

FACTS ABOUT THE TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR SEPARATION

Setting the Record Straight for Cheshire Voters

THE BOTTOM LINE: THIS CHANGE SAVES MONEY AND IMPROVES SERVICE

Annual Savings: \$90,000+ - This separation will reduce costs to taxpayers.

Expanded Service Hours - More convenient hours including morning and evening availability that residents have requested for years.

DETAILED COST BREAKDOWN

Current System (FY2026 Costs):

Full-Time Treasurer/Collector (focusing on treasurer duties):

- Salary: \$67,500
- Health/Dental/Life Insurance: \$24,600
- Pension Assessment: \$16,200
- **Subtotal: \$108,300**

Part-Time Assistant Treasurer/Collector (focusing on tax collector duties):

- Salary: \$28,300
- Health/Dental/Life Insurance: \$24,600
- Pension Assessment: \$6,800
- **Subtotal: \$59,700**

TOTAL CURRENT COST: \$168,000

Proposed New System:

Part-Time Treasurer: \$40,000 (no benefits) **Part-Time Tax Collector:** \$32,000-\$35,000 (no benefits) **TOTAL NEW COST: \$72,000-\$75,000**

NET ANNUAL SAVINGS: \$93,000-\$96,000

For context: The Town Accountant position is paid \$36,000

ADDRESSING KEY CONCERNS

"How can fewer hours accomplish the same work?"

- **Payroll streamlining:** Eliminated expensive, error-prone software in favor of simple paper timesheets and a spreadsheet upload file - payroll now takes 3 hours instead of 3 days, and saves \$2,500 annually in software costs
- **Tax bill processing efficiency:** Moving to professional printing service breaks even on cost while freeing up 160+ hours annually (equivalent to 8+ weeks of part-time work)
- **Focus on core duties:** These process improvements mean the tax collector can spend time serving residents instead of manual administrative tasks
- **Dedicated roles:** Separating treasurer and tax collector functions allows each position to specialize and work more efficiently

"What about service hours?"

- **Current Hours:** Tax collector office open Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9am-4pm (14 hours per week)
- **Proposed Hours:** Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 7:30am-4:00pm (17 hours per week), PLUS evening hours on Tuesdays before tax due dates
- This addresses years of resident requests for morning and evening hours to accommodate working families
- **Process improvements** free up time for better resident service rather than administrative tasks
- Tax collector can focus on serving the public instead of manual bill processing

"What about accountability and oversight?"

- All regular semi-annual audits and year-end reporting continue as before
- **Improved oversight:** New treasurer will balance monthly with the town accountant (vs. annual balancing previously)
- Proper bonding, CORI clearance, and certification requirements are being met
- The structure follows best practices for municipalities our size
- More frequent reconciliation provides better financial oversight and early detection of any issues

"What about service continuity?"

- Coverage plans are in place for absences and transitions
- Cross-training ensures no interruption in essential services
- Water billing and collection services continue as before

"Why the rush to change?"

- This has been carefully planned for over two years with input from the select board, town administrator, and third-party accounting firm
- The timing aligns with budget cycles and staffing transitions
- Delaying would mean missing opportunities for immediate savings

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

- ✓ **Significant tax savings** - \$93,000-\$96,000 in annual savings reduces the tax burden
- ✓ **More convenient hours** - Earlier start times and evening hours before tax due dates
- ✓ **Professional management** - Qualified staff focused on their areas of expertise
- ✓ **Enhanced accountability** - Monthly balancing with town accountant plus continued audits

THE FACTS ARE CLEAR

This change saves money, improves service, and positions Cheshire for better financial management. The concerns raised in recent communications contain inaccuracies about costs and staffing that needed correction.

Your vote matters. Please attend the Town Meeting on June 9th at 7pm to learn more and make an informed decision.