

Cheshire TOWN of

MASSACHUSETTS



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Federal, State and County Officials

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

Facebook: 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 - 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/ - 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

Facebook: 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 - Facebook: www.facebook.com/SenatorAdamHinds

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

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

Representative

John Barrett III

District Contact: Adams Town Hall, 8 Park Street - Adams, MA 01220

1-413-743-8320

Boston Office: Boston State House, Room 134 - Boston, MA 02133

1-617-722-2400

Email: john.barrett@mahouse.gov

On the Net: www.mass.gov (informational site for Massachusetts)

Town of
CHESHIRE

MASSACHUSETTS



Annual Report
2021

In Memoriam

Ruth Louise Andrew

*Librarian
Town Clerk
Library Trustee*

Edward E. Betit

Zoning Board of Appeals

Raymond P. Fisher

Hoosac Lake District

Everett L. "Gus" Martin

*Assessor
Historical Commission*

Donald F. Rueger

Water Commissioner

Town Elected Officials

Office	Term Expires	Office	Term Expires
Selectmen		Constables	
Mark Biagini	2022	Robert Copeland	2022
Michelle Francesconi	2022	C.J. Garner	2022
Jason Levesque	2023	Alison Warner	2022
Raymond Killeen	2024		
Shawn McGrath	2024	Planning Board	
Moderator		Francis Griswold	2022
Donna DeFino	2022	Peter Traub	2024
		Aaron Singer	2025
Board of Assessors		<i>appointed 7/21</i> Dael Skorcz	2022
Nancy Delorey	2022	<i>appointed 7/21</i> E. Richard Scholz	2022
Barbara Astorino	2023		
Everett L. Martin	2024	Hoosac Valley Regional School District School Committee Members from Cheshire	
Board of Health		Michael Henault	2022
C.J. Garner	2022	Adam Emerson	2023
Michael Kruszyna	2023	Bethany DeMarco	2024
Brian Trudeau	2024		
Water Commissioners		Hoosac Valley Regional School District School Committee Members from Adams	
Stephen LaFogg	2022	Nanette Reid	2022
Mickey Biagini	2023	Regina Hill	2023
Ricky Gurney	2024	Michael Mucci Jr.	2024
Cemetery Commissioners		Northern Berkshire Vocational School District School Committee Member from Cheshire	
Richard Francesconi	2022	William Craig	2022
Stephen LaFogg	2023		
Sandra Sloane	2024		
Tax Collector			
Rebecca Herzog	2024		
Town Clerk			
Christine B. Emerson	2024		

Town Appointments

Appointment	Name	Term	Appointment	Name	Term
Town Administrator BRTA Representative Procurement Officer	Jennifer Morse	Yearly	Right To Know Co-ordinator		Yearly
<i>appointed 7/21</i>			Farm Commission		Three Year Appointments
Superintendent of Streets Tree Warden Inspector of Ditches Measurer of Wood and Bark	Robert Navin	Yearly		Kim Martin	2022
				Jason Turner	2022
Treasurer	Rebecca Herzog	Yearly		Michael Balawender	2022
				Joseph Wrenn	2022
Accountant	Lynne Lemanski	Yearly		Eric Whitney	2022
			Fence Viewers		Yearly
Town Counsel	Edmund St. John III	Yearly		3 members of Farm Commission	
			Greylock Advisory Council		Yearly
Building Commissioner ADA Co-ordinator Zoning Enforcement Officer	Travis Fachini	Yearly		Gary Trudeau	
<i>appointed 9/21</i>			Mohawk Valley Woodland Council		Yearly
Local Building Inspector		Yearly		Jennifer Morse	
Inspector of Wiring	George Sweet	Yearly	Representatives to Northern Berkshire Arts Council		Three Year Appointments
			2 representatives		
Assistant Wiring Inspector	Leslie Rhinemiller	Yearly	<i>appointed 10/2021</i>	Barbara Proper	2024
				Arthur Kaufman	
Inspector Gas/Plumbing	Michael Biros	Yearly	Recreation Committee		Yearly
<i>appointed 9/21</i>				Heather Emerson	
Assistant Gas/Plumbing Inspector	John Burzimati	Yearly		Andrew Kachel	
				Robin Poirot	
Emergency Management Co-ordinator	Corey Swistak	Yearly	Delegate to Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management program		Yearly
				C.J. Garner	
Assistant Emergency Management	Fred Balawender	Yearly	Northern Berkshire Cable Representative		Yearly
Animal Control Officer Animal Inspector		Yearly	Rent Control Board Memorial Day Parade		Yearly
				Board of Selectmen	
Keeper of the Pound		Yearly	Conservation Commission		Yearly
				Carol Francesconi	
				Ronald DeAngelis	
				Raymond Killeen	
			Council on Aging Director		Yearly
				Carole Hilderbrand	
			Assistant COA		Yearly
				Brenda Caufield	

Appointment	Name	Term
Council on Aging Members 7 member board, 1 alternate	<i>Three Year Appointments</i>	
	Margaret Gwozdz	2022
	Barbara Proper	2022
	Peter Traub	2024
	John Bianchi	2021
	Carol Francesconi	2023
	Robert Balawender	2023
Emergency Management Committee		<i>Yearly</i>
	Corey Swistak	
	Mark Biagini	
	Michelle Francesconi	
	Raymond Killeen	
	Jason Levesque	
	Shawn McGrath	
	C.J. Garner	
	Travis Delratez	
	Robert Navin	
	Timothy Garner	
	Michael Alibozek	
	Thomas Francesconi	
	Jennifer Morse	
	William Lewis	
Mutual Vulnerability Program Core Team		<i>Yearly</i>
	Jennifer Morse	
	Robert Navin	
	Thomas Francesconi	
	Michael Alibozek	
	Lisa Karandisecky	
	Corey Swistak	
Historical Commission		<i>Three Year Appointments</i>
	Diane Hitter	2022
	Everett Martin	2023
	Robert Hitter	2022
	George Reynolds	2024
	Lois Nangle	2022
	Elaine Daniels	2024
	Jared Martin	2022
	Barry Emery	Emeritis
Board of Registrar of Voters		<i>Three Year Appointments</i>
	Gary Herzog	2022
	Elizabeth King	2023
	Diane Hitter	2024
Election Official		<i>Yearly</i>
	Alsion Warner	
Assistant Election Official		<i>Yearly</i>
	Ronald Lancia	

Appointment	Name	Term
Fire Chief		<i>Yearly</i>
	Thomas Francesconi	
Police Chief		<i>Yearly</i>
	Timothy Garner	
Police Sargeant		<i>Yearly</i>
	Michael Alibozek	
Officers		<i>Yearly</i>
	David Tarjick	
	Cody Alvarez	
	Robert Hungate	
	Amilio Justino	
Special Detail Police Officers		<i>Yearly</i>
	Alison Warner	
	Peter Mazzacco	
	Paul Maloney	
Harbor Master		<i>Lifetime</i>
	William Lewis	2024
Zoning Board of Appeals		<i>Yearly</i>
	Thomas Zappula	
	Stephen Marko	
	Dale Grimshaw	
	Jared Martin	Alternate
	Jeffrey Reynolds	Alternate
	Robert Balawender	Alternate
Secretary Planning Board		
Zoning Board of Appeals		
Conservation Commission		<i>Yearly</i>
	Carole Hilderbrand	

Appointments by the Moderator

Appointment	Name	Term
Finance Committee Seven Member Board		
	John Tremblay	2024
	Kathleen Levesque	2024
	Heather Emerson	2022
	Denise Gregoire	2022
	Lenwood Vaspra	2022

Town Clerk

VITAL RECORDS RECORDED

Births	11
Deaths.....	30
Marriages.....	3
Census	3,230
16 years and over	2,920
0 to 15 years	310

REGISTERED VOTERS..... 2,463

Democrats	559
Republicans	282
Green-Rainbow	1
Libertarian	10
Independent Party	12
Other	4
Unenrolled	1,595

GASOLINE STORAGE PERMIT RENEWALS

Bedard Bros.	\$ 25
Casella	25
H.D. Reynolds	25
Hoosac Valley Middle & High School	25
MGE Realty	25
O'Connell Convenience	25
Whitney Farm Market	25
	<u>25</u>
	\$ 175

BUSINESS CERTIFICATES

New	11	
Renewals	<u>4</u>	
<i>\$20 for 4 year period</i>		\$ 300

SALE OF DOG LICENSES

Males	27
Neutered males	123
Females	10
Spayed Females	180
4 Dog Multi Unit	3
10 Dog Multi Unit	<u>1</u>

*Amount turned over to Treasurer
(including Late Fees)* **\$ 4,005**

Another challenging year with COVID-19 and Variants.

Gratitude, as ever, to the Poll Workers who continued to volunteer to work the Polls. A very dedicated group of people.

To the Town Officials and Boards my thanks.

Again, thank you to the Cheshire Residents for working with the Town Hall under the COVID restrictions.

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

Christine B. Emerson

Board of Selectmen

To the Residents of the Town of Cheshire:

Throughout Fiscal Year 2021, the global focus remained on COVID and the impact upon health and safety. The Town of Cheshire adapted to the ever-changing environment of a pandemic through open dialogue decision making and balanced discussion. The community members and businesses were supportive of one another and, together, we maintained a way of life that met the needs of the people.

Our Board was very proud of and thankful for the commitment of the Board of Health, Fire Department, Police Department, Town employees, and volunteers who persevered and maintained a level of service for the people. Our police officers, firefighters, and Emergency Medical Technicians, alongside Adams Ambulance, remained strong in the face of health concerns and continued to answer the call when needed. The Council on Aging and Cheshire Food Pantry provided meals, pantry donations, coordinated financial assistance, and organized health clinics to ensure the well-being of our seniors and underserved population. Town employees adapted to changing regulations and allowed the Town to operate as close to normal as possible.

In addition to continuity of service, maintaining a livable community became something for our Town to be proud of during the pandemic. Through smart initiatives, we were able to keep our outdoor recreation opportunities accessible to the people. We worked to ensure that children had a place to play, so we kept our playground open. We proudly allowed youth sports to return, and our fields were once again filled with children and the sounds of laughter. The Cheshire Appalachian Trail Community Committee, in collaboration with Town departments and community members, continued work on the newly approved Father Tom Campsite and tirelessly dedicated time throughout the year to create a place for hikers to find respite while in town. These steadfast volunteers also took to the Appalachian Trail to pick up trash and clean graffiti off the Cobbles. The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail and Hoosac Lake also provided residents and visitors with ample opportunities to enjoy the beautiful outdoors and remain active during the pandemic.

Aside from the pandemic, the Board of Selectmen continued to make strides toward improving the Town. Throughout the year, the Board held hybrid meetings which allowed the Board to meet in-person, with members of the public joining remotely via internet or telephone connections. The format allowed the Board to better communicate with one another and focus on accomplishing necessary tasks. During the Fiscal Year 2022 budget process, the Board decided to move forward with hiring a full-time Town Administrator, a first for the community. Recognizing the need for increased oversight of Town operations, a regular need for grant funding, and an overall focus on improving the community, the Board decided it was vital to the Town's survival to expand the position. With overwhelming support at the Annual Town Meeting in June of 2021, the position was approved and Jennifer Morse was hired to fill the role. The Board will work with Jennifer, alongside Town staff, volunteers, and residents, to strengthen the community and ensure long-term success.

The Board of Selectmen sincerely extends its gratitude to the residents of Cheshire, to the appointed and elected officials, to the volunteers, and to the business owners. Together we make Cheshire a Town to be proud of.

Sincerely,

Michelle Francesconi
Chairman
Mark Biagini
Jason Levesque
Robert Ciskowski
(resigned in January 2021)
Ronald DeAngelis
(term finished in May 2021)
Shawn McGrath
(elected in May 2021)
Raymond Killeen
(elected in May 2021)

Town of Cheshire Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Groups as of June 30, 2021 (Unaudited)

	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Types	Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Groups	Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects				
ASSETS							
Cash and cash equivalents	1,444,560.28	261,429.86	7,627.00	249,555.29	902,713.16		2,865,885.59
Investments							0.00
Receivables:							
Personal property taxes	5,085.23						5,085.23
Real estate taxes	208,483.68						208,483.68
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	(79,064.61)						(79,064.61)
Tax liens	147,099.63						147,099.63
Tax Foreclosures	15,357.29						15,357.29
Deferred taxes							0.00
Motor vehicle excise	100,812.74						100,812.74
Other excises							0.00
User fees				123,077.72			123,077.72
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds				390,000.00		313,422.75	703,422.75
Amounts to be provided - vacation/sick leave							0.00
Total Assets	1,842,334.24	261,429.86	7,627.00	762,633.01	902,713.16	313,422.75	4,090,160.02
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY							
Liabilities:							
Warrants payable				830.78			830.78
Accounts payable							0.00
Accrued payroll	9,090.51						9,090.51
Withholdings	553.04						553.04
Other liabilities	15,912.57						15,912.57

	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Types	Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Groups	Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects				
Deferred revenue:							
Real and personal property taxes	134,504.30						134,504.30
Tax liens	147,099.63						147,099.63
Tax Foreclosures	15,357.29						15,357.29
Motor vehicle excise	100,812.74						100,812.74
User fees				123,077.72			123,077.72
Notes payable			483,650.00	390,000.00		313,422.75	1,187,072.75
Total Liabilities	423,330.08	0.00	483,650.00	513,908.50	0.00	313,422.75	1,734,311.33
Fund Equity:							
Reserved for encumbrances	278,913.40						278,913.40
Reserved for continuing appropriations							0.00
Reserved for expenditures	353,200.00	261,429.86	(476,023.00)	150,000.00	902,713.16		1,191,320.02
Undesignated fund balance	786,890.76						786,890.76
Unreserved retained earnings				98,724.51			98,724.51
Total Fund Equity	1,419,004.16	261,429.86	(476,023.00)	248,724.51	902,713.16	0.00	2,355,848.69
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	1,842,334.24	261,429.86	7,627.00	762,633.01	902,713.16	313,422.75	4,090,160.02

Ledger History - Allocated Summary - Revenue Ledger

Parameters: Fiscal Year: 2021 Start Date: 07/01/2020 end: 06/30/2021

Account Number	Name	Allocated	Expended	Ending	% Var.	
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund Code:		01 - GENERAL FUND				
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object		110 - unnamed				
01-4-110-020-000	Personal Prop 2020	0.00	309.00	309.00	0.00	
01-4-110-021-000	Personal Prop 2021	0.00	147,073.03	147,073.03	0.00	
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object		110 - unnamed	0.00	147,382.03	147,382.03	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object		118 - unnamed				
01-4-118-015-000	Real Estate 2015	0.00	891.13	891.13	0.00	
01-4-118-017-000	Real Estate 2017	0.00	958.50	958.50	0.00	
01-4-118-018-000	Real Estate 2018	0.00	8,853.14	8,853.14	0.00	
01-4-118-019-000	Real Estate 2019	0.00	36,242.38	36,242.38	0.00	
01-4-118-020-000	Real Estate 2020	0.00	78,403.86	78,403.86	0.00	
01-4-118-021-000	Real Estate 2021	0.00	4,132,982.53	4,132,982.53	0.00	
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object		118 - unnamed	0.00	4,258,331.54	4,258,331.54	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object		122 - unnamed				
01-4-122-000-000	Tax Titles & Tax Possessions	0.00	3,803.49	3,803.49	0.00	
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object		122 - unnamed	0.00	3,803.49	3,803.49	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object		125 - unnamed				
01-4-125-000-000	Mobile Home Fees	0.00	15,636.00	15,636.00	0.00	
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object		125 - unnamed	0.00	15,636.00	15,636.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object		150 - unnamed				
01-4-150-013-000	2013 Motor Vehicle Revenue	0.00	11.04	11.04	0.00	
01-4-150-014-000	2014 Motor Vehicle Revenue	0.00	5.83	5.83	0.00	
01-4-150-015-000	2015 Motor Vehicle Revenue	0.00	95.00	95.00	0.00	
01-4-150-016-000	2016 Motor Vehicle Revenue	0.00	380.62	380.62	0.00	
01-4-150-017-000	2017 Motor Vehicle Revenue	0.00	546.47	546.47	0.00	
01-4-150-018-000	2018 MV Excise Revenue	0.00	1,151.25	1,151.25	0.00	
01-4-150-019-000	2019 Motor Vehicle Revenue	0.00	8,582.76	8,582.76	0.00	
01-4-150-020-000	2020 Motor Vehicle Revenue	0.00	92,435.51	92,435.51	0.00	
01-4-150-021-000	2021 Motor Vehicle Revenue	0.00	452,859.89	452,859.89	0.00	
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object		150 - unnamed	0.00	556,068.37	556,068.37	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object		170 - unnamed				
01-4-170-000-000	Penalty & Int. on Taxes	0.00	23,446.22	23,446.22	0.00	
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object		170 - unnamed	0.00	23,446.22	23,446.22	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object		172 - unnamed				
01-4-172-000-000	Penalty & Interest Excise	0.00	5,422.42	5,422.42	0.00	
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object		172 - unnamed	0.00	5,422.42	5,422.42	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object		174 - unnamed				
01-4-174-000-000	Penalty & Int. Tax Titles	0.00	5,717.60	5,717.60	0.00	
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object		174 - unnamed	0.00	5,717.60	5,717.60	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object		280 - unnamed				
01-4-280-000-000	Sale of Laws & Lists	0.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object		280 - unnamed	0.00	10.00	10.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object		285 - unnamed				
01-4-285-000-000	MV Marking Fees	0.00	2,280.00	2,280.00	0.00	
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object		285 - unnamed	0.00	2,280.00	2,280.00	n/a

Account Number	Name	Allocated	Expended	Ending	% Var.
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 322 - unnamed					
01-4-322-100-000	Cemetery - Grave Openings	0.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	0.00
01-4-322-200-000	Cemetery - Misc Work & Wknd Ch	0.00	800.00	800.00	0.00
01-4-322-300-000	Cemetery - Equipment Use	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00
01-4-322-600-000	Cemetery - Deed Fee	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 322 - unnamed		0.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 323 - unnamed					
01-4-323-500-000	Filing Fees - Planning Board	0.00	-95.25	-95.25	0.00
01-4-323-600-000	Filing Fees - Cons Commission	0.00	1,612.50	1,612.50	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 323 - unnamed		0.00	1,517.25	1,517.25	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 324 - unnamed					
01-4-324-000-000	Refuse Bags	0.00	98,860.00	98,860.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 324 - unnamed		0.00	98,860.00	98,860.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 325 - unnamed					
01-4-325-000-000	Fees - Health Board	0.00	16,833.70	16,833.70	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 325 - unnamed		0.00	16,833.70	16,833.70	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 327 - unnamed					
01-4-327-000-000	Fees - Planning Board	0.00	754.95	754.95	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 327 - unnamed		0.00	754.95	754.95	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 328 - unnamed					
01-4-328-000-000	Fees - Conservation Comm.	0.00	203.00	203.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 328 - unnamed		0.00	203.00	203.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 329 - unnamed					
01-4-329-000-000	Fees - Council on Aging Van	0.00	393.00	393.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 329 - unnamed		0.00	393.00	393.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 332 - unnamed					
01-4-332-000-000	Fees - Cable	0.00	11,936.10	0.00	
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 332 - unnamed		0.00	11,936.10	11,936.10	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 334 - unnamed					
01-4-334-000-000	Fees - Police	0.00	5,928.97	5,928.97	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 334 - unnamed		0.00	5,928.97	5,928.97	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 336 - unnamed					
01-4-336-000-000	Community Impact Fee	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 336 - unnamed		0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 360 - unnamed					
01-4-360-050-000	Rental Town Buildings	0.00	28,000.00	28,000.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 360 - unnamed		0.00	28,000.00	28,000.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 362 - unnamed					
01-4-362-000-000	Town Clerk Misc. Receipts	0.00	310.00	310.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 362 - unnamed		0.00	310.00	310.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 400 - unnamed					
01-4-400-001-000	Tax Collector Fees	0.00	14,780.00	14,780.00	0.00
01-4-400-002-000	Municipal Lien Fees	0.00	2,900.00	2,900.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 400 - unnamed		0.00	17,680.00	17,680.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 410 - unnamed					
01-4-410-000-000	Liquor Licenses	0.00	2,150.00	2,150.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 410 - unnamed		0.00	2,150.00	2,150.00	n/a

Account Number	Name		Allocated	Expended	Ending	% Var.
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 01-4-442-000-000	442 - unnamed Licenses - Other		0.00	1,080.00	1,080.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	442 - unnamed		0.00	1,080.00	1,080.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 01-4-445-000-000	445 - unnamed Dog Licenses	0.00	4,110.00	4,110.00	0.00	
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	445 - unnamed		0.00	4,110.00	4,110.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 01-4-447-000-000	447 - unnamed Permits - Fire Dept		0.00	3,145.00	3,145.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	447 - unnamed		0.00	3,145.00	3,145.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 01-4-449-500-000	449 - unnamed Permits - Board of Health		0.00	2,215.00	2,215.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	449 - unnamed		0.00	2,215.00	2,215.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 01-4-450-000-000	450 - Federal Revenue Permits - Building Dept.		0.00	15,055.00	15,055.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	450 - Federal Revenue		0.00	15,055.00	15,055.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 01-4-451-000-000	451 - unnamed Permits - Police Dept.		0.00	2,075.00	2,075.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	451 - unnamed		0.00	2,075.00	2,075.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 01-4-452-000-000	452 - unnamed Permits - Plumbing		0.00	4,210.00	4,210.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	452 - unnamed		0.00	4,210.00	4,210.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 01-4-453-000-000	453 - unnamed Permits - Wiring		0.00	18,054.00	18,054.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	453 - unnamed		0.00	18,054.00	18,054.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 01-4-454-000-000	454 - unnamed Permits - Other		0.00	225.00	225.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	454 - unnamed		0.00	225.00	225.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 01-4-540-000-000	540 - unnamed Federally Owned Land		0.00	960.00	960.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	540 - unnamed		0.00	960.00	960.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 01-4-610-000-000	610 - unnamed Reimb. State Owned Land		0.00	113,786.00	113,786.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	610 - unnamed		0.00	113,786.00	113,786.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 01-4-612-000-000	612 - unnamed Abatements-Elderly		0.00	506.00	506.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	612 - unnamed		0.00	506.00	506.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 01-4-627-000-000	627 - unnamed Comm Mass - Elderly Reimb		0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	627 - unnamed		0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 01-4-628-000-000	628 - unnamed Comm Mass - RMV Infractions		0.00	7,068.75	7,068.75	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	628 - unnamed		0.00	7,068.75	7,068.75	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object 01-4-631-000-000	631 - unnamed Comm Mass - Chapter 70		0.00	7,672.00	7,672.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	631 - unnamed		0.00	7,672.00	7,672.00	n/a

