

Cheshire TOWN of

MASSACHUSETTS



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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

Maura Healey

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/MauraHealeyMA - Twitter: @MassGovernor

Members of the Massachusetts General Court

Senator Paul Mark

773 Tyler St. - Pittsfield, MA 01201
413-464-5635

Email: paul.mark@masenate.gov - website: <https://SenatorPaulMark.com>

Boston Office: State House, 24 Beacon St., Room 504 - Boston, MA 02133
1-617-722-1625 Fax: 617-626-0249

Representative

John Barrett III

District Contact: Adams Town Hall, 8 Park Street - Adams, MA 01220
1-413-743-8300

Boston Office: State House, 24 Beacon St., Room 185 - Boston, MA 02133
1-617-722-2960

Email: john.barrett@mahouse.gov

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

Town of
CHESHIRE

MASSACHUSETTS



Annual Report
2023

Town Elected Officials

Office	Term Expires	Office	Term Expires
Selectmen		Town Clerk	
Raymond Killeen	2024	Christine B. Emerson	2024
Shawn McGrath	2024		
Michelle Francesconi	2025	Constables	
Ronald DeAngelis	2025	C.J. Garner	2025
Jason Levesque	2026	Timothy Garner	2025
		Alison Warner	2025
Moderator		Planning Board	
Carol Francesconi	2025	Peter Traub	2024
Board of Assessors		Aaron Singer	2025
Kelly Lahey (<i>Appointed 6-27-2023</i>)	2024	Daniel Skorcz	2026
Nancy Delorey	2025	Francis Griswold	2027
Barbara Astorino	2026	Amy McCarthy	2028
Board of Health		Hoosac Valley Regional School District	
Brian Trudeau	2024	School Committee	
C.J. Garner	2025	from Cheshire	
Michael Kruszyna	2026	Bethany DeMarco-Gaylord	2024
		Michael Henault	2025
Water Commissioners		Adam Emerson	2026
Rickey Gurney	2024	Hoosac Valley Regional School District	
Stephen LaFogg	2025	School Committee	
Colin Haas	2026	from Adams	
Tax Collector		Michael Mucci Jr.	2024
Rebecca Herzog	2024	Regina Hill	2025
		Andrew Przystanski	2026
		Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District	
		School Committee Member	
		from Cheshire	
		William Craig	2025

Town Appointments

Appointment	Name	Term	Appointment	Name	Term
Town Administrator			Emergency Management Co-ordinator		Yearly
Procurement Officer			Corey Swistak		
ADA Compliance Officer	Jennifer Morse		Asst. Emergency Management		Yearly
			Shawn McGrath		
Superintendent of Highway			Animal Control Officer		Yearly
Tree Warden			Kim Witek		
Measurer of Wood and Bark			Animal Inspector		Yearly
Inspector of Ditches			vacant		
Treasurer	Rebecca Herzog	Yearly	Keeper of the Pound		Yearly
Assistant Treasurer / Collector	Whitney Flynn	Yearly	Director of Veterans Services		
Accountant		Yearly	Veteran Burial Agent		Yearly
			Stephen Roy		
Town Counsel	McNicol & Tombs	Yearly	Right To Know Co-ordinator		Yearly
Building Commissioner			Farm Commission		
Zoning Enforcement	Brian Duval	Yearly	Michael Balawender		
			Kim Martin		
			Eric Whitney		
			Joseph Wrenn		
Local Building Inspector	Rick Reed	Yearly	Fence Viewers		
Inspector of Wiring	George Sweet	Yearly	Greylock Advisory Board		Yearly
			Gary Trudeau		
Asst. Wiring Inspector	Leslie Rhinemiller	Yearly	Vocational School Program		Yearly
Inspector of Gas/Plumbing	Michael Biros	Yearly	Representatives Arts Lottery Council		
			North Berkshire Arts Council	Three-Year Appointments	
			Arthur Kaufman		2024
			Becky Ahamad		2025
Asst. Gas / Plumbing	John Burzimati	Yearly	Recreation Committee		Yearly
			Robin Poirot		
Director of Public Works	Corey McGrath	Yearly	Timothy Garner		
			Corey McGrath		
			Christopher Garner		

Appointment	Name	Term
Delegate to Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management Program	Michael Kruszyna	Yearly
Northern Berkshire Cable Representative		Yearly
Rent Control Board	Selectmen	
Memorial Day Parade		Yearly
	Robin Poirot	
	Robert Balawender	
	Corey McGrath	
	Timothy Garner	
	Liseanne Karandisecky	
Conservation Commission		Yearly
	Carol Francesconi	
	Ronald DeAngelis	
	Raymond Killeen	
Emergency Management Committee		
	Michelle Francesconi	
	Jennifer Morse	
	Ronald DeAngelis	
	Raymond Killeen	
	Shawn McGrath	
	Jason Levesque	
	C.J. Garner	
	Michael Alibozek	
	Thomas Francesconi	
	Adam Healy	
	Ricky Gurney	
	Corey Swistak	
	Corey McGrath	
Mutual Vulnerability Program		
Core Team		
	Jennifer Morse (Town Administrator)	
	Thomas Francesconi (Fire Chief)	
	Michael Alibozek (Police Chief)	
	Liseann Karandisecky (HLD Rep)	
	Corey Swistak (Emergency Management)	

Appointment	Name	Term
Council on Aging	<i>Three-Year Appointments</i>	
	Margaret Gwozdz	
	Peter Traub	
	John Bianchi	
	Liseann Karandisecky	
	Robert Balawender	2026
	Carol Francesconi	2026
	Barbara Proper	
	Valerie Tyska, Alternate	2024
	Suzanne Boyle, Alternate	2024
Council on Aging Director	Brenda Caufield	
Assistant Council on Aging	Dawn Krutiak	
COA Van Driver	Stephanie Bordeau	
	Anne Furey (Retired)	
Historical Commission	<i>Three-Year Appointments</i>	
	Diane Hitter (Resigned October 2023)	2025
	Robert Hitter (Resigned October 2023)	2025
	Lois Nangle	2025
	Jared Martin	2024
	Jennifer Mc Grath	2024
	Joseph Prince	2024
	Liseanne Karandisecky	2026
	Corey McGrath, Alternate	2024
	Barry Emery	Emeritis
	Thomas Francesconi	2024
	Christopher Flynn	2024
Board of Registrar of Voters	<i>Three-Year Appointments</i>	
	Gary Herzog	2025
	Diane Hitter	2024
	Elizabeth King	2026
Election Official	Alison Warner	Yearly
Asst. Election Official		

Appointment	Name	Term	Appointment	Name	Term
Fire Chief	Thomas Francesconi	Yearly	Keeper of the Flags	Corey McGrath	
Assistant Fire Chiefs	Corey Swistak Jason Mendonca	Yearly	Town Prambulator	Barry Emery Richard Salvi	
Police Chief	Michael Alibozek	Yearly	Open Space & Recreation Committee	Liseanne Karandisecky Jason Levesque	(HLD Rep.) (Selectmen) (Planning Rep.) (CCA Rep.) (Assessors Rep.)
Police Staff Sergeant	David Tarjick				
Police Officers	Cody Alvarez Robert Hungate Claude Jean-Calixte Aaron Goodell	Full Time Officer	BRTA Berkshire Regional Transportation	Raymond Killeen	Representative
Special Police Officers	David Sinapoli Paul Maloney Timothy Garner Robert Mallett	Yearly	ADA Compliance Committee	Lynn Melchiori Brenda Caufield Jaimie Walsh Corey McGrath	
Harbor Master	Adam Healey		Appointments by the Moderator		
Asistant Harbor Master	Paul Maloney		Finance Committee		
Planning Board Alternate Member	Arthur Kaufman			John Tremblay	2024
				Kathleen Levesque	2024
				Denise Gregoire	2025
				Mickey Biagini	2024
				Lenwood Vaspra	2025
				Jeffrey Chaput	2025
				Patrick Pettit	2025
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thomas Zappula Dale Grimshaw Stephen Marko	Yearly			
Alternate Zoning Member	Robert Balawender Jared Martin Jeffrey Reynolds	Yearly			

Town Administrator / Board of Selectmen

Annual Report July 1, 2022- June 2023

The Annual Town Election in May re-elected Michelle Francesconi to the Board of Selectmen and elected Ron DeAngelis who previously served as a member of the Board. The Board voted Michelle Francesconi as Chair, and Shawn McGrath as Vice-Chair, until the 2023 Annual Town Election at which time Shawn McGrath became Chair, and Jason Levesque became Vice Chair.

Fiscal Year 2023 Grants

Fire Department Grants \$ 44,733.33

The Fire Department was awarded a grant to provide Wildland Fire Gear for the Fire Fighters; this grant was written by grant writer Amalio Jusino.

MassWorks \$ 633,000

The award of this large grant allowed for Route 116 (Savoy Road) from the Adams town line to Maple Drive milling and resurfacing as well as Stafford Hill and Henry Wood Road.

ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan \$ 25,000

The Town was awarded a \$25,000 grant to create a Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan for town buildings. The plan is a work in progress and allows the town to seek additional construction grants through the state. This work was completed by Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

Lead Service Line Grant \$ 123,500

The Water Department was awarded a grant in the amount of \$123,500 and contracted with Tighe and Bond to complete the Lead Service Line Inventory which is a requirement of the Department of Environmental Protection. The project started in Fiscal Year 2023 and will finish in Fiscal Year 2024 with Phase 1 being the Initial Water Service Inventory and Phase 2 being the Lead Service Line Replacement Plan.

Personnel Changes

Highway Superintendent:

Corey Swistak and Brent Lancia became Co-Interim Superintendents in the fall of 2022 leading the department through the winter season and spring until a DPW Director was put into place in the summer.

Police Chief:

The Town welcomed a familiar face, Sargeant Michael Alibozek was appointed as Police Chief after the retirement of Chief Timothy Garner who served the town for almost thirty years.

Facilities Manager:

Corey McGrath was hired as the Facilities Manager, taking on the task of updating all town building systems, recommending projects, and in most cases completing the projects. Some upgrades to Town Buildings under Corey's direction included a new boiler at the Fire Station, Masonry work at Town Hall, new heating system in the Community House Cafeteria, and working closely on the completion of Green Communities grant work.

Projects

Route 116 – Phase 1 Engineering Project

With earmarked money from the Governor's budget, the town was able to complete Phase 1 of the engineering project for the upper portion of Route 116 (Savoy Road). This is a Five Phase project, and the town has been exploring a multitude of funding options to complete this project.

Route 116 – FoRRRwd Program

The Highway Department updated all the signs on Route 116 (Savoy Road) and obtained a speed sign through the MassDOT FoRRRwd Program.

Community House Lighting Upgrade (LED)

A lighting upgrade with a \$14,571 estimated annual savings and a return on investment of 18.5% and 69% estimated reduction in lighting electrical usage was completed.

Green Communities

The Green Communities Grant covered the cost of weatherization at the Police Station and Town Hall Annex as well as a new heat pump in the Police Station.

Depot Street/Railroad Street/Mill Hill Water Project

With ARPA Funds the Water Department was able to replace the water main down Depot Street, Railroad Street, and Mill Hill before the summer 2023 paving projects, which also included Notch Road and Briggs Drive.

WRAP (Winter Recovery Assistance Program)

The Town received \$146,826 through the WRAP Program and Crack Sealing was completed on Route 116 (Savoy Road – Upper Section) and various streets in the downtown area. The money was also used to replace the guard rails on the upper section of Route 116 (Savoy Road).

Financial Policies and Procedures

With a grant from the Community Compact Cabinet (CCC) initiative in Fiscal Year 2022, the Town contracted with the Edward J. Collins Jr. Center at the University of Massachusetts to create Financial Policies and Procedures to guide the Town in its decision making and financial management. These policies were adopted by the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee in July of 2022.

Town Clerk

TOWN of CHESHIRE CENSUS 2023

16 years and Over.....	2,841
0 to 15 years.....	330
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	3,171

CHESHIRE VOTERS, June, 2023

Democrats	522
Republicans	265
Libertarian.....	10
Other Designations	3
Unenrolled	1,668
	<hr/>
	2,488

GASOLINE STORAGE PERMITS

Bedard Bros.....	\$ 25.00
Hoosac Valley Regional School.....	25.00
Whitney's	25.00
O'Connell's	25.00
MGE Realty	25.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 125.00

RAFFLE/GAMING PERMIT

Hoosac Valley	
Girls Basketball Boosters	\$ 10.00

BUSINESS CERTIFICATES

New filed	4
Renewals.....	5
	<hr/>
	\$ 180.00

STREET LISTINGS SOLD

2.....	\$ 10.00
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DOGS LICENSED (March 31, 2022 - April 1, 2023)

Males	28
Neutered Males	126
Females	14
Spayed Females.....	180
Multi-Dog	
4 dogs	3
10 dogs	1

<i>Amount turned over to Treasurer (including Late Fees)</i>	\$ 4,070.00
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VITAL STATISTICS RECORDED

Births.....	25
Marriages.....	2
Deaths.....	41

My continued gratitude and appreciation to the Registrars and Poll Workers for their dedication to the electoral process. I would be remiss without a thank you to Police Chief Alibozek and the Officers who work at the Polls. Thank you is inadequate to express my appreciation to Election Official Alison Warner, for thirty years of being the best right-hand any clerk could ask for. **Thank you, Alison!**

Thank you to the Town Officials and Boards.

Thank you to the Cheshire Residents
for their continued support.

I, hereby, submit my thirtieth Annual Town Report.

Christine B. Emerson

Town of Cheshire Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Groups as of June 30, 2023 (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		1,451,884.76	485,200.91	255,853.46	259,211.67	1,180,312.16		3,632,462.96
Investments								0.00
Receivables:								
Personal property taxes		1,274.30						1,274.30
Real estate taxes		187,409.27						187,409.27
Allowance for abatements and exemptions		(99,529.09)						(99,529.09)
Tax liens		126,022.09						126,022.09
Deferred taxes								0.00
Motor vehicle excise		53,471.65						53,471.65
Other excises								0.00
User fees					126,368.14			126,368.14
Foreclosures/Possessions		15,357.51						15,357.51
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds					364,000.00		100,000.00	464,000.00
Amounts to be provided - vacation/sick leave								0.00
Total Assets		1,735,890.49	485,200.91	255,853.46	749,579.81	1,180,312.16	100,000.00	4,506,836.83
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY								
Liabilities:								
Warrants payable		106,079.56						106,079.56
Accounts payable								0.00
Accrued payroll		18,588.77			1,129.60			19,718.37
Withholdings		(3,239.39)						(3,239.39)
Accrued claims payable - Police comp time		669.00						669.00
Due to/from other funds								0.00
Due to other governments		(220.16)						(220.16)
Other liabilities		3,731.94						3,731.94

	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	89,154.48						89,154.48
Tax liens	126,022.09						126,022.09
Deferred taxes							0.00
Foreclosures/Possessions	15,357.51						15,357.51
Motor vehicle excise	53,471.65						53,471.65
Other excises							0.00
User fees				126,368.14			126,368.14
Agency Funds					(23,902.09)		(23,902.09)
Notes payable			1,105,200.00				1,105,200.00
Bonds payable				364,000.00		100,000.00	464,000.00
Vacation and sick leave liability							0.00
Total Liabilities	409,615.45	0.00	1,105,200.00	491,497.74	(23,902.09)	100,000.00	2,082,411.10
Fund Equity:							
Reserved for encumbrances	67,019.00						67,019.00
Reserved for expenditures	242,252.00						242,252.00
Reserved for continuing appropriations	78,588.64						78,588.64
Reserved for Free cash to reduce Tax Rate	321,916.77						321,916.77
Reserved for debt service	862.00						862.00
Undesignated fund balance	615,636.63	485,200.91	(849,346.54)	258,082.07	1,204,214.25		1,713,787.32
Unreserved retained earnings							0.00
Investment in capital assets							0.00
Total Fund Equity	1,326,275.04	485,200.91	(849,346.54)	258,082.07	1,204,214.25	0.00	2,424,425.73
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	1,735,890.49	485,200.91	255,853.46	749,579.81	1,180,312.16	100,000.00	4,506,836.83

Schedule A Part 1

Schedule A Part 1 - Fiscal Year 2023
General Fund Revenues and Other Financing Sources (Fund 01)

Acct. No.	Item Description	Amount	Acct. No.	Item Description	Amount
A. TAXES			F. REVENUES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS		
4110	Personal Property Taxes	169,671	4695	Court Fines	
4120	Real Estate Taxes	4,523,301	4720	Received From the County for Services Performed	
4150	Motor Vehicle Excise	625,548	4730	Received From Other Municipalities for Services Performed	
4179	Penalties and Interest	31,788	F. TOTAL REVENUES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS		
4180	In Lieu of Taxes	12,500	G. SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS		
4191	Hotel/Motel Excise		4750	Special Assessments	
4192	Meals Excise		G. TOTAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS		
4193	Cannabis Excise		H. FINES, AND FOREFEITURES		
4194	Boat Excise		4770	Fines and Forfeitures	
4198	Urban Redevelopment Excises		H. TOTAL FINES AND FORFEITURES		
4199	Other Taxes	308	I. MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES		
A. TOTAL TAXES NET OF REFUNDS)		5,363,116	4800	Miscellaneous Revenues	
B. CHARGES FOR SERVICES/ OTHER DEPARTMENTAL REVENUES			4820	Earnings on Investments	19,911
4211	Water Charges		I. TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES		19,911
4212	Other Utility Charges		TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES		6,628,951
4229	Other Charges		J. OTHER FINANCING SOURCES		
4243	Parking Charges		4990	Other Financing Sources	
4244	Park and Recreation Charges		J. TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES		
4246	Sewerage Charges		TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCIAL SOURCES		6,628,951
4247	Trash Collection Charges	77,160	K. INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS		
4248	Transit Charges		4972	Transfers from Special Revenue Funds	
4370	Other Department Revenue	94,951	4973	Transfers from Capital Projects Funds	
B. TOTAL CHARGES FOR SERVICES/OTHER DEPARTMENTAL REVENUES		172,111	4975	Transfers from Enterprise Funds	
C. LICENSES, PERMITS AND FEES			4976	Transfers from Trust Funds	
4322	Fees Retained from Tax Collection	19,583	4977	Transfers from Agency Funds	
4323	Cannabis Impact Fee		K. TOTAL INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS		
4324	Short-term Rental Community Impact Fee		TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES, OTHER FINANCING SOURCES, AND INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS		6,628,951
4400	Licenses and Permits	119,302			
C. TOTAL LICENSES, PERMITS AND FEES		138,885			
D. FEDERAL REVENUE					
4540	Unrestricted - Direct	1,054			
4580	Unrestricted - Through the State				
D. TOTAL FEDERAL REVENUE		1,054			
E. REVENUES FROM STATE					
4600	State Revenue	933,874			
E. TOTAL REVENUES FROM STATE		933,874			

Schedule A Part 2 - Fiscal Year 2023

General Government (100)													
Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Legislative	Executive	Accountant Auditor	Collector	Treasurer	Law Department Town/City Counsel	Public Building/ Properties Maintenance	Assessors	Operations Support	License and Registration	Land Use	Con. Com. Other
General Government (100)													
5100	Salary and Wages	22,820	81,592		26,809	29,775		58,395	38,048		26,916	1,203	1,500
5700	Expenditures	121,389	3,000	32,167	11,013	6,727		307,714	32,144		22,639	3,869	1,172 1,700
5800A	Construction												
5800B	Capital Outlay												
	TOTAL	144,209	84,592	32,167	37,822	36,502		366,109	70,192		49,555	5,072	2,672 1,700

Schedule A Part 2 - Public Safety (200)							
Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Police	Fire	Emerg. Med. Services	Inspection	Other	
5100	Salary and Wages	169,040	11,296		29,136		
5700	Expenditures	47,663	72,569		6,894	1,936	
5800A	Construction						
5800B	Capital Outlay						
	TOTAL	216,703	83,865		36,030	1,936	

Schedule A Part 2 - Education (300)							
Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Education	Reg. School Assessment-1	Reg. School Assessment-2	Reg. School Assessment-3	Reg. School Assessment-4	
5100	Salary and Wages						
5700	Expenditures	27,992	2,943,368	438,574			
5800A	Construction						
5800B	Capital Outlay						
	TOTAL	27,992	2,943,368	438,574			

Schedule A Part 2 - Fiscal Year 2023 (Continued)

Schedule A Part 2 - Public Works (400)

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Hwy/Streets (Snow/Ice)	Hwy/Streets (Other)	Waste Collect/Disp	Sewer Collect/Disp	Water Distribution	Parking Garage	Street Lighting	Other
5100	Salary and Wages		244,960	23,237					
5700	Expenditures	165,110	286,475	133,608				83,314	9,975
5800A	Construction								
5800B	Capital Outlay		10,000						
	TOTAL	165,110	541,435	156,845				83,314	9,975

Schedule A Part 2 - Human Services (500)

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Health Services	Clinical Services	Special Program	Veterans Services	Other
5100	Salary and Wages	11,421		21,836		30,120
5700	Expenditures	8,075		35,045	31,476	6,335
5800A	Construction					
5800B	Capital Outlay					42,600
	TOTAL	19,496		56,881	31,476	79,055

Schedule A Part 2 - Culture and Recreation (600)

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Library	Recreation	Parks	Historical Commission	Celebrations	Other
5100	Salary and Wages	38,480					
5700	Expenditures	1,973	10,916		40		984
5800A	Construction						
5800B	Capital Outlay						
	TOTAL	40,453	10,916		40		984

Schedule A Part 2 - Debt Service (700)

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Retirement of Debt Principal	Interest on Long Term Debt	Interest on Short Term Debt	Other Interest
5900	Debt Service	248,389	18,454		
	TOTAL	248,389	18,454		

Schedule A Part 2 - Fiscal Year 2023 (Continued)

Schedule A Part 2 - Unclassified (900)

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Workers Compensation	Unemployment	Health Insurance	Other Emp. Benefits	Court Judgements	Other Insurance	Intergovt. Assessments	Retirement	Other
0001	Unclassified		10,244	159,635	5,677		93,646	45,447	147,476	15,535
	TOTAL		10,244	159,635	5,677		93,646	45,447	147,476	15,535

Schedule A Part 2 - Transfers/Other Financing Uses (0001)

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Amount
5960	Transfers to Other Funds	250,300
5990	Other Financing Uses	
	TOTAL	250,300

Schedule A Part 2 - Total All General Fund Expenditures

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Total
	EXPENDITURES	
5100	Salary and Wages	866,584
5700	Expenditures	4,855,856
5800A	Construction	
5800B	Capital Outlay	52,600
5900	Debt Service	266,843
0001	Unclassified	477,660
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	6,519,543

OTHER FINANCING USES

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Total
5960	Transfers to Other Funds	250,300
5990	Other Financing Uses	
	TOTAL TRANSFERS AND OTHER FINANCING USES	250,300
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES	6,769,843

Schedule A Part 3 - Fiscal Year 2023

Schedule A Part 3 - Federal Grants (FG01)											
Acct. No.	Item Description	General Government	Public Safety	Public Works	Education	Federal Emerg. Mgmt. Agency	Culture and Recr.	Community Development Block	Other Housing and Urban Development	Other	Total
REVENUES											
4100	Taxes and Excises										
4200	Charges for Services										
4500	Federal Revenue	483,930						88,264			572,194
4600	State Revenue										
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues										
4820	Earnings on Investments										
	TOTAL REVENUES	483,930						88,264			572,194
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES											
4910	Bond Proceeds										
4970	Transfers From Other Funds										
4990	Other Financing Sources										
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES										
	TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	483,930						88,264			572,194
EXPENDITURES											
5100	Salary and Wages										
5700	Expenditures	476,604						88,264			564,868
5800A	Construction										
5800B	Capital Outlay										
5900	Debt Service										
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	476,604						88,264			564,868
OTHER FINANCING USES											
5960	Transfers to Other Funds										
5990	Other Financing Uses										
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES										
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES	476,604						88,264			564,868
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)											
		7,326									7,326
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year	467,640									467,640
0003	Adjustments										
0004	Fund Balance End of Year	474,966									474,966

Schedule A Part 3 - Fiscal Year 2023 (Continued)

Schedule A Part 3 - State Grants (SG01)										
Acct. No.	Item Description	General Government	Public Safety	Public Works	Education	Mass. Emerg. Mngmt. Agency	Culture and Recr.	Council on Aging	Library	Other Total
REVENUES										
4100	Taxes and Excises									
4200	Charges for Services									
4500	Federal Revenue									
4600	State Revenue	205	35,028	151,375				17,832	8,017	212,457
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues									
4820	Earnings on Investments									
	TOTAL REVENUES	205	35,028	151,375				17,832	8,017	212,457
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES										
4910	Bond Proceeds									
4970	Transfers From Other Funds									
4990	Other Financing Sources									
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES									
	TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	205	35,028	151,375				17,832	8,017	212,457
EXPENDITURES										
5100	Salary and Wages								342	342
5700	Expenditures	7,491	78,127	241,617		18,138		4,999		42,117 392,489
5800A	Construction									
5800B	Capital Outlay									
5900	Debt Service									
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	7,491	78,127	241,617		18,138		4,999	342	42,117 392,831
OTHER FINANCING USES										
5960	Transfers to Other Funds									
5990	Other Financing Uses									
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES									
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES	7,491	78,127	241,617		18,138		4,999	342	42,117 392,831
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)										
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year	-7,286	-43,099	-90,242		-18,138		12,833	7,675	-42,117 -180,374
0003	Adjustments	7,555	4,488	67,958		22,28		6,638	42,451	23,614 174,988
0004	Fund Balance End of Year	269	-38,611	-22,284		4,146		19,471	50,126	-18,503 -5,386

