01-5-057-002	Improvements Debt Service	55,000.00	0.00	55,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>78,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>78,000.00</b>
	<b>Code: 058 - ACRSD</b>			
01-5-058-001	ACRSD Foundation Budget	1,833,866.00	-1,833,866.00	0.00
01-5-058-002	ACRSD Transportation	123,287.00	-123,287.00	0.00
01-5-058-003	ACRSD Over-Foundation	380,156.00	-380,156.00	0.00
01-5-058-004	ACRSD Major Capital Repairs	20,183.00	-20,183.00	0.00
01-5-058-010	ACRSD Cheshire Elementary Boiler	14,283.00	-14,283.00	0.00
01-5-058-011	ACRSD Building Project Interest Only	214,702.00	-214,702.00	0.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,586,477.00</b>	<b>-2,586,477.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
	<b>Code: 061 - Vocational School</b>			
01-5-061-000	Vocational School	407,546.00	-399,488.83	8,057.17
	<b>Total</b>	<b>407,546.00</b>	<b>-399,488.83</b>	<b>8,057.17</b>
	<b>Code: 100 - State Assessments</b>			
01-5-100-001	State Assess - Air Pollution	0.00	-834.00	-834.00
01-5-100-002	State Assess - RMV Nonrenewal	0.00	-2,620.00	-2,620.00
01-5-100-003	State Assess - Regional Transi	0.00	-24,063.00	-24,063.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-27,517.00</b>	<b>-27,517.00</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5,558,753.07</b>	<b>\$ (4,953,571.69)</b>	<b>\$ 605,181.38</b>

# Treasurer's Report

To the Board of Selectmen and the Town of Cheshire:

The Annual Report of the Town Treasurer for FY 2016 is hereby submitted:

Departmental Receipts	Receipt Detail	Total Receipts	Departmental Receipts	Receipt Detail	Total Receipts
<b>Board of Assessors</b>			<b>Fire Dept</b>		
Copy charges	107.00	107.00	Permits	2,325.00	2,325.00
<b>Board of Health</b>			<b>Plumbing Inspector</b>		
Bags & Stickers	101,739.00		Permits	5,060.00	5,060.00
Transfer Station - Demo	6,153.50		<b>Police Dept</b>		
Permits	2,250.00		Details	27,028.90	
Perc Tests	500.00	110,642.50	Permits	7,850.00	
<b>Board of Selectmen</b>			Fees/Fines	2,692.50	37,571.40
Licenses/Fees	21,701.88		<b>Tax Collector</b>		
Special Donation	10,000.00		Taxes/Interest/Fees	4,261,742.71	
Misc Receipts	8,590.00	40,291.88	Tax Title Transfers	(7,431.68)	4,254,311.03
<b>Building Inspector</b>			<b>Town Clerk</b>		
Permits	31,385.25	31,385.25	Dog Licenses	5,020.00	
<b>Cemetery</b>			Fines/Late fees	935.00	
Grave Openings	7,400.00		Rental Town Buildings	500.00	
Misc Work/Weekend	2,800.00		Miscellaneous	596.40	7,051.40
Equipment Use	350.00		<b>Treasurer</b>		
Deed Fees	110.00		Health Insurance Premiums	54,837.95	
Sale of Lots	2,315.00		Tax Titles	22,000.00	
Perpetual Care Fund	3,700.00	16,675.00	Tax Title Interest/Fees	11,075.01	
<b>Commonwealth of MA</b>			Miscellaneous	26.84	87,939.80
CMVI - RMV Infractions	16,040.00		<b>Water Department</b>		
General Government			Rents	169,502.23	
(Lottery)	551,793.00		Work Permits	300.00	
State owned land	109,150.00		Interest/fees	152.56	169,954.79
Elderly/Blind Exemption			<b>Wire Inspector</b>		
Reimbursements	4,141.00		Permits	38,940.50	38,940.50
N. Berkshire District			<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		
Court Reports	1,415.00		<b>FY 2016:</b>	<b>5,664,502.40</b>	<b>5,664,502.40</b>
Police Equipment Grant	4,435.00				
Other State Revenue	65.00				
Elder Affairs Grant	7,146.00				
Elder Affairs Incentive Grant	10,100.00				
Library Grant	4,053.28				
Martap Grant Program	648.96				
PILOT	936.00				
<b>Board of Health</b>					
Recycling Program	2,006.36				
Veteran Services	17,501.00				
Extended Polling	265.00				
Chapter 90	110,431.70	840,127.30			
<b>Council on Aging</b>					
Van Receipts	1,212.00	1,212.00			
<b>Interest</b>					
General Fund	3,912.84				
Trust Funds	2,233.24	6,146.08			
<b>Refunds</b>					
	14,761.47	14,761.47			

## SCHEDULE OF TRUST FUNDS:

Stabilization	\$ 464,731.21
Capital Equipment Stabilization	12,226.90
Cemetery Dept.- Perpetual Care	162,736.15
Cemetery Dept.- Sale of Lots	23,917.70
Cemetery Dept.- Whipple and Harkness	32,272.65
Cemetery Dept.- Dumont	6,099.15
Cemetery Dept.- Benjamin & Phyllis Bissell	1,446.25
Cemetery Dept.- John L. Brown	1,588.74
Cemetery Dept.- Lorraine N. Braund	52,136.64
Philip Burns Public Library	7,174.09
Philip Burns Public School	19,674.37
Westminster Chime	1,462.41
Veteran's Memorial	3,796.45
<b>Balance June 30, 2016</b>	<b>\$ 789,262.71</b>

**SCHEDULE OF GRANT FUNDS**

Police Dept.- Bullet Proof Vests	\$ 20.00
Police Dept.- Equipment	435.00
Council on Aging - Elder Affairs	(79.00)
Library	19,945.74
Council on Aging Incentive	9,415.27
MA Technology Collaborative	584.77
MEMA Performance	0.00
Fire Equipment	0.00
MArtap	357.84
Board of Health Recycling Program	2,706.36
<b>Balance June 30, 2016</b>	<b>\$ 33,385.98</b>

**LOANS**

**BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE – DEPARTMENTAL EQUIPMENT**

**Greenfield Co-operative Bank**

Loan Amount (RENEWAL)	\$ 570,000.00
Loan Amount (NEW)	50,000.00
Total Loan Amount	620,000.00
Highway Truck:	\$ 170,000.00
Fire Truck:	\$ 450,000.00
Issue Date - February 4, 2016	
Due Date - February 3, 2017	
Interest Rate - 0.75%	
Balance July 1, 2015	0.00
Annual Payment Amount	0.00
Interest Expense	\$ 0.00
<b>Balance June 30, 2016</b>	<b>\$ 620,000.00</b>

**BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE – DEPARTMENTAL EQUIPMENT**

**Greenfield Co-operative Bank**

Loan Amount	\$ 570,000.00
Highway Truck:	\$ 170,000.00
Fire Truck:	\$ 400,000.00
Issue Date - February 4, 2015	
Due Date - February 4, 2016	
Interest Rate - 0.52%	
Balance July 1, 2015	570,000.00
Annual Payment Amount	570,000.00
Interest Expense	\$ 2,964.00
<b>Balance June 30, 2016</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>

**WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS BOND ISSUE**

**USDA RUS Loan: \$ 455,000**  
**USDA RUS Grant: \$ 150,440**

Amount of Bond Issue at Inception	\$ 455,000.00
Issue Date - April 28, 2016	
Term of Bond - 35 years	
With interest payable annually	
Interest Rate - 2.25%	
Balance July 1, 2015	0.00
Annual Payment Amount	0.00
Interest Expense	\$ 0.00
<b>Balance June 30, 2016</b>	<b>\$455,000.00</b>

**BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE – WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS (4th RENEWAL)**

**UniBank for Savings**

Renewal Loan Amount	\$ 455,000.00
Issue Date – June 19, 2015	
Due Date – June 17, 2016	
Interest Rate – 0.50%	
Balance July 1, 2015	455,000.00
Annual Payment Amount	455,000.00
Interest Expense	\$ 2,262.36
<b>Balance June 30, 2016</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>

**HIGHWAY DEPT. TRUCK LOAN**

**Hampden Bank**

Loan Amount	\$ 195,000.00
Issue Date – March 7, 2013	
Due Date – March 7, 2018	
Interest Rate – 1.50%	
Balance July 1, 2015	117,000.00
Annual Payment Amount	39,000.00
Interest Expense	\$ 1,755.00
<b>Balance June 30, 2016</b>	<b>\$ 78,000.00</b>

**LAND ACQUISITION BOND ISSUE**

Amount of Bond Issue at Inception	\$ 1,158,925.00
Issue Date – December 15, 2009	
Term of Bond – 15 years	
With interest payable semiannually	
Interest Rate – 2.25%	
Balance July 1, 2015	805,000.00
Annual Payment Amount	80,000.00
Interest Expense	\$ 31,968.76
<b>Balance June 30, 2016</b>	<b>\$ 725,000.00</b>

**FIRE DEPT. – EMERGENCY RESCUE VEHICLE BOND ISSUE**

**USDA Rural Development**

Issue Date – March 11, 2008	
Due Date – March 11, 2023	
Total vehicle cost	\$ 165,000.00
Less Grant award	57,750.00
Loan Amount	107,250.00
Interest Rate – 4.25%	
Balance July 1, 2015	65,397.37
Annual Payment Amount	7,037.61
Interest Expense	\$ 2,779.39
<b>Balance June 30, 2016</b>	<b>\$ 58,359.76</b>

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Herzog



# Tax Collector

To the Board of Selectmen and the Town of Cheshire:

The Annual Report of the Tax Collector for FY 2016 is hereby submitted:

**Outstanding Taxes as of July 1, 2015:**

Real Estate	\$ 154,930.33
Personal Property	4,242.84
Motor Vehicle	29,335.03
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 188,508.20</b>

**Abateements/Exemptions:**

Real Estate	\$ 23,427.00
Personal Property	602.58
Motor Vehicle	10,705.48
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 34,735.06</b>

**Committed to collect:**

Real Estate	\$ 3,620,752.31
Personal Property	91,152.67
Motor Vehicle	559,814.48
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,271,719.46</b>

**Refunds:**

Real Estate	\$ 3,372.85
Personal Property	132.84
Motor Vehicle	6,497.21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 10,002.90</b>

**Turned over to the Treasurer:**

Real Estate Taxes	\$ 3,572,534.59
Personal Property Taxes	90,682.93
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	540,532.71
Tax Title Accounts	7,431.68
Mobile Home Excise	18,300.00
Interest	22,121.73
NSF Fees	51.84
Registry Marking Fees	2,480.00
Municipal Lien Fees	1,725.00
Tax Collector Fees	6,805.00
Deputy Collector Fees	6,350.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,269,015.48</b>

**Outstanding Taxes as of June 30, 2016:**

Real Estate	\$ 175,661.52
Personal Property	4,242.84
Motor Vehicle	44,408.53
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 224,312.89</b>

**Hoosac Lake District**

Outstanding Taxes July 1, 2015:	\$ 2,396.16
Committed to collect:	13,052.17
Turned over to Treasurer:	-11,926.00
Refunds:	86.12
<b>Outstanding Taxes June 30, 2016:</b>	<b>\$ 3,608.45</b>

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Herzog

# Board of Assessors

The annual report of the Board of Assessors for Fiscal Year 2016 is hereby submitted.

Fiscal year 2016 Real Estate and Personal Property taxes were committed to the Tax Collector on September 29, 2015.

The elected Board of Assessors is required to value all property in the town annually, at full and fair cash value (market value). Much of our direction comes from Chapter 59 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

The Department of Revenue is charged, by statute, with the responsibility of certifying every three years that the Assessors are complying with the statutes and that they do so, fairly and equitably.

Market value of property is generally determined by using the sales price of similar properties from the preceding year. These sale prices are extrapolated into previous cost tables, to then be applied to all parcels.

FY 2016 was a re-certification year. Sales were analyzed and property values increased slightly.

The tax rate increased from \$12.26 to \$12.39

The Hoosac Lake District tax rate changed from \$0.53 to \$0.55.

## Real Estate & Personal Property Commitments and Abatements

### Commitments

Type	No. of Bills	Tax	Valuation
Real Estate	1613	\$ 3,620,752.31	\$ 295,330,516.00
Personal Prop	29	91,152.67	7,434,966.00
Hoosac Lake Dist	107	13,052.17	24,626,600.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1749</b>	<b>\$ 3,724,957.15</b>	<b>\$327,392,082.00</b>

### Abatements & Exemptions

Abatements	6	\$ 1,579.69
Elderly Exempt	21	5,300.00
Veteran Exempt	22	15,512.39
Blind Exempt	3	1,312.50
Clause 18 Exempt	1	325.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>\$ 24,029.58</b>

## Motor Vehicle Excise Commitments & Abatements

### Commitments

Year	No. of Bills	Tax
2002	1	\$ 10.94
2004	1	96.56
2005	1	51.25
2006	1	53.13
2007	1	63.75
2009	3	63.65
2010	4	156.15
2015	639	70,376.98
2016	3932	488,942.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>4583</b>	<b>\$ 559,814.48</b>

### Abatements

Year	No. of Abatements	Tax Abated
2013	2	\$ 27.19
2014	6	268.75
2015	56	3,557.14
2016	83	6,852.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>\$ 10,705.48</b>

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Astorino  
Everett Martin  
Laurie Charon

# Board of Health

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To the citizens of the Town of Cheshire, the Board of Health hereby submits the annual report for 2016.

Our recycling efforts have been very good this year. We always feel that there is more room for improvement. We would like to thank everyone for their efforts and keep up the good work.

The Board would like to let the Town know we will be turning back \$109,562 to the Town for the sale of bags, stickers, demo and permits.

We would also like to add that the new Caretaker Shed was purchased with grant money. It was long overdue and necessary. Thank you to Sheds and Stuff for making the building affordable to the Board.

The Board would also like to thank the Cheshire Highway Department for all their continued assistance whenever we need anything.

We would like to remind any and all Rental Property owners that you need to have your properties inspected annually or reinspected anytime the rental becomes vacant.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Salvi  
Jeffrey Warner  
Michael Biagini

# Cemetery Commission

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## FY 2016 Annual Report

To the Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of Cheshire:

The summer of 2015 through the spring of 2016 was again fairly routine for the Cemetery Department. Winter didn't bring a lot of snow, but the cold season brought plenty of spring cleaning to prepare the cemetery for the working season of the year. At the beginning of the season there were 8 burials in the winter vault awaiting interment.

During the season, the Cemetery handled 14 full burials and 8 interments of cremains. The Commission sold 8 lots during the year.

In FY16, the Commissioners accepted the resignations of longtime (over two decades) Crew Supervisor Ferdy Sherman and crew member Vern Emerson.

Ferdy was a highly dedicated, consummate supervisor, directing the crew to keep the grounds in excellent shape. Vern, for the several years he worked at the Cemetery, was like all our current and recent crews, completely dedicated to making the Cheshire Cemetery one of the best maintained in the area, Berkshire County and beyond. The Commissioners thank each of them for their years of excellent service. Through the years there have been countless numbers of visitors from many states who have remarked about the excellent maintenance of the grounds.

The staff and the Commissioners could not provide this service to the town without the continuing assistance of Pete LeFebvre and the workers of the Cheshire Highway Department, as well as Chris Emerson, Town Clerk. We again thank them for all their help.

Respectfully submitted,

Neil W. Baker  
Josephine A. Lewis  
Jack Girard

# Council on Aging

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## FY 2015/2016 Annual Report

The following services were provided by the Cheshire Council on Aging (COA) between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016:

- The COA van traveled 8,902 miles providing 645 life support trips for medical and food needs for 106 persons.
- Three Field trips to local events - 78 people participated.
- The Senior/Community Center has provided a place to serve 2,392 hot lunches on Mondays, Tuesday and Wednesdays.
- 950 person/hours of exercise classes, average of 8 people twice a week.
- 375 "Brown Bags" (staples supplied by the Food Bank each month) have been prepared by Cheshire volunteers in Adams and distributed from the Senior/Community Center; with 5 to 8 home deliveries.
- 490 foot clinic appointments have taken place.
- 215 person/hours of quilting time.
- 200 person/hours of sewing time on Wednesdays.
- 720 person/hours of BINGO playing.
- 3 special lunches have been provided. One performance from Champagne Jam, second one was from the Berkshire Music School and the third at the Bass Water Grill with a presentation by Barry Emery from the Historic Commission.
- The Fourth Annual Strawberry Festival was held and served 42 citizens.
- 107 attended the annual intergenerational Children's Christmas party held at the Senior/Community Center with refreshments being provided by the COA.
- 25 seniors provided with Christmas cookies from the COA.
- 4 seniors were provided with Computer instruction upon request.
- 28 "File of Life" books were and will be given to all people wanting them.
- Over 2000 hours of volunteer work was donated. Thanks to everyone involved.
- 320 hours paid for a Senior Aid.
  - Michelle A. Dargie was our senior aid and was able to assist in meals/Cheshire Chatter.
  - Kerry Lahey come on as Outreach worker in June of 2016. She will help with event, referrals, and paper work as needed.
- The Northern Berkshire Cultural Council granted the COA funds to provide for a Trip to the Williamstown Theater; 25 seniors participated.

Senior Housing has been put on hold until funds become available.

Karmen B. Field-Mitchell resigned from the COA; Don Pulvar was appointed to the COA.

The members of the Cheshire Council on Aging are:

Anna Farnam, Chairman	
Butch King	Helen Dargie
Mel Gwozdz	Don Pulvar
Peter Traub	Elsie Zaleski.

# Historical Commission

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## Annual Report 2016

The Commission mourns the passing of beloved, long-time member Dodi Martin in January, 2016. Her loss will long be keenly felt.

Full approval of our Town Hall complex for the State and National Historic Register having been received, a formal acceptance ceremony will be scheduled for fall. The Commission extends warmest thanks to our Professional Historian, Greg Farmer, for his excellent facilitation of this project.

We are grateful for two significant donations to our archives. One is a trove of historically interesting articles and letters from the estate of the late Bernice Madigan, from the Daniels family. The other is a set of documents fully outlining the history and challenges of the 1986 Cheshire Lake controversy.

Member Gus Martin continues to present to the Commission excerpts from his Commission-sponsored research on the history of Cheshire's many dairy barns.

Member Vern Emerson enlightened the Commission regarding the many charitable and civic activities of our Cheshire Masons, highlighted by a tour of their quarters.

Member Bob Hitter facilitated a restoration project on the Jenks Road cemetery original gate, completed by the Metal Fabrication Department of McCann High School.

Member Barry Emery produced another of his interesting, illustrated public talks based on his latest book "From Brooklyn to Cheshire."

The Commission welcomes new member Dawn Daniels and salutes our Chair Emeritus, Eileen Nuttall as she celebrates her 104th birthday in 2016.

The Commission continues to offer honorary, free of charge plaques to our "100+" Year Old Homes and always accepts and preserves historical items. We are "Cheshire's Attic."

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Daniels  
Dawn Daniels  
Vern Emerson  
Barry Emery  
Bob Hitter  
Gus Martin  
Diane Hitter, Chair  
Eileen Nuttall, emeritus

# Building Inspector

Fiscal Year: 07/01/15 – 06/30/16  
 Supplements to the Annual Report

To The Citizens of Cheshire,

The Building Inspection Department ensures that all new construction, alterations, renovations, repairs and demolitions are in conformance with 780 CMR, the Massachusetts State Building Code, Massachusetts General Laws, Town of Cheshire Zoning By-Laws and any other applicable codes and statutes enforced by the Building Inspector.

A total of 192 permits were issued.

**Job Code**

1	New Residential Homes .....	7
1A	Foundation only.....	5
2	Additions / Alterations-Residential .....	60
3	Accessory Buildings .....	4
4	Pools.....	6
5	Demolition.....	4
6	Other.....	40
7	Additions and Alterations Commercial.....	0
8	Garage Residential.....	7
9	Signs.....	0
10	Stoves.....	5
11	Fences .....	1
12	Commercial / New.....	0
13	Solar.....	56

Total Job Values .....\$ 6,401,197.54  
 Permit Fees Collected.....\$ 31,385.25

The Ninth Edition Massachusetts State Base Code (Commercial Code), which is based on the **2015 International Building Code** (IBC) is slated to be in effect July 1, 2017 and the Massachusetts Residential One and Two Family Building Code which is based on the **2015 International Residential Code** (IRC) will become effective on July 1, 2015 as well. The BBRS voted to adopt the **2015 IECC and ASHRAE** on January 1, 2016.

I would like to thank the Board of Selectman for their appointment to this position, as well as all of the departments for their cooperation and dedication of service. I would also like to thank Mark Kruzel, who is my Local Inspector for community, and has been a valuable resource. We look forward to working with the citizens of Cheshire and assisting them in their endeavors to make this an enjoyable and safe community.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
 Gerald W Garner, CBO  
 Building Commissioner,  
 Inspector of Buildings

# Wire Inspector

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To the Board of Selectmen and the Town of Cheshire

As Wire Inspector of the Town of Cheshire I submit this Report from January, 2016 to December, 2016.

2 New Homes	1 Temp. Service, Ufer Grd. & Well
3 Modular Homes	1 Cellar Wiring
4 New Garages	1 Second Floor Wiring
1 Fire Damage	2 Storm Damage
1 Addition	1 Owners Meter
10 New Heating Systems	2 Relocate Service
6 Service Upgrades	3 Panel Changes
1 Underground Service	1 Well
6 Replace Service Wiring	1 Complete Rewire
2 New Service & Minor Wiring	1 Rewire First Floor
1 Alarm System	4 Swimming Pools
2 Bathrooms	1 Lighting Retrofit
1 T.W. Power Supply	1 Camper Outlet
1 De-Icing Cable	2 Sun Rooms
1 Mini-Split	1 Vehicle/House Accident
1 Bathroom/PNL. Change	2 Generators
2 Kitchen & Bathroom	1 Dollar General Store
1 Kitchen & Dining Room	1 Institutional Electrical Permit
2 Minor Wiring	1 ½ Megawatt Solar Farm
29 Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Systems	

Number of Permits	105
Number of Inspections	185
<b>Total Fees Collected</b>	<b>\$ 32,722.00</b>

Respectfully submitted,

George Sweet, Wire Inspector  
 Les Rhinemiller, Assistant Wire Inspector

# Police Department

---

To the Board of Selectman and the residents of the Town of Cheshire.