Account Number	Name	Allocated	Expended	Ending	% Var.
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	632 - unnamed				
01-4-632-000-000	Comm Mass - Unrestricted Gen Govt Aid	0.00	652,321.00	652,321.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	632 - unnamed	0.00	652,321.00	652,321.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	635 - unnamed				
01-4-635-000-000	Comm Mass - Extended Polling	0.00	810.00	810.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	635 - unnamed	0.00	810.00	810.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	662 - unnamed				
01-4-662-000-000	Comm Mass - Veterans Svcs	0.00	37,149.00	37,149.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	662 - unnamed	0.00	37,149.00	37,149.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	680 - unnamed				
01-4-680-000-000	Other State Revenue	0.00	361.75	361.75	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	680 - unnamed	0.00	361.75	361.75	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	770 - unnamed				
01-4-770-000-000	Fines - Parking	0.00	40.00	40.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	770 - unnamed	0.00	40.00	40.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	771 - unnamed				
01-4-771-000-000	Fines - District Court	0.00	140.00	140.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	771 - unnamed	0.00	140.00	140.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	815 - unnamed				
01-4-815-000-000	Sale of Fixed Assets	0.00	1,775.00	1,775.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	815 - unnamed	0.00	1,775.00	1,775.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	820 - unnamed				
01-4-820-000-000	Earnings of Investments	0.00	4,731.33	4,731.33	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	820 - unnamed	0.00	4,731.33	4,731.33	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	840 - unnamed				
01-4-840-000-000	Miscellaneous Revenue	0.00	80,614.83	80,614.83	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	840 - unnamed	0.00	80,614.83	80,614.83	n/a
Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund Code: 01 - GENERAL FUND		0.00	6,174,269.30	6,174,269.30	n/a
Group 1: Segment 1: Fund Code: 65 - ENTERPRISE FUND					
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	176 - unnamed				
65-4-176-000-000	Timber Sales	0.00	31,778.00	31,778.00	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	176 - unnamed	0.00	31,778.00	31,778.00	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	210 - unnamed				
65-4-210-010-000	Water Rents	0.00	305,081.03	305,081.03	0.00
65-4-210-020-000	Work Payments	0.00	1,400.36	1,400.36	0.00
65-4-210-050-000	Internal Transfer from the Town for Usage of Water Utilities & Water De	0.00	4,334.93	4,334.93	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	210 - unnamed	0.00	310,816.32	310,816.32	n/a
Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	820 - unnamed				
65-4-820-000-000	Earnings on Investment	0.00	1,666.02	1,666.02	0.00
Total Group 2: Segment 3: Rev Object	820 - unnamed	0.00	1,666.02	1,666.02	n/a
Total Group 1: Segment 1: Fund Code: 65 - ENTERPRISE FUND		0.00	344,260.34	344,260.34	n/a
72 Account(s) totaling:		0.00	6,518,529.64	6,518,529.64	n/a

Treasurer's Report

To the Board of Selectmen and the Town of Cheshire:

The Annual Report of the Town Treasurer for FY 2021 is hereby submitted:

Departmental Receipts	Receipt Detail	Total Receipts	Departmental Receipts	Receipt Detail	Total Receipts
Board of Health			Dept. of Interior		
Bags & Stickers	\$ 98,860.00		PILT -		
Transfer Station - Demo	16,833.70		Federally Owned Land	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00
Permits	2,215.00				
Perc Tests	3,715.00	\$ 121,623.70	Fire Dept.		
			Permits	3,145.00	3,145.00
Board of Selectmen			Interest		
Licenses/Fees	15,266.10		General Fund	4,489.71	
Rental Income (CES)	28,000.00		Trust Funds	4,985.56	9,475.27
Community Impact Fee	5,000.00				
Sale of Fixed Assets	1,775.00		Planning Board		
Insurance Recovery	43,496.65		Filing Fees	1,350.00	1,350.00
National Grid Rebate	24,787.25				
CH71 Reimb Voc Transport	15,840.00	134,165.00	Plumbing/Gas Inspector		
			Permits	4,610.00	4,610.00
Building Inspector			Police Dept.		
Permits	15,055.00	15,055.00	Details	49,814.03	
			Permits	11,026.50	
Cemetery			CMVI - RMV Infractions	7,068.75	
Grave Openings	6,500.00		N. Berkshire District		
Misc Work & Wkend Charge	800.00		Court Reports	140.00	
Equipment Use	100.00		Equipment Grant	33,694.88	
Deed Fee	100.00		Fees/Fines	5,954.97	107,699.13
Perpetual Care Fund	2,100.00				
Sale of Lots	1,325.00	10,925.00	Refunds	855.09	855.09
Commonwealth of MA			Tax Collector		
General Government (Lottery)	652,321.00		Taxes/Interest/Fees	5,054,069.96	5,054,069.96
Chapter 70	7,672.00				
State Owned Land	113,786.00		Town Clerk		
Elderly/Blind Exemption Reimb	1,506.00		Dog Licenses	4,110.00	
State Aid Assessments	(30,382.00)		Fines/Late Fees	635.00	
Other State Revenue	361.75		Rental Community Ctr	-	
MEMA COVID-19 Grants	162,500.00		Miscellaneous	445.00	5,190.00
EMPG Grant	2,642.95				
Library Grant	5,572.34		Treasurer		
Green Communities Grant	33,510.00		Health Insurance Premiums	29,105.92	
Community Development			Tax titles	10,963.68	40,069.60
Block Grant	314,745.00				
MVP Planning Grant	32,000.00		Water Dept.		
Board of Health			Rents	305,081.03	
Recycling Program	4,550.00		Work Permits	1,400.36	
Veteran Services Reimb	37,149.00		Timber Sales	31,778.00	
Extended Polling	810.00		Earnings on Investments	1,424.40	339,683.79
Chapter 90	183,555.23	1,522,299.27			
			Wire Inspector		
Conservation Commission			Permits	18,054.00	18,054.00
Fees/Permits	2,823.00	2,823.00			
			Zoning Board of Appeals	800.00	800.00
Council on Aging					
Revolving Fund Gift Account	7,693.23		TOTAL RECEIPTS		
Elder Affairs Grant	9,528.00		FY 2021:	\$ 7,412,872.04	\$ 7,412,872.04
Fallon Health Mini-Grant	2,000.00				
Martap Grant Program	405.00				
Van Receipts	\$ 393.00	\$ 20,019.23			

SCHEDULE OF TRUST FUNDS:

OPEB Trust Fund	\$ 26,706.57
Stabilization	447,353.40
Capital Equipment Stabilization	114,134.22
Cemetery Dept - Perpetual Care	176,303.79
Cemetery Dept - Sale of Lots	20,629.10
Cemetery Dept - Whipple and Harkness	33,088.25
Cemetery Dept - Dumont	6,105.75
Cemetery Dept - Benjamin & Phyllis Bissell	1,335.24
Cemetery Dept - John L. Brown	1,628.91
Cemetery Dept - Lorraine N. Braund	44,254.23
Philip Burns Public Library	6,843.23
Philip Burns Public School	20,171.57
Westminster Chime	1,499.38
Veteran's Memorial	2,659.52
Balance June 30, 2021	\$ 902,713.16

LOANS:

**BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE -
DEPARTMENTAL EQUIPMENT (GRADER)**

Easthampton Savings Bank

Loan Amount (Renewal)	\$ 138,400.00
Issue Date - April 30, 2021	
Due Date - April 29, 2022	
Interest Rate - 0.39%	
Balance July 1, 2020	138,400.00
Annual Payment Amount	0.00
Interest Expense	\$ 0.00
Balance June 30, 2021	138,400.00

**BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE -
DEPARTMENTAL EQUIPMENT (GRADER)**

Adams Community Bank

Loan Amount	173,000.00
Issue Date - May 1, 2020	
Due Date - April 30, 2021	
Interest Rate - 1.25%	
Balance July 1, 2020	173,000.00
Paydown on Grader:	(34,600.00)
BAN renewal amount:	138,400.00
Interest Expense	2,156.49
Balance June 30, 2021	0.00

**BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE -
DEPARTMENTAL EQUIPMENT**

Easthampton Savings Bank

Loan Amount (Renewal)	345,250.00
Fire Truck:	314,000.00
Highway Truck:	31,250.00
Issue Date - January 29, 2021	
Due Date - January 28, 2022	
Interest Rate - 0.53%	
Balance July 1, 2020	345,250.00
Annual Payment Amount	0.00
Interest Expense	\$ 0.00
Balance June 30, 2021	\$ 345,250.00

**BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE -
DEPARTMENTAL EQUIPMENT**

Greenfield Cooperative Bank

Loan Amount (Renewal)	\$ 411,500.00
Fire Truck:	\$ 349,000.00
Highway Truck:	62,500.00
Issue Date - January 31, 2020	
Due Date - January 29, 2021	
Interest Rate - 1.60%	
Balance July 1, 2020	411,500.00
Paydown on Fire Truck:	(35,000.00)
Paydown on Highway Truck:	(31,250.00)
BAN renewal amount:	345,250.00
Interest Expense	6,565.71
Balance June 30, 2021	0.00

WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS BOND ISSUE

USDA RUS Loan: 455,000.00

USDA RUS Grant: 150,440.00

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, 2020	403,000.00
Annual Payment Amount	(13,000.00)
Interest Expense	9,067.50
Balance June 30, 2021	390,000.00

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 - 4.75%	
Balance July 1, 2020	385,000.00
Annual Payment Amount	(90,000.00)
Interest Expense	18,287.50
Balance June 30, 2021	295,000.00

**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, 2020	27,088.49
Annual Payment Amount	(8,665.74)
Interest Expense	\$ 1,151.26
Balance June 30, 2021	\$ 18,422.75

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 2021 is hereby submitted:

Outstanding Taxes as of July 1, 2020:

Real Estate	\$ 254,030.39
Personal Property	5,055.17
Motor Vehicle	68,252.37
TOTAL	327,337.93

Abatements/Exemptions:

Real Estate	30,626.15
Personal Property	370.76
Motor Vehicle	16,255.52
TOTAL	47,252.43

Committed to collect:

Real Estate	4,272,875.38
Personal Property	147,783.88
Motor Vehicle	604,884.30
TOTAL	5,025,543.56

Refunds:

Real Estate	7,864.39
Motor Vehicle	9,047.51
TOTAL	16,911.90

Turned over to the Treasurer:

Real Estate Taxes	4,266,157.09
Personal Property Taxes	147,382.03
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	565,115.88
Tax Title	29,496.58
Mobile Home Excise	15,636.00
Interest	28,868.64
Registry Marking Fees	2,280.00
Municipal Lien Fees	2,900.00
Tax Collector Fees	14,780.00
Deputy Collector Fees	8,434.00
TOTAL	5,081,050.22

Outstanding Taxes as of June 30, 2021:

Real Estate	208,490.34
Personal Property	5,086.26
Motor Vehicle	100,812.78
TOTAL	314,389.38

Hoosac Lake District

Outstanding Taxes July 1, 2020:	6,698.80
Committed to collect:	34,155.38
Turned over to Treasurer:	33,736.61
Outstanding Taxes June 30, 2021:	7,117.57

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Herzog

Board of Assessors

The annual report of the Board of Assessors for Fiscal Year 2021 is hereby submitted.

Fiscal year 2021 Real Estate and Personal Property taxes were committed to the Tax Collector on October 27, 2020.

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 five 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.

Sales were analyzed for the FY 2021 Interim Adjustment and value tables changes were made to reflect the market.

The tax rate decreased from \$13.44 to \$13.37

The Hoosac Lake District tax rate changed from \$1.35 to \$1.28

Real Estate & Personal Property Commitments and Abatements

Commitments

Type	No. of Bills	Tax	Valuation
Real Estate	1,604	\$ 4,272,875.38	\$ 319,586,118
Personal Prop	37	147,783.88	11,047,984
Hoosac Lake Dist	106	34,155.38	26,683,600
Total	1,747	\$ 4,454,814.64	\$ 357,317,702

Abatements & Exemptions

Abatements RE	2	\$ 659.15
Abatements PP	2	370.76
Abatements LD	0	0.00
Elderly Exempt	17	4,600.00
Veteran Exempt	30	24,492.00
Blind Exempt	2	875.00
Clause 18 Exempt	0	0.00
Total	49	\$ 30,996.91

Motor Vehicle Excise Commitments & Abatements

Commitments

Year	No. of Bills	Tax
2020	590	\$ 61,030.38
2020	3,975	543,853.92
Total	4565	\$ 604,884.30

Abatements

Year	No. of Abatements	Tax Abated
2019	5	\$ 343.98
2020	75	7,876.73
2021	60	8,034.81
Total	140	\$ 16,255.52

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Astorino
Everett Martin
Nancy Delorey

Board of Health

March 7, 2022

To the residents of the Town of Cheshire, the Board of Health respectfully submits its Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2021.

As we entered our second year of combatting the Corona-virus within our town, we were able to stay up to date on the ever-changing health codes that pertain to COVID-19.

With the Coronavirus came the housing market boom that kept us busy with Title V septic inspections and perc tests.

We completed inspections of all foodservice establish-ments, retail locations, home kitchens, and restaurants within our town to ensure that all were in compliance with state and local food code.

At our Transfer Station we were able bring on a second attendant to help run things more efficiently. We also did away with blue trash bags and introduced the bag tag system in order to reduce costs for the town and reduce waste.

Respectfully,

The Board of Health

Christopher Garner
Brian Trudeau
Michael Kruszyna

Cemetery Commission

The Cemetery Commission hereby submits the annual report for Fiscal Year 2021.

The goal of the Cemetery Commission is to oversee the upkeep of the cemetery grounds including maintaining the equipment used by town employees. We feel we have met that goal and will continue to be sure visiting the cemetery will be a pleasant and calm experience.

The addition of Sandra Sloane, as our newest member, has enabled her to start updating and digitizing all our files. This will allow us to access the deeds, maps and records in a more efficient manner.

During the year there were 7 Full Burials, 16 Cremation Burials and 10 Lots were sold.

Also, during the year, siding and a metal roof was installed on the Cemetery garage. This project will ensure the garage will be maintenance free for many years.

A planned project for the coming year is repair work on the existing vault that is used to retain a person during the winter months, while the cemetery is closed.

We would like to thank all the town officials, Bob Navin and his highway crew. Also, Tizzy, Roger and Brandon, who do an outstanding job in keeping a high level of standards at the cemetery.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Francesconi
Stephen R. LaFogg
Sandra Sloane

Cheshire Council on Aging

Cheshire COA Center for Active Living

In consideration of the world challenges facing people, the Cheshire COA Center for Active Living has maintained a friendly, informative social service network, health safety environment at 119 School Street by offering understanding, compassion, and kindness. Our accomplishments are many due to a dedicated volunteer team. This report covers July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

The following activities and programs offered were:

- * Grab n' Go Lunches were offered five (5) days per week with sit down lunches offered three (3) days a week. Total number of lunches: 4,664.
- * The Brown Bag Project is offered once a month with pantry foods supplied by the Western Massachusetts Food Bank. (35)
- * The COA Center houses the Cheshire Pantry which is offered the first Saturday of every month from 11 am to noon. The pantry serves 90-100 families per month with emergency food always available by calling 743-9719. This project is in collaboration with the Cheshire Fire Department.
- * Foot Clinics are available the third Thursday of every other month from 8:30 am - 1 pm. Appointments are required.
- * Farmer Market Coupons supported 35 families for fresh produce at local markets.
- * The Birthday Card Project continues monthly with an average of 95-110 handwritten cards.
- * The Community Medical Health Program Van offers monthly COVID-19 testing, boosters, and senior flu shots. Blood pressure can be monitored as well as seeking information for referrals. Homebound individuals were assisted for vaccinations with the Homebound State Program.
- * The Cheshire Chatter has grown in the number of hard copies (200) and email mailings (120). It is a newsletter that is professional, offers enjoyable memorable articles, and folks look forward to the next edition. Community reviews have been stellar.
- * Morning Exercise with Jane, M/W/F, 9 am - 10 am
- * Pickle Ball Clinics
- * Bicycle Riding
- * Shuffle Ball
- * Card Making with Lorraine
- * Raised Gardening
- * Stress/Anxiety Workshops
- * Adult Coloring (Nursing Homes)
- * Mystery Van Trips
- * Floral Design with Nancy
- * Art Therapy
- * Get Well/Sympathy/Hi Cards
- * Wellness Telephone Calls
- * Flag Day Ceremony
- * Isolation and loneliness

- * Volunteer Recognition (25)
- * Intergenerational gatherings
- * Scheduled vaccine / booster

Resources:

- * LiHep Fuel Assistance
- * Veterans Services
- * SNAP
- * COA Free Masks
- * SHINE
- * Holiday Dinners
- * The Lion's Club
- * Clothing Distribution
- * Cookies/Shut-Ins
- * Photocopying of COVID cards
- * Cheshire Gardening
- * Lunch Deliveries
- * Mail Pick Up
- * BCAC
- * NBCC
- * Protective Services
- * Medical Adams Car Share Program

Outreach:

Individual assistance is available and addressed by the COA regarding housing, lack of utilities, health concerns, hoarding, and rodent infestation. All information is confidential with knowledge as to what agency can best assist in the concern.

I am pleased to say we hired a qualified, dedicated COA Van driver, Anne Furey. Anne works Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 9 am - 3 pm. To schedule an appointment please call: (413) 446-2559. A \$2.00 donation is appreciated.

Award:

Carole Hilderbrand received the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition 2020 (Neighborlies Award.)

Respectfully submitted,

Carole A. Hilderbrand
Director

Gene Gebarowski
Chairman

Margaret Gwozdz

Peter Traub

John Bianchi

Barbara Proper

Carol A. Francesconi

Robert Balawender

Cheshire Fire Department - Hoosac Hose Co.

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 2021.

In 2021 the Cheshire Fire Department responded to 363 calls for service. These calls for service required either a fire department and/or an EMS response, both of which are provided by the Cheshire Fire Department. Additionally, the command staff of the department issued burning permits, certificates of compliance, oil burner installation permits, propane tank installation permits, underground oil tank removal permits, new oil tank installation permits, gasoline mobile tank storage permits, firework display permits and smoke and carbon monoxide compliance permits.

This year, our department continued to battle COVID-19 and the aftermath of the disease. Throughout the year, members were presented with staffing challenges, disease exposure problems as well as personal struggles while battling the endemic. I am happy to report that our members continued their dedication to the department and the residents and visitors of Cheshire and continued to answer the call and provide the professional service that is the Cheshire Fire Department.

Our fire station continues to be a challenge for us. The largest continuing challenge we face is the heating system in the station, with a furnace that needs replacement. The current furnace was purchased used from the State Police Barracks when the fire station was built in the late 1980s so it was already used before it came to us. We are now having issues with the parts being no longer produced and the technology just so outdated that we are having difficulty finding service technicians that can work on this furnace. The Town Administrator and I have been very diligent in pursuing grant options to replace the antiquated heating system, however as of this writing, we have been unsuccessful in our attempts. We have continued to pay for repairs to the furnace and system since prior to 2019 and I am not sure how much longer the furnace and system will last before town funded replacement becomes a reality.

The other continuing factor that needs to be considered is now that we are subject to OSHA standards and regulations, I cannot say with any certainty what kinds of ordered repairs or changes we will have to make to the station after the OSHA inspection is completed. This inspection could occur at any time and may incur extensive repairs to the station if ordered.

Recruitment continues to be a challenge for all volunteer fire departments across the country and is also challenging for the Town of Cheshire. Changing times, work schedules, home schedules, all continue to make volunteering very difficult for people. We are always trying to come up with new and innovative ways to attract people to our department but we can always use more firefighters and EMTs. We currently have 26 members on our roles but have space for 50. We are utilizing social media as well as any method we can think of to attract new members but

again, this is not a Cheshire specific problem; it is a National issue that we cannot seem to get a solution for outside of transitioning to a paid department. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member please stop down to the station during any drill night and take an application. Remember, what if volunteers didn't volunteer?

The department continues to train every Thursday night at 7 pm. During these training drills, we practice a number of skills that keep our firefighters and EMTs trained to the highest level, and I am proud of how professional and trained our firefighters and EMTs are. Our members also attend training at the Department of Fire Services in both Stow and Springfield, MA, several times throughout the year to learn the newest skills as well as to keep up several national certifications that some of our members have attained. All of the members of the Cheshire Fire Department are certified medical first responders, certified in recognizing and dealing with hazardous materials, as well as cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of an automated external defibrillator or AED's. Cheshire also belongs to and utilizes a county-wide mutual aid system that provides fire and emergency medical services to neighboring towns and cities in Berkshire County during times of need, personnel shortages and large-scale incidents. We regularly train with our neighboring departments to build and maintain a positive working relationship with our brother and sister firefighters and EMTs.

The fundraising side of the Cheshire Fire Department is the Hoosac Hose Company. The Hoosac Hose Company continues to give back to our community by donating money to several high school and middle school sports teams. We also donate to several youth programs as well as have scholarships for local graduating seniors from local high schools. The Hoosac Hose Company also sponsors a Little League Baseball team as well as gives money to youth outdoor programs and to those youths looking to get into the public safety field.

In closing, I would like to thank the men and women of the Cheshire Fire Department. Your dedication and commitment to the residents of the Town of Cheshire as well as to those passing through is second to none. You continually give up time away from your family and friends to provide the most professional, dedicated service to the town. Thank you for all you do on a daily basis. I am proud of each and every one of you.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the Cheshire Police Department, the Cheshire Highway Department, the Massachusetts State Police, the Adams Ambulance Service and everyone else that helps us do our jobs every day. Without you we wouldn't be as successful as we are.

Respectfully,

Thomas Francesconi
Fire Chief
Cheshire Fire Department

CHESHIRE FIRE DEPARTMENT (Hoosac Hose Company)

FIRE CHIEF

Thomas Francesconi

ASSISTANT CHIEF

Jason Mendonca

ASSISTANT CHIEF

Corey Swistak

FIRE CAPTAINS

Shawn Martin

Kim Martin

Andy Heath



EMS CAPTAIN

Fred Balawender



FIREFIGHTERS

Dan Barnes
Craig Comstock
CJ Garner
Tim Garner
Fran Gwozdz

Andy Kachel
Del Krzeminski
Brent Lancia
Brian Lancia
William Lewis
Bryant Martin

Erin Paris
William Rech
Mike Sabato
Chris Smith
Quinn Whitney

NATIONALLY REGISTERED EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

Fred Balawender

Tom Francesconi

Sandra Martin

APPRENTICES

Zachary Withers

HONORARY MEMBERS

Michael Biagini
Ed Gwozdz

Bob Lamb Jr.

Les Rhinemiller
George Sweet (Retired Chief)

HOOSAC HOSE COMPANY OFFICERS

Tim Garner - Secretary
Erin Paris - Treasurer

AUXILLARY MEMBERS

Barry Emery
Lindsay Chittendon

Ali Lancia

Pat Rech
Michelle Rech

Cheshire Library Association

(This report will cover a longer time span than June 30, 2021)

The Library was still under the precautions for COVID.

The Library was open on Mondays for in-person visits by volunteers Christine Emerson and Karen Drain.

Summer Reading Program “Tales & Tails” was conducted during July and August by in Library Trustee volunteers Karen Drain and Christine Emerson. Trustee Heather Emerson read stories via Zoom for the summer. Children, Tweens and Adults came on Mondays to check-out books and pick-up the craft bags for each week. Prizes of gift cars, ice cream cone certificates and participation certificates were awarded last August.

Due to COVID, we were not able to present any programs funded by the Northern Berkshire Lottery Arts Council and the Cheshire Library Association.

Our search for a new Library Director took place in July and August.

We welcomed back Amy Emerson-Inhelder beginning September 1, 2021.

Since we had no director, no salary was drawn from March 2020 until September 1, 2021.

Cheshire Library is open Mondays 9:30 am to 2:30 pm, Tuesdays Noon to 7:00 pm, Story Hour is from 11:00 am to 11.45 am on Tuesdays, and Wednesdays 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Cheshire Library has a page on Facebook. The Page is used for updates and notices, as well as posting on the Town Website, www.cheshire-ma.gov and the Cheshire Fire Department digital board.

Cheshire Library offers fiction and nonfiction books, magazines, dvds, blu-ray and audio cds.

InterLibrary Loans are available. Delivery day is Tuesday. Using your library card you can borrow material from other CWMARS libraries.

Come in and check the library out!

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Baker

President

Inez Jepson

Jack Girard

Aimee Casey

Heather Emerson

Diane Hitter

John Bianchi

Karen Drain

Suzanne Boyle

Christine Emerson

Historical Commission

The Cheshire Historical Commission inaugurated the “Martin Cane Award.” This is a beautifully carved Martin family heirloom that will be symbolically presented, annually, to the residents who have lived the longest in Cheshire.

The first presentation was to Charles “Cheso” Massaconi. Congratulations Cheso, and thanks to the treasured memory of deceased member, Gus Martin.

Despite COVID the Commission has met, even if virtually, all year.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Hitter
Chair

Elaine Daniels

Bob Hitter

Gus Martin

Jared Martin

Lois Nangle

George Reynolds

Planning Board

The Cheshire Planning Board (CPB) would like to thank the Cheshire Board of Selectmen, the Cheshire Zoning Board of Appeals, and all departments that have assisted the CPB in their quest to assist the residents of Cheshire when seeking to obtain a Special Permit.

The Cheshire Planning Board met for several meetings via Zoom to meet the State and Town requirements for maintaining health precautions due to COVID-19. A major case, the establishment of an outdoor Cannabis farm, which most towns had no experience in, was brought before the board. It was an arduous process but one that resulted in conditions the owner is required to meet for the health and safety of the neighborhood for as long as it is a Cannabis farm. Other actions included: a Citizen’s Petition was received and resolved, three (3) Special Permits were issued, Route 8 signage was approved, and bylaw revisions were on-going during the period of July 2000 to June 2021.

The CPB continues to work on updating and revising the Town of Massachusetts Protective and Planning Zoning Bylaws with the assistance of Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. Please voice your opinions and concerns during the process of editing and creation of new bylaws.

The CPB members would like to recognize Donna M. DeFino, Chairman, Ronald DeAngelis, Member, Nick Graham, Member, and Joshua Marauszowski, Alternative Member, and former members on the board for their tenacity and dedication for upholding the Town of Cheshire, Massachusetts Protective and Planning Zoning Bylaws.

The board meets monthly on the third Monday at 6 pm at the Cheshire Senior/Community Center. Should you want to be included on a meeting agenda or volunteer to be a board member, please email: planning@cheshire-ma.gov

Donna M. DeFino
Chairman

Francis Griswold

Peter Traub

Ronald DeAngelis

Nick Graham

Ronald DeAngelis

Police Department

To the Board of Selectman and the residents of the Town of Cheshire, as Chief of Police, I am submitting my final annual report as Chief for fiscal year 2021.

This is my farewell to the Police Department after 40 years of service to this great Town. I will be retiring on June 30 2022. It has been an incredible career which started for me back in 1982 when our office was located in what is now the Town Administrators office. I have been able to help move this department forward with great strides that would never have been accomplished had it not been for the unwavering and continued support of the various Boards of Selectman I have had the privilege of working with. Harvey Daniels was on the Board of Selectman when I was hired and said to me, "if you are in it for the money, don't bother." I never forgot that, because for sure, it was not the reason I joined. I had support, I had family history in law enforcement and I had Community involvement instilled in me from family. I loved the job. To the many, many Officers I had the privilege of working with over the years, some no longer with us, I say, Thanks for your commitment and dedication to the Town. We as a Town have been very fortunate over the years with our crime rate, which I believe has some reflection on the department members and what they do on a daily basis. The Town has been very supportive in allowing us to purchase the equipment needed over the years to keep us up to date and moving forward, and for that I am grateful. I can only hope that it will continue well into the future. Our Department will be facing some challenging times going forward because of new training mandates that are basically forcing the Part-Time departments out. I have submitted a proposal I think is the right step in moving forward and keep our Police Department. In closing, I truly want to thank everyone involved with making my job with the Police department over the years a fun and rewarding one. It has been a great run and I enjoyed every bit of it. This Town has a lot going for it and I am proud to be a part of it. THANK YOU ALL.

Now the rest of the report.

Just a reminder that we do have a Facebook page and encourage all to like and follow us for any updates, closings, safety concerns and storm updates. We also list all town events and happenings and much more.

As always, "if you see something, say something" and report any suspicious activity. We have now linked our 413 743-1501 number to our dispatchers who will answer after three rings if we are not in the office. **If it is an emergency, call 911.**

As always, I would like to thank the men and woman who make up your Police Department for your outstanding dedication and professionalism to the people of our Town. My thanks to the Board of Selectman for the continued support.

To the members of the Cheshire Fire Department and EMS, my thanks for your outstanding hard work and dedication throughout these trying times and dealing with COVID while still responding whenever the pagers go off. It's a pleasure working side by side with you. My thanks to Massachusetts State Police and surrounding agencies for your assistance when needed. And last but certainly not least, my thanks to the people of the Town of Cheshire for your much appreciated continued support of the Police Department. **THANK YOU.**



Respectfully submitted,

Chief Tim Garner

CHESHIRE POLICE DEPARTMENT ROSTER

CHIEF OF POLICE
TIM GARNER 203

SERGEANT
MIKE ALIBOZEK 197



OFFICER
DAVE TARJICK 375

OFFICER
CODY ALVAREZ 393

OFFICER
TRISH CARLO 201

OFFICER
AMALIO JUSINO 575

OFFICER
SAM HUNGATE 205

HARBORMASTER
BLAIR CRANE 209

CHESHIRE POLICE DEPARTMENT

YEARLY REPORT 2021

911 Open Line/Hang Up	114
Medical.....	162
Animal Call.....	34
Erratic/Dangerous Driver	54
Alarm (Burglar/Fire/Panic)	21
Wellbeing Check.....	49
Domestic Violence/Dispute.....	18
Assist Other Agency/Mutual Aid	97
Radar/Traffic Enforcement	105
Motor Vehicle Accident	56
Community Policing/Outreach.....	54
Arrest/Criminal Charges.....	15

Total Calls for Service reflect the total number of calls that the Cheshire Police Department responded to. In addition to the 1,209 calls for service handled by CPO, there were an additional 764 calls for service handled by one or more of the following agencies; Massachusetts State Police, Cheshire Fire Department, or Adams Ambulance Service. The Cheshire Police Department would like to thank MSP, CFD, and AAS for their assistance.

Total calls for Service in 2021 1,973

The Cheshire Police Department would like to thank the Cheshire Community for their continued support!

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2021

Returned Fines to the Town of Cheshire

District Court Fines.....	\$	140.00
Registry of Motor Vehicle Infractions.....	\$	7,068.75

Fees Returned to the Town of Cheshire

Pistol Permits.....	\$	2,075.00
Report Fees	\$	5,928.97
Parking Ticket Fines.....	\$	40.00

**Total Returned Fines and Fees to the Town
Generated by the Police Department..... \$ 15,252.72**

Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District

Cheshire is one of the thirteen towns that comprise the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District (NBSWMD).

The Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District was established in 1988 through legislation passed by the Massachusetts General Court. By forming the solid waste district, the small municipalities in Northern Berkshire County have been able to pool resources and obtain professional waste management services to conduct recycling and outreach education programs, hazardous and special recycling collections. We have a vision to seek regional solutions to attain sustainability and environmental objectives through solid waste and recycling programs.

The thirteen member-towns that comprise NBSWMD include Adams, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Florida, Hancock, Hinsdale, Lanesborough, Monroe, New Ashford, Peru, Savoy, Windsor, and Williamstown. Each town appoints a representative to serve on the NBSWMD Board.

Board Officers for 2021 included: Joseph Szczepaniak Jr., Chair (Lanesborough), Edward Driscoll, Vice Chair (Adams); and Terry Haig, Treasurer.

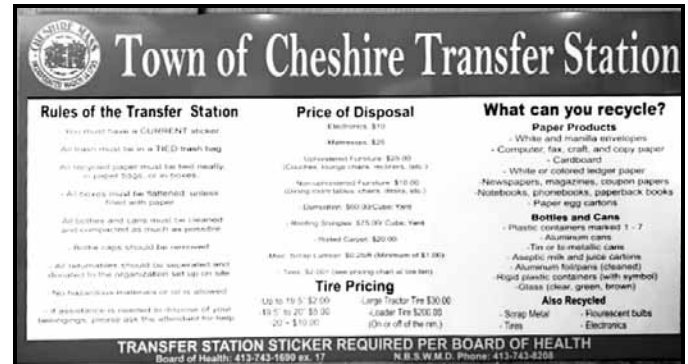
In 2021, NBSWMD services included:

- Working with third party inspector from MassDEP conducting annual transfer station inspections pursuant to 310.CMR 19.018, all of which have been highly rated.
- Bid Administrator for 5 years hauling and processing of waste, recyclables with Casella Waste Systems Inc.
- Work with regional entities to challenge increased prevailing wage rates for hauling.
- Coordinating special collections that are open to all thirteen member towns, including annual bulky and electronics recycling, household hazardous waste collection and community paper shredding recycling event with Pro-Shred.

- Management of transfer station recyclables including collection, hauling and recycling of tires, electronic waste, universal waste, textiles, scrap metal, books, swap shops (household good) 3 in place towns of Hinsdale, Savoy, and Windsor. New programming in 2021; Town of Williamstown, Food waste reduction through a six-month composting Pilot program. Town of Adams and New Ashford textile recycling bins with Apparel Impact.
- Outreach with local youth groups introducing MassDEP “Green Team” educational Program, with Hoosac Valley Middle and High School and Youth Center Inc.
- Submittal of member-town MassDEP annual recycling and solid waste surveys, grants through Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) and all reporting.

The district in 2021 held two comprehensive household hazardous waste collections. This allows residents to properly dispose of toxic cleaners, oil-based paints, oil, pesticides, and other products. A total of 270 households participated in the collections.

Also, the district held 3 bulky waste and electronics collections in 2021. Total of 250 households participated in these collections. Over 15,896 pounds of electronics, 8 tons of scrap metals were recycled. A community paper shredding day was held in May 2021, to offer residents a safe way to recycle secure documents. Over 48 totes containing a total of 2,450 pounds of paper were shredded by Pro-Shred. The district continues to offer all member towns’ residents subsidized home composting units for \$25, allowing food waste, leaves, and brush to be composted at home.



Left and Above: New signs for the transfer station purchased with Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) recycling dividends, awarded by MassDEP.

The day-to-day program operations of the NBSWMD are managed by Program Coordinator, Linda Cernik. Board meetings are held monthly the third Thursday of every month. Due to COVID, many of the meetings were held remotely using the Zoom platform, posted with each member town.

The NBSWMD has an annual operations assessment that is approved by the district's Board of Commissioners, which is based on the current census 2010. The combined assessments for all thirteen towns were \$90,707.83. The assessments are for operating costs, special collections such as Household Hazardous waste collection contracted with Clean Harbors Environmental, community paper shredding events, subsidized home composting units, and six universal waste collections sites with Next Level Recycling.

In 2021, all NBSWMD member-towns were eligible for and received grants under MassDEP Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP). In total, the NBSWMD Towns received \$40,500 in grant funds to be used to further enhance recycling programming. The grant funding is a result of a town's successful waste management and recycling infrastructure.

During the past year, the NBSWMD member-towns collectively diverted 825 tons of recyclable materials to Casella Waste Systems INC., Vermont MRF; the Town of Cheshire paper/plastic dual stream recycled 94.56 tons in 2021. Scrap metal recycling 51.41 tons with a generated revenue of \$2,827.55 to the town. Congratulations to the attendants! You recycled the most scrap metal out of the thirteen member towns. The Town again leads the way in textile recycling, with a total of 33,370 pounds diverted from the waste stream. Textile recycling bins are located at the DPW yard (transfer station), Green Acres plaza, and the Cheshire Fire Department. Additional recycling opportunities include tires, household brush/leaves, electronics, and the collection of deposit cans and bottles donation to benefit the local Lions Club.

Thank you to all the district volunteers, Town's DPW, officials, and the residents of all the member towns. Your continued support in recycling and waste reduction keeps our communities a beautiful place to call home.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cernik
Program Coordinator
Amber Lafogg Maxwell
Board of Commissioner

Water Department

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, 2020 – June 30, 2021

The Board of Water commissioners are pleased to submit their Annual Report for the year 2021.

The Board of Water commissioners meets at the Town Hall every Tuesday at 3:00 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. 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!! We are currently working with a State Forester to manage our forest.

Listed below are the projects completed by the Water Department 2020 - 2021.

- Consumer Confidence Report compiled and delivered to water users.
- Statistical Report completed and submitted to Mass DEP.
- Serviced Emergency Generator.
- Completed all mandatory water quality testing including lead, copper, Arsenic, and nitrates.
- Fixed water main leak E. Main and Lanesboro Road.
- Updated Emergency Response Plan.
- Leak detection (yearly prowler).
- Calibrated Master Meter.
- Installed sample station in North State Road pit.
- Painted Fire Hydrants.
- Work with D.E.P. to remain in compliance.
- Completed Crest Drive project.
- Engineering completed for Rt. 8 from Pump House Road to Crest Road.

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

Respectfully submitted,

**The Cheshire Water Department
Board of Water Commissioners**

Michael Biagini
Commissioner

Rick Gurney
Commissioner

Stephen R. LaFogg
Commissioner

Wire Inspector

To the Board of Selectmen and the Town of Cheshire, as Wire Inspector of the Town of Cheshire I submit this Report from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

- 8 Service Upgrades
- 2 Mini-Splits
- 13 Solar
- 5 Misc.
- 1 Family Room
- 1 Above Ground Pool
- 1 Replace Meter Socket
- 3 Garages
- 2 Service Riser Changes
- 2 New Homes
- 6 Service Changes
- 1 Lighting Retrofit
- 1 High School Security Upgrade
- 3 Electrical Panel Changes
- 1 Sewer Pump
- 4 In-Ground Pools
- 1 State Police New Alarm Panel
- 9 Boilers
- 2 Hot Tubs & Pools
- 2 Service Changes & Minor Wiring
- 1 Well
- 4 Additions
- 1 Underground Service
- 1 Finish Installing Electrical Devices
- 1 Fire (Disconnect Electrical Circuits)
- 1 High School New Door Controls
- 1 Remodel Sales & Service Garage
- 1 Remodel
- 1 Replace Main Breaker
- 1 House #2 Wiring
- 1 Town Transfer Station Wiring
- 1 Sub-Panel
- 1 Rewiring To Code
- 1 New FA System & Town Hall
- 1 Finish Wiring
- 1 New lights (Town Hall & Senior Center)
- 1 Solar Field
- 1 Walk-In-Cooler
- 1 Modular Home
- 2 Security Systems
- 1 Water Damage Rewiring
- 1 Basement Remodel

Number of Permits..... 95

Number of Inspections 155

Total Fees Collected \$18,049.00

Respectfully submitted,

George Sweet
Wire Inspector

Les Rhinemiller
Assistant Wire Inspector

Annual Town Meeting - September 15, 2020

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

Hoosac Valley Middle and High School (Gymnasium)

125 Savoy Road, Cheshire 01225

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

6:30 pm

Voter check-in to begin at 5:30 pm.

CHESHIRE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Town Clerk called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Entertained a motion to elect a Moderator for this meeting.

Motion made to nominate Carol Francesconi;
seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Unanimous.**

Mrs. Francesconi made a statement of disclosure that Michelle Francesconi was her daughter-in-law.

Mrs. Francesconi then read the heading of the warrant for this Annual Town Meeting.

Introduction of the Selectmen, Michelle Francesconi, Mark Bigini, Ron DeAngelis, Jason Levesque; Town Counsel, Ed St. John III; Town Administrator, Ed St. John IV; Finance Committee, John Tremblay, Denise Gregoire, Kathleen Levesque, Heather Emerson, Lenwood Vaspra; Town Clerk, Christine Emerson.

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

Town Administrator gave a presentation of the FY 19-20 accomplishments and future goals for FY 21.

Michelle Francesconi stated that the Annual Report was dedicated to Carol Francesconi, she then presented Mrs. Francesconi with a copy.

A round of applause followed.

Article 2. To see if the Town of Cheshire 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.* If federal or state programs, or other alternative funding sources, are available to supplant Town funding for the same purpose, the Board of Selectmen may reduce the Town's portion of said funding in a manner commensurate with the additional federal or state revenue received for said purpose.

This article is the budget for FY21, line items will be read, "set-aside" should be stated for any line item to discuss. The budget will be voted without "set-asides" and the "set-asides" will be discussed individually.

The Budget was read line item by line item. There were five set-asides.

Mrs. Francesconi stated that a vote would be taken to accept the balance of the budget.

Voice vote called. **Unanimous.**

Set-asides:

#1. Special Projects (under the Selectmen).

Mrs. Herzog, Town Treasurer, asked the purpose of this line item. The Town Administrator stated that it was for future projects.

Mrs. Herzog made a motion to zero this line item as there is already a technology line item and seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Unanimous.**

#2. Wire Inspector Expenses and Assistant Wire Inspector Salary.

George Sweet, Wire Inspector asked that the expense line item be increased from \$400 to \$1,300.

Also, that the Assistant Wire Inspector salary be increased to equal the increase that was given to the Assistant Plumbing Inspector.

Discussion: none.

Motion to increase the Wire Inspector's Expense line item from \$400 to \$1,200 made and seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Unanimous.**

Discussion: Assistant Wire Inspector Salary.

Selectmen stated that this was an oversight on their part.

Motion to raise the Assistant Wire Inspector Salary from \$533 to \$556 made and seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Unanimous.**

#3. Veterans' Benefits.

Question as to why the Veterans' Benefits had such a large increase. Town Administrator answered that the amount was increased to ensure that the amount would cover the claims that come for the Town to pay. The Commonwealth does reimburse the Town for a portion of the claims.

Question answered the set-aside was withdrawn.

Motion to accept the Veterans' Benefits as presented made and seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Unanimous.**

#4. Water Department Collector Salary.

Mrs. Herzog stated that this is the only salary that did not receive the percentage raise.

Discussion: none.

Motion to raise the Water Department Collector Salary by \$375 to total \$11,359 and seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Unanimous.**

#5. Hoosac Valley Regional School District Budget, Over Foundation.

Question on the amount for the Over Foundation.

Town Administrator stated that this was the figure for the coming FY.

Motion to accept the Over Foundation Budget figure as presented made and seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Motion carried.**

John Tremblay, Finance Committee, made a motion to move Article 3 and Article 7 to after Article 12, which would allow the amounts in these article to be adjusted, hopefully to avoid a Special Election Override.

Motion made to table Articles 3 until after Article 12 and seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Motion carried.**

Tabled until after Article 12.

Article 3. To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$235,000 (two hundred and thirty-five thousand dollars) to reduce the tax rate, *or take any other action in relation thereto*. If federal or state programs, or other alternative funding sources, are available to supplant Town funding for the same purpose, the Board of Selectmen may reduce the Town’s portion of said funding in a manner commensurate with the additional federal or state revenue received for said purpose.

Article 4. To see if the Town of Cheshire 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 and seconded.

Discussion: none

Voice vote taken. **Unanimous.**

Article 5: To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$58,000 (fifty-eight thousand dollars) for the purpose of purchasing a new police cruiser, *or take any other action in relation thereto*.

Motion made by Mr. Tremblay to amend the language of the article to replace the 2013 Ford Explorer Interceptor. Motion seconded.

Mrs. Francesconi asked for a motion to accept the amendment.

Motion made to accept the amended language and seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Motion carried.**

Article 5. To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$58,000 for the purpose of purchasing a new police cruiser to replace the 2013 Ford Explorer Interceptor *or take any other action in relation thereto*.

Discussion: The Police Department is using a three year plan for replacement of vehicles.

Motion to accept the article as amended made and seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Motion carried.**

Article 6: To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to transfer and appropriate from available funds appropriated within the Stabilization Fund from the June 10, 2019 Annual Town Meeting the sum of \$60,000 (sixty thousand dollars), originally voted approved for the purpose of providing heating maintenance to the former Cheshire Elementary School to be repurposed for the use of procuring design services for the renovation/construction of a community center/Town Hall and construction of a public safety complex to be located at 191 Church Street, *or take any other action in relation thereto*.

Mr. Tremblay made a motion to change the language on this article to read:

To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to transfer and appropriate from available funds appropriated within the Stabilization Fund from the June 10, 2019 Annual Town Meeting the sum of \$60,000 (sixty thousand dollars) originally voted and approved for the purpose of providing heating maintenance to the former Cheshire Elementary School to be repurposed (omitting for the use of) (adding the word toward) procuring design services for the renovation/construction of a community center/town hall and construction of a public safety complex to be located at 191 Church Street (adding this appropriation is put forth with the understanding that the Select Board will appoint a Town Complex Planning Committee to include no fewer than seven members within sixty days of this article’s approval and ensure that Grant Funding through the USDA Community Facilities Program, and other available public funding sources will be pursued for this project and any that may follow.

Motion for the amendment made and seconded.

Discussion: What will happen to the other Town buildings when this complex is completed? Answer that the Town Hall especially will be repurposed for the Library and meeting rooms.

Mrs. Francesconi asked for a motion to accept the amendment.

Motion made and seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Motion carried.**

Article 6. To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to transfer and appropriate from available funds appropriated within the Stabilization Fund from the June 10, 2019 Annual Town Meeting the sum of \$50,000 originally voted approved for the purpose of providing heating maintenance for the former Cheshire Elementary School to be repurposed toward procuring design services for the renovation/construction of a community center/town hall and construction of a public safety complex to be located at 191 Church Street, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion to accept the article as amended made and seconded.

2/3 Vote required.

Card vote taken. YES 80 NO 2 Passed.

Motion to able Article 7 until after Article 12 made and seconded.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Article 7: To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$201,573 (two hundred one thousand, five hundred and seventy-three dollars) for the purpose of transferring into the Stabilization account, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Article 8: To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$20,000 (twenty thousand dollars) for the purpose of purchasing two used pick-up trucks for use in building/property maintenance and within the Highway Department, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion: none

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Article 9: To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$60,000 (sixty thousand dollars) for the purpose of purchasing a new tractor and attachments for use within the Highway Department, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion: This tractor was a shared purpose between the Cemetery and Highway.

The tractor will still be available for the use of the Cemetery. The tractor will be kept at the highway complex.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Article 10: To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) for the purpose of procuring actuarial services for the study of establishing a benchmark for other post-employment benefits (OPEB), *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion made to accept the article as presented and seconded.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Article 11: To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$5,096 (five thousand and ninety-six dollars) for the purpose of paying outstanding bills from Fiscal Year 20, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion to amend the amount from \$5,096 to \$5,252.42 and seconded.

Discussion: Adjustment to dollar amount.

Motion to accept the amended amount in the article made and seconded.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Article 11. To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$5,252.42 for the purpose of paying outstanding bills from Fiscal Year 20 *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion to accept the article as amended made and seconded.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Article 12: To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to authorize the Treasurer, per MGL Chapter 44, Section 2, to borrow the sum of an amount not to exceed \$130,000 (one hundred and thirty thousand dollars) for the purpose of purchasing a new Ford F-550 or other similar truck for use within the Highway Department and to dispose of a 2011 Ford F-550 Truck to the highest responsible bidder, contingent upon subsequent passage of a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion vote, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

[NOTE: *This article requires a two-thirds vote for borrowing approval and subsequent majority ballot vote for a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion to be held at a future election.]*

Motion to amend the article to add plow and sanding equipment made and seconded.

Motion for second amendment remove to dispose of 2011 Ford F-550 to the highest responsible bidder made and seconded.

Discussion.

Motion to accept the first amendment to the article made and seconded.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion to accept the second amendment to the article made and seconded.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Article 12. To see if the will vote to authorize the Treasurer per MGL, Chapter 44, Section 2, to borrow the sum of an amount not to exceed \$120,000 for the purpose of purchasing a new Ford 550 or other similar truck with plow and sanding equipment for

use within the Highway Department contingent upon a subsequent passage of a Proposition 2½ Debt Exclusion vote *or to take any other action in relation thereto.*

2/3 vote required.

Card vote taken. **YES 83 NO 2 Passed.**

Article 3.

John Tremblay motion to amend the article amount from \$235,000 to \$376,000.

Discussion: The increase in the amount will avoid a Proposition 2½ Override.

Motion to amend the article made and seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Motion carried.**

Article 3. To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$376,000 (three hundred seventy-six thousand dollars) to reduce the tax rate, if federal or state programs, or other alternative funding sources are available to supplant Town funding for the same purpose, the Board of Selectmen may reduce the Town's portion of said funding in a manner commensurate with the additional federal or state revenue received for said purpose *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Discussion: none.

Motion to accept the article as amended made and seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Motion carried.**

Article 7.

John Tremblay motion to amend the amount from \$201,573 to \$60,763.

Motion to amend the amount in this article made and seconded.

Discussion: To ease concern over the lesser amount, John Tremblay pointed out that a \$20,000 line item for Stabilization had already been voted in the budget this evening.

Mrs. Francesconi stated that there was an amendment motion made and seconded on the floor.

Voice vote taken. **Motion Carried.**

Article 7. To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$60,763 for the purpose of transferring into the Stabilization account *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion to accept the amended article made and seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Motion carried.**

Article 13: To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to accept the provisions of MGL, Ch. 59, section 5N, also known as the Veteran Tax Work Off Program, which permits a veteran, as defined by MGL Ch. 4 § 7 clause 43, who owns property in and pays real estate taxes to the Town of Cheshire, to receive

a maximum credit of \$1,500 against the veteran's real estate tax bill for the fiscal year following the year in which the credit is earned, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion: Town Administrator thanked Peter Traub and John Bianchi for their work on this article.

Voice vote taken. **Motion carried.**

Article 14: To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to accept the provisions of MGL, Ch. 59, section 5K, also known as the Senior Citizen Tax Work Off Program, which permits a person over the age of 60, who owns property in and pays real estate taxes to the Town of Cheshire, to receive a maximum credit of \$1,500 against their real estate tax bill for the fiscal year following the year in which the credit is earned, *or to take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion to accept the article as read made and seconded.

Discussion: none

Voice vote taken. **Motion carried.**

Article 15: To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to establish and authorize Revolving funds for use by certain Town Departments, Boards, Committees, Agencies or Officers, under the direction of the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator, and pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws c. 44 section 53E½, as follows; *or to take any other action in relation thereto:*

Departmental Revolving Funds

1. **Purpose.** This act establishes and authorizes revolving funds for use by Town departments, boards, committees, agencies, or officers, under the direction of the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator, in connection with the operation of programs or activities that generate fees, charges, or other receipts, to support all or some of the expenses of those programs or activities. These revolving funds are established under and governed by Massachusetts General Laws c. 44 section 53E½.
2. **Expenditures Limitations.** A department head, board, committee, or officer, under the direction of the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator, may incur liabilities against and spend monies from a revolving fund established and authorized by this act without appropriation subject to the following limitations:
 - a. No liability shall be incurred in excess of the available balance of the fund.
 - b. The total amount spent during a fiscal year shall not exceed the amount authorized by Town meeting on or before July 1 of that fiscal year, or any increased amount of that authorization that is later approved during that fiscal year by the Select Board and the Finance Committee.

3. Interest. Interest earned on monies credited to a revolving fund established by this act shall be credited to the General Fund.
4. Procedures and Reports. Except as provided in Massachusetts General Laws, c. 44, section 53E½ and this act, the laws, bylaws, rules, regulations, policies or procedures that govern the receipt and custody of Town monies and the expenditure and payment of Town funds shall apply to the use of a revolving fund established and authorized by this act. The Town Accountant shall include a statement on the collections credited to each fund, the encumbrances and expenditures charged to the fund and the balance available for the expenditure in the regular report the Town Accountant provides the department, board, committee, agency, or officer on appropriations made for its use.
5. Authorized Revolving Funds. The table below establishes:
 - a. Each revolving fund authorized for use by a Town Department, board, committee, agency, or officer;
 - b. The department or agency head, board, committee or officer authorized to spend from each fund;
 - c. The fees, charges, and other monies charged and received by the department, board, committee, agency, or officer in connection with the program or activity for which the fund is established that shall be credited to each fund by the Town Accountant;
 - d. The expenses of the program or activity for which each fund may be used;
 - e. Any restrictions or conditions on expenditures from each fund;
 - f. Any reporting or other requirements that apply to each fund; and
 - g. The fiscal years each fund shall operate under this act.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Revolving Fund	Department, Board, Committee, Agency or Officer Authorized to Spend from Fund	Fees, Charges, or Other Receipts Credited to Fund	Program or Activity Expenses Payable from Fund	Restrictions/ Conditions on Expenses Payable from Fund	Other Requirements/ Reports	Fiscal Years
Repair/ Maintain Roads	Highway Dept. under direction of Town Admin. & BOS	Monies received from Town Meeting appropriation	Expenses associated with continuing to perform major repairs on Town Roads	None	None	FY21 and subsequent years
Curbing & Culverts	Highway Dept. under direction of Town Admin. & BOS	Monies received from Town Meeting appropriation	Expenses associated with continuing to perform major repairs on Town curbing and culverts	None	None	FY21 and subsequent years
Guard Rails	Highway Dept. under direction of Town Admin.& BOS	Monies received from Town Meeting appropriation	Expenses associated with continuing to perform major repairs on Town guard rails	None	None	FY21 and subsequent years
Blacktop Account	Highway Dept. under direction of Town Admin.& BOS	Monies received from Town Meeting appropriation	Expenses associated with continuing to perform preventive main. on Town roads	None	None	FY21 and subsequent years
Engineering Services	Highway Dept. under direction of Town Admin.& BOS	Monies received from Town Meeting appropriation	Expenses associated with engineering services to be ready for grants/projects	None	None	FY21 and subsequent years
Gift Account/ COA General Expenses	Council on Aging Coord. under direction of Town Admin.& BOS	Monies received as donations to the Council on Aging	Expenses associated with Senior Services/COA trips events, and programs	None	None	FY21 and subsequent years

[NOTE: This article establishes a by-law for various revolving funds in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Modernization Act of 2016. This allows the funds to remain authorized, unless revoked via a bylaw change, and only the spending limits will need to be voted by Town Meeting annually from this point forward.]

Motion to amend by striking all but Council on Aging Gift Account/General Expenses made and seconded.

Discussion: After discussion with Department of Revenue the only account to remain is the COA.

Voice vote taken. **Motion carried.**

Motion to amend the article to strike all but the Council on Aging Account made and seconded.

Voice vote take. **Motion carried.**

Article 16: To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to authorize the total expenditures for the following revolving funds, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws c. 44, section 53E½ for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, to be expended in accordance with the act previously approved, and as consistent with the budget as previously accepted, or to take any other action in relation thereto.

Revolving Fund	Annual Spending Limit
Repair/Maintain Roads	\$ 120,000
Curbing & Culverts	15,000
Guard Rails	12,000
Blacktop Account	60,000
Engineering Services	15,000
Gift Account	\$ 8,470

[NOTE: This article authorizes the annual spending limits for each of the Revolving Funds identified above. Spending from these funds may only occur for the stated purposes identified in the Town's Revolving Fund by-law, and only with the approval of the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen.]

Motion to amend the article to strike Repair/Maintain Roads, Blacktop Account and Engineering; Curbing & Culverts, Guardrails; then only Gift Account would remain.

Discussion: none

Motion to amend the article made and seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Motion carried.**

Motion to accept the article as amended made and seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Motion carried.**

Article 17: To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to amend its zoning by-laws by accepting changes to existing zoning by-laws concerning cannabis/marijuana as follows, or to take any other action in relation thereto:

Marijuana Establishment Water Usage Bylaw

All water usage by a marijuana establishment shall be metered and a written water use report shall be filed by the marijuana establishment on a yearly basis to the Town of Cheshire Board of Selectmen. This report shall include all monthly usage in gallons for the whole year. This report shall be filed before February 1 for the water use of the prior year. The marijuana establishment owners must report all current year water usage to any town official upon receiving a request for water use information. Any ambiguity in this bylaw will defer to the intent of this bylaw.

[NOTE: This article comes by way of a citizen's petition and requires a 2/3 majority vote in the affirmative to pass.]

Motion to accept the article as presented made by Gary Trudeau and seconded.

Discussion: Lengthy debate.

Town Counsel stated that this article requires a 2/3 vote and would be submitted to the Attorney General for acceptance and is doubtful it would be accepted as procedure to the Planning board was incomplete.

Card vote taken. YES 37 NO 48 Failed.

Article 18: To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to amend its zoning by-laws by accepting changes to existing zoning by-laws concerning cannabis/marijuana as follows, or to take any other action in relation thereto:

Marijuana Zoning Bylaws

8.7 (d) (2) the total # of non-retail MEs shall not exceed one (1) (c) Designated Locations for MEs and Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers.

(1) Marijuana Cultivation Facilities may be sited within the Marijuana Overlay District

(Figures 1a and 1b below and Agricultural Residential (A-R) zone district. Marijuana Cultivation Facilities shall be on parcels at least 5 acres in size, upon the approval of a Special Permit and Site Plan, as per Section 10 of the Zoning Bylaw and the Town of Cheshire Special Permit Rules & Regulations.

37. Marijuana cultivation facilities (see Section 8.7)

Zoning Districts

R-1, no

A-R, SPP

B, SPP

LI, SPP

38. Marijuana establishments for retailers, manufacturers, testing laboratories, research facilities, micro-businesses, craft cooperatives and all other types of licensed marijuana facilities, including Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers (See Section 8.7)

Zoning Districts

R-1, no

A-R, no

B, SPP

LI, SPP

[NOTE: This article comes by way of a citizen's petition and requires a 2/3 majority vote in the affirmative to pass.]

(Town Administrator stated that the text for the Buffer Zone had been omitted from the Meeting handout)

(Text will be inserted into the minutes).

Motion to amend the article to read Marijuana Buffer Zone made by Gary Trudeau author of the voter petition article and seconded.

Discussion: Lengthy.

2/3 vote required.

Card vote taken. YES 35 NO 40 Failed.

Article 19: To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to amend its zoning by-laws by accepting changes to existing zoning by-laws concerning cannabis/marijuana as follows, or to take any other action in relation thereto:

Marijuana Definitions Additions

Addition to § [8. 7] (b)

A marijuana facility is considered all buildings, fences, cannabis plants and any other related items.

[NOTE: This article comes by way of a citizen's petition and requires a 2/3 majority vote in the affirmative to pass.]

Motion to withdraw this article made by Gary Trudeau author of this article.

Motion to withdraw Article 19 made and seconded.

Discussion: none

Vice vote taken. Motion carried.

Article 20: To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to amend its zoning by-laws by accepting changes to existing zoning by-laws concerning cannabis/marijuana as follows, or to take any other action in relation thereto:

Marijuana Odor Control

The Town of Cheshire shall require 24 hour a day odor control from all marijuana establishments and medical marijuana treatment centers. The odor control must mitigate all associated odors and be in effect while cannabis is being grown or processed. In the event that that the zoning enforcement officer or other town officials, determines that odor mitigation is not 100% effective or in good working condition there will be a \$1,000.00 per day fine assessed until the marijuana establishment or medical marijuana treatment center can mitigate all associated odors. If the marijuana establishment or medical marijuana treatment center does not control all odors within 30 days of being notified by any town official, the town will revoke all permits to operate and rescind the host community agreement.

All fines will be paid to the Town of Cheshire within 30 days from being assessed or all permits will automatically be revoked and host community agreements will be rescinded. Any ambiguity in this bylaw will defer to the intent of this bylaw.

[NOTE: This article comes by way of a citizen's petition and requires a 2/3 majority vote in the affirmative to

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion. Lengthy.

2/3 vote required.

Card vote taken. YES 35 NO 47 Failed.

Article 21: To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to amend its zoning by-laws by accepting changes to existing zoning by-laws concerning cannabis/marijuana as follows, or to take any other action in relation thereto:

Marijuana Cultivation

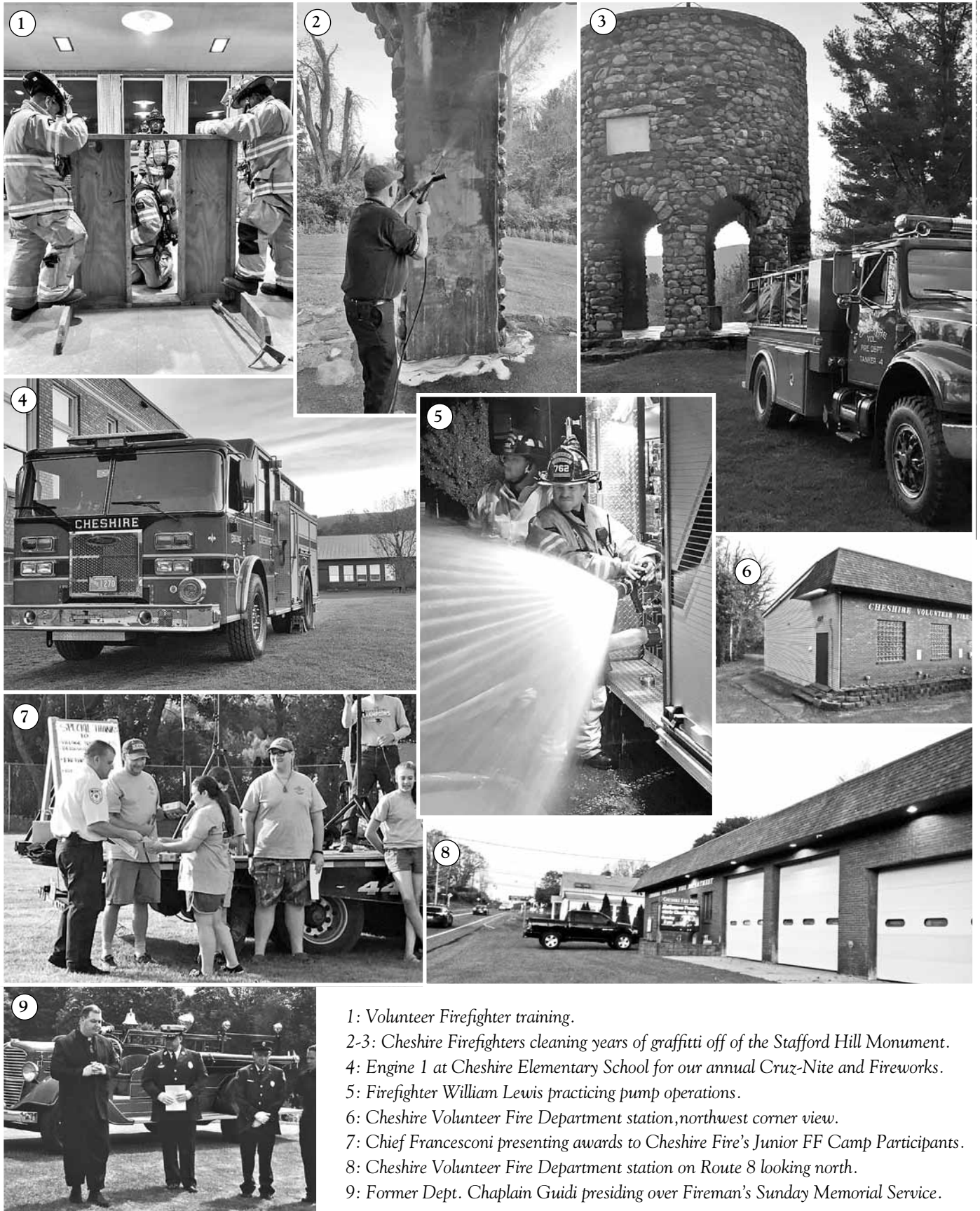
- 1. It is the intent of this petition to have the planning board amend the existing Cheshire Marijuana bylaw related to cannabis/marijuana to reduce the adverse conditions that cultivating marijuana creates through enacting regulations including without limitation, restrictions to any cultivation, remove any permissive language allowing outdoor cultivation, to prohibit outdoor cultivation in order to preserve the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of Cheshire. Any ambiguity in the amended bylaw should be construed in whatever manner best effectuates this intent, erring on the side of outdoor cultivation being explicitly prohibited.

Purpose

- 1. The cultivation of marijuana outdoors, where it is often readily observable by neighbors and the general public, increases the risk of trespassing, burglary, and acts of violence in connection with the commission of such crimes or the occupants' attempts to prevent such crimes. Outdoor cultivation further makes the premises more prone to act as an attractive nuisance for children, and increases the likelihood of offensive odors traveling off the premises. Outdoor cultivation of marijuana is often associated with violations of local, state, and federal environmental laws and pesticide regulations, threatening to harm local waterways, degradation of the natural environment and ground water quality, and endangering to the public health and safety. The strong distinctive malodorous marijuana plant creates an attractive nuisance, alerting persons to the location of the valuable plans, and has resulted in burglary, robbery and armed robbery. The strong and distinctive odor of marijuana plants creates a need to ensure that smells that disrupt the use of adjacent properties are minimized.

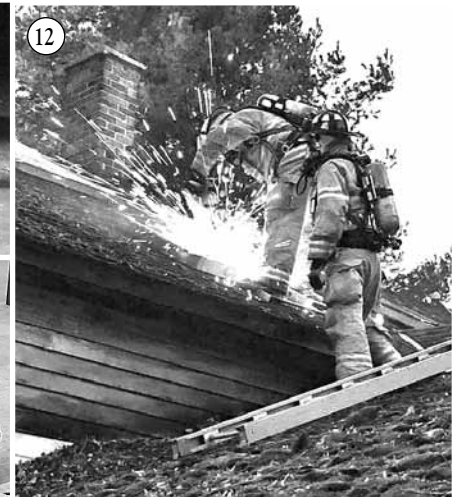
Town Meeting minutes continued on page 40.

Cheshire Fire Department in 2021



1: Volunteer Firefighter training.
 2-3: Cheshire Firefighters cleaning years of graffiti off of the Stafford Hill Monument.
 4: Engine 1 at Cheshire Elementary School for our annual Cruz-Nite and Fireworks.
 5: Firefighter William Lewis practicing pump operations.
 6: Cheshire Volunteer Fire Department station, northwest corner view.
 7: Chief Francesconi presenting awards to Cheshire Fire's Junior FF Camp Participants.
 8: Cheshire Volunteer Fire Department station on Route 8 looking north.
 9: Former Dept. Chaplain Guidi presiding over Fireman's Sunday Memorial Service.