Schedule A Part 3 - Fiscal Year 2023 (Continued)

Schedule A Part 3 - Receipts Reserved for Appropriation (RA01)

Acct. No.	Item Description	Education	Waterways Improvement	Wetlands Protection	Parking Meters	Ambulance	Ins. Reimb over \$150,000	Sale of Real Estate	Sale of Cemetery Lots	Other	Total
REVENUES											
4100	Taxes and Excises										
4200	Charges for Services										
4500	Federal Revenue										
4600	State Revenue									700	700
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues										
4820	Earnings on Investments										
	TOTAL REVENUES									700	700
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES											
4910	Bond Proceeds										
4970	Transfers From Other Funds										
4990	Other Financing Sources										
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES										
	TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES									700	700
EXPENDITURES											
5100	Salary and Wages										
5700	Expenditures										
5800A	Construction										
5800B	Capital Outlay										
5900	Debt Service										
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES										
OTHER FINANCING USES											
5960	Transfers to Other Funds										
5990	Other Financing Uses										
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES										
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES										
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)											
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year									700	700
0003	Adjustments										
0004	Fund Balance End of Year									700	700

Schedule A Part 3 - Fiscal Year 2023 (Continued)

Schedule A Part 3 - Revolving Funds (RF01)						
Acct. No.	Item Description	Education	Athletic	Parks and Recreation	Ch. 44, 53E 1/2	Total
REVENUES						
4100	Taxes and Excises					
4200	Charges for Services					
4500	Federal Revenue					
4600	State Revenue					
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues				13,367	13,367
4820	Earnings on Investments					
	TOTAL REVENUES				13,367	13,367
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES						
4910	Bond Proceeds					
4970	Transfers From Other Funds					
4990	Other Financing Sources					
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES					
	TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES				13,367	13,367
EXPENDITURES						
5100	Salary and Wages					
5700	Expenditures				7,524	7,524
5800A	Construction					
5800B	Capital Outlay					
5900	Debt Service					
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES				7,524	7,524
OTHER FINANCING USES						
5960	Transfers to Other Funds					
5990	Other Financing Uses					
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES					
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES				7,524	7,524
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)						
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year				5,843	5,843
0003	Adjustments				6,850	6,850
0004	Fund Balance End of Year				12,693	12,693

Schedule A Part 3 - Fiscal Year 2023 (Continued)

Schedule A Part 3 - Other Special Revenue (OS01)

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Water	Sewer	Education	School Lunch	Adult Education	Professional Development	Comm. Preservation Act	MWPAT	Title V	Gifts and Donations	Other	Total
REVENUES													
4100	Taxes and Excises												
4200	Charges for Services												
4500	Federal Revenue												
4600	State Revenue												
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues										4,151		4,151
4820	Earnings on Investments												
	TOTAL REVENUES										4,151		4,151
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES													
4910	Bond Proceeds												
4970	Transfers From Other Funds												
4990	Other Financing Sources												
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES												
	TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES										4,151		4,151
EXPENDITURES													
5100	Salary and Wages												
5700	Expenditures										1,923		1,923
5800A	Construction												
5800B	Capital Outlay												
5900	Debt Service												
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES										1,923		1,923
OTHER FINANCING USES													
5960	Transfers to Other Funds												
5990	Other Financing Uses												
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES												
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES										1,923		1,923
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)													
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year										2,228		2,228
0003	Adjustments												
0004	Fund Balance End of Year										2,228		2,228

Schedule A Part 3 - Fiscal Year 2023 (Continued)

Schedule A Part 3 - Total All Special Revenue Funds and Expenditures

Acct. No.	Item Description	Total
REVENUES		
4100	Taxes and Excises	
4200	Charges for Services	
4500	Federal Revenue	572,194
4600	State Revenue	213,157
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues	17,518
4820	Earnings on Investments	
	TOTAL REVENUES	802,869
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES		
4910	Bond Proceeds	
4970	Transfers From Other Funds	
4990	Other Financing Sources	
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	
	TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	802,869
EXPENDITURES		
5100	Salary and Wages	342
5700	Expenditures	966,804
5800A	Construction	
5800B	Capital Outlay	
5900	Debt Service	
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	967,146
OTHER FINANCING USES		
5960	Transfers to Other Funds	
5990	Other Financing Uses	
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES	
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES	967,146
	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)	-164,277
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year	649,478
0003	Adjustments	
0004	Fund Balance End of Year	485,201

Schedule A Part 4 - Fiscal Year 2023

Schedule A Part 4 - Capital Project Funds									
Acct. No.	Item Description	Water	Sewer	Schools	Municipal Buildings	Landfill	Highways (Chapter 90)	Other	Total
REVENUES									
4100	Taxes and Excises								
4200	Charges for Services								
4500	Federal Revenue								
4600	State Revenue								
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues								
4820	Earnings on Investments								
	TOTAL REVENUES								
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES									
4910	Bond Proceeds								
4970	Transfers From Other Funds								
4990	Other Financing Sources							142,600	142,600
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES							142,600	142,600
	TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES							142,600	142,600
EXPENDITURES									
5100	Salary and Wages								
5700	Expenditures								
5800A	Construction								
5800B	Capital Outlay							222,107	222,107
5900	Debt Service								
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES							222,107	222,107
OTHER FINANCING USES									
5960	Transfers to Other Funds								
5990	Other Financing Uses								
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES								
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES							222,107	222,107
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)									
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year							-79,507	-79,507
0003	Adjustments							-769,840	-769,840
0004	Fund Balance End of Year							-849,347	-849,347

Schedule A Part 5 - Fiscal Year 2023

Schedule A Part 5 - Enterprise Funds													
Acct. No.	Item Description	Water	Sewer	Electric	Landfills	Hospital	Health Care	Airport	Harbor	Golf Courses	Public Recreation	Other	Total
REVENUES													
4100	Taxes and Excises												
4200	Charges for Services	302,764											302,764
4500	Federal Revenue												
4600	State Revenue												
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues	18,867											18,867
4820	Earnings on Investments	2,042											2,042
	TOTAL REVENUES	323,673											323,673
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES													
4910	Bond Proceeds												
4970	Transfers From Other Funds												
4990	Other Financing Sources												
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES												
	TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	323,673											323,673
EXPENDITURES													
5100	Salary and Wages	74,919											74,919
5700	Expenditures	113,758											113,758
5800A	Construction												
5800B	Capital Outlay												
5900	Debt Service	23,333											23,333
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	212,010											212,010
OTHER FINANCING USES													
5960	Transfers to Other Funds												
5990	Other Financing Uses												
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES												
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES	212,010											212,010
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)													
		111,663											111,663
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year	146,419											146,419
0003	Adjustments												
0004	Fund Balance End of Year	258,082											258,082

Schedule A Part 6 - Fiscal Year 2023

Schedule A Part 6 - Non-Expendable/Expendable Trusts (NE01)

Acct. No.	Item Description	Non-Expendable	Workers Compensation	Pension Reserve	Stabilization	Special Purpose Stabilization	Hlth Claim Share	Hlth Claim Employee	Conser- vation	OPEB	Other	Total
REVENUES												
4100	Taxes and Excises											
4200	Charges for Services											
4500	Federal Revenue											
4600	State Revenue											
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues											
4820	Earnings on Investments	2,972			6,247	750				4,818	748	15,535
	TOTAL REVENUES	2,972			6,247	750				4,818	748	15,535
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES												
4970	Transfers From Other Funds				92,000	118,300				40,000		250,300
4990	Other Financing Sources											
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES				92,000	118,300				40,000		250,300
TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES												
		2,972			98,247	119,050				44,818	748	265,835
EXPENDITURES												
5100	Salary and Wages											
5700	Expenditures	3,014										3,014
5800A	Construction											
5800B	Capital Outlay											
5900	Debt Service											
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3,014										3,014
OTHER FINANCING USES												
5960	Transfers to Other Funds											
5990	Other Financing Uses											
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES												
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES	3,014										3,014
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)												
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year		-42		98,247	119,050				44,818	748	262,821
0003	Adjustments			39,372	458,033	124,493					27,116	941,393
				-39,372						39,372		
0004	Fund Balance End of Year	292,337			556,280	243,543				84,190	27,864	1,204,214

Schedule A Part 7 - Fiscal Year 2023

Schedule A Part 7 - Agency Funds

Acct. No.	Item Description	Balance July 1, 2022	Additions	Transfer From	Deductions	Transfer To	Balance June 30, 2023
ASSETS							
0005	Cash		154,719		178,623		-23,904
0006	Accounts Receivable						
	TOTAL ASSETS		154,719		178,623		-23,904
LIABILITIES							
0007	Police Outside Detail		113,115		156,877		-43,762
0008	Fire Off Duty Detail						
0009	Tax Due State						
0010	Meals Tax Due State						
0011	Licenses Due State		7,738		6,063		1,675
0012	Due County/Retirement Systems						
0013	Guarantee Bid Deposits		20,237		4,100		16,137
0014	Unclaimed Items						
0015	Other Liabilities		14,279		12,233		2,046
	TOTAL LIABILITIES		155,369		179,273		-23,904

Schedule A Part 8 - Fiscal Year 2023

Schedule A Part 8 - Personnel Expenditures

Total Salaries and Wages as of December 31, -1 as Reported on IRS Form W-2	907,352
Total Number of Employees (FTE) for Calendar Year Ending December 31, -1	14

Schedule A Part 9 - Fiscal Year 2023

Schedule A Part 9 - Schedule of Cash and Investments

Acct. No.	Item Description	Cash and Investments
FUNDS		
0016	General Fund	1,451,885
0017	Special Revenue	485,201
0018	Debt Service Fund	
0019	Capital Project Funds	255,853
0020	Enterprise Funds	259,212
0021	Trust Funds	1,204,214
0022	Agency Funds	-23,902
	TOTAL ALL FUNDS	3,632,463

Schedule A Part 10 - Fiscal Year 2023

Schedule A Part 10 - Schedule of Debt Outstanding, Issued and Retired this Fiscal Year

Acct. No.	Item Description	Outstanding July 1,2022	Issued this Fiscal Year	Retired this Fiscal Year	Outstanding June 30,2023	Interest this Fiscal Year
A. GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS						
INSIDE DEBT LIMIT						
D001	Buildings					
D002	Department Equipment	9,389		9,389		418
D003	School Buildings					
D004	School - All Other					
D005	Sewer					
D006	Solid Waste					
D007	Other Inside Limit	377,000		13,000	364,000	8,483
TOTAL INSIDE DEBT LIMIT		386,389		22,389	364,000	8,901
Outside Debt Limit						
D008	Airport					
D009	Hospital					
D010	Electric					
D011	Gas					
D012	School Buildings					
D013	Sewer					
D014	Solid Waste					
D015	Water					
D016	Other Outside Limit	200,000		100,000	100,000	9,500
Total Outside Debt Limit		200,000		100,000	100,000	9,500
Total Long Term Debt		586,389		122,389	464,000	18,401
D023	Total Debt Refunding					
B. REVENUE AND NONGUARANTEED BONDS						
D021	Revenue And Nonguaranteed Bonds					
C. SHORT TERM DEBT						
D017	Tax Anticipation Notes 1,100					
D018	Bond Anticipation Notes					
D019	Grant Anticipation Notes					
D020	Other Short Term Debt	1,247,800		142,600	1,105,200	5,686
TOTAL SHORT TERM DEBT		1,247,800		142,600	1,105,200	6,786
D. OTHER INTEREST						
D022	Other Interest					
Item Description			Authorized	Issued/Retired Rescinded	Unissued June 30, 2023	
Authorized And Unissued - Inside Debt Limit			390,000	343,000	47,000	
Authorized And Unissued - Outside Debt Limit						
Total Authorized And Unissued			390,000	343,000	47,000	

Schedule A Part 11 - Fiscal Year 2023

Schedule A Part 11 - Reconciliation of Fund Equity (Retained Earnings) for the Fiscal Year End June 30, 2023

Item Description	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Trust	Total
1 Total Revenue	6,628,951	802,869		323,673	15,535	7,771,028
2 Total Expenditures	6,519,543	967,146	222,107	212,010	3,014	7,923,820
3 TOTAL EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES (LINE 1 - LINE 2)	109,408	-164,277	-222,107	111,663	12,521	-152,792
4 Transfers From Other Funds					250,300	250,300
5 Other Financing Sources			142,600			142,600
6 Transfers to Other Funds	250,300					250,300
7 Other Financing Uses						
8 TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) SUM OF LINES 4 AND 5 MINUS LINES 6 AND 7	-250,300		142,600		250,300	142,600
9 TOTAL EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) (SUM OF LINES 3 AND 8)	-140,892	-164,277	-79,507	111,663	262,821	-10,192
10 Fund Equity (Retained Earnings) Beginning of Year	1,467,168	649,478	-769,840	146,419	941,393	2,434,618
11 Other Adjustments						
12 TOTAL FUND EQUITY (RETAINED EARNINGS) END OF YEAR (SUM OF LINES 9 THROUGH 11)	1,326,276	485,201	-849,347	258,082	1,204,214	2,424,426

Schedule A Submission - Fiscal Year 2023

Signatures

Peter Schmidt
Town Accountant
Cheshire

Schedule A KAR-1 - Fiscal Year 2023

Schedule A KAR-1

Cash Balance

Fund	Balance Sheet	Schedule A	Variance
General Fund	1,451,885	1,451,885	0
Special Revenue	485,201	485,201	0
Capital Project Funds	255,853	255,853	0
Enterprise Funds	259,212	259,212	0
Trust & Agency Funds	1,180,312	1,180,312	0
Debt Service Fund		0	0
Total	3,632,463	3,632,463	0

Fund Equity Balance

Fund	Balance Sheet	Schedule A	Variance
General Fund	1,326,276	1,326,276	0
Special Revenue	485,201	485,201	0
Capital Project Funds	-849,347	-849,347	0
Enterprise Funds	258,082	258,082	0
Trust Funds	1,204,214	1,204,214	0
Total	2,424,426	2,424,426	0

Comments

Complete both sections for UMAS communities and the cash section for STAT communities.
If there are variances, they must be explained by the Accountant/Auditor.

Treasurer's Report

To the Board of Selectmen and the Town of Cheshire

The Annual Report of the Town Treasurer for FY 2023 is hereby submitted:

Departmental Receipts	Receipt Detail	Total Receipts	Departmental Receipts	Receipt Detail	Total Receipts
Board of Health			Dept. of Interior		
Bags & Stickers	\$ 77,160.00		PILOT -		
Transfer Station - Demo	15,235.70		Federally Owned Land	\$ 1,054.00	\$ 1,054.00
RDP Grant	4,550.00		Fire Dept.		
Permits	3,815.00		Permits	3,100.00	
Perc Tests	4,200.00	\$ 104,960.70	EMPG Grant	2,446.24	
Board of Selectmen			Firefighters Equipment Grant	4,212.18	9,758.42
Licenses/Fees	16,782.27		Interest		
Rental Income	45,550.00		General Fund	19,911.15	
Community Impact Fee	5,000.00		Trust Funds	9,252.57	
Solar PILOT Revenue	12,500.00		OPEB Trust Fund	5,668.14	34,831.86
Voc Transp Reimb	11,381.53	91,213.80	Misc Revenue	3,839.53	3,839.53
Building Inspector			Planning Board		
Permits	34,824.50	34,824.50	Filing Fees	600.00	600.00
Cemetery			Plumbing/Gas Inspector		
Grave Openings	3,100.00		Permits	4,090.00	4,090.00
Misc Work & Wkend Charge	900.00		Police Dept.		
Equipment Use	100.00		Details	113,115.00	
Deed Fee	30.00		Firearm Permits	7,737.50	
Perpetual Care Fund	900.00		CMVI - RMV Infractions	10,336.29	
Sale of Lots	565.00	5,595.00	Body Worn Cameras Grant	25,369.92	
Commonwealth of MA			Bridge Academy Reimb	3,000.00	
General Government (Lottery)	711,610.00		Fees/Fines	9,988.38	169,547.09
Chapter 70	15,583.00		Tax Collector		
State Owned Land	157,594.00		Taxes/Interest/Fees	5,350,617.63	5,350,617.63
Elderly/Blind			Town Clerk		
Exemption Reimb	24,092.00		Dog Licenses	3,815.00	
Extended Polling/Early Voting	1,536.37		Sale of Laws/Lists	10.00	
State Aid Assessments	(45,447.00)		Retained Fees	1,780.00	
Other State Revenue	384.00		Miscellaneous	320.00	5,925.00
WRAP Grant	146,825.73		Treasurer		
Library Grant	8,017.08		Health Insurance Premiums	29,376.00	
ARPA Funds	467,639.73		Tax Title Revenue	49,024.59	78,400.59
ARPA Broadband	16,290.00		Water Dept		
Community Development			Water Receipts	299,845.38	
Block Grant	88,263.69		Work Permits	1,667.00	
AFG 2020 - COVID 19			Interest/fees	2,918.80	
Supplemental	204.76		Earnings on Investments	2,042.13	
Opioid Settlement Revenue	700.00		Timber Sales	17,200.00	323,673.31
Cheshire Events Funding	2,779.00		Wire Inspector		
Veteran Services Reimb	12,738.00	1,608,810.36	Permits	20,312.00	20,312.00
Conservation Commission			TOTAL RECEIPTS		
Fees/Permits	795.00	795.00	FY 2023:	\$ 7,878,552.58	\$ 7,878,552.58
Council on Aging					
Revolving Fund Gift Account	5,927.25				
Elder Affairs Grant	13,272.00				
MCOA Grant	4,560.00				
Van Receipts	\$ 5,944.54	\$ 29,703.79			

SCHEDULE OF TRUST FUNDS:

OPEB Trust Fund	\$ 84,189.90
Stabilization	556,279.90
Capital Equipment Stabilization	243,543.17
Cemetery Dept. - Perpetual Care	176,801.51
Cemetery Dept. - Sale of Lots	23,666.04
Cemetery Dept. - Whipple and Harkness	33,358.06
Cemetery Dept. - Dumont	5,457.89
Cemetery Dept. - Benjamin & Phyllis Bissell	1,346.00
Cemetery Dept. - John L. Brown	1,642.05
Cemetery Dept. - Lorraine N. Braund	49,020.87
Philip Burns Public Library	4,376.70
Philip Burns Public School	20,334.47
Westminster Chime	1,511.48
Veteran's Memorial	2,686.21
Balance June 30, 2023	\$ 1,204,214.25

LOANS:**BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE - MUNICIPAL PURPOSE LOAN**

Greenfield Cooperative Bank	
Loan Amount - (Renewal)	\$ 688,000.00
Water Main Replacement:	\$ 500,000.00
Highway Truck:	188,000.00
Issue Date - December 6, 2022	
Due Date - December 6, 2023	
Interest Rate - 4.10%	
Balance July 1, 2022	688,000.00
Annual Payment Amount	0.00
Interest Expense	0.00
Balance June 30, 2023	688,000.00

**BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE -
MUNICIPAL PURPOSE LOAN**

Greenfield Cooperative Bank	
Loan Amount - (New)	735,000.00
Water Main Replacement:	500,000.00
Highway Truck:	235,000.00
Issue Date - December 6, 2021	
Due Date - December 6, 2022	
Interest Rate - 0.37%	
Balance July 1, 2022	735,000.00
Paydown on Highway Truck:	(47,000.00)
BAN renewal amount:	688,000.00
Interest Expense	2,719.50
Balance June 30, 2023	0.00

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

Greenfield Cooperative Bank	
Loan Amount (Renewal)	103,800.00
Issue Date - April 29, 2022	
Due Date - January 27, 2023	
Interest Rate - 1.20%	
Balance July 1, 2022	103,800.00
Paydown on Grader:	(34,600.00)
BAN renewal amount:	69,200.00
Interest Expense	\$ 927.28
Balance June 30, 2023	\$ 0.00

BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE - DEPARTMENTAL EQUIPMENT

Greenfield Cooperative Bank	
Loan Amount	\$ 417,200.00
Fire Truck: (Renewal)	\$ 244,000.00
Highway Truck: (Renewal)	104,000.00
Highway Grader: (Renewal)	69,200.00
Issue Date - January 27, 2023	
Due Date - January 26, 2024	
Interest Rate - 4.30%	
Balance July 1, 2022	417,200.00
Annual Payment Amount	0.00
Interest Expense	0.00
Balance June 30, 2023	417,200.00

BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE - DEPARTMENTAL EQUIPMENT

Greenfield Cooperative Bank	
Loan Amount (Renewal)	409,000.00
Fire Truck:	279,000.00
Highway Truck:	130,000.00
Issue Date - January 28, 2022	
Due Date - January 27, 2023	
Interest Rate - 0.50%	
Balance July 1, 2022	409,000.00
Paydown on Fire Truck:	(35,000.00)
Paydown on Highway Truck:	(26,000.00)
New Issue: Highway Grader	69,200.00
BAN renewal amount:	417,200.00
Interest Expense	2,039.32
Balance June 30, 2023	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, 2022	377,000.00
Annual Payment Amount	(13,000.00)
Interest Expense	8,482.50
Balance June 30, 2023	364,000.00

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, 2022	200,000.00
Annual Payment Amount	(100,000.00)
Interest Expense	9,500.00
Balance June 30, 2023	100,000.00

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, 2022	9,388.72
Annual Payment Amount	(9,388.72)
Interest Expense	\$ 418.22
Balance June 30, 2023	\$ 0.00

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 2023 is hereby submitted:

Outstanding Taxes as of July 1, 2022:

Real Estate	\$ 162,630.61
Personal Property	5,331.85
Motor Vehicle	56,540.10
TOTAL	224,502.56

Abateements/Exemptions:

Real Estate	\$ 31,752.44
Personal Property	5,146.88
Motor Vehicle	21,538.47
TOTAL	58,437.79

Committed to collect:

Real Estate	4,557,898.99
Roll Back Taxes	307.99
Personal Property	170,760.40
Motor Vehicle	644,017.97
TOTAL	5,372,985.35

Refunds:

Real Estate	8,850.25
Motor Vehicle	13,370.39
TOTAL	22,220.64

Turned over to the Treasurer:

Real Estate Taxes	4,502,689.76
Personal Property Taxes	169,671.07
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	638,817.09
Roll Back Taxes	307.99
Tax Title	7,528.38
Mobile Home Excise	24,720.00
Interest	31,833.88
Registry Marking Fees	4,040.00
Municipal Lien Fees	1,525.00
Tax Collector Fees	13,993.00
Deputy Collector Fees	10,626.00
TOTAL	\$ 5,405,752.17

Outstanding Taxes as of June 30, 2023:

Real Estate	187,409.27
Personal Property	1,274.30
Motor Vehicle	53,471.88
TOTAL	242,155.45

Hoosac Lake District

Outstanding Taxes July 1, 2022:	6,469.21
Committed to collect:	38,688.32
Turned over to Treasurer:	-39,665.72
Outstanding Taxes June 30, 2023:	\$ 5,491.81

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Herzog

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority

CROSSING PATHS - BRTA FY23 Annual Report

RIDERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

A note from the Administrator

I had a feeling FY 2023 was going to present some unexpected twists and turns. And it just so happens that we ended up working on some exciting new projects.

I decided it was time for BRTA to make some resolutions. These resolutions had to do with organizational improvement. We asked ourselves how we could improve our operations to benefit our loyal customers and our region. These resolutions shaped our actions for the year.

As of July 3, 2022, our resolutions were to:

- **Grow** ridership beyond pre-COVID levels.
- **Maintain** stable staffing for operators, mechanics, and maintenance crews sufficient to meet our daily requirements.
- **Place** new, large, hybrid electric buses in service and help reduce our carbon footprint.
- **Connect** our service with that of other RTAs.

Let's start with ridership. In FY 2023 BRTA was just 3% shy of pre-COVID ridership numbers. Route cancellations caused by workforce shortages factored into not achieving our goal. Workforce shortages is not just a BRTA problem, it's a national problem. For us, there's a shortage of people with Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL). Compounding the shortage has been the lack of CDL training programs in the Berkshires. We're working on making more CDL training available, including offering our own. Creating a pipeline of drivers with CDL licenses will impact the entire region!

At the end of FY 2023 BRTA received notification from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) that \$2,212,747 to fund the purchase of two 35' heavy duty Gillig Diesel-Electric Hybrid buses was awarded—another step toward reducing carbon emissions.

We're having productive discussions with Pioneer Valley Transit to see what a connector service might look like. It looks like the day will come when Berkshire residents will be able to take the connector to Springfield.

We've been working hard to be more responsive to our passengers' needs. A lot of our efforts are dependent on factors outside our control. Will we get the bump in state funding we're anticipating in the FY 2024 budget? Will we be able to convince more educational programs to include CDL training?

Here's hoping for a robust FY 2024!

Best regards,
Robert Malnati

SOLVING A CRITICAL SHORTAGE: CDL OPERATORS

You've read about the shortage of drivers with CDL licenses. This is a regional problem that impacts residents and businesses. If you own a business, you need drivers with CDLs. Municipal governments need employees with CDLs to transport kids to school, plow the streets, deliver services. Drivers with commercial drivers' licenses are critical to economic growth.

BRTA and a state agency have been working on a solution. BRTA's Accem Scott has been teaching CDL permit classes at MassHire. Once drivers have their CDL permit and express a desire to work for BRTA, they are hired and paid during training to obtain their CDL with passenger endorsement—required for transporting people. They are then on their way to becoming a BRTA bus operator.

More drivers with CDLs means fewer cancelled trips and eliminated routes. More people have transportation to get to work. More public transit connects the unemployed and underemployed with opportunities to fill the 1,200 job vacancies currently available. Significantly increasing employment numbers boosts the regional economy.

BRTA has placed recruitment ads on our buses, our website, and on social media. Key messaging includes the opportunity for BRTA operators to rise to the top of the pay scale within six months and receive 100% employer-paid health insurance premium coverage. At the completion of a probationary period, drivers also receive a \$500 bonus.

The problem with too few CDL operators has not been completely solved, but BRTA is making progress. BRTA continues to encourage more organizations to offer CDL training and to spread the word about CDL's importance.

- 3,000+ CDL job vacancies in MA
- 100% BRTA health insurance premium coverage after 6 months
- \$500 BRTA bonus for drivers

WHO SAYS THERE'S NO FREE RIDE?

A statewide **Try Transit** event offered free rides on many of the state's municipal transit buses, including BRTA. Berkshire County residents were treated to free rides between November 25 and December 31, 2022. The BRTA's results were impressive: a total of 53,930 riders rode for free, bringing ridership up a whopping 36% over the previous year during the same time.

Turning to fare-paying ridership, FY 2023 showed impressive gains since the **Try Transit** event. January through June 30 ridership outperformed month-to-month comparisons from the previous year. Overall, FY 2023 ridership was up 24% over FY 2022. Close to a half million passengers used BRTA to get where they needed to go in FY 2023.

BRTA management is encouraged by these numbers but recognizes there's more opportunity to grow ridership. Offering more evening and weekend service would dramatically increase the number of people choosing to ride the bus. We are cautiously optimistic that the FY 2024 state budget will offer much needed funding increases to regional transits.

MOVING TOWARD ZERO EMISSIONS

BRTA received word of discretionary grant awards in FY 2022 and FY 2023 that would fund the purchase of five diesel electric hybrid vehicles. These heavy duty, larger vehicles will build the Authority’s capacity to handle the growth in ridership. These buses will add significantly to BRTA’s commitment to operating an environmentally cleaner fleet—and working toward our longer-term goal of a zero emissions fleet.

BRTA management has been asked why we continue to purchase hybrids versus all electric vehicles. Since 2020 we have commissioned three feasibility studies to determine whether electric vehicles are an option. All three reports concluded that our current route length and daily service time requirements would not support a transition to battery/electric fleet.

In addition, heating in the winter and cooling in the summer drastically reduce the batteries’ daily range.

We are currently exploring the possibility of hydrogen fuel cell technology that could provide a daily range similar to the diesel electric hybrids we will be operating for the time being.

*This announcement means **more clean buses**, less pollution, more jobs in manufacturing and maintenance, and **better commutes** for families across the country.*

— Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Transportation Secretary

THE LARGER ROLE OF PUBLIC TRANSIT

BRTA transports people to and from thirteen communities in a largely rural region most days of the year. We provide a lifeline for many of our residents. They depend on bus service to help them access basic needs: food, health care, family, friends, education.

Public transit is a great equalizer. People of all means can access transportation. K-12 students can buy a student 30-day pass for \$26. College students can buy a semester-full of rides for \$250. Reduced fares are available for people ages 60 and older; people with Medicare cards; people with disabilities and a Mass Access Pass.

Free rides are available to Personal Care Attendants while riding with their patient and to children ages five and under.

Public transit helps prevent isolation and provides a feeling of independence for our riders. Bus operators make connections with their customers. They notice when their regular riders aren’t on the bus. There is a real sense of community on many of the bus routes.

BRTA meets regularly with social service agencies, community development organizations, and health care providers to discuss ways to help mitigate transportation shortfalls due to chronic lack of funding in Berkshire County.

We teach people how to ride the bus through our Travel Training service. We have friendly customer service agents who can answer questions for beginning riders. New bus stops are being installed to help answer riders’ questions like, “Where do I stand when waiting for the bus?” and provide information showcasing the bus routes on a particular street.

As BRTA approaches its 50th anniversary, we intend to redouble our efforts to make sure our customers, new and long-standing, know how much we appreciate them.

OUR LONG-TIME BRTA CHAMPION

She’s a loyal BRTA passenger and advocate. Learn why the BRTA is so important to Patti and why Patti is important to BRTA.

There are many people living in the Berkshires who depend on the BRTA to get where they need to go. Patti is one of them. BRTA’s travel trainer, Julie Davine, says Patti knows all the routes and every bus number.

Patti has been taking the bus since 1991. She depends on the BRTA to get around. When the buses aren’t running on Sundays or holidays, Patti knows she’ll be staying at home.

Wondering where Patti goes besides grocery shopping and appointments? She’s an avid arts patron. She frequents the Berkshire Museum and the Clark Museum. She’s been a member of both since 2015.

Patti is a shopper. Throughout the year she shops at Target and TJ Maxx. But one of her favorite shopping outings is going to tag sales in the summertime. She particularly loves the ones held at area churches. She’s also a regular shopper at the Farmer’s Market in the Sears parking lot.

When Patti’s riding the bus, you’ll see her sitting in the front. Guess that’s how she knows every BRTA operator. If you ask her about her favorite, she’ll say, “All of them.” That probably comes as no surprise. The BRTA connects Patti to the things that make her life fulfilling.

Patti shows up at transportation hearings, writes letters, and advocates for public transit. She isn’t shy about changes she disagrees with.

If you see Patti on the bus or out and about, please thank her for work on behalf of all of the Berkshire residents who depend on the bus.

BY THE NUMBERS

Total Operating + Non-operating Revenues of \$8,936,332 by Source		Total Operating + Non-operating Expenses of \$8,874,967 by Source	
Transportation revenues	7%	Transportation services	91%
State & local operating grants	47%	Administration	9%
Federal operating grants	42%		
Other	4%		

TOTAL RIDERSHIP

Fixed Route	486,016
Paratransit	23,948
Average customers per day	1,599

BRTA TRIP HISTORY

	FY21	FY22	FY23
Bikes	3,938	4,245	5,266
Mobility Devices	1,940	1,573	1,998
Total	5,878	5,818	7,264

Board of Assessors

The annual report of the Board of Assessors for Fiscal Year 2023 is hereby submitted.

Fiscal year 2023 Real Estate and Personal Property taxes were committed to the Tax Collector on October 1, 2022. The Hoosac Lake Restoration & Preservation District taxes were committed to the Tax Collector on November 15, 2022.

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 2023 Interim Adjustment and value table changes were made to reflect the market which increased overall Town values.

The Real Estate and Personal Property tax rate decreased from \$12.76 to \$11.97.

The Hoosac Lake District tax rate decreased from \$1.30 to \$1.27.

Real Estate & Personal Property Commitments and Abatements

Commitments

Type	No. of Bills	Tax	Valuation
Real Estate	1619	\$ 4,557,898.99	\$ 380,776,141
Personal Prop	51	170,760.40	14,265,675
Hoosac Lake Dist	106	38,688.32	30,462,800
Rollback Tax CH61	1	307.99	
Total	1777	\$ 4,767,655.70	\$ 425,504,616

Abatements & Exemptions

Abatements RE	4	\$ 371.08
Abatements PP	3	1,363.52
Abatements LD	0	0.00
Elderly Exempt	19	6,900.00
Veteran Exempt	29	23,606.36
Blind Exempt	2	875.00
Clause 18 Exempt	0	0.00
Uncollectible PP	14	3,783.36
Total		\$ 36,899.32

Motor Vehicle Excise Commitments & Abatements

Commitments

Year	No. of Bills	Tax
2020	1	\$ 84.52
2021	1	67.61
2022	535	63,898.99
2023	3976	579,966.85
Total	4513	\$ 644,007.97

Abatements

Year	No. of Abatements	Tax Abated
2011-2012	28	\$ 1,426.98
2020	5	278.65
2021	3	900.90
2022	58	7,337.66
2023	90	11,594.28
Total	121	\$ 21,538.50

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Astorino
Nancy Delorey

Building Department

January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

Building Permits (Residential)	143	\$ 17,113.00
Building Permits (Commercial)	12	4,845.00
Electrical Permits	117	22,850.00
Gas Permits	34	2,010.00
Plumbing Permits	27	\$ 2,540.00

Submitted:

Brian Duval
Building Commissioner/
Zoning Enforcement Officer

Cemetery Commission

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the residents of Cheshire, the Cemetery Commissioners herewith submit their Annual Report for the period of 1 January, 2023, to 31 December, 2023.

During this period, there were 13 cremations, 2 full burials, and 3 sales of lots.

The granite vault was reconstructed by Brazeau Masonry of Cheshire. The painting of the vault door will be done in the spring of 2024.

The upper portion of the road in section 4 was resurfaced so that the entire road in section 4 is now blacktopped.

The flag pole that is over the vault, in the old section, will be replaced as soon as weather permits.

We also need to catalog cemetery documents digitally.

The Commission wishes to thank CJ Garner, and his crew, for the excellent work they did to maintain our cemetery in its pristine condition.

Our thanks also go out to the Highway Department and to Town Clerk Christine Emerson for their continued help when needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Francesconi
Chair
Stephen LA Fogg
Timothy Garner

Cheshire Council on Aging

To the residents of Cheshire, the Council on Aging presents its Annual Report.

The Mission of the COA is to facilitate seniors' ability to live independently and enjoy a high quality of life. We also strive to provide life-enriching activities, relevant information on all issues that affect them, and assist in obtaining services necessary to their well being.

Daily telephone calls average between 7-12 per day, with the Community Center receiving 2,200 calls per year for assistance or general information.

We served 4,450 last year, serving "sit down" meals on Monday and Tuesday, and "Grab and Go" on Thursday and Friday. In order to accomplish this, we have volunteers who have contributed approximately 1,560 hours per year for monetary savings of \$32,000 for the Town. We also have drivers to make meal deliveries for those who are shut-ins.

In addition to our regular meals, this summer we began a monthly barbeque that attracted approximately 40 people per month. We have continued this throughout the year by offering homemade soup and sandwich.

The Cheshire Chatter has grown so that we now distribute 300 hard copies throughout Town and email 243 copies. After every publication, we receive numerous compliments on the articles it contains. Many thanks to those who work so hard to make the Chatter a success.

Our van driver, Anne Furey, retired this year. We thank Anne for her time of service to our van and the many people she has helped. Our new driver, Stephanie Bordeau, has 10-17 unduplicated riders each month, with many going every week. The van operates Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 8 am to 2 pm.

We also offer the following services / programs;

- Wellness Calls
- Blood Pressure Readings
- Cell Phone Assistance
- Bingo Every Tuesday.
- Quilting with Betty, twice a month
- Morning Exercise, Monday, Wednesday and Friday
- Chair Yoga Friday Mornings
- Senior Haircuts every 5 weeks
- Foot Clinic every third Thursday
- CHP Medical Van the 3rd Thursdays of the month
- Summer Theater / Guest Speakers
- Special Holiday Presentations
- Monthly Craft Projects
- Seasonal Pickle Ball
- Bicycle Riding
- Shuffleboard
- Birthday / Get Well! Sympathy Cards.
- Volunteer Recognition
- COVID Masks, Test Kits, Booking Appointments.

Assistance is 'Offered through the following organizations.

- LiHeap Fuel Assistance
- SNAP
- Veterans Services
- SHINE
- Lions Club
- Cheshire Gardening Club
- Medical Car Share Program through Adams COA

The COA appreciates all the volunteer and the community support that helps us reach our goals.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Francesconi
Chair

Brenda Caufield
Director

COA members:

Peter Traub
Margaret Gwozdz
Robert Balawender
John Bianchi
Liseanne Karandisecky
Barbara Proper
Valerie Tyska
Alternate
Suzanne Boyle
Alternate

Cheshire Fire Department

To the Board of Selectmen and the residents of the Town of Cheshire, it is my pleasure to submit to you the annual report of the Cheshire Fire Department for 2023.

In 2023 the Cheshire Fire Department responded to a total of 397 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 permit, blasting permits, as well as smoke and carbon monoxide detector compliance permits.

In 2023, we continued to struggle with our falling down, dilapidated fire station. As I mentioned last year in my annual report, we had a needs assessment done to analyze what our station would need for repairs and the repair bill would be in excess of 1.3 million dollars. Again, that number is just to repair the station, not to update it in any way. And that assessment was completed in 2023, which doesn't account for the increase in cost of materials and skilled trades to make the repairs.

This year, we noticed one of our main fire engines sinking into the floor of the bay that it was parked in. We immediately moved the apparatus, and the highway department was able to excavate that portion of the floor where the fire engine was parked only to find a large gap had developed over the years between the concrete floor and the soil the foundation was supposed to be resting on, creating essentially, a sink hole that the fire engine was sinking into. An immediate repair had to be done with an outside contractor and approximately half of that bay's floor had to be excavated and repoured. Many thanks to the Cheshire Highway Department for all their help and for allowing us to park a fire engine full of water inside their highway garage while the floor was setting up and drying. Eventually, the floor was repaired, and the fire engine was returned to the bay inside of our station. As a result, the town formed a public safety complex committee to explore all options for constructing a new public safety complex to house police and fire departments. The committee is working diligently to come up with a solution that is both fiscally responsible as well as meets the needs of the Fire Department. We realize this is a huge project that will take years to complete, however, we cannot remain at our current station very much longer with the condition that it is in.

In late 2023, we were impacted greatly by the announced closing of the Adams Ambulance Service. Adams Ambulance is a private service that provides ambulance service to Cheshire and other neighboring communities. We were informed that due to financial reasons, Adams Ambulance had to close its doors effective December 31, 2023, leaving Cheshire without a transporting ambulance service. Myself and other Cheshire officials met as soon as we were informed of their decision to close, to devise a plan so the residents of Cheshire would not be without ambulance coverage. Cheshire, and other neighboring communities, were able

to contract with the Northern Berkshire EMS (formerly North Adams Ambulance Service) to continue ambulance coverage of Cheshire. In addition to their coverage, it would be at no cost to the Town of Cheshire. Together, with the Cheshire Fire Department and EMS members that respond to all calls for service in Cheshire, our emergency medical service was not interrupted and continues to provide the highest level of emergency medical care as possible to the residents and visitors of Cheshire. We are continually monitoring the situation to ensure the best possible EMS services are provided to Cheshire. Additionally, we rely on our EMS partners in Berkshire County to fill ambulance gaps as they occur, a national problem, not just a local one. Thank you to all our mutual aid partners in Berkshire County for their help in providing services to Cheshire when it is in need.

At last year's annual meeting, voters approved a financial stipend for Cheshire Fire and EMS members that respond to calls for service, whether they be EMS calls or fire calls. It was determined that members would receive \$20 per call regardless of how long they were on that particular call. Some calls for service last 15 minutes and some can last days at a time. However, we decided that \$20 per call was the best way to approach the stipend. I am very happy to say that the stipend has helped members offset the cost of fuel to respond to calls in their personal vehicles, as well as the time, effort and liability they incur when they respond to calls in 2023. Don't get me wrong, the members of the Cheshire Fire Department deserve millions of dollars for their hard work and dedication they display every day to the department and the residents and visitors of Cheshire, but at least this stipend is some recognition of the job they do on a daily basis. Thank you to the voters who approved this critical acknowledgement. Many members have told me how much they appreciate this stipend that helps offset at least some of the cost of volunteering in the 21st century.

We are still in need of volunteers, however. We are currently utilizing social media as well as any method we can think of to attract new members to the department. Again, this is not a "Cheshire specific" problem and is one many volunteer fire departments face in the Nation. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member, please call or stop at the station to fill out an application. We are trying to maintain our volunteer status without transitioning to a full-time, paid department.

The department continues to train every Thursday night at 7 pm. During these training drills we practice several 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 cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of an automated external defibrillator or AEDs. 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.

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.

Respectfully,

Thomas Francesconi
Fire Chief
Cheshire Fire Department

Cheshire Fire Department
Incident Type Count per Station for Date Range
Start Date: 01/01/2023 • End Date: 12/31/2023

INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS
Station: HQ - HEADQUARTERS	
111 - Building fire	9
118 - Trash or rubbish fire, contained	1
142 - Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	1
151 - Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	1
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	259
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	12
324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries	14
341 - Search for person on land	4
361 - Swimming/recreational water areas rescue	1
412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	3
424 - Carbon monoxide incident	1
441 - Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn	2
444 - Power line down	5
445 - Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	3
510 - Person in distress, other	1
520 - Water problem, other	1

INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS
Station: HQ - HEADQUARTERS	
522 - Water or steam leak	2
531 - Smoke or odor removal	2
551 - Assist police or other governmental agency	1
554 - Assist invalid	12
561 - Unauthorized burning	7
600 - Good intent call, other	1
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	8
622 - No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	2
651 - Smoke scare, odor of smoke	3
652 - Steam, vapor, fog or dust thought to be smoke	1
733 - Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	13
736 - CO detector activation due to malfunction	5
743 - Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	1
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	1
815 - Severe weather or natural disaster standby	1
911 - Citizen complaint	2
# Incidents for HQ - Headquarters:	380

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

CJ Garner

Tim Garner

Fran Gwozdz

Del Krzeminski

Brent Lancia

Brian Lancia

Bryant Martin

William Rech

Mike Sabato

APPRENTICES

Chris Biddy

EMS CAPTAIN

Fred Balawender

NATIONALLY REGISTERED EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

Fred Balawender

Corey Swistak

Mia Francesconi

Tom Francesconi

EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDERS

Sandy Martin

Corey McGrath

JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS

Sofia Francesconi

Timothy Kupiac

Griffin Lancia

McKenna Lancia

Christy Rech

HONORARY MEMBERS

Bob Lamb Jr.

Ed Gwozdz

George Sweet (Retired Chief)

Michael Biagini

Les Rhinemiller

Cheshire Library Association

Celebrating 125 years in the Town Hall and Library building!

The Celebration began with a “Cupcake Open House” April 23 at 1:25 pm.

The year-long events included: Open House for Sandra Sloane’s Veterans’ Display as well as marching in the Memorial Day Parade; a year-long reading challenge reading 12 category books; read two books, earn a ticket for the monthly raffles; monthly Candy Challenge - guess the number in the jar, win the candy, or \$5 gift card to Barnes & Noble; and the “1898” themed Christmas Tree for the Town Festival of Trees. The Celebration Year will come to a close in April of 2024. The 12-book Challenge will have a drawing for prizes including books by local authors. The final event will be an afternoon tea.

Story Hour continued on Tuesdays with stories and crafts. Drop-in STEM/STEAM Night was held on the third Tuesday of each month; activities included Legos, clay sculptures and ornament making.

The Library hosted the first ever “Mini Art Show.” Each participant used a medium of their choice to create a 4”x4” canvas. Over 24 people created some very interesting and unique canvases. The Canvases were on display in the Library and quite a few came to view the artwork. First place awards were given to each participant in their category of medium.

Other happenings at the Cheshire Library for the year include:

- Halloween Take It and Make It
- Trick or Treat Night
- Crow guessing game
- Cards with Lorraine Faucher and Shadowboxes with Lorraine
- History Talk with Barry Emery
- Two Visits by the Wizard from OZ during Story Hour; Wizard readings by Robert Galisa; Tin Man and Scarecrow crafts as well
- Evening reading with local Young Adult Author Brittany Czarnecki
- Art with Mimi
- Author Lynn Melchiori spent a morning at Story Hour
- Story Hour surprise guest reader Police Chief Michael Alibozek
- Friendship Bracelet Evening with Karen Drain
- Embroidery Bookmarks with Amy

The Trustees wish to express our gratitude to the guest authors and presenters for their support of the Cheshire Library.

Our thanks also to Barbara Chaput, Karen Drain, Missy Pantano, Jason Kittler, and Dale Balawender for pulling the Library little wagons and the children carrying the Library 125 banner in the Memorial Day Parade.

Thanks to Jeffrey Reynolds, A to Z Printing, for printing the “125” Library Tee shirts, baseball caps and tote bags.

To the Cheshire Library patrons, our appreciation for your continued support of our “Little Gem of a Library.”

The Massachusetts Summer Reading Program theme for 2023 was “Find Your Voice” and over 60 children and adults participated. The theme for 2024 is “Read, Renew, Recycle.” This program runs for eight weeks beginning at the end of June until August. Tickets for prize drawings are earned. Story Hour is replaced by the Summer Reading for the eight-week period, however stories and crafts are still presented using the summer reading theme.

Statistics from CWMARS:

2023

InterLibrary Loan from other libraries	\$ 17,703.09
InterLibrary Loan sent from our library	8,935.35
Cheshire Library items over our circulation desk	45,842.23

2024 (January to March)

InterLibrary Loan from other libraries	7,256.25
InterLibrary Loan from our library	4,484.02
Cheshire Library items over our circulation desk	\$ 9,479.20

The statistics show that having a library card is an asset as well as economical.

Cheshire Library takes pride in keeping current best sellers on the shelves. If the Library does not have the best seller or older book you are looking for, an InterLibrary Loan may be placed.

The Trustees invite all to come take a look at what is offered.

Cheshire Library Trustees

Karen Drain, President
Mary Ellen Baker
John Bianchi
Suzanne Boyle
Aimee Casey
Heather Emerson
Robert Galisa
Diane Hitter
Christine Emerson, Treasurer

The Trustees are saddened by the loss of Inez Jepson, faithful and staunch Library Trustee for over fifty years.

We also said goodbye to Library Director Amy Emerson-Inhelder, wishing her well in her new position, and said hello to Jennifer Mirke as interim.

(This report covers April 2023 to April 2024)

Police Department

To the Board of Selectmen and the residents of the Town of Cheshire, as the Chief of Police, I am submitting my annual report for the fiscal year 2023.

The Cheshire Police Department continues to grow with the demands and needs of our town. Along with myself as a full-time patrol chief, we have promoted Officer David Tarjick to a full-time Sergeant's position. Our full-time Officer Cody Alvarez has moved on to another department and remains on the roster as a part-time officer, but with his departure Officer Claude Jean-Calixte has been promoted to the full-time position. Officer Mathieu Mercier has been added to our department and comes with a wealth of training knowledge. This gives the department a strong roster of three full-time officers and four part-time officers. Additionally, Adam Healey remains as our Harbor Master and is making great strides with the position. Retired Harbor Master Paul Maloney has been brought back on as an Assistant Harbor Master to assist with patrolling the lake's needs.

With the growing need, we have extended our patrol coverage to 7 days a week 7 am - 11 pm with additional coverage during high demand times on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday until 2 am. The Massachusetts State Police will continue to cover 11 pm - 7 am providing 24/7 coverage to the town. As with the national upward trend of requests for service, our call volume has steadily increased, covering over 3,200 calls for service this year.

With the growing need for Traffic Safety and Event coverage we have hired four retired officers to assist with the coverage of road construction and events that require assistance from the department. These officers provide safety for the public and crews working in the area.

The department has joined forces with the Adams Police Department with a joint Animal Control Officer, Kim Witek, who will be covering both Adams and Cheshire. All animal control needs will be covered by our on-duty officer and ACO Witek will be called in to assist if needed.

All our officers continue to take mandatory training, as well as other classes, to better their knowledge of the laws, and to better serve the residents of Cheshire. With the addition of Officer Mercier to the department roster, we will be able to provide training and offer training to surrounding departments at no additional costs to the department. Officer Mercier will be able to provide firearms, taser, and less lethal training to our officers. Overall, we constantly strive to provide the best service for our town and its residents.

Over the past year, we have worked hard to secure funding for much-needed equipment and were able to secure over \$50,000.00 in grants, which allowed us to purchase Body Worn Camera's (\$32,000.00), Portable Breath Test Machine (\$1,200.00), Motor Vehicle Automated Citation and Crash System (\$15,000.00), and Body Armor (\$2,400.00). We continue to work with available funding and have been approved for new upgraded tasers and a LiveScan Finger Printing system.

As always, "If you see Something, Say Something." Report any suspicious activity or concerns. If it's an emergency, or needs immediate attention, please call 911, and our friends at Berkshire

County Sheriff's Department will get you the assistance you need. Our officers are out patrolling the streets most of the time and cannot always answer the cruiser phone (413-446-3920). Our office phone (413-743-1501) now rings over to the Berkshire County Sheriff's Department; they will assist you and relay the information to the on-duty Officer, who will return your call as soon as they are available. As always, feel free to contact me by email:

cpd@cheshire-ma.gov

Please provide as much information as possible and contact information if you would like a return phone call.

Just a reminder to follow us on our Facebook page as we often post safety concerns, closings, storm information, town events and much more.

Thank You to Retired Chief, Timothy Garner, for his continued support and dedication to the department and to the citizens of Cheshire.

I would like to thank the men that make up your Police Department, for your outstanding dedication and professionalism to the residents of our town.

To our members of the Cheshire Fire Department and EMS, thank you for your continued and outstanding dedication to the town. My thanks to the Massachusetts State Police, Lanesborough Police Department, Adams Police Department, and the members of the Berkshire County Dispatch Center, for everything you do. Thank you to the Board of Selectmen for your continued support of our department and the many projects we have moving forward. Lastly but certainly not least, my thanks to the residents in the Town of Cheshire for your much appreciated continued support of the Cheshire Police Department.

THANK-YOU.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Michael J. Alibozek

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023

Returned Fines to the Town of Cheshire

Police Revolving.....	\$ 4,917.50
Registry of Motor Vehicle Infractions	\$ 10,336.29

Fees Returned to the Town of Cheshire

Pistol Permits	\$ 2,637.50
Report Fees	\$ 440.00
Detail Fees.....	\$ 7,808.93

Total Returned Fines and Fees to the Town Generated by the Cheshire Police Department	\$ 26,140.22
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CHESHIRE POLICE DEPARTMENT ROSTER FY 2023

CHIEF OF POLICE
MICHAEL J. ALIBOZEK

SERGEANT
DAVID TARJICK

OFFICER
CLAUDE JEAN-CALIXTE

OFFICER
CODY ALVAREZ

OFFICER
ROBERT HUNGATE

OFFICER
AARON GOODELL

OFFICER
MATHIEU MERCIER

HARBOR MASTER
ADAM HEALEY

ASST. HARBOR MASTER
PAUL MALONEY

ANIMAL CONTROL
KIM WITEK

TRAFFIC
TIMOTHY GARNER

TRAFFIC
DAVID SINOPOLI

TRAFFIC
PAUL MALONEY

TRAFFIC
ROBERT MALLETT

Historical Commission

The Historical Commission hosted a table at the Town Block Party and decorated a Christmas tree for Cheshire's Festival of Trees exhibit through the holidays. The tree was a tribute to Cheshire's Mammoth Cheese with ornaments of mini cheeses, photos of the Cheese press, President Thomas Jefferson and Elder John Leland, and topped with a wedge of cheese and a 1802 tricorn hat.

The Historical Commission has also made the move to the Annex in the former Town Hall Building. The Commission members are working to organize, catalog and display the many artifacts and documents in the town's possession. We look forward to opening the doors to our new space this Spring.

The Historical Commission honored Robert and Diane Hitter as they both left the commission after 13 and 21 years, respectively.

The Commission also accepted the resignation of Joe Prince, and longtime member Lois Nangle.

The Commission welcomed new members:

Liseann Karandisecky
Chris Flynn
Tom Francesconi
Ed Bassi.

The Commission gratefully accepts and welcomes old photographs, articles and video media pertaining to Cheshire.

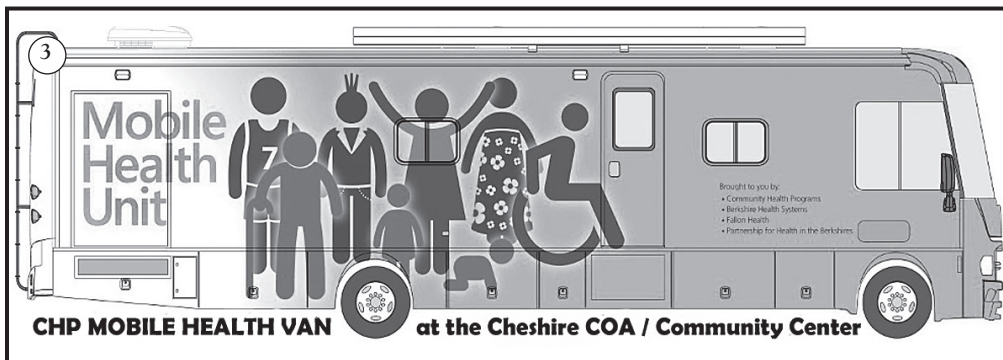
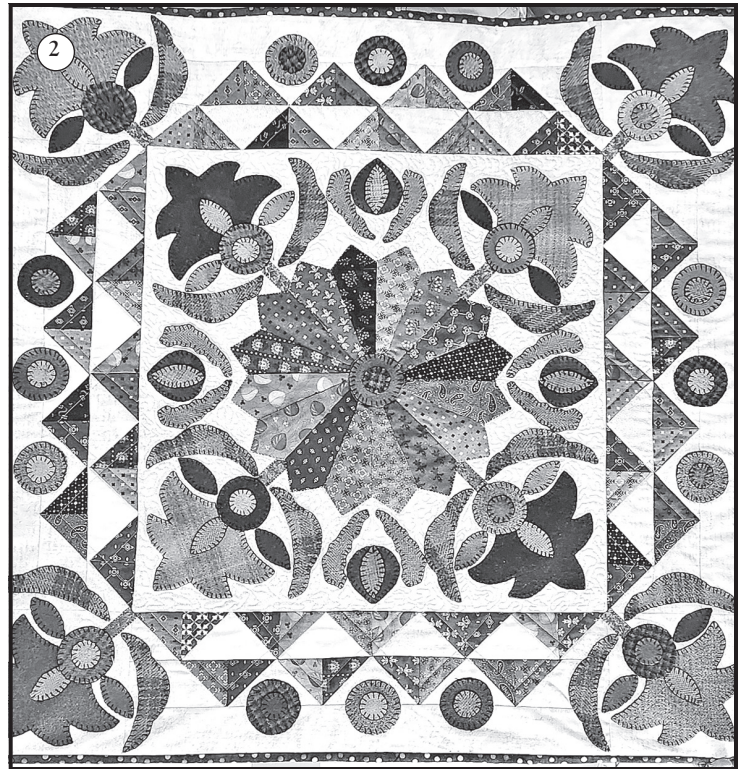
The Commission meets once a month on a Wednesday at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer McGrath DeGrneier
Chairperson

Jared Martin
Liseann Karandisecky
Chris Flynn
Tom Francesconi
Ed Bassi
Corey McGrath
Barry Emery
Emeritus

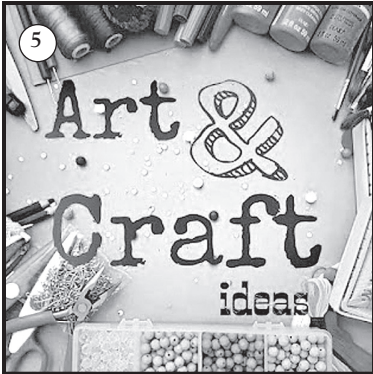
Cheshire Council on Aging in 2023



- 1: Bike Rental; Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- 2: Quilting with Betty;
every 2nd and 4th Thursday
of each month,
1:00 PM - 3:30 PM
- 3: CHP Mobile Health Van
(vaccines, blood pressure,
A1C checks, sick visits);
Bi-Monthly
- 4: Bingo; every Tuesday at 12:15 PM



Cheshire Council on Aging in 2023



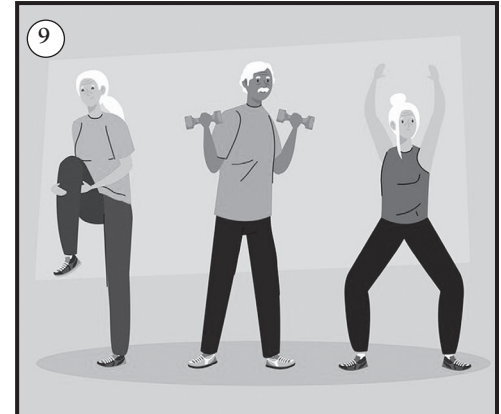
5: Arts and Crafts; monthly

6: Shuffleboard; every Wednesday at 4:00 PM

7: Card Making

8: BBQ or Homemade Meal; monthly

9: Exercise class; every Monday, Wednesday, & Friday, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM



10: Foot Clinic; offered every other month

11: Chair Yoga; every Friday 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

12: Sit down meals; Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday at 11:30 AM or Grab N' Go Monday - Friday Pickup at 10:30 AM



Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District

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

The Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District (NBSWMD) 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.

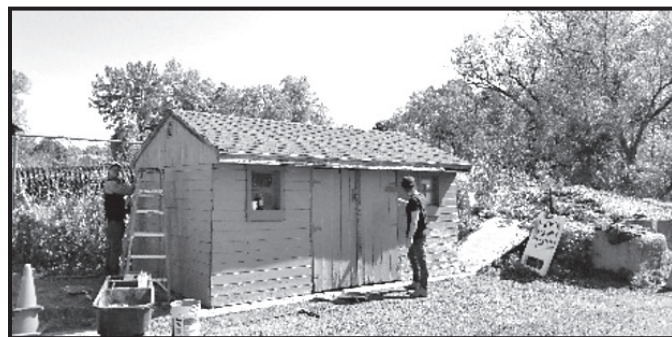
The fourteen member-towns that comprise NBSWMD include Adams, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Florida, Hancock, Hinsdale, Lanesborough, Monroe, New Ashford, Peru, Savoy, Windsor, and Williamstown. The newest town is Dalton. Each town appoints a representative to serve on the NBSWMD Board.

Board Officers for 2023 included: Joseph Szczepaniak Jr., Chair (Lanesborough); Douglas McNally, Vice Chair (Windsor); and Barbara Belisle, Treasurer.

In 2023, NBSWMD services included:

- Linda Cernik, District Director since 2016, and newly 2023 Certified Third Party Inspector with MassDEP, conducts all of our Transfer Station Inspections pursuant to 310CMR 19.018, all of which have been highly rated.
- Serving as Bid Administrator for 5 years hauling and processing waste, recyclables with Casella Waste Systems, Inc.
- Coordinating all outreach activities, Special Collections, and marketing materials. Full execution in CY23 of our Annual Earth Day Kick-off events, Household Annual Hazardous Waste Collection, over 165 households in attendance. This event helps keep unwanted chemicals from the waste stream. Also, Community Paper Shredding event, and three Bulky and Electronics collections. All of these are shared services and allow all fourteen member-town residents to attend.
- Management and compliance of the Town's Transfer Station services, including Recycling sheds, tires, textiles, Mattress "HUB," scrap metal, books, Swap Shops, and Universal Waste sheds. Towns that house Swap Shops are as follows: Hinsdale, Savoy, and Windsor. CY 24 will bring new recycling services such as Food Waste collections and Swap Shops. Our District is always looking to improve our recycling and shared service model.
- Coordinating our Annual Home Composting Units at a subsidized rate for all member-town residents to take part in. In CY23, we had 60 units sold, and offered Public Education.
- Working closely with Commonwealth of Massachusetts Community Service program! Along with the State's three Coordinators of the Program, participants that are on community service have provided the District with over 1,000 hours of help. Projects such as painting

Sheds at our Transfer Stations, helping maintain and organize Town of Hinsdale Swap Shops, helping at all of our Special Collections with offloading and loading items for our Bulky and Electronics waste events, two Community Paper Shredding events, Household Hazardous Waste event, helping and cleaning out the universal waste sheds (light bulbs and battery recycling). This program has been recognized throughout the state and our Coordinator took part in a survey highlighting the benefits. Participants are not only working towards their community service hours, but they are also benefiting from learning about the environment, and becoming educated on re-use, recycling, and toxic materials banned from the waste stream. As a team, they work together to get the job done professionally. This allows the participants to gain experience in the field of waste management.



Community service painting recycling shed.

- Outreach with local youth groups introducing MassDEP "Green Team" Program. NBSWMD and Casella Waste Systems hosted a Touch-a-Truck Event in CY23. This was part of the Green Team program, MassDEP. Not only was it a fun day, but the youth also learned about recycling, composting, and the career opportunities available in the field. Highlight of the day was the kids getting to sit in the big trucks and blow the air horns!



Youth Center, Inc., Touch-a-Truck 2023.

- Linda annually submits for the Town's Sustainable Materials Recovery Program "RDP" awards, based on merit points. This is based on best practices for each town

within the Recycling services. In CY23, the NBSWMD fourteen Towns and Solid Waste District were awarded a total of \$52,810. The Town of Dalton was also awarded a \$5,000 grant for a universal waste shed. Every year the Grant benchmark goals become harder to reach. Linda works collectively and directly with the Towns to help them achieve as many points as possible.

- Public speaking events, and conference attendance; Coordinator member of Springfield Materials Solid Waste Advisory group, and the Western Mass Regional Planning Coordinator group; and interfaces with local, regional, and state officials.

The District in 2023 held its annual Household Hazardous Waste collections April 22, 2023, in the Town of Adams for all thirteen member-town residents (this was held before the Town of Dalton joined NBSWMD). 165 households participated in this event. This year our annual Household Hazardous Waste collection will be held Saturday, April 20, 2024, with all fourteen Member Towns, to kick off Earth Day. This allows residents to properly dispose of toxic cleaners, oil-based paints, oil, pesticides, and other products that are deemed hazardous.

The day-to-day program operations of the NBSWMD are managed by the Director, Linda Cernik, only employee! She also serves as a representative to the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, the Western Mass Regional Recycling Coordinator group, and interfaces with local, regional, and state officials, and has been newly appointed to the

Mass Recycle Board. Linda works closely with all the town officials and departments that oversee the Town's Transfer/Recycling facilities, such as DPW, BOH, Town Administrators, NSWMD Board of Commissioners and more! We have a great team and I thank you for your continued support.

During the past year, the NBSWMD member-towns collectively sent 723 tons of recyclable materials to Casella Waste Systems, Inc., Vermont MRF; and 60 Earth Machines were subsidized and distributed to all fourteen member-towns for composting household brush, leaves, food.

District-wide over 123,979 pounds of textiles were diverted from the waste stream. Electronics recycling with East Coast Electronics removed over 40,567 pounds. The District donated some of the Earth Machines to local youth groups, Town outreach events, schools, and more.

Thank you to all the District volunteers, Town DPWs, 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. I am proud to be part of the District and expanding our towns in the right direction of sustainability within the environment.

Earth Day 2024! Let's make everyday Earth Day!

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Cernik
Director

GRANT AWARDS 2010-2023

Town	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Adams	0	0	0	0	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 2,800	\$ 4,200	\$ 5,950	\$ 4,900	\$ 6,300	\$ 6,300
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	500	1,700	500	2,150	3,150	4,200	4,550	0	4,550	5,250
Clarksburg	0	0	0	0	0	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	0	0
Dalton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,200
Florida	0	0	0	0	500	500	500	500	500	2,800	3,500	3,500	2,205	4,200
Hancock	0	0	0	0	500	500	500	500	500	2,450	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Hinsdale	0	0	0	0	500	500	500	500	2,800	4,900	4,900	4,900	4,900	4,900
Lanesborough	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	500	500	500	500	500	0	0
Monroe	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	500	500	500	2,800	2,800	1,470	1,960
New Ashford	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	500	500	500	500	500	0	0
Peru	0	0	0	0	500	500	500	500	500	500	3,500	3,850	3,850	4,550
Savoy	0	0	0	0	500	500	1,900	2,450	2,800	3,500	3,500	3,550	4,900	5,600
Windsor	0	0	0	0	500	2,150	1,700	2,450	3,150	4,200	4,550	4,550	4,900	4,900
Williamstown	0	0	0	0	500	2,150	2,350	2,800	4,200	5,250	4,900	4,900	5,600	5,950
NBSWMD	0	0	0	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Totals	\$ 1,500 \$ 6,250 \$ 11,250						\$ 12,700	\$ 16,100	\$ 23,900	\$ 35,500	\$ 44,650	\$ 39,450	\$ 43,675	\$ 54,833
	Total Grant Awards 2010-2015					\$ 19,000	Total Grant Awards 2016-2023 - Linda Cernik						\$ 270,808	

2023 Town of Dalton received \$5,000 Drop off Equipment Grant for Universal Waste Shed.
Thank you Jess Suleski for your hard work in 2023 in obtaining the Town of Daltons SMRP grants.

Cheshire Recreation

Report 2023-2024

Goal: To provide extracurricular activities for adults and children in our town throughout the year.

In May, children were encouraged to decorate their bikes, scooters, and wagons with a patriotic theme. The children watch the parade go by and then hook up at the end. At the end of the parade, children were given certificates for a free ice cream cone from Diane's Twist and a commemorative "gold" coin handed out to children along the course of the parade, including the teens in the Hoosac Valley High School Band.

This summer, the committee continued to offer the Kid's Summer Concerts at the Cheshire Community House in the back courtyard.

Families and Daycare providers brought their children to sing and dance with Terry A La Berry. Children were thrilled when he encouraged them to sing their childhood favorites.

During our Town Cruise Night this summer, the committee sponsored a face painter as one of the offerings for children during the event.

In the fall, the Recreation Committee joined in with our Police Department and handed out special treats and prizes to participants and parade supporters along the way. Costumed children and adults walked in the parade enroute to the Haunted House created by our **Cheshire Police Department**.

The winter months brought back the town's 2nd Annual Tree Festival with over 53 trees. Corey McGrath manned an open house with extended hours for visitors to come and peruse the cafeteria and hallways in order to check out the unlimited creativity of local businesses, municipalities and various organizations. Visitors were invited to fill out ballots for their favorite trees as the winner of various categories!

The Recreation Committee also sponsored a Wreath Decorating Night hosted by instructor Whitney Flynn. Participants paid a fee and were provided with wreaths and a plethora of decorations to choose from. These wreaths were displayed in the halls at the Festival of Trees and admired by all.

In February, the Recreation Committee sponsored a Family Valentine Dance on two consecutive nights in a row in order to accommodate as many families as possible. It was a beautiful event and it brought many smiles to the families who came.

Our most exciting winter addition was watching the planning and the prospect of reviving the Ice Skating Rink of Cheshire yesteryears come to fruition! Corey McGrath and Tim Garner had the vision of opening the ice rink back up. Tim Garner reached out to the **Cheshire Fire Department** and found that there was a great interest to offer support. The Cheshire Fire Department moved forward to fully fund the rink with materials. Thanks also to the **Mark Todd Fund** for donating the warming hut remodel. Although the Skating Rink was a lot of hard work, the returns were worth it! All ages were able to come and enjoy the quintessential small town, Hallmark atmosphere of the rink. Hockey players, young children, extended families and even elders spent time on the ice enjoying the ambience. Thank you to the many people who helped and donated time and/or materials.

Special thanks to Michelle Francesconi and Jenn Morse for their support with all the activities throughout the year.

The Committee is excited about the upcoming year and we have been planning for some additional events and activities!

Stay Tuned!

Respectfully submitted,
Corey McGrath
Tim Garner
LiseAnn Karandisecky
Robin Poirot

The former Cheshire Elementary School cafeteria decorated for the Family Valentine Dance nights.



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, 2022 – June 30, 2023

The Board of Water Commissioners are pleased to submit their Annual Report for the year 2023.

The Board of Water Commissioners meet at the Cheshire Community House and Town Office's Water Department location every other 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 water shed 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 in 2022 / 2023.

- 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.
- Leak Detection (done yearly with prowler).
- Calibrated Master Meter.
- Painted Fire Hydrants.
- Worked with Mass DEP to remain in compliance.
- Engineering Work for Arnold Court to Eastview Drive.
- Completed Depot Street, Mill Street and Railroad Street Main Replacement.
- Monitored Water Usage through Drought Conditions.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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

Rick Gurney

Commissioner

Stephen R. LaFogg

Commissioner

Colin Haas

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, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

32	Solar
9	Septic System
2	Garage
4	Above Ground Pools
4	New Homes
2	Modular Homes
2	New Dish Wireless Services
4	Electrical Panel Changes
2	Lighting Retrofits
1	EV Charger
1	Pole Barn
3	Electrical Service Changes
2	In Ground Pools
2	Cabins
1	Sun Room
4	Generators
5	Heating Systems
1	Porch
4	Bathrooms
6	Mini-Splits
3	Meter Socket Replacements
1	Green House
1	Mudroom/Bathroom
1	Service Upgrade, Heating System & Misc. Wiring
1	Install Power, Generator, EV Charger for Future Home
1	Apartment Wiring
1	Mini-Split/Garage Wiring
1	Service Upgrade
1	Town Compactor Repair
1	Misc. Wiring
1	Parking Lot Lights
1	Generator/Future Garage
1	Relocate Electrical Service
1	Rewire Building
1	Generator/Basement Wiring
1	Camera/Door Locks
1	SE Cable Replacement
1	Rewire Home
1	Kitchen/Bathroom
1	Basement Wiring
1	New Town Hall LED Lighting
1	Addition
1	New Service/Shed Wiring
2	Service Risers Replacement
1	DPW New Lift
1	Change Panel & Wire Machines
1	Bathroom/Bedroom
3	Jobs Cancelled

Number of Permits..... 121
Number of Inspections 194
Total Fees Collected \$ 20,977.00

Respectfully submitted,

George Sweet

Wire Inspector

Les Rhinemiller

Assistant Wire Inspector

Cheshire Annual Election Results - May 1, 2023

Registered Voters 2,488			Votes Cast 255		
OFFICE	NAME	VOTES	OFFICE	NAME	VOTES
Selectman	Jason Levesque	207	Cemetery Commissioner 1 Year	Write-in campaign	
	Write-ins	3		Timothy Garner	48
	Blanks	45		Write-ins	5
		255		Blanks	202
					255
Assessor 3 Year	Nancy Delorey	210	Planning Board Member 5 Year	Amy McCarthy	210
	Write-ins	0		Write-ins	0
	Blanks	45		Blanks	45
		255			255
Assessor 1 Year	Failure to Elect				
Board of Health	Michael Kruzyna	220	Hoosac Valley Regional School District School Committee Representative from Cheshire	Adam Emerson	226
	Write-ins	2		Write-ins	0
	Blanks	33		Blanks	29
		255			255
Water Commissioner	Colin Haas	152	Hoosac Valley Regional School District School Committee Representative from Adams	Andrew Przystanski	188
	Michael "Mickey" Biagini Jr.	101		Write-ins	2
	Write-ins	0		Blanks	65
	Blanks	2			255
		255			
Cemetery Commissioner	Stephen LaFogg	165			
	Write-ins	18			
	Blanks	72			
		255			

Respectfully submitted,

Christine B. Emerson
Cheshire Town Clerk

Annual Town Meeting - June 12, 2023

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

Former Cheshire Elementary School, Cafeteria

191 Church Street, Cheshire MA 01225

Monday June 12, 2023

7:00 pm

Voter check-in to begin at 6:30 pm.

CHESHIRE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Mrs. Francesconi, the Town Moderator opened the meeting and read the warrant heading.

Motion to waive the reading of the balance of the warrant and the return of service made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice vote called.

Motion Carried.

The Moderator asked the residents to stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Moderator asked for the non-voters present to identify themselves.

Non-voters 4

Voters present 93.

Selectmen were introduced: Michelle Francesconi, Ronald DeAngelis, Raymond Killeen, Jason Levesque, Chair Shawn McGrath; Moderator, Carol Francesconi; Town Clerk, Christine Emerson; Town Counsel, Edmund St. John; Finance Committee, John Tremblay, Mickey Bigaini, Denise Gregoire, Patrick Pettit, Jeffrey Chaput, and Kathleen Levesque.

The moderator then asked for a motion to move Article 20 to be voted before Article 12.

Motion made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice vote called.

Motion Carried.

Article 1: Reports of Officers

To act on the reports of the Town Officers.

Majority Vote Required

The Town Annual Reports are presented for this article.

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice vote called.

Motion carried.

Article 2: Elected Officials Compensation

To see if the Town will vote to set the stipends and compensation for all elected officials of the Town as contained in the budget articles and provided

by the M.G.L., c.41, §108, to be made effective as of July 1, 2023, as contained in the budget, or take any action in relation thereto.

Majority Vote Required

The Moderator stated that this article sets the stipends and compensation for all elected officials in the Town but does not state amount.

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice vote called.

Motion Carried .

Article 3: Disposal of Surplus Property

To see if the town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of any unused town-owned equipment and/or property or take any action in relation thereto.

Majority Vote Required.

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion:

Question as to what surplus property meant, is real estate considered?

Answer: No, real estate is not considered under this article. Property such as chairs, office equipment etc.

Voice vote called.

Motion Carried.

Article 4: Authorization for

Compensating Balance Agreements

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023, in accordance with M.G.L. c.44, §53F, or take any action in relation thereto.

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion:

Question: how does this work?

Answer: Banking practices for the Treasurer/Collector.

Voice vote called.

Motion Carried.

Article 5: State Aid Highway Programs

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

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion:

Refers to Chapter 90 monies.

Voice vote called.

Motion Carried.

Article 6: Authorization to Accept/Expend Grants/Gifts to Town

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, execute contracts and expend grants or monies, or any Federal or State grants or monies, received as set forth in the appropriate application, or take any action in relation thereto.

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice vote called.

Motion Carried.

Article 7: RESERVE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the sums of \$20,000 to be used as a **RESERVE FUND**, pursuant to M.G.L. c 40, section 6 for the extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures for Fiscal Year 2024, or take any action in relation thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice vote called.

Motion Carried.

Article 8: GENERAL GOVERNMENT

To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums (\$1,454,105) for the conduct of **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**, including all charges and expenses of the various town offices, for Fiscal Year 2024, or take any action in relation thereto:

	FY23 Voted	FY24 Proposed
Legal Services	12,500.00	12,500.00
Moderator Salary	50.00	50.00
Moderator Expenses	25.00	25.00
Board of Selectmen Stipends (5 @ \$3,787)	18,565.00	18,935.00
Board of Selectmen Expenses	10,269.00	10,400.00
Clean Lake Program	27,580.00	26,206.00

	FY23 Voted	FY24 Proposed
Group Purchasing (Procurement)	800.00	800.00
Town Audit	12,500.00	10,000.00
Municipal Clerk – Asst. Treasurer/Collector	16,700.00	45,936.00
Information Technology	40,000.00	45,000.00
Town Website	5,150.00	5,250.00
Town Administrator Salary	81,592.00	85,000.00
Town Administrator Expenses	3,000.00	3,000.00
Accounting Services	27,411.00	31,500.00
Accounting Software (VADAR)	4,348.00	4,348.00
Assessors Stipend (Chairperson)	3,807.00	3,883.00
Assessors Stipends (Members 2 @ \$3,328)	6,526.00	6,656.00
Assessors Administrator Salary	30,978.00	31,905.00
Assessors Expenses	5,410.00	3,910.00
Assessors Contracted Services	32,640.00	34,140.00
Treasurer Salary	29,775.00	33,408.00
Treasurer Expenses	4,800.00	4,800.00
Treasurer Payroll Processing	2,000.00	2,000.00
Treasurer Tax Title Expenses	2,000.00	2,000.00
Tax Collector Salary	26,809.00	30,080.00
Tax Collector Expenses	7,700.00	7,700.00
Tax Collector Contracted Services	1,000.00	1,000.00
Tax Collector Tax Title	2,000.00	2,000.00
Tax Collector Software	3,150.00	3,245.00
Finance Committee Expenses	1,500.00	1,500.00
Town Clerk Salary	26,916.00	27,722.00
Town Clerk Expenses	3,150.00	3,150.00
Town Clerk Dog License Expense	400.00	400.00
Town Clerk Book Repair	4,500.00	2,500.00
Town Clerk Copy Machine Contract	1,700.00	1,500.00
Town Clerk Census/Lists	3,200.00	3,200.00
Board of Registrars/Elections	8,000.00	10,000.00
Town Report Printing	2,500.00	2,700.00
Conservation Commission Stipends (3 @ \$510)	1,500.00	1,530.00
Conservation Commission Consult	500.00	500.00
Conservation Commission Expenses	1,500.00	1,500.00
Conservation Commission Secretary	500.00	0.00
Planning Board Expenses	2,515.00	2,515.00
Planning Board BRPC Assessment	2,706.00	2,774.00
Planning Board Stipends (5 @ \$320)	1,570.00	1,600.00
Planning Board Scribe	750.00	750.00
Agricultural Commission Expenses	500.00	500.00
Historical Commission Expenses	500.00	500.00
Zoning Board of Appeals Expenses	800.00	800.00
Zoning Board of Appeal Scribe	500.00	0.00
Berkshire County Retirement	147,476.00	152,452.00
OPEB Funding	20,000.00	20,000.00
OPEB Actual Services Study	2,200.00	2,200.00
Health Insurance – Active	163,563.00	230,063.00
Health Insurance – Retiree	20,295.00	42,295.00

	FY23 Voted	FY 4 Proposed
Heath Insurance – Dental	7,000.00	8,500.00
Unemployment	10,000.00	10,000.00
MEDC Employer Share	16,200.00	16,000.00
Town Hall/Police Utilities	32,100.00	32,100.00
Fire Station Utilities	18,500.00	18,500.00
Town Garage Utilities	18,000.00	15,000.00
Community Center Utilities	6,000.00	7,000.00
Town Phone Systems	15,000.00	15,000.00
Custodian	19,168.00	19,648.00
Facilities Maintenance Manager	42,021.00	49,466.00
Cheshire Elementary School Utilities	60,000.00	60,000.00
Town Building Repairs	170,000.00	125,000.00
Town Insurance & Bonds	94,000.00	99,563.00
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	1,346,315.00	1,454,105.00

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Moderator Francesconi stated that she would read each line item and anyone who wished to discuss an item, to call out “set-aside.” The balance of the line items would be voted and then each “set-aside” would be voted separately. (This applies to Articles 8, 9, 10, 11, 12,13, 14, 15 and 21.)

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice vote called.

Motion Carried.

Article 9: PUBLIC SCHOOLS

To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums (\$3,512,908) for **PUBLIC SCHOOLS** for Fiscal Year 2024, or take any action in relation thereto.

	FY23 Voted	FY24 Proposed
HVRSD		
Minimum Local Contribution	2,154,516.00	2,219,724.00
HVRSD		
Over Minimum Foundation	427,852.00	405,970.00
HVRSD Transportation	145,263.00	133,032.00
HVRSD Capital Expenditure	215,735.00	189,736.00
HVRSD SUBTOTAL	2,943,366.00	2,948,462.00
NBVRSD Budget	438,574.00	564,446.00
Out of District Placement	30,000.00	0.00
OTHER EDUCATION SUBTOTAL	468,574.00	564,446.00
TOTAL PUBLIC EDUCATION	3,411,940.00	3,512,908.00

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion: None.

Voice vote called.

Motion Carried with 1 (one) No Vote.

Article 10: BUILDING DEPARTMENT

To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums (\$39,760) for the **BUILDING DEPARTMENT** for Fiscal Year 2024, or take any action in relation thereto:

	FY23 Voted	FY24 Proposed
Building Commissioner Salary	13,647.00	18,000.00
Alternate Building Commissioner Salary	2,000.00	500.00
Building Commissioner Expenses	1,000.00	1,100.00
Online Permitting System	4,625.00	5,075.00
Gas/Plumbing Inspector Salary	5,727.00	5,900.00
Gas/Plumbing Inspector Assistant Salary	538.00	549.00
Gas/Plumbing Expenses	500.00	500.00
Wiring Inspector Salary	6,657.00	6,857.00
Wiring Inspector Assistant Salary	567.00	579.00
Wiring Inspector Expenses	1,300.00	700.00
TOTAL BUILDING DEPARTMENT	36,561.00	39,760.00

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice vote called.

Motion Carried.

Article 11: PUBLIC SAFETY

To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums (\$408,957) for **PUBLIC SAFETY** for Fiscal Year 2024, or take any action in relation thereto:

	FY23 Voted	FY24 Proposed
Police Chief Salary	80,000.00	82,392.00
Police Full Time Officer Salary – 1	58,143.00	53,551.00
Police Department Full-Time Office Salary – 2	N/A	55,000.00
Police Department Part Time Officers	33,000.00	26,664.00
Police Department Expenses	4,000.00	5,000.00
Police Department Equipment	5,000.00	10,500.00
Police Department Auto Expenses	14,000.00	15,000.00
Police Department Officer Over Time	N/A	5,000.00
Police Department Holiday Pay	N/A	3,000.00
Animal Control Contracted Services	3,000.00	3,000.00
Animal Control Expenses	1,200.00	1,000.00
Fire Chief Salary	8,160.00	12,000.00
Asst. Fire Chief Stipends (2 @ \$1,615)	3,136.00	3,230.00
Fire Department Expenses	62,000.00	62,000.00
Fire Department Volunteer Stipends (25)	N/A	25,000.00
Fire Department EMS Supplies	4,500.00	4,500.00

	FY23 Voted	FY24 Proposed
Police Fire Accident/ Disability Insurance	14,800.00	15,620.00
Communications Center (Dispatch)	22,865.00	24,000.00
Emergency Management Stipend	N/A	1,500.00
Emergency Management Expenses	1,000.00	1,000.00
Fire Department Rescue Vehicle Loan	9,817.00	N/A
PUBLIC SAFETY TOTAL	324,621.00	408,957.00

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion:

Question as to why the variant in Police Salaries.

Answer: Another Full-time Police Officer will be added.

Voice vote called. **Motion Carried.**

Article 20: Transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$177,300 to fund the following Capital Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2024 or to take any other action in relation thereto.

Highway Department Excavator \$177,300

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion:

Various residents spoke on the pros of purchasing an excavator rather than renting.

The Finance Committee did not recommend the purchase.

Lengthy discussion on the pros and cons.

Moderator called for a Card Vote.

YES 49 NO 34 Article Passes.

Article 12: HIGHWAY OPERATIONS AND TREE WARDEN
To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums (\$924,411) for **HIGHWAY OPERATIONS AND TREE WARDEN** for Fiscal Year 2024, or take any action in relation thereto:

	FY23 Voted	FY24 Proposed
Highway Workers Salary (3 Laborers, 1 Foreman)	204,544.00	209,911.00
Highway Department Longevity	1,500.00	1,500.00
Department of Public Works Director	78,985.00	90,000.00
Highway Department Non-Winter Overtime	5,000.00	5,000.00
Highway Department Expenses	339,000.00	339,000.00
Streetlights	53,000.00	53,000.00
Snow and Ice	170,000.00	170,000.00
Highway Department Engineering	35,000.00	35,000.00
Tree Warden Tree Removal	20,000.00	20,000.00
Tree Warden Tree Replacement	1,000.00	1,000.00
TOTAL HIGHWAY OPERATIONS & TREE WARDEN	908,029.00	924,411.00

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice vote called. **Motion Carried.**

Article 13: RECREATION AND CULTURE
To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums (\$132,839) for **RECREATION AND CULTURE** for Fiscal Year 2024, or take any action in relation thereto.

	FY23 Voted	FY24 Proposed
Recreation General Expenses/ Memorial Day	11,000.00	12,000.00
Library Assessment	38,480.00	39,442.00
Veteran Agent Services (Shared)	1,750.00	2,000.00
Veteran Benefits	30,000.00	30,000.00
Cemetery Flags	800.00	800.00
Cemetery Commissioners Stipends (3 @ \$887)	2,610.00	2,661.00
Cemetery Department Wages	37,822.00	37,822.00
Cemetery Department Expenses	8,114.00	8,114.00
TOTAL RECREATION & CULTURE	130,576.00	132,839.00

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion:

Moderator stated that the Cemetery line items really should not be classified under Recreation.

Voice vote called. **Motion Carried.**

Article 14: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums (\$264,028) for **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** for Fiscal Year 2024, or take any action in relation thereto.

	FY23 Voted	FY24 Proposed
Board of Health Stipends (3 @ \$3,883)	11,421.00	11,649.00
Board of Health Expenses	5,500.00	5,500.00
Board of Health MAVEN Reporting	4,525.00	4,525.00
Council on Aging Expenses	8,470.00	8,470.00
Council on Aging Van Operating Expenses	5,900.00	5,900.00
Council on Aging Van Operator Salary	18,580.00	19,138.00
Council on Aging Medical Car Ride Share	1,500.00	1,500.00
Council on Aging Director Salary	23,460.00	26,771.00
Council on Aging Meals Coordinator Salary	10,033.00	13,311.00
Animal Inspector Stipend	544.00	544.00

	FY23 Voted	FY24 Proposed
Animal Inspector Expenses	150.00	150.00
Town Compactor Operation Expenses	92,000.00	100,000.00
Town Compactor Site Maintenance	2,600.00	2,600.00
Transfer Station Permits/Stickers	4,500.00	4,500.00
Town Compactor Education/Training	500.00	500.00
Transfers Station Attendants Salaries	22,566.00	23,970.00
Recycling Account	35,000.00	35,000.00
TOTAL HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	247,249.00	264,028.00

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice vote called.

Motion Carried.

Article 15: DEBT SERVICE EXPENSES

To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums (\$277,948) to fund **DEBT SERVICE EXPENSES** for the Fiscal Year 2024, or take any action in relation thereto.

	FY23 Voted	FY24 Proposed
Well Land Bond Payment (2024)	109,500.00	104,750.00
Fire Truck (2030)	36,391.00	45,463.00
Highway Grader (2026)	35,528.00	37,567.00
Highway Truck (Voted 2022)	47,870.00	54,708.00
Highway Truck (Voted 2021)	26,649.00	30,460.00
Short-term Debt Interest	5,000.00	5,000.00
TOTAL	260,938.00	277,948.00

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice vote called

Motion Carried.

Article 16: Revolving Fund – Council on Aging

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, to establish and use a **REVOLVING FUND** with a limit of \$10,000 for Fiscal Year 2024 to accept receipts related to the fees and programs for the Council on Aging, in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for Fiscal Year 2025, or take any action in relation thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice vote called.

Motion Carried.

Article 17: Revolving Fund - Recreation

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, to establish and use a **REVOLVING FUND** with a limit of \$10,000 for Fiscal Year 2024 to accept receipts related to the fees and programs for the Recreation Committee, in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for Fiscal Year 2025, or take any action in relation thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice vote called.

Motion Carried.

Article 18: Revolving Fund – Police Department

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ to establish and use a **REVOLVING FUND** with a limit of \$10,000 for Fiscal Year 2024 to accept receipts related to the fees and programs (citation, detail and permitting administrative fees) for the Police Department, in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for Fiscal Year 2025, or take any action in relation thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice vote called.

Motion Carried.

Article 19: Free Cash

To see if the Town will vote to **TRANSFER** from **FREE CASH** the sum of \$27,500.00 to fund the following for Fiscal Year 2024, or take any action in relation thereto.

Capital Stabilization Account	10,000.00
Stabilization Account	10,000.00
MS4 Compliance	7,500.00
TOTAL	27,500.00

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice vote called.

Motion Carried.

VOTED ARTICLE 20 BEFORE ARTICLE 12.

Article 20: Capital Projects

To see if the Town will vote to **TRANSFER** from **FREE CASH** the sum of \$177,300 to fund the following **CAPITAL EXPENDITURES** for the Fiscal Year 2024, or take any action in relation thereto.

Highway Department Excavator	177,300.00
TOTAL	177,300.00

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Article 21: Water Enterprise Fund

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, transfer from retained earnings, or otherwise provide the following sums of money \$332,964 to operate the **Water Enterprise Fund** for the Fiscal Year 2024, or take an action in relation thereto.

Revenues	
Department Receipts	332,964.00
Retained Earnings	0.00
TOTAL	332,964.00
Expenses	
Salaries & Benefit Costs	93,555.00
Fixed Operating Costs	197,439.00
Capital Costs (Debt Service)	41,700.00
TOTAL	332,964.00

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Water Commission Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Salaries & Benefits “set-aside” by the Moderator.

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion:

Breakdown of the Salaries & Benefits was asked.

Answer: The sum is to cover four salaried positions

Voice vote called. **Motion Carried.**

Article 22: Free Cash to reduce the tax rate

To see if the Town will vote to **TRANSFER** from **FREE CASH** the sum of \$321,916.77 to reduce the FY24 Tax Rate, or take any action relative 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.

Note: The use of Free Cash to balance the operating budget to stay within the limits of Proposition 2 1/2, this is not a reduction to the tax rate.

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion:

Why?

Answer: Stabilizer tactic.

Voice vote called. **Motion Carried.**

Article 23: Capital Equipment Stabilization Account to Capital Stabilization

To see if the Town will vote to terminate the Capital Equipment Stabilization Fund and dedicate a Capital Stabilization Fund under the provisions of MGL Chapter 40, Section 5B and to transfer any funds

from the Capital Equipment Stabilization Fund to the Capital Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends

2/3 Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion:

At one time the Town used a Capital Equipment Stabilization Account, now the Town will use a Capital Stabilization Account.

Card Vote called.

YES 80 NO 0 (zero) Article Passes.

Article 24: Radio Communications Stabilization Account

To see if the Town will vote to establish under the provisions of MGL Chapter 40, Section 5B, a Radio Communications Stabilization Account, or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends

2/3 Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion:

What does this article do?

Answer: To establish a stabilization account for the Police Department for Radio Communications.

Card Vote called.

YES 79 NO 0 (zero) Article Passes.

Article 25: Radio Communications

To see if the Town will vote to **TRANSFER** from **FREE CASH** to the **RADIO STABILIZATION ACCOUNT** the sum of \$37,452.00, or take any action in relation thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion:

The sum covers one year funding into the new account.

Voice vote called. **Motion Carried.**

The Moderator asked to table Articles 26 and 27 on the warrant by Citizens' Petition.

Due to the fact that the proper procedure with the Planning Board had not occurred.

A short discussion followed.

Mr. Zieminski author of the petitions, asked permission to **WITHDRAW** the articles.

Article 26: Citizen's Petition

“To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to:

Update/Adjust Marijuana Zoning By-Laws to include additional license type Product Manufacturer in the Protective and Planning Zoning By- Law June 2015 – Per MGL 94G (Recreational Marijuana Legislature.) and state oversight Cannabis Control Commission

Current language -

Section 8.7 Marijuana Establishments

(c) Designated Locations for ME's and Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers

- (1) **Marijuana Cultivation Facilities** may be sited within the Agricultural Residential (A-R) zone district 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.
- (2) Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers and all types of ME's, except for **Cultivation Facilities**, may be sited in the Marijuana Overlay District (Figures 1a & 1b, below), upon Town of Cheshire, Massachusetts June 2015 Protective and Planning Zoning Bylaw 49 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

Article Proposed language -

Section 8.7 Marijuana Establishments

(c) Designated Locations for ME's and Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers

- (1) **Marijuana Cultivation Facilities and Product Manufacturer license** may be sited within the Agricultural Residential (A-R) zone district 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.
- (2) Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers and all types of ME's, except for **Marijuana Cultivation Facilities and Product Manufacturer license** may be sited in the Marijuana Overlay District (Figures 1a & 1b, below), upon Town of Cheshire, Massachusetts June 2015 Protective and Planning Zoning Bylaw 49 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

, or act on anything relating thereto."

Note: Passage of the citizens petition does not amend the bylaw according to MGL Chapter 40A, Section 5.

Article 27: Citizen's Petition

"To see if the Town of Cheshire will vote to:

Update/Adjust Marijuana Zoning By-Laws to include additional license type Micro-business in the Protective and Planning Zoning By- Law June 2015 – Per MGL 94G (Recreational Marijuana Legislature.) and State oversight Cannabis Control Commission (CCC)-Microbusiness is a small business type of cultivation license which Cultivation is currently permitted by law in A-R Zone

Current language -

Section 8.7 Marijuana Establishments

(c) Designated Locations for ME's and Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers

- (1) Marijuana Cultivation Facilities may be sited within the Agricultural Residential (A-R) zone district 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.
- (2) Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers and all types of ME's, except for Cultivation Facilities, may be sited in the Marijuana Overlay District (Figures 1a & 1b, below), upon Town of Cheshire, Massachusetts June 2015 Protective and Planning Zoning Bylaw 49 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

Article Proposed language -

Section 8.7 Marijuana Establishments

(c) Designated Locations for ME's and Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers

- (1) **Marijuana Cultivation Facilities and Micro-business Facilities** (a small business-limited) license may be sited within the Agricultural Residential (A-R) zone district 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.
- (2) Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers and all types of ME's, except for **Marijuana Cultivation Facilities and Micro-business** (a small business-limited) Facilities license may be sited in the Marijuana Overlay District (Figures 1a & 1b, below), upon Town of Cheshire, Massachusetts June 2015 Protective and Planning Zoning Bylaw 49 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

, or act on anything relating thereto."

Note: Passage of the citizens petition does not amend the bylaw according to MGL Chapter 40A, Section 5.

Article 28: Adoption of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 90, Section 17C Town-Wide Speed Limits

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 90, Section 17C to allow the Board of Selectmen to set speed limits of 25 miles per hour (mph) in all areas in Town as needed and defined by state law as "thickly settled or business districts" which are not on a state highway, or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice vote called.

Motion Carried with 1 (one) No Vote

Article 29: Adoption of Renumbering and Revision to Various General Bylaws

To see if the Town shall accept the renumbering and revision of the various bylaws of the Town from their original numbering or their numbering in the General Bylaws to the numbering or codification, arrangement, sequence and captions and the comprehensive revisions to the text of the General Bylaws as set forth in the Final Draft of the Code of the Town of Cheshire, dated March 23, 2022, said codification having been done under the direction of the Board of Selectmen and Town Counsel, and said Code being a compilation and comprehensive revision of the present bylaws of the Town. All bylaws of a general and permanent nature, as amended, heretofore in force and not included in the Code shall be repealed, except that such repeal shall not affect any suit or proceeding pending as the result of an existing law, and such repeal shall not apply to or affect any bylaw, order or article heretofore adopted accepting or adopting the provisions of any statute of the Commonwealth. These bylaws shall be referred to as the "Code of Bylaws and Regulations of the Town of Cheshire, Massachusetts"

Board of Selectmen Recommends

2/3 Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion:

Article 29 and 30 are the new Code Book for the Town of Cheshire.

Card Vote called.

YES 80 NO 0 (zero) Article Passed

Article 30: Adoption of Renumbering and Revision to Zoning Bylaws

To see if the Town shall accept the renumbering and revision of the Zoning Bylaw of the Town from its original numbering to the numbering or codification, arrangement, sequence and captions and revisions to the text of the Zoning Bylaw as set forth in the Final Draft of the Code of the Town of Cheshire, dated March 22, 2022, said codification of the Zoning Bylaw having been done under the direction of the Planning Board, and being a compilation and revision of the present Zoning Bylaw, including amendments thereto. All Zoning Bylaws, as amended, heretofore in force, shall be repealed, except that such repeal shall not affect any suit or proceeding pending as a result of the existing law. The Zoning Bylaw shall be codified as Chapter 225 of the Code of Bylaws and Regulations of the Town of Cheshire, Massachusetts.

Planning Board Recommends

2/3 Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Card Vote called.

YES 75 NO 0 (zero) Article Passed.

Article 31: Board of Assessors Elected to Appointed

To see if the Town will vote, as authorized under MGL Chapter 41, Section 1B, to change the position of Board of Assessors to appointed positions from elected positions, or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: Majority approval of a subsequent Annual Town Election ballot question is required to adopt the provisions of this warrant article. If approved, this action would take effect in May 2025, each elected member of the Board of Assessors would serve their full elected term.

Board of Selectmen Recommends

Board of Assessors Recommends

2/3 Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion:

Question, who would make the appointments?

Answer: The Selectmen

Question, why should the office go to an appointed position?

Answer: No one has run for the open position for two years.

Card Vote called.

YES 72 NO 1 (one) Article Passed.

The Moderator stated that she would not read the article in entirety.

Article 32: Personnel Bylaw

To see if the Town will vote to accept the Personnel Bylaw into the Town of Cheshire General Bylaws, or take any other action relative thereto.

Personnel Bylaw

Section 1. Purpose and Authorization

The purpose of the personnel bylaw is to establish fair and equitable personnel policies and to promote a system of personnel administration that ensures a uniform, fair and efficient application of personnel policies.

Section 2. Application

All Town departments, employees and positions shall be subject to the provision of this bylaw, except employees with personal contracts. To the extent that any Town employee is subject to a collective bargaining agreement or personal employment agreement in the event of a conflict and/or an inconsistency between said agreement and this Bylaw, then said agreement shall prevail.

Powers and Duties

The Board of Selectmen shall be responsible for formulating recommendations, reviewing plans, which shall be subject to such approval as required by this bylaw. The personnel policies shall be reviewed bi-yearly, but may be reviewed by the Board of Selectmen at any time the need arises.

Section 3. Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual

A personnel policy shall be established by promulgation of policies pursuant to section 4. The personnel policy shall make use of current concepts of personnel management and may include, but not limited to the following elements.

Method of Administration

A policy of administration which assigns specific responsibility for all elements of the personnel policy including; maintaining personnel records, implementing effective recruitment and

selection processes, maintaining a classification and compensation plan, monitoring the application for personnel policies and periodic reviews, and evaluation of the personnel policy.

Personnel Policies

A series of Personnel Policies which establishes the rights, employment practices (including hiring and performance expectations) and benefits to which employees are entitled and the obligations of said employees to the Town.

Other Elements

Other elements of a personnel policy as deemed appropriate or required by law.

Section 4. Adoption and Amendment of Personnel Policies

The Board of Selectmen shall adopt personnel policies defining the rights, benefits and obligations of employees subject to this bylaw. Policies shall be adopted or amended as follows.

Preparation of Policies

Any member of the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, or Elected Board may suggest policies for consideration. The Town Administrator shall refer such suggested policies to the Board of Selectmen, which the board need not consider any proposal already considered in the preceding twelve months. Any member of the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator or Elected Board proposing a new or amended policy shall provide the substance and the reason for the proposed policy in writing. The Board of Selectmen shall hold a public meeting on any proposed policies or amendments. Policies shall become effective upon the approval of the Board of Selectmen, unless some other date is specified.

Section 5. Severability

The provisions of this bylaw and any policies adopted pursuant to this bylaw are severable. If any bylaw provision or policy is held invalid, the remaining provisions of the bylaw or regulation shall not be affected thereby.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

2/3 Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Card Vote called.

YES 70 NO 0 (zero) **Article Passed.**

Article 33: Adoption of MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 17F – Senior Citizen, Surviving Spouse, Surviving Minor Statutory Real Estate Exemption

To see if the Town will vote to adopt MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 17F, which authorizes an annual increase in the amount of the exemption granted to senior citizens, surviving spouses, and surviving minors under MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 17D, by up to 100% of the percentage increase in the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous year as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue, and to fix that annual increase at 100% of CPI to be effective for exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2023, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Assessors

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion:

What does this article mean?

Answer: town has the ability to change the criteria for exemptions.

Voice vote called.

Motion Carried.

Article 34: Adoption of MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 17E -Senior Citizen, Surviving Spouse, Surviving Minor Statutory Real Estate Exemption

To see if the Town will vote to adopt MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 17E, which authorizes an annual increase in the asset (whole estate) limit for exemptions granted to senior citizens, surviving spouses, and surviving minors under MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 17D, by the percentage increase in the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous year as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue, to be effective for exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2023, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Assessors

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion:

Town may have the ability to raise the exemption amount.

Voice vote called.

Motion Carried.

Article 35: Adoption of MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41D – Senior Statutory Real Estate Exemption

To see if the Town will vote to adopt MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41D, which authorizes and annual increase in the income (gross receipts) and asset (whole estate) limits for exemptions granted to senior citizens under MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41C, by the percentage increase in the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous year as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue, to be effective for exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2023, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Assessors

Majority Vote Required

Motion to accept the article as presented made and seconded.

Discussion:

Same reasoning for the Town

Voice vote called.

Motion Carried.

The Moderator stated that she would not be reading the article in entirety.

Article 36: Stormwater Management Bylaw
To amend the Town of Cheshire By-laws to include the following "STORMWATER MANAGEMENT" Section as follows:

**Town of Cheshire
Stormwater Management Bylaw
Table of Contents**

SECTION 1 – GENERAL PROVISIONS

- A. Purpose and Objective
- B. Definitions
- C. Authority
- D. Responsibility for Administration
- E. Waivers
- F. Regulations
- G. Enforcement
- H. Severability

**SECTION 2 -
DISCHARGES TO THE MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM
SEWER SYSTEM AND TO WATERCOURSES OR WATERS
OF THE COMMONWEALTH**

- A. Applicability
- B. Prohibited Activities & Exemptions
- C. Emergency Suspension of Storm Drainage System Access
- D. Notification of Spills

**SECTION 3 -
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND LAND DISTURBANCE**

- A. Applicability
- B. Review of Permit
- C. Consent to Entry
- D. Inspection and Site Supervision
- E. Compliance with the Provisions of EPA's General Permit for MS4s in Massachusetts
- F. Surety
- G. Final Reports

SECTION 1 – GENERAL PROVISIONS

- A. Purpose and Objective
The purpose of this bylaw is to protect public health, safety, general welfare, and environment by regulating illicit connections and discharges to the storm drain system or, directly or indirectly, to a watercourse or into the waters of the Commonwealth, as well as to control the adverse effects of construction site stormwater runoff and post-construction runoff. Stormwater runoff can be a major cause of:
 - (1) Impairment of water quality and flow in lakes, ponds, streams, rivers, coastal waters, wetlands, groundwater and drinking water supplies.
 - (2) Contamination of drinking water supplies.
 - (3) Contamination of downstream coastal areas.
 - (4) Alteration or destruction of aquatic and wildlife habitat.

- (5) Overloading or clogging of municipal stormwater management systems.
- (6) Flooding.

The objectives of this bylaw are to:

- (1) Protect water resources.
- (2) Comply with state and federal statutes and regulations relating to stormwater discharges including total maximum daily load requirements and with the General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems in Massachusetts, issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection ("MS4 Permit").
- (3) Prevent and reduce pollutants from entering the Town of Cheshire's municipal storm drain system.
- (4) Prohibit illicit connections and unauthorized discharges to the Cheshire municipal storm drain system and require their removal.
- (5) Establish minimum construction and post construction stormwater management standards and design criteria for the regulation and control of stormwater runoff quantity and quality with the Town of Cheshire MS4 area.
- (6) Establish provisions for the long-term responsibility for, and maintenance of, structural stormwater control facilities and nonstructural stormwater best management practices to ensure that they continue to function as designed are maintained, and pose no threat to public safety; and
- (7) Recognize the Town of Cheshire's legal authority to ensure compliance with the provisions of this bylaw through inspection, monitoring, and enforcement.

B. Definitions

Unless a different definition is indicated in other sections of this bylaw, the following definitions and provisions shall apply throughout this bylaw:

ALTERATION OF DRAINAGE CHARACTERISTICS: Any activity on an area of land that changes the water quality, force, direction, timing or location of runoff flowing from the area. Such changes include change from distributed runoff to confined or discrete discharge; change in the volume of runoff from the area; change in the peak rate of runoff from the area; and change in the recharge to groundwater on the area.

APPLICANT: Any person, individual, partnership, association, firm, company, corporation, trust, authority, agency, department, or political subdivision, of the Commonwealth or the Federal government, to the extent permitted by law, requesting a Land Disturbance Permit.

AS-BUILT DRAWING: Drawings that completely record and document applicable aspects and features of conditions of a project following construction using Stormwater Management Plans derived from a Land Disturbance Permit.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE (BMP): An activity, procedure, restraint, or structural improvement that helps to reduce the quantity or improve the quality of stormwater runoff.

CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL IN EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL (CPESC): A certified specialist in soil erosion and sediment control. This certification program, sponsored by the Soil and Water Conservation Society in cooperation with the American Society of Agronomy, provides the public with evidence of professional qualifications.

CLEAN WATER ACT: The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.) as hereafter amended.

CLEARING: Any activity that removes the vegetative surface cover.

COMMON PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT: A “larger common plan of development or sale” is a contiguous area where multiple separate and distinct construction activities may be taking place at different times on different schedules under one plan.

DEVELOPMENT: The modification of land to accommodate a new use or expansion of use, usually involving construction.

DISCHARGE OF POLLUTANTS: The addition from any source of any pollutant or combination of pollutants into the municipal storm drain system or into the waters of the United States or Commonwealth from any source.

EROSION: The wearing away of the land surface by natural or artificial forces such as wind, water, ice, gravity, or vehicle traffic and the subsequent detachment and transportation of soil particles.

EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL PLAN: A document containing narrative, drawings and details developed by a qualified professional engineer (PE) or a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sedimentation Control (CPESC), which includes best management practices, or equivalent measures designed to control surface runoff, erosion and sedimentation during pre-construction and construction related land disturbing activities.

GRADING: Changing the level or shape of the ground surface.

GROUNDWATER: Water beneath the surface of the ground.

GRUBBING: The act of clearing land surface by digging up roots and stumps.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL: Any material which, because of its quantity, concentration, chemical, corrosive, flammable, reactive, toxic, infectious or radioactive characteristics, either separately or in combination with any substance or substances, constitutes a present or potential threat to human health, safety, welfare, or to the environment. Toxic or hazardous materials include any synthetic organic chemical, petroleum product, heavy metal, radioactive or infectious waste, acid and alkali, and any substance defined as “toxic” or “hazardous” under MGL c. 21C and c. 21E, and the regulations at 310 CMR 30.000 and 310 CMR 40.0000.

ILLICIT CONNECTION: A surface or subsurface drain or conveyance which allows an illicit discharge into the municipal storm drain system, including without limitation sewage, process wastewater, or wash water, and any connections from indoor drains, sinks, or toilets, regardless of whether said connection was previously allowed, permitted, or approved before the effective date of this bylaw.

ILLICIT DISCHARGE: Direct or indirect discharge to the municipal storm drain system or into a watercourse or the waters of the Commonwealth that is not composed entirely of stormwater, except as exempted in Article II, §2. The term does not include a discharge in compliance with an NPDES stormwater discharge permit or resulting from fire-fighting activities exempted pursuant to Article II, §2D (1) of this bylaw.

IMPERVIOUS SURFACE: Any material or structure on or above the ground that prevents water infiltrating the underlying soil. Impervious Surface includes without limitation roads, paved parking lots, sidewalks, and rooftops.

IMPOUNDMENT: A stormwater pond created by either constructing an embankment or excavating a pit which retains a permanent pool of water.

INFILTRATION: The act of conveying surface water into the ground to permit groundwater recharge and the reduction of stormwater runoff from a project site.

LAND DISTURBANCE PERMIT: A permit issued by the Stormwater Authority pursuant to this bylaw prior to commencement of Land Disturbing Activity or Redevelopment.

LAND-DISTURBING ACTIVITY: Any activity that causes a change in the position or location of soil, sand, rock, gravel, or similar earth material; results in an increased amount of runoff or pollutants; measurably changes the ability of a ground surface to absorb waters; involves clearing and grading; or results in an alteration of drainage characteristics.

LOAD ALLOCATION: The maximum concentration or mass of a pollutant which can be discharged to a waterway by non-point sources without causing a violation of surface water quality standards as established in an applicable TMDL.

LOT: An individual tract of land as shown on the current Assessor’s Map for which an individual tax assessment is made. For the purposes of these regulations, a lot also refers to an area of a leasehold on a larger parcel of land, as defined in the lease agreement and shown by approximation on the Assessor’s Map.

MUNICIPAL STORM DRAIN SYSTEM: The system of conveyances designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater, including any road with a drainage system, street, gutter, curb, inlet, piped storm drain, pumping facility, retention or detention basin, natural or man-made or altered drainage channel, reservoir, and other drainage structure that together comprise the storm drainage system owned or operated by the Town of Cheshire.

MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4) AREA: The geographic area covered by the EPA NPDES Phase II MS4 General Permit including all municipally owned storm drain system infrastructure within that geographic area.

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) STORMWATER DISCHARGE PERMIT: A permit issued by United States Environmental Protection Agency or jointly with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that authorizes the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States.

NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION: Pollution from many diffuse sources caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and man-made pollutants finally depositing them into a water resource area.

NON-STORMWATER DISCHARGE: Discharge to the municipal storm drain system not composed entirely of stormwater.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN: A plan setting up the functional, financial and organizational mechanisms for the ongoing operation and maintenance of a stormwater management system to ensure that it continues to function as designed.

OWNER: A person with a legal or equitable interest in property.

PERSON: An individual, partnership, association, firm, company, trust, corporation, agency, authority, department or political subdivision of the Commonwealth or the federal government, to the extent permitted by law, and any officer, employee, or agent of such person.

POINT SOURCE: Any discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, or container from which pollutants are or may be discharged.

PRE-CONSTRUCTION: All activity in preparation for construction.

POLLUTANT: Any element or property of sewage, agricultural, industrial or commercial waste, runoff, leachate, heated effluent, or other matter that is or may be introduced into any sewage treatment works, watercourse, or Waters of the Commonwealth. Pollutants include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Soaps, detergents and other surfactants
- (2) Paints, varnishes, and solvents
- (3) Oil and other automotive fluids
- (4) Nonhazardous liquid and solid wastes and yard wastes
- (5) Refuse, rubbish, garbage, litter, or other discarded or abandoned objects, ordnance, accumulations and floatables
- (6) Pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers
- (7) Hazardous materials and wastes
- (8) Sewage, fecal coliform and pathogens
- (9) Dissolved and particulate metals
- (10) Animal wastes
- (11) Rock, sand, salt, soils
- (12) Construction wastes and residues

RECHARGE: The process by which groundwater is replenished by precipitation through the percolation of runoff and surface water through the soil.

REDEVELOPMENT: Development, rehabilitation, expansion, demolition, construction, land alteration, or phased projects that disturb the ground surface, including impervious surfaces, on previously developed sites. The creation of new areas of impervious surface or new areas of land disturbance on a site constitutes development, not redevelopment, even where such activities are part of a common plan which also involves redevelopment.

RUNOFF: Rainfall, snowmelt, or irrigation water flowing over the ground surface.

SEDIMENT: Mineral or organic soil material that is transported by wind or water, from its origin to another location; the product of erosion processes.

SEDIMENTATION: The process or act of deposition of Sediment.

SITE: Any lot or parcel of land or area of property where Land-Disturbing Activities are, were, or will be performed.

SOIL: Any earth, sand, rock, gravel, or similar material.

STORMWATER AUTHORITY: The Town of Cheshire Conservation Commission or its authorized agent(s).

STORMWATER: Runoff from precipitation or snow melt and surface water runoff and drainage.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN: A plan required as part of the application for a Land Disturbance Permit containing narrative, drawings, details and reporting requirements developed by a qualified professional engineer (PE), which describes structural and non-structural best management practices designed to control the discharge of pollutants from impervious surfaces and onsite activities as well as the volume and peak rate of surface runoff from a site on an ongoing basis after construction has been completed.

TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD or TMDL: the greatest amount of a pollutant that a water body can accept and still meet water quality standards for protecting public health and maintaining the designated beneficial uses of those waters for drinking, swimming, recreation, and fishing. A TMDL is also a plan, adopted under the Clean Water Act, specifying how much of a specific pollutant can come from various sources, including stormwater discharges, and identifies strategies for reducing the pollutant discharges from these sources so as not to violate Massachusetts surface water quality standards. (314 CMR 4.00, et seq.)

TOTAL SUSPENDED SOLIDS OR TSS: Undissolved organic or inorganic particles in water.

VERNAL POOLS: Temporary bodies of freshwater which provide critical habitat for a number of vertebrate and invertebrate wildlife species.

WASTE LOAD ALLOCATION: The maximum concentration or mass of a pollutant which can be discharged to a waterway from point sources without causing a violation of surface water quality standards as established in an applicable TMDL.

WATERCOURSE: A natural or man-made channel through which water flows or a stream of water, including a river, brook or underground stream.

WATERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH: All waters within the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth, including, without limitation, rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, springs, impoundments, estuaries, wetlands, coastal waters, groundwater, and Waters of the United States as defined under the Federal Clean Water Act as hereafter amended.

WETLANDS: Tidal and non-tidal areas characterized by saturated or nearly saturated soils most of the year that are located between terrestrial (land-based) and aquatic (water-based) environments, including freshwater marshes around ponds and channels (rivers and streams), brackish and salt marshes; common names include marshes, swamps and bogs.

C. Authority

This bylaw is adopted under authority granted by the Home Rule Amendment of the Massachusetts Constitution, the Massachusetts home rule statutes, the regulations of the Federal Clean Water Act, 40 CFR 122.34.

D. Responsibility for administration

The Stormwater Authority shall administer, implement, and enforce this bylaw. Any powers granted to, or duties imposed upon Stormwater Authority may be delegated in writing by Stormwater Authority members or agents.

E. Waivers

The Stormwater Authority, or its authorized agent, may waive strict compliance with any requirement of this bylaw or the rules and regulations promulgated hereunder, where such action is:

- (1) allowed by federal, state and local statutes and/or regulations; and
- (2) in the public interest; and
- (3) not inconsistent with the purpose and intent of this bylaw.

Any person seeking a waiver must submit a written waiver request. Such a request shall be accompanied by an explanation or documentation supporting the waiver request and demonstrating that strict application of the bylaw does not further the purposes or objectives of this bylaw.

In the event the applicant fails to provide requested information, the waiver request shall be denied.

F. Regulations

The Stormwater Authority shall adopt and may periodically amend, regulations, rules, and/or written guidance that outline the terms, conditions, definitions, enforcement, fees, procedures and administration of this Stormwater Management bylaw. Adoption and amendments will be made by majority vote during an open meeting of the Stormwater Authority. Failure of the Stormwater Authority to issue such rules, or regulations, or a legal declaration of their invalidity by a court, shall not act to suspend or invalidate the effect of this bylaw.

Stormwater Management regulations or guidance shall identify thresholds and requirements for Land Disturbance Permits required by this bylaw and consistent with or more stringent than the most recent MS4 General Permit.

G. Enforcement

The Stormwater Authority or its authorized agent shall enforce this bylaw, and any associated regulations, orders, violation notices, and enforcement orders and may pursue all civil and criminal remedies for such violations.

Criminal and Civil relief.

- (1) Any person who violates the provisions of this bylaw, or any associated regulations, permit, notice, or order issued thereunder, may be subject to criminal penalties and prosecution in a court of competent jurisdiction and shall result in a criminal fine of not more than \$300. Each day or part thereof that such violation occurs or continues shall constitute a separate offense.
- (2) The Stormwater Authority may seek injunctive relief in a court of competent jurisdiction restraining the person from activities which would create further violations or compelling the person to perform abatement or remediation of the violation.

Orders.

- (1) The Stormwater Authority or its authorized agent may issue a written order to enforce the provisions of this bylaw or any regulations thereunder, which may include:
 - (a) Elimination of illicit connections or discharges to the Municipal Storm Drain System
 - (b) Elimination of discharges to the Municipal Storm Drain System or, directly or indirectly, into a watercourse or into the Waters of the Commonwealth
 - (c) Performance of monitoring, analyses, and reporting
 - (d) Cessation of unlawful discharges, practices, or operations
 - (e) Implementation of measures to minimize the discharge of pollutants until such time as the illicit connection or discharge shall be eliminated
 - (f) Remediation of contamination in connection therewith.
- (2) If the Stormwater Authority determines that a person's failure to follow the requirements of a Land Disturbance Permit and the related Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan, or Operations and Maintenance Plan or any other authorization issued pursuant to this bylaw or regulations issued hereunder, then the Authority may issue a written order to the person to remediate the non-compliance and/or any adverse impact caused by it, which may include:
 - (a) A requirement to cease and desist from the land-disturbing activity until there is compliance with the bylaw and provisions of the Land Disturbance Permit or other authorization.
 - (b) Maintenance, installation or performance of additional erosion and sediment control measures.
 - (c) Monitoring, analyses, and reporting.
 - (d) Remediation of erosion and sedimentation resulting directly or indirectly from the land-disturbing activity; and/or
- (e) A requirement to eliminate discharges, directly or indirectly, into a watercourse or into the waters of the Commonwealth.
- (3) If the Stormwater Authority or its authorized agent determines that abatement or remediation of contamination is required, the order shall set forth a deadline by which such abatement or remediation must be completed. Said order shall further provide that, should the violator or property owner fail to abate or perform remediation within the specified deadline, the Town of Cheshire may, at its option, undertake such work, and expenses thereof shall be charged to the violator.
- (4) Within 30 days after completing all measures necessary to abate the violation or to perform remediation, the violator and the property owner will be notified of the costs incurred by the Town of Cheshire, including administrative costs. The violator or property owner may file a written protest objecting to the amount or basis of costs with the Stormwater Authority within 30 days of receipt of the notification of the costs incurred. If the amount due is not received by the expiration of the time in which to file a protest or within 30 days following a decision of the

Stormwater Authority affirming or reducing the costs, or from a final decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, the costs shall become a special assessment against the property owner and shall constitute a lien on the owner's property for the amount of said costs, pursuant to M.G.L. c.40, §58. Interest shall begin to accrue on any unpaid costs at the statutory rate provided in M.G.L. c. 59, § 57 after the 31st day at which the costs first become due.

Noncriminal disposition: As an alternative to criminal prosecution or civil action, the Town of Cheshire may elect to utilize the noncriminal disposition procedure set forth in M.G.L. c. 40, § 21D, in which case the agent of the Stormwater Authority shall be the enforcing person. The penalty for the first violation shall be a warning. The penalty for the second violation shall be \$100. The penalty for the third and subsequent violations shall be \$300. Each day or part thereof that such violation occurs or continues shall constitute a separate offense.

Entry to perform duties under this bylaw: To the extent permitted by local, state or federal law, or if authorized by the owner or other party in control of the property, the Stormwater Authority and/or its agents may enter upon privately owned property for the purpose of performing their duties under this bylaw and regulations and may make or cause to be made such examinations, surveys or sampling as the Stormwater Authority deems reasonably necessary.

Appeals: The decisions or orders of the Stormwater Authority shall be final. Further relief shall be appealed to a court of competent jurisdiction.

Remedies not exclusive: The remedies listed in this section are not exclusive of any other remedies available under any applicable federal, state or local law.

H. Severability

The provisions of this bylaw are hereby declared to be severable. If any provision, paragraph, sentence, or clause of this bylaw or the application thereof to any person, establishment, or circumstances shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or application of this bylaw.

SECTION 2 – DISCHARGES TO THE MUNICIPAL STORM DRAIN SYSTEM IN THE MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4) AREA AND TO WATER COURSES OR WATERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

A. Applicability

Article II of this bylaw shall apply to all direct or indirect discharges to the municipal storm drain system and to any activities that might obstruct the municipal storm drain system except as explicitly exempted in this bylaw or where the Stormwater Authority has issued a waiver in accordance with Section 1 § E.

B. Prohibited activities and exemptions.

Illicit discharges: No person shall dump, discharge, spill, cause or allow to be discharged any pollutant or non-stormwater discharge into the municipal storm drain system or onto an impervious surface directly connected to the municipal storm drain system, or, directly or indirectly, into a watercourse or waters of the Commonwealth.

Illicit connections: No person shall construct, use, allow, maintain or continue any illicit connection to the municipal storm drain system, regardless of whether the connection was permissible under applicable law, regulation or custom at the time of connection.

Obstruction of municipal storm drain system: No person shall obstruct or interfere with the normal flow of stormwater into or out of the municipal storm drain system without prior consent from the Stormwater Authority.

Exemptions: The following non-stormwater discharges or flows are allowed unless the Stormwater Authority, EPA, or MassDEP identifies them as a significant contributor of a pollutant to the MS4 Area or to waters of the Commonwealth:

- (1) Discharge from fire-fighting activities
- (2) Water line flushing
- (3) Landscape irrigation
- (4) Diverted stream flows
- (5) Rising groundwater
- (6) Uncontaminated groundwater infiltration (as defined at 40 CFR § 35.2005(20)).
- (7) Uncontaminated pumped groundwater
- (8) Discharge from potable water sources
- (9) Foundation drains
- (10) Air conditioning condensation
- (11) Irrigation water, springs
- (12) Water from crawl space pumps
- (13) Footing drains
- (14) Lawn watering
- (15) Individual resident car washing
- (16) Flows from riparian habitats and wetlands
- (17) De-chlorinated swimming pool discharges (less than one ppm chlorine) provided the pool is drained in such a way as not to cause a nuisance
- (18) Street wash waters
- (19) Residential building wash waters without detergents
- (20) Dye testing, provided verbal notification is given to the Stormwater Authority prior to the time of the test
- (21) Non-stormwater discharge permitted under a NPDES permit, waiver, or waste discharge order held by the owner and administered under the authority of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, provided that the discharge is in full compliance with the requirements of the permit, waiver, or order and applicable laws and regulations
- (22) Discharge for which advanced written approval is received from the Stormwater Authority as necessary to protect public health, safety, welfare or the environment.

D. Emergency suspension of storm drainage system access

The Stormwater Authority or its authorized agent may suspend municipal storm drain system access to any person or property without prior written notice when such suspension is necessary to stop an actual or threatened discharge of pollutants that presents imminent risk of harm to the public health, safety, welfare, or the environment. In the event any person fails to comply with an emergency suspension order, the Stormwater Authority may take all reasonable steps to prevent or minimize harm to the public health, safety, welfare, or the environment.

E. Notification of spills

Notwithstanding other requirements of local, state or federal law, as soon as a person responsible for a facility or operation, or responsible for emergency response for a facility or operation, has information of or suspects a release of materials at that facility or operation resulting in or which may result in discharge of pollutants to the municipal drainage system, watercourse, or Waters of the Commonwealth, the person shall take all necessary steps to ensure containment and cleanup of the release. In the event of a release of oil or hazardous materials, the person shall immediately notify the municipal fire and police departments. In the event of a release of nonhazardous material, the reporting person shall notify the authorized enforcement agency no later than the next business day. The reporting person shall provide to the Stormwater Authority written confirmation of all telephone, facsimile or in-person notifications within three business days thereafter. If the discharge of prohibited materials is from a commercial or industrial facility, the facility owner or operator of the facility shall retain on site a written record of the discharge and the actions taken to address it and prevent its recurrence. Such records shall be retained for at least three years.

SECTION 3 – STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND LAND DISTURBANCE

A. Applicability

- (1) These regulations shall apply to all construction activity or land disturbance within the MS4 Area that individually or as part of a Common Plan of Development result in land disturbance in excess of the thresholds below.

A Land Disturbance Permit is required for disturbance of one (1) acre (43,560 square feet) or more of land if located within the MS4 Area. Stormwater Authority may review any projects over one half (1/2) acre (21,780 square feet) within the MS4 Area and require a Land Disturbance Permit if the proposed land use has higher potential pollutant loads in accordance with the Massachusetts Stormwater Management Standards.

- (2) The following activities are exempt from the provisions of Section 3 § A:
 - a) Maintenance of existing landscaping, gardens or lawn areas associated with a single-family dwelling conducted in such a way as not to cause a nuisance
 - b) Construction of fencing that will not substantially alter existing terrain or drainage patterns
 - c) Construction of utilities other than drainage (gas, water, electric, telephone, etc.) which will not alter terrain or drainage patterns or result in discharge of sediment or other pollutants to the MS4 area.
 - d) Normal maintenance and improvement of land in agricultural or aquacultural use, as defined by the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act regulation 310 CMR 10.04

B. Review of Permit

A Land Disturbance Permit must be obtained prior to the commencement of any construction activity or land disturbance for which such a review or permit is required. An applicant seeking approval and/or permit shall file an appropriate application with the Stormwater Authority in a form and containing information as specified in this bylaw and the Stormwater Regulations adopted by the Stormwater Authority.

Each application must be accompanied by the appropriate application fee as established by the Stormwater Authority. Applicants shall pay the application fee before the review process commences. The Stormwater Authority is authorized to retain a Registered Professional Engineer (PE) or other professional consultant to advise the Stormwater Authority on any or all aspects of the application and/or the project's compliance with conditions of a Review or Permit. The Stormwater Authority may require the applicant to pay reasonable costs to be incurred by the Stormwater Authority for the employment of outside consultants pursuant to Stormwater Authority regulations as authorized by G.L. c. 44, § 53G.

Required submittals to obtain a Land Disturbance Permit shall include (without limitation) an Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan, a Stormwater Management Plan, and an Operation and Maintenance Plan. To obtain a Land Disturbance Permit, the applicant must show that site design, construction site stormwater runoff control and post-construction stormwater management will meet the standards set by the Stormwater Authority in its regulations, rules and/or guidance, which shall be at least as stringent as the relevant requirements of the MS4 Permit and may also address relevant environmental considerations including (without limitation) protection of aquifers and sensitive water bodies and prevention of flooding.

The Land Disturbance Permit shall include measures to ensure adequate long-term operation and maintenance of stormwater management design features and BMPs. The Stormwater Authority may impose requirements including (without limitation) the following:

- (1) A requirement that funds for future operation and maintenance be set aside in a dedicated fund or escrow account.
- (2) A permanent permit condition requiring compliance with an Operation and Maintenance Plan.
- (3) A permanent permit condition requiring that the property owner submit an annual report or certification regarding operation and maintenance.
- (4) A requirement to record the Operation and Maintenance Plan (or notice thereof).
- (5) A requirement that a legal instrument be put in place establishing responsibility for operation and maintenance of a stormwater BMP serving more than one lot: and
- (6) A requirement that an easement be recorded allowing the Town to access a stormwater BMP to remedy any operational failure or maintenance problem.

C. Consent to Entry onto Property

An applicant consents to entry of Stormwater Authority or its authorized agents in or on the site to verify the information in the application and to inspect for compliance with Review or Permit conditions.

D. Inspection and Site Supervision

The Stormwater Authority or its designated agent shall make inspections to verify and document compliance with Land Disturbance Permit.

E. Compliance with the provisions of EPAs General Permit for MS4s in Massachusetts

This bylaw and its related Stormwater Management Regulations shall be implemented in accordance with the requirements of United States Environmental Protection Agency's most recent Massachusetts Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4s) General Permit relating to illicit connections and discharges, construction site runoff, and post-construction stormwater management, as well as the Massachusetts Wetlands Management Act. The Stormwater Authority may establish additional requirements by regulation to further the purposes and objectives of this bylaw so long as they are not less stringent than those in the MS4 General Permit for Massachusetts.

F. Surety

The Stormwater Authority may require the applicant to post before the start of construction or land disturbance activity, a surety bond, irrevocable letter of credit, cash, or other acceptable security. The form of the bond shall be approved by the Stormwater Authority and be in an amount deemed sufficient by the Stormwater Authority to ensure that the work will be completed in accordance with the permit. If the project is phased, the Stormwater Authority may release part of the bond as each phase is completed in compliance with the permit. If the permittee defaults on any obligations imposed by the Land Disturbance Permit, the Stormwater Authority may (after notification of the permittee) inform the holder of the security (and the municipal treasurer if the treasurer is not holding the funds) of the default, in which event the Town shall be entitled to the security funds.

G. Final Reports

Upon completion of the work, the applicant shall submit a report (including certified as-built construction plans) from a Professional Engineer (P.E.), surveyor, or Certified Professional in Erosion and Sedimentation Control (CPESC), certifying that the project has been completed in accordance with the conditions of the Land Disturbance Permit. The as-built drawings must depict all on site controls, both structural and non-structural, designed to manage the stormwater associated with the completed site (post construction stormwater management). The Stormwater Authority may, by regulation, require ongoing reporting to ensure long-term compliance, including, but not limited to, appropriate operation and maintenance of stormwater BMPs. Any discrepancies shall be noted in the cover letter.

*Proposed by the
Board of Selectmen & Conservation Commission
2/3 Vote Required*

Motion to accept the article as read made and seconded.

Discussion:

Question: Why do we need this by-law?

Answer: The Storm Water management is mandated. Two hearings were held on this by-law.

The Moderator stated that the Wetlands Protection Act is already in place. The Conservation Commission would oversee this by-law.

Card Vote called.

YES 67 NO 0 (zero) Article Passed.

Moderator entertained a motion to dissolve this meeting.

Motion made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Voice Vote called. **Motion Carried.**

Moderator Francesconi dissolved the meeting at 8:54 PM.

Thanking all who attended.

ATTEST: True Copy

Christine B. Emerson

Cheshire Town Clerk

June 12, 2023

Thank you to Police Chief Alibozek and Sergeant Tarjick for counting all the card votes.

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

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Superintendent of Schools

The mission of the Hoosac Valley Regional School District, in partnership with families and community members, is to promote meaningful learning in a safe environment that prepares our youth to be creative thinkers, motivated learners, and positive, productive members of society. As a district, we continue to work on ways to improve our programming and expand opportunities for our students in the following ways.

Preschool Programming

This past year we received a Commonwealth Preschool Partnership (CPPI) grant to expand our access to preschool programming for all our families. The grant has allowed us to offer full-day preschool programming at the elementary school for the first time as well as sponsor offsite classrooms in both Adams and Cheshire. Moving forward this means that all families will have access to high quality preschool programming for free.

Innovation Pathways

Hoosac Valley High School has been building on the approach that educational/career pathways are the best way to engage students and to challenge them to participate in experiential learning outside the classroom, either in fields that already interest them or in fields that expose them to a variety of opportunities. In 2023, HVHS was designated an Innovations Pathway High School by the state. As such, we will be receiving resources from the state to plan and support creative scheduling, course development, and internship opportunities for our students. There are currently 7 Pathways available to our students in the following areas:

- Arts & Entertainment
- Biomedical Science & Healthcare
- Business & Entrepreneurship
- Education
- Engineering & Technology
- Environmental Studies
- Sports Medicine, Health & Wellness

Portrait of a Graduate

Portrait of a Graduate is a team of educators and students on our campus who have partnered with the BARR Foundation and the Portrait of a Graduate team in Berkshire County. HVRSD provides opportunities and experiences that ensure all students graduate as responsible people, prepared individuals, lifelong learners, global citizens, critical thinkers, and communicators. The role of this important group is to provide voice and direction regarding the essential skills, practices, and beliefs that define learning experiences across the district. Hoosac Valley is committed to ensuring that all students can succeed in fulfilling their own educational potential while understanding that not everyone's pathway looks the same.

Crew Culture

In grades K-12 at Hoosac Valley, teachers and students get time daily to create positive connections and build authentic relationships with one another. Through Responsive Classroom at the elementary school and Crew at the middle and high schools, students and staff gather each day for 30 minutes to engage in meaningful experiences rooted in mutual and shared interests. The Crew block is a prioritized structure that allows staff to support all students socially, emotionally, and academically, anchoring them to the HVRSD and promoting the Portrait of a Graduate Competencies. Crew takes many forms at the high school, such as gardening, bird watching, yoga, and sports talk with visits to college games.

Athletics

Hoosac Valley hosts 13 interscholastic sport programs while offering cooperative opportunities in three other sports. Athletic programs are an extension of the academic day where our staff is charged with the responsibility of challenging players, both technically and emotionally, in a positive manner, using both praise and constructive criticism. With this in mind, the Hoosac Valley Athletic Department believes that athletics can teach life-long lessons to our students. Participation – which is voluntary – in sports can provide our student-athletes with experiences that can help them be better prepared to meet and successfully handle future challenges and responsibilities. It should also provide our students with true opportunities for self-discipline, self-sacrifice and loyalty to the school, team and community. The HVHS athletic program is governed by the rules and policies of Berkshire County Athletics as well as the MIAA.

Over the last two years, Hoosac Valley programs have competed in the MIAA State Tournaments in eight different sports, claimed sectional titles in three others, and this past year claimed the state title in girls basketball. Our students take pride in becoming Hurricanes and it shows on the field and in the classrooms.

The Arts

Hoosac Valley's Theater program, run by high school English teacher Rebecca Koczela, allows our students to thrive on the stage. Our school's musical productions bring together both middle and high school students for a chance to display their talents, while connecting our younger students to mentor theater students in an enriching, positive way.

The Hurricane Band, led by music teacher Amanda Watroba, offers high school students an opportunity to find a creative outlet through daily lessons, an opportunity to march in the Northern Berkshire Fall Foliage Parade, participate in Jazz band and in the pit band for our musicals. In the past, the Hurricane band has marched through Walt Disney World in the Magic Kingdom parade.

Hoosac Valley Regional School Committee:

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

Hoosac Valley Regional School Committee Members:

Michael Mucci, Chairman, Adams
Adam Emerson, Vice Chairman, Cheshire
Andrew Przystanski, Adams
Robert Tetlow, Cheshire
Erin Milne, Adams
Michael Henault, Cheshire
John F. Duval, Adams

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron M. Dean
Superintendent
Hoosac Valley Regional School District

Hoosac Valley High School

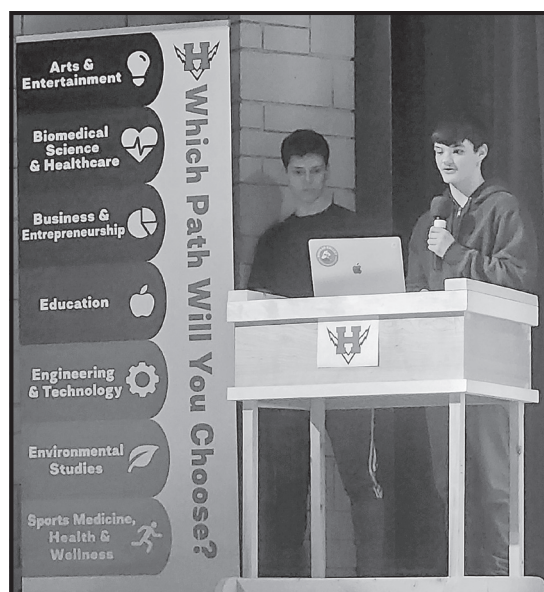


WHICH PATH WILL THEY CHOOSE?

The start of the 2023-24 school year at Hoosac Valley High School was **EXCITING** to say the least. We have been building on the approach that educational/career pathways are the best way to engage students and to challenge them to participate in experiential learning outside the classroom. In 2023, HVHS the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) designated HVHS an Innovations Pathway High School. As such, we will be receiving resources from the state to plan and support creative scheduling, course development, and internship opportunities for our students. Our pathways in Biomedical Science and Healthcare, Environmental Studies, Engineering and Technology, Arts and Entertainment, Education, Sports Medicine and Health and Wellness, and Business and Entrepreneurship will offer students a transformative experience, enabling them to build essential skills, gain awareness of future career opportunities, and make informed choices about post-secondary education in promising fields.

In order to grow our pathways with student voice and choice in mind, we partnered with the BARR Foundation as a member of the **Portrait of a Graduate** team in Berkshire County. Portrait of a Graduate is the representation of the essential skills and habits of mind that define learning experiences in the Hoosac Valley Regional School District. Our portrait is an aspirational and public commitment to redefine success in terms of those skills and habits of mind rather than solely relying on grades or accumulated credits as evidence of learning. The Portrait of a Graduate is a commitment to redesigning our district in a way that ensures every student is included in and can succeed with fulfilling the profile's vision for learning. The PoG lens focuses on our success as responsible people, prepared individuals, lifelong learners, global citizens, critical thinkers, and communicators.

Additionally, we kicked off the year with a brand new bell schedule, which allows us to offer hour-long block classes with a daily rotation and a drop. AND we started the **HVHS CREW**.



Hoosac Valley student speaking on Pathways.



CREW is a culture that is planned for, developed, and sustained through practices that bring the HVHS community together, promote shared understandings, and encourage all members to become Hurricane **CREW**, not passengers. Crew allows students to build positive connections with their peers and Crew leaders. During this 30 minutes each day, students are strategically grouped with teachers based on mutual and shared interests giving each

and every student the chance to be known well and supported by adults, ensuring students' needs are met and individual strengths are discovered. Crew is the structure for developing meaningful relationships with and among students and supporting all students socially, emotionally, and academically and anchors students to the HVHS community.

The culture of crew means all members of the school community work together as a team to promote whole school success - individual success is not enough.

PROJECT-BASED LEARNING is another resource a cohort of our teachers is implementing in the classrooms. PBL is a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by

working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to authentic, engaging, and complex questions, problems, or challenges that affect them and the world around them. Our extended classroom schedule is a great fit, allowing students more time to engage! And of course Project Lead the Way continues to grow not only at the high-school level but throughout the district.

We welcomed new faces at the high school and familiar faces changing positions. Evan Sheridan joined our English department. Kathy Buda sharpened her pencils to join the math team this year. Mr. Nick Fahey turned in his middle-school gear and joined the team as our computer/tech/elective teacher, helping us work on various aspects of our pathways. Elizabeth Puleri laced up her sneakers and joined our physical education department; Kelsey Stewart came on board to work as a school adjustment counselor in our Bridges and Cornerstone programs at the MS and HS levels; Nancy Pedercini-Acquista became the full-time special education accountability coordinator for both MS and HS; Wendy Bennett jumped back into the classroom to become our math interventionist; AND our NEW vice principal, Erin Hattaway, has been focusing on restorative practices.

Our days start at 7:30 a.m. with homeroom and students follow the bell schedule for the day (days 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7) with 60-minute classes, lunch, and the CREW time. In addition to the focus on engaging educational activities and an increase in academic rigor, we have been celebrating each other with a regular kick-off to the start of each quarter, various spirit weeks, and pep rallies DESIGNED by our very own SPIRIT CREW.

We continue 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 at hoosacvalley.org.

The administrative team, alongside the instructional leadership team and the district curriculum coordinator, 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 interventions for students via our Student Support Center and CREW, strengthening our inclusive practices and support services by offering faculty meeting time with the Director of Special Services, and becoming more inclusive with our professional development. Our assistant principal of teaching and learning continues 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. 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.

WHAT WE ARE OFFERING AND MAINTAINING AT HVHS:

Senior Perks:

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

- Senior arrival and dismissal
- Off-Campus Lunch
- Senior lounge
- FLEX seating in the cafeteria (high-top tables with outlets to charge chrome books)

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 Williams College, 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



Pep Rally in the Hoosac Valley Regional gym.

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:

American Sign Language Club:

This ASL club was born from a student's 8th grade Civics Project last year. It is led by a student who is fluent in American Sign Language, and the club meets once a week on Tuesday. Students are learning different signs and discussing deaf culture and important figures. The teacher advising that group is only a facilitator and is an ASL student herself. :)

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 ensure the continuation and success of World of Difference at 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." Students went to New York City again this year for training.

HVHS Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, Marching Band:

Amanda Watroba is breathing new life into the High School Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, and Marching Band! She and her students have marched in parades, such as the Fall Foliage parade; they have played at many games and events such as pep rallies, and NEW this year they are playing at the start of each new quarter in the high school to celebrate the KICK-OFF to education! They will join us at graduation as well! Keep your eyes and ears open.

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:

- Bi-Weekly meetings
 - Discuss school policies and procedures
- Organize and run school election of class officers
- Elect and organize class elections
- Provide student-body representation at School Committee meetings
- 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 lifelong 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 advisors and continuing events such as recycling on Tuesdays. Four new members were inducted this year.

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.

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 pm to 3 pm.



Hoosac Valley Chemistry Lab

Keep your eyes on HVHS – we anticipate approval of another designated pathway in our future – as we continue to reimagine education in ways that positively impact OUR STUDENTS.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Byrd
Principal HVHS

Hoosac Valley Middle School

“We are Crew, not passengers.”

For the 23-24 school year, Hoosac Valley Middle School has had three primary focuses: High Standards and High Expectations for Culture, High Standards and High Expectations for Academics, and High Standards and High Expectations for Behavior.

High Standards and High Expectations for Culture and Behavior:

Crew

HVMS started the year as a new community with a new administration eager to integrate fresh systems and structures to better support our students and staff. One of our most impactful systems has been the introduction of CREW. HVMS is unique in that it serves students from both Adams and Cheshire from grades four through seven. We wanted to build a welcoming community that is supportive of all of our students and their families. Crew is a culture that is planned for, developed and sustained through practices that bring the HVMS community together, promoting shared understandings and encouraging all members to become Hurricane Crew - not passengers. This time built into the schedule everyday allows students to build positive connections with their peers and Crew leaders and has resulted in all members of the school community working together as a team to promote whole school success.

Our Crew members and leaders work together to demonstrate the tenets of P.R.I.D.E. Students receive acknowledgment for exhibiting the tenets at our quarterly PRIDE Rallies. CREW is our structure and system for supporting the social emotional needs of our students through offering daily check-ins, models of expectations, and positive behavior intervention support. Students earn “Crew Cash” throughout the day when demonstrating one of our PRIDE Tenets; Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Diversity and Empathy. Students can exchange their Crew Cash for HVMS Swag at the school store.

Seventh Grade Hurricane Heroes

All seventh graders have the opportunity to apply to become a Hero for the school. Applications are reviewed and applicants are accepted based on the teacher recommendations and how the student demonstrates and models all the PRIDE tenets. This program gives students the opportunity to take on service learning projects, earn special privileges during their free time, and become a teacher helper in lower grade levels. Hurricane Heroes also run our CREW store. During both lunch periods Heroes work with other students to help them exchange their CREW cash for a variety of HVMS swag.

Parent Engagement

As part of our school improvement plan, we provided several opportunities for families to visit with the school community and to give input on the student and family experience from their perspective. Early in the year we hosted an Open House and parent teacher conferences. In the Spring we hosted a STEAM Night for all students. The last event of the school year will be the Learning Lawn Party, which will be a showcase of learning for all students in combination with tours for upcoming third grade families. As we get closer to the start of the new school, students will be again invited to Ice Cream Social to meet their new teachers.

PTG

The Hoosac Valley Middle School PTG is second to none. They have continued to provide support to staff and students in school in addition to hosting social opportunities for students outside of school. They hosted a fall dance and a spring dance for students in grades 4-7. The PTG also provided Friendship bracelets and HVMS Spirit bracelets for students to exchange with CREW Cash.

Enrollment Data

This year, HVMS saw an increase of students in both fourth and sixth grade.

Hoosac Valley Middle School	4	5	6	7
2023-2024	86	71	74	78
2022-2023	67	77	66	78
2021-2022	69	73	71	95
2020-2021	80	76	103	107
2019-2020	71	106	104	94
2018-2019	106	108	97	91

High Standards and High Expectation for Academics

The administrative team has a strong focus on academics by utilizing key strategies with teacher teams and embedded professional development. The Assistant Principal of Teaching and Learning meets with grade level content teachers to analyze data, identify students of concern and modify lesson plans to meet the needs of our students. In addition to curriculum meetings, the administrative team meets with each grade level to discuss students of concern to decipher if students are struggling based on academic or behavior challenges. If challenges persist then students are discussed further at the Building Based Team to determine next steps in forming a support plan. We’ve also made partnerships with outside academic consultants which are described later in the report.

HVMS High Quality Instruction Materials:

- 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.
- IntoLiterature: A comprehensive English Language Arts program that features student-centered learning encompassing and integrating all domains of literacy. The program also fosters social and emotional learning and positive self-perceptions for academic success, including agency and growth mindset. Relying on research-based principles, *HMH Into Literature* contains rigorous content and diverse

texts that provide comprehensive genre study. Students develop independence in textual analysis and citation of evidence to support their interpretations and conclusions via a gradual release approach and apply examinations of mentor texts to their own writing.

- Eureka Math: 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.
- TCI Science and OpenSciEd (Pilot): Science curriculums that provide all students with the opportunity to acquire deep and lasting content knowledge, aligned with the Next Generation Science and Engineering Standards and Practices, through phenomena based discovery. Science instruction at HVMS is centered on student-led questioning, investigation and problem solving of authentic, complex, real world challenges.
- Investing History (Pilot): A middle school history curriculum curated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that focuses on student-centered, rigorous curriculum that deepens students' analytical skills, cultivates historical curiosity, and promotes informed civic engagement through applied learning.

Exploratories

All students grades four through seven cycle through seven different exploratories: Project Lead the Way, Music, Physical Education, Technology, Health, Civics, and Art.

Title 1 Support

HVMS receives schoolwide Title 1 support through a federally entitled grant. This grant enables the school to employ two Title 1 teachers who support student learning. Students who are identified as needing Tier II academic support in either Math or ELA will receive Title 1 instruction in addition to their regular core math and ELA classes. Through the use of data analysis, teachers determine how and when students receive access to support sessions.

Professional Partnerships

In order to support teachers in ensuring access to High Standards and High Expectations for Academics for all students, HVMS has partnered with a number of nationally renowned organizations who have helped provide coaching, professional development, and resources.

NCTM

The National Council for Teaching Mathematics provided a day of professional development for our math department. The focus of the workshop was on Productive Struggle and implementing instruction that includes elements of reasoning and problem solving.

Mount Holyoke Math Leadership Academy

Through a grant funded opportunity we are able to partner with the Mount Holyoke Math Leadership Academy. This partnership provides the math department with a coach that facilitates Learning Labs with individuals and teams of teachers and individual coaching sessions throughout the school year. The Learning Labs start with collaborative planning between classroom teachers and a math coach, leading into the math coach modeling the lesson, then the full team debriefs and plans a reteach of the same lesson. From there, the teacher co-teaches with the coach and it is followed up with another debrief. The debriefs are essential in that they focus on the student learning and the strengths and areas of growth for the lesson in order to maximize student achievement.

One8 Foundation: Applied Learning

The Applied Learning Grant has enabled a team of HVMS teachers and administrators to visit other schools in Massachusetts and in Washington D.C. This work is focused on the learning process and skills learned by students in classes such as Project Lead the Way and OpenSciEd. The structural elements of each program are analyzed and observed to understand how the curriculum is created to enable high engagement by all students. The Applied Learning team takes strategies, resources, and concepts learned from these visits to other schools and brings them back to the HVMS staff to explore and utilize.

Hoosac Valley Elementary School

Kind. Connected. Visible.

Hoosac Valley Elementary School serves about 380 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. Our staff continues to put the needs of students first, provide the best possible education for all students and ensures a joyful learning environment for every student.

Teaching the whole child, academically, socially and emotionally, is a top priority at HVES. To support the effort in achieving this, HVES is a Responsive Classroom school. Responsive Classroom is a student-centered, social and emotional learning approach to teaching and discipline. It is research-based and designed to create safe, joyful and engaging learning environments for students and staff alike. Responsive Classroom is a school-wide approach and is visible across all settings to fully support all our students!

Hoosac P.R.I.D.E.

In the Hoosac Valley Regional School District, all three schools are also continuing to develop 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	2022-2023	2023-2024
PK			56	70	68	34	58	66	65
K	68	65	83	75	90	75	87	75	72
1	78	68	80	77	85	86	67	100	76
2	80	81	78	76	77	73	87	66	103
3	84	80	104	77	80	71	64	91	63
4	71	80							
5	72	68							
Total	453	442	401	375	400	339	363	398	379

HVES Curricula:

At the elementary school, we are in our third year of implementing three English Language Arts' programs: 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.

Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI) Grant

This year, our school was awarded the Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI) grant. This grant, which partners with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, has allowed us to open HVE's very first full-day preschool program. This grant has expanded access to high quality

preschool within the district to our youngest learners. Additionally, this grant helps level the playing field for Kindergarten readiness and establishes coordinated curriculum and goals for all students.

Ign!te Reading Grant

Another grant that we received this year is the Ign!te Reading grant, which is based on the Science of Reading. It is designed to support twenty-five of our first grade students in their reading development. These students receive 15 minutes of daily reading tutoring with a virtual tutor. Their tutoring sessions are entirely individualized and targeted to match the student’s needs, and aim to have the students reading on grade level by the end of the year. These daily foundational reading skills’ sessions are extremely engaging and data-driven.

Specials:

At Hoosac Valley Elementary School, our students also attend weekly classes in library/media, art, Physical Education, science 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 Kindergarten through third, 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 things like family paint night, STEAM events, Music Family BINGO and more! 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.

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 and school community. 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. They are also fundraising to get a fence installed in our playground area.

Closing:

All of us at HVES are eager to support your child and to further develop a relationship with each family. We 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!

Sincerely,

Erin Beaulac
Principal
Hoosac Valley Elementary School



Hoosac Valley Regional School District Van

Department of Student Services

Annual Report 2023-2024

Despite the increased challenges in education across the state, the Hoosac Valley Regional Student Services Department 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 throughout the year. We provided support to approximately 275 students with Individual Education Programs, both in district schools, as well as in out of district school placements. Support provided through our 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 2023-2024 school year, our student population has received a wide range of special education services, depending on student needs from the ages of three to twenty-two (or graduation in some cases). Services provided include direct instruction and support in academic areas such as reading, writing, and mathematics, as well 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, assistive technology training, and behavioral interventions. Increasing numbers of students requiring mental health and social emotional support have resulted in us seeking outside partnerships with agencies such as Optimal Healing, Berkshire Applied Behavior Analysis, and Positive Behavioral Support Corporation of the Berkshires to ensure we are approaching student needs through multiple lenses.

Our district recognizes the positive opportunities that result when students with disabilities participate in general education classrooms and when the curriculum has a universal design of learning for equitable access. In order to accomplish our goal of educating all students in the least restrictive environment (LRE) our special education services exist along a continuum that is individualized for each student to provide access to the curriculum brought forth by the schools. All of our schools strive to establish inclusionary opportunities for students, and enriched educational experiences for all students are a priority.

As has been the trend over the last several years, we continue to see rising numbers of students with high needs academically, socially, emotionally, and behaviorally, and as a district we continue to recognize that our programming and instructional practices need to shift and adapt based on the changing needs of our students. We have seen a pattern in the number of students being referred for evaluation for special education. In recent years we have seen three times the number of special education referrals than in the past. To address this underlying problem, we have implemented a Building Based Team (BBT) process to provide a systematic approach to responding to the ever-changing needs of our students. The BBT process helps HVRSD educators utilize district resources and supports available so that teachers increase their instructional repertoire and build capacity to inform instruction by meeting

diverse learning styles in the general education classroom. We have also used this team to help build content and systematic vetted program knowledge including data analysis and implementation of appropriate instructional strategies based on that analysis. More specifically in regard to programming, this year we have included Advanced Math Recovery (AVMR) and REWARDS Reading Intervention Programming. Furthermore, Hoosac Valley Elementary School (HVES) has been participating in the DESE Early Literacy grant. The focus of this grant is to provide professional development in evidence based practice within the science of reading. We also have continued in year two of (AVMR) expanding this to all teaching staff at HVES and HVMS.

The district continues to focus on the development of a district-wide tiered system of support to meet the academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs of all students. A tiered system of support is defined as a data-driven, prevention-based framework for improving learning outcomes for every student through a layered continuum of evidence-based practices and systems. HVRSD leaders, educators, support staff and specialists work together to examine data and identify areas of social, emotional, and behavioral needs impacting school safety or access to education. These systems of support are continuously being updated and adjusted.

To aid in this process, we have introduced a District Curriculum Accommodation Plan and trained all teachers in writing these plans as they collaborate with other educators and investigate ways to meet student needs in a more non-traditional way. With rising student needs, regular education and special education have begun breaking barriers to work as one and address student learning by matching curriculum and instructional practice to specific learning styles in the general education setting, responding to intervention using a very individualized approach.

Our integrated preschool program continues to thrive at Hoosac Valley Elementary School. We offer half-day programming to approximately 60 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 composed of seven students with Individual Education Plans and eight regular education peers. Our preschool curriculum is aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, as well as Massachusetts Standards for Preschool Social Emotional Learning and Approaches to Play and Learning. In addition, HVRSD has been awarded a Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI) Planning Grant with which we have been afforded one full-day preschool program at HVES and are currently looking to expand that for the 2024-2025 school year. We work closely with EEC licensed community partners of the Youth Center in Cheshire and Magic Seasons in Adams to fund both of those full-day full-year programs so that tuition for families would be free or reduced significantly. The grant provides transportation of all preschool children within the district to HVES and the ability to hire itinerant speech and language and occupational therapy services for students placed with community partners. CPPI grants are available to districts in high needs communities to support local coordination and

investment in access to high quality preschool. The grant program aims to provide equitable access to high quality preschool, while ensuring families have multiple provider options to choose from across public and community-based classrooms. This levels the playing field for kindergarten readiness across the district, establishing coordinated curriculum and similar goals regardless of where a child is enrolled.

We continue to refine our English Learner (EL) programming and look for additional ways to engage our EL families and students. Our EL teacher provides direct service and collaborates with our EL students’ teachers, administration and families to ensure we are providing the most enriching experiences for our EL students. We offer Sheltered English Immersion courses over the summer to continue to build the capacity of our classroom teachers in instructing our ELs and to ensure cultural proficiency in communication to all families. Hoosac Valley Regional School District partners with Lexikeet Translation Services to interpret correspondence and conversation. Our goal moving into the 2024-2025 school year is to create more meaningful relationships with our EL families and provide opportunities where our families can come together to discuss their experiences so that we as a district can learn and respond to better serve our EL population.

The Department of Student Services partners with families and the entire community to provide meaningful services that match our student needs to curriculum, instruction and social/emotional supports. This year we have worked to break barriers

between regular and special education by introducing a new Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process the state is implementing beginning fall of 2024. This process helps to create a more inclusive system of highlighting students strengths and needs, including all stakeholders in creation of the individualized education plan. We have strengthened our Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) to include multiple venues and opportunities for families to provide input in decision making. We welcome all members of the school and greater community to our monthly meetings. We regularly seek out grants and community and state partnerships to strengthen our program and most effectively meet the needs of the students we serve. Looking into the 2024-2025 school year, our department is hoping to build educator capacity within the general education setting to meet the ever growing diverse needs of our students. We will also clearly define our criteria for diagnosis, provide professional development in the writing of the new IEP developed by DESE, and create more opportunities to provide social emotional support for our students and their families.

HVRSD Special Education 2023-2024 Data:				
District	1001	total / 251	Special Education	25.0%
HVES Prek-3	402	total / 115	Special Education	27.0%
HVMS 4-7	288	total / 69	Special Education	23.3%
HVHS 8-12	330	total / 87	Special Education	24.3%

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Zanin
 Director of Student Services
 Hoosac Valley Regional School District

Hoosac Valley Athletics Report

2023-24

Department Overview:

Hoosac Valley has experienced a great deal of success during the 2023-24 academic year. Many of our programs have risen to the top of the state rankings and have competed for not only regional championships, but state titles as well. Winter programs both earned the top seed in the state tournament and their progress is ongoing. Spring programs are in the sign up phase but hope to continue on the successes of the other seasons.

Fall Programs:

During the fall of 2023, Hoosac Valley offered the following programs: Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Football, Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country, Golf, and Cheer. All programs competed at the Varsity level but Girls Soccer also offered Junior Varsity competition.

Our fall programs experienced a wide range of success with Football advancing to the MIAA Final Four in Division VIII while Boys Soccer was the top seed in the WMass Championships in Class D. Both programs had fantastic seasons and were commended for them.

Roster Challenges still remain in place for many of our fall programs. We continue to hold "varsity" only teams in most cases with the lone exception of Girls Soccer. That itself is tricky as 7th graders make up the majority of the JV roster and require a middle level waiver at the MIAA level.

Cross Country programs along with Golf had enough to compete, but in some cases were individuals only. Golf did Co-Op with Drury High School again in 2023.

Cheer fielded a quality team as well with over 20 participants for the fall season. They were a welcomed addition to football games this fall.

Winter Programs:

In the winter months, we offered Boys and Girls Basketball, and Nordic Skiing for Hoosac Valley. In addition to those, we had cooperative agreements with Mount Greylock (wrestling) and McCann Tech (Hockey).

Our winter programs are in the midst of tremendous seasons. The Girls Basketball program captured the Western Massachusetts title for the third straight season and is poised for a deep run in the MIAA Division 5 State Championships as the top seed.

On the boys side, they also captured the Western Massachusetts Title for the second time in three season and also are the top seed in the MIAA Division 5 State Championships.

The Nordic Skiing program only had two students, one boy and one girl, this season. The decline in numbers over the last few years will initiate a full review of the program and its viability. We will be looking to form a cooperative team next season.

We did have students compete and excel in both of the other cooperative programs. A pair of Hurricane students advanced to the State Finals in Wrestling while a couple others competed at McCann within the Hockey program.

Spring Programs:

Our spring offerings are underway and once again Hoosac Valley is poised to offer the following programs:

Girls Lacrosse - HOST but will co-op with Drury

Boys Lacrosse - HOST but will co-op with Drury and Mt. Greylock

Baseball - Cooperative agreement with Drury (One Year)

Softball - Expect Varsity ONLY

Track and Field - HOST but will co-op with Drury and McCann in boys and girls

Participation continues to be a hot button topic this Spring. The lack of Junior Varsity programs is concerning, but none of the programs listed are in danger of not competing at the Varsity level. Encouraging more signups and students to participate will continue to be a focus moving forward.

Director of Food Services

2023 - 2024

In 2023 - 2024, the HVRSD Food Service Program, continued to participate in the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program, USDA Commodity Distribution Program, Summer Food Service Program, BIC (breakfast in the classroom) and a USDA Program called DOD FFAVORS (Department of Defense Fresh Fruits and 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.

In August of 2023, Massachusetts became the eighth state to make Universal Free Meals permanent!! The State Legislature had approved funding and Governor Healey signed it!! Our school district has received free meals, breakfast and lunch, for the past 5 years through a program called CEP (Community Eligibility Program). Now, we will continue to have free breakfast and lunch through the Universal Free Meals program.

The Food Service Department spent \$46,000.00 this past fall on a new steamer and a new set of Convection ovens for Hoosac Valley Elementary School.

Participation in the reimbursable National School Lunch Program for SY 23-24 was 82%. Participation in the School Breakfast Program for SY 23-24 was 69%. These totals reflect participation from September 7, 2023 to January 31, 2024.

For the 2023-2024 SY, the Food Service Department had a surplus of \$219,040.00 on Revenues of \$831,256.00. Government subsidies represented 95.3% of total Revenues. USDA Commodities valued at \$27,619.00 were received so far in 2024.

The percentage of students who qualified for free/reduced meals as of January 31, 2024 was 58%.

We are operating 2 kitchens in SY 23-24.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosanne Schutz
Food Service Director

Business Administrator

Overview of Fiscal Year 2023

The Hoosac Valley Regional School District's School Committee and Town members approved a Fiscal Year 2023 budget of \$20,625,439. This represented an increase of \$396,724 or 2.0% over the previous fiscal year's budget. The use of COVID-19 related grants such as ESSER funding allowed the District's increase to remain minimal while also mitigating increases in the areas of fringe benefits, school choice and charter assessment increases and contractual increases.

The 2023 fiscal year began with a fund balance of \$1,002,309 as certified by the Department of Revenue and ended the year with a certified E&D of \$1,056,146 to start fiscal year 2024. 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 FY24 (\$75,000) is deducted. The District has worked to reduce the amount used to lower town assessments over the past few years and this was a drastic decrease allowing the district to maintain 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 by the Berkshire Health Group. As mentioned above, the use of COVID related grants allowed the District to move forward, and provided funding for new positions which will aid the District in recovering from learning time lost during the pandemic. The District continues to be mindful that these funds will not be available for fiscal year 2025 and will be utilizing them for one-time purchases, building maintenance, and professional development to supplement our current practices.

In closing, the FY 2023 budget maintains the focus of previous budgets before it which continues moving forward and addressing the impact the pandemic had, and will continue to have, on learning in years to come. Administration continues to be mindful of how grant funding is used as it will not be there to bridge any gaps in FY25 funding. In terms of funding sources, the current trends in population decline and minimal Chapter 70 funding are all challenges that present themselves each year. We are hopeful that additional funding sources will be made available to Districts like ours in the future, but until then, the District's School Committee, Administration, and Staff will continue to strive to make great gains in educating our children while facing the reality of the financial constraints around us, and for the foreseeable future, combating the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has created.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika M. Snyder
Business Administrator
February 12, 2024

Hoosac Valley Regional School District

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances

Governmental Funds for the Year Ended June 30, 2023

	General Fund	School Choice Fund	Non-major Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES				
Assessments to member towns	\$ 9,242,456	\$ ~	\$ ~	\$ 9,242,456
Charges for services -	~	~	285,637	285,637
Intergovernmental	13,163,210	174,144	3,520,581	16,857,935
Investment income	36,878	~	~	36,878
Miscellaneous	51,686	~	~	51,686
TOTAL REVENUES	22,494,230	174,144	3,806,218	26,474,592
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Administration	970,743	~	610	971,353
Instruction	6,896,209	~	1,398,359	8,294,568
Other school services	1,393,863	~	1,413,228	2,807,091
Operation and maintenance	1,393,818	~	~	1,393,818
Fixed charges	191,069	~	~	191,069
Special education	2,776,341	~	722,503	3,498,844
Employee benefits	6,152,858	~	~	6,152,858
Intergovernmental	2,012,486	~	~	2,012,486
Debt Service:				
Principal	655,000	~	~	655,000
Interest	269,800	~	~	269,800
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	22,712,187	~	3,534,700	26,246,887
Change in Fund Balance	(217,957)	174,144	271,518	227,705
FUND BALANCES, at Beginning of Year	1,629,902	560,378	1,210,476	3,400,756
FUND BALANCES, at End of Year	\$ 1,411,945	734,522	\$ 1,481,994	\$ 3,628,461

Hoosac Valley Regional School District

Assessments to Member Towns, June 30, 2023

Member Town	Minimum Contribution	Contribution Outside Net School Spending	Transportation & Capital Assessments	Total Assessments
Adams	\$ 3,790,761	\$ 1,352,448	\$ 1,155,881	\$ 6,299,090
Cheshire	2,154,516	427,852	360,998	2,943,366
	\$ 5,945,277	\$ 1,780,300	\$ 1,516,879	\$ 9,242,456

Hoosac Valley Regional School District Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds, June 30, 2023

	General Fund	School Choice Fund	Non-major Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 1,714,556	\$ 734,522	\$ 1,800,087	\$ 4,249,165
Investments	1,009,855	~	~	1,009,855
Intergovernmental receivables	~	~	77,608	77,608
Inventory	~	~	31,483	31,483
Other asset	8,000	~	~	8,000
TOTAL ASSETS	2,732,411	734,522	1,909,178	5,376,111
LIABILITIES				
Accounts payable	166,571	~	210,596	377,167
Accrued payroll and withholdings	1,153,895	~	68,819	1,222,714
Intergovernmental payable	~	~	147,769	147,769
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,320,466	~	427,184	1,747,650
FUND BALANCES				
Nonspendable	~	~	31,483	31,483
Restricted	~	734,522	1,450,511	2,185,033
Assigned	355,798	~	~	355,798
Unassigned	1,056,147	~	~	1,056,147
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	1,411,945	734,522	1,481,994	3,628,461
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	\$ 2,732,411	\$ 734,522	\$ 1,909,178	\$ 5,376,111

Hoosac Valley Regional School District Future Debt Service, June 30, 2023

Year	Principal	Bonds - Direct Placements		Total
		Interest		
2024	\$ 635,000	\$ 250,150	\$	885,150
2025	650,000	231,100		881,100
2026	675,000	209,000		884,000
2027	700,000	186,050		886,050
2028	725,000	162,200		887,200
2029 - 2033	4,030,000	422,100		4,452,100
	\$ 7,415,000	\$ 1,460,600		\$ 8,875,600

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 2023 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 pride themselves 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. We are excited to announce that we are adding a tenth high school vocational program, HVAC/R. In December 2022 we were the recipient of a \$3,110,000.00 Skills Capital grant for FY24 and FY25 to construct and equip a new facility on our campus. 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 2023 was the twentieth 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 2023 was modified as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and certified through an attestation of a four-year course-completion requirement. 123 graduates of the class of 2023 saw 64% continue their education in a variety of colleges and universities, 33% enter the workforce, and 3% proudly enter into military service. In 2023 we were excited to return to MCLA for our commencement exercises with 123 graduates and a full campus center audience.

GRADE 10 – ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS			
Performance Level	2021	2022	2023
Exceeding Expectations	9%	4%	6%
Passing	82%	94%	88%
Not Meeting Expectations	9%	2%	6%

GRADE 10 – MATHEMATICS			
Performance Level	2021	2022	2023
Exceeding Expectations	2%	0%	1%
Passing	83%	94%	91%
Not Meeting Expectations	15%	6%	8%

GRADE 10 – SCIENCE AND TECH/ENG			
Performance Level	2021	2022	2023
Exceeding Expectations	Na	14%	7%
Passing	Na	49%	87%
Not Meeting Expectations	Na	32%	6%

There were no MCAS tests in 2020 and no Science and Tech/Eng MCAS in 2021.

2022-2023 athletics resumed competition without any COVID restrictions in place across all games. The values of teamwork, personal fitness, healthy competition, and school spirit were welcomed back by the school community and the student athletes represented the school well.

In the fall of 2022 McCann hosted a visiting team from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) for our decennial accreditation. The visit took place from October 31st to November 3rd and consisted of a team of technical and academic instructors from across New England. The visiting team spent their time reviewing all aspects of the school including the programs offered, student support systems, and the school facility. The visit earned high praise from the visiting team who also provided recommendations for continued excellence over the next evaluation cycle. McCann was awarded continued accreditation with NEASC at the association's spring 2023 commissioner's meeting. Our Culinary Arts program was reaccredited for another five years by the American Culinary Federation Education Foundation Commission.

Our continuous facility improvement program allowed us to renovate our Guidance suite offices, install 80 new student lockers and refurbish an additional 150. We also created 57 new parking spaces in the front of the campus to accommodate the increased student demand. We completed air handling upgrades for the

library and replaced the aging electrical equipment. We installed additional security cameras throughout the building and grounds and replaced a number of IT servers.

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 installed replacement servers and new cabling throughout our network and expanded our Wi-Fi network to accommodate additional computers and Chromebooks. We installed 19 new Smartboards throughout the building to enhance the use of the latest educational technology. Similarly, we upgraded all of the CAD department's computer systems to accommodate new design software requirements.

McCann continued its ongoing participation in SkillsUSA, a national organization of more than 380,000 student and teacher members and more than 440,000 total 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 2023 SkillsUSA district competition was held virtually at McCann in accordance with the school's policies and the SkillsUSA guidance. McCann students earned seventeen gold medals in 3-D Visualization and Animation, Additive Manufacturing, Architectural Drafting, Automated Manufacturing Technology, Cosmetology, Customer Service, Dental Assisting, Medical Assisting, Sheet Metal, Technical Computer Applications, Technical Drafting, and Web Design. Nineteen silver medals were awarded in 3-D Visualization and Animation, Additive Manufacturing, Automated Manufacturing Technology, Automotive Service Technology, Baking and Pastry Arts, Carpentry, Cosmetology, Dental Assisting, Internetworking, Sheet Metal, Technical Computer Applications, Technical Drafting, Web Design, and Welding. Sixteen bronze medals were also earned in 3-D Visualization and Animation, Additive Manufacturing, Automated Manufacturing Technology, Baking and Pastry Arts, Carpentry, Cosmetology, Dental Assisting, Restaurant Service, Sheet Metal, Technical Drafting, and Web Design. The 2023 SkillsUSA state competition was held in Marlborough, MA. McCann students earned six gold medals in Carpentry, Cosmetology, Dental Assisting, Job Interview, Sheet Metal, and Technical Drafting. Three silver medals were awarded 3-D Visualization and Animation, Cosmetology and Dental Assisting. One bronze medal was also earned in Automated Manufacturing Technology. The gold medal winners advanced to The National Leadership & Skills Conference in Atlanta, GA in June. McCann earned a bronze medal in Sheet Metal. We are incredibly proud of our competitors!

Business Professionals of America (BPA) is the premier CTSO (Career and Technical Student Organization) for students pursuing careers in business management, information technology, finance, office administration, health administration and other related career fields. The mission of Business Professionals of America is to develop and empower student leaders to discover their passion and change the world by creating unmatched opportunities in learning, professional growth and service. With 45,000 members in over 1,800 chapters across 25 states and Puerto Rico, as well as an international presence in China, Haiti and Peru, BPA is an organization that supports business and information technology educators by offering co-curricular exercises based on national standards. This organization's activities complement classroom instruction by giving students practical experience through ap-

plication 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 2023 BPA State Leadership Conference (SLC) in March, McCann BPA members earned seven 1st place, two 2nd place, four 3rd place, five 4th place, and two 5th place awards. McCann students competed in Finance, Business Administration, Management Information Systems, Digital Communication and Design, and Management, Marketing and Communications. Twelve students traveled to Anaheim, CA for the National Leadership Conference in May.

Cooperative education is a program of vocational technical education for students who, through a cooperative arrangement between the school and employers, receive instruction, including related vocational instruction, by the alternating of study in school with a job in the occupation field. Such instruction shall be planned and supervised by the school and the employer so that each contributes to the student's education and employability. Work periods will be on alternate weeks during the school year. The experiences gained through cooperative education are critically beneficial to graduates entering the workforce, continuing their collegiate education or entering into military service.

During the 2022-2023 school year there were fifty-three seniors placed in co-op positions with thirty-seven of our cooperative education industry partners. The senior placement rate was 43% of the senior class during this time period. The junior placement from March-June was twenty-one placements with sixteen of our cooperative education industry partners. The junior placement rate was 19% of the junior class during this time period.

McCann students continued to excel in receiving industry-recognized credentials through their vocational programs. 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.

All eleven Culinary Arts seniors achieved the American Culinary Federation Certified Fundamental Cook Certifications and six of our seniors achieved the ServSafe manager certification. All seniors also achieved their Massachusetts Food Allergy Certification.

Thirty-four of the Business Technology students earned their certifications in a number of Microsoft Office programs including Access Expert, Excel, PowerPoint, and Word.

Advanced Manufacturing Technology students continued to excel as evidenced by their performance on the MACWIC exams. MACWIC is an industry-recognized credential that provides students with certifications demonstrating their proficiency in the manufacturing industry. 14 of our underclassmen received level 1 certification and 11 of our upperclassmen received level 2 certification which includes the Massachusetts Department of Labor pre-apprentice status. We also had two seniors achieve the SolidWorks CSWA academic certification.

Our Computer Assisted Design drafting students were similarly successful in a variety of Certiport Autodesk Certified User certifications as follows: AutoCAD, 2, Maya, 1, RevIt, 4 and Certified OnShape Associate, 3.

All of our Automotive Technology seniors achieved the following certifications through the NC3 Snap-On program: EHP System V Tire and Wheel Service; B2000P Wheel Balancing; Pro 42 Wheel Alignment and the 504 Multimeter Certification.

Seven Metal Fabrication seniors received a total of eleven welding certifications in various processes and positions and three junior students qualified for four welder certifications. All sophomore students earned their Massachusetts Hot Work Certification.

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 \$45,683.00 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 64 electricians completing modules in 2022-2023.

James J. Brosnan
Superintendent

Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District

FY23 Budgeted Revenues		Budget	Actual
City & Town Assessments			
Municipal Minimum		\$ 3,451,123.00	\$ 3,451,123.00
Capital		25,940.00	25,940.00
Transportation		171,015.00	171,015.00
Municipal Assessment		102,600.00	102,600.00
Ch. 71 Transportation		311,000.00	356,683.00
Ch. 70 General School Aid		6,273,595.00	6,273,595.00
Tuitions		321,218.00	321,218.00
Miscellaneous Revenue		0.00	0.00
Total Revenue Received		10,656,491.00	10,702,174.00
Member City & Town Transportation Refunds(45,683.00)
		\$ 10,656,491.00	\$ 10,656,491.00
Source	Grant	Amount	
(Federal Entitlement)			
Federal	Sped IDEA		\$ 132,065.00
Federal	Title I		127,029.00
Federal	Title II A		17,721.00
Federal	Title IV		10,382.00
Federal	Perkins		78,058.00
Federal	Postsecondary Perkins		3,311.00
Federal	Perkins Improvement & Equipment		39,610.00
Federal	Perkins Postsecondary Reserve		9,518.00
Federal	ESSER II		82,020.00
Federal	ESSER III		418,248.00
Federal	CVTE Admissions		30,000.00
(Federal Grants Other)			
REAP			31,206.73
(State Grants)			
MyCap			11,300.00
Workforce Skills Capital Equipment			343,402.27
MassHire Berkshire: Connecting Activities			2,000.00
MassHire Berkshire: College & Career			9,000.00
Mass Cultural Council			2,455.26
MA Life Science			24,350.00
MassStep Culinary Arts NAPS			27,795.14
(Private)			
Private	Olmsted		5,000.00
Private	BHG Wellness		2,000.00
Private	General Dynamics		2,000.00
Private	Char. Ed Content Inst. Special Earmark HVAC FC196 DESE Admin		10,813.00
Private	Robotics Interest Group		2,500.00
Private	Gene Haas Foundation (AMT)		15,000.00
TOTAL GRANTS			\$ 1,436,784.40

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Welcome to the
Town of Cheshire

AGENDAS & MINUTES

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Recent Notice 2024-03-18

2024 Cheshire Dog Licenses

Cheshire 2024 are now available in the Town Clerk's Office, 80 Church Street, Town Hall. ...

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BOARDS & COMMITTEES

DEPARTMENTS

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CURRENT EVENTS

MAY 23

Water Commissioner Meeting

3:00 PM - 3:00 PM

MAY 23

BRTA Advisory Board Meeting

4:00 PM - 4:00 PM

MAY 28

Board of Selectmen

6:30 PM - 6:30 PM

MAY 29

Berkshire County Retirement System

8:30 AM - 8:30 AM

JUN 01

Hoosac Lake Recreation/ Preserve District Annual

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Contact Information
Mailing - 191 Church St. Cheshire, MA, 01225
Location | 191 Church St, Cheshire, MA, 01225

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Weather

66.1 °F

Min: 48 °F
Max: 79 °F

Cheshire, MA 01225 Weather

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2023 CHESHIRE ANNUAL TOWN REPORT- 83

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Cheshire Information

Telephone Numbers for Town of Cheshire Services

Department	Number + Ext.
Town Administrator	743-1690 ext. 100
Asst. Treas./Collector/Water Collector	743-1690 ext. 101
Collector/Treasurer	743-1690 ext. 102
Assessors	743-1690 ext. 103
Town Clerk	743-1690 ext. 104
Water Department	743-1690 ext. 105
Board of Health	743-1690 ext. 106
Senior Center	743-1690 ext. 107
Highway Department	743-1690 ext. 108
Fire Department (non-emergency)	743-1690 ext. 109
DPW	743-1690 ext. 110
Building Inspector	743-1690 ext. 111
Wiring Inspector	743-1690 ext. 112
Plumbing/Gas Inspector	743-1690 ext. 113
Planning Board	743-1690 ext. 114
Cemetery Commissioners	743-1690 ext. 115

EMERGENCY 9-1-1

Cheshire Police (non-emergency)	743-1501
Cheshire Fire Department (non-emergency)	743-3387
Cheshire Library	743-4746
Cheshire Senior Center	743-9719
Hoosac Valley High School	743-5200
Cheshire Post Office	743-3184

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

REMINDER: The Cheshire Town Offices are NOT open on Fridays.

Cheshire Board of Selectmen

Meet each Tuesday evening at the
Community House Meeting 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 April 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 late fee totaling \$40 plus the cost of the license 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.

Polls are located at the Community House cafeteria, 191 Church Street

Annual Town Meeting second Monday in June.

Meeting held at the Community House cafeteria, 191 Church Street

Please note: All the Town Offices are now located at the Community House.