As Chief of Police, it is my pleasure to submit to you my annual report for fiscal year 2016.

This year was a year of yet another change in our Department. Shawn Gariepy, our new full-time officer, left our Department to advance his career with the Pittsfield Police Department and we wish him well. With that vacancy created, the Board of Selectman advertised the position and interviews were held to fill the full-time slot. The board decided to go in-house and promoted Michael Alibozek from part-time status to our newest full-time member. Mike will enter the academy in November 2016.

We have been using the IMC programming that we initiated last year and it has been working very well for the Department with a huge amount of information at the Officers' fingertips with laptops installed in both cruisers. I would like to thank the Sheriff's office I.T expert Jason Breault, for his continued help and support on the new system we are using in both cruisers and in the office.

This year at our annual Town Meeting, I had requested funding for a much needed new Police cruiser and while it passed overwhelmingly at the Town meeting, it lost by six votes at the levy limit override vote held at the senior center. With that discouraging vote, I was asked to try and make our 2 cruisers last another year in FY 2017. Our oldest is a 2008 Crown Vic sedan and currently has 140,000 miles on the odometer and the other, a 2013 Ford Interceptor SUV currently has about 92,000 miles on it. You need to double the odometer reading to give an accurate mileage reading that is on the engines in both. This is due to the idle time on them when at accident scenes, motor vehicle stops, calls etc. The engine is seldom shutdown. I will submit another request in 2017 to purchase a new cruiser for the FY2018 budget.

Our Department has its own Facebook page and we encourage all who use Facebook to like our page, Cheshire Police. We post whatever we feel important for you to know such as safety concerns, school closings, storm updates, community events and much more.

I would continue to ask residents who see anything suspicious to Please call the cruiser cell phone at 413-446-3920. If a suspicious vehicle is seen, get a plate number first, and then if time permits, get a good description. We will follow up on any call we receive even if it turns out to be nothing. Thank-you for any assistance.

“If you see something, Say something.”

Our department members continue to take training and refresher courses as they become available. Some are mandatory and others are taken to further educate our members. We will continue to do the best job possible for the residents of the Town of Cheshire.

I would like to thank my Officers who continue to step up to the plate and volunteer for the various functions in Town that come up that require a police presence such as the Steel Rail Half Marathon that runs through town, various parades that are held, Memorial Day and Halloween as well as many other functions. My thanks.

At this time I would like to thank the members of the Cheshire Police Department for your continued dedication and professionalism. My thanks to the Board of Selectman for your continued support of our Department. Also to the members of the Cheshire Fire Department and E.M.S. squad for your outstanding hard work and assistance when needed. My thanks to the Mass. State Police and surrounding Departments for assistance when needed. And as always, last but not least, My thanks to the residents of the Town of Cheshire for your much appreciated continued support of the Police Department. **THANK-YOU**

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Tim Garner

# Police Department *(cont.)*

## TOTAL CALLS FOR FY 2016

Calls on Police Line -----	127	Hit and Run -----	1
Miscellaneous Calls-----	162	Motor Vehicle Accidents-----	29
Assist Other Police Depts.-----	86	A.T.V. Accidents -----	0
B & E Complaints -----	8	Snowmobile Accident -----	0
Disturbances -----	17	Stolen Motor Vehicle -----	0
Assault and Battery-----	3	D.M.V.-----	8
A & B/ Dangerous Weapon -----	0	Harassing Phone Calls -----	2
Domestic Disturbances-----	16	Harassment -----	2
Drunk Persons -----	0	Abuse Complaints -----	0
Missing Persons -----	2	Alarm Calls -----	25
Prowler Complaints -----	0	911 Calls -----	2
Shooting Complaints-----	2	Abandoned 911 Calls -----	9
Repo Motor Vehicle-----	1	Fire Calls -----	5
Larceny Under -----	2	M.V. Lockouts-----	3
Larceny Over -----	3	Arrest Without Warrant-----	11
Vandalism-----	6	Arrest by Warrant -----	9
Animal Complaints -----	59	Illegal Dumping -----	3
Medical Calls-----	105	Credit Card Fraud -----	2
Unattended Deaths-----	0	Bomb Threat -----	1
		Suspicious Activity -----	3



## CHESHIRE POLICE DEPARTMENT ROSTER

**CHIEF OF POLICE**  
TIM GARNER

**STAFF SERGEANT**  
ALISON WARNER

**SERGEANT/COURT OFFICER**  
**FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR**  
STEVE CHARON

**OFFICER/FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR**  
JOE CHARON

**OFFICER**  
DAVID TARJICK

**OFFICER**  
MIKE ALIBOZEK

**OFFICER**  
COREY DEMARY

**OFFICER**  
TRISH CARLO

**BOAT AND HARBORMASTER DUTIES**  
PAUL MALONEY



# Cheshire Fire Department - Hoosac Hose Co.

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To the Board of Selectmen and the residents of the Town of Cheshire, it is my pleasure to submit the annual report of the Cheshire Fire Department for 2016.

In 2016 the Cheshire Volunteer Fire Department responded to 371 calls for service. These calls for service required either a fire department or an EMS response, both of which are provided by the Cheshire Volunteer Fire Department. Additionally, the Command Staff of the department issued 297 burning permits, 9 certificates of compliance, 11 oil burner installation permits, 44 propane tank installation permits, 1 underground storage tank permits, 2 new oil tank installations, 1 fireworks display permit, and 91 smoke and carbon monoxide compliance permits.

This year the department continued to train with, and to utilize, the brand new fire engine that was purchased in 2015. This new pumper replaced an aging 1986 Pierce pumper that served the town well but was deteriorating to the point that it became unsafe for service. The new pumper features 1000 gallons of water in an onboard tank, 30 gallons of firefighting foam, as well as all the new and improved safety features that a modern apparatus brings with it. This new engine is the first due pumper for almost all of the department's calls for service and will serve the Town of Cheshire well for many years to come.

The department continues to train every Thursday night. During these training drills we practice many skills that are essential to a modern day fire department. Some of those skills are water supply, interior firefighting operations, driver training, as well as emergency medical skills. Our members attend training through the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy in Stowe, MA throughout the year to keep their certifications and their skills up to date. All of our members on the department are certified emergency medical first responders, hazardous materials operators, as well as certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automated external defibrillators or AED's. Cheshire also belongs to a County-wide mutual aid system where we give and receive aid from other local fire departments in times of emergency and/or need. We also train with our neighboring departments to keep a positive working relationship with our neighboring brother and sister firefighters and EMTs.

The fundraising arm of the Cheshire Fire Department, the Hoosac Hose Company, continues to give back to our community. We donate money to several high school and middle school sports teams, youth programs as well as scholarships to local youth going on to pursue a college degree.

The department is always looking for new volunteers who are willing to join. We offer excitement, camaraderie, as well as giving back to the residents of the town of Cheshire and to neighboring communities. New members are always welcome!

In closing I would like to thank the men and women of the Cheshire Volunteer Fire Department. Their commitment and dedication to the department and to the residents of Cheshire is second to none. They continually give up time away from their families and often put themselves in danger to help a stranger and all for no money at all. Thank You!!

Respectfully,

Thomas Francesconi  
Fire Chief



# CHESHIRE FIRE DEPARTMENT (Hoosac Hose Company)



## CHIEF

Thomas Francesconi

## ASSISTANT CHIEFS

Michael Biagini

Jason Mendonca

## CAPTAINS

E. Shawn Martin

Corey Swistak

Kim Martin

## EMS CAPTAINS

Fred Balawender

Kathie Baier

## FIREFIGHTERS

Mark Biagini

Andy Kachel

Ralph Biagini

Del Krzeminski

Craig Comstock

Brent Lancia

Joseph Deckro

Brian Lancia

CJ Garner

William Lewis

Tim Garner

Fred Martin

Fran Gwozdz

Gary Russell

Andy Heath

Trevor Swistak

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

Joeseeph Deckro

Allison Biagini

Sandy Martin

Trevor Swistak

## APPRENTICES

Kathie Baier

Quinn Whitney

## RETIRED RESERVES

Stanley Tracy

Ed Gwozdz

## HONORARY MEMBERS

Michael Biagini

George Sweet

Les Rhinemiller

## HOOSAC HOSE COMPANY FIRE COMMITTEE

Robert Belini

Paul Astorino

Ray Kellerman

Gary Lamb

Ralph Biagini

## HOOSAC HOSE COMPANY OFFICERS

Tim Garner - Secretary

Mark Biagini - Treasurer

## AUXILIARY MEMBERS

Joseph Wilk

Barry Emery

# Cheshire Library Association

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New this year is our “Little Library” which is located in Leland Park, across from the Cheshire Post Office. We would like to thank the Berkshire United Way and Sabic for donating it, and Carol LeFebvre for serving as Caretaker. Now anyone can get a book at any time. Thank you to all who use this library and to all who have donated to it!

We now have 795 patrons using our 8,892 books, audiobooks, DVDs, periodicals and much more. 214 adult books, 208 childrens’ books, 73 DVDs and 6 audiobooks have been added to our collection this past year. Interlibrary Loans of an additional \$27,266.42 worth of materials were borrowed by our patrons. We have shared over \$17,906.95 worth of our materials. What a great way to share!

Our Library Director, Amy Emerson-Inhelder, has continued to provide engaging story hours for our youngest patrons, showing them the enjoyment received from reading. She has also successfully received a Northern Berkshire Massachusetts Cultural Grant to help support our programs including Gail Anne Carriddi talking about local issues, Suzanna Thomas leading 3D sugar pumpkins and decorating holiday cookies, Barry Emery sharing local history, Michelle Smith showing how to make jewelry, Christy Butler’s “Rockachusetts” and others. The Family Center presented 2 programs for children and their families. The Boston Science Museum’s “Blizzard” was part of the Summer Reading Program for Children. The Ice Cream Social was also part of our Summer Reading Program. Thanks to Laurie Balawender Cuevas’ Maple Valley Farm for providing the delicious ice cream!

We continue to offer passes to local cultural venues including the Berkshire Museum to Cheshire residents. Please check what is available before you visit.

Please remember that you can find and “like” us on Facebook and at our website: [www.cheshirepubliclibrary.wordpress.com](http://www.cheshirepubliclibrary.wordpress.com).

Through our website you can access CWMARS Interlibrary Loan to order our materials or materials from anywhere in the CWMARS system and pick them up at our library. You can even research your genealogy through the website.

Remember, our library cards are free and can save you hundreds of dollars! Please stop by and visit soon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ellen Baker  
President, Cheshire Library  
Board of Trustees

Members:

- |                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Joanne Pasquini   | Inez Jepson  |
| Christine Emerson | Jack Girard  |
| Suzanne Boyle     | Diane Hitter |
| Heather Emerson   | Ruth Andrew  |
| Doris Perrault    |              |

# Planning Board

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The Cheshire Planning Board would like to dedicate our 2017 Annual Report to:

**Bernard F. Bator**

**The Cheshire Planning Board would like to thank Bernie for his many years as a volunteer member and Chairman.**

The Cheshire Planning Board has experienced a very busy year. There are several new members on the Board who have quickly adapted to the policies and procedures for going forward with editing and updating the Cheshire Zoning Bylaws.

Donna F. DeFino is Chairman and the Co-Chairman is Shannon C. Plumb, Esq. Members include Francis M. Griswold, Peter H. Traub and Ronald D. Angelis.

The Cheshire Planning Board approved a Dollar General plan to be built on Route 8. The Board met with 5 individuals for Special Permits and signed 6 Form As. The Special Permit Application has been revised and fees are \$400.00. All information and permits are available on the Town of Cheshire website.

A Master Plan Committee has been formed and they are diligently working on statistic results which will be presented to the Planning Board for approval. Results can then be submitted to residents at the next Cheshire Annual Town Meeting.

The Cheshire Planning Board monthly meeting takes place on the fourth Monday of the month at 7 pm at the Cheshire Annex. Meetings are open to the public.

Presently, the Board is seeking an Alternate Member. Those interested should contact Chairman DeFino at: 743-1690 Extension 18.

Respectfully submitted,

The Board:  
Donna M. DeFino,  
Chairman  
Shannon C. Plumb  
Francis M. Griswold  
Peter H. Traub  
Ronald DeAngelis  
Carole A. Hilderbrand,  
Board Secretary

# Water Department

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Mission Statement adopted  
by the Board of Water Commissioners:  
*To provide safe drinking water to our customers,  
be in compliance with all current and new drinking  
water regulations, be fiscally sound,  
and be sensitive to our customers needs.*

Annual Report  
July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

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The Board of Water commissioners are pleased to submit their Annual Report for the year 2016.

The Board of Water commissioners meets at the Town Hall every Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m.

The Cheshire Water Department continues to look for efficiencies in operating your water system.

The Cheshire Water Department is also looking to find ways to conserve the land which we care for. Through this process we have hired Tighe and Bond, an Engineering Firm, to apply for grants for wind possibilities on water department land. We believe that land conservation, wildlife protection and preservation are part of our watershed area. We vow to protect these resources, as well as, our most basic need for life, water!! Our hope for the future is some type of wind or water powered electricity which will reduce costs for the water users and tax payers of Cheshire. At this time we are still looking for more grants for wind power.

Listed below are the projects completed  
by the Water Department in 2015/2016.

- Consumer Confidence Report compiled and delivered to water users.
- Statistical Report completed and submitted to Mass DEP.
- Serviced Emergency Generator.
- Sanitary Survey conducted and completed with Mass DEP.
- Completed all mandatory water quality testing including lead, copper, Arsenic, and nitrates.
- Updated our Emergency Response Plan.
- Updated our Operation and Maintenance Plan.
- Storage tank inspection completed and professionally documented.
- Achieved requirements regarding state Water Meter Project
- Fixed 2 leaks.
- Started GPS all shutoffs and gate valves for system.
- Hired new Superintendent.
- Bought new Truck.

Please feel free to stop in any Tuesday evening if you have any comments or suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,

The Cheshire Water Department

**Board of Water Commissioners**

Francis A. Waterman, Jr., Chairman/Commissioner

Rick Gurney, Commissioner

Donald F. Rueger, Commissioner

# Recreation Committee

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The Recreation Committee continues to support all organized sport teams. We reached teams at all age levels, servicing youth and teens as well.

Over 90 children participated in the Memorial Day parade. Children decorated their bikes with the theme of "Let Freedom Ring." Child participants and young onlookers waving flags were treated with a commemorative one dollar coin in recognition of the day.

A bike stunt team called Free Cycle Sports came to the "Annual Cruz Nite." Champion riders performed breathtaking stunts while talking about staying healthy and remaining drug and alcohol free.

During the summer, Terry A La Berry continued his weekly Children's Concerts, every Wednesday for 5 weeks, on the Cheshire School grounds. It has been a huge success over the years and families attend and enjoy his interactive concerts.

In October, the Recreation Committee teamed with the Cheshire Police Department to sponsor a Halloween Parade. Our very own Hoosac Valley Middle and High School Band dressed in costume and led our little ones in the parade. Over 80 children participated in the parade that ended at the Police Station where they had snacks and a drink, including other prizes. The police department was totally transformed into a Haunted House. Thank you to them for their work.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Robin Poirot

Mrs. Heather Emerson

Mr. Andrew Kachel

# Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District

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[www.nbswmd.com](http://www.nbswmd.com)

For Calendar Year 2016, tonnage of paper, glass, cans and plastic was slightly down with 854.53 tons recycled District-wide. The Town of Cheshire recycled 55.37 tons of paper and 40.80 tons of glass, cans and plastic.

Six paint collections were held from April until the end of June. We shipped out 770 gallons of latex paint, 324 gallons of oil-based stains, varnishes and paint, and three 55-gallon drums of spray paint at a cost of \$6801.34. Bulk packing the latex and box packing the oil-based paints is a messy job. Special thanks to Toni Alizio, Mickey Biagini, and Rick Salvi for their volunteer efforts and hard work. Thanks also to the Cheshire, Hinsdale and Williamstown DPW crews who provide us with assistance and storage space for our machine and supplies

We began the Paint Program in 1998 to meet a need. It is now consuming more and more of our program budget. We are currently working with Paint Care (paint manufacturers group), the Product Stewardship Institute and Massachusetts Product Stewardship Committee to pass legislation that would have the paint manufacturers pay for paint collection, either at retail stores or municipal transfer stations. We are actively advocating its passage.

This year NBSWMD filed grant applications and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection awarded "Small Initiative Grants" to every town in the District. The Commissioners voted to pool the grants and purchase a new Roll-Off Container. This container will rotate among the towns and every town will benefit.

Williamstown, Windsor and Savoy were again recognized and awarded additional funds under the Mass. DEP Recycling Dividends Program. This program awards points for achievements. Williamstown was awarded \$1600.00, Windsor \$1800.00, and Savoy \$1400.00. The funds have to be reinvested to promote recycling education, new equipment or projects.

The waste stream continues to evolve and our programs will continue to evolve as well. Our efforts in the coming year will be aimed at collecting textiles, clothing and household linens, and keeping them out of the trash.

Earth machine compost bins are available from the District at cost, \$50 each. Call the District Office at 413-743-8208 to have one delivered to you.

A special Thank You to Sandy Totter for her years of service and Leadership for the District. Sandy retired in December 2016, we wish her all the Best.

As the new program coordinator since January 30, 2017, I look forward to working with all of the districts. My goal is to expand Outreach and Funding resources for services. Welcoming questions, suggestions as I move forward in my new role.

New project for the upcoming year,  
Bag Share Program:  
[thebagshare.org](http://thebagshare.org)

Waste not, want not,

Linda Cernik  
NBSWMD Program Coordinator  
Rick Salvi  
NBSWMD Commissioner  
for the Town of Cheshire

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

TOWN OF CHESHIRE  
SPECIAL ELECTION OVERRIDE

Monday, June 15th, 2015  
Cheshire Community/Senior Center  
119 Church St., Cheshire  
Polls open: 9:00 am to 7:00 pm



Total votes cast: 412

Registered voters: 2,247

**QUESTION:**

“Shall the Town of Cheshire be allowed to assess an additional \$90,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District operating budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015?”

Yes 174

No 237

Blank 1

Override Failed.

Attest: True Copy:

Christine B. Emerson  
Cheshire Town Clerk

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

TOWN OF CHESHIRE  
SPECIAL ELECTION OVERRIDE

Wednesday, August 5, 2015  
Cheshire Community/Senior Center  
119 Church St., Cheshire  
Polls open: 9:00 am to 7:00 pm



Total votes Cast: 824

Registered voters: 2245

**QUESTION:**

“Shall the Town of Cheshire be allowed to assess an additional \$90,000 in real estate and personal taxes for the purpose of funding the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District operating budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015?”

Yes 499

No 325

Blank 0

Override Passed.

Attest: True Copy:

Christine B. Emerson  
Cheshire Town Clerk

# Special Town Meeting - December 15, 2015

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Berkshire SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of CHESHIRE in the County of BERKSHIRE

### GREETING.

In The Name of THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs, to meet at said Cheshire at:

Cheshire Community/Senior Center  
119 School Street, Cheshire, MA  
Tuesday, December 15, 2015; 7:00 PM  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Meeting called to order by Moderator St. John at 7:05 pm.

Moderator asked for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Voters present: 76

Non-voters present: 4

Moderator read the warrant heading.

Motion from Selectmen Francesconi to waive the reading of the balance of the warrant and the return of service; seconded by Selectmen Astorino.

**Discussion:** None

Voice vote taken.

**Passed Unanimously.**

**Article 1.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$15,000 (fifteen thousand dollars) from certified free cash and appropriate the amount for the purpose funding the Fiscal Year 2016 Town of Cheshire obligation for continued membership in the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission administered Kinder Morgan Northeast Energy Direct Project Working Group, *or to take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion to move the article as read made by Selectmen Francesconi; seconded by Selectmen Astorino.

**Discussion:**

Questions were asked to how does this benefit the Town and will it be a yearly appropriation.

Answers were that the Town is in the group with fifteen towns and cities from Massachusetts and New York. The Group has Jeff Bernstein on retainer. This Group will negotiate in the best interests of the towns and cities, i.e. land sales both municipal and private, up front agreements for repair or reconstruction of roads during and after the project with cost being hopefully borne by Kinder Morgan.

The benefit is that the Town will be represented in negotiations by a law firm.

Question/suggestion that the Town compile a list of the departments of the Town that will be impacted with financial increases by the pipeline, such as the Fire, Police and Highway Departments.

Voice vote called.

**Article Passed.**

**Article 2.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$34,755 (thirty-four thousand seven hundred fifty-five dollars) from the Water Operations Surplus

and appropriate the same amount for the purchase of a new model year Ford F-250 four-wheel drive pickup truck with snow plow, *or to take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion to move the article as read made by Selectmen Francesconi; seconded by Selectmen Ciskowski.

**Discussion:**

Many questions were asked as to why the Water Department needed a vehicle, how would this vehicle's costs such as registering, maintenance and fuel be paid, where would the vehicle be housed.

Answers were the new superintendent needs a vehicle for the job. The Town would cover the cost of registration and insurance and the water users would pay the Town back. The water operations line item would cover the cost of fuel and maintenance. The question of where would the vehicle be kept was not answered.

The question of why wasn't this truck and costs included in the FY 2016 Water Budget was not successfully answered.

The question of reimbursement of fuel for use of the Water Superintendent's personal vehicle was answered by stating that it would be more cost effective for the Water Department to have its own truck versus fuel stipend.

Moderator called for a vote.

**Card vote taken. 23 Yes 35 No Article failed.**

**Article 3.** To transact any other business that may properly come before this Meeting, *or to take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion to dissolve the meeting made by Selectmen Francesconi; seconded by Selectmen Ciskowski.

Voice vote.

**Unanimous.**

Meeting dissolved at 7:48 pm.

ATTEST: True Copy

Christine B. Emerson

Cheshire Town Clerk, December 16, 2015





# Presidential Primary Warrant - March 1, 2016

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH  
WARRANT FOR PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

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Berkshire SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of CHESHIRE in the County of BERKSHIRE

**GREETING.**

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said city or town who are qualified to vote in Primaries to vote at:

Cheshire Community/Senior Center  
119 School Street, Cheshire, MA

on **TUESDAY, THE FIRST DAY OF MARCH, 2016, from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:**

---

**To cast their votes in the Presidential Primary for the candidates of political parties for the following offices:**

- Presidential Preference ..... For This Commonwealth
- State Committee Man ..... Senatorial  
Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin & Hampden District
- State Committee Woman ..... Senatorial  
Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin & Hampden District
- Ward Or Town Committee ..... Town Of Cheshire

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said voting.