Cheshire Fire Department in 2021



- 10: Members in Cheshire's Memorial Day parade.
- 11: Ice Water Rescue training at Cheshire Lake.
- 12: Members operating at a structure fire.
- 13: Cheshire Fire Department, Route 8.
- 14: Volunteer Firefighter Training.
- 15: FF Erin Paris dons a full haz-mat suit and SCBA.
- 16: CFD providing water for a house fire in Lanesboro.
- 17: FF Goodbuddy promoting the CFD at the Pittsfield Fire Department's Fire Fighter Combat Challenge.
- 18: Cheshire Fire Department Offices.



2. Unregulated cultivation of marijuana both indoors and outdoors in the town of Cheshire can adversely affect the health, safety, and well being of the town, its residents, and the environment. Prohibiting the outdoor cultivation of cannabis/marijuana is proper and necessary to avoid the aforementioned harms, and to preserve public peace, protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents and businesses within the town of Cheshire. By creating new language and amending the existing language to the current Marijuana by law the planning board will help to prevent complaints of odor, crime and pollution threatened by the outdoor cultivation of Marijuana. Zoning laws should state that indoor cultivation shall not occur in any zone that includes residential. Outdoor cultivation shall be prohibited.

[NOTE: This article comes by way of a citizen's petition and requires a 2/3 majority vote in the affirmative to pass.]

Motion to accept the article as presented made by Gary Trudeau seconded from the floor.

Discussion: Asking the Planning Board to amend the current Marijuana By-law.

2/3 vote required.

Card vote taken. YES 23 NO 49 Failed.

Article 22: To see if the Town will authorize the transfer from the Water Department surplus account the sum of \$259,751.00 (two hundred fifty-nine thousand and seven hundred fifty-one dollars) for the purpose to pay for the water main replacement project in and around Arnold Court, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion: none

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Article 23: To do and transact any other business that may properly come before this meeting, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion to dissolve this meeting made by Michelle Francesconi and seconded by Heather Emerson.

Voice vote taken.

Unanimous.

Meeting dissolved at 9:48 PM.

ATTEST: True Copy

Christine B. Emerson
Cheshire Town Clerk

*** Bites ***

The quorum for this Annual Town Meeting was reduced to 25 from 50 by vote of three to two by the Board of Selectmen on August 27, 2020 under the Emergency House Bill 4777. The Attorney General's Office was notified of the reduction in the quorum for the Annual Town Meeting.

Our gratitude to Carol Francesconi for Moderating this Annual Town Meeting. Mrs. Francesconi did a marvelous job for her first experience of moderating.

Also, thank you to Chief Garner and Officer Tarjick for counting the many card votes of the evening.

The COVID-19 protocols made the planning for the Annual Meeting intensive. Being at the High School was a totally new experience for all of us. The Meeting was done extremely well.

Thank you Andy Kachel for bringing the Shield Guards, boxes to and from the High School and for setting up the tables for the Voter Check-in.

State Election Warrant - November 3, 2020

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth
2020 STATE ELECTION

Berkshire SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of CHESHIRE

GREETINGS:

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 Elections to vote at:

Cheshire Community / Senior Center
119 School Street, Cheshire, MA
on TUESDAY, THE THIRD DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2020,
from 7:00 AM. TO 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the State Election for the candidates for the following offices:

ELECTORS OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR THESE UNITED STATES
SENATOR IN CONGRESS.....FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS.....FIRST DISTRICT
COUNCILLOR.....EIGHTH DISTRICT
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT BERKSHIRE, HAMPSHIRE, FRANKLIN & HAMPDEN DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT FIRST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT
REGISTER OF PROBATE BERKSHIRE COUNTY

QUESTION 1: Law Proposed by Initiative Petition

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives on or before May 5, 2020?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would require that motor vehicle owners and independent repair facilities be provided with expanded access to mechanical data related to vehicle maintenance and repair.

Starting with model year 2022, the proposed law would require manufacturers of motor vehicles sold in Massachusetts to equip any such vehicles that use telematics systems -- systems that collect and wirelessly transmit mechanical data to a remote server -- with a standardized open access data platform. Owners of motor vehicles with telematics systems would get access to mechanical data through a mobile device application. With vehicle owner authorization, independent repair facilities (those not affiliated with a manufacturer) and independent dealerships would be able to retrieve mechanical data from, and send commands to, the vehicle for repair, maintenance, and diagnostic testing.

Under the proposed law, manufacturers would not be allowed to require authorization before owners or repair facilities could access mechanical data stored in a motor vehicle's on-board

diagnostic system, except through an authorization process standardized across all makes and models and administered by an entity unaffiliated with the manufacturer.

The proposed law would require the Attorney General to prepare a notice for prospective motor vehicle owners and lessees explaining telematics systems and the proposed law's requirements concerning access to the vehicle's mechanical data. Under the proposed law, dealers would have to provide prospective owners with, and prospective owners would have to acknowledge receipt of, the notice before buying or leasing a vehicle. Failure to comply with these notice requirements would subject motor vehicle dealers to sanctions by the applicable licensing authority.

Motor vehicle owners and independent repair facilities could enforce this law through state consumer protection laws and recover civil penalties of the greater of treble damages or \$10,000 per violation.

A YES VOTE would provide motor vehicle owners and independent repair facilities with expanded access to wirelessly transmitted mechanical data related to their vehicles' maintenance and repair.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the law governing access to vehicles' wirelessly transmitted mechanical data.

QUESTION 2: Law Proposed by Initiative Petition

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives on or before May 5, 2020?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would implement a voting system known as “ranked-choice voting,” in which voters rank one or more candidates by order of preference. Ranked-choice voting would be used in primary and general elections for all Massachusetts statewide offices, state legislative offices, federal congressional offices, and certain other offices beginning in 2022. Ranked-choice voting would not be used in elections for president, county commissioner, or regional district school committee member.

Under the proposed law, votes would be counted in a series of rounds. In the first round, if one candidate received more than 50 percent of the first-place votes, that candidate would be declared the winner and no other rounds would be necessary. If no candidate received more than 50 percent of the first-place votes, then the candidate or candidates who received the fewest first-place votes would be eliminated and, in the next round, each vote for an eliminated candidate would instead be counted toward the next highest-ranked candidate on that voter’s ballot. Depending on the number of candidates, additional rounds of counting could occur, with the last-place candidate or candidates in each round being eliminated and the votes for an eliminated candidate going to the voter’s next choice out of the remaining candidates. A tie for last place in any round would be broken by comparing the tied candidates’ support in earlier rounds. Ultimately, the candidate who was, out of the remaining candidates, the preference of a majority of voters would be declared the winner.

Ranked-choice voting would be used only in races where a single candidate is to be declared the winner and not in races where more than one person is to be elected.

Under the proposed law, if no candidate received more than 50 percent of first-place votes in the first round, the rounds of ballot-counting necessary for ranked-choice voting would be conducted at a central tabulation facility. At the facility, voters’ rankings

would be entered into a computer, which would then be used to calculate the results of each round of the counting process. The proposed law provides that candidates in a statewide or district election would have at least three days to request a recount.

The Secretary of State would be required to issue regulations to implement the proposed law and conduct a voter education campaign about the ranked-choice voting process. The proposed law would take effect on January 1, 2022.

A YES VOTE would create a system of ranked-choice voting in which voters would have the option to rank candidates in order of preference and votes would be counted in rounds, eliminating candidates with the lowest votes until one candidate has received a majority.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the laws governing voting and how votes are counted.

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 20th day of October, 2020.

Michelle Francesconi _____
Robert S. Ciskowski _____
Jason Levesque _____
Mark Biagini _____
Ronald DeAngelis _____

Selectmen of Cheshire

Posted:

Cheshire Town Hall, Town Hall Annex, Cheshire Police Station, Cheshire Post Office, Cheshire Community/Senior Center and H.D. Reynolds

Constable _____

Warrant must be posted by October 27, 2020, (no fewer than seven days prior to the November 3, 2020 State Election).

Special Election Debt Exclusion - November 21, 2020

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.

SPECIAL ELECTION DEBT EXCLUSION

Cheshire Community/Senior Center

119 School Street

Saturday, November 21, 2020

Polls open: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

BALLOT QUESTION:

“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 Ford 550 or other similar truck with related plow and sanding equipment for use in the Highway Department?”

Yes _____ No _____

And you are directed to serve this Warrant, by posting up attested copies thereof at 4 places in said Town, seven days at least before the time of holding said election.

HEREOF FAIL NOT,

and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the TOWN CLERK at the time and place of election as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this Tenth day November in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty.

Michelle Francesconi _____

Robert Ciskowski _____

Mark Biagini _____

Jason Levesque _____

Ronald DeAngelis _____

A true copy. ATTEST:

Constable _____

Cheshire Annual Election Results - May 3, 2021

Postponed from May 4th, 2020 due to COVID-19

Total ballots cast: 362

Registered Voters 2,501

OFFICE	NAME	VOTES
Selectmen	Michael Biagini Jr.	158
	Raymond Killeen	252*
	Shawn McGrath	244*
	Write-in	1
	Blanks	69
	Total (Vote two)	724
Assessor	Everett L. Martin	275
	write-in	3
	Blanks	84
		362
Board of Health	Brian Trudeau	291
	write-in	2
	Blanks	69
		362
Tax Collector	Rebecca Herzog	318
	write-in	0
	Blanks	44
		362
Town Clerk	Christine B. Emerson	201
	write-in	3
	Blanks	58
		362
Water Commissioner 3 Year Term	Ricky Gurney	295
	write-in	1
	Blanks	66
		362
Water Commissioner 1 Year Term	1 year term Stephen LaFogg	250
	write-in	5
	Blanks	107
		362

OFFICE	NAME	VOTES
Cemetery Commissioner	Sandra Sloane (write-in)	20
	write-in	17
	Blanks	325
		362
Planning Board 5 year term	write-in	51
	Blanks	311
		362
<i>Failure To Elect</i>		
Planning Board 4 year term	Aaron Singer	267
	write-in	2
	Blanks	93
		362
Planning Board 1 year term	write-in	55
	Blanks	307
		362
	<i>Failure To Elect</i>	
Hoosac Valley Regional School District		
School Committee Member from Cheshire		
	Bethany DeMarco	292
	write-in	2
	Blanks	68
		362
Hoosac Valley Regional School District		
School Committee Member from Adams		
	Michael Mucci Jr.	278
	write-in	0
	Blanks	84
		362

Respectfully submitted,

Christine B. Emerson
Town Clerk

Annual Town Meeting - June 14, 2021

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Berkshire, SS.

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

GREETINGS:

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.

Hoosac Valley Middle and High School Auditorium

125 Savoy Road, Cheshire 01225

Monday, June 14, 2021

6:30 pm

Voter check-in to begin at 5:30 pm.

CHESHIRE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Voters present: 87

Non-voters present: 4

Good Evening and Welcome.

The Meeting was opened by the Town Clerk.

The heading of the warrant was read.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of the Selectmen, Town Administrator, Town Counsel, and Finance Committee.

Town Clerk entertained a motion for nomination of an interim moderator for the meeting.

Nomination of Carol Francesconi; seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Unanimous.**

Carol Francesconi was elected moderator for the evening.

Motion to waive the reading of the balance of the warrant and the return of service made by Michelle Francesconi; seconded by Mark Biagini.

Voice vote taken. **Unanimous.**

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

Motion to accept the Annual Report made by Michelle Francesconi; seconded by Mark Biagini.

The Selectmen chose not to make any statements about the past year in the interest of time for the meeting.

Voice vote taken. **Unanimous.**

Article 2. To see if the Town of Cheshire 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. If federal or state programs, or other alternative funding sources, are available to supplant Town

funding for the same purpose, the Board of Selectmen may reduce the Town's portion of said funding in a manner commensurate with the additional federal or state revenue received for said purpose.

John Tremblay, Chair of the Finance Committee stated that the Selectmen and the Finance Committee had worked diligently and that the proposed budget was a good one.

Moderator explained that this article was the Town budget, the budget would be read through item by item, anyone wishing to discuss a line item, please state "set-aside"

The budget less the "set-asides" would be voted in entirety and the "set-asides" would be discussed and voted one at time.

The budget reading began.

Set-asides:

1. Conservation Commission Salaries
2. Conservation Commission Secretary Salary
3. Town Administrator Salary
4. Accountant's Expenses
5. Employee Health Insurance
6. Special Repairs to Town Buildings
7. Police Chief Salary
8. Police Department Sergeant Salary
9. Police Salaries
10. Fire Chief Salary
11. Highway Department Salaries
12. Highway Department Superintendent Salary
13. Council On Aging Van Operator Salary
14. Hoosac Valley Regional School District Over Foundation Budget

Moderator called for a motion to vote the budget less the set-asides.

Motion to accept the budget as presented made by Michelle Francesconi and seconded by Mark Biagini.

Voice vote taken. **Unanimous.**

Set-asides:

1. Conservation Commission Salaries:

Mr. Trudeau asked was there an increase in the Commission’s salaries.

Answer was no, each member of the Commission receives \$500.

Mr. Trudeau withdrew hold on the line item.

Moderator called for a motion.

Motion made and seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Unanimous.**

2. Conservation Commission Secretary Salary:

Mr. Trudeau asked was a secretary necessary.

Answer was yes; postings, notices in newspaper and DEP filings.

Mr. Trudeau withdrew hold on line item.

Moderator called for motion.

Motion made and seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Unanimous.**

3. Town Administrator Salary:

Mr. Trudeau asked why the position went to full-time and doubled salary?

Michelle Francesconi answered that the Town needs a full-time Administrator for various reasons.

Administrator full-time would be available to officials, departments, committees and citizenry. Grant writing is another reason.

Also, stated that the candidate that was chosen is well qualified.

Several people stated that a grant writing administrator would benefit the town.

Daniel Delorey, former Selectmen, stated that he didn’t believe the position calls for full-time. The cost is excessive for our Town.

Mr. Delorey made a motion to reduce the salary to \$42,500; motion was seconded.

Robert Navin, Highway Superintendent, was given permission to address the meeting.

He stated that a full-time Administrator who is qualified and organized would be advantageous to the Town.

Both the Police Chief Tim Garner and Fire Chief Tom Francesconi spoke in favor of having a full-time Administrator.

John Tremblay, Finance Committee, the position is not just for writing grants it is having a “chief operations officer” full-time.

Selectmen, Raymond Killeen, Mark Biagini, and Shawn McGrath also stated that they favor a full-time administrator.

Moderator stated that this would be a card vote for both the amendment to the salary and the salary as printed in the budget.

Motion on the floor for the amendment to reduce the salary to \$42,500.

Card vote taken. Yes 6 No 69 **Defeated.**

Motion to have the salary remain at \$85,000 made and seconded.

Card vote taken. Yes 68 No 5 **Passed.**

4. Accountant’s Expense:

Lynne Lemanski, Town Accountant, stated that the line item had been cut and requested the needed and asked for amount of \$1,400.

Discussion: none

Motion to raise the line item by \$1,000 to total \$1,400 made and seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Unanimous.**

5. Employee Health Insurance:

Mr. Trudeau asked if the Town shops around for the best value in insurance?

Rebecca Herzog, Town Treasurer, answered that yes, they look for the best insurance cost and value.

Motion made to accept the line item as printed in the budget; seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Unanimous.**

6. Special Repairs to Town Buildings:

Mr. Trudeau withdrew the hold.

Motion to accept the line item as printed in the budget; seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Unanimous.**

7. Police Chief Salary:

Mr. Trudeau asked why the percentage of increase in the salary when the majority of the offices received two percent?

Jason Levesque stated that the Selectmen and Finance Committee wanted to start a steady increase in the salary to be ready for the future.

Motion to accept the Police Chief salary made and seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Passed.**

8. Police Sergeant Salary:

Mr. Trudeau asked why the percent of increase is higher for this line item?

Mark Webber, Interim Town Administrator, answered that the increase is contractual and should be increased to \$56,773 (\$551 increase).

Motion made to increase the salary line item by \$551 and seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Unanimous.**

9. Police Salaries:

Mr. Trudeau again asked why the difference in percentages?

Michelle Francesconi answered that the police have serious responsibilities.

Chief Garner stated that the Town needs to be more forward thinking in salary amounts.

Motion to accept the Police salaries line item as printed and seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Passed.**

10. Fire Chief Salary:

Mr. Trudeau asked again why the percentage increase?
Jason Levesque stated that the same principal used for the Police Chief salary is to move forward for the future.

Motion to accept the Fire Chief salary as printed in the budget; seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Passed.**

11. Highway Department Salaries:

Mark Webber stated the line item should be increased by \$2,000 due to contracts.

Motion to increase the line item by \$2,000 made and seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Passed.**

12. Highway Superintendent Salary:

Mr. Trudeau asked again why the larger percentage increase?
Mark Webber again stated that the increase is contractual.

Motion to accept the Highway Superintendent Salary as printed in the budget made and seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Passed.**

13. COA Van Driver Salary:

Mr. Trudeau again asked why the larger percentage of increase?
Gene Gebarowski, Chair of the COA, stated that to have qualified drivers the increase was necessary.

Mr. Trudeau asked why \$18 an hour?

Mr. Gebarowski answered because of the responsibility the job entails.

Mr. Trudeau withdrew the hold.

Motion to accept the COA Van Driver Salary as printed in the budget made and seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Unanimous.**

14. HVRSD Over Foundation Budget:

Mr. Trudeau asked for an explanation of the amount of the over foundation budget.

Erika Snyder, HVRSD, explained the foundation and over foundation budgets.

Stating that Cheshire's assessment did raise.

Aaron Dean, HVRSD Superintendent, stated that the assessment ratio is part of the Regional Agreement.

Motion to accept the HVRSD Over Foundation Budget made and seconded.

Voice vote taken. **Unanimous.**

Moderator stated that the FY 22 budget for the Town has been voted.

Article 3. To see if the Town of Cheshire 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 read made by Michelle Francesconi; seconded by Mark Biagini.

Mark Webber stated that this article was procedural.

Discussion: none.

Voice vote taken. **Unanimous.**

Article 4. To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to appropriate from available certified free cash the sum of \$260,000 (two-hundred sixty thousand dollars) to reduce the tax rate, *or take any other action in relation thereto.* If federal or state programs, or other alternative funding sources, are available to supplant Town funding for the same purpose, the Board of Selectmen may reduce the Town's portion of said funding in a manner commensurate with the additional federal or state revenue received for said purpose, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion to accept the article as read made by Michelle Francesconi; seconded by Mark Biagini.

Discussion:

Question asked was this article to reduce the tax rate or to balance the budget?

Mark Webber answered a procedural article to use free cash to balance the budget.

Voice vote taken. **Unanimous.**

Article 5: To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to transfer the sum of \$71,000 (seventy-one thousand dollars) from available certified free cash and appropriate the same amount for the purpose of procuring professional IT services, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion to accept the article as read made by Michelle Francesconi; seconded by Mark Biagini.

Discussion:

Question asked was this article to reduce the tax rate or to balance the budget?

Mark Webber answered a procedural article to use free cash to balance the budget.

Voice vote taken. **Unanimous.**

Article 6: To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to transfer the sum of \$7,200 (seven-thousand two-hundred dollars) from available certified free cash and appropriate the same amount for the purpose of securing specialized contracted services to the Board of Assessors, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion to accept the article as read made by Michelle Francesconi; seconded by Mark Biagini.

Discussion:

Question, what does the Town get for this?

Michelle Francesconi answered an upgrade to the town's computer technology.

Voice vote taken. **Unanimous.**

Article 7: To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to transfer the sum of \$15,000 (fifteen thousand dollars) from available certified free cash and appropriate the same amount for the purpose of purchasing a used pick-up truck to be used as “fire protection brush truck” by the Cheshire Fire Department, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion to accept the article as read made by Michelle Francesconi; seconded by Mark Biagini.

Discussion: none.

Voice vote taken.

Unanimous.

Article 8: To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to transfer and the sum of \$60,000 (sixty-thousand dollars) from available funds as approved at the September 15, 2020 Annual Town Meeting for the procurement of design services for the renovation/construction of a community center/Town Hall and construction of a public safety complex to be located at 191 Church Street, and to transfer the same amount for the re-purpose of conducting repairs to the Cheshire Fire Station floor and to procure professional engineering services to perform a comprehensive Town buildings needs assessment, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion to accept the article as read made by Michelle Francesconi; seconded by Mark Biagini.

Discussion:

Question is this a backward vote?

Mark Webber explained the priority of moving funds to balance the budget.

Voice vote taken.

Unanimous.

Article 9: To see if the Town of Cheshire will accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 53, Section 9A for the purpose of establishing clear rules for the dates of taking out and returning town election nomination papers, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion to accept the article as read made by Michelle Francesconi, seconded by Mark Biagini.

Discussion:

Mr. Trudeau asked why this article is necessary when past practice of taking out papers has been working. He does not approve the article.

Town Clerk asked the Moderator if she could address this article.

“I am in favor and approve the acceptance of this chapter as a set date and time for taking out nomination papers would be in place. To avoid the misunderstandings and accusations associated with this year’s nomination papers for the election cycle. The procedure this year was validated by the Secretary of the Commonwealth Election Division as being legal since the town had not accepted Chapter 53 Section 9A.”

Voice vote taken.

Passed with one against.

Article 10: Senior Tax Exemption

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provi-

sions of Chapter 184 section 51 of the Acts of 2002 (Amending Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59 Section 5 Clause 41C), to adjust Clause 41C eligibility requirements as follows, to become effective July 1, 2021 for the Fiscal Year 2022 tax billing:

Minimum Age: reduced to 65 from 70

Gross Receipts Limit: SINGLE resident increased from \$13,000 to \$16,500; Married Couple residents increased from \$15,000 to \$22,500, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

[NOTE: The increased amounts do not include the annual Social Security Deduction allowed. The FY 2022 deduction for Single resident is \$4,911, making the total Single Resident Gross Receipts Limit \$21,411 for FY 2022. The FY 2022 deduction for Married couple residents is \$7,367, making the total Married Couple Gross Receipts Limit \$29,867.]

Motion to accept the article as read made by Michelle Francesconi; seconded by mark Biagin.

Discussion: none.

Voice vote taken.

Unanimous.