Given under our hands this 9th day of February, 2016.

Carol A. Francesconi \_\_\_\_\_

Paul F. Astorino \_\_\_\_\_

Robert S. Ciskowski \_\_\_\_\_

Selectmen of: Cheshire

Posted at: Town Hall, Town Hall Annex, Cheshire Community/Senior Center,  
H.D.Reynolds General Merchandise and Cheshire Post Office.  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

Constable, Ralph Biagini

Warrant must be posted by February 23, 2016, (at least seven days prior to the March 1, 2016, Presidential Preference Primary).

**Polls open 9:00 am to 7:00 pm**  
**Cheshire Community/Senior Center 119 School Street**

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**List of Candidates to be voted at the Annual Town Election**

**Cheshire, Monday, May 2, 2016**

**SPECIMEN BALLOT**

Penalty for willfully defacing, tearing down, removing or destroying a list of candidates or specimen ballot, fine not exceeding one hundred dollars.

*Christine B. Emerson*  
TOWN CLERK

**To Vote, Mark a Cross  in Space at Right**

<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Moderator 3 Year Term</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">Vote for One</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">EDMUND ST. JOHN IV</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Candidate for Re-election 37 Main Street</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="height: 20px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Board of Selectmen 3 Year Term</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">Vote for One</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">CAROL A. FRANCESCONI</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Candidate for Re-election 53 Dean Street</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">E. RICHARD SCHOLZ</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">790 Stafford Hill Road</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="height: 20px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Board of Assessors 3 Year Term</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">Vote for One</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">BARBARA A. ASTORINO</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Candidate for Re-election 104 Meadowview Drive</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="height: 20px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Board of Health 3 Year Term</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">Vote for One</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">MICHAEL "MICKEY" BIAGINI JR.</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Candidate for Re-election 115 Richmond Street</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="height: 20px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Cemetery Commissioner 3 Year Term</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">Vote for One</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">JOSEPHINE A. 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# 2015 Summer Music Block Parties



# 2016 2nd Annual Summer Music Block Parties



# Warrant Articles and FY 2017 Budget Review

## Cheshire Annual Town Meeting - June 13, 2016

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### *Warrant contains 15 articles to be acted upon.*

- **Article 1.** Typically, the Chairman or designee gives an overview of the meeting's warrant articles and budget.
- **Article 2.** Is the FY 2017 spending article. Individual line items will be acted upon in order.
- **Article 3.** Seeks to reduce the tax rate by appropriating \$170,000 of free cash. Approval of this article, along with approval of all line items listed in Article 2, will keep the Town under its levy limit by approximately \$15,000.
- **Article 4.** Standard article acted upon each year.
- **Article 5.** Seeks to move previously appropriated and unspent free cash for the purpose of fully funding a Town Master Plan. This article was approved by the Town's auditor.
- **Article 6.** Seeks to approve the borrowing of \$125,000 for a new Highway dump truck/sander/plow unit. This unit will replace the existing 2008 Highway truck, which will either be traded in or sold to the highest responsible bidder. This vote requires two-thirds voter approval at Town Meeting and subsequent simple majority Proposition 2 ½ Debt Exclusion vote at Special Town Election on July 11th.
- **Article 7.** Seeks to approve the borrowing of \$36,000 for a new 4-wheel drive Police Cruiser. This vehicle replaces the current 2008 Crown Victoria police cruiser, which will be sold to the highest responsible bidder. This vote requires two-thirds voter approval at Town Meeting and subsequent simple majority Proposition 2 ½ Debt Exclusion vote at Special Town Election on July 11th.
- **Article 8.** Seeks to change the current make up of the Town's Conservation Commission from the Board of Selectmen to one member of the Board of Selectmen and two at large residents. Members shall be appointed annually. Current annual stipend of \$500 per members has been transferred to ConsCom Expenses line item.
- **Article 9.** At the request of Town Clerk, this article, if approved, clearly defines the Powers and Duties of the Town Moderator.
- **Article 10.** At the request of Town Clerk, this article, if approved, clearly defines the Town Meeting action and Attorney General approval process of Town Bylaws.
- **Article 11.** At the request of Town Clerk, this article, if approved, codifies current and past practice of denying permits and licenses to those who owe Town fees or taxes.
- **Article 12.** At the request of Town Clerk, this article, if approved, allows for the closing of any or all Town Hall offices on any or all Saturdays.
- **Article 13.** At the request of Town Clerk, this article, if approved, clearly defines the process of placing non-binding public opinion questions on election ballots.
- **Article 14.** At the request of the Tax Collector, this article, if approved, establishes tax title revolving fund(s) for the purpose of paying legal and associated costs for land court actions out of tax title proceeds.
- **Article 15.** The Moderator has discretion on what can be entertained under this article.

### **FY 2017 Budget:**

- Proposed budget seeks a total appropriation of \$5,593,431 which reflects an increase of \$100,791 or 1.8% over the current fiscal year.
- This budget seeks to use \$170,000 in free cash to offset spending and to keep the Town under its levy limit by approximately \$15,000. If approved, we will have a balance of \$81,367 until it closes out at the end of June.
- This budget was developed in concert with the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board held numerous meetings among themselves and with Department Heads and a final joint meeting with the Selectmen and Department heads. The Advisory Board chose not to comment on each warrant article. Instead, they will give a statement at the beginning of the annual meeting.
- Most salaries increased 2.5% over current year. A few individuals received more or less based on individual circumstances.
- Current balance in the Stabilization Fund is \$464,516. We are asking for an additional \$20,000 appropriation to be added.
- Current balance in Capital Stabilization Fund is \$12,222. We are asking for an additional \$20,000 appropriation to be added.
- There are 2 borrowing articles on the warrant. One for a replacement Highway Dump Truck/Plow/Sander and the other for a new 4-wheel drive Police Vehicle to replace the current sedan. Both articles require a subsequent Debt Exclusion election vote. Typically, the Police Cruiser (\$36,000) would be a Free Cash appropriation, but the Free Cash balance would be dangerously low if used for this purpose.

- The following line items show substantial year to year changes:

ITEM	AMOUNT	NOTES
Assessor's Contracted Services	-\$ 9,900.00	Reduced because last year was a revaluation year.
Elections and Registration	\$ 2,000.00	National Elections this coming year are the cause of this increase.
Employee Health Insurance	\$ 32,442.00	Enrollment remained unchanged but rates increased 14%.
Police Salaries	\$ 15,008.00	Increase related with sending an Officer to the Full Time Police Academy; specifically coverage for when he's attending the Academy for approximately 6 months.
Fire Department Expenses	\$ 7,644.00	Increase due to need to update turnout gear
Tree and Stump Removal needing removal.	\$ 5,000.00	Increase due to growing backlog of dead and diseased Town trees
Street Lights	\$ 5,559.00	Increase necessary to correct an error made last year when only 11 months of billing were calculated.
Capital Stabilization Account	\$ 20,000.00	Unfunded for the current fiscal year because of budget constraints. This appropriation seeks to get back on track to build a fund for unspecified upcoming capital equipment purchases.
ACRSD	\$ 53,587.00	Up 2.1%
McCann Vocational	-\$ 7,400.00	Down 15% due to lower enrollment.

# Annual Town Meeting - June 13, 2016

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Berkshire SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of CHESHIRE in the County of BERKSHIRE

### GREETING.

In The Name of THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs, to meet at said Cheshire at:

Cheshire Elementary School Auditorium

191 Church St., Cheshire

Monday, June 13th, 2016

7:00 pm

Voter check-in to begin at 6:30 pm

CHESHIRE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

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Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Moderator St. John.

Moderator asked for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also, requested a moment of silence for the victims of the Orlando Shootings.

Voters present: 118

Non-voters present: 9

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The heading of the warrant was read.

Motion by Mrs. Francesconi to waive the reading of the balance of the warrant and the return of service, seconded by Mr. Astorino.

**Discussion:** None.

Vote called.

**Unanimous.**

**Article 1.** To hear the Annual Report of the Selectmen and the other officers and to act thereon.

Selectmen Chairman Astorino addressed the meeting. Stating that budget is \$100,791 over FY 2016 budget. The budget was developed in conjunction with the Advisory Board, Department Heads and the Selectmen.

This budget seeks to use \$170,000 from Certified Free Cash to reduce the tax rate and keep the Town under the Levy Limit by approximately \$15,000. If approved the balance of \$81,367 remains until it closes out at the end of June.

The current balance in Stabilization is \$464,516 and asking for an appropriation of \$20,000 to be added this evening. The current balance of Capital Stabilization is \$12,222 and asking additional \$20,000 be added.

Two borrowing articles on the warrant a Highway Truck and Police Cruiser, if the articles pass this evening, they are contingent on a Special Election, Debt Exclusion Vote on July 11th.

Mr. Astorino thanked everyone for coming out for this meeting. Then introduced Bill Craig, Advisory Board Chair to make some comments.

Mr. Craig first had the Advisory Board introduce themselves, Denise Gregoire, John Tremblay, Dick Scholz, Ralph Biagini.

Mr. Craig stated that the Advisory Board met with each office and department to discern the budget for each office/department. Working with the Selectmen and Town Administrator also.

The budget reflects a 2.5% raise in most salaries. The process takes time and patience. He has decided to retire from the Advisory Board, leaving the chair to Denise. He also asked for anyone who might like to volunteer to be on the board.

Motion to accept the article as read made by Mr. Astorino; seconded by Mr. Ciskowski.  
(This article is the Annual Town Report)

**Discussion:** None

Vote called.

**Unanimous.**

**Article 2.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from available funds in the Treasury such sum or sums of money as may be necessary to defray the ordinary expenses of the Town for the ensuing year, and to pay interest on loans maturing in this year, or take any other action in relation thereto.

This article is the Town Budget. Moderator stated that he would read the totals for each office/department, anyone wishes discussion on a line item should state "set aside." The balance of the budget will then be voted, and each set-aside will be voted singly.

Set-asides: Accountant Salary, Town Building Expenses, Wire Inspector Salary, Board of Health Members Salaries, Unclassified Expenses (these require a 2/3 vote), Water Department Operator Salary, and ACRSD Budget.

Motion to accept the budget minus the set-asides made by Mr. Ciskowski; seconded by Mrs. Francesconi.

**Discussion:** None

Vote called.

**Unanimous.**



**Set-asides began.**

**Accountant Salary set aside** by the Advisory Board. Board requested that the 2.5% increase in salary be eliminated, due to the Accountant working less hours.

Town Accountant, Lynne Lemanski stated that even though she has fewer posted hours that the accounting for the Town is still completed.

Discussion between the Advisory Board and Mrs. Lemanski continued.

Motion made by Mrs. Francesconi; seconded by Mr. Astorino to appropriate the amount as presented in the budget.

Vote called. **Too close by voice for Moderator to declare.**  
(Salary \$23,308)

Card vote taken. **Motion Carried.**

**Town Buildings Expense set aside by Peter Franz.**

Mr. Franz motion to increase telephone line to \$11,500. No second.

**Motion failed.**

He then asked should the line item for repairs to buildings be increased, since the gutters on Town Hall are in bad condition. The Selectmen answered that the amount should be sufficient.

Motion to accept the line item as presented on budget.

**Motion Carried.**

**Wire Inspector Salary set aside** by Wire Inspector George Sweet. Mr. Sweet stated that he has worked for many years for the Town and that the codes constantly change and that schooling is involved. He also stated that he has brought in fees to the Town over his years.

Motion to increase the salary to \$6,000 made by Mr. Sweet; seconded by Mickey Biagini.

The Advisory Board stated that they felt not enough documentation was presented to them to justify this increase.

Vote called. **Again voice vote not clear.**  
(Salary \$6,000)

Card Vote called. Yes 45 No 44 **Motion Carried.**

**Board of Health Member Salaries set aside** by Mickey Biagini. Motion to increase the salaries to \$3,500 for each member made by Mr. Biagini; seconded by Mr. Franz.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Biagini stated many extra hours go into this position.

Mrs. Francesconi made the statement that the Town salaries are not what they should be and that next year the Town is doing a Salary Study.

Mr. Biagini continued that the position can not be rated as an hourly position as the Advisory Board viewed it.

Mr. Astorino asked that the budget for this year be kept and next year would reflect the study.

Mr. Franz stated that most towns have Board of Health Agents doing what our Board does and that they salaries are nearly \$10,000 a year.

Voted called on motion. **Again voice vote not clear.**  
(Salary \$3,500 each Member)

Card Vote called. Yes 55 No 38 **Motion Carried.**

**Stabilization Accounts set aside by the Moderator.**

As each requires a 2/3 vote.

**Capital Stabilization**

Motion made by Peter Franz for \$20,000 as presented in the budget; seconded by Daniel Delorey.

Card Vote called. Yes 103 No 0 **Motion Carried.**

**Stabilization Account**

Motion to appropriate \$20,000 as presented in the budget made by Mr. Craig; seconded by Mr. Astorino.

Card Vote called. Yes 107 No 0 **Motion Carried.**

Motion to accept the total on the Unclassified Accounts made by Peter Franz and seconded by Daniel Delorey.

Voice vote called. **Unanimous.**

**Water Department Operator Salary set aside** by Bigs Waterman. Motion by Mr. Waterman to increase the amount from \$7,000 back to FY 2016 \$14,000.

Mickey Biagini asked why the second Operator shouldn't be paid hourly versus a yearly salary.

Mr. Waterman stated that the Water Department had three operators in the past.

Mrs. Francesconi spoke. Stating that she had spoken with the DEP and that they consider the new Water Superintendent to be the primary operator and Mr. Waterman now the secondary operator. The Advisory Board and Selectmen viewed \$7,000 as reasonable.

Motion to amend the salary from \$7,000 to \$14,000 made by Jan Kuniholm; seconded by Mr. Rueger. (Operator Salary \$7,000)

Card Vote called. Yes 46 No 49 **Motion Failed.**

Motion to accept the line item as presented made by Mr. Biagini; seconded by Mr. Craig.

Vote called. **Motion Carried.**

**ACRSD Budget set aside** by Gary Trudeau.

Motion made by Mr. Trudeau to eliminate the over foundation line item from the school budget. Stating that the spending in out of control, the budget increases as the population decreases.

Mrs. Rodowicz, ACRSD School Committee Member responded by saying that the district spends far less on each student than the communities surrounding us. Stating that the School Committee feels this is a necessary budget.

ACRSD School Superintendent, Kristen Gordon, stated that this is lowest the budget can be.

Both Mrs. Rodowicz and Mrs. Gordon expressed the opinion if more were spent on each student it would equate in better and higher scores.

Vote called on amendment to remove the over foundation budget amount.

**Motion Failed.**

**ACRSD Transportation Line item set aside** by Irene Bator. Question as to the increase in the amount given that the rumor chatter is that one of our elementary schools will be closing.

Mrs. Rodowicz stated that the reimbursement from the State has decreased therefore the increase in the budget amount.

More discussion followed on the amount the ACRSD budget has increased.

The Vocational School Budget was not in question. (\$346,559)

Moderator called for a vote on the budget for ACRSD as presented. (Budget \$260,064)  
(Total School Budget \$2,986,623)

Voice vote called.

**Motion Carried.**

**Article 3.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$170,000 (one hundred seventy thousand dollars) to reduce the tax rate, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion to accept the article as presented made by Mrs. Francesconi; seconded by Mr. Astorino.

Vote called.

**Motion Carried.**

**Article 4.** To see if the Town will vote to borrow and appropriate any additional sum or sums of money which will be reimbursed by the Commonwealth under any applicable State Aid Highway Programs for construction or improvements to Town roads and bridges as requested by the Selectmen, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion to accept the article as presented made by Mr. Astorino; seconded by Mr. Ciskowski.

Vote called.

**Motion Carried.**

**Article 5.** To see if the town will vote to transfer and appropriate from available funds appropriated under Special Town Meeting 12/15/15 Article # 1, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Pipeline Working Group, the sum of \$15,000 (fifteen thousand dollars) for the purpose of funding a Town of Cheshire Master Plan, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

*[Note: If approved, this article, when added to a \$15,000 grant received from the Commonwealth's Community Compact program, will fund the production of a Town Master Plan.]*

Motion to accept the article as presented made by Mr. Ciskowski; seconded by Mr. Astorino.

At this point, the Moderator asked James Reynolds to address the meeting.

Mr. Reynolds, member of the Master Plan Committee asked for the Committee Members present to stand. Jim introduced each one. Stating that the Committee was comprised of a diverse group.

They are working on the Plan for the future. The survey (thanks to all who did take the survey) information will help with input. It is a comprehensive plan giving vision, goals, priorities and long range views for ten to twenty years. The Committee will be on facebook shortly, cheshiremasterplancommittee.

Peter Franz asked if the Berkshire Regional Planning had input into the plan. The answer was yes.

Vote called.

**Motion Carried.**

**Article 6.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to borrow the sum of \$125,000 (One-hundred twenty-five thousand dollars) for the purpose of purchasing a new model year Highway Department dump truck with related plow and sanding equipment and to trade in or dispose of to the highest responsible bidder the current 2008 Ford 550 dump truck and contingent upon a subsequent Debt Exclusion vote, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

*[Note: This article requires a two-thirds vote for borrowing approval this evening and subsequent election ballot vote for a simple majority Debt Exclusion approval to be held on July 11, 2016, with voting from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM.]*

Motion to accept the article as presented made by Mrs. Francesconi; seconded by Mr. Craig.

**Discussion:**

Gary Trudeau asked why the Town has the warrant article for the truck when the newspapers reported that the Highway Superintendent would be retiring and that a truck should be specified by the new superintendent.

Mr. Astorino stated the Selectmen felt that they needed Mr. LeFebvre expertise in specing the new truck out and that way the truck would already be in Town by next April.

Card Vote called.

Yes 111      No 37      **Required 2/3 Vote. Motion Carried.**

**Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to borrow the sum of \$36,000 (Thirty-six thousand dollars) for the purpose of purchasing a new model year Police Cruiser and to sell the current 2008 Crown Victoria police cruiser to the highest responsible bidder and contingent upon a subsequent Debt Exclusion vote, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

*[Note: This article requires a two-thirds vote for borrowing approval this evening and subsequent election ballot vote for a simple majority Debt Exclusion approval to be held on July 11, 2016, with voting from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM.]*

Motion to accept the article as presented made by Mr. Astorino; seconded by Mr. Ciskowski.

**Discussion:**

George Reynolds asked if a secret ballot could be used as the Police Chief's presence might intimidate some in the meeting.

Answer was the secret ballot part would be in the voting booth for the Debt Exclusion Vote.

Card Vote called. 2/3 Vote.  
Yes 103      No 4      **Motion Carried.**

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 40, Section 8c for the purpose of establishing an appointed Cheshire Conservation Commission comprised of three members to be appointed annually by the Board of Selectmen as follows: one member shall be a current member of the Board of Selectmen and two members shall be at large Cheshire residents, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion to accept the article as presented made by Mr. Ciskowski; seconded by Mr. Astorino.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Kuniholm asked if there would be a stipend for the Commission?

Mrs. Francesconi replied no there would not for this fiscal year.

Voice Vote taken. **Motion Carried.**

**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 39, Section 15, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

**[Note: If approved, this article shall clearly define the powers and duties of Town Moderator.]**

Motion to accept the article as read made by Mrs. Francesconi; seconded by Mr. Ciskowski.

At this time the Town Clerk was asked to address articles 9 through 13.

Christine B. Emerson stated that as reported in the Courier and on iBerkshires that this is a housekeeping measure. Town records require that any Town bylaw or acceptance of Massachusetts General Law Chapters and CMR acceptance be recorded and kept. It is important that the Town Records include any chapter accepted by the Town vote. Therefore, Articles 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 are that housekeeping measure.

In doing some recent research for the Selectmen, I found that even though the Town has been practicing some of these chapters that it was not recorded.

For future Town actions that have to be reviewed by the Attorney General, the question will be asked whether the Town has accepted a certain chapter that pertains to the article in review.

A brief overview, Article 9, gives the Moderator control of the Town Meetings; Article 10, defines the process for Town Meeting action for Attorney General approval; Article 11, gives the Town the authority to deny, revoke or suspend permits for failure to pay taxes, fees or other municipal charges (the Town has been using this practice) this acceptance records that the Town approved; Article 12, approves that the municipal buildings/offices will not be open on Saturdays; and Article 13, gives the guidelines for the process of putting a non-binding question on the Town election ballots.

Voice Vote taken. **Motion Carried.**

**Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 40, Section 32, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

**[Note: If approved, this article shall clearly define the process for Town Meeting action and subsequent approval by the Attorney General of General Town Bylaws.]**

Motion to accept the article as read made by Mr. Astorino; seconded by Mr. Ciskowski.

**Discussion:** None.

Voice Vote taken. **Motion Carried.**

**Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 40, Section 57, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

**[Note: If approved, this article provides for the denial, revocation or suspension of permits and licenses to any party who has neglected or refused to pay any local taxes, fees or any other municipal charges.]**

Motion to accept the article as read made by Mr. Ciskowski; seconded by Mr. Astorino.

**Discussion:** None.

Voice Vote taken. **Motion Carried.**

**Article 12:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 41, Section 110A, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

**[Note: If approved, this article shall allow any public office to be closed on any or all Saturdays.]**

Motion to accept the article as read made by Mrs. Francesconi; seconded by Mr. Astorino.

**Discussion:**

Irene Bator asked how selling the Compactor Stickers/Bags would be affected by this article.

Town Clerk answered that the Town Offices are closed and that the BOH collector sells the stickers and that the BOH office is not open for any business.

Voice Vote taken. **Motion Carried.**

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 53, Section 18A, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

**[Note: If approved, this article shall define the process for the placing of nonbinding public opinion advisory questions on regular or Town election ballots.]**

Motion to accept the article as read made by Mr. Astorino; seconded by Mr. Ciskowski.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Scholz stated that he had had some reservations about this acceptance until speaking with the Town Clerk. The question had been what would be the process if the Selectmen chose not to place a question on the ballot. The answer was that the Selectmen have not refused a question at any time in the last twenty years.

Voice Vote taken. **Motion Carried.**

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 60, Section 15B, which allows for the establishment of one or more tax title collection revolving funds for the tax collector, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion to accept the article as read made by Mr. Ciskowski; seconded by Mr. Craig.