Article 11: Structured Tax Agreement for Harbor Road Solar 1, LLC

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of MGL Chapter 59, Section 38H to authorize the Board of Selectmen, on behalf of the Town of Cheshire, to negotiate and enter into a payment in tax agreement for a term of twenty (20) years with the lessee/operator of the 1.980 MW alternating current solar photovoltaic energy generating facility located on approximately 8.898 acres out of a 20.10 acre parcel on the easterly side of Harbor Road, Cheshire, MA and further identified as a portion of Assessors Map 227, Parcels 010 & 011, said parcels being more particularly described by a deed recorded in Book 886, Page 6 and Book 1037, Page 151 at the Berkshire North County Registry of Deeds, upon such terms as the Board of Selectmen shall deem to be in the best interest of the Town, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

[NOTE: **Article Information:** In accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59, § 38H the Town can enter into a structured tax agreement, also known as a PILOT agreement, with a developer to establish an annualized payment in lieu of a personal property tax bill. The agreed upon annual rate is based on an assessment of the value of the project and considers an annual increase in rate. Approval of a structured tax agreement provides the developer with a predictable cost model and provides the Town with an agreed upon tax payment for the duration of the agreement. The developer is seeking a term of twenty (20) years which requires Town Meeting approval. This agreement will provide the Town with higher annual tax revenue than standard DOR methodology. Approximate annual revenue would be \$25,000. The proposed

agreement can be reviewed at Town Hall during normal business hours. Approval of this article requires a majority vote.]

Motion to accept the article as read made by Michelle Francesconi; seconded by Mark Biagini.

Discussion:

Jan Kuniholm asked if this was acceptance?

Mark Webber stated it was assessment.

Gus Martin, Assessor, questioned the description of the road, to be corrected to East Harbor Road.

Voice vote taken.

Unanimous.

Article 12: To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to authorize the Treasurer, per MGL Chapter 44, Section 2, to borrow the sum of \$235,000 (two-hundred thirty-five thousand dollars) for the purpose of purchasing a new model year Freightliner M-2 Series 4x4 wing plow single-axle dump truck for use within the Highway Department and to dispose of a 2006 International 4x4 wing plow dump truck to the highest responsible bidder, contingent upon subsequent passage of a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion vote, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

[NOTE: This article requires a two-thirds vote for borrowing approval and subsequent majority ballot vote for a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion to be held at a future election.]

Motion to accept the article as read made by Michelle Francesconi; seconded by Mark Biagini.

Discussion:

Robert Navin stated that next year one truck comes off the debt and probably would be next year before this truck would arrive.

Card vote taken. **Yes 75** No 9 **Passed.**

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$150,000 (one-hundred fifty thousand dollars) from available certified Water Operations Surplus for the purpose of conducting Route 8 water main replacement, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

[NOTE: current balance of Cheshire Water Operations Retained Earnings is \$177,956.]

Motion to accept the article as read made by Michelle Francesconi; seconded by Mark Biagini.

Discussion:

Ricky Gurney, Water Commissioner, stated the \$150,000 from Water Surplus and the next article borrowing \$500,000 is for water main replacement on Route 8 as specified by the DEP. The project has gone out for bid.

Voice vote taken.

Unanimous.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, per MGL Chapter 44, Section 2, to borrow the sum of \$500,000 for the purpose of conducting Route 8 water main replacement, contingent upon subsequent passage of a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion vote, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

[NOTE: If approved, all associated debt service shall be offset in full by Cheshire Water users.]

Motion to accept the article as read made by Michelle Francesconi; seconded by Mark Biagini.

Discussion:

Theresa Miller asked for an explanation of the project and why the Town would be borrowing?

Ricky Gurney, explained the project and that the Town has to secure the loan for the Water Department.

Carol Francesconi asked if the Town borrows the funds will it not effect the tax rate?

The answer was no.

Card vote called. **Yes 57** No 1 **Passed.**

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote, as authorized under MGL Chapter 41, Section 1B, to change to position of Tax Collector to an appointed position from an elected position and to further act, pursuant to this Section to combine the positions of Tax Collector and Town Treasurer into one position, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

[NOTES: 1) Majority approval of a subsequent Annual Town Election ballot question is required to adopt the provisions of this warrant article.
2) If approved, this action will take effect in May, 2024 which is the end of the Tax Collector's current term.]

Motion to accept the article as read made by Michelle Francesconi; seconded by Mark Biagini.

Discussion:

Mr. Trudeau asked why bring this article now since the election is three years away?

Michelle Francesconi answered that the Selectmen want to make sure that the Treasurer/Tax Collector is their appointment to ensure qualified candidates. The Selectmen are looking to the future.

Mark Webber made the statement that these two articles in no way are a reflection on Becky or Christine as both are very capable. Thank you, Mark!

Card vote called. **Yes 61** No 6 **Passed.**

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote, as authorized under MGL Chapter 41, Section 1B, to change to position of Town Clerk from elected to appointed, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

[NOTES: 1) Majority approval of a subsequent Annual Town Election ballot question is required to adopt the provisions of this warrant article.
2) If approved, this action will take effect in May, 2024 which is the end of the Town Clerk's current term.]

Motion to accept the article as read made by Michelle Francesconi; seconded by Mark Biagini.

Discussion:

Gary Trudeau again asked why these positions were being made appointed not elected? He asked the Town Clerk if in this last

election if pressure had been brought this election cycle and would she like to address this?

Town Clerk stated that Mr. Trudeau was correct that this cycle had been stressful. I believe the position of Town Clerk should remain elected. Every elected official answers first to the Commonwealth; Board of Health, Assessors, Planning Board, Treasurer, Tax Collector and for my office I answer to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Election Division, Attorney General, the residents of the Town who elected me and the oath I take. This is grass roots government, to have a choice by vote.

Card vote called. Yes 23 No 39 Failed.

Article 17: LEGISLATION PROVIDING FOR RECALL ELECTIONS OF TOWNWIDE ELECTED OFFICIALS

To see if the Town will authorize and empower the Select Board, on such date and in such manner as required by the House Clerk, to file a petition for legislation to provide for recall elections of town-wide officials in the town of Cheshire, provided that the General Court adopts this bill precisely as set forth below. The General Court may make only clerical or editorial changes of form to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court. The Select Board is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition as long as such amendments do not make it more difficult to recall officials, or take any other action in relation thereto.

AN ACT TO ALLOW THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE TO PROVIDE FOR RECALL ELECTIONS OF TOWNWIDE ELECTED OFFICIALS. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

Recall Elections – Town of Cheshire

1.) Holders of office may be recalled.

Any holder of an elective office with more than 6 months remaining in term may be recalled, and removed therefrom by the qualified voters of the Town as herein provided.

2.) Recall; petition; preparation; filing.

Any qualified voter of the Town may file with the Town Clerk an affidavit containing the name of the officer sought to be recalled and a statement of the grounds of recall. The Town Clerk shall thereupon deliver to the voter making such affidavit a sufficient number of copies of petition blanks demanding such recall, printed forms of which he/she shall keep on hand. The blanks shall be issued by the Town Clerk with his/her signature and official seal attached thereto; they shall be dated and addressed to the Selectmen, shall contain the name of the person to whom issued, the number of blanks so issued, the name of the person sought to be recalled, the grounds of recall as stated

in said affidavit, and shall demand the election of a successor to such office. A copy of the petition shall be entered in a record book to be kept in the office of the Town Clerk. The recall petition shall be returned and filed with the Town Clerk within twenty (20) days after the filing of the affidavit. Said petition before being returned and filed shall be signed by three percent or 100 registered voters, whichever is less, and to every signature shall be added the place of residence of the signer, giving street and number. The recall petition shall be submitted by the Town Clerk at or before 4:30 o'clock in the afternoon of the day following the day on which it must be filed to the Registrars of Voters in the Town, and the Registrars shall forthwith certify thereon the number of signatures which are names of voters of the Town.

3.) Resignation of officer; election as to recall.

If the petition shall be found and certified by the Town Clerk to be sufficient, he/she shall submit it with his certificate to the Selectmen without delay (no later than the end of the next day). The Selectmen shall forthwith give written notice to said officer of the receipt of said certificate within 48 hours and, if the officer sought to be removed does not resign within five days, shall order an election to be held on a day fixed by them not less than 60 days, nor more than 90 days after the date of the Town Clerk's certificate that a sufficient petition is filed. If any other Town election is to occur within 100 days after the date of said certificate the Selectmen may, at their discretion, postpone the holding of the recall election to the date of such other election. If a vacancy occurs in the office after a recall election has been ordered, the election shall nevertheless proceed as provided in this section, but only the ballots for candidates need be counted.

4.) Officer being recalled may be candidate.

Any officer sought to be recalled may be a candidate to succeed himself, and unless he requests otherwise in writing, the Town Clerk, shall place his name on the official ballot without nomination. The nomination of other candidates, the publication of the warrant for the recall election, and the conduct of the same shall be in accordance with the provisions of law relating to elections, unless otherwise provided in this act.

5.) Incumbent to continue duties until recalled.

The incumbent shall continue to perform the duties of his office until the recall election. If then re-elected, he shall continue in office for the remainder of his unexpired term, subject to recall as before, except as provided in [7.]). If not re-elected in the recall election, he shall be deemed removed upon the qualification of his successor, who shall hold office during the unexpired term. If the successor fails to qualify within five days after receiving notification of his election, the incumbent shall thereupon be deemed removed and the office vacant.

6.) Form of ballots for recall.

Ballots used in a recall election shall submit the following propositions in the order indicated:

- For the recall of (name of officer).
- Against the recall of (name of officer).

7.) Limitations on petitions.

No recall petition shall be filed against an officer within six months after he takes office, nor, in the case of an office subjected to a recall election and not removed thereby, until at least six months after that election.

8.) Prohibition against appointment of recalled officer.

No person who has been recalled from an office or who has resigned from office while recall proceedings were pending against him shall be appointed to any Town office within three years after such removal by recall or resignation.

Motion to accept the article as read made by Jason Levesque; seconded by Raymond Killeen.

Selectmen Mark Biagini stated that he was not in favor of the Recall Process and that this process would divide the Town.

Discussion:

Jason Levesque stated that the Recall was a way to remove someone from office if that person was not fulfilling the duties of the position that they were elected to.

Gary Trudeau said that voting that official out of office is the way to deal with the situation. Simply do not re-elect.

Carol Francesconi addressed the meeting stating that she had served the Town for over thirty years and never thought of using Recall. There are ways to deal with a situation within Town government to remove an official. She agreed with Mark that Recall would indeed divide the Town.

Recall is a very divisive process.

Voice vote taken.

Defeated Loudly.

Article 18: To do and transact any other business that may properly come before this meeting, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion to dissolve this meeting made by Michelle Francesconi; seconded by Mark Biagini.

Discussion:

John Tremblay thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and said there will be a Block Party, date to be announced.

Voice vote taken.

Unanimous.

Meeting dissolved at 9:32 pm.

ATTEST: True Copy

Christine B. Emerson
Cheshire Town Clerk

Special thank you to Carol Francesconi for accepting and stepping in as Moderator for the evening. Great job done!

Thank you to Nancy Delorey and Diane Hitter for doing the voter check-in.

Thank you to Bob Navin and the Highway Crew for toting boxes and shields from the Town Hall to the High School and then back again.

Thank you to Hoosac Valley School for hosting the meeting and doing the lights and audio.

Special Election Debt Exclusion - August 24, 2021

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.

SPECIAL ELECTION DEBT EXCLUSION

119 School Street

Cheshire Community/Senior Center

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

Polls open 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

Then and there to act on the following:

QUESTION 1:

“Shall the Town of Cheshire be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so called, the amount required to pay for the bond issued in order to purchase a new model year Freightliner M-2 Series 4x4 wing plow single axle dump truck for use within the Highway Department?”

Yes _____ No _____

QUESTION 2:

“Shall the Town of Cheshire be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so called, to authorize the Treasurer, per MGL Chapter 44, Section 2, to borrow a sum of money for the purpose of conducting Route 8 water main replacement?”

Yes _____ No _____

And you are directed to serve this Warrant, by posting up attested copies thereof at 4 places in said Town, seven days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

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 10th day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one.

Michelle Francesconi _____

Mark Biagini _____

Jason Levesque _____

Raymond Killeen _____

Shawn McGrath _____

Selectmen of Cheshire

A true copy. ATTEST

Constable _____

**ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
HOOSAC VALLEY
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
CHESHIRE, MA 01225**

**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021**

Reports from the School Committee Chair and Athletics were unavailable as of the Cheshire Annual Town Meeting.

Report of the Superintendent

FY2022 Town Report

Dear Community Members,

In August 2019, the Hoosac Valley School Committee selected me as the next superintendent of Hoosac Valley Regional School District. As I enter year 4 as the district leader, we have finally reached a point where we can dive deeper into our strategic planning. Thus far in my tenure we have worked to:

1. Determine strengths, challenges, and set goals for improvement in our schools
2. Gain deeper insight into the student experience
3. Examine relationships between schools with families and with the broader community
4. Analyze and adjust current policies, protocols, and norms with an equity lens
5. Identify data to inform long-range strategic planning and track progress

Using the above information, the administrative team has developed a district improvement plan and aligned school improvement plans aimed at promoting a positive culture and academic achievement for all students. In addition, we continue to refine our college and career pathways with our high school programming through the expansion of Biomedical and Environmental Science programs and the continued expansion of our opportunities in partnership with BCC and MCLA, including a potential new pathway for early childhood education.

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE's) District Standards and Indicators Framework defines six standards of effective school district policy and practice, which, if implemented well, are likely to lead to improved student performance, opportunities, and outcomes. As with last year's town report, I am using this as a tool to frame our work and progress as a district.

Leadership and Governance

School committee members and district and school leaders work collaboratively and strategically to improve all students' performance, opportunities, and outcomes. They establish, implement, and evaluate policies, procedures, systems, and budgets with a primary focus on achieving district-wide improvement goals, in part through equitable and effective use of resources.

- The school committee has again adopted aligned school and district improvement plans with targeted strategic objectives that focus on 4 key areas:
 1. Curriculum, Planning, and Assessment
 2. Teaching All Students
 3. Family and Community Engagement
 4. Professional Culture
- The school committee has continued with the use of data in academic and social emotional areas for the purposes of driving decisions with budget and policies.

Assessment

The district establishes and supports a culture that values the use of data in improving teaching, learning, and decision-making. District and school leaders ensure that systems are in place for the efficient and purposeful collection, use, and sharing of data from a variety of assessments to guide decision making at the district, school and classroom levels and to improve all students' performance, opportunities, and outcomes.

- HVRSD performs academic benchmark testing in the areas of ELA and Math 3 times per year. This data is triangulated with MCAS results to create a full picture of academic strengths and challenges. Students who are identified for intervention are progress monitored between benchmark periods to explicitly track growth.
- HVRSD collects and intentionally uses data to inform decision making academically and social-emotionally. Data is analyzed and utilized for decision making on the district level, school level, classroom level and individual student level.
 - Each school has an instructional leadership team that is tasked with analysis of school wide data.
 - Benchmark data is analyzed by all core teachers following benchmarks and adjustments are made to groupings and interventions based on this data.
 - Benchmark data is shared with parents/caregivers so that they have information they need and deserve about their student(s)' performance in math and reading compared to peers of the same age across the nation.
- HVRSD utilizes social emotional survey data and a Social, Academic, and Emotional Behavior Risk Screener (SAEBRS) to assess student skills with the 5 social emotional competencies: Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, and Responsible Decision-Making.
- Training has been provided to all educator teams on the effective use of formative assessment data to monitor student progress and understanding of content. As such, common planning time is utilized by staff for analyzing student work.

Human Resources and Professional Development

The district strategically designs, implements and oversees human resource and inclusive professional development efforts in a way that supports an aligned human capital management system and results in the employment, development and retention of effective educators who are successful in advancing all students' performance, opportunities, and outcomes.

- HVRSD is actively working with other Berkshire County districts to collaborate in the areas of professional development and curriculum development.

- HVRSD is engaging with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to support curriculum selection, piloting, and implementation.
 - HVRSD is currently engaged with the following DESE sponsored academies to provide high quality professional development and resources:
 - Math Academy - HVES and HVMS
 - Evidence-Based Early Literacy Learning Grant - HVES
- HVRSD has a comprehensive professional development plan that provides high quality professional development in the development of high leverage teaching practices. The plan includes job embedded professional development such as classroom walkthroughs and coaching, as well as session work in areas such as curriculum development and inclusive teaching practices.
- HVRSD has assembled a robust catalog of summer course offerings for teachers to expand their knowledge in content, planning, and use of inclusive practices in order to support ALL our learners.

Student Support

The district ensures that schools equitably support all students' safety, well-being, and sense of belonging; systematically identify and address students' needs; and engage families and community partners to improve all students' performance, opportunities, and outcomes. The district assesses the programs and practices used across schools to ensure that students experience educational continuity and are well supported through school transitions.

- HVRSD is working to develop Multi Tiered Systems of Support both academically and behaviorally, so that students are provided with early interventions as concerns arise. Each building has a referral process and a system for response to intervention to initiate and evaluate interventions for students.
 - HVRSD has begun the process of training math teachers in Add+VantageMR (AVMR) in order to build a deeper understanding of math content and strategies to reach all learners.
 - HVRSD is in the final stages of selecting a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum in order to provide consistent reinforcement of the 5 SEL competencies at ALL levels.
 - HVRSD has implemented Wilson Reading programming at all levels in order to provide consistent specialized reading instruction at all grade levels.
 - HVRSD has created a WIN (What I Need) block in grades K-7 in order to provide a differentiated way of meeting learners' needs, whether they require intervention or enrichment.
- HVRSD has restructured support for its teachers through the creation of assistant principals of teaching in learning at each level, whose sole purpose is to work with teachers to further develop curriculum and teaching practices.

- HVRSD maintains partnerships with the following organizations as a means of supporting our students and families:
 - Northern Berkshire Community Coalition
 - Department of Children and Families
 - United Cerebral Palsy and Pediatric Development Center
 - Childcare of the Berkshires
 - Regional Meetings (early childhood, foster care and homeless, Title III (English Learner consortium)
 - Multicultural Bridge
 - Anti Defamation League
 - MassHire
 - Massachusetts Rehab Commission
 - Berkshire Family and Individual Resources
 - Northern Berkshire Juvenile Court
 - The Family Center and The Family Place
 - Multicultural Bridge
 - Northern Berkshire United Way

Financial and Asset Management

District leaders manage the equitable allocation and effective use of funding and other resources to improve all students' performance, opportunities, and outcomes, support the district's improvement plan, and secure community support.

Hoosac Valley Regional remains a district with great possibility. However, a review of data and documents supports that the district also faces substantial challenges. The lower-than-state average school spending, per pupil expenditures, and teacher salaries, combined with a large percentage of high needs and high poverty students, leaves the district with substantial hurdles. The annual appropriation for the Hoosac Valley Regional School District is largely based on available state and local revenues, as determined by the town officials. District Profiles & Comparisons (based on latest data available at <https://profiles.doe.mass.edu/>) are as follows:

- Net school spending 116% requirement vs. state average 131%. (FY 2021)
- Total expenditure per pupil \$15,472.85 vs. state average \$17,575.17 (FY 2021)
- Student/teacher ratio 11.5 to 1 vs. state average 11.9 to 1 (FY 2021)
- Students with disabilities 24.7% total enrollment vs. state average 18.9% (FY 2021) Economically disadvantaged population 61.3% vs. state average 43.8% (FY 2021)

As the district is challenged with resources, we are very reliant on grants and donations to move important initiatives forward. In addition to our annual entitlement grants we have received an additional \$470,763 in grant funding as outlined in the following table.

COVID-19 Summer Program Reimbursement	\$ 79,383
P-EBT Reimbursement	1,842
Accelerated Literacy Grant	71,700
EEC - Preschool Planning	40,000
Teacher Diversification	10,274
Civics Grant	22,500
Early Literacy Grant	63,826
Rural Aid	72,937
Food Service EOC	30,451
Berkshire Taconic - HS Intern Van	30,000
Project Lead The Way - Biomedical Program	29,000
MA Cultural Council Grants	6,800
Barrett Fund - SEL Programming at HVHS	10,000
New England Dairy Grant	1,050
Project Bread	1,000

Based on our latest financial audit, the district is on solid footing with financial tracking, forecasting, and controls for properly managing the budget. There is appropriate oversight of staffing and budget allocations to assure expenditures are allocated to the proper funding source. We continue to tweak business office practices to create efficiencies and to ensure that business office procedures are clearly understood and consistently followed.

Closing Thoughts

The district will face considerable challenges in the coming years as we deal with the continued impact of a decline in foundation enrollment, we work to develop consistency in our programming, we work to respond to the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, and we work to find our identity on the secondary level. Despite the pandemic, we have made progress in several areas of our important work in the following ways:

- Adoption of a 5-year curriculum replacement cycle
- Implementation of an updated ELA curriculum, grades Pre-K-12
- Implementation of evidence based SEL curriculum district wide in 2022-2023

- Restructuring of K-7 schedules to include WIN (What I Need) blocks and collaborative planning time which will allow us to further individualize instruction for ALL students
- Purchase of chromebooks to give us a 1:1 student:technology device ratio
- Development of a robust professional development plan that will equip staff with opportunities to expand their content knowledge, further develop their curriculum, and further develop their use of high leverage teaching practices in the classroom
- Implementation of an after school program at the middle school
- Refining intervention programming for ELA and Math
- Implementation of benchmarking systems to track student progress in academic skill sets
 - Families now receive reports 3 times per school year with results
- Utilization of student, family, and staff surveys through Panorama to help us take steps to improve student outcomes and school climate
- Consistent application of district core values in all schools
 - P.R.I.D.E (Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Diversity, and Empathy)
- Development of a budget that aligns core needs with the core budget

Over the next few years we will continue to utilize grant funding in ways that create sustainable programming for the long term. This will require targeted short term and long term plans that address instructional needs, operational needs, and promote equity. As the leader of this district, I am committed to making sure we take the steps necessary to continually improve our district and provide for the needs of all our students. Moreover, I am thankful for the opportunity to serve the very community in which I was raised and schooled. Thank you for your continued support of our schools!

Sincerely,

Aaron M. Dean
 Superintendent
 Hoosac Valley Regional School District

Hoosac Valley High School

WE BELIEVE IN YOU!

We embarked on the 2021-2022 school year with Hoosac P.R.I.D.E. fully intact. Perseverance, respect, integrity, diversity, and empathy have been at the forefront of our work to “increase cultural awareness, sensitivity, and responsiveness by evaluating and respecting individual differences and fostering innovation and positive outcomes” for our students, staff, and stakeholders. We started off the year with a continued commitment to creating a safe, supportive learning environment for ALL.

We came back in full force still navigating the uncertainty of COVID-19 but in full swing nonetheless. While still dealing with natural feelings of anxiety and even waves of uncertainty, we persevered by taking things in stride and putting our students FIRST. If nothing else, the pandemic allowed us to seize new opportunities with our students, staff, and families, and we continue to focus on our commitment to create a safe, supportive learning environment for ALL in our school.

We celebrated many new beginnings as we welcomed folks back IN PERSON. We welcomed new faces at the high school and familiar faces changing positions; Regina Diesz went back into the classroom as a veteran math teacher and coach; Miss Kaitlyn Breitenbach joined the special education inclusion team, as Mr. Jeff Horton rejoined the paraprofessional team; Mr. Patrick Mahoney laced up his sneakers with the physical education department, and he has been working with middle school and high-school students in health & wellness and physical education. Miss Sadie Terramarre stepped out of the art room and into the science classroom – teaching 8th grade science. Also new to our #hvhsfamily is Kasey Leslie. Ms. Leslie joined our English department, as Ms. Molly Meczywor turned in her novels to take over our learning lab/college & career readiness. Molly is also an official member of the administrative team as our athletic director. Ms. Lisa Delmolino and Ms. Rebecca Cohen joined us from middle school as Bridges and inclusion teachers respectively. Mrs. Tammie Shafer became the middle school/high-school Project Lead the Way coordinator, and we announced two new PLTW courses this year! Additionally, at the high school, we announced a new position: transition and work-based learning coordinator. Dallas Berard filled that position, and she’ll work directly with our Cornerstone and Bridges cohorts.

Our days start at 7:30 a.m. with Period 1. In addition to the focus on engaging educational activities and an increase in academic rigor - we continued our advisories to promote and grow meaningful relationships between staff and students, while providing social-emotional and academic support to students. This year we brought in guest speakers and created opportunities for students to engage in P.R.I.D.E. by pledging to really work with and help one another succeed.

Once again this year, we have been lucky enough to be able to offer **free** breakfast and lunch to all students, and students are still welcome to purchase items from the cafeteria in addition to what’s being served on any particular day. Most of our school’s policies and procedures were sent out in our Student Handbook. As always an electronic version of the handbook is available on

the school’s website. Speaking of our NEW AND IMPROVED website – check it out at:

<https://www.hoosacvalley.org>

Meet Hoosac Valley High School was held in early September. Student Picture Day went off without a hitch in late October, and our fabulous advisors planned an Interscholastic Clubs and Organizations virtual “shopping day” and tour for our students. **GRADE 8** students were engaged in an orientation with the LINK CREW (HS mentors) as an introduction to the school year and their assigned mentors.

Our focus has been and continues to be to promote the learning and growth of all students by providing high-quality and coherent instruction, designing and administering authentic and meaningful student assessments, analyzing student performance and growth data, using this data to improve instruction, providing students with constructive feedback on an ongoing basis, and continuously refining learning objectives. Our goal is to establish high expectations, while creating a safe and effective classroom environment. We also know that the growth of our students relies on effective partnerships with families, caregivers, community members, and organizations.

The Instructional Leadership Team continues to work diligently on the standards of the School Improvement Plan, which include classroom walkthroughs and observations, opportunities for collaborative time with colleagues, building in family and community outreach, offering English and math interventions for students (who might be struggling with the curriculum), strengthening our inclusive practices and support services by offering co-teaching opportunities among inclusion teachers and regular education teachers, scheduling faculty meeting time with the Director of Special Services, and becoming more inclusive with our professional development. Academic coaches continue to be instrumental in helping create curricula, helping to revise assessments and rubrics, and most importantly helping to assess multi-tiered systems of support for our students.

WHAT WE ARE OFFERING AND MAINTAINING AT HVHS

HVHS Pathways:

The HVHS pathways are college and career focused and are used to guide students and strengthen their focus for possible future goals after they graduate high school. Our modern pathway programs offer inspiration and learning for all students with a bit more direction in the coursework. Our three distinct pathways are:

- Communication and Arts
- Human Services
- Science Exploration

Students have opportunities to take courses like Energy and the Environment, Medical Detectives, Pathway Careers, Intro to STEM, Spanish, Health and Wellness, Music, Technology

Applications, Global Citizenship, Current Events, History of the Holocaust, Drama & Theater Arts, Conservation and Stewardship, Principles of Biomedical Science, Human Body Systems, and SO MUCH MORE! As part of our initiative students can take advantage of work-study and internship opportunities in their junior and senior years – which promotes opportunities for students to further explore various pathways (examples include composting interns, Broadcast Journalism at MCLA, teacher assistants, etc).

Transportation problems? Not anymore! Berkshire Taconic Foundation provided HVHS with a grant to purchase our very own van! We will now be able to transport students to and from these organizations.

Senior Perks:

Hoosac Valley High School offers its seniors in good standing (in both academics and attendance) perks such as”

- Arriving to school late, schedule permitting
- Leave school early, schedule permitting
- Off-Campus Lunch
- Senior lounge, schedule permitting
- Access to our courtyard during study hall

Early Graduation:

It is possible for students to complete high school graduation requirements at HVHS in less than 4 years. There are criteria that must be met for students that are interested in graduation early, such as successfully completing at least one college course, and all other graduation requirements must be completed (students work with guidance counselors on this).

College Course Enrollment:

HVHS partners with Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and Berkshire Community College to create benefits for high-school students such as being able to earn college credit at no cost (credits will transfer), preparing students for the college-level class and environment, allowing exploration in an academic field of interest, and strengthening college applications. At BCC juniors and seniors can take up to 15 free transferable college credits per year. At MCLA juniors and seniors can earn up to 6 free transferable college credits per year. **Past and future courses offered through BCC and/or MCLA on the HVHS campus include** Introduction to Engineering I and II, Computer Applications, Anatomy and Physiology, English 101, Education and Society, and Environmental Sustainability.

Naviance:

Naviance is an online program used by the School Counseling Department to help manage the college and career readiness process. Students will research careers and colleges, take assessments and surveys, create goals and eventually submit requests for transcripts and recommendation letters directly to their counselor. **Naviance** makes it easier than ever for students to answer the questions that will shape their future: Who am I? What do I want to be? How will I get there? How will I succeed? It's a one-stop shop designed to ease the process for our students!

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

LINK Crew:

Hoosac Valley initiated the LINK Crew program, a high-school transition program that welcomes new students and makes them feel comfortable throughout the first year of their high school experience. Our data continues to show that members of our Grade 8 class struggle in forming positive peer-to-peer and peer-to-staff relationships. To this end, HVHS paired each 8th grader with a junior or senior, who was trained this past summer. During the first few days of school, LINK Crew developed and implemented the Grade 8 Orientation, which included strategies for success, experiential learning, hands-on projects, and positive reinforcement. Throughout this school year, the LINK Crew organized and held activities involving Grade 8 students and their families to further build the relationships needed for a successful first year.

World of Difference:

In an effort to continue to promote positive school climate and address issues of diversity, offensive language, and negative peer-to-peer relationships, Hoosac Valley High School paired with the Anti-Defamation League, the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, former Superintendent William Ballen, and the Berkshire United Way to bring the World of Difference back to HVHS. Ultimately the World of Difference “recognizes that attitudes and beliefs affect actions and that each member of society can have an impact on others and ultimately on the world in which we live.” This year students participated in a training at Wahconah with other students in the county.

HVHS Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, Marching Band:

The High School Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, and Marching Band are back in business. Mr. Keplinger and his ensembles have played at home games this year; they dazzled us with their talents during the holiday seasons, they were showcased in a couple concerts, and they will be playing LIVE at graduation.

Student Council:

Student Council members promote leadership and citizenship, act 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. Students must complete a minimum of 20-hours of service each year. They participate in multiple activities:

- Weekly meetings
 - Discuss school policies and procedures
- Organize and run school election of class officers
- Elect and organize class elections
- Provide annual scholarships for graduating members

Leo Club:

The Hoosac Valley Leo Club works in conjunction with the Adams Lions Club to encourage students to become life-long volunteers. The goal is to present volunteer opportunities to students that will help them see the benefits and rewards of volunteering. Club members are meeting with their advisor, Sadie Terramare, and they were able to work on community events such as recycling Tuesdays.

National Honor Society:

The National Honor Society (NHS) is the nation’s premier organization established to recognize outstanding high-school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to recognize students who embody the four main purposes that have guided chapters of NHS from the beginning: to create enthusiasm for scholarship; to stimulate a desire to render service; to promote leadership; and to develop character in the students of secondary schools. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since its beginning in 1921. Chapter membership not only recognizes students for their accomplishments, but challenges them to develop further through active involvement in school activities and community service. This year, several students were inducted into this national society, and they will be honored at a dinner in May 2022.

Tutoring Center:

The tutoring center has been up and running for several years and continues to support students in their academic growth. A licensed math teacher supervises the room, while students from the National Honor Society work one-on-one with their peers in ELA, math, science, history, and Spanish. The tutoring center is open 4 days a week from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Rainbow Alliance:

The Rainbow Alliance was reinstated this year and aligns with GSA and GLSEN. GSA stands for Gender and Sexuality Alliance. The Rainbow Alliance is a safe space where students can talk and learn about sexual orientation, gender identity, and some of the issues that surround them. The Alliance plays a vital role in making Hoosac a safe space by providing support and organizing work against homophobia and transphobia in school. This year the alliance worked with 18 Degrees and hopes to work with more organizations in the future! The alliance meets bi-weekly on Tuesday afternoons.

There are many exciting things happening at Hoosac Valley High School, and we are proud to include you into our #hvhs-family because We Believe in You, too!

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Byrd
Principal HVHS



The Hoosac Valley High School Leo Club conducted a collection drive for the Louison House.

Hoosac Valley Middle School

2021-2022 Town Report

Engaging Every Student Every Day

The 2021 - 2022 School Year was another year of change met with overall resilience and optimism of students and staff. For the first time since March 13, 2020 students were able to return to some “normalcy.” For our youngest students, it was the first time any of them had even eaten in the cafeteria.

We continue our relentless efforts in improving the educational experience for students. Several staff are enrolled in a graduate level Universal Design of Learning course. We will have staff able to teach the course at HV in the future.

New curriculums were delivered with integrity and students were engaged! This is especially true for 6th grade. Based in part on the curriculum, and with the guidance of their ELA teacher, Mrs. Shelby Gale, 6th graders developed a New Kid Handbook which was adopted by the School Committee as the official new Student Handbook for the district.

We were able to bring outside resources into the school to help provide various supports to students and staff. We were able to bring back student assemblies and saw great success with PRIDE (Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Diversity, Empathy) Rallies. Students enthusiastically participated from cheering on their friends to competing in minute-to-win-it games.

During the last quarter of the year HVMS students will take a total of nine MCAS Tests – ELA and Math for all grades, plus Science in grade five. Despite the hardships of the pandemic, the overwhelming majority of students take the tests seriously and give it their best effort.

This year saw the addition of Ms. Pare, Ms. Skowron and Ms. Berard to our Special Education staff. Mr. Polidore joined us as the new P.E. teacher. It also saw the retirement of several veteran staff: Mrs. Dawn Bishop, Mr. Joe Joppich, Mr. Richard Noel, and Mr. Paul “Tito” Sniezek all expressed their intent to retire. We wish them happiness and peace in this next chapter of life.

We understand that the students did as well as they did in part due to the commitment of their families. We see every day just how critical the Social Emotional aspect of school is and look forward to partnering with families as we implement the new SEL Curriculum once it is chosen.

Thank you for the privilege of working together to help enrich the lives of the students entrusted to our care.

Respectfully,

Christopher Sposato
Principal
Hoosac Valley Middle School



*Hoosac Valley High School
students working on garden project.*

Hoosac Valley Elementary School

Kind. Connected. Visible.

Hoosac Valley Elementary School serves around 360 students in preschool through third grade. The school is located in downtown Adams on Commercial Street. The information included in this report highlights some of our statistical information, reviews some initiatives and tells about current instructional information. Although education over the past two years has looked differently than typical school years, our staff has continued to put the needs of students first and provide the best possible education for all students.

Hoosac P.R.I.D.E.

In the Hoosac Valley Regional School District, all three schools are promoting and developing the tenets of P.R.I.D.E. in all students:

- Perseverance** - Pursuing a goal, trying repeatedly, asking for help.
- Respect** - Appreciating and considering the feelings, wishes, rights, and traditions of (self) and others.
- Integrity** - Doing the right thing even when no one is looking; Being honest and trustworthy.
- Diversity** - Accepting the differences among us gives our community strength.
- Empathy** - Considering others points of view to better understand and contribute to the growth of the relationship.

At HVES, we have monthly P.R.I.D.E. rallies where we focus on one tenet and celebrate all students for demonstrating perseverance, respect, integrity, diversity and empathy. Learning and continuously modeling each component of P.R.I.D.E. prepares our students to become productive members of the community and provides a common language and expectations for all school community members.

Enrollment Comparisons:

Grade	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
PK			56	70	68	34	58
K	68	65	83	75	90	75	87
1	78	68	80	77	85	86	67
2	80	81	78	76	77	73	87
3	84	80	104	77	80	71	64
4	71	80					
5	72	68					
Total	453	442	401	375	400	339	363

HVES Curricula:

At the elementary school, we are implementing three new English Language Arts' programs this year: Heggerty, Foundations and Wit and Wisdom. In math, we continue to implement Eureka Math. All of these programs are evidence and research-based programs that support the needs of our students.

- **Heggerty**: A phonemic awareness program that provides students with consistent and repeated instruction to support the development of decoding and encoding skills by building an understanding that spoken words are made up of individual sounds called phonemes. Daily lessons engage learners in rhyming and onset fluency; isolating final or medial sounds; blending and segmenting words, syllables, and phonemes; adding and deleting phonemes; and substituting phonemes.
- **Foundations**: A multisensory, systematic, structured language program that supports lifelong literacy through the development of critical foundational skills, emphasizing: phonics/word study, high frequency word study, reading fluency, handwriting, and spelling.
- **Wit and Wisdom**: A comprehensive curriculum founded on the belief that literature, history, art, and science all have a place in ELA instruction which helps students build rich layers of content and world knowledge. Wit & Wisdom is composed of four 30-lesson modules per grade. Each module explores a specific topic and begins with art analysis as an entry point to literacy. With Wit & Wisdom, students use authentic texts to build essential reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills as well as grammar and vocabulary.
- **Eureka Math**: The most widely used math curriculum in the United States. *Eureka Math* is a Common Core-aligned curriculum published by the non-profit Great Minds Inc., that equates mathematical concepts to stories, with the aim of **developing conceptual understanding**. It is designed in a series of modules that highlight key concepts that layer over time, creating enduring knowledge. Students gain a complete body of math knowledge, not just a discrete set of skills. They use the same models and problem-solving methods from grade to grade, so math concepts stay with them, year after year.

Specials:

At Hoosac Valley Elementary School, our students also attend weekly classes in art, Physical Education, library, STEAM and music. Each special is student-centered and engaging for all children.

Title I:

Title I is a federal entitlement grant supporting school-wide academic support for all HVES students. The grant helps fund interventionists, instructional assistants and materials. Through this funding and programming, classroom teachers and interventionists are able to use assessment data in ELA and math throughout the year to inform targeted instructional groups and support students in their academic development. In grades 1-3, the ELA and math interventionists and paraprofessionals provide these push-in or pull-out services for both content areas.

Through Title I, we have also been able to host various family engagement opportunities as well. These events include a Where the Wild Things Are event, STEAM events and a Music Family BINGO. Each event has welcomed families into the school for the specific theme of the event, while also providing the families with a connection to the academic content as well.

Parent Teacher Group (PTG)

Hoosac Valley Elementary School's PTG provides support to the children of our school throughout the year. The group meets regularly to discuss ongoing support for our students. Their efforts support the HVES community in many ways, such as hosting events like Music Family BINGO and the holiday shop and helping fund field trips.

Closing:

All of us at HVES are eager to support your child and to build a relationship with each family. We will strive to ensure that each child is welcomed and supported in an environment that fosters growth and joy in learning. We will utilize the tenets of P.R.I.D.E. to prepare all students to be positive and productive citizens of the community.

We have a school community where high expectations are set for all and where students' needs are the priority. I am looking forward to continuing to work with you and your child!

Respectfully,

Erin Beulac
Principal
Hoosac Valley Elementary School



Hoosac Valley High School - "Wings"

Special Services

Annual Report 2021-2022

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to present unprecedented challenges for our students, their families, and our entire school community. Although this school year marked the return to full in-person learning, the impact of the continued pandemic is significant. Our faculty, staff, and administration have worked tirelessly to meet the needs of all learners, utilizing assessment to identify specific needs of each and every student and leveraging high quality, evidence-based curriculum to provide targeted, skills-based intervention based on those needs. It is our theory of action that in doing so we will more efficiently build student skills and close the achievement gaps that have been exacerbated by disrupted learning throughout the pandemic.

Despite the challenges we have faced, the 2021-2022 school year has included new opportunities and continued development of essential programming for our students in the areas of Special Education, English Language Education, and Early Childhood Programming. During the 2021-2022 school year, the Special Services Department provided support services to approximately 237 students with Individualized Education Programs both in district schools, as well as in out-of-district school placements, 11 students who receive English Language Education, and 20 students under McKinney-Vento and 20 students currently in foster care placements. Support provided through the Special Services Department is aligned with the established regulations of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and policies and laws for educating students with limited English proficiency.

During the 2021-2022 school year, our students have received a wide range of special education services, depending on their individualized needs, from ages three through twenty-two (or graduation in some cases). Services provided include direct instruction and support in academic areas such as reading, writing, or math, as well as in other areas such as executive functioning skills, life skills, social skills, self-regulation skills and skills that will help students transition to adulthood. Additionally, students have received an array of related services, which include speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, vision therapy, mobility training, support for students with hearing impairments, school counseling, and behavioral interventions. Increasing numbers of students requiring mental health and SEL supports have resulted in us seeking outside partnerships with agencies such as Optimal Healing to ensure that every student received the support they needed.

Our mandate and goal is to educate students in the least restrictive environment (LRE). To accomplish this, our special education services exist along a continuum that is individualized for each student to provide access to our schools' curricula. In the 2021-2022 school year, 71% of our students with disabilities had IEPs that called for services in a Full Inclusion environment, 17% in a Partial Inclusion Environment, and 12% in a Substantially Separate Environment. Over the course of the past year, the Special Services Office has been focused on improving the specificity of our students' IEPs to ensure that they meet their needs both academically and socially-emotionally. We

have partnered with school psychologists, outside agencies, and consultants to increase stakeholder repertoire for drafting high-quality IEP goals, provided training and access to high-quality curriculum and instructional practices, and placed an emphasis on assessment-driven, differentiated and targeted instruction. We continue to challenge each other to think outside of the box and outside of past practices to both to ensure that the time our students are in the general education classroom is meaningful and to ensure that we are providing explicit instruction in both academic and social emotional skills. While our goal is to provide inclusive opportunities for students whenever appropriate, many of our students continue to require specialized instruction outside of the general education setting based on their needs. We are committed to ensuring that they receive the highest quality instruction and intervention across all settings.

As has been the trend over the last several years, we continue to see rising numbers of students with high needs academically, socially, medically, emotionally, and behaviorally, and as a district we continue to recognize that our programming needs to shift and adapt based on the changing needs of our students. Upon return to fully in-person learning, coming off of two years of interrupted learning with a combination of remote, hybrid, and in-person instruction, we have seen a marked increase in the number of students' being referred for evaluation for special education. These students are being referred not only by teachers but directly from families as well. This year we saw three times as many referrals as we have in past years. Our school psychologists and special educators completed 143 evaluations of students including those who were referred for testing. This year we have focused our capacity building on increasing our faculty and staff's knowledge and training in systematic, direct, explicit reading instruction for struggling readers and targeted math instruction. Our goal in providing this training is to increase the number of interventions available to faculty and students. This allows us to match each program to a child's specific learning profile. Most specifically, we have trained our special education teachers, intervention staff, some of our paraprofessionals providing supporting services, and interested general education teachers in the following programs to support targeted instruction in math and reading: Wilson Reading, RAVE-O, Read 180, Heggerty, and AVMR. Furthermore, Hoosac Valley Elementary School has been participating in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)'s Early Literacy Grant. The focus of this grant this year was to continue to provide professional development in evidence-based practice in the science of reading. We have continued into year two of our Math Recovery Academy sponsorship from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) which provided access for our interventionists and special education teachers to more advanced course work in AVMR (Advancing Math Recovery) and will expand to all of our general education teachers working with our students on IEPs and 504s in the tier 1 setting, starting fall of 2022.

The Special Services Department has continued to maintain strong partnerships with community-based organizations, such as Rhythm & Rhyme Preschool, Berkshire Family and Individual

Resources (BFAIR), Community Access to the Arts, Childcare of the Berkshires Family Center, United Cerebral Palsy – Early Intervention, Pediatric Development Center which helps foster strong community connections for our students. Additionally, we have made connections with MCLA, Optimal Healing, and the Youth Center Inc. We also continue to partner with community-based organizations including Communicare, LLC and Tate Behavioral who have provided assistive technology, augmentative alternative communication, and behavioral supports to our students.

This year the Special Services Department has continued to strengthen our partnership with the Hoosac Valley Technology Department. All students now have access to a wide array of support tools (i.e., speech-to-text, text-to-speech, study tools) both at school, as well as at home, through the Read&Write for Google extension. Additionally, we have provided students access to Bookshare, which is a text-to-speech service for students with print disabilities. With the support of our Technology Department, tools that used to be rare or unique are now commonplace and part of the general education classroom and are readily accessible for our students.

Our integrated preschool program continues to thrive at Hoosac Valley Elementary School. As of January 2022, we currently provide half-day programming to approximately 58 students, in three integrated classrooms. The integrated preschool model provides all students the opportunity to develop and strengthen their foundational academic and social skills alongside their peers. Our preschool classrooms are considered side by side models, comprising seven students with Individualized Education Plans and 8 peers. Our preschool curriculum is aligned to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, as well as Massachusetts Standards for Preschool Social and Emotional Learning and Approaches to Play and Learning. Our youngest learners learn pre-reading skills such as blending sounds to create words, segmenting, rhyming and learning letter sounds. Math activities have included rote counting, numeral recognition, patterning, subitizing, counting objects and measurement. Additionally, using small group instruction we can integrate social skills practice to best meet the needs of diverse learners. Furthermore, some students also receive intensive services based on their specific needs and some students who participate in community preschool programs drop-in for special education services. This year Hoosac Valley Regional School District was awarded a Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative

Planning grant with which we are currently looking at how to improve options for families of preschool-aged students. This has begun with a district needs assessment and will be followed up with a strategic plan. In addition, we were awarded a state Teacher Diversification Grant which has allowed us to partner with MCLA to plan for the creation of a pathway for students at the high school to create a model pre-k program and provide our HVHS students with experience working in a pre-k classroom that we are hoping will help us to recruit future teachers and diversify our workforce. Putting in place this pathway in partnership with MCLA could potentially lead to free college credited coursework for our high school's students and potentially our paraprofessionals in the future.