**Discussion:**

Mark Webber, Town Administrator, stated that this is to set up a Tax Title Account, making the bookkeeping/accounting easier.

Voice Vote taken.

**Motion Carried.**

**Article 15:** To do and transact any other business that may properly come before this meeting, or take any other action in relation thereto.

**Announcements:**

Eileen Quinn announced that the second Town Block Parties will be July 13th and August 10th. The Block Parties are funded through Council of the Arts Grant and local sponsorship.

Mrs. Francesconi stated that the Town is still working on the "Enduring Freedom" Veterans List for the names to be placed on the Memorial at Town Hall. If anyone knows of anyone that may have served from 2001 to 2014 and was deployed from Cheshire, please contact the Town Clerk or Selectmen's office.

As Town Clerk, I am excited to tell you that for the September Primary, a new method of voting will be in place. Remember your Iowa Tests, SATs and simple questionnaires. No longer will you be marking a "X", instead you will be filling in an Oval. More information on this new voting will be made available as time gets closer to the Primary. There will be a video link on the Town Website to explain the new method.

For the Special Election Debt Exclusion, Monday, July 11th, paper ballots will still be in use.

The Polls for the Debt Exclusion will be open from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Absentee Ballots for the Debt Exclusion will be available beginning June 22nd. Please contact my office if you will require to vote absentee. The last day to vote absentee is noon on Thursday, July 7th.

Question asked by Mickey Biagini of the Selectmen. How is the expansion of the Board of Selectmen proceeding.

Mrs. Francesconi replied that there was not time to insure proper procedure before this Annual Town Meeting, but that now the Board will be acting on the expansion.

Motion to dissolve this meeting made by Mrs. Francesconi; seconded by Mr. Astorino and Mr. Ciskowski.

**Discussion:** None.

Voice Vote taken.

**Unanimous.**

Moderator St. John declared the meeting dissolved at 9:00 pm and thank everyone for attending.

**ATTEST: True Copy**

Christine B. Emerson  
Cheshire Town Clerk

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

HEREOF FAIL NOT,

and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk at the time and place of meeting as aforesaid. Given under our hands this 31st day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Paul Astorino  
Robert Ciskowski  
Carol Francesconi

A true copy: Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_ Ralph Biagini, Constable

Berkshire, ss.

**PURSUANT TO THE WITHIN WARRANT,**

I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Cheshire by posting up attested copies of the same at:

Cheshire Town Hall, Town Hall Annex, Cheshire Post Office,  
H.D. Reynolds General Merchandise and the Cheshire Community/Senior Center.

\_\_\_\_\_ days before the date of the meeting, as within directed.

\_\_\_\_\_ Constable of Cheshire

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Questions to be voted at the Special Town Election  
DEBT EXCLUSION VOTE

Cheshire, Monday, July 11, 2016

**SPECIMEN BALLOT**

Penalty for willfully defacing, tearing down, removing or destroying a list of candidates or specimen ballot, fine not exceeding one hundred dollars.

*Christine B. Emerson*  
TOWN CLERK

To Vote, Mark a Cross  in the Box

**QUESTION ONE**

“Shall the Town of Cheshire be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition two and one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to purchase a new model year Highway Department dump truck with related plow and sanding equipment?”

**YES**       **NO**

**QUESTION TWO**

“Shall the Town of Cheshire be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition two and one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to purchase a new model year Police Cruiser for use by the Cheshire Police Department?”

**YES**       **NO**



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
**Town of Cheshire**  
Massachusetts 01225

OFFICE OF THE  
TOWN CLERK

The Town of Cheshire held the following Special Election.

**DEBT EXCLUSION**

Monday, July 11, 2016

Cheshire Community/Senior Center

119 School Street

Polls open: 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

Total votes cast: 176      Registered voters: 2,318

Question 1. "Shall the Town of Cheshire be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition two and one-half so called, the amounts to pay for the bond in order to purchase a new model year Highway Department dump truck with related plow and sanding equipment?"

Yes 99

No 77

Passed

Question 2. "Shall the Town of Cheshire be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition two and one-half so called, the amounts required to purchase a new model year Police Cruiser for the use by the Cheshire Police Department?"

Yes 84

No 90

2 blanks

Failed

Attest: True Copy:

Christine B. Emerson

Cheshire Town Clerk

*Christine B. Emerson*

ANNUAL REPORTS  
OF THE  
ADAMS-CESHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
CHESHIRE, MA 01225



FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016



*Adams-Cheshire Regional School Committee*

*(Standing Left - Right):*

*Regina Hill, Steven Vigna, Superintendent Robert Putnam, Vice-Chair Darlene Rodowicz, Peter Tatro, Edmund St. John IV,  
(Sitting Left - Right): Chairman Paul K. Butler, Jennifer Gageant.*

# Report of the Chairman

## Adams-Cheshire Regional School District

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Paul K. Butler, Chairman	Adams, appointed 9/00, elected 5/01, re-elected 5/04, 5/07, 5/10, 5/13, 5/16
Darlene Rodowicz, Vice-Chair	Cheshire, appointed 09/04, elected 5/06, re-elected 5/09, 5/12, 5/15
Ed St. John	Cheshire, elected 05/11, re-elected 05/14
Regina Hill	Adams, appointed 09/10, elected 05/11, re-elected 05/14
Steve Vigna	Adams, appointed 06/11, elected 05/12, re-elected 05/15
Peter Tatro	Cheshire, elected 05/16
Jennifer Gageant	Adams, elected 05/16

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The 2016/2017 school year has gotten off to a relatively smooth start. The most significant changes come with the hiring of interim superintendent Dr. Robert Putnam. His energetic, upbeat style has been an immediate and positive influence on the operation of the school district. It is the goal of the school committee to have a permanent superintendent in place by July 1st of 2017. As of this writing in January the process has begun. We have also had turnover on the school committee. I welcome 2 new members who were elected in May of 2016; Peter Tatro of Cheshire and Jennifer Gageant of Adams. As they learn and adjust to their roles as members of the school committee, we look forward to their input in the coming months and years. I also wish to thank outgoing members Brian Astorino of Cheshire and Jim Ryan of Adams for their service and for their input as members of this committee.

It almost goes without saying that the budget passed for this school year was another difficult one. Once again, state Chapter 70 aid to schools increased by only a fraction of a percent. In addition, the state funding formula changed placing more of the local funding burden on the town of Cheshire. As a result, we were forced to make some serious cuts once again in order to put a budget together that would satisfy the taxpayers of both towns. We had added in the previous year a technology director and curriculum director. Both of these positions had to be eliminated for this school year. However, the time that they had here allowed them to lay some important ground work that has had a direct and positive influence on programming throughout the district. It is important to remember that the overall budget has not increased significantly year over year. However, when state aid Chapter 70 funding, which makes up roughly 2/3 of our budget, has seen virtually no increase for the last 10 years, more and more of the increasing cost of education falls to the local communities. Simply put, the rising costs of education, mainly health insurance and wage increases, have far outpaced the meager increases in state aid. The result is an increase in local education assessments that are not sustainable by the communities.

The school has engaged the services of the Collins Center of UMASS Boston to perform a comprehensive study of our school district and the member towns. Some of you probably attended a public meeting put on by this group. The goal is to identify areas where we can make changes and improvements in how we fund and deliver education so as to help streamline the school district to put forth a more efficient, sustainable model

for improved education for all our students. The final report is due to be delivered to the school committee in early February 2017. There has been a lot of concern, anxiety, and rumor surrounding the future of the school district; especially surrounding the possibility of a school closure. As of this writing I can tell you that many possibilities have been discussed and looked at. However, no final decisions have been made and none will be made without public input. But one thing is clear; we cannot continue to do nothing and expect better results. Changes need to take place.

In addition to the Collins Center study, there is a county wide group that has been meeting for about a year and a half to look into ways of providing more sustainable and better education throughout the county. The Berkshire County Education Task Force, as the group is known, meets every third Saturday. I sit on the task force as a representative from our community. The task force finished its phase 1 fact finding study late last year and has been providing feedback to various school committees and town boards as to the current status. The group embarked on phase 2 in January 2017. They intend on hiring a consulting firm to put together collected data and formulate ideas and models for the group to consider. It is likely that the task force will put forth recommendations to each community or school district sometime in 2017. The Berkshire County Task Force is only a recommending body and has no authority to impose any ideas on any community. The direction any community wishes to take is entirely up to them. I know the Adams-Cheshire Regional School Committee will be very interested in seeing the final report and recommendation of both the Collins Center study and the Task Force report.

The school district continues to take measures within its available means to enhance performance on standardized testing. We continue to use Bay State Readers initiative in the elementary grades. Emphasis on time on learning in the classroom is emphasized throughout the district, especially at the middle and high school grades. Investments in technologies have been ongoing for several years in all our schools. The reality is that a higher than average special needs population, an above average poverty rate, and overall lack of economic opportunity in our region all combine to put increased pressures on our schools. Additionally, our district has a below average per pupil spending which limits our ability to add resources to the classrooms. Nonetheless, Students who attend school in the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District can and do succeed. We continue to



send graduating students to great schools including the U.S. Naval Academy, RPI, Northeastern University, Michigan University, Boston University, UMASS, UCONN, Merrimac College, and many more. We graduate future physicians, nurses, lawyers, engineers, business professionals, and of course teachers. Despite the stigma of being a level 2 and 3 school district, we are proud of our accomplishments and are confident of improvement.

Maintenance of the three buildings within our district continues to be an enormous task. Even with a newly renovated building, maintenance issues do happen and must be dealt with in addition to the daily and routine work being done in each building. As with other areas of our operation, budget cuts over the last several years have led us to run very lean in this department. Still, we are committed to have buildings that at the very least offer clean and comfortable environments for our students and staff. The use of technology in the classroom helps improve the learning environment both for students and teachers alike. Most of our students will look forward to a workplace dominated by the use of technology. We feel it is important to integrate technologies in the classroom at every feasible opportunity. Kids today grow up surrounded by electronics. It is only natural for them to also embrace an educational environment that incorporates technology in the learning process. The purchase of Chromebook computers last year has been a tremendous boon to technology in the schools. The result of all this increased technology will be that students will be better prepared to enter a world of increasing dependence on technology in the workplace. This is such an important asset to the schools and to the students and their families.

The current 2016/2017 school year is the final year of the current contract for all of our union bargaining groups. As of this writing, the school committee is working with the units and administration with the goal of having new contracts in place by July 1st, 2017.

The chairman's report would not be complete without a few words about our students. Most of the members of the school committee are parents and most of us have children or have had children who attend school here in this district. We are naturally concerned and proud not only of our own children but of all the students in the district as well. There are always so many exciting things happening in our schools that it would be impossible to list them all. Without overshadowing the reports of the Superintendent and the Athletic Director, I simply want to say go out and enjoy an event involving students and there are many. Perhaps take in a football, baseball, or basketball game. Attend a soccer game or a ski meet. Wave to the band as they march in one of the local parades. Go see the high school musical or one of the concert and jazz band and chorus performances. Support a pancake breakfast or spaghetti supper. Students enjoy being supported by their communities and you will probably be amazed by the level at which our students perform.

Finally, as chairman of the Adams-Cheshire Regional School Committee, I would once again like to thank everyone in the community for their continued support for the school district and for the children who attend class here every day. We are very proud to represent this school district. Are there challenges that lie ahead? Absolutely there are. And in the months to come we will be seeking input from you, the public. But our mission is clear; the education of all of our children is of utmost importance. After all, they represent the future for all of us.

Paul K. Butler, Chairman

Adams-Cheshire Regional  
School District

# Superintendent of Schools

## Annual Report - 2016

### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the ACRSD, in partnership with families and community members, is to promote meaningful learning in a safe environment that prepares our youth to be creative thinkers, motivated learners, and positive, productive members of society.

Our mission statement acts as a rallying point for people in good times and in bad times. Our mission statement focuses us on the truly important things that will drive success for our students. In difficult times, the mission statement also serves as a reminder to stay on the task at hand.

The 2016-2017 school year has been a challenging time for the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District. The FY18 budget process required the district to maximize district resources to support learning and teaching in the face of rising costs and flat revenues. Recent budget cycles have balanced the budget by making cuts to personnel, cuts that have reduced educational opportunities for the students of our district. The FY18 budget took the drastic step of closing one of our community schools in order to preserve the majority of existing personnel and programs while adding much needed personnel to provide intervention for regular education students and personnel for the implementation and coordination of Special Education services.

The maximization of district resources went beyond the mere addition of personnel. This budget, by necessity, reorganized the grade-level structure of the district that resulted in a district Pre-K-3 school at C.T. Plunkett, and a 4-7 middle school and an 8-12 high school housed at Hoosac Valley. The restructuring provides opportunities to redefine the district, to attain continuity of programming within and across grade levels, and implement programs that will improve the educational opportunities for all students. We also plan to begin the process of implementing programming that builds on the district's strengths and creates programming that will retain students and attract school choice.

It has long been known that the ACRSD has fiscal challenges; the revenue sources cannot keep up with rising expenditures. These and other issues were clearly described and explained in the Collins Center Study conducted during the school year. The results of that study can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/2lotGKr>. The Collins Center Report summarized the fiscal problem as follows, "Decision makers have responded by both increasing town contributions to the school district and reducing spending within the District budget. Some of the cuts have been to key personnel including reading and math specialists and paraprofessionals. As a result, today per pupil spending in ACRSD is well below the state average and is lower than many similarly-sized districts. Nevertheless, the current level of spending (and anticipated increases for labor, benefits, and operating expenses) cannot be sustained and choices must be made regarding how to move the District forward."

The ACRSD administrative team and the ACRSD School Committee determined that the closure of an elementary school and the consolidation of the district into PreK-3, 4-7, and 8-12 schools distributed across two buildings was the most reasonable way to address fiscal constraints and to move the district forward. The consolidation ensures that all students will receive similar

instruction and similar resources and supports. This option also gives us the opportunity to establish a new vision for the ACRSD. This consolidation will be an opportunity to refocus the district on establishing a compelling educational program that encourages students and families to choose ACRSD above other choices. The administration and staff are committed to figuring out how to use the new grade configurations to ensure we are meeting the affective needs of students, ensuring academic achievement for all students, creating pathways that prepare students for college and careers, ensuring inclusive classrooms, and preparing our students to use technology effectively.

### Administrators of the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District for the 2017-2018 School Year:

Dr. Robert R. Putnam	..... Superintendent
Lisa Bresett	..... Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
Erika Snyder	..... Business Manager
Sharyn Alibozek	..... Business Office
Laurie Vachereau	..... Business Office
Jacquelyn Daniels	..... Special Education Director
Mary Ellen Sutliff	..... Administrative Assistant to the Special Ed. Director
Peter Bachli	..... Principal of Cheshire Elementary School
Michelle Colvin	..... Principal of C.T. Plunkett Elementary School
Patricia Misiuk	..... Dean of Students of C.T. Plunkett Elementary School
Jeremiah Ames	..... Principal of Hoosac Valley Middle High School
Christopher Sposato	..... Vice Principal of Hoosac Valley Middle High School
Colleen Byrd	..... Dean of Students of Hoosac Valley Middle High School

### Adams-Cheshire Regional School Committee:

The School Committee is an elected body that oversees the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District. Members work with the Superintendent to set broad policies, develop a recommended budget for submission to the Towns and monitor the overall operation of the School Department. The Committee is composed of seven elected members for a three year term. Three School committee members live in Cheshire and four members live in Adams.

### Adams-Cheshire Regional School Committee Members:

Paul Butler	..... Chairman, Adams
Stephen Vigna	..... Vice Chairman, Adams
Darlene Rodowicz	..... Cheshire
Regina Hill	..... Adams
Pete Tatro	..... Cheshire
Jennifer Gageant	..... Adams
Ed St. John, IV	..... Cheshire

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Robert R. Putnam  
Superintendent

# Hoosac Valley Middle & High School

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## 2016-2017 Annual Report

### *“Strive for Academic Excellence by Emphasizing Student Responsibility in a Climate of Mutual Respect”*

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The 2016-17 Hoosac Valley Middle and High School academic year was one in which students, faculty, and administration continued to build a positive culture of continuous improvement, mutual accountability and both social and academic accomplishment. Hoosac is an exciting place to be. Our students make valuable contributions everyday in the classroom, in our halls, on our stage, on the athletic field and in our community.

Our “Hoosac Cares a Ton” initiative was a big hit this year. Students in grades 6-12 gathered over 3,600 lbs. of food during the week before our Thanksgiving recess. Again this year the Leo Club spearheaded our school’s recycling program, gathering paper and cans every Wednesday. The group also supplied goodie bags to Pre-K and Kindergarten students from C.T. Plunkett, Cheshire Elementary, Emma Miller Elementary and St. Stanislaus School. The Leo Club also raised over \$4,200 which was spent purchasing, wrapping and delivering holiday presents to 43 children throughout northern Berkshire County. Working in conjunction with the Salvation Army, Leo Club members from Hoosac rang the bell for two full Saturdays as part of the kettle drive.

The HVMHS National Honor Society inducted 18 new members in November. Again this year, the NHS engaged in a variety of community activities beyond the classroom. Students operated an after school tutoring center four days a week to help high school students who are struggling academically. The center serves an average of 19 students per week. The NHS was also proud to host a holiday movie night for younger students and their families in December with crafts, games music and food.

The HVMHS Student Council members continued to promote leadership and citizenship this year, acting as role models to encourage all students to strive for their highest potential, promote school spirit and pride, respect all citizens and groups in our community, and raise money to fund future service activities in the school community. This year students participated in the 42nd annual Art Hathaway Dinner, the Freshmen Ice Cream Social, offered student tours during the first few days of the new school year, and produced the annual Snowball Dance.

The 2016-17 school year provided our students with many opportunities to showcase their theatrical and musical talents. Productions this year included *Romeo and Juliet* and *As You Like It*. Students in grades 6-12 participated in both, as well as several band and choral concerts. The marching band, a staple of our arts offerings at Hoosac, played at many of our fall and winter athletic competitions as well as the Fall Foliage Parade, the Halloween Parade, and the Memorial Day Parade.

HVMHS students continued to strive for excellence in the classrooms as well. We are very proud of our well-balanced offering of Advanced Placement courses. In addition to our second year offering AP Human Geography to freshmen, Hoosac offers five additional AP classes in the humanities as well as three in science and mathematics. For the third year in a row Hoosac is collaborating with MCLA to offer two concurrent classes - Engineering and Computer Programming. Offered in the spring, these half-year classes are taught at Hoosac by MCLA and Hoosac faculty working collaboratively. Students who complete the course successfully will earn college credit at MCLA as well as credits toward their Hoosac diploma.

We were so proud to learn that 20 Hoosac seniors qualified for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship this year, entitling them to four years free tuition at any public institution of higher learning in Massachusetts. The scholarship is available to students whose MCAS performance puts them at the top 25 percent of their district. In addition, students must score Advanced or Proficient on the grade 10 MCAS tests in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

It’s been another busy year at Hoosac, filled with challenges, success stories and opportunities. Through it all, day in and day out, students, faculty and staff do our very best to embody our school’s mission statement with every decision we make; *to strive for academic excellence by emphasizing student responsibility in a climate of mutual respect.*

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremiah Ames  
Principal HVMHS

# C.T. Plunkett Elementary School

*The Mission of the ACRSD is to create a partnership of our schools and communities that develops all of our students into educated, responsible and productive citizens.*

## District Beliefs

- I believe all children are capable of learning.
- I believe all students deserve the best instruction and the best resources.
- I believe a safe, respectful, and organized environment creates the ideal climate for learning.
- I believe that people who share responsibility and accountability enhance success.
- I believe that learning is increased when everyone has high expectations.
- I believe providing a variety of approaches leads to individual success and growth.
- I believe that on-going assessment and adjustment is necessary for growth.

C.T. Plunkett Elementary School has one of the largest enrollments of any elementary school in Berkshire County. Currently we service students in grades K - 5. The school is located on Commercial Street in downtown Adams housing six grade levels with between 68-86 students in each. The original building was constructed in 1923 and served as the town's junior high school for almost fifty years. It was then converted to an intermediate elementary school and served as an instructional facility for students in fourth through sixth grades until it underwent a complete renovation. The school reopened as an elementary school with a fourteen-classroom addition constructed on the south side of the building for students in Kindergarten through grade five in September 1994.

The information included in this report highlights some of our special accomplishments, provides statistical information on enrollment and staffing, reviews some school-wide projects and initiatives, and tells about some significant changes. ***Special thanks to all of the teachers/staff who contributed submissions for this report; you are truly outstanding!***

### Enrollment Comparisons

Grade	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Pre-K	61				
K	87	92	87	68	65
1	78	78	83	78	68
2	65	73	79	80	81
3	90	69	73	84	80
4	84	88	74	71	80
5	78	83	85	72	68
6					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>442</b>

### Staffing:

The following people help to provide a high quality educational program and a supportive learning environment for the students at our school:

#### Kindergarten

Kristy Bachli, Roberta Urquhart, Christine Kirchner, and Mara Woolley

#### Grade 1

Amy Anderson, Bethany Ricci, Aprillee Mazzeo

#### Grade 2

Elizabeth Alibozek, Christine Kirchner, Kelly Ryan and Mia Allesio

#### Grade 3

Beth Bourdon, Dawn Bombardier, Ann Prudhomme, and Ashley DePaoli

#### Grade 4

Alison Collins, Antoinette Marquis, Jennifer Kline, and John Duval

#### Grade 5

Bridget O'Neil-Hopkins, Kale Skrocki and Jennifer Taylor

### School-Wide

- Principal:** Michelle S. Colvin
- Dean of Students:** Patricia Misiuk
- Title I Director:** Bethany Ricci
- Literacy Coach:** Dawn Bishop
- Elementary Coordinator:** Mary Tanner
- District Specialist:** Kim Biagini
- Special Education:** Nicole Crane, Dawn Daniels, Christine Harrington, Joann Kingsbury, Travis Poirot, & Destiny Hicks
- Art:** Terri Cooper
- Music:** Jonathan Rowe
- Physical Education:** Kathleen Hill, Dan Wehle
- Title I:** Deb Langner
- School Adjustment Counselor:** Nicole Seyerlein
- Speech/Lang:** Diane Arduini, Kelsy Pero
- Occupational Therapy:** Suzanne Harnick, Deb Silveira
- Physical Therapy:** Lora McGrath
- ESL Specialist:** Joshua Kellogg
- Administrative Assistant:** Julie Little
- Main Office Para:** Cheryl Steuer
- Library:** Laurie Gavazzi
- Nurse:** Kari Ann Delsoldato
- Cafeteria:** Kimberly Briggs, Amy Garner, Frances Jamros, Laurie Malloy, Linda Pelczynski, Jenny Chappell & Nadine Sadlowski
- Daycare:** Sharon Girard, Miriam Serrano Custodians: Aaron Namislo, Marc McCarthy, Paul (Tito) Sniezek
- Paraprofessionals:** Pat Alibozek, Linda Bonnivier, Erika Brazeau, Susan Burzimati, Deb Ciempa, Landree Corcoran, Shelley Cozzaglio, Brandon Crouse, Ashley Davis, Kim Galli, Amoreena Gazaille, Dawn Harrington, Shelley Jenkins, Susan Knapp, Dan Kondel, Donna LaBonte, Suzanne Lamb, Karen Levesque, Paula Meczywor, Donna Mullany, Mary Murray, Shannon Speed, Emily Thurston, Jennifer Trybus, Lisa Waltermire, Kendall Winston, Becky Zaleski, Jackie Ziarnik

### **ACRSD Partners with Bay State Reading Institute, (BSRI)**

All teachers in grades, Pre-K–5 began working with Literacy Coaches Dawn Bishop, (CTP) and Elaine Hunter, (CES) to embark on our partnership with BSRI and the goal of improving instruction, beginning in English/Language Arts, for all students. BSRI Principal's Coach, Judith Fletcher, comments, "BSRI provides the winning combination. We work as a team with school staff to make instructional decisions based on data while providing on-going professional development and coaching for every teacher and principal."

#### **BSRI's model includes:**

- Teaching techniques that emphasize synthesis, analysis, and problem-solving and result in higher-order thinking and deep conceptual understanding
- A focus on reading, writing, and speaking grounded in evidence from texts, both literary and informational
- A content-rich CCSS-aligned core curriculum
- Use of real-time data to guide classroom decision making
- Differentiated, small-group instruction with tiered intervention
- A re-organized school day that maximizes teaching time, intervention support, and common planning time
- Excellent principal leadership that provides teachers with vision, challenge, and support

#### **As a BSRI Partner, each school receives:**

- Individualized coaching, modeling, and embedded training several days each month from a Principal Coach and a Literacy Consultant
- An array of professional development courses for teachers, reading coaches and principals
- Data meetings that integrate multiple measures of student performance
- Assistance integrating district, state and federal initiatives
- Support that is closely coordinated with district priorities

Introducing this model to our faculty, staff and students has been a huge undertaking and could not have been possible without the ongoing support of our Literacy Coaches, BSRI Consultants, our Superintendent, and School Committee.

#### **Kindergarten Update:**

The Kindergarten classes have been working on socialization skills, exploring centers, and learning new curriculum. We are into our third year of the school-wide BSRI reading model for the Scott Foresman reading program. This model uses a center based approach for peer teaching and learning. We are working on letter sound recognition, blending words, and reading short stories. We love to share our take-home books with our families. In Math, we are working toward using a more center based approach with our Scott Foresman series. We have enjoyed taking field trips to Jaeschke's Apple Orchard and MASS MoCA. The Adams Fire Department gave a wonderful presentation of fire safety here at C.T. Plunkett. We are so thankful for the support from our PTG who provide many cultural opportunities for our students. Our Kindergarten program is National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accredited. We are working with MCLA through the ITQ grant to bring STEAM activities into our classroom.

#### **Grade 1 Update:**

First grade has been working towards increasing rigor in ELA through our partnership with the Bay State Reading Institute (BSRI). Beginning fall 2016 we have added the use of ECRI (Enhanced Core Reading Instruction) as part of small group ELA instruction. K-2 teachers participated in various training and professional developments this past spring/summer in preparation for adding ECRI to improve reading instruction. We have also been successful in implementing and extending the BSRI small group rotation model into our math block. Student have enjoyed the opportunity to work in small, peer-led math groups in order to further explore their understanding of new math concepts. This model has also allowed for teachers and support staff to work directly with students in smaller groups, resulting in the ability to provide prescriptive instruction that meets the various needs of students.

We are happy to announce that we have continued to increase and strengthen our implementation of STEAM related instruction and activities as a part of daily classroom instruction. We are continuing our partnership with MCLA and our STEAM coach, Mrs. Dana Schildkraut, through funding provided by the ITQ grant. This partnership allows K-2 teachers to have monthly meetings with their grade level and STEAM coach as well as the opportunity to attend STEAM workshops at various Berkshire County locations such as MCLA, Mass MoCA, Clark Art, Berkshire Museum and Miss Hall's School in order to increase understanding and develop curriculum. The first grade teachers are working towards displaying pictures of various STEAM lessons on the ACRSD Facebook page throughout the year.

As part of our desire to maintain strong community involvement we have continued our participation in various family friendly events such as Bingo for Books, Meet the Teacher Night, Literacy Fair, Seasonal Concerts and new to this year, a family Trick-or-Treat night! In late October C.T. Plunkett families were invited to participate in a Trick-or-Treat event along the 1st floor hallway. Faculty and staff decorated doorways on the 1st floor and handed out candy to children and families. It was certainly a wonderful event with an incredible turn out and a fun filled night for all staff and families who attended! We are looking forward to adding Trick-or-Treat to our repertoire of annual family events!

#### **Grade 2 Update:**

Again this year second grade was given the exciting opportunity to visit Mass MoCA and view the newest exhibits. Using various art materials students were able to create a piece of art work inspired by the artist in residence. All second grade teachers attend the ITQ STEAM Workshops offered by MCLA to learn ways to incorporate lessons in the classroom on a regular basis. The students are enthusiastically participating in these activities. Second grade continues to use Scholastic News to enrich the students' understanding of the world around us. We appreciate PTG funding this valuable resource for the children.

During the holiday season, students took a walking field trip to local businesses to see the wonderful festive displays in town. Back in the classroom, children participated in various holiday activities such as ornament making, gingerbread houses, and holiday literature and math activities.

Once again second grade will fully participate and host the Literacy Fair, Read Across America, and of course Alex's

Lemonade Stand. The Literacy Fair is a showcase of hard work, dedication, and love for reading. Each child is represented with a project to be displayed in the gymnasium for families and friends. Read Across America honors Dr. Seuss's Birthday in which local business owners and townspeople are invited to read to classrooms. The day is dedicated to reading and participating in many literacy activities relating to Dr. Seuss. The Lemonade Stand is an annual event at C.T. Plunkett that allows children to make, serve, and sell lemonade to the rest of the school. This teaches empathy and awareness for childhood cancer.

We are continuing to implement the BRSI Model, which fosters cooperative learning and academic conversations through center based instruction. We have also adapted this model for mathematics. During this time the students use manipulatives, technology, and activities to enhance student learning. Through Framing Your Thoughts and Scott Foresman, children are learning how to write a variety of styles of paragraphs, for example descriptive, compare and contrast, and narrative.

Overall, second grade is a busy and exiting year for the students. Lots of learning, fun, and academic growth take place!

### **Grade 3 Update:**

The highlight of many former C.T. Plunkett third grade students is their experiences learning about native Berkshire wildlife with Gayle Raser, an instructor with the Massachusetts Audubon Society. The third grade teachers worked hard again last year through fundraising efforts to support and fund this Appreciating Wildlife Program. The fundraising efforts raised approximately \$1,200, the C.T. Plunkett Parent Group donated \$1,000, and the third grade teachers were again granted \$800 from the William and Margery Barrett Fund to cover the additional dollars that were needed. Due to these efforts on behalf of the third grade staff, all third grade students will benefit from 14 in-house class sessions with Mrs. Raser. The children will also benefit from a field trip to the Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in June of 2017. This wonderful curriculum helps teachers to address many topics in the third grade curriculum.

Third grade continues to work diligently to implement strategies and curriculum that the district has been working hard on. Teachers continue to use the BSRI approach to teaching reading and math. The model consists of brief whole-group teacher led discussion, small group differentiated instruction for collaborative and independent practice. The students continue to respond positively to this delivery model and teachers continue to create learning center materials that support each week's reading selection's skills. Third grade teachers also work together in a collaborative atmosphere to create and share materials that can be used at these centers. Students continue to use the Envisions Math Common Core Program. We continue to place emphasis on math fact mastery, problem solving, and the everyday applications that math has in our changing world.

Wil Bourdon, an engineer with General Dynamics, will also be continuing to visit all third grade classes. He will make a presentation about simple machines through the generosity of General Dynamics. Wil took the initiative to write a proposal and continues to receive funding for the materials for this presentation. It gives the students an opportunity to explore the wonderful world of robotics.

In addition to Wil's visits, members of the third grade team are attending monthly ITQ (Improving Teacher Quality) workshops.

These workshops are designed to give teachers the opportunity to learn about and design lessons to be taught in their classrooms that integrate the STEAM (science, technology, engineers, arts, and mathematics) education model. Teachers work closely with the STEAM education coach, Dana Schildkraut, to plan, prep, and implement these valuable learning experiences.

In social studies, children keep up-to-date with current events by reading Scholastic News in the class with their friends. The district purchases this valuable resource to bring the world inside the classroom. Focus is also placed on the state of Massachusetts and our little corner of the state – the Berkshires.

Our students will be taking the MCAS test this year in reading and language arts and math. Thanks to the generosity of the town, they still have Chromebooks. The Chromebooks continue to be invaluable and have allowed students to practice their computer skills, learning computer keyboarding, practicing LEXIA (an online reading program), investigating math topics with Moby Max (an online math program), and learning about coding with Mr. Kondel.

In the spring, all third grade students will be planting flowers for the entire town to enjoy. This initiative began 12 years ago and the funds to support it have always been provided through fundraising efforts of the third grade staff. Mr. John Trimarchi has been a part of this wonderful initiative from the start and always provides help and assistance on planting day. Michelle Whitney also provides help by giving the students the very best price that she can on the flowers to be planted. It truly is a community effort that we are extremely proud of.

In conclusion, the third grade teachers would like to recognize Fran Eichorn who continues to devote her time to volunteering here at C.T. Plunkett Elementary. Her passion for education, and willingness to support both the children and teaching staff of our school, is to be commended.

### **Grade 4 Update:**

Fourth grade is busy exploring a variety of topics across the curriculum. In both Math and ELA, the teachers have continued to improve upon the implementation of Bay State Reading Institutes small group instruction model with an emphasis on rigor.

In Reading, our students are enjoying an array of nonfiction stories that accompany the fiction selections in the Reading Street basal. The reading series provides content to help students further develop their higher level thinking skills, such as predicting, clarifying, questioning, and summarizing. Students practice these comprehension skills in Reciprocal Teaching groups.

Fourth grade teachers are refining prompts and exemplar models for process writing using Project Read's Framing Your Thoughts curriculum. After a review of sentence structure in the beginning of the year, students have learned how to write narratives and procedural paragraphs. This month we will be focusing on comparing and contrasting an experience. Throughout all of these genres in writing, students practice prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing.

In Math, we use EnVision, which exposes students to learning one concept in multiple ways. Students worked with multiplication and division both in the form of word problems and pictorial representations such as bar digraphs. This week, students have been expanding their knowledge of division by solving problems with repeated subtraction. In our next unit,

students will begin to learn about fractions starting with factors and identifying prime and composite numbers.

During the first term in Science, students studied plant and animal structures. Fourth grade teachers are currently aligning as much of the new science standards with materials from Reading Street, like the main selections and the leveled readers. Fourth grade students are looking forward to our last science unit, erosion and weathering. To help the students better understand the power of water, they will go on the yearly, PTG-sponsored field trip to Howe Caverns. It's always impressive to see the massive caverns and water's capability to change the environment.

In Social Studies, students have studied the continents of the world and how to read both maps and globes while understanding the differences between the two. Students continue to focus on writing to the text using the ANSWER model to respond to open-ended questions.

#### **Grade 5 Update:**

Fifth grade has had a very busy start to the year with lots of learning experiences across all content areas! We started the year diving right into our Reading Street ELA and Framing Your Thoughts Writing curriculum. Students were able to recall many of the elements and strategies from the previous year, so we have been able to delve further into the strategies and start Reciprocal Teaching groups with novels earlier. With many thanks to our PTG, the fifth grade classrooms have had the pleasure of hosting an in-house actor from The Berkshire Theatre Group twice a week. This is a 14 week partnership in which the actor works with the students to learn the various elements and work that go into a play as well as creating and writing their own plays. Each class will choose one play to perform at a culminating event open to parents and families to attend. Every student has actively engaged in the entire play-writing process and is eager to audition for parts for the final performance.

Students spent the first half of the fall term submersed in our science curriculum learning about rocks and minerals. This unit concluded with our yearly trip to Specialty Minerals. Students started the second term in their social studies curriculum by digging deeper into the history of the United States. Classes began learning about the many Native American tribes found throughout North American and are currently going through the age of exploration, which will lead them to learning about the original 13 colonies. To compliment their study of Early American history, a trip to Sturbridge Village is planned for the spring.

Something new to the fifth grade this year was an extended research project that the students worked on for about three months. Each classroom was assigned two decades, 50s-60s, 70s-80s, and 90s-00s, and from there students chose a woman who made an impact on the world to research and learn about. Students learned how to conduct research, such as finding reliable sources, as well as use oral speaking skills to present their findings. This project culminated with a live Women's History Museum set up in our gymnasium where families, faculty, staff, and other students were invited to take a walk through history! The students took great pride in their work and really learned a lot through this project. We will be doing a similar one this spring where the students will be researching a historical male.

During the month of March, our fifth grade students will participate in the annual weeklong Nature's Classroom trip. The time they spend on this trip is truly one of the highlights of

their year. It is filled with hands-on, multidisciplinary learning experiences that the children will remember forever.

#### **Library**

The C.T. Plunkett Library houses over 29,000 books, videos and magazines. The automated circulation and cataloging system makes it possible for students and staff to access the electronic card catalog. Approximately 3,013 items were checked out so far this school year. Students visit the library once a week and have the opportunity to listen to stories and borrow a variety of books, including picture books, fiction, biographies and non-fiction.

The C.T. Plunkett Library Committee was established on March 26, 1998 for the purpose of raising funds to enrich our school library services and provide books for the children. Various activities such as raffles, book fairs and school-wide fundraisers have raised approximately \$7,000 annually. Reference materials, fiction books, nonfiction books, magazine subscriptions, Accelerated Reader discs, academic videos and the automated cataloging/circulation system have been purchased and supported through this committee. The Library Committee is one of the financial supporters of the RIF program which enables each student in the school to choose a free book once a year. For the past seven years the committee has also sponsored a Literacy Fair which has been extremely successful.

#### **Parent Group (PTG)**

The C.T. Plunkett Parent Group provides extensive support to the children of our school throughout the year. The group meets monthly to discuss ongoing support to the children. Their efforts support the C.T. Plunkett community in a variety of ways.

#### **Arts Enrichment:**

- Performances in music, drama, science, history and dance, both in-house and off-site
- Sponsoring a children's author
- Musician and songwriter

#### **Activities**

- Field trips for students at all grade levels
- Give-a-Gift to promote the spirit of holiday giving and donating, from children to children, for programs such as the Leo's Create-a-Dream.
- C.T. Plunkett Yearbook creation
- Graduation, picnics and t-shirts
- Audubon science program
- Field Day treats

#### **Appreciation Days**

- Staff Appreciation Day in May
- Book Fair breakfast for Faculty and Staff
- Pizza/Ice Cream parties to reward top collectors of BoxTops

#### **School Improvements/Equipment Maintenance:**

- Playground fundraising and maintenance

#### **School Council**

A School Council is a representative, school building-based committee composed of the principal, parents, teachers and community members. School councils are to assist principals in:

1. Adopting educational goals for the school that are consistent with local educational policies and statewide student performance standards

2. Identifying the educational needs of students attending the school
3. Reviewing the annual school building budget
4. Formulating a school improvement plan

The Council meets throughout the school year. Any person can attend school council meetings.

### **Title I**

Title I is a federal entitlement grant supporting school-wide academic support for all Plunkett students. The grant helps to fund interventionists as well as materials that supplement and support core instruction. Through Title I funding, classroom teachers and interventionists are able to use assessment data in ELA and math throughout the year to inform instructional routines. In addition, instructional assistants work under the guidance of classroom teacher to reinforce instruction in reading, writing and math through small group differentiated instruction.

This year the staff at C.T. Plunkett has continued to work closely with consultants from the Bay State Reading Institute (BSRI) to incorporate the most recent research-based methods and strategies to ensure each child's individual needs are addressed. Teachers in grades K-2 were trained and began the implementation of Enhanced Core Reading Instruction (ERCI) to increase efficiency and effectiveness of reading instruction. Teachers in grades 3-5 continue to implement high engagement strategies along with reciprocal teaching, the answer routine and increasing rigor in their daily stations.

Not only are a multitude of supports provided throughout the school day, Title I also provides funding for extended day academic activities through the Homework Help Program for grades 2 through 5. Family involvement is proven to correlate to higher student achievement, so this has been a priority this year. Along with a yearly survey that invites parents and staff to report on their impressions of school climate, academic preparation, communication, and family concerns, we will be increasing the frequency of family nights this year as well. Topics suggested by parents and staff are addressed throughout the year through informational meetings and workshops as well as during evening programs. This year we have already held events such as a Terri A la Berry concert, Trick-or-Treat and Bingo for Books. We also plan on having a Math Night, Science Night and a Make-and-Take ELA Night where parents will leave with strategies and games to help strengthen their child's skills. We are excited to work closely with our families and members of the community to help make these events possible.

### **Reading Is Fundamental**

RIF is a federally funded program whose goal is to give children access to books and discover the joys and value of reading. C.T. Plunkett qualifies for this grant due to the percentage of free and reduced lunch students attending. Additional funding is provided by the C.T. Plunkett Library Fund and from the Berkshire Taconic Foundation. One time per year each student at C.T. Plunkett can choose a book from a wide selection of books, based on their own interests. The book distributions are enhanced by fun, reading-motivational activities. This year's theme, "Harry Potter," was truly one of the best ever, and past themes have included "Get on Board with Reading" (trains), "Warm up with a Good Book" (winter), and "Books on the Beach" (summer reading). Volunteers are a big part of RIF, helping make bookmarks, stamp and inventory books, and helping

on distribution day by reading with students, stocking books, and even handing out hot chocolate and cookies. This program is vital for children who have no books in their homes, have limited access to bookstores, and who, without RIF would not experience the thrill of owning their own books.

### **Music Program:**

Jonathan Rowe teaches general music at C.T. Plunkett. In music classes students are introduced to musical notation, musical terminology, families of instruments, and major composers and different musical genres. Students in grades K and 1 focus on singing and movement activities along with hands-on experiences with drums, maracas and other classroom instruments while students in grades 2-5 have the opportunity to learn the basics of keyboards and drums. Students in grades 4 and 5 study the recorder in order to prepare them for instrument instruction in 6th grade.

### **Art:**

The C.T. Plunkett Visual Arts Department welcomed the public to our annual Student Art Show on Thursday, April 6, 2017 from 5-7 p.m. Over 1000 pieces of art that were created by students in grades K-5 were on display. Art pieces from all of our students covered our first floor hallway and additional framed art pieces were on display in our cafeteria. All of our artwork is based on cross-curricular lessons that encompass such areas as science, engineering, math, reading and social studies. Our students are encouraged to freely explore various mediums including: collage, printmaking, sculpture, assemblage, design and ceramics, as well as drawing and painting.

New this year is our online art museum in collaboration with Artsonia. Through Artsonia, our school has become a part of the largest online art museum in the world. Parents can easily register their students online with an e-mail account and they can then view their child's artwork and add fans to their child's account so that family members and friends can also log-in and comment on the artwork. This program has been a huge success and currently 70% of our families are signed up and there are almost 600 fans following and commenting on student artwork. Fans can only be signed up by a parent, and parents must also approve all comments before they are posted. Another benefit of our membership in Artsonia is that families can go online and create ornaments, t-shirts, cutting boards, stationary, cards, and more using their child's artwork. Many of our families have taken advantage of this service since we started this program in September and it was especially popular during the holiday season. You can view our student artwork by going to *Artsonia.com* and entering Plunkett Elementary School.

I am also pleased to be continuing the 5th grade volunteer program in the art room. Fifth grade students take turns volunteering in the art room during their recess period. They help the 2nd grade students with their art projects, read books to them or help to take pictures of artwork and download it to Artsonia. This has been a very successful program and the majority of the 5th grade students take part in it. An ice cream Thank You party is held for the participating students at the end of the school year to show my appreciation for all of their dedication and hard work.

### **Physical Education:**

C.T. Plunkett physical education classes work to actively engage a student's mind and body while simultaneously conveying the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle. Physical education at our school is both fun and challenging to all students, no matter



his or her ability or skill level. A student engaged in our program learns how to physically perform a skill, the rules involved, and the social aspect surrounding that activity or sport.

Students are engaged in a vast array of different activities while participating in physical education. Those enrolled in the 2nd-5th grade levels learn skills to many traditional and nontraditional sports, while also learning how to better communicate and resolve conflicts with classmates. Students at the K-1st grade levels learn many different gross motor skills required to participate in large group activities and non-competitive games. Some of the skills being learned include the overhand and underhand throwing technique, volleying, kicking a stationary and moving object, jumping rope, locomotor movements, and fleeing and dodging type activities.

All students participate in our “Kidnastics” unit (an age-appropriate version of gymnastics), the NY Roadrunner’s Mighty Milers Program, Relay Recess, and our Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser event. Students are engaged in cross-curricular activities to include math, history, health, and language.

Students with special needs have been actively engaged in our adaptive PE program where they get one-on-one attention focusing on their specific physical needs through the use of modified equipment and lesson plans.

All students are making progress in understanding the value of teamwork, cooperation, effort, and sportsmanship. Please continue to follow what we are doing in physical education by looking at our monthly newsletter on the C.T. Plunkett website.

### Technology

The current District Technology Plan continues to guide decisions in this vital area of educational practice. This year the District was able to increase internet-accessibility throughout the building by adding new cloud-based access points. These access points allowed for the creation of a public network for guests of the building to access the Internet, while providing valuable data to monitor and control internet traffic.

We continue to update content and improve communication between school/community/families through our district and individual school webpages. There is more work to be done on individual teacher pages; hopefully we will see greater utilization in the coming months. We see this as an opportunity to give families direct access to homework assignments, classroom calendars, information and upcoming events, classroom policies and procedures.