This year we have continued to refine our ESL programming and look for additional ways to engage the families of our English Learner (EL) students. Our ESL teacher provides direct services to students and consultation to teachers, administration, and families to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our EL students. He is a state-endorsed Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) trainer and will be offering SEI courses this summer to continue to build the capacity of our classroom teachers to provide support to the EL students within their classes. In support of our tier one teachers in order to ensure culturally proficient communication to all families in their preferred language, we have partnered with Lexikeet Translation Services. In the 2021-2022 school year, the Hoosac Valley Regional School District has 11 EL students enrolled. The current languages of our EL population include Gujarati, Hindi, Indonesian, Mandarin, Arabic, Spanish and English.

Our mission, as a Special Services Department, is to partner with families and the entire education community to provide a wide range of effective and meaningful services for our students. This year we met with a great deal of success and significantly increased participation in our district Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). We are regularly seeking out grants and both state and community partnerships to strengthen our program and most effectively meet the needs of the students whom we serve. Ultimately, our goal as educators is to guide our students along their path to independent and connected adult lives. Looking to the 2022-2023 school year, our department is hoping to make a smooth transition to a new Director of Student Services, increase the number of licensed staff within our buildings, refine our assessment-driven IEP goal writing, and identify and implement consistent academic, social-emotional, and social-skills curricula for students in preschool through grade 12.

Appendix A – Eligible Students by Grade 2021-2022

Grade	Eligible Students	Grade	Eligible Students
PK	33	7	31
K	22	8	38
1	15	9	16
2	26	10	9
3	13	11	10
4	22	12	16
5	13	SP	0
6	20		

Appendix B – Special Services Faculty

Jacquelyn Daniels	– Interim Special Services Director
Lisa Fortin	– Administrative Assistant of Special Services
Catherine Salvin	– Accountability Coordinator
Courtney Bopp	– School Psychologist
Michael Vecchia	– School Psychologist
Lindsay O'Dell	– School Psychologist
Kim Biagin	– BCBA
Kaitlyn Mores	– BCBA
Andrea Ferris	– BCBA
Joshua Kellogg	– ESL teacher
Kathy West	– Contracted Special Service Provider
Brianna Shepard	– SLP
Diane Arduin	– SLP
Laura Underhill	– SLPA
Darian Kradin	– SLPA
Karen Levesque	– SLPA
Suzanne Harnick	– OT
Deborah Silveira	– COTA
Jamie Bannon	– PT
Karissa Kingsley	– PTA
Kelly Riechers	– Preschool Special Educator
Laura Crane	– Preschool Special Educator
Nicole Crane	– Preschool Special Educator
Denise Morin	– Special Education Teacher
Jessica Christman	– Special Education Teacher
Elizabeth Bean	– Special Education Teacher
Caitlin Larabee	– Bridges Teacher
Zachary Houle	– Special Education Teacher
James Bergeron	– Special Education Teacher
Rebecca Cohen	– Special Education Teacher
Elizabeth Phoenix	– Special Education Teacher
Lisa Delmolino	– Bridges Teacher
Dallas Berard	– Bridges Teacher
Noelle Skowron	– Cornerstone Teacher
Katlyn Breitenbach	– Special Education Teacher
Spencer Fraker	– Special Education Teacher
Cathy Abbot	– Special Education Teacher
Susan Descarage	– Perkins Consultant
Debra Scanlon	– Willie Ross Auditory Consultant
Jacquelyn Daniels	– Interim Director of Student Services Hoosac Valley Regional School District

Director of Food Services

In 2021-2022, the HVRSD Food Service Department, continued to participate in the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program, USDA Commodity Distribution Program, Summer Food Service Program and a USDA Program called DOD-FFAVORS (Department of Defense Fresh Fruits & Veggie Program).

The HVRSD Food Service Department is part of a Purchasing Program called Collaborative for Educational Services (CES), through which we purchase our groceries for the Food Service Programs. We are also members of the Berkshire County Food Service Purchasing Cooperative that puts out bids for bread, milk & paper products yearly on a county wide basis.

We are in our 4th year of being a CEP District. This Community Eligibility Program makes our entire District eligible for free breakfast & free lunch for each student daily.

There was 1 retirement in December 2021. Deb Wroblewski, who was the Kitchen Manager at Memorial Middle School for many years, then the Kitchen Manager at HVMHS, retired after many years of dedicated service!!

Participation in the reimbursable National School Lunch Program for SY 21-22 was 80%. Participation in the School Breakfast Program for SY 21-22 was 51%. These totals reflect participation from September 1, 2021 to April 29, 2022.

For the 2021-2022 SY, the Food Service Department had a profit of \$704.00 on Revenues of \$15,315.00. Government subsidies represented 47.1% of total Revenue. USDA Commodities valued at \$38,681.14 were received so far in 2022.

There were 9 new hires, part and full-time, for Food Service during SY 21-22. HVES had 4. HVMHS had 6.

The percentage of students who qualified for free/reduced meals as of April 2022 was 56 %, an increase of 6% from 2020.

We are operating 2 kitchens in SY 21-22.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosanne Schutz
Food Service Director

Business Administrator

Overview of Fiscal Year 2021

The development of the FY 2021 budget began in the same manner as many budgets before it, however, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic forced the budget process at the state level to be very different. As the state shut down, revenue streams became questionable and the status of state funding to schools in the form of Ch.70 became an area of uncertainty. As the towns waited for more information, the District was forced into a 1/12 budget for the months of July, August and September, but was ultimately passed by both towns in late September. The COVID-19 pandemic would continue to challenge educators, administrators and school business officials for the next year and a half.

In FY 2021, The Hoosac Valley Regional School District's Budget of \$20,100,111 represented an increase of \$624 or .003% over the previous fiscal year's budget. This minimal increase was largely due to a reduction of 18 paraprofessional positions that began the process of right-sizing the number of support staff that had increased over the past several years. This reduction mitigated increases in the areas of out-of-district tuition, school choice and charter assessment increases and contractual increases.

The 2021 fiscal year began with a fund balance of \$743,442 as certified by the Department of Revenue. The District ended the year with Excess & Deficiency certified at \$992,230. Regional School Districts are allowed to maintain up to 5% of the upcoming year's Budget as E&D. This balance represents the amount remaining after revenues and expenditures are netted against the beginning balance, and the amount appropriated to reduce assessments to the towns in FY 22 (\$300,000) is deducted. The District has worked to reduce the amount used to lower town assessments over the past few years and will now continue to slowly decrease the amount of E&D used to offset assessments and instead use it towards maintaining a fund balance closer to the 5% allowed, which will favorably impact the District's financial situation and bond rating.

The District was able to increase its fund balance due to a premium holiday for one month's Health & Dental insurance as voted through the Berkshire Health Group, through a negotiated decrease in bussing costs while students engaged in remote learning, as well as the use of grant funds to specifically support schools during this unprecedented time of remote and hybrid learning. Thankfully, the state provided various grant funds to support the remote learning efforts being made throughout the Commonwealth. With these funds, the HVRSD was able to purchase Chromebooks to send home with families, software to successfully transition to remote learning, supplies necessary to maintain safety measures throughout all schools once students did return to hybrid / in person learning, and also the support staff and materials necessary to provide families with a remote learning site for children to learn on their remote learning days. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education will be seen for many years to come. We are grateful we had these grant funds to support our administration, educators and students as they navigated such challenging times.

In closing, the FY 2021 budget had a focus on right-sizing staffing levels, which was much needed after several years of additions. The current trends in population decline and minimal Chapter 70 funding are all challenges that present themselves each year. The District's School Committee, Administration and Staff continue to make great gains in educating our children while facing the reality of the financial constraints around us and specifically in FY 21, combating the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika M. Snyder
Business Administrator
April 11, 2022

Hoosac Valley Regional School District
Governmental Funds
Balance Sheet
June 30, 2021

	General Fund	Non-major Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets			
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 3,067,738	\$ 1,044,269	\$ 4,112,007
Receivables:			
Intergovernmental	5,814	304,207	310,021
Due from the Town of Adams	17,840	-	17,840
Inventory	-	30,179	30,179
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 3,091,392	\$ 1,378,655	\$ 4,470,047
LIABILITIES			
Warrants payable	\$ 244,408	\$ 15,701	\$ 260,109
Accrued payroll and withholdings	1,145,594	41,780	1,187,374
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 1,390,002	\$ 57,481	\$ 1,447,483
FUND BALANCES			
Restricted	\$ -	\$ 1,321,174	\$ 1,321,174
Assigned	709,161	-	709,161
Unassigned	992,229	-	992,229
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	1,701,390	1,321,174	3,022,564
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	\$ 3,091,392	\$ 1,378,655	\$ 4,470,047

Hoosac Valley Regional School District
Governmental Funds
Statement of Revenues,
Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances
for the Year Ended June 30, 2021

	General Fund	Non-major Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:			
Assessments to member towns	\$ 8,780,738	\$ -	\$ 8,780,738
Charges for services	-	155,882	155,882
Intergovernmental	12,585,817	2,739,821	15,325,638
Investment income	22,815	-	22,815
Miscellaneous	13,203	2,000	15,203
TOTAL REVENUES	21,402,573	2,897,703	24,300,276
EXPENDITURES			
Current:			
Administration	749,396	3,047	752,443
Instruction	6,655,024	1,135,405	7,790,429
Other school services	1,214,040	711,891	1,925,931
Operation and maintenance	1,045,633	-	1,045,633
Fixed charges	152,328	-	152,328
Acquisition	40,000	-	40,000
Special education	2,918,538	585,407	3,503,945
Employee benefits	5,516,056	-	5,516,056
Intergovernmental	1,799,044	-	1,799,044
Debt Service:			
Principal	620,000	-	620,000
Interest	307,600	-	307,600
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	21,017,659	2,435,750	23,453,409
Change in fund balance	384,914	461,953	846,867
FUND BALANCES, AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,316,476	859,221	2,175,697
FUND BALANCES, AT END OF YEAR	\$ 1,701,390	\$ 1,321,174	\$ 3,022,564

**Hoosac Valley Regional School District
Assessments to Member Towns
June 30, 2021**

Member Town	Minimum Contribution	Contribution Outside Net School Spending	Transportation & Capital Assessments	Total Assessments
Adams	\$ 3,863,738	\$ 984,145	\$ 1,077,444	\$ 5,925,327
Cheshire	2,090,604	361,032	403,775	2,855,411
TOTAL	\$ 5,954,342	\$ 1,345,177	\$ 1,481,219	\$ 8,780,738

**Hoosac Valley Regional School District
June 30, 2021
Future Debt Service**

Year	Principal	Bonds - Direct Placements Interest	Total
2022	\$ 640,000	\$ 289,000	\$ 929,000
2023	655,000	269,800	924,800
2024	635,000	250,150	885,150
2025	650,000	231,100	881,100
2026	675,000	209,000	884,000
2027 - 2031	3,760,000	683,050	4,443,050
2032 - 2033	1,695,000	87,300	1,782,300
TOTAL	\$ 8,710,000	\$ 2,019,400	\$ 10,729,400

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 2021 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:

Respect for self, others, and the learning environment promotes a positive learning experience for all students.

Effort - is demonstrated through an applied work ethic that includes punctuality, improvement, and a determination to succeed.

Accountability - develops personal responsibility for both behavior and learning.

Communication facilitates collaboration, promotes self-advocacy, and develops positive relationships.

Honor - requires students to act with integrity, honesty, positivity, and empathy for others.

McCann continues to offer high quality vocational and academic education. The faculty and staff prides itself on meeting the needs of all of our learners as the best practices in teaching and education are constantly being developed and refined. Our vocational programs are updated annually to the latest industry-recognized techniques and equipment. Academic programs consistently implement updated and relevant material for their disciplines. The support from our member towns is integral in creating this culture of learning which is reflected in our students' accomplishments.

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

The class of 2021 was the eighteenth class in a row to attain 100 percent competency determination as designated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Competency determination for the class of 2021 was modified as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and certified through an attestation of a four-year course-completion requirement. 110 graduates of the class of 2021 saw 48% continue their education in a variety of colleges and universities, 45% enter the workforce, and 6% proudly enter into military service. The graduation class was able to have an in-person commencement ceremony on its regularly scheduled day, June 6, 2021.

GRADE 10 – ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS			
Performance Level	2019	2020	2021
Exceeding Expectations	2%	NA	9%
Passing	96%	NA	82%
Not Meeting Expectations	2%	NA	9%

GRADE 10 – MATHEMATICS			
Performance Level	2019	2020	2021
Exceeding Expectations	0%	NA	2%
Passing	94%	NA	83%
Not Meeting Expectations	6%	NA	15%

GRADE 10 – SCIENCE AND TECH/ENG					
Performance Level	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Advanced	26.1%	13.7%	16.0%	NA	NA
Proficient	51.3%	53.3%	56.0%	NA	NA
Needs Improvement	20.1%	30.6%	25.0%	NA	NA
Failing	1.7%	2.4%	3.0%	NA	NA

Fall and winter sports were cancelled in 2020-2021 as a result of the pandemic. Our students were able to resume athletic activities in the spring with boys and girls lacrosse, softball, and baseball. The baseball team advanced to post-season play but all the teams benefited from being back out on the field and engaged in extra-curricular activities. Our student athletes continue to represent the school in a positive fashion.

Our continuous facility improvement program allowed us to remove asbestos floor tile and renovate two bathrooms and related storage areas. We completed the painting and reequipping of the automotive shop, expanded the culinary classroom area, renovated the information technology and computer assisted design and advanced manufacturing shops, installing new computers in all these areas capable of using advanced software. The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated the installation of over 30 energy recovery ventilator (ERV) systems in all classroom, laboratory, and related occupied areas. We also installed ERV's and made other ventilation upgrades in the automotive, advanced manufacturing, metal fabrication, carpentry, and business technology shops. We completed the installation

of a new CAT 6 internet cable throughout the building and completed the wiring of our additional security system cameras. We completed construction of a new concrete front entryway, installed new safety fences on the athletic fields, and installed lighting on our football field for use during the 2022 football season. We installed a new oven and grill in our culinary arts program and upgraded furnishings in the Tea Room.

The integration of new educational technology continues to be our priority. We used our Perkins Grant to continue our upgrade of software in all of our technical areas. We purchased new desktop and laptop computers with expanded storage and computing capacity to enable our students and staff to accommodate all of the software upgrades. We became a 1:1 Chromebook school purchasing the necessary systems to issue to every student. The switch to remote education during the height of the pandemic enabled us to install a variety of educational software systems which complemented and enhanced our offerings. We also received a Skills Capital grant of \$188,800.00 enabling us to add two CNC lathes with Y-Axis capability for our advanced manufacturing program.

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. The 2021 SkillsUSA district competition was held virtually at McCann in accordance with the school's policies and the SkillsUSA guidance. McCann students earned twelve gold medals in 3-D Visualization and Animation, Additive Manufacturing, Architectural Drafting, Carpentry, Industrial Motor Control, Sheet metal, Technical Computer Applications, Technical Drafting and Web Design. Fourteen silver medals were awarded in 3-D Visualization and Animation, Additive Manufacturing, Architectural Drafting, Carpentry, Electrical Construction Wiring, Restaurant Service, Sheet Metal, Technical Computer Applications, Technical Drafting, Web Design and Welding. Five bronze medals were also earned in 3-D Visualization and Animation, Architectural Drafting, Technical Computer Applications and Technical Drafting. At the 2021 SkillsUSA state competition McCann students earned four gold medals in 3-D Visualization and Animation, Additive Manufacturing and Architectural Drafting. Three silver medals were awarded in 3-D Visualization and Animation, Architectural Drafting and Sheet Metal. Seven bronze medals were earned in 3-D Visualization and Animation, Additive Manufacturing, Carpentry, Industrial Motor Control and Technical Drafting. We are incredibly proud of our competitors!

Business Professionals of America (BPA) is the leading 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 the virtual 2021 BPA State Leadership Conference (SLC), McCann students received a total of nine awards in Finance, Business Administration, Management Information Systems, Digital Communication and Design, and Management, Marketing and Communications. McCann BPA members earned one 1st place, two 2nd place, three 3rd place, one 4th place, and two 5th place awards at the SLC in March. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the National Leadership Conference scheduled in Orlando, Florida was cancelled, but held virtual.

McCann students continued to excel in receiving industry-recognized credentials through their vocational programs. Six of our culinary arts seniors received their American Culinary Federation credentials and a culinary arts sophomore won the silver medal at SkillsUSA district competitions. The vast majority of the business technology students earned their certifications in a number of Microsoft Office programs including Access Expert, Excel Associate, and Word. Information technology students obtained their cyber-security certifications and all of our sophomores school-wide earned their OSHA-10 certifications. Industry-recognized credentials such as these are prevalent in all of our vocational programming and offer our students a competitive advantage when entering the workforce.

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 principles and incorporates technology in this process to ensure maximum benefit for all of our programming. At the end of the fiscal year we returned \$165,000.00 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.

Our Massachusetts Board of State Examiners of Electricians 8 module (600 hour) journeyman electrical program continues to expand with over 78 electricians completing modules in 2019-2020 while 17 completed the master electrician program.

James J. Brosnan
Superintendent

FY21 Budgeted Revenues	Budget	Actual
City and Town Assessments		
Municipal Minimum	\$ 3,203,871.00	\$ 3,172,869.00
Capital	59,163.00	59,163.00
Transportation	136,000.00	136,000.00
Municipal Assessment	440,761.00	471,763.00
Ch. 71 Transportation	310,000.00	340,297.00
Ch. 70 General School Aid	5,161,888.00	5,071,520.00
Tuitions	718,480.00	809,261.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	8,439.00	8,026.00
Total Revenue Received	10,038,602.00	10,068,899.00
Member City and Town Transportation Refunds		(30,297.00)
	\$ 10,038,602.00	\$ 10,038,602.00

Source	Grant	Amount
(Federal Entitlement)		
Federal	Sped IDEA	\$ 131,161.00
Federal	Title I	123,298.00
Federal	Title II A	17,986.00
Federal	Title IV	10,000.00
Federal	Perkins	70,234.00
Federal	Postsecondary Perkins	3,138.00
Federal	CvRF	109,125.00
Federal	ESSER/Cares	84,099.00
Federal	SPED Improvement	7,784.00
(Federal Grants Other)		
	REAP	40,241.00
	FEMA	5,259.91
	Summer Vacation Learning	6,012.00
(State Grants)		
	State Coronavirus Prevention	26,825.00
	Workforce Skills Capital Equipment	188,800.00
	MassHire Berkshire: Connecting Activities	6,000.00
	MassHire Berkshire: Advanced Manufacturing	20,000.00
	MassHire Berkshire: Welding	20,000.00
	Safer School and Communities	19,956.00
(Local Grants)		
	Municipal CARES Act	61,417.29
(Private)		
Private	Olmsted	5,000.00
Private	BHG Wellness	2,000.00
Private	Adams Community Bank for Graduation	1,000.00
Private	Superintendent's Association Teacher PD	4,000.00
Private	Gene Haas Foundation (AMT)	10,000.00
TOTAL GRANTS		\$ 973,336.20



Town Calendar

« June »						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Board of Selectmen & Finance Committee Meeting
May 26, 2022 - 6:30 pm

Water Commissioners Meeting
May 31, 2022 - 3:00 pm

Planning Board Site Visit
May 31, 2022 - 5:00 pm

Board of Assessors Meeting
May 31, 2022 - 6:00 pm
+ All Events

Citizen Action Center

 Online Payments	 Minutes & Agendas
 Municipal Directory	 Bylaws
 Forms/Permits	 Fees
 Town Report / Budget	 Cheshire Library

[Town News](#)

[Photos](#)

[Community Happenings](#)

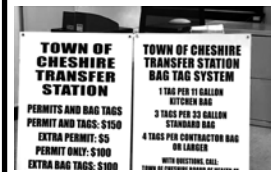


3rd Annual A.T. Community Celebration & Dedication of the Father Tom Campsite »
Friday, June 24

Voter Registration Session »
LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE AT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ON JUNE 13, 2022
A voter registration session...

Transfer Station Permits and Bag Tags »
Transfer Station Permits and Bag Tags are now on sale.
Current permits are still valid until June 30, 2022....

VIEW ALL



Appalachian Trail Community™

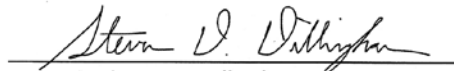
United States®
Census
2020

*Thank
you*

THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU HEREBY RECOGNIZES

Town of Cheshire

as an invaluable member of the 2020 Census Community Partnership and Engagement Program. We appreciate the efforts you made in making the Partnership Program a success and helping achieve a successful 2020 Census.



Dr. Steven D. Dillingham, Director
U.S. Census Bureau



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Cheshire Information

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

Cheshire Police (non-emergency)	743-1501
Cheshire Fire Department (non-emergency)	743-3387
Cheshire Library	743-4746
Cheshire Community/Senior Center	743-9719
Hoosac Valley High School	743-5200
Cheshire Post Office	743-3184
Cheshire Town Website: www.cheshire-ma.gov	

Voice Mail is available for all the Town Offices listed above.

REMINDER:

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

Cheshire Board of Selectmen

Meets each Tuesday evening
at the Cheshire Elementary School
in the green room at 6:30 pm
until Adjournment when
business is concluded.

Cheshire Library:

Phone: 413 743 - 4746
Visit us on: Facebook
Town Website: www.cheshire-ma.gov
Look for notices on the
Fire Department digital sign

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 the bills.

Water Bills are three times a year.

Water Collector's hours are printed on bills.

CESHIRE COMPACTOR STICKERS

are renewable **JULY 1st.**

Stickers are available through the Board of Health.

Annual Town Election first Monday in May.

Annual Town Meeting second Monday in June.