Our on-line software offerings to students both in and out of school continue to expand. We are excited to be continuing with implementing coding through the use of an online website *code.org*. Students in grades 2-5 have begun using this website to understand the basics of block coding. To go along with that new addition we continue to offer Lexia CORE 5 in grades Pre-K to 5; which is based on the 5 components of reading and is compliant with the CCSS, (Common Core State Standards). Accelerated Reader, a comprehension/vocabulary enrichment tool, allows students to read interest based titles at their level and then take short on-line assessments in each skill area. Our district had also added Moby Max to our list; this program can be used for practice in all areas of curriculum, (ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies). Classroom teachers can access the data from these programs to guide instruction for individual students.

These programs can be accessed directly from our school website and used on the Chromebooks, iPad, desktop, or Android, within your web browser. We are excited by the opportunities these technology offerings afford to our students, their families and our staff.

### Community Connections

We continue to maintain excellent working relationships with a number of agencies throughout our neighboring communities as well as those in the town of Adams. We also work closely with the following organizations:

- The Berkshire Humane Society (pet care/classroom lessons)
- Berkshire Theatre Group, BTG (performing arts with grade 5 students)
- The Pittsfield Red Cross Unit (classroom lessons)
- The Counseling Center of the Berkshires (counseling)
- The Department of Social Services (family support)
- McCann Technical High School (hygienists for classroom visits)
- Hillcrest Dental (hygienists for classroom visits)
- The Massachusetts Audubon Society (classroom lessons)
- Adams Police Department (school resource officer)
- Mass MoCA (Grant funded program for all students K-5 to attend performances/tour spaces)
- The Berkshire Museum
- The Family Place (Backpacked for Success Program)
- Adams Library, Fire Department, and local banks (educational programs)
- Junior Achievement (Curl Up and Read)
- Hoosac Valley High School (Leo Club)
- Specialty Minerals, Inc. (field trips)
- Berkshire Community College (nursing interns)
- Adams Youth Center (Big Brother/Big Sister Program)
- Adams Visitor Center - Joe Novak (Presentations and visits)
- Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (practicum students and administrative interns)
- The Police Athletic League who use our gymnasium for basketball games
- REACH Foundation
- The South Adams Savings Bank provides our school with a generous donation of one thousand dollars each year
- The Golden Varsity volunteers continue working in the library, office and classrooms in our school on a regular basis
- Parent volunteers regularly work in classrooms, library and chaperone field trips

**“No dreamer is ever too small; no dream is ever too big.”**

~ Anonymous

C.T. Plunkett is a dynamic, child-centered school where our students’ safety and academic achievement are our top priorities. We are so thankful for all of the continued support we receive from our parents, families, volunteers and community friends. The hard work we do each day could not be possible without you as our partner in the education of our children!

Submitted by,

Michelle Colvin  
Principal, C.T. Plunkett

# Cheshire Elementary School

## 2016-2017 School Year

It is my pleasure to once again be submitting this report as the principal of Cheshire Elementary School for my eighth year. We are currently at an enrollment of 251 students in grades Pre-K through 5. That is actually an increase of 7 students compared to this time last year. 2016-2017 has been another very busy year for Cheshire School. We hope this remains consistent and even grows as the year passes. Our building is well used and looking good for an older structure that is well loved. Our maintenance staff is continually busy working to keep everything in working condition and stay a step ahead of all the issues that happen with an old building.

The educational staffing level at Cheshire School has been reduced after some significant cuts through the past few years despite the override vote a few years ago. Our fourth grade class is a single group because we combined the two third grades. It is a sizeable group of 25 kids. We have also reduced the number of paraprofessionals to work in classrooms. This is tough when the population of special needs students continues to rise. We currently have two sections of each grade level with the exception of the fourth grade. The remaining staff is made of veteran teachers who work well to make Cheshire School a real community. We did hire a new speech/ language pathologist, Ms. Brianna Bresett, and an additional pre-school teacher, Mrs. Christine Zdon, to accommodate a jump in pre-school enrollment. Our longtime custodian, Stash Cote, celebrated his retirement in December and is enjoying a more carefree life. Mrs. Melissa Marchetti joined our faculty as a part-time special education teacher after working part of the previous year as a long-term substitute.

As we work continually to meet the needs of our students, the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District's elementary schools have entered our third year partnered with the Bay State Reading Institute to provide a focused and consistent instructional model for our students. We continue to work with the personnel from BSRI to learn and implement this model in all of our K-5 classrooms. This model's goal is to be able to provide more small-group instruction that will better enable teachers and support staff to differentiate teaching and materials to meet the needs of our students whether the child is a struggling reader or above the norm. The model of instruction also gives students a greater responsibility with their reading and writing. The children learn to become better readers and writers while also gaining stronger organizational skills and self confidence. We will be working with BSRI for a maximum of five years to fully adopt and enrich all the aspects of this teaching model. It is our goal to master this instructional model and be able to improve student success. Mrs. Elaine Hunter, our half-time Reading Coach/ half-time special education teacher has been, and will be, instrumental in making this all come together.

The Cheshire Parent Teacher Group (PTG) meets monthly to provide extra programs for the children and to plan fun events throughout the year. They run several fundraising events to be able to make it all happen! Any parent is welcome to join this organization. They meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the school. Please feel free to call the school

to find out more about being a part of this helpful group. You can also find a great deal of information through the PTG web site at [cheshireptg.org](http://cheshireptg.org). A huge thank you to the wonderful PTG volunteers who work many, many hours to help the students and staff of CES. Our PTG officers are:

- President:** ..... Karen Isbell
- Vice-President:** ..... Elizabeth Namislo
- Co-Secretaries:**..... Ashlynd DiLego  
Elizabeth Greene
- Co-Treasurers:** ..... Michelle Whitney  
Arleigh Bradbury

As has been done in the past years, teachers contributed the following paragraphs of this report in order to give you a little snapshot of what happens at Cheshire Elementary School. I hope you find them informative and feel free to come visit us sometime if you would like to see the school and learn more about what we do to educate the children in our community.

### PRESCHOOL

Due to an increase in students this year the Preschool was fortunate enough to add another half-day session in order to service the needs of our growing population of students. Mrs. Christine Zdon joined our staff to provide a fifth session of preschool. Mrs. Zdon brings many years of experience as a preschool teacher and is licensed as an Early Childhood Teacher with or without special needs. Our preschool team continues to collaborate on curriculum, child development and lessons to provide the best early childhood experience for our youngest learners.

The preschoolers continue working hard on our OWLs curriculum as well as incorporating BayState Readers Institutes' strategies. Interactive learning groups are conducted daily with differentiated activities presented at the child's developmental learning level with a focus on English Language Arts and Math. Preschool children have been engaged in pre-reading lessons such as blending sounds to create words, segmenting, rhyming



and learning letter sounds. For math, students have engaged in activities that enhanced rote counting, numeral recognition, subitizing, counting object and measurement. Using small group instruction we are able to integrate social skills practice, Handwriting Without Tears and Telian Lively Letters curriculum in order to best meet the needs of diverse learners. This also provides a multisensory approach to learning.

In addition, we have incorporated the Second Step Curriculum to help with social skills practice. Second Step is a social/emotional curriculum that teaches friendship, problem solving, and self-regulation techniques in a child friendly way through the use of puppets Penelope and Picture Pete, songs and movement activities that are conducted bi-weekly. The Preschool staff continues to follow Common Core standards and presents them in fun, motivating way to help children develop a lifelong love of learning.

**Preschool Teachers:**

Laura Crane, Kelly Riechers and Christine Zdon



**KINDERGARTEN**

Our school year started out with lots of innovative new programs that compliment our best practice programs that were already in place.

Our students participate in our Accelerated Reader Program and are rewarded for extracurricular reading on a regular basis.

Early in the year, each Kindergarten student is assigned a 5th grade buddy/mentor. These students serve as tutors, friends and role models throughout the year as they get together for various academic and/or creative activities.

Kindergarteners have made good use of our new Technology Lab and our Chromebook Carts. Along with our schoolwide reading program of Lexia, the children are learning how to code.

In November, our Cheshire children were in the Berkshire Eagle with their “How to Cook a Turkey” renditions. Many friends and families enjoy this tradition that was started in our kindergarten over 18 years ago.

Kindergarteners made a replica of a “lifesize” Mayflower and reenacted the Pilgrim’s voyage. They wore hats of the time period. Community members and parents are invited to come in and read to the children on a regular basis. We have our Secret Reader Program and allow guests to come and surprise the children with a reading!

The children spent time learning about our electoral process, as it was a presidential year. This will include a trip to our Senior Center in May for our Annual Kindergarten Election organized by Christine Emerson and the town election team. The students complete a ballot and see the process as the results come in.

This year we participated in a partnership with **STEAM through MCLA**. Dana Schildkraut, the teaching liason, came to our classes to share resources and lessons using the components of STEAM to appeal to all learners. This year , so far, we have had the following lessons.

- **Solid and Liquids** - Students used frozen paint pops to create original pieces of artwork
- **Inclines/Planes/Ramps** - Students experimented with different objects to see how the change of the shape of objects and/or incline of the ramp effected the speed and distance. Later, the children used paint to pour on a canvas using different inclines and colors.
- **Snowflakes** - After reading the story of Snowflake Bentley, the children looked at actual photographs of individual snowflakes and later used geometric shapes to recreate their own snowflakes. In addition, they looked at salt and sugar crystals with the use of microscopes.

We need to thank Bedard Brothers for their annual donation of books which go directly into the children’s hands and home to share with families. Thank you Bedard Brothers!

In the Spring, our classes will attend a field trip to Hancock Shaker Village in order to view and handle the baby animals.

We will also have our Mexican Fiesta as a culminating celebration for the end of the year, as we showcase the Spanish that we have learned in preparation for the performance for our families.

Thank you to the support of our townspeople with all Cheshire School activities! You play a key role in our school’s success!

**Teachers:** Mrs. Robin Poirot and Mrs. Heather Emerson

**FIRST GRADE**

The first graders have had many educational and fun experiences, while working on our fifth year with the reading and math series. Through a STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts and Math) grant, we have been lucky to collaborate with Ms. Dana Schildkraut to develop more STEAM curriculum for our classrooms. Ms. Dana came into our classrooms and led interactive and engaging STEAM lessons about animal habitats and behaviors (hibernation/migration), the effects of the sun (making sun art with sun sensitive paper), and how the heart works. Last spring, Ms. Dana provided resources for our butterfly unit and helped to make a field trip to Magic Wings

## SECOND GRADE

We are pleased to have two second grades this year. There are a total of 33 children, 17 in one class and 16 in the other. Second grade is a big year. The students are working hard to become strong readers who are reading to learn. As in past years, students have shown a strong interest in informational text. This is our fifth year with the Scott Foresman reading series, "Reading Street." The series' use of informational text has only furthered their interests and willingness to learn about the world around them. In addition, we are using the Bay State Reading Initiative model for classroom instruction. This enables us to deliver targeted small group instruction while other students work together in center activities that develop their reading and writing skills.

The students are developing their writing skills as part of the reading and writing connection. 6+One Writing Traits continue to be included in our writing instruction to assist students in developing their individual voices as they learn to write from different perspectives. Handwriting Without Tears is the instructional model for penmanship. This year cursive will be introduced and taught to all second graders. In math, developing mastery of addition and subtraction math facts, along with problem solving skills, has remained the primary focus of our curriculum. We are in the process of transitioning to the BSRI model for math instruction to improve targeted small group instruction. In social studies we are focusing on beginning geography topics, which include mapping skills, landforms and bodies of water, and the continents.



Butterfly Conservatory possible. Each first grade class was able to watch the life cycle of live butterflies in the classroom. The butterflies were then released in the greenhouses at Whitney's Farm. Around Thanksgiving we wrote a book about the Pilgrims and the Native Americans. We spent the month of December creating a 2017 calendar.

Reading is a large focus in first grade. This year, first grade has continued to enthusiastically embrace the new BSRI method of implementing reading instruction. We deliver most of our reading instruction in a small group setting. This is allowing teachers to spend more time with each student and provide more individualized instruction. We set a grade-level reading achievement goal of reading to fill a bulletin board snowman with snowballs. For a spring reading goal, we will be reading to fill a bulletin board flower with petals. When the reading goals are reached, we will celebrate with a reading marathon celebration!

We also spend much of our time practicing addition and subtraction math facts up to 20. Students practice their facts by partnering up and playing whole-class math games. We will also be addressing the topics of place value, time (to the hour and halfhour), basic geometry (shapes and solids), graphing, and fractions.



**Teachers:**  
Mrs. Katie  
Chenail &  
Mrs. Melissa  
Rusek



The foundation of our instructional curriculum is based upon students learning how to be good citizens within our classrooms as well as in the larger Cheshire School community. Activities, lessons, learning centers, and the Second Step Program are ways in which positive social interactions are both modeled and practiced among our students throughout the year. Activities and classroom discussions focusing on character traits, acts of kindness and respect for others is a key part of our second graders' education. Our second graders are working hard every day to be prepared for third grade.

**Teachers:** Ms. Stephanie McCarthy and Ms. Kim Trimarchi

## THIRD GRADE

A look at third grade!

This year is going by so fast. We are continuing to use our new series in Math and Language Arts. We continue to take advantage of the our technology piece this year, which includes interactive videos and games to promote learning. In Language Arts we have been enjoying various read-a-loud books in class as well. Some of our favorites are “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone” and “Eve of the Emperor Penguin.” Math is exponentially enjoyable in third grade because we are starting multiplication. This becomes a hands-on experience as they create their own flashcards with helpful poems and pictures provided by Bev Favreau. They also especially love the opportunity to show their math expertise playing a new online game called Prodigy. We continually work diligently on preparing for our assessments including the state MCAS tests by utilizing our Chromebooks. We will create a class book of compiled poems by our third graders. The culmination of the project will end with a published hard cover book that the children can take home.

We have had several fundraisers to allow us go on our class field trip to the Plymouth Plantation. In Social Studies we will be reading about the Native Americans and the Pilgrims and how they lived. We look forward to experiencing a little of what life was like for them. We have also begun learning about our town and our state. We also look forward to warm weather as it will allow us to take hikes on the Ashuwillticook Trail which will allow us to begin our nature journaling. Cheshire offers an amazing amount of natural beauty through the Ashuwillticook Trail. We will take several field trips there and admire our surroundings through drawing and describing our local plant and animal life. This will lead to our visit to the Pleasant Valley Sanctuary. This will be very helpful in our study of life cycles. It’s nice to see the students’ progress through the curriculum.

**Teachers:** Mrs. Dawn Prokopowicz & Ms. Danielle Taylor

## FOURTH GRADE

The fourth grade class has been working extremely hard! In November, we took our annual field trip to Howe Caverns to see first-hand what erosion looks like underground as part of our science and social studies lessons. It is rewarding for the students to see their learning from the classroom in an interactive experience.

This year, we are in our third year of working with representatives from the Bay State Reading Institute. BSRI has a strong emphasis on students working in collaborative teams. Students are continuing to work on a variety of reading lessons that strive to increase rigor, skill and independence.

The fourth graders have continued to enjoy using the new state of the art computer lab donated by the Boston Celtics and the Chromebook cart. Students are benefiting from using the computers for their weekly Lexia practice, typing written compositions and working on their typing skills.

In mathematics, the students are consistently working on problem solving techniques. In addition, the students are also working very hard to explain their math reasoning. They enjoy the opportunity to work in math centers where they showcase a variety of math skills.

**Teacher:** Mrs. Laurie Cantarella

## FIFTH GRADE

Fifth Grade at Cheshire Elementary School is a tremendous opportunity for students to develop academically and personally. Along with academic work, students are prepared for entry into the middle school and the responsibilities that go along with that. A strong emphasis is placed on Language Arts and Math. Students have enjoyed learning through the Bay State Reading Institute (BSRI) model for a third year, which focuses on small group instruction, high levels of student engagement, and differentiated learning. Fifth grade has seen amazing growth working with this model.

Special events that take place in the fifth grade are Nature’s Classroom, Berkshire Theatre Festival’s Artist in Residency and several field trips. These programs allow students to grow creatively and see themselves in new and exciting ways. The fifth grade students also participate in the Kindergarten Buddies program in which each fifth grade student is assigned a specific kindergarten student to be their “buddy.” The fifth graders spend a short amount of time each week working with their buddies on many projects throughout the year. They form close relationships with their buddies and develop important traits in becoming role models. The fifth grade students were also able to attend a field trip to Specialty Minerals, where they had the opportunity to learn some important history of the area that correlated with a unit on rocks and minerals. As the year progresses, the fifth grade students are also involved in a transition program in which they attend a couple of short trips up to Hoosac Valley Middle/High School. They are able to meet some of their potential teachers as well as learn about different, extracurricular activities that middle school students can participate in.

As students gain more responsibility throughout the year, they learn to view themselves as young adults who will be entering their middle school years.

**Teachers:** Mr. Justin Luciani & Mr. Eric Brown

## ART

The Cheshire Elementary School Art Program creates exposure to a variety of artists, materials and techniques fostering creativity and increasing students’ art knowledge and appreciation. Students develop and expand their Visual Arts





skills through techniques such as drawing, printing, painting, clay, mosaic and collage. The manipulation of materials such as paint, oil pastel and ink enables students to create multi-media art work. Their beautiful work can be seen decorating the walls of the school's hallways. The culmination of the students' talent, creativity and knowledge will be on display at the Cheshire Elementary School Spring Art Show. The public is invited to attend this showcase.

**Teacher:** Mrs. Wendy Lamberton

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Cheshire Elementary School physical education classes work to both actively engage a student's mind and body while conveying the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle. Physical education is both fun and challenging to all students, no matter their ability or skill level. A student enrolled in our program learns how to physically perform a skill, the rules involved and the social aspect surrounding that activity or sport.

Students are engaged in a vast array of different activities while participating in physical education. Children in the kindergarten and first grade levels have been learning many different gross motor skills required to participate in large group activities and non-competitive games. The skills being learned at this level include the overhand and underhand throwing technique, kicking a stationary object, striking a moving object, jumping rope, locomotor movements, and fleeing and dodging type activities. Children in the second through fifth grade levels learn the skills to many traditional and non-traditional sports including soccer, football, basketball, hockey, volleyball, and badminton. While actively engaged in sport students also learn how to better communicate and resolve conflicts with classmates.

All students participate in our "Kidnastics" unit, which is an age-appropriate version of gymnastics, the New York Roadrunner's Mighty Milers running program and our fourth annual Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser event through the American Heart Association. Students are engaged in cross-curricular activities that include mathematics, history, health, and foreign language. Adaptive students have been actively engaged in the physical education program where they receive attention and accommodation focusing on their specific needs through the use of modified equipment and lesson plans. Students are making progress in understanding the value of teamwork, cooperation, effort, and sportsmanship. Please continue to follow the happenings in physical education by reading the newsletter and by visiting the Cheshire Elementary School website. Thank you.

**Teacher:** Mr. Dan Wehle

### MUSIC

The Cheshire Elementary School Music Program is taught by Mr. Jonathan Rowe. Each semester, there is a musical performance where the children's talents are showcased. Besides learning about music history and cultural contexts, the students learn the basics of music literacy, and begin creating and writing down their own music. An emphasis is placed on teaching students how to sing well, with the belief that all students can learn to sing in tune, carry a steady beat, and be expressive in creating, performing, and responding to music. Students also learn a variety of instruments, including keyboard, guitar, recorder, and several percussion instruments.

The art of improvisation is emphasized, both in singing and playing instruments, developing students' creative impulses and abilities. Students also learn how to move musically, focusing on a variety of folk dance styles. An emphasis is placed on the

ability to move rhythmically to a beat, as well as to work together in groups and partners to bring music to life through movement and dance. On top of all this, students learn to analyze and appreciate their own music and the music of others, both for music's innate aesthetic qualities, and for its ability to relate to other areas of life.

The CES Chorus, comprised of students in grades 3-5, will be meeting once per week to sing more advanced, challenging pieces for our year-end concert. Students enjoy learning to apply skills learned in music class to a performance setting.

Thank you,

**CES Music Education Specialist: Mr. Jonathan Rowe**

**THE REST OF OUR CHESHIRE SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TEAM**

<b>Administrative Assistant</b>	Paula Ciskowski
<b>Special Education</b>	Elaine Hunter – ½ time Melissa Marchetti ½ time
<b>Speech &amp; Language Pathologist</b>	Brianna Bresett
<b>School Adjustment Counselor</b>	Jennifer Renzi (1/2 time)
<b>Technology (Mon. &amp; Weds.)</b>	Geoff Kondel
<b>Building &amp; Grounds</b>	Dave Richards Stash Cote - retired Dennis Pinnsonneault
<b>School Nurse</b>	Philip Grover
<b>Cafeteria</b>	Cindy Gajda Denise Moncecchi Susan Randall Marianne Mirke
<b>Extended Care</b>	Jenn Mach -Coordinator Jon-Luc Goodrich
<b>Paraprofessionals:</b>	
Shannon Badorini	Sue Barthe
Kathy Bradbury	Monica Carpenter
Judy Gaylord	Linda Giroux
Jon-Luc Goodrich	Noreen Hoag
Karen Isbell	Julie Lech
Jennifer Mach	Kathy Malloy
Sue McLear	Susan Randall
Jamie Taylor	Clara Wilusz

**District-wide personnel who also work in Cheshire School include:**

<b>Autism Specialist</b>	Kim Biagini
<b>Occupational Therapy</b>	Suzanne Harnick Deb Silverio
<b>Physical Therapy</b>	Lora McGrath
<b>English Language Learning Specialist</b>	Joshua Kellogg

One of the most cherished members of our Cheshire School Family is our loyal, dedicated volunteer extraordinaire, Mrs. Frances Eichorn. Fran is a real help to all the staff and ultimately, the students, by doing endless

Cheshire School also works with many organizations in Berkshire County like The Berkshire County Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's office helps to scholarship students to special events like the trip to Nature's Classroom. They have also assisted with school events like Field Day. Sheriff Thomas Bowler has also helped to schedule work release programs during the summer months that have greatly helped us with maintenance of our school building. We are very grateful for all of their help.

Both the Cheshire and Adams Fire and Police Departments as well as the Mass. State Police are also reliable sources of support for the children and staff of Cheshire Elementary providing programs for fire safety and assistance for our Crisis Team with the various safety drills that are conducted throughout the year. There are various other local businesses and civic groups who have supported the school during the past year and for that we are all truly grateful. The Greylock Credit Union and the Adams Community Bank provided scholarship funds for students to attend Nature's Classroom in March. Adams Community Bank once again awarded Cheshire School a generous donation for new playground equipment. Larabee Landscaping and Whitney's Farm Market have been generous with their products, time and talent to help complete the second phase of our awesome playground. Bedard Brothers Auto dealership sponsored a literacy outreach project that provided books to 100 of the Cheshire School students. We have also applied and received grant funding from the ACE Foundation, The Taconic Foundation, and the Northern Berkshire Cultural Council. In these times of very tough budgets, it is so wonderful to have support for children and education. Without these funding sources, our children would not be able to attend the cultural enrichment events and would not get materials and experiences that are so valuable to a well-rounded education. While we are very grateful for the support of our tax payers through the annual school budget, it is just not enough to provide all that we need for our students to be 21st century learners. So, thank you to all of the individuals and organizations that do provide these opportunities for our children!

Cheshire is a wonderful family oriented community and the staff and students at Cheshire Elementary School work hard each day to teach and learn to the best of our ability. Our School Motto is "Kids First, Learning Forever!"

Respectfully submitted,

Peter J. Bachli  
Principal, Cheshire Elementary

# Athletic Director

## Hoosac Valley High School

The 2016 athletic program had over 320 participants in 27 varsity and sub-varsity programs that competed in the Berkshire County League. Our football team joined the PVIAC Suburban South league in an effort to play a competitive schedule. We also have cooperative teams in ice hockey, swimming, and wrestling.



*Girls Soccer listens to Coach Kathy Budaj before beating Drury 5-0.*

During the winter, the hockey team, which is a cooperative team, made it to the Western MA semi-finals with help from Hoosac senior forward Nate Lapine, who also made the first team All-Western MA All-Star team. The Boys and Girls' swim teams co-oped with St. Joseph's high school and continued working towards rebuilding a powerful combined team. The Boys and Girls Nordic Skiing teams competed in both Western Mass and State championship skiing. The highlight of the winter season was the inclusion of both our boys and girls basketball teams in the Division III sectional championships. Both teams won great games and emerged from UMASS Amherst's Cage as Western MA champions. The boys played in a heartbreaking 45-44 loss to Oxford in the sectional finals. The girls continued winning all the way to the State Championship game, where they lost to Bishop Fenwick at the MassMutual Center.

This spring was the first season for boys baseball coach Mike Larabee, who brought our team deep into the regional tournament. With help from ace Matt Koperniak, the Hurricanes beat both Mt. Greylock and Southwick in tournament play, only losing in the semi-finals to Frontier. The Girls Softball team (14-8) flourished during head coach Mike Ameen's second season back at Hoosac. The girls made it all the way to the Western Mass finals where they fell to #1 seed Turners Falls in a game delayed for nearly two hours by rain. The Boys and Girls Track teams qualified for Western Mass and State meets and had an excellent showing by Peter Barrow, who finished 4th in both the shotput and discus. Jared Haley, finishing off an impressive 6-year track career at Hoosac, was awarded the Western Mass senior track athlete of the year.

In the fall, the football team had another excellent season under the direction of Coach Dayne Poirot and his staff. While they did not qualify for the tournament, they finished 5-5 and beat Drury in the first ever Thanksgiving-eve game at Renfrew Park. The Girls Soccer team was successful under head coach Kathy Budja and was highly competitive in the northern division, making it to the Western MA tournament, losing to Monument Mt. in a close game. Boys Soccer continued a year of rebuilding under Coach Mike Russo, and are looking forward to having a tournament team in the near future. The Boys and Girls Cross-Country running team both qualified for the Western MA and state tournaments. The golf team, led by brothers Jack and Henry Sniezek, competed in the Northern Division and made it to the tournament where they finished 7th in Western MA.

In all, the students, coaches, administrators, and parent booster groups worked very hard to maintain a successful sports program, which has made the Hoosac Valley Hurricanes respected across the state.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Heneault  
Athletic Director



*Hoosac golfers play a practice round at Crestview Country Club*



# Director of Food Services

In 2015 -2016, the Adams Cheshire Regional School District continues to participate in the National School Lunch Program & The School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program, USDA Commodity Distribution Program and The Summer Food Service Program. This is also our second year of participating in a USDA Program called Department of Defense (DOD) Fresh Fruits & Vegetable Program (FFAVORS). Berkshire Head Start continues to receive breakfast and lunch daily via satellite out of Plunkett School. The ACRSD Food Service Department remains a member of the Berkshire County Food Service Purchasing Cooperative. This Co-op puts out to bid the bread, dairy and paper products, yearly, on a county wide basis.

For the 2015 -2016 school year, the Food Service Department had a profit of \$50,724.00 on revenues of \$655,505.00. Government subsidies represented 59.8% of the total revenue. USDA Commodities valued at \$45,948.09 were received in 2016.

Participation in the reimbursable School Lunch Program for SY 2015-16 was 59.2%, same as the previous year. Participation in the School Breakfast Program for SY 2015-16 was 18.3%, a 2% increase from the previous year. The percentage of students who qualified for free/reduced meals as of June 2016 was 57%, an increase of 6% from the previous year. We operated three kitchens in 2015-16.

Parent participation in our online payment web site continues to be well received. Deposits have increased for \$32,000.00 in SY 2014-15, to \$35,000.00 in SY 2015-16.

Two new ovens were purchased to replace the two old, unreliable ones at Plunkett Elementary School at a cost of \$6,400.00 total.

A price increase of \$.25 for full pay student and adult lunches went into effect for the SY 2015-16. This increase was the result of being compliant with federal regulations for school lunch prices.

Paid Student Lunch (CES & CTP)	\$2.50
Paid Student Lunch (HVMHS)	2.75
Paid Student Breakfast	1.25
Paid Adult Lunch	3.75
Reduced Student Breakfast	.30
Reduced Student Lunch	.40

We had one retirement at the end of SY 2015-16. Barbara Solomon retired after many years of dedicated service as a 6-hour cook's helper for the Food Service Department. A 4-hour kitchen helper was hired to fill the vacancy.

Food Service continues to explore possibilities of being CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) certified for the next SY 2016-17, which would mean free breakfast and lunch at participating schools.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosanne Schutz  
Food Service Director



*Pete Barrow throwing his personal best at the Central/West Tournament to finish 7th.*

# ACRSD Special Services

## 2016 Annual Report

The ACRSD Special Services Department continues to support and develop programs to meet the unique needs of our students. It is the mission of the Adams-Cheshire Special Services Department to provide a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive setting. We aim to minimize the impact of a disability for our students and maximize academic achievement, independence, and participation in the classroom and community. The Special Services Department works collaboratively with general education colleagues to develop in-district supports that allow students to access the curriculum successfully. In that regard, we continually explore creative program development and evaluate existing programs to ensure their effectiveness. These intentional efforts are in keeping with the Beliefs and Values of the Adams Cheshire Regional District; specifically, that all of our students develop into educated, responsible, and productive citizens.

The ACRSD Special Services Department offers a full continuum of programs and services from the least restrictive full inclusion and academic support offerings through substantially separate self-contained models for our intensive at-risk populations. Academic support programs that offer direct, systematic instruction and remediation in content areas including reading and math, are part of the remedial and inclusion support that students receive during the school day. Special Education teachers and paraprofessional support staff are trained to provide such support and create specialized lessons and materials. Other services for students are provided by Speech and Language Pathologists, Speech Assistants, Occupational Therapist, Occupational Therapist Assistant, Sign-Language Interpreter, tutors, and an ESL instructor allowing us to provide services on site, thereby ensuring minimal disruption to the academic day for students. We continue to contract the services of a Physical Therapist, Teacher of the Visually Impaired - Dr. Richard Ely, Willie Ross School for the Deaf, the Carroll School as well as Perkins School for the Blind, to provide services on site for students who have the need.

Child Find is an important component of the Special Services Department. We work cooperatively with community agencies, families, educators, and health care providers to help identify students in need of services from an early age to graduation. The Special Services Department also conducts preschool and kindergarten screenings annually using a team of teachers and specialists. The results of these screenings inform parents of their child's developmental strengths and weaknesses. If a child indicates the need for further evaluation, our team will refer the child for testing, and if found eligible, a plan will be developed to provide services. In this way, district children are offered early intervention in order to prevent future school failure.

When an older student is referred for special education, parent consent is sought and an evaluation is conducted. The district continues the services of a .2 school psychologist, Michael Vecchia, as well as contracted with Hillcrest Educational Support Services and Ward Johnson to assist in the intake and identification of students who may qualify for special services

and provide recommendations for teachers working with them. District special education staff is also specially trained in research-based evaluation tools for identification of a disability. Our diagnostic prescriptive specialists and outside evaluators provide the district additional information to determine eligibility and design programming individualized for a student.

Our National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) approved Early Childhood program includes our preschool and Kindergarten classrooms. The Preschool staff welcomes families and provides preschoolers a half-day of developmentally appropriate activities. The primary purpose of the program is to integrate three and four year old children with special needs in a preschool setting with typically developing (non-special needs) children serving as role models. Students receive therapies and specialized instruction according to their individual plans as developed by a multidisciplinary team which include the parents. The Preschool teachers provide English and Language Arts as well as Math instruction using the Scott Foresman OWLS curriculum. Early Childhood staff also serve on various committees for curriculum, community and family outreach, and maintaining high quality, NAEYC-approved status. They also perform the special education duties of chairing team meetings and completing individualized education plans for compliance.

Our district also participated in the Massachusetts Kindergarten Entry Assessment (MKEA). The MKEA is a state-mandated evaluation method to measure student growth in Preschool and Kindergarten. This assessment is developmentally based. Teachers use observation checklists in the areas of social-emotional and cognitive skills to monitor growth over the school year. The district has adoptive Teaching Strategies Gold as the tool staff will use to monitor this growth in Preschool and Kindergarten, and the reports generated will be used as the district report card for those grades.

The Elementary Level of Special Services provides experienced special education teachers and support staff to students with special needs in both Cheshire School and C.T. Plunkett. Special Education teachers review students' individualized plans and work with the principals and teachers to set up programming to best meet student needs. Instruction is designed by specially trained staff in order to provide access to the grade level curricula as well as demonstrate progress toward individual student goals. Currently, reading and math remediation services can occur in the classroom as well as in a smaller setting. Paraprofessionals also support students in inclusive classrooms as well as in unstructured settings. The number of students with significant special needs continues to increase. Two programs have been designed to assist them. Kim Biagini-BCBA, has worked closely with the director of special services and special education teachers to provide a therapeutic setting at C.T. Plunkett for students requiring a higher level of support and intensive therapies. Alden Grover has been hired as the teacher of this program. Travis Poirot, a special educator, also facilitates a substantially separate program at C.T. Plunkett for students with extensive behavioral needs.

The special education elementary staff work closely with regular education staff to ensure students are successful academically and supported in all areas of elementary school. Mary Tanner Early Childhood Coordinator, has continued to be an invaluable resource for families and staff alike.

At Hoosac Valley Middle and High School, special education students' needs are met through a variety of available programs. Inclusive classrooms provide the opportunity for team teaching with special and regular education staff and/or paraprofessional support to the classrooms. Other students' individualized plans require remedial reading and math instruction and/or content support. These services occur in a smaller, more structured setting with a special educator and may include paraprofessionals who are trained and supervised by the teachers. For students with a higher level of need, other substantially separate models have been developed.

One of these models at HVMHS is the Exceptional Program (EP), which is a safe, structured and predictable environment that provides multiple supports, rigorous social skill training and specific focus on preparing students to successfully transition to post-graduation life including the working world. Therapeutic and behavioral supports augment a case management model that provides significant outreach to home, family and community ensuring a holistic model for educating these youths. We welcome Alexander Renton as the new High School EP special educator. The goal of transitioning students to less restrictive settings through a system of scaffolding supports remains constant.

The Life Skills Program at Hoosac Valley has evolved into a comprehensive offering for students to develop more independence and functional life skills in a structured, caring setting. The program is dedicated to educating students with developmental disabilities. Vital components of the curriculum include adaptive daily living skills, social skills, health and wellness, cooking, functional academics, prevocational instruction and leisure training. The Life Skills Program aims to integrate students into the community to their maximum potential and is actively involved in volunteering at several community sites including the Adams Community Center, Food Pantry, Youth Center Inc., Free Public Library and Town Hall. Most students in the program are engaged and participate in the Special Olympics as well as many of Hoosac Valley's extracurricular functions. The Life Skills Program is also completely responsible for operating the school store. Students in the program manage and staff the store. This program has become an integral part of the culture of HVMHS.

Another program that was created to meet the diverse needs of our students is the Emotional Support Program. This inclusive program is run by special educator, Jamie LaMour, with support from the School Adjustment Counselor, Lorianne Moro. The Emotional Support Program (ES) provides safe support and non-threatening structure for special education students, grades 9-12, who have demonstrated a history of significant lack of success in school adjustment/achievement due to emotional factors. Techniques in behavior management, group dynamics, and emotional development are employed to develop the skills necessary to make satisfactory success across school and life domains. Students within the Emotional support program attend classes in an inclusive setting from content area teachers with close monitoring from their liaison and special education

staff, with academic support and counseling services provided. The ES room is a "safe place" for a student to go to when they struggle with their day to day emotions, need to decompress or process issues with caring staff, and need redirection to maintain positive relationships and build self-esteem.

At the middle and high school levels, special education teachers offer academic support programming. The teachers consult with classroom teachers on a regular basis in order to facilitate success in the most inclusive setting. Additional services are provided as needed for remediation of reading and math skills.

Extended year programs continue to be available during the summer months to assist students who have shown documented substantial regression of their educational progress both academically and socially following vacations and or long illnesses. A program for our younger students balances academic growth with "camp like" experiential projects to foster social emotional and language development. The summer program for older students combines academic support and pre-vocational skill development with community and recreational outings. Tutoring is also provided on an individual or small group basis to maintain academics. These programs provide diverse offerings for students in Pre-K through age 22.

Our efforts to develop and sustain programs which support students within their communities have had a dramatic impact on reducing the cost of out-of-district residential placements and keeping kids at home. Nevertheless, we periodically have the need to place an intensive needs student out of district, where they are monitored by the special services department. The district also offers services to St. Stanislaus Parochial School for those students identified with a disability.

Recognizing the important role that they play in the lives of all students, we are striving to reach out to parents to become active members on our Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). The purpose of the SEPAC is twofold: to help guide the district in making programmatic decisions and to serve as a resource for parents of children with special needs. The board has developed and implemented by-laws for their organization and governance. Because we have a rather transient population, the ACRSD has joined together with neighboring SEPACs in North Adams, McCann, and Northern Berkshire School Union to share resources and maintain continuity of contact with families. The district has joined the Massachusetts Parent Advisory Council and set up informational workshops with community agencies and Title I to assist families with students with special needs. Anyone interested in joining the SEPAC should contact the ACRSD special services director.

The Special Services Department has expanded to support and monitor students who are homeless or have English as a Second Language. An (ESL) English as a Second Language teacher, Joshua Kellogg, provides additional instruction and support to English Language Learners in all district buildings. Mr. Kellogg also works with the Director to maintain compliance and consults with staff to support ELLs in the classroom. Our English Language Learner (ELL) students participate in "Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State (ACCESS)" testing. This assessment is given to students identified as ELLs in Kindergarten through 12th grade to identify their English proficiency in reading, writing, thinking,

and speaking. Our students worked diligently on this assessment and the data obtained has helped the district better determine the best educational approach for each of the students who participated. Mr. Kellogg also has recently been trained by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to be an SEI endorsed instructor and provide professional development to our teachers.

The Special Services Department is small but hardworking. Mary Ellen Sutliff is the Administrative Assistant to the Director and is an invaluable asset to the district to maximize the department's efficiency and compliance standards. Kim Biagini is the district BCBA-Board Certified Behavior Analyst. Mary Tanner continues as an Elementary Coordinator. Tanner and Biagini assist the director in the consultation and training of staff, attending TEAM meetings, and providing input in continual program improvement and compliance. All of the Special Educators and paraprofessionals in ACRSD strive to maximize their students' potentials to be college and career ready.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Jacquelyn Fortier  
 Director of Special Services

Special Services - Special Education Population as of Oct 1, 2016				
Grade	Cheshire	Plunkett	Hoosac	Tuitioned Out or Private Schools
PK	23	3 Drive-By		
K	7	8		1
1	6	16		1
2	4	24		2
3	6	19		1
4	3	24		2
5	6	16		1
6			15	1
7			23	1
8			30	1
9			9	
10			22	
11			15	
12			16	
12+(to age 22)			1	
<b>Total School</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>11</b>

### ACRSD SPECIAL SERVICES STAFF

STAFFING	POSITION
Jacquelyn Daniels	Director of Special Services Homeless Coordinator English Language Learner Coordinator Early Childhood
Mary Ellen Sutliff	Administrative Assistant
Mary Tanner	Elementary Coordinator
Kim Biagini	Board Certified Behavior Analyst District Specialist
Diane Arduini	Speech Language Pathologist
Brianna Bresett	Speech Language Pathologist
Kelsey Pero	Speech/Language Pathologist Assistant
Karen Levesque	Speech/Language Pathologist Assistant
Linda Giroux	Speech/Language Pathologist Assistant
Suzanne Harnick	Occupational Therapist
Deb Silveira	Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant
Lora McGrath	Physical Therapist
Nicole Crane	Special Education Teacher C.T. Plunkett
Dawn Daniels	Special Education Teacher C.T. Plunkett
Christine Harrington	Special Education Teacher C.T. Plunkett
Joann Kingsbury	Special Education Teacher C.T. Plunkett
Travis Poirot	Transitional Program C.T. Plunkett
Alden Grover	Special Education Teacher C.T. Plunkett <i>Autism Program</i>
Laura Crane	Preschool/ Special Education Teacher District

STAFFING	POSITION
Kelly Riechers	Preschool/ Special Education Teacher District
Christine Zdon	Preschool/ Special Education Teacher District
Melissa Marchetti	Special Education Teacher Cheshire Elementary (PT)
Elaine Hunter	Special Education Teacher Cheshire Elementary (PT)
Rebecca Cohen	Special Education Teacher HVMHS
Lisa Folino	Special Education Teacher HVMHS
Seth Jenkins	Special Education Teacher HVMHS
Brandon Noyes	Transitional Program HVMHS
Elizabeth Namislo	Special Education Teacher HVMHS
Jamie Lamour	Special Education Teacher HVMHS
Alexandria Renton	Transitional Program HVMHS
Christopher Tamburrino	Life Skills Program HVMHS
<b>Other Related Services:</b>	
Michael Vecchia	School Psychologist
Rick Ely	Teacher of the Visually Impaired
Amy O'Brien	Teacher of the Visually Impaired - Perkins School for the Blind
Greg Delisle	Willie Ross School for the Deaf - Director
Debra Scanlon	Willie Ross School for the Deaf - Educational Audiologist
Eileen A. Daneri	Teacher of the Deaf
Stacey Ellery	Interpreter/Sign Language
Joshua Kellogg	ESL Program

# Director of Business

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## FY2016 FINANCE AT A GLANCE

The establishment of the FY2016 budget did not come without its share of hardships. The Administration worked diligently to incorporate and promote a budget that included additions of three new positions - Technology Director, Curriculum Coordinator and Elementary Coordinator. It wasn't until two separate over-ride votes were taken; the second of which passed, that the budget was approved by the Town of Cheshire and considered adopted by both Towns. It was a great display of the dedication of both staff and voters from each Town who came out in support of the education of children.

The addition of these positions was an asset to our schools, however, there continue to be trends that challenge our District from year to year. The formula for which Chapter 70 funding is based, continues to result in minimal funding increases, as fixed costs only continue to rise. The gap in funding that this formula creates places a larger burden on the two towns to cover the shortfall. This, along with many other factors, will continue to challenge District officials to provide a sound education to the students with fewer resources.

The FY2016 operating budget, which is comprised of foundation and transportation costs, increased by 3% over the FY2015 operating budget. The inclusion of the three new positions, an increase of health insurance costs for active and retired employees, as well as anticipated increases in utilities costs made up the majority of the increase. Similar to prior years, there were significant cuts throughout the budget in an attempt to keep the overall increase to towns within their own spending limits. We were again faced with the same issues going into the FY17 budget and unfortunately had to eliminate two of the positions we had fought so hard for the year before. Increases in operational costs continue to exceed the increases in funding from the state. With an increase in funding not likely, the District is faced with a serious challenge and must make hard decisions in order to maintain viability going forward.

All challenges aside, due to Chapter 70 aid and Charter reimbursements coming in higher than budgeted, in combination with the extremely mild winter which led to a savings in utilities and snow removal, the FY2016 year end fund balance ended with a surplus of \$400,000, which was closed out to Excess & Deficiency. The Department of Revenue certified the ACRSD's Excess & Deficiency or E & D as it's often called, as of July 1, 2016 at \$773,135. This amount was 4.07% of the total FY2017 budget, which is \$18,995,762. A regional school district is allowed to retain up to 5% of the succeeding year's budget of their certified E & D. That being said, the ACRSD has consistently used a significant portion of their available E & D to reduce the town assessments each year. In FY2015 and FY2016 this amount was \$300,000, in FY17 it was \$350,000 and we anticipate using a similar amount as a funding source for the FY2018 budget. However, this will depend on how the FY17 projected fund balance looks as we proceed through the year.

Going forward we must continue to be innovative, invite and encourage collaboration and keep the priority and focus of our District in the forefront of our minds. At the end of the day, our goal as a District is to provide our youth with the best possible education and it will be my goal as Director of Business to keep as much of our resources as possible directly in the classroom with the children.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika M. Snyder  
Director of Business  
January 26, 2017

**Adams-Cheshire Regional School District**  
**Governmental Funds**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**June 30, 2016**

	General	School Choice	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 2,579,765	\$ 505,256	\$ 465,048	\$ 3,550,069
Intergovernmental receivables	-	-	38,739	38,739
Inventory	-	-	32,396	32,396
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 2,579,765</b>	<b>\$ 505,256</b>	<b>\$ 536,183</b>	<b>\$ 3,621,204</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>				
<b>Liabilities:</b>				
Warrants payable	\$ 51,608	\$ -	\$ 884	\$ 52,492
Accrued payroll and withholdings	1,133,664	3,121	56,836	1,193,621
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 1,185,272</b>	<b>\$ 3,121</b>	<b>\$ 57,720</b>	<b>\$ 1,246,113</b>
<b>Fund Balances:</b>				
Nonspendable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32,396	\$ 32,396
Restricted	-	502,135	446,067	948,202
Assigned	621,358	-	-	621,358
Unassigned	773,135	-	-	773,135
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>\$ 1,394,493</b>	<b>\$ 502,135</b>	<b>\$ 478,463</b>	<b>\$ 2,375,091</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>\$ 2,579,765</b>	<b>\$ 505,256</b>	<b>\$ 536,183</b>	<b>\$ 3,621,204</b>

**Adams-Cheshire Regional School District  
General Fund  
Statement of Revenues and Other Sources,  
and Expenditures and Other Uses  
- Budget and Actual -  
June 30, 2016**

	BUDGETED AMOUNTS		Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original Budget	Final Budget		
<b>REVENUES &amp; OTHER SOURCES</b>				
Assessments to Member Towns	\$ 8,107,946	\$ 8,107,946	\$ 8,107,946	\$ -
Intergovernmental	10,698,583	10,698,583	10,661,881	(36,702)
Investment Income	-	-	6,383	6,383
Miscellaneous	-	-	41,572	41,572
Other Sources	300,000	300,000	300,000	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUES &amp; OTHER SOURCES</b>	<b>19,106,529</b>	<b>19,106,529</b>	<b>19,117,782</b>	<b>11,253</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES &amp; OTHER USES:</b>				
Administration	758,623	769,815	791,764	(21,949)
Instruction	6,063,200	6,317,085	6,211,796	105,289
Other School Services	413,151	431,938	395,392	36,546
Operation & Maintenance	1,432,132	1,469,403	1,306,626	162,777
Fixed Charges	4,762,540	4,543,130	4,421,939	121,191
Special Education	2,543,722	2,370,397	2,216,298	154,099
Transportation	845,452	845,452	866,281	(20,829)
Intergovernmental	1,265,000	1,330,000	1,447,111	(117,111)
Acquisition	105,000	111,600	90,169	21,431
Debt Service	917,709	917,709	926,650	(8,941)
Transfers Out	-	-	17,497	(17,497)
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES &amp; OTHER USES</b>	<b>\$ 19,106,529</b>	<b>\$ 19,106,529</b>	<b>\$ 18,691,523</b>	<b>\$ 415,006</b>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES &amp; OTHER SOURCES OVER EXPENDITURES &amp; OTHER USES</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 426,259</b>	<b>\$ 426,259</b>

**Adams-Cheshire Regional School District  
Assessments to Member Towns  
June 30, 2016**

Town	Minimum Contribution	Contribution Outside Net School Spending	Transportation & Capital Assessments	Total Assessments
Adams	\$ 3,326,750	\$ 1,076,169	\$ 1,118,550	\$ 5,521,469
Cheshire	1,833,866	380,156	372,455	2,586,477
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,160,616</b>	<b>\$ 1,456,325</b>	<b>\$ 1,491,005</b>	<b>\$ 8,107,946</b>

**Adams-Cheshire Regional School District  
June 30, 2016  
Future Debt Service**

Year	Principal	Interest	Total
2017	\$ 555,000	\$ 373,850	\$ 928,850
2018	575,000	360,700	935,700
2019	590,000	343,450	933,450
2020	605,000	325,750	930,750
2021	620,000	307,600	927,600
2022-2026	3,255,000	1,249,050	4,504,050
2027-2031	3,760,000	683,050	4,443,050
Thereafter	1,695,000	87,300	1,782,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 11,655,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,730,750</b>	<b>\$ 15,385,750</b>



# Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District



The Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District, McCann Technical School, students, faculty and staff continued their record of noteworthy accomplishments in fiscal year 2016 and this report highlights some of these accomplishments.

Our mission is to graduate technically skilled, academically prepared, and socially responsible individuals ready to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Our mission and educational philosophy are implemented by adhering to the following core values:

- Communication strengthens partnership development and teamwork.
- Achievement is attained through a strong work ethic.
- Respect from all guarantees a safe learning environment.
- Ethics ensure a dedication to honesty and integrity.

During the last twenty years we have witnessed a dramatic transformation in vocational technical education especially in our application of technology and STEM subjects. We are very proud of the academic and technical achievement of our students and as each succeeding class raises the bar of accomplishment, the next class seeks to surpass it. The integration of our technical and academic curriculum has prepared our graduates well for their future and we appreciate you, our member communities, for your support in making it happen.

The accomplishments of our students reflect the McCann culture of learning:

The Class of 2016 became the thirteenth class in a row to attain 100 percent competency determination on the MCAS tests.

Twenty-eight of the Class of 2015 earned the prestigious John and Abigail Adams Scholarship awarded through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for their academic record and MCAS achievement.

Our 119 graduates of the Class of 2016 saw 61% continue their education in a variety of colleges and universities, 34% enter the workforce and 5% proudly enter into military service.

The results of the spring 2016 MCAS test once again echoed the continuous progress of our students through their dedication and that of our terrific faculty. Once again McCann posted solid scores highlighted below.

## GRADE 10 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Performance Level	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Advanced	21%	15%	17%	25.7%	24.7%
Proficient	67%	76%	77%	68.9%	72.6%
Needs Improvement	11%	8%	6%	4.5%	2.6%
Failing	0%	1%	1%	.7%	0%

## GRADE 10 - MATHEMATICS

Performance Level	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Advanced	33%	35%	44%	32.35%	34.5%
Proficient	42%	39%	29%	46.25%	45.7%
Needs Improvement	23%	17%	24%	19.2%	17.2%
Failing	3%	9%	3%	2.3%	2.5%

## GRADE 10 - SCIENCE AND TECH/ENG

Performance Level	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Advanced	9%	13%	19%	11.3%	24.5%
Proficient	54%	53%	52%	63.7%	61.8%
Needs Improvement	30%	24%	27%	23.4%	10.9%
Failing	7%	9%	2%	1.6%	2.7%

The McCann Athletics program continues to enjoy success in the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association. Our programs enjoy healthy participation numbers and our student athletes continue to represent our school admirably. The 2015-2016 year saw our baseball team advance to the Western Massachusetts Championship game for the first time since 1987. The game was held at Wahconah Park in Pittsfield and capped a fantastic season for the team that also included a league championship. A boys' lacrosse team was created in the spring of 2016 and played an independent schedule in its inaugural campaign. The team played hard and looks forward to continuing its growth as it will enter official league play this year in the PVIAC.

Our continuous facility improvement plan allowed us to renovate 5 classrooms replacing 3 rooms of 1960's era furniture with new desks and chairs, install energy efficient lighting and replace white boards for greater visibility and cleanliness. We

installed a new computer proxy card internal and external lock system providing enhanced building security and access control. We replaced over 100 computer systems throughout the building and made improvements to our athletic fields including the installation of new portable bleachers to provide a safer venue for both spectators and teams.

The integration of new educational technology continues to be our priority. We received a Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant for \$121,128.00 which allowed us to update 4 of our welders and add two virtual welding machines which combine the latest trends in metal joining technology with greater accuracy and outcomes. We added two Tormach 3-axis milling machines that allow our machine technology students to improve their automated manufacturing practice. We replaced our wheel alignment machine with a new system that incorporates the latest technology available thereby enhancing our automotive technology students' application of wheel alignment procedures.

Community service projects continue to provide our students with excellent opportunities to display their technical skills while exhibiting the passion and commitment to support their community. Our computer-aided design and carpentry students completed the rehabilitation of the porch and exterior stairways at the Louison House and our culinary arts students continue to support a number of community events including the Relay for Life. Our BPA students collected items for the homeless veteran's shelter, placed flags on the graves of veterans on Memorial Day, participated in the Habitat for Humanity Christmas Tree Showcase and assisted with the set-up of the Relay for Life event. Our National Honor Society students collected donations for the Friendship Center Food Pantry in North Adams, participated in the "Campground Clean-up Day" at Historic Valley Campground, helped rebuild the C.T. Plunkett playground and provided holiday cards and packages for veterans and deployed military personnel. Our SkillsUSA students' community service included the "Buddy Walk of the Berkshires," placing flags on veterans' graves, the Habitat for Humanity Christmas Showcase, Relay for Life, a series of Louison House fundraisers including food drives and Christmas gifts for the children.

McCann continued its ongoing participation in SkillsUSA, a national organization of more than 300,000 members working to ensure America has a skilled work force. McCann is a 100% member of SkillsUSA which has provided the opportunity for our students to earn scholarships, tools for their trade, opportunities for employment and awards in recognition of their accomplishments. At the 2016 SkillsUSA state competition McCann students earned gold medals in Automated Manufacturing Technology, Customer Service, and Technical Computer Applications at the high school level and Dental Assisting and Job Interview at the postsecondary level. Silver medals were awarded in Automated Manufacturing Technology, Carpentry, Architectural Drafting, Community Service, Industrial Motor Control, Web Design, Welding at the high school level and Cosmetology and Dental Assisting at the postsecondary level. Bronze medals were earned in 3-D Visualization & Animation, Automotive Service Technology, CNC Turning Specialist, Customer Service, Technical Computer Applications at the high school level and Dental Assisting at the postsecondary level. Additionally, a McCann student earned a gold medal for the President's Volunteer Service Award. All gold medal winners

were able to attend the national competition in Louisville, KY where more than 15,000 people participate in the weeklong event. Competitions included 96 different hands-on trades, technical and leadership fields. Our Automated Manufacturing Technology team of Charlie Bohl III, Tanner Parrino, and Noah Curran won a national silver medal. McCann is extremely proud to have had Samantha Dorwin, a Machine Technology student, serve as a SkillsUSA national officer this past year. In her role as Region I Vice President, Samantha helped advocate for women in career and technical education as well as for vocational education in general. Awarded the Presidential Scholar medal, Samantha had numerous speaking engagements highlighted by her keynote speech at the Massachusetts SkillsUSA state conference, speaking at the United States Department of Education, and meeting with Senator Elizabeth Warren. Samantha also accompanied McCann Metal Fabrication student Spenser Tanner, along with a delegation of competitors, to Québec to compete in Canada's SkillsUSA equivalent, Compétences Québec. Spenser competed in the Welding competitions placing fourth and receiving the Medal of Excellence. Both students represented McCann and the U.S. admirably, serving as ambassadors for the American vocational education system.

Business Professionals of America, BPA, is the leading CTSO (Career and Technical Student Organization) for students pursuing careers in Business Management, Office Administration, Information Technology and other related career fields. The organization's activities complement classroom instruction by giving students practical experience through application of the skills learned at school. BPA is contributing to the preparation of a world-class workforce through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic, and technological skills. At this year's BPA State Leadership Conference held in Framingham, MA, McCann students received a total of eighteen awards in Finance, Business Administration, Management Information Systems, Digital Communication & Design, and Management, Marketing & Communication competitions, bringing home three 1st place, four 2nd place, and three 3rd place awards. In May 2016, fourteen McCann students traveled to Boston, MA to join over 5,000 other conference attendees from across the nation to participate in business skills competitions, workshops, general sessions, and intern assignments. Achievements earned at the national competition included top-ten medals in Administrative Support Concepts, Advanced Spreadsheet Applications, Fundamental Spreadsheet Applications, Fundamental Word Processing, Information Technology Concepts and Web Site Design Team. Additionally, Andrea Leal of the Business Technology Class of 2014 was elected to a seat on the national officer team, serving the 2016-2017 school-year as BPA's Postsecondary Division National President.

Project Lead the Way is the leading provider of rigorous and innovative Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education programs in schools across the U.S. Students enrolled in the program take as many as four courses above and beyond their graduation requirements. Since its inception, over 60% of participating students - over one hundred - have become eligible for college credits through Rochester Institute of Technology or New Hampshire Technical Institute as a result of their performance on the national engineering examination. In last year's PLTW cohort, 11 students achieved this eligibility.

The success of our student body continues to be measured by our 100% competency determination, high career placement, high college matriculation rate and technical expertise in national skills competitions.

The district continues to operate on sound financial management principals and incorporates technology in this process to ensure maximum benefit for all of our programming. At the end of the fiscal year we returned \$76,011.00 of unused transportation monies to our communities. The district continues to search out grants to support our educational funding to improve instructional services and vocational equipment.

The Commission on Dental Accreditation, CODA, conducted an onsite review of our Dental Assisting program and granted continued accreditation without reporting requirements until 2022. Similarly our Medical Assisting program hosted an onsite accreditation team from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, CAAHEP, and the Medical Assisting Education Review Board, MAERB, and was granted continued accreditation to 2024.

FY16 Budgeted Revenues		Budget	Actual
<b>City &amp; Town Assessments</b>			
Municipal Minimum		\$ 2,797,399.00	\$ 2,797,399.00
Capital		103,125.00	103,125.00
Transportation		194,325.00	194,325.00
Municipal Assessment		139,483.00	139,483.00
Ch. 71 Transportation		225,000.00	286,847.00
Ch. 70 General School Aid		4,641,116.00	4,641,116.00
Tuitions		734,372.00	734,372.00
Miscellaneous Revenue		11,431.00	9,461.00
State Bonus Aid			2,040.00
<b>Total Revenue Received</b>		<b>\$ 8,846,251.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,908,168.00</b>
Member City & Town Transportation Refunds			(61,847.00)
Misc. Revenue Balance to Surplus E & D			(70.00)
A/P Assessment Payable (Received in July)			0.00
		<b>\$ 8,846,251.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,846,251.00</b>
Source	Grant	Amount	
<b>(Federal Entitlement)</b>			
Fed	Sped IDEA	\$	114,838.00
Fed	Title I		117,668.00
Fed	Title II A		18,666.00
Fed	Perkins		61,113.00
Fed	Postsecondary Perkins		2,765.00
<b>(Federal Grants Other)</b>			
	REAP		41,074.00
	Perkins Instructional Equipment & Supplies		50,000.00
<b>(State Grants)</b>			
	Workforce Skills Capital Equipment		121,128.00
<b>(Competitive/Private)</b>			
Private	Olmsted		5,000.00
Private	BHG Wellness		2,000.00
Private	BCREB: Connecting Activities		1,000.00
Private	City of Chicopee Nurse Grant		2,990.00
Private	Rochester Institute		140.00
Private	MASS MoCA		600.00
Private	Lowe's SkillsUSA Grant		4,000.00
Private	Maine Community College, Solar		8,000.00
<b>TOTAL GRANTS</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>550,982.00</b>

# Cheshire, Massachusetts



## Home

Selectmen's Minutes

Our Community

Schools

About

Municipal Directory

Forms & Permits

Bylaws, Regulations & Reports

Cheshire Library

## OUR TOWN

### Cheshire, Massachusetts

Cheshire is one of several smaller Berkshire County communities in Western Massachusetts that is seeing its population grow! Come and visit and you will see why! Walk the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail; take a boat out on our beautiful lake and hike the Appalachian Trail which crosses through the center of our town! These and so much more are what makes the town of Cheshire so special!

- The draft of the Cheshire Master Plan is now available for public comment [PDF]. Please submit comments to Eammon Coughlin, BRPC Planner, at [ecoughlin@berkshireplanning.org](mailto:ecoughlin@berkshireplanning.org) by May 10th at noon. A hard copy of the draft plan is also available at Town Hall for review. The Master Plan contains several chapters that focus on topics such as the economy, public services, infrastructure, and others. Each chapter begins with a narrative that describes existing conditions within the community. Each chapter ends with the draft goals, objectives, and actions that the town may pursue to implement the Plan. Your comments will help to create a final draft of the plan that will be sent the Planning Board for their approval.

- Cheshire Community Choice Power Supply Program [PDF]
- Cheshire Master Plan Survey Summary [PDF]

FY 17 Cheshire Budget Final 05/31/16 [PDF]

TOWN OF CHESHIRE - COMMUNITY CHOICE POWER SUPPLY PROGRAM  
AGGREGATION PLAN  
PREPARED BY COLONIAL POWER GROUP, INC. [PDF]

### The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail

The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail is a former railroad corridor converted into a 10-foot (3.0 m) wide paved universally accessible scenic rail trail path. The Ashuwillticook (ash-oo-will-ti-cook) Rail Trail runs parallel to Route 8 through the towns of Cheshire, Lanesborough and Adams, Massachusetts and has become a popular resource for biking, walking, rollerblading, and jogging. The trail is managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). .... more

## Posts

### Cheshire Master Plan- Draft

The draft of the Cheshire Master Plan is now available for public comment [PDF].

[Read more ...](#)

### Board of Health Notice

Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District  
2017 Paint Collections

Open to residents of Adams, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Florida, Hancock, Hinsdale, Lanesborough, Monroe, New Ashford, Peru, Savoy, Williamstown and Windsor. These are all Saturday Collections. [Schedule: PDF]

### Dog Licenses

2017-2018 Cheshire Dog Licenses are now available.

[Read more ...](#)

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## Cheshire Information

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### Telephone Numbers for Town of Cheshire Services

Cheshire Board of Selectmen	743-1690 ext 11
Town Administrator	743-1690 ext 18
Town Clerk	743-1690 ext 22
Accountant	743-1690 ext 14
Treasurer	743-1690 ext 15
Water Department	743-1690 ext 16
Board of Health	743-1690 ext 17
Building Inspector	743-1690 ext 19
Tax Collector	743-2826
Board of Assessors	743-3929
Cheshire Highway Garage	743-3376

### EMERGENCY 9-1-1

<b>Cheshire Police</b> (non-emergency)	743-1501
<b>Cheshire Fire Department</b> (non-emergency)	743-3387

Cheshire Library	743-4746
Cheshire Community/Senior Center	743-9719
Cheshire Elementary School	743-2298
Hoosac Valley High School	743-5200
Cheshire Post Office	743-3184

Cheshire Town Website: [www.cheshire-ma.net](http://www.cheshire-ma.net)

Voice Mail is available for all of the above.

**REMINDER: The Cheshire Town Hall and Annex are NOT open on Fridays.**

**Weekly Hours of the Cheshire Town Offices**  
are posted at the 80 Church Street entrance of the Town Hall

Assessors  
Town Clerk

Tax Collector  
Water Department

### Tuesday Evening Hours

Board of Selectmen/ Conservation Commission .....	6:30 to 8:30 (Adjournment when business is concluded)
Board of Health, Water Department, Tax Collector and Town Clerk .....	6:30 to 8:30
Building Inspector at Annex .....	6:00 to 8:30
Cheshire Police at Police Department .....	6:30 to 8:30

### Cheshire Library:

Phone: 413 743 - 4746  
Visit us on: Facebook  
Web: [cheshirepubliclibrary.wordpress.com](http://cheshirepubliclibrary.wordpress.com)  
Town Website: [www.Cheshire-ma.net](http://www.Cheshire-ma.net)  
**Look for notices  
on the Fire Dept. digital sign**

(HOURS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

### Town of Cheshire - Dogs, Taxes and Trash Info

#### DOG LICENSES ARE DUE FOR RENEWAL APRIL of EACH YEAR.

Cheshire Town By-laws state that **all dogs must be licensed by June 1st** or a late fee of \$15 goes into effect; if the dog is not licensed by **August 1st** a fine of \$25 is added to the \$15 totaling \$40 plus the license tag fee.

Cheshire Town By-laws state that **all dogs must be restrained at all times.**

A **pooper-scooper** By-law is also in effect.

A **barking dog** (outdoors) for more than 15 minutes is subject to a fine.

**Real Estate Taxes** are semi-annual due May and November.  
Tax Collector's hours are printed on bills.

**Water Bills** are quarterly  
Water Collector's hours are printed on bills.

**Town Compactor Site:**  
Mon., Fri. & Sat. .... 8:00 to 5:00  
Wednesdays ..... Noon to 5:00

**CHESHIRE COMPACTOR STICKERS**  
are renewable **JULY 1st**.  
Stickers are only available through the Board of Health.

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## COMMONWEALTH COMMUNITY COMPACT

WHEREAS cities and towns and the Commonwealth must work together to create the conditions for a strong and resilient economy; and

WHEREAS cities and towns face increasing pressures on municipal and school budgets which impact essential services; and

WHEREAS cities and towns are partners with the Commonwealth and the Baker-Polito Administration is recommitting itself to that partnership through the Community Compact Cabinet; and

WHEREAS the Commonwealth is committed to promoting mutual standards of best practice for both the state and municipalities that will create clear standards, expectations, and accountability for both partners; and

WHEREAS the citizens of Massachusetts are right to expect forward-thinking, innovative government from both the Commonwealth and local governments.

### Commonwealth Commitments

As a sign of its commitment to an improved partnership with cities and towns, the Baker-Polito Administration:

- Intends to be a reliable partner on local aid.
- Pledges to work with our partners in the Legislature toward earlier local aid formula funding levels.
- Will work to make available technical assistance opportunities for cities and towns as they work toward best practices.
- Will not propose any new unfunded state mandates, and we will look at existing mandates with a goal toward making it easier to manage municipal governments.
- Will give special attention, in its review of state regulations, to those that affect the ability of municipalities to govern themselves.

### Community Commitments

NOW THEREFORE the Town of Cheshire pledges to adopt the following best practice:

1. Sustainable Development and Land Protection: There is a Master, Open Space and Recreation, or other Plan to guide future land conservation and development; Smart growth consistent zoning has been adopted; Investments in infrastructure and land conservation are consistent with the MA Sustainable Development Principles.

The Commonwealth will work with the Town of Cheshire as a partner in implementing this best practice, including prioritizing technical assistance when that is needed to accomplish execution of a new best practice.

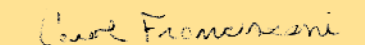
### Commonwealth Compact Community Incentives

The Baker-Polito Administration seeks to recognize municipalities that are striving to become more innovative and accountable and introduce incentives through various state grants and programs to reward municipalities who have signed Community Compacts and committed themselves to continuous improvement. Municipalities that pledge to adopt best practices through compacts will get bonus points on selected state grant programs and will be prioritized for various technical assistance programs.

TOGETHER we sign this Community Compact in a spirit of partnership and public service, understanding that we serve the citizens of our Commonwealth and that our citizens deserve the best government possible.

Signed this 17<sup>th</sup> of May in the Year 2016

  
Lt. Governor Karyn Polito  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

  
Carol Francesconi  
Chair, Cheshire Board of Selectmen

*God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts*